

Sandy Funding Criteria Worksheet

State Department:
NJ Department of Children and Families
Name of Expenditure Program:
Sexual Assault Intervention – Expansion in al 21 counties
Amount:
\$1,229,720

Overview:

Currently, the Department of Children and Families, Division on Women has “direct services” in each county of the State via the Sexual Assault, Abuse, and Rape Care (SAARC) program.

The SAARC program provides crisis services to survivors of sexual violence who are at least twelve (12) years of age and significant others. The services are available at no charge to all those who reside in, were assaulted in or seek support services in the county of the Division on Women funded program. All services are to be provided in a manner that guards victim privacy and maintains the victim’s right to confidentiality pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:84A-22.15. These “new” funds will allow each provider to add the following as appropriate:

- a minimum of (1) part-time “SAARC Coordinator” which must be a mental health professional such as an LSW, LCSW, LPC, LMFT able to provide crisis counseling services to meet the needs of each county. Minimally, this individual would add 10 counseling slots per calendar week. This can include but is not limited to the addition of a bi-lingual counselor; increase individual /group counseling slots beyond the traditional Monday through Friday and 9am to 5pm hours; increase or strengthen the supervision of per-diem counseling staff or other part-time counseling staff;
- a part time equivalent Coordinator to provide outreach/awareness/education events on Sexual Violence
- increase or strengthen the operations of the 24 hour hotline.
- Minimally add one (1) Confidential Sexual Violence Advocacy Training group which will recruit and train a minimum of 10 new advocates. This will increase each provider’s capacity to accompany victims of sexual violence 24 hours a day/7 days a week

Federal Department of Origin:

U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services – The Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013, (P. L. 113-2); “Hurricane Sandy Supplemental Funds” to address necessary expenses resulting from Hurricane Sandy, including social, health, and mental health services for individuals, and for repair, renovation and rebuilding of health care facilities (including mental health facilities), child care facilities, and

Sandy Funding Criteria Worksheet

other social services facilities.

Federal Requirements / Restrictions:

Funds to be totally expended by September 30, 2015.

Also subject to Integrity Oversight monitoring via Assembly Bill A60 (A-60)(P.L.2013,c.37).

Additional State regulations related to Governor Christie's Executive Order 125, as well as all applicable federal and state regulations for Procurement and Grants Management

Selection Standards:

The expansion of services in all 21 counties is due to the follow factors:

Sexual violence is a serious public health concern in the state of New Jersey. The 2003 report, "Rape in New Jersey: A Report to the State" by Kilpatrick and Ruggiero, it is estimated that 9.9% of adult women in New Jersey, or one in ten women, had been victims of 'forcible rape' during their lifetime. The 2012 New Jersey Uniform Crime Report indicates that 1038 women reported rape or attempted rape to law enforcement authorities that year, an increase of 5.7% compared to 2011. It is noted that in the aftermath of Super Storm Sandy that families were displaced as a result of the storm in other NJ counties that were not directly affected. In addition, families experiencing extensive anxiety, loss of housing and employment stability added to the potential for new sexual perpetrators operating in counties outside of the impacted areas. During the same reporting period, the Division on Women funded Sexual Violence Programs provided services to more than 3,800 new victims of sexual violence and their significant others across the state; more than three and half times the number of victims who reported to law enforcement. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), nearly 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men in the United States have been raped at some time in their lives and nearly 1 in 2 women and 1 in 5 men have experienced other forms of sexual violence victimization in their lifetime (e.g., made to penetrate someone, sexual coercion, unwanted sexual contact and non-contact unwanted sexual experiences).

Women make up approximately half of the NJ population count. Female ages 10 and up account for approximately 3.8 million of the statewide population. While definitions and timeframes differ, these data sources all suggest that sexual violence is exceptionally prevalent in New Jersey.

This public health concern was greatly exacerbated in late 2012 after Super Storm Sandy devastated New Jersey's eastern coastline and most of its 21 counties. Fourteen months later, New Jersey is still suffering from the effects of this natural disaster. According to the Governor's Office of Recovery and Rebuilding, "due to the damage caused by the storm, many New Jersey municipalities and counties face a myriad of recovery challenges." The National Sexual Violence Resource Centers, "Sexual Violence In Disasters" provides lessons learned of gender-specific vulnerabilities in disasters. Men, women, and children have different needs and vulnerabilities, which are further intensified during and after a crisis. As such, the stress, fear and sense of helplessness associated with a hurricane tend to increase the risk factors for the perpetration of

Sandy Funding Criteria Worksheet

violence against women. In the 2013 publication of “The Year of Recurring Disasters: A Review of Natural Disasters in 2012”, the Brookings Institution states that during a natural disaster “women may face heightened risk of domestic violence, and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence and exploitation, including trafficking.” The Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault and National Sexual Violence Resource Center’s “Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence in Disasters: a planning guide for prevention and response” report states that “in the chaotic aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, an increase in sexual violence became a tragedy within a tragedy. Atop these atrocities, some women, children, and men became targets of sexual victimization by others, and suffered the additional pain and trauma of sexual assault.” An interview with Pam Albers, Program Director of Community Outreach and Education at the Crescent House Healing Center, Catholic Charities, New Orleans, on May 23, 2006, explained, “The time for concerted concern about sexual violence after a disaster is six to eight months after the initial event, and then two to three years down the line after that.” As families begin to pick up the pieces of their lives, the fundamental survival aspects don’t feel as tenuous. It is then, that sexual and physical abuse becomes more prevalent and disclosures of assaults from the disaster make their way to the surface. In a population-based study to attempt to document the prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) before and after a natural disaster, findings showed increased victimization of women after the hurricane is consistent with reports of increased demand for services following the disasters (Enarson,1999). This study focused on residents of Mississippi in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. However, it also provides compelling evidence that risk for IPV and victimization is applicable during the aftermath of a disaster such as Super Storm Sandy.

Eligibility Standards:

Services as outlined above will allow each provider in all 21 NJ Counties to strengthen and enhance its crisis services within their respective communities. This prevention service will be to serve all who present themselves for services.

Other Notes: