



# **Streamlining Federal And State Sexual and Domestic Violence Victim Service Agency Funding**

Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance

# The Action Alliance

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## ▶ Service Provider

- ▶ Family Violence and Sexual Assault Hotline responds to 400 calls/mo
- ▶ Specialized services include language accessibility, coverage for local Hotlines, LGBTQ Helpline, and chat/text access effective 7/1/14
- ▶ Contract with VA DOC to provide PREA Hotline and Advocacy

## ▶ Membership Organization

- ▶ Sexual and Domestic Violence Agencies, Affiliates and Individuals
- ▶ Training, Technical Assistance, Resource Clearinghouse

## ▶ Advocacy Organization

- ▶ Statewide Public Awareness and Public Education to Prevent SDV
- ▶ Policy work that promotes safety, accountability, and strong community intervention and prevention
- ▶ Accreditation for SDVAs to ensure consistent and effective response



- ▶ 24-Hour Hotline
- ▶ 24-Hour Emergency Shelter
- ▶ 24-Hour Emergency Companion Services
- ▶ Trauma Counseling and Support, including Crisis Intervention and Safety Planning for Adults and Children
- ▶ Legal Advocacy
- ▶ Participation in community coordination including SARTs, CCRs and Fatality Review Teams
- ▶ Systems Advocacy
- ▶ Prevention
- ▶ Residential Shelter & Housing Services

## Sexual and Domestic Violence Agencies

- 54 Agencies across Virginia
- 34 are “dual” agencies addressing both sexual and domestic violence
- 13 are Domestic Violence Agencies
- 7 are Sexual Violence Agencies
- Agencies have closed in Amherst, Powhatan-Goochland, Danville and most recently, Front Royal



The Action Alliance and Virginia's Sexual and Domestic Violence Agencies rely upon State and Federal Funding to provide 25-75% of annual operating costs.

- Most are private non-profits
- Some SDVAs are housed in local government agencies
- All SDVAs rely upon student interns and volunteers to assist in the delivery of services
- Additional funding comes from local governments, United Way, Foundations and private fundraising



# 2008-2012 Strategic Plan

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## ▶ Develop a long-range plan to secure adequate funding to ensure that basic advocacy services are available in all Virginia Communities.

- Reviews of Virginia data, NISVS data, evidence on effectiveness of advocacy services
- Listening Sessions regionally with Directors of SDVAs
- Conference Calls with Directors of SDVAs (25 of 54 at a Listening Session or on a call)
- Survey of SDVA Directors (41 of 54 participated)
  - Sample survey question/answer
    - ▶ Defining “Always” as 90% to 100% of the time, are you always able to provide a trained advocate to provide companion services to a hospital or other facility within 1 hour of receiving a request for an advocate? 70% (n=28) answered yes



# Findings

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- ▶ Between 2008 and 2012, demand for services increased 35% while funding decreased.
- ▶ Writing an average of 5-7 funding applications to bring in an average of \$300,000, and then meeting 5-7 different sets of tracking and reporting requirements is terribly inefficient.
- ▶ The structure of existing grant programs creates artificial “silos” for services: sexual violence separate from domestic violence, adults separate from children, intervention separate from prevention.



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“We shouldn’t have to spend more time seeking funding than doing the work we are here to do—preventing sexual and domestic violence and helping survivors.”

Sheree Hedrick, Executive Director  
Hanover Safe Place  
Ashland, Virginia



# Grant Funding for SDVAs

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**VDSS**



DV Services  
(VOCA, FVPSA, State)

Child Abuse Services  
(VOCA; portion to SDVAs)

**DCJS**



SV Services  
(VOCA, State)

SV Services  
(SASP)

SDV Victim Fund  
(State; portion to SDVAs)

V-STOP  
(STOP; portion to SDVAs)

**VDH**



SV Prevention  
(RPE)

**DHCD**



Homeless  
Assistance and  
Prevention  
(Federal and State;  
portion to SDVAs)





**Ask for what you need, and  
you just might get it!**

## Increase

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- ▶ funding for SDVAs to begin to fill the \$18million gap in funding to ensure that 100% of SDVAs can
  - ▶ Respond to 100% of hotline, shelter and crisis service requests;
  - ▶ Provide trauma counseling and services to adults and children; and
  - ▶ Provide prevention programming to children and youth in their communities.

## Streamline

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- ▶ the major funding for SDVAs into a single Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention and Services Fund to
  - ▶ Increase efficiency;
  - ▶ Reduce duplication:
  - ▶ Provide greater flexibility for SDVAs to meet local needs; and
  - ▶ Decrease state and local administrative costs.



- ▶ Request increase in state funding from current level of \$5.4m to \$23.4m
- ▶ Advocate for increases in federal funding that comes to VA for SDVAs including VOCA, FVPSA, SASP, STOP and RPE (approximately \$9m)
- ▶ Establish the Building Healthy Futures Fund to raise private dollars on behalf of all SDVAs
- ▶ Reduce administrative costs at the state and local level to make more funding available to services and prevention by streamlining.

## Strategies to Increase Funding



Federal: VOCA + FVPSA + SASP

(DV, SV and portion of CA)

State : GF for SV and DV +50% of VSDVVF



One Single Funding Agency



One Single Funding Application for SDVAs  
with a multi-section budget and workplan

**Streamline  
State and  
Federal  
Funding that  
Currently  
goes to  
SDVAs**



## **Benefits of Streamlining**

### **Consolidate 5 grant programs into 1 grant program**

- SDVAs spend an average of 265 hours/year administering each grant they receive. This reduction could free up as many as 12 days a month to engage in services and prevention, rather than duplicative administrative tasks.
- This would reduce the number of grants being administered by the state to SDVAs for core services from 153 to 55, saving the state money and making more time available to support best practices and strong accountability in the grant program.

### **Increased Efficiency and Savings**



## Benefits of Streamlining

### Better Services to Virginia Communities

- A holistic approach to services that reflects the realities of people's lives: adults who experience violence often have children who need services; people who experience intimate partner violence have often experienced sexual violence; everyone benefits when we offer tools for prevention along with intervention services.
- Consolidated funding offers the flexibility to meet varied program needs in communities where transportation is a challenge, or where many individuals have limited English proficiency, or where special populations like college students or military families require specialized services.



## Benefits of Streamlining

### **Stronger Sexual and Domestic Violence Agencies in Virginia**

- A single \$12.5m grant program makes visible the state's commitment to addressing sexual and domestic violence visible, elevates the program, and offers the opportunity to make much better use of a new appropriation of state funds in relation to community needs.
- Easier to achieve equity in funding across the state, to support expansion of services into underserved communities, and to advocate for funding increases when they are necessary.



## Challenges of Streamlining

### It is complicated

- There are varied funding years, specific funding requirements, and we must ensure that Virginia and local SDVAs meet all funding requirements and application deadlines during any transition.
- A transition will impact current programs—and may result in the elimination of jobs. None of us want people to lose their jobs.
- Many funding streams are shared with valued partners: prosecutors, victim-witness agencies, child abuse advocates and others. The process must ensure that only funds that have historically been awarded to SDVAs are “streamlined” and that the funding for other services and agencies is not adversely affected.





## Challenges of Streamlining

### There are Risks for SDVAs

- With a substantial portion of the funding in one “pot” that pot becomes more visible and more vulnerable.
- SDVAs have traditionally found comfort in the fact that VDSS and DCJS typically go through transitions in focus, personnel and administrative policies at different times, so for dual agencies in particular, even when one is “unstable” the other is generally stable.
- SDVAs will have to agree to take a leap of faith, given that this might result in the need to develop new funding processes and new relationships with funders.



## The journey here:

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- ▶ 2012 SDVA needs identified
- ▶ Spring and Summer 2013 Strategies for streamlining and increasing funding
- ▶ Summer and Fall 2013 Meetings with policy leaders
- ▶ November 2013 Legislation to establish streamlined fund at CICF
- ▶ January 2013 Budget amendments
- ▶ March 2013 HB 885



- ▶ The benefits of streamlining outweigh the risks, and there is an additional benefit to making this a non-reverting fund.
- ▶ The establishment of a new Sexual and Domestic Violence Agency Fund should benefit ALL SDVAs and should not result in a loss of current funding, gaps in funding or otherwise jeopardize current services.
- ▶ As funding increases, it is a priority to address inequities in funding, restore services to communities that have lost services, and support culturally specific services.

## **Areas of Consensus for SDVAs**

- Of 54 SDVAs, 48 have participated in Forums, calls and/or survey; Action Alliance made calls to remaining 6



- ▶ The state agency in which funds should be streamlined.
  - ▶ There are agencies that prefer the VDSS model of fund administration, agencies that prefer the DCJS model, and agencies that would like to see the funds moved into a new agency
- ▶ Specific issues that have emerged related to funding administration:
  - ▶ Continue a semi-competitive process or move to a funding formula?
  - ▶ The role of Accreditation in determining eligibility for funding

## **Areas Where SDVAs are NOT in Consensus**

- Of 54 SDVAs, 48 have participated in Forums, calls and/or survey; Action Alliance made calls to remaining 6



# Our Hopes for this Workgroup

## A Prayer of Approach

Susan Wright, May 2008

I honour your gods

I drink at your well

I bring an undefended heart to our meeting place.

I have no cherished outcomes

I will not negotiate by withholding

I am not subject to disappointment.



## Our Hopes for this Workgroup #2

- ▶ High regard for the voices of SDVA Leaders in this conversation about the funds that they have lobbied for and leveraged to provide vital and effective services in their communities.
- ▶ Open and transparent discussion of all of the options – of funding streams to include, for how streamlining might take place, for a range of possible outcomes.
- ▶ A recommendation that will clearly benefit survivors.



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