



**Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Funding Study
Work Group (HB 885)**

Follow-up and Proposed Recommendations

September 10, 2014

Overview



- Follow-up Items
- Summary of Grant Program Concerns
- Proposed Recommendations from Members
- Discussion

Follow-Up Items



- Preliminary legal analysis of whether VDSS grant funding can be changed from a reimbursement based system to one that awards grant funds before expenses are incurred:
 - There is no federal prohibition that has been identified.
 - This may require statutory changes in Title 63.2 and the Virginia Public Procurement Act (Chapter 43 of Title 2.2).
 - This may also require budget language.
- State agency grant administration costs received from all agencies.

Summary of Grant Program Concerns



- VA Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)
 - Concerns with grant monitors (response time, accessibility, conflicting information);
 - Fiscal year grant cycles vary;
 - Grants fund positions rather than services; and,
 - Technical assistance.

Summary of Grant Program Concerns



- VA Department of Social Services (VDSS)
 - Procurement/reimbursement approach rather than grant approach;
 - Grant materials are not submitted electronically;
 - Percentage allocations difficult; and,
 - Grants fund positions rather than services.

Summary of Grant Program Concerns



- VA Department of Health (VDH)
 - Grant materials are not submitted electronically;
and,
 - Fiscal year grant cycle is inconsistent.

Summary of Grant Program Concerns



- VA Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD)
 - Shift to Continuum of Care (CoC) approach, where sexual and domestic violence agencies are sub-grantees with community, has been challenging for some programs.

Summary of Grant Program Concerns



- SDVA Coalition/Action Alliance
 - VAdata system is antiquated and limited;
 - Accreditation process, guidelines, and oversight are unclear, inconsistent, and/or unreasonable; and,
 - Hotline system is costly and can be inconsistent in terms of quality.



Proposed Recommendations by Work Group Members

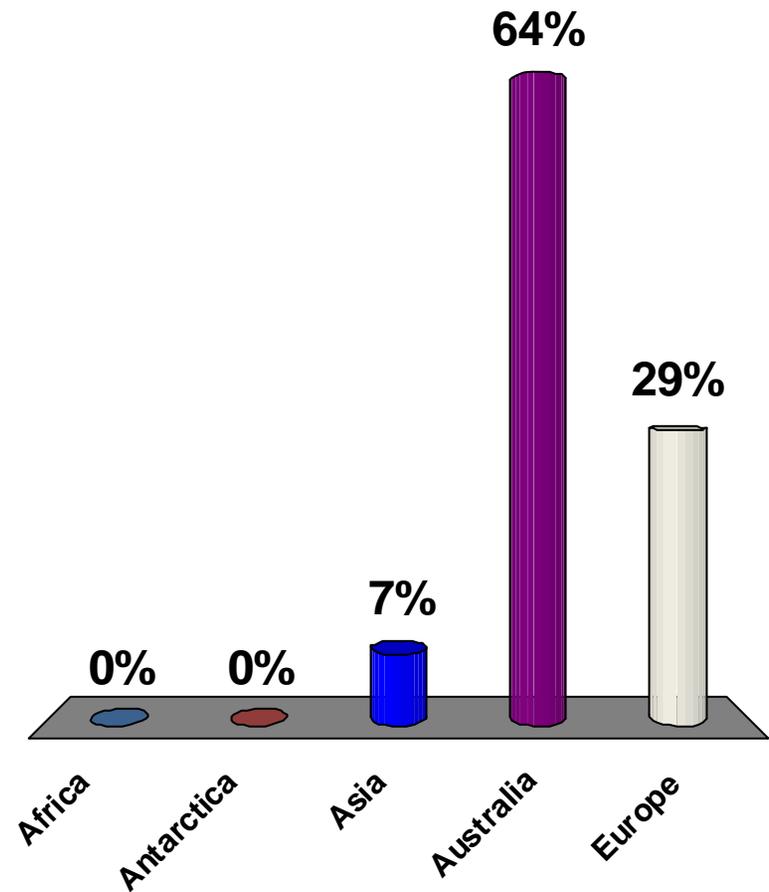
How to use Turning Technology keypads

- Answer each question by pushing the number/letter on your keypad that corresponds to your desired response.
- You may change your response while the poll is still open.
- At the bottom of the screen, an indicator displays how many responses have been submitted.
- When all responses have been submitted will display the results!



TEST ? : Which continent would you most like to visit

1. Africa
2. Antarctica
3. Asia
4. Australia
5. Europe



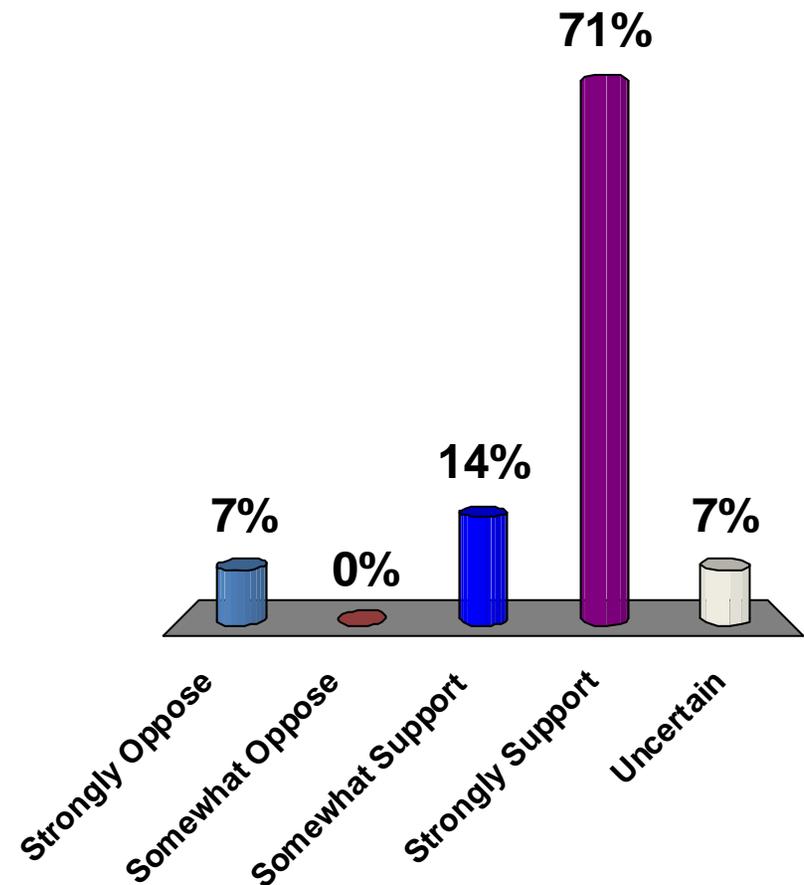
Proposed Recommendation #1



- All grant programs should be on a consistent state fiscal year grant cycle (July 1- June 30).
 - This would require a change for the SAGP (DCJS) and RPE (VDH) grant programs.
 - *Rationale: Having different cycles is inefficient, time consuming and challenging for grantees to manage.*

All grant programs should be on a consistent state fiscal year grant cycle (July 1- June 30).

1. Strongly Oppose
2. Somewhat Oppose
3. Somewhat Support
4. Strongly Support
5. Uncertain



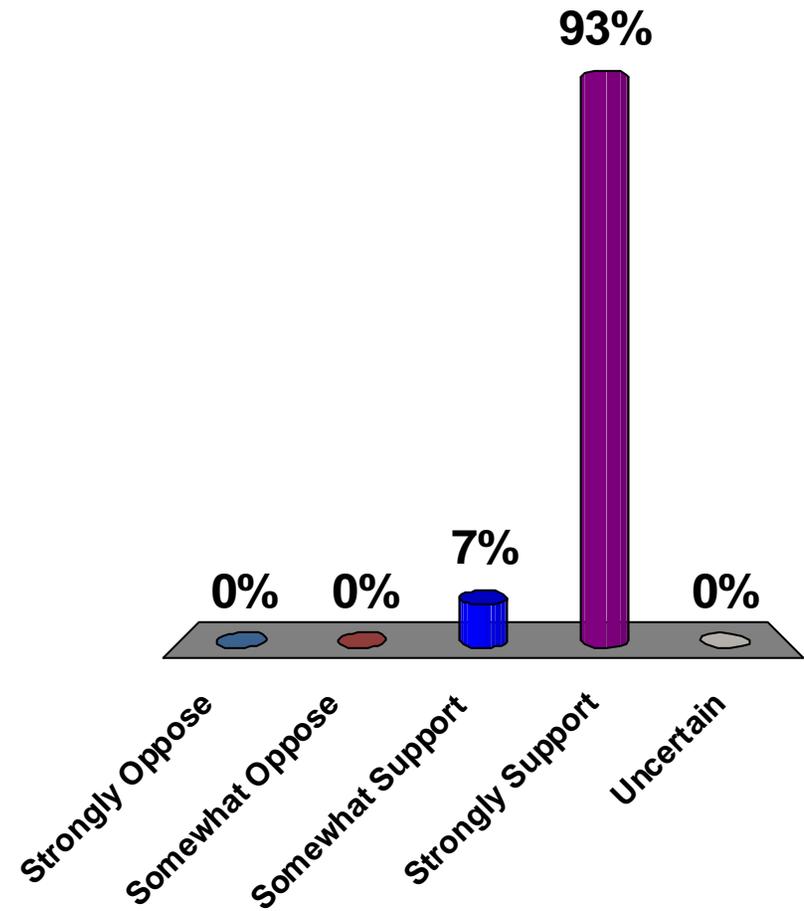
Proposed Recommendation #2



- Allow grantees to submit grant application materials electronically.
 - This would require a change at all state agencies.
 - *Rationale: Submitting materials in a hard copy format or via mail is inefficient and costly.*

Allow grantees to submit grant application materials electronically.

1. Strongly Oppose
2. Somewhat Oppose
3. Somewhat Support
4. Strongly Support
5. Uncertain



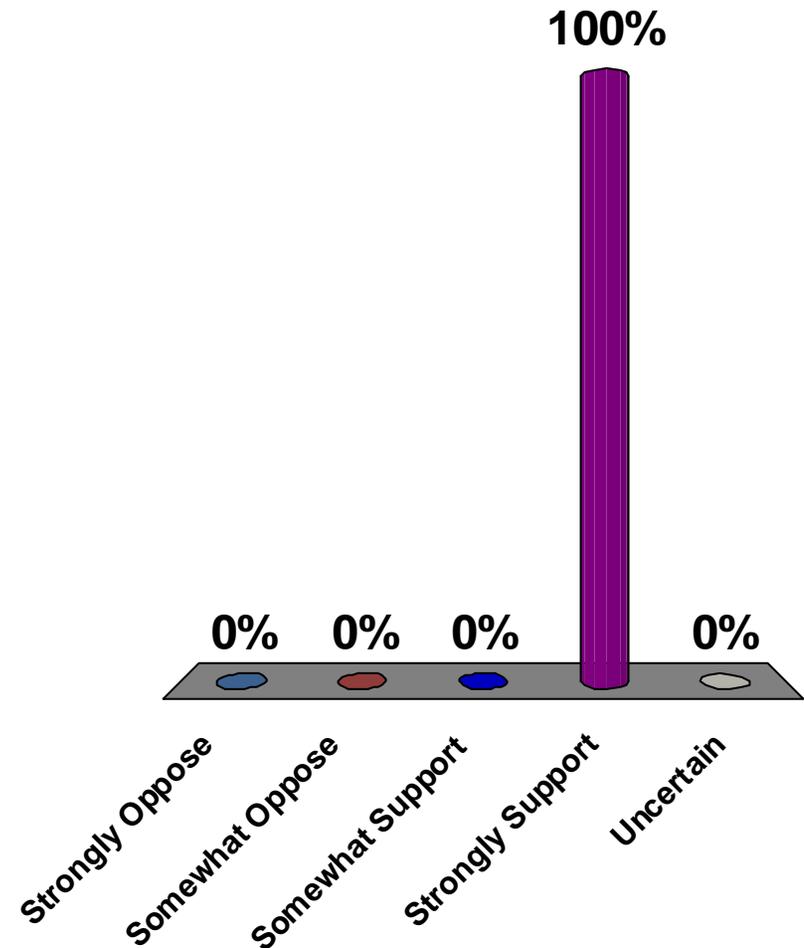
Proposed Recommendation #3



- Allow grantees to submit all grant materials (progress and financial reports, budget amendments, etc.) electronically.
 - This would require a change at VDSS and VDH.
 - *Rationale: Submitting routine grant materials in a hard copy format or via mail is inefficient and costly.*

Allow grantees to submit all grant materials (progress and financial reports, budget amendments, etc.) electronically.

1. Strongly Oppose
2. Somewhat Oppose
3. Somewhat Support
4. Strongly Support
5. Uncertain



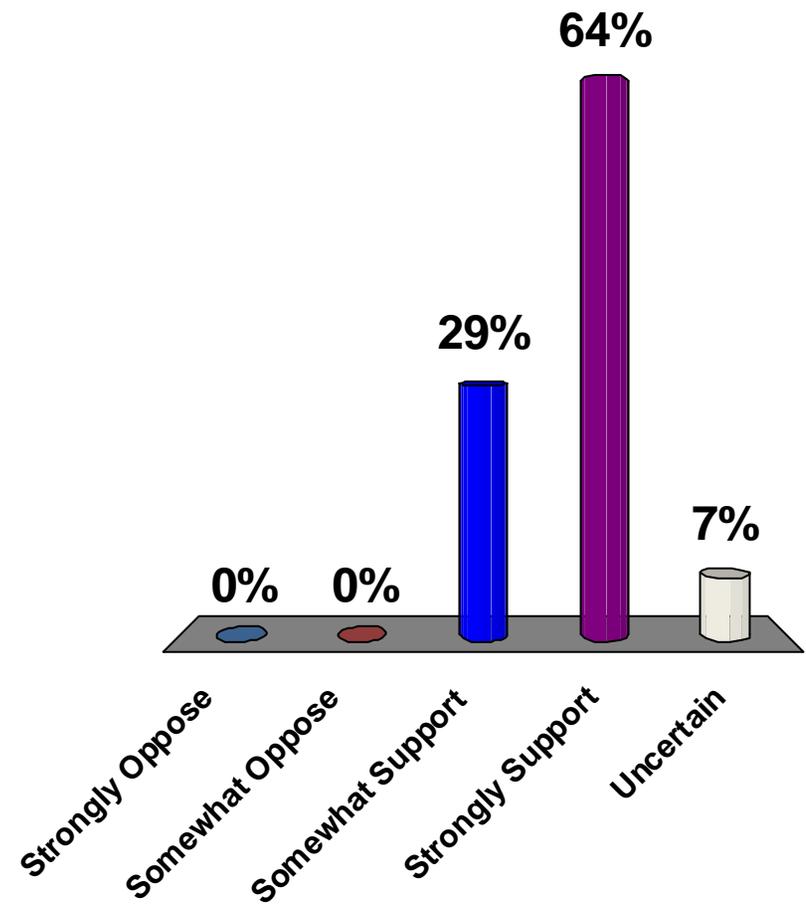
Proposed Recommendation #4



- Develop new processes to determine what procedures, forms, etc. can be combined, eliminated or otherwise made more efficient for grantees.
 - All state agencies should collaborate to encourage improved efficiencies across all programs.
 - *Rationale: Improve efficiency and reduce duplicative efforts.*

Develop new processes to determine what procedures, forms, etc. can be combined, eliminated or otherwise made more efficient for grantees.

1. Strongly Oppose
2. Somewhat Oppose
3. Somewhat Support
4. Strongly Support
5. Uncertain



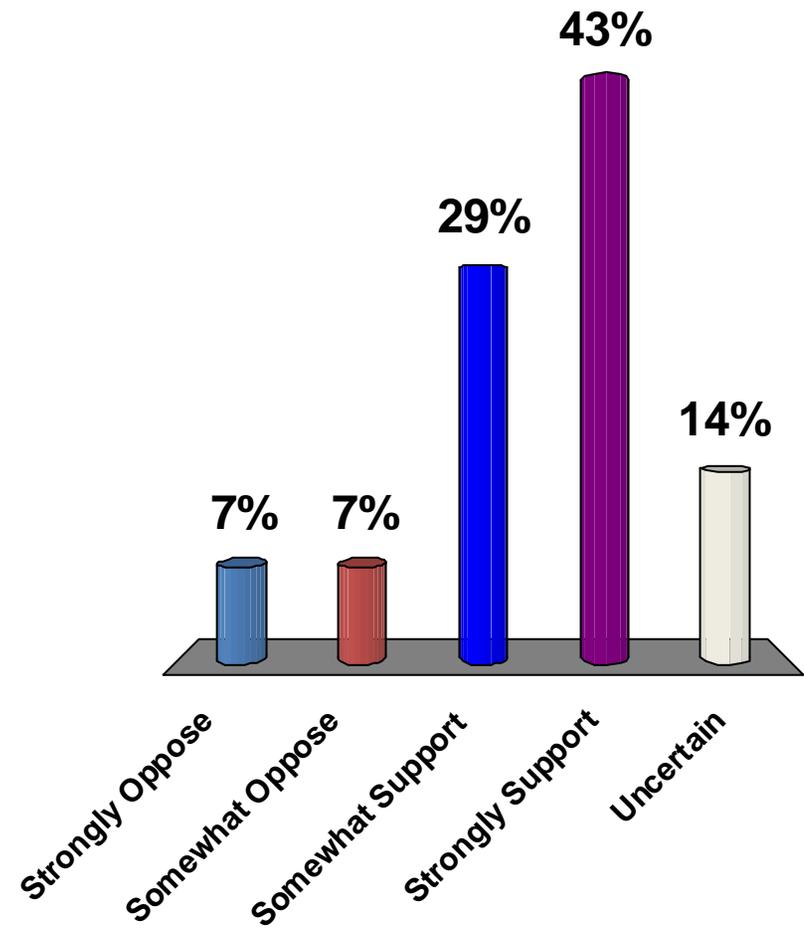
Proposed Recommendation #5



- Allow grantees to budget by job functions/services rather than by name of individual.
 - This would apply to all grant programs.
 - *Rationale: Eliminates need for personnel budget amendment requests, which can be cumbersome.*

Allow grantees to budget by job functions/services rather than by name of individual.

1. Strongly Oppose
2. Somewhat Oppose
3. Somewhat Support
4. Strongly Support
5. Uncertain



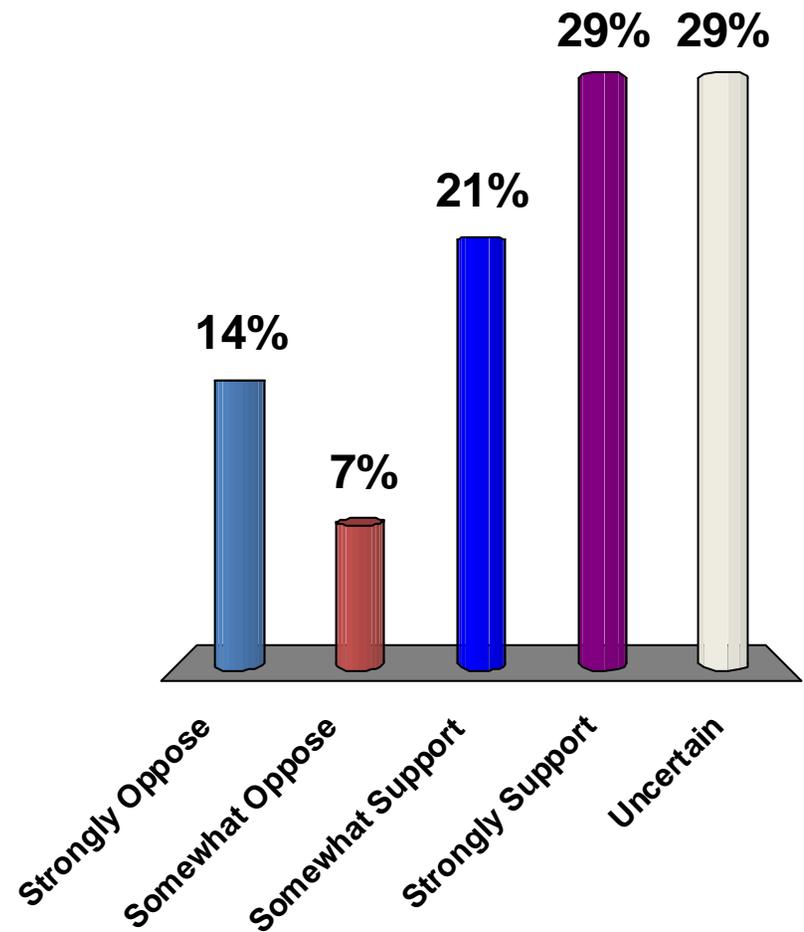
Proposed Recommendation #6



- Allow grantees to request carryover funding into the next fiscal year without penalty.
 - Allow the grant extension to run concurrent with the new grant/fiscal year as to not penalize or delay funding for other grant activities.
 - *Rationale: This approach would allow for flexibility in budgeting for different operation expenses during the end of one fiscal year and the start of the next.*

Allow grantees to request carryover funding into the next fiscal year without penalty.

1. Strongly Oppose
2. Somewhat Oppose
3. Somewhat Support
4. Strongly Support
5. Uncertain



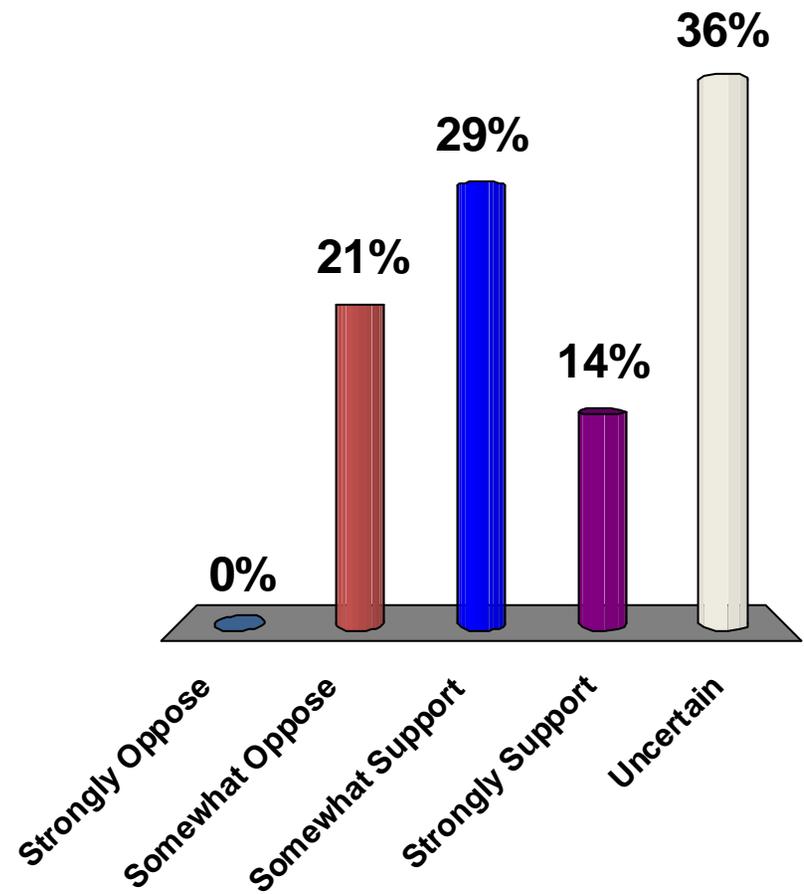
Proposed Recommendation #7



- Remove accreditation as a factor in funding decision-making.
 - Accreditation should provide an incentive, not serve as a barrier.
 - *Rationale: The accreditation process can be inconsistent, unclear, and/or unreasonable.*

Remove accreditation as a factor in funding decision-making.

1. Strongly Oppose
2. Somewhat Oppose
3. Somewhat Support
4. Strongly Support
5. Uncertain



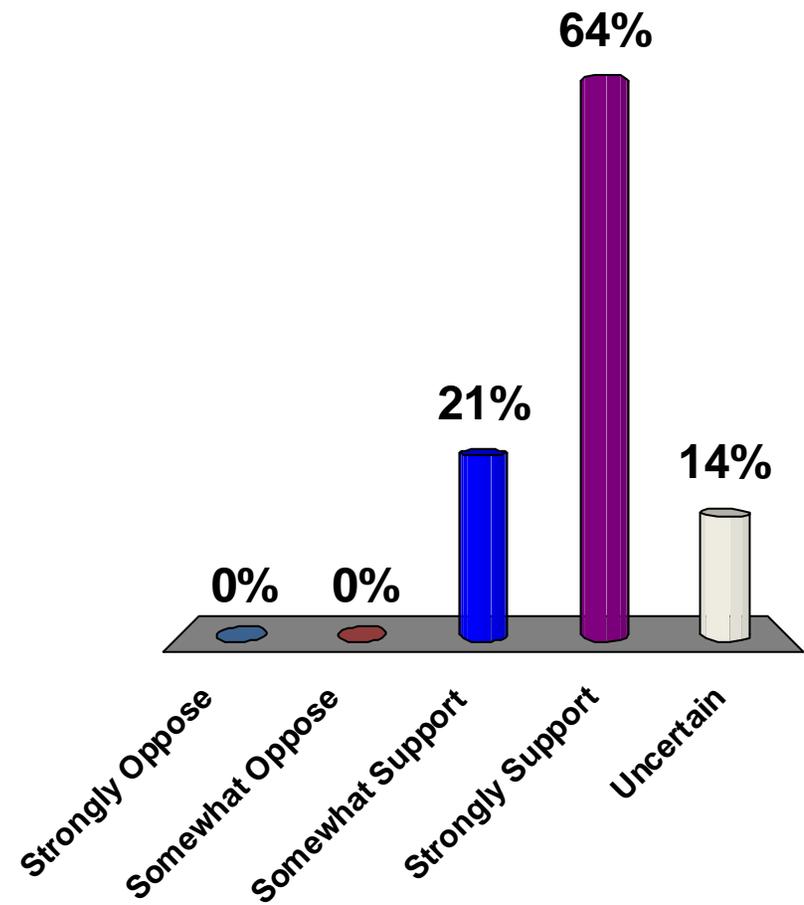
Proposed Recommendation #8



- Conduct an independent review of Vadata.
 - An independent review of VAdata with local programs should be conducted to fully document the needs of the programs versus the capability of VAdata. Assess whether program enhancements are needed or possible, or if other publicly available databases are more practical.
 - *Rationale: Independent needs assessments are beneficial in identifying areas of need and improvement.*

Conduct an independent review of Vadata.

1. Strongly Oppose
2. Somewhat Oppose
3. Somewhat Support
4. Strongly Support
5. Uncertain



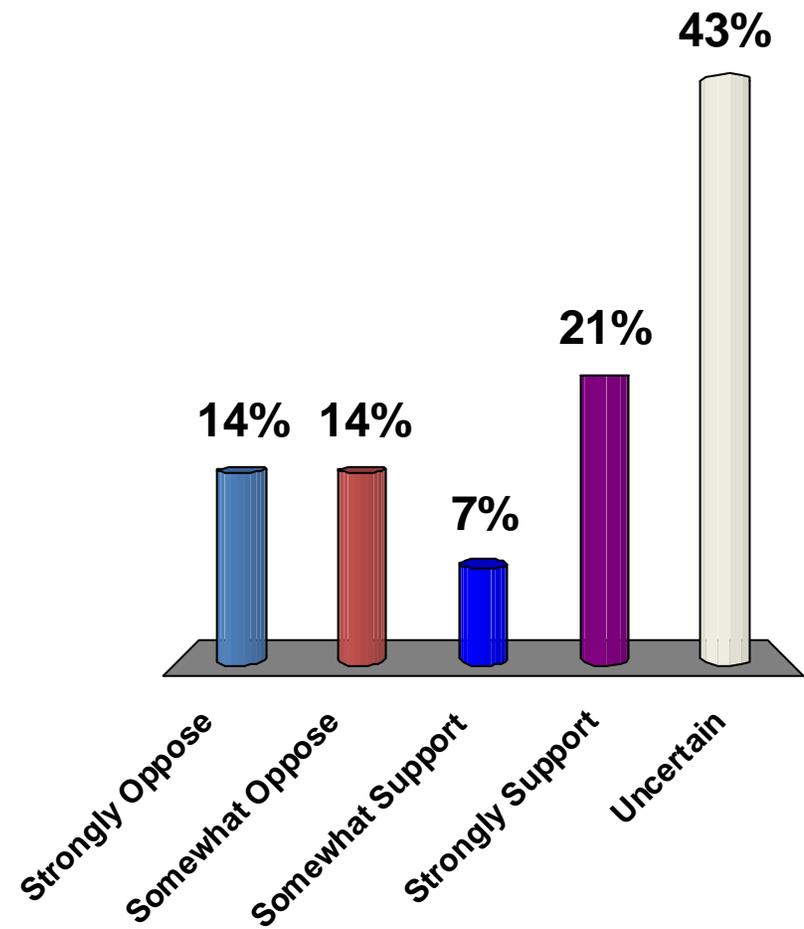
Proposed Recommendation #9



- Data collection efforts should be the responsibility of a state agency.
 - VAdata could be managed by a state agency or a new system developed to meet the needs of both grant reporting requirements and SDVAs.
 - *Rationale: Data collection from SDVAs should be the responsibility of a state agency. Duplicative data entry into multiple systems is inefficient and unnecessary.*

Data collection efforts should be the responsibility of a state agency.

1. Strongly Oppose
2. Somewhat Oppose
3. Somewhat Support
4. Strongly Support
5. Uncertain



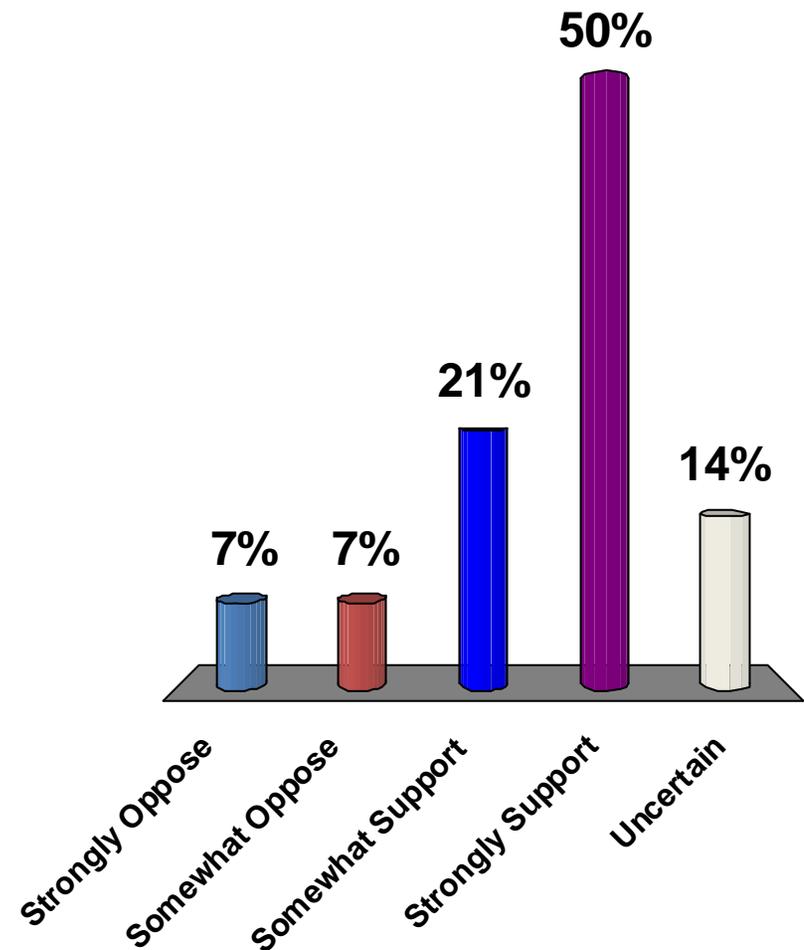
Proposed Recommendation #10



- Alternatives to the current hotline system should be considered.
 - *Rationale: The current hotline system is expensive and there may be more cost-effective options available to programs.*

Alternatives to the current hotline system should be considered.

1. Strongly Oppose
2. Somewhat Oppose
3. Somewhat Support
4. Strongly Support
5. Uncertain



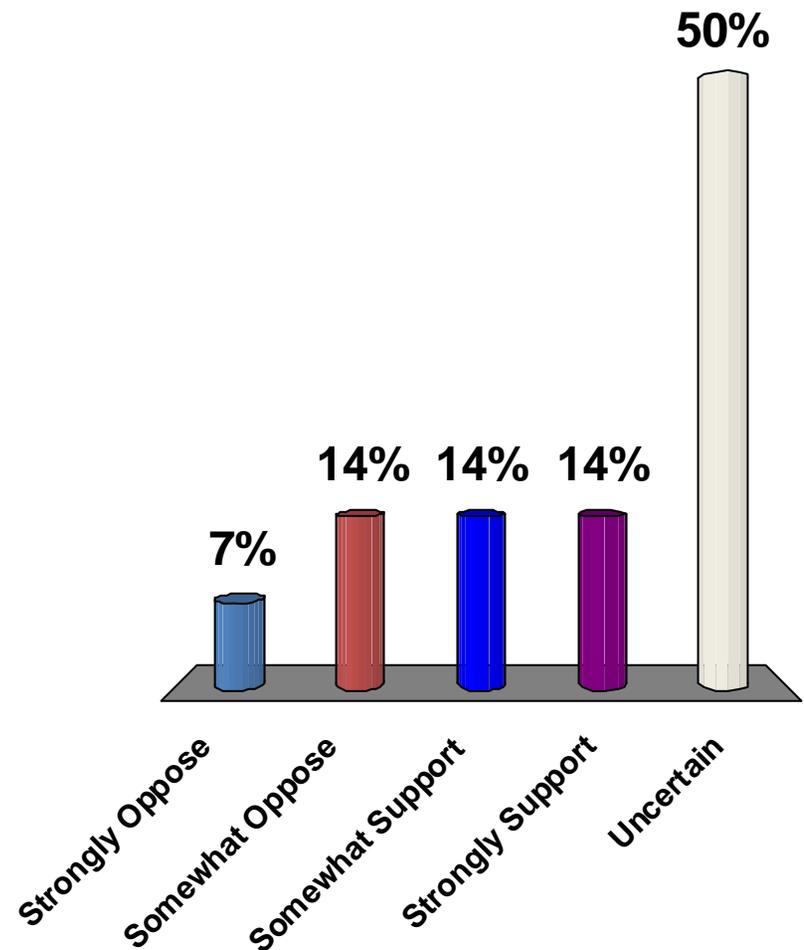
Proposed Recommendation #11



- VDSS should provide one-quarter (3 months) of funding at the start of the grant period, and then make future disbursements contingent upon meeting outputs, outcomes, or milestones during the first quarter.
 - *Rationale: This only puts one-quarter of the funding at risk for non-performance, but provides upfront cash flow for the programs.*

VDSS should provide one-quarter (3 months) of funding at the start of the grant period, and then make future disbursements contingent upon meeting outputs, outcomes, or milestones during the first quarter.

1. Strongly Oppose
2. Somewhat Oppose
3. Somewhat Support
4. Strongly Support
5. Uncertain



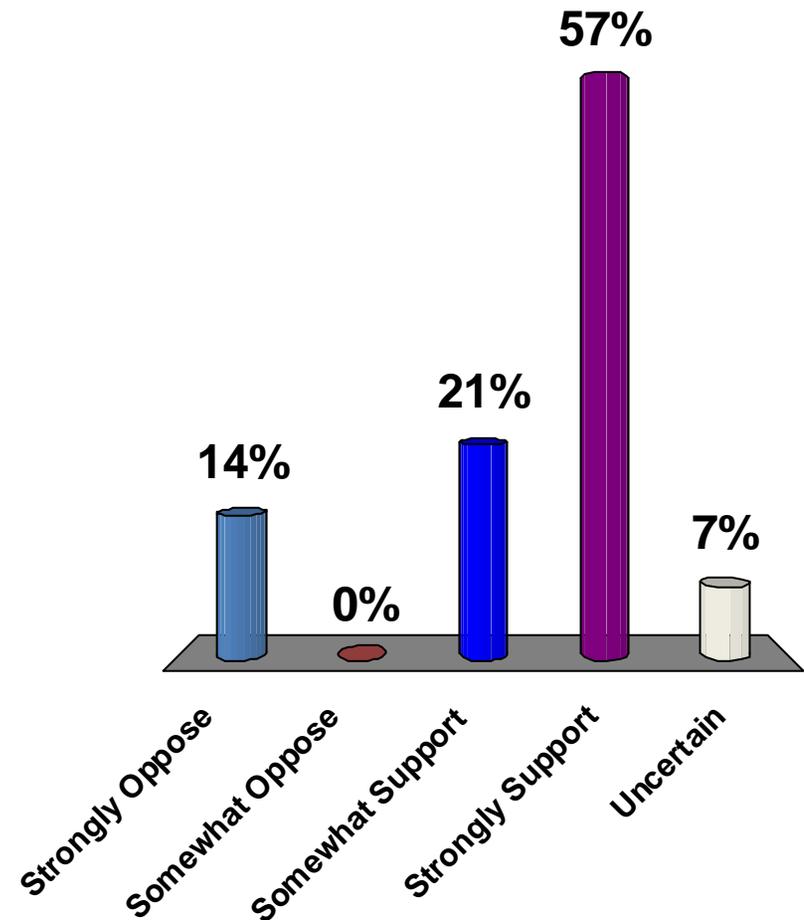
Proposed Recommendation #12



- All grant programs should operate under a grant philosophy rather than procurement.
 - This would require a change for grant programs administered by VDSS and VDH.
 - *Rationale: By having funds provided upfront, it makes budgeting for local programs much easier, and helps them avoid cash flow problems.*

All grant programs should operate under a grant philosophy rather than procurement.

1. Strongly Oppose
2. Somewhat Oppose
3. Somewhat Support
4. Strongly Support
5. Uncertain



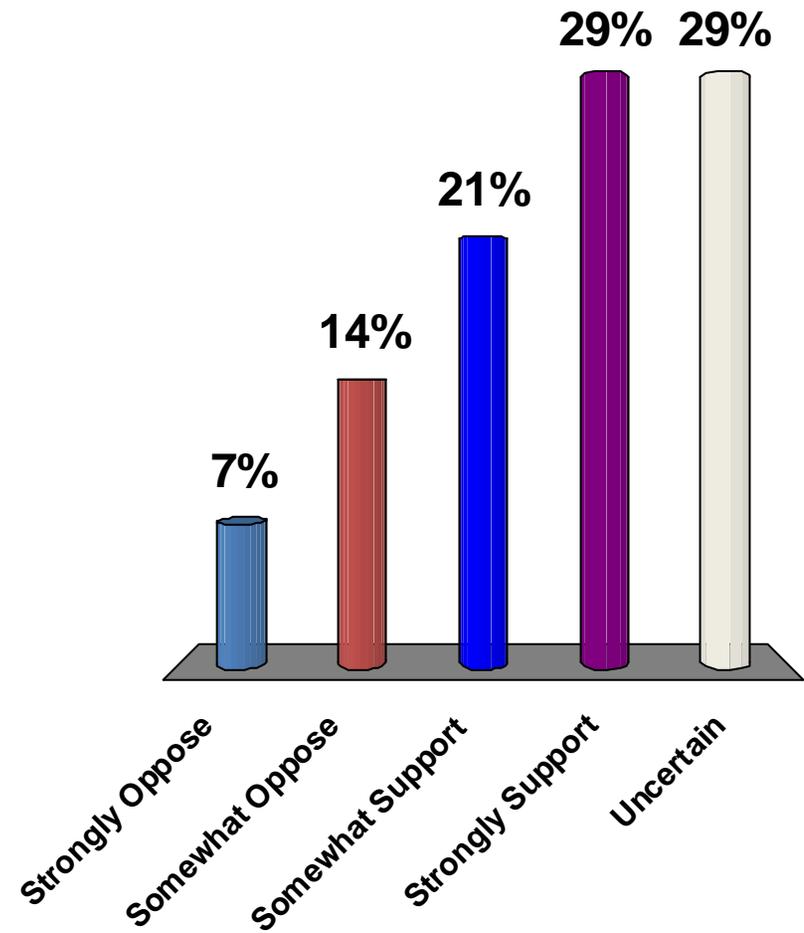
Proposed Recommendation #13



- VDSS should review budgetary percentage allocation and budget amendment requirements.
 - Provide more real-time flexibility with budgeted items by establishing guidelines and thresholds for “materiality” so that providers can move between line items without requiring a budget amendment. It could provide for allowances if amount being reallocated is less than 15% of the grant amount. Provide allowances for unlimited movement “within” a category.
 - *Rationale: Flexibility in reallocating budget funds would help local programs respond to unexpected expenses or unforeseen, necessary changes in program activities.*

VDSS should review budgetary percentage allocation and budget amendment requirements.

1. Strongly Oppose
2. Somewhat Oppose
3. Somewhat Support
4. Strongly Support
5. Uncertain



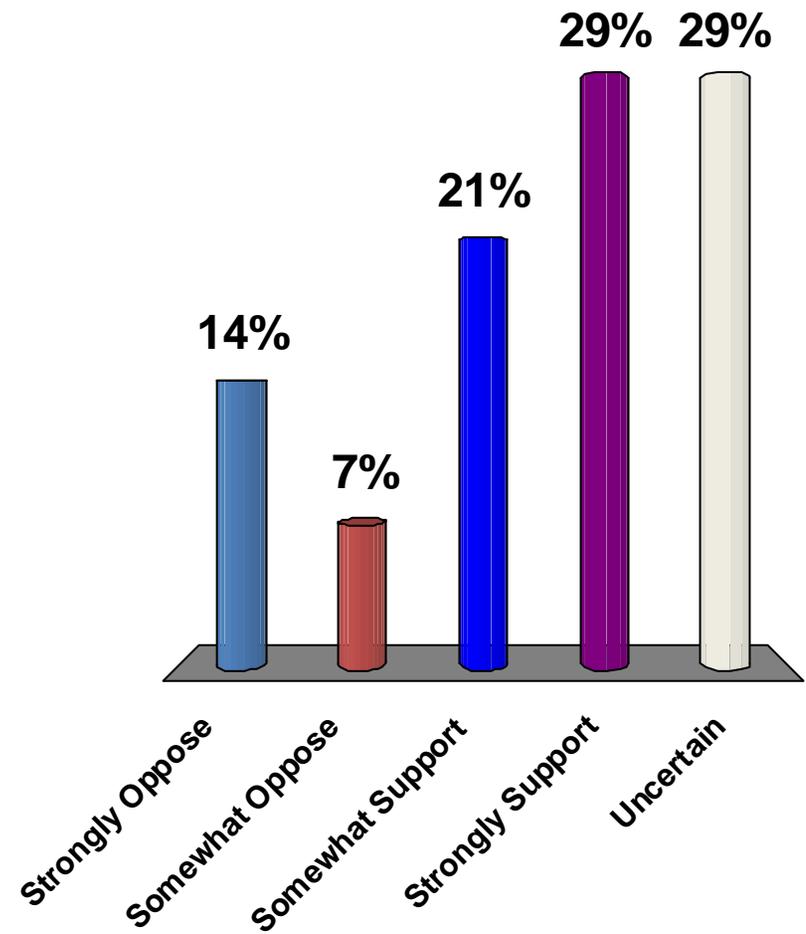
Proposed Recommendation #14



- DCJS should retain the VOCA funds that are now granted to VDSS.
 - DCJS is awarded the VOCA grant from OJP and makes a sub-grant to VDSS for a portion of the DV Prevention and Services Grant.
 - *Rationale: Maintaining VOCA funding at one agency streamlines the grant process.*

DCJS should retain the VOCA funds that are now granted to VDSS.

1. Strongly Oppose
2. Somewhat Oppose
3. Somewhat Support
4. Strongly Support
5. Uncertain



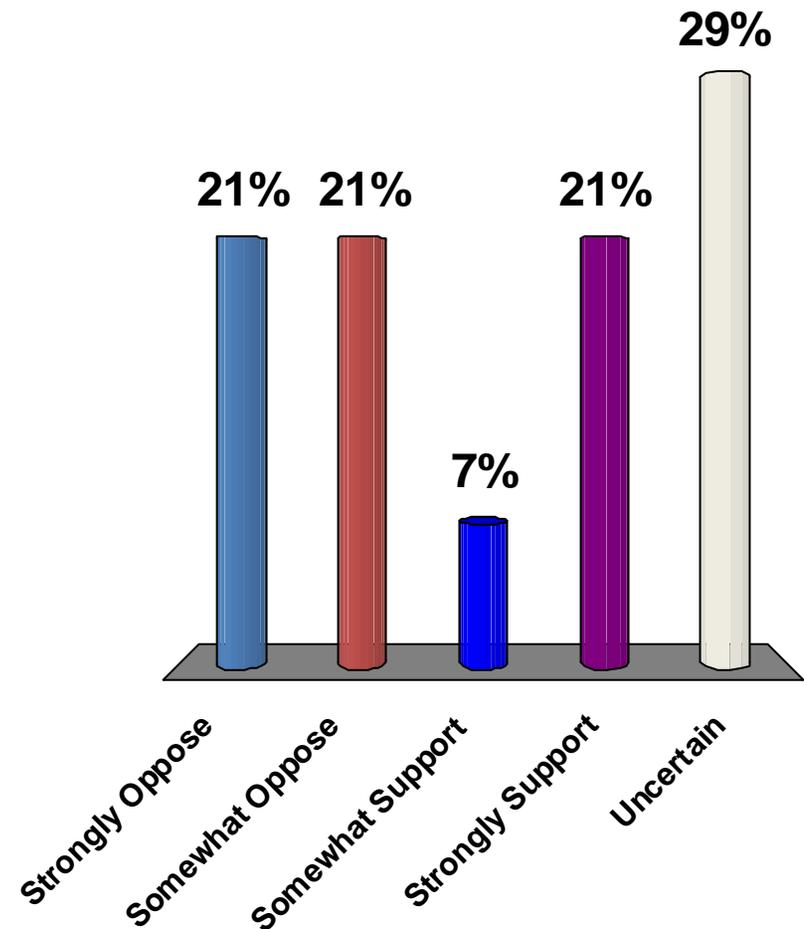
Proposed Recommendation #15



- VDSS should continue to maintain the DV Prevention and Services Grant Program Funds, provided they can update to an electronic system.
 - If they cannot update to an electronic system in a reasonable amount of time, these funds should be transferred to DCJS.
 - *Rationale: VDSS currently does not have an electronic system, which is preferred.*

VDSS should continue to maintain the DV Prevention and Services Grant Program Funds, provided they can update to an electronic system.

1. Strongly Oppose
2. Somewhat Oppose
3. Somewhat Support
4. Strongly Support
5. Uncertain



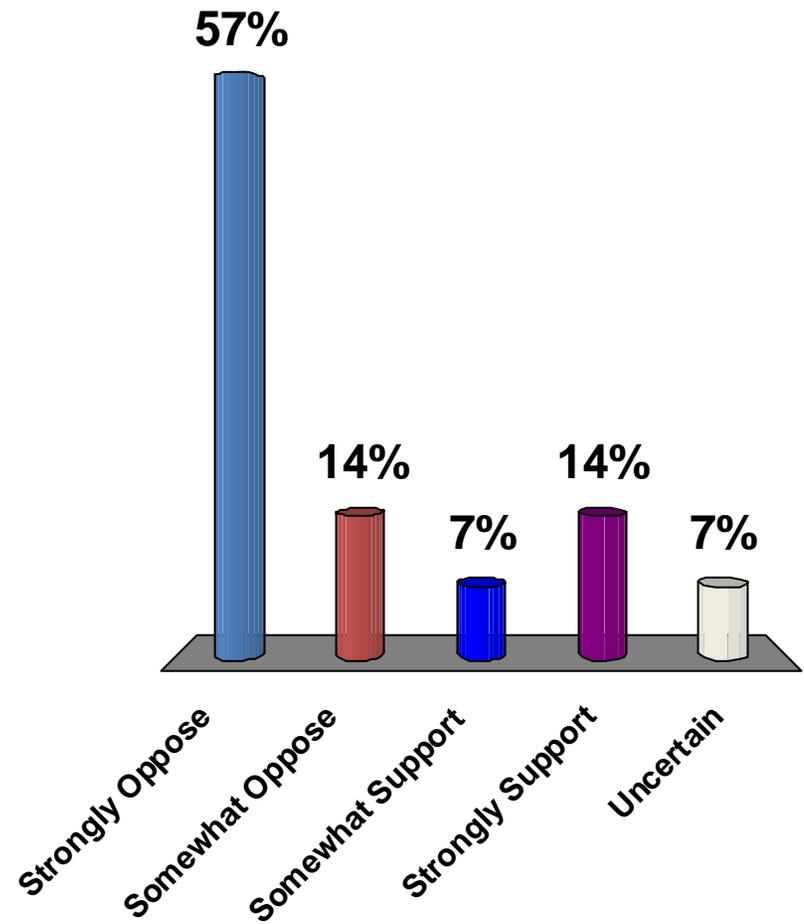
Proposed Recommendation #16



- VDSS should become responsible for two grants currently administered by DCJS (SASP and SAGP).
 - Leave non-core (special project) and non-SDV funding at DCJS (V-STOP, Victim Fund, Victim Witness).
 - *Rationale: Streamlines the grant process.*

VDSS should become responsible for two grants currently administered by DCJS (SASP and SAGP).

1. Strongly Oppose
2. Somewhat Oppose
3. Somewhat Support
4. Strongly Support
5. Uncertain



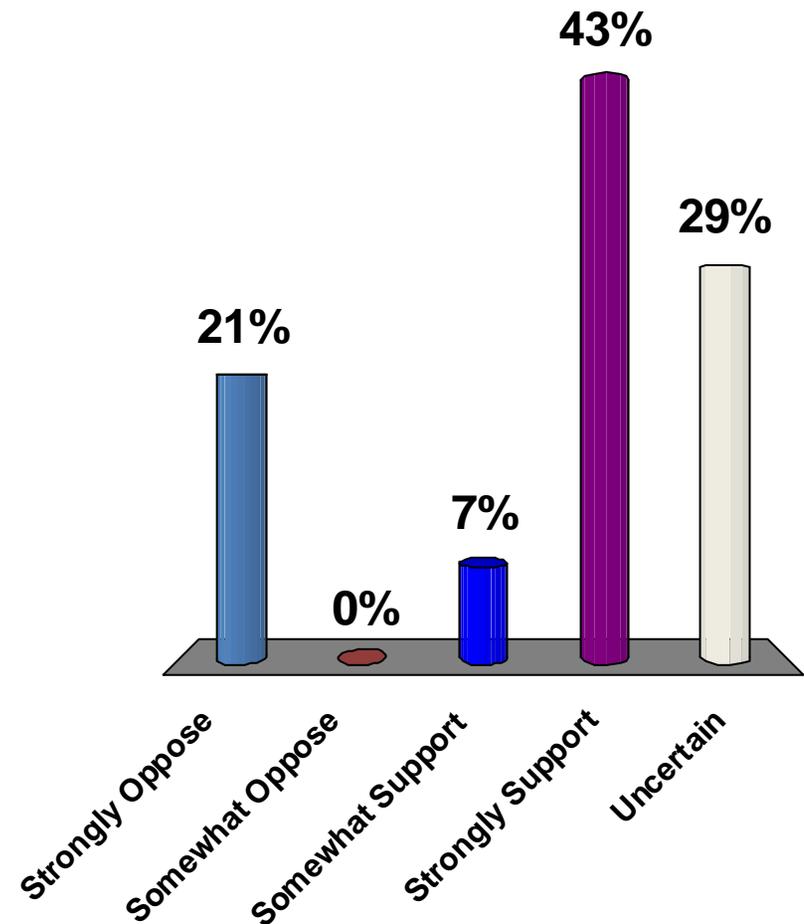
Proposed Recommendation #17



- DCJS should be responsible for handling all DV and SV grant programs, excluding DHCD's Homeless Solutions Program grant, 25% of VDH's RPE grant, and V-STOP funds that do not currently go to SDVAs.
 - Establish the *Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention and Victim Services Fund* at DCJS that will consolidate funds into one grant program, with one application.
 - This recommendation was approved by the Governing Body of the Action Alliance, and they have requested that this be known publicly.
 - *Rationale: Consolidation of all funding sources into one state fund could allow for efficiencies in applying for and monitoring of all these grants to local programs.*

DCJS should be responsible for handling all DV and SV grant programs, excluding DHCD's Homeless Solutions Program grant, 25% of VDH's RPE grant, and V-STOP funds that do not currently go to SDVAs.

1. Strongly Oppose
2. Somewhat Oppose
3. Somewhat Support
4. Strongly Support
5. Uncertain



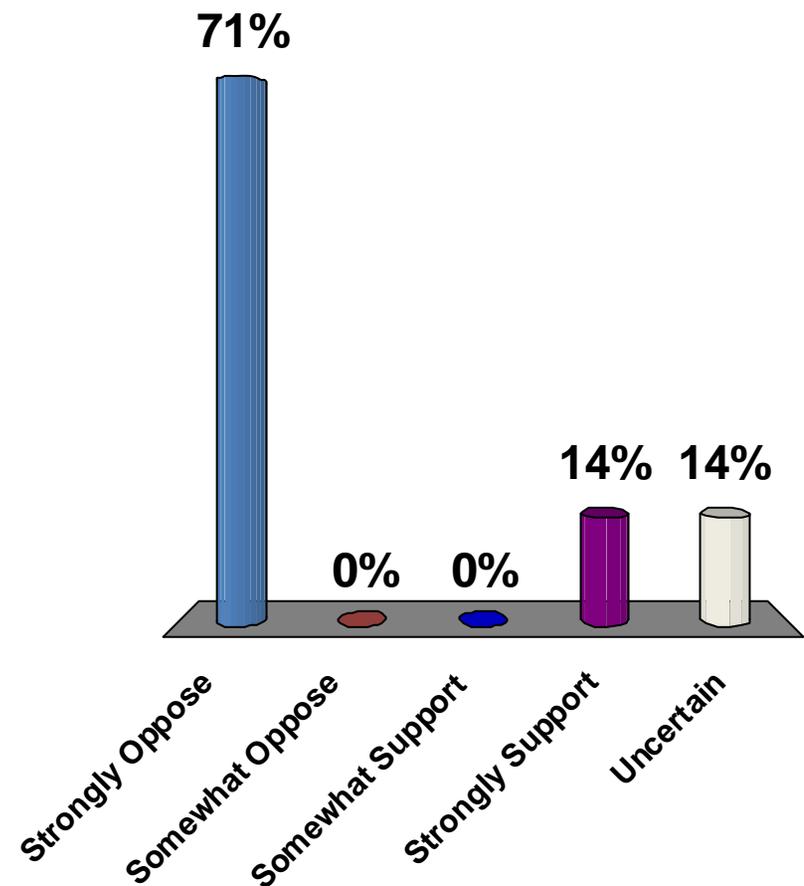
Proposed Recommendation #18



- VDSS should be responsible for handling all grant programs.
 - *Rationale: VDSS has a good working knowledge of domestic and sexual violence and is the best candidate as their sole purpose is working with agencies that deal with family violence.*

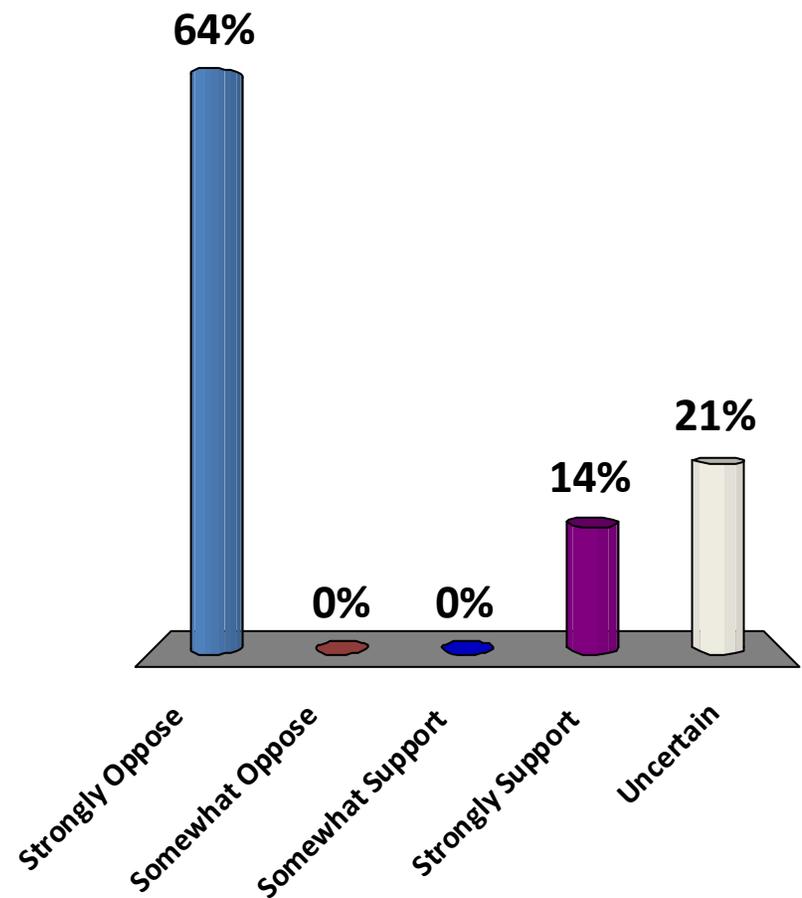
VDSS should be responsible for handling all grant programs.

1. Strongly Oppose
2. Somewhat Oppose
3. Somewhat Support
4. Strongly Support
5. Uncertain



19. VDSS should be responsible for handling all DV and SV grant programs, excluding DHCD's Homeless Solutions Program grant, 25% of VDH's RPE grant, and V-STOP funds that do not currently go to SDVAs.

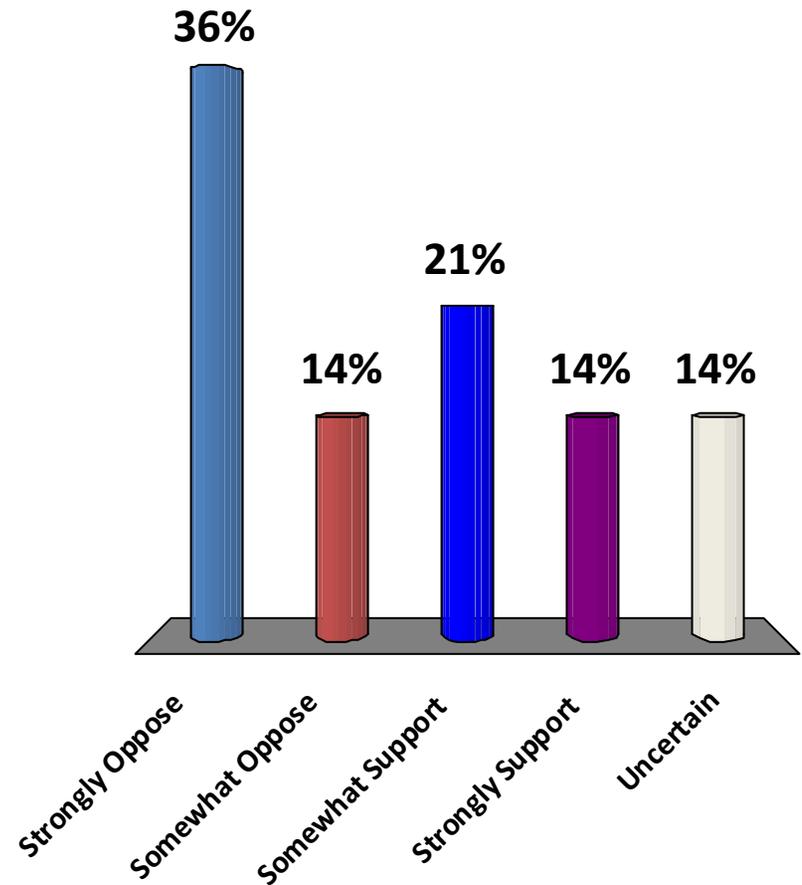
1. Strongly Oppose
2. Somewhat Oppose
3. Somewhat Support
4. Strongly Support
5. Uncertain



Note: this question was added at the meeting by member request.

20. DCJS should be responsible for handling all grant programs.

1. Strongly Oppose
2. Somewhat Oppose
3. Somewhat Support
4. Strongly Support
5. Uncertain



Note: this question was added at the meeting by member request.

Next Presentation



- This issue is planned for the November 10th Crime Commission meeting at 2:00 p.m. in Senate Room A, General Assembly Building, Richmond, VA.
- This meeting is open to the public and there should be an opportunity for public comment.

Staff Contact Information



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Final Discussion