



Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Life Saving & Changing Support & Services Funding

FY 2017 DPH Line Item 4513-1130 Program Descriptions

Comprehensive Rape Crisis Centers

Sixteen Rape Crisis Centers provide free and confidential direct services for adolescent and adult survivors of sexual violence, their loved ones, and non-offending care-givers of survivors of all ages across the Commonwealth. Services in every Massachusetts community include:

- 24-hour hotline services;
- Short- and long-term individual and group counseling for adolescents and adults;
- Medical, legal, police and other client advocacy including 24-hour rape crisis counselor response to hospital emergency departments and assistance and support with criminal and civil justice systems;
- Bi-lingual counselors and statewide Spanish-language rape crisis hotline;
- Outreach and education advocates to provide prevention programming and information about rape crisis services in settings such as schools, community groups and professional groups.
- Training to improve trauma-informed, coordinated community response to all survivors.

RISE (Refugee and Immigrant Safety and Empowerment) Program

RISE programs provide intensive linguistically and culturally specific domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking services. Currently 17 organizations are funded, which partially supports bilingual/bicultural advocates throughout the Commonwealth who provide services in 15 languages. These RISE-funded programs are the only programs in MA or in the region that have the capacity to provide domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking services in *Russian, Somali, Nepali, Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Khmer, Haitian-Creole, Cape Verdean Creole, Somali, Italian, and Farsi*. These services include:

- Crisis intervention; safety planning; interpretation; and victim support and advocacy with law enforcement, courts, and social services;
- Outreach to isolated immigrant communities about rights and services;
- Cross-training of service providers to enhance advocacy services; and
- Assistance with immigration and family court cases.

In addition, RISE supports 4 legal service programs to provide immigration council and representation to immigrant victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and human trafficking.

Sexual and Domestic Violence Community Mobilization

These programs focus on fostering community-wide responsibility to prevent and reduce the impact of sexual and domestic violence. Toward this goal, programs build and support networks of community residents and organizations in local neighborhoods that want to take action and address the problem of sexual and domestic violence together as a community. Sexual and domestic violence are critical community issues that are best addressed when all community members—youth, residents, families, friends, neighbors, civic leaders, and organizational partners—participate in designing and implementing the solutions to the problem. The goals of sexual and domestic violence community mobilizing are to develop local community leadership to create solutions and take action; intervene where sexual and domestic violence is already present; promote and support healthy relationships, healthy sexuality and healthy communities; integrate community responsibility for sexual and domestic violence prevention into the civic discourse and; build strong meaningful relationships among community members.

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GLBT Sexual and Domestic Violence Programs

This funding provides emergency hotline, advocacy, support group, safe home, a safe home-to-housing pilot program, individual support and safety planning for GLBT victims of sexual and domestic violence. Funding also supports training and technical assistance to build capacity of NGOs to serve GLBT survivors; community outreach and education, and community organizing.

Intimate Partner Abuse Education Programs (formerly Batterer Intervention)

Certified Intimate Partner Abuse Education Programs (IPAE) fill a critical role in the state's comprehensive response to domestic violence by providing an opportunity for abusers to end their violence and to become non-abusive and respectful partners and parents. Certified IPAE Programs provide a minimum of 80 hours of group education for abusers and monthly reports about their program participation to courts and other referral sources. IPAE Programs also initiate and maintain confidential outreach to the victims of abuse with the primary intention of referring them to domestic violence service agencies for the purposes of enhancing their safety. A study conducted by the Massachusetts Commissioner of Probation's Office that tracked abusers over six years found that those who completed a Certified IPAE Program were significantly less likely to re-offend than those who attended Anger Management Programs or other treatment options. A 2015 Massachusetts Trial Court study showed that the IPEA Program completers were 2.8 times less likely to re-offend when compared to non-completers.