



The Sexual Assault Services Program Funding: A Breakdown of the Four Grant Categories

The Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP), administered by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), is the first federal funding stream solely dedicated to the provision of direct intervention and related assistance for victims of sexual assault. The SASP statute (34 U.S.C. § 12511) outlines four funding categories under the umbrella of SASP and each has specified purposes and allowable activities. However, generally speaking, the purpose of SASP is to provide direct services to survivors of sexual assault except for the grants to state, territorial, and tribal sexual assault coalitions. For Coalitions, the purpose of SASP is to support efforts that improve appropriate responses to sexual assault through training, technical assistance, and policy development.

The Sexual Assault Services Program grant funding categories are:

- 1) Grants to states and territories;
- 2) Grants to state, territorial, and tribal sexual assault coalitions;
- 3) Grants for culturally specific programs addressing sexual assault; and
- 4) Grants to tribes and tribal organizations.

Within these categories, there are two *types* of funding: formula and discretionary. This document will break down the differences and offer resources for more in depth information.

Formula Funding and Discretionary Funding

Formula Funding

The SASP grants to states and territories and the SASP grants to state, territorial, and tribal sexual assault coalitions have different purposes and allowable activities, but both are [formula funding](#) meaning that the [enacting legislation](#) specifies the formula for how funds are distributed to each state and territory. The applicants do not compete with one another for funding and the eligible applicants are pre-determined.

Discretionary Funding

The SASP grants for culturally specific programs addressing sexual assault and the SASP grants to tribes are discretionary funding meaning OVW is responsible for creating program parameters, qualifications, eligibility, and deliverables in accordance with the authorizing legislation. Applicants apply directly to OVW and compete with one another for funding. OVW uses a peer review process to select which applicants receive an award. Additionally, despite the available discretionary funding, tribes, tribal programs, and culturally specific programs can and should be considered for funding under SASP formula. For more information about these programs, please refer to the specific solicitations available on the [OVW website](#).

Four SASP Grant Categories

Statutory Grant Category	(1) Grants to states and territories	(2) Grants to state, territory, and tribal coalitions	(3) Grants for culturally specific programs addressing sexual assault	(4) Grants to tribes and tribal organizations
OVW Program Name	SASP Formula	SASP Coalitions	SASP Culturally Specific	Tribal SASP
Funding Type	Formula	Formula	Discretionary	Discretionary
Funding Flow	OVW – SAA – local programs	OVW – designated coalitions	OVW – selected applicant	OVW – selected applicant
Eligible Entities	State/territorial administering agencies (SAA)	Designated state, territory, and tribal coalitions	Culturally specific non-profits	Tribal governments or non-profit tribal organizations or tribal organizations
General Purpose	Direct services to survivors (healing, emergency services, accompaniment, etc.), regardless	Training, resource development, and statewide coordination of efforts to support	Direct services to survivors (healing, emergency services, accompaniment, etc.), regardless of when the	Direct services to survivors (healing, emergency services, accompaniment, etc.), regardless

	of when the sexual assault or sexual abuse occurred. It can be used for survivors of any age. Funds cannot be used for general sexual assault training e.g. statewide advocacy training, law enforcement training.	appropriate responses to sexual assault. Funds cannot be used for direct services.	sexual assault or sexual abuse occurred. It can be used for survivors of any age. Funds cannot be used for general sexual assault training e.g. statewide advocacy training, law enforcement training.	of when the sexual assault or sexual abuse occurred. It can be used for survivors of any age. Funds cannot be used for general sexual assault training e.g. statewide advocacy training, law enforcement training.
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- A separate, printable version of this chart is at the end of this publication.

Category One: SASP Grants to States and Territories

Through SASP Formula, OVW directs funding to state and territory government agencies that in turn fund rape crisis centers and other nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations or tribal programs. SASP Formula funding has a very [narrow focus](#) to provide direct healing services to survivors of sexual violence regardless of age or when they experienced sexual violence. Typically, state, territorial, or tribal sexual assault coalitions are not eligible for this funding unless they have a project that provides direct services or intervention to sexual assault victims (e.g., a 24-hour sexual assault hotline). Also, as mentioned before, it is important to acknowledge that tribes, tribal programs, and culturally specific programs can and should be funded with these formula dollars even though there is specific discretionary funding.

Several state or territory administering agencies choose to pass SASP funding through to the sexual assault coalition to administer. If so, there should be clear expectations set forth in a written document delineating the state or territory administering agency and coalition responsibilities about soliciting, allocating, distributing, monitoring, and reporting on how federal SASP funds are used. For more information on pass through considerations, refer to [this publication](#).

Category Two: SASP Grants to State, Territorial, and Tribal Sexual Assault Coalitions

State, territory, and tribal sexual assault coalitions, including dual domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions, receive SASP funding to provide sexual assault specific training and technical assistance to local sexual assault programs, tribes, law enforcement, courts, child protective agencies, and other direct service providers. State, territory, and tribal coalitions can also use SASP funding to collaborate with and inform federal, state, tribal, or local public officials and agencies to develop and implement policies to reduce or eliminate sexual assault.

State and Territorial Sexual Assault Coalitions. OVW distributes SASP coalition funding through the State and Territorial Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions Program. The SASP statute specifies a set proportion of available funding for each state and territory coalition. This funding cannot be used to provide direct services to survivors.

Tribal Sexual Assault Coalitions. OVW administers the SASP funding for tribal coalitions through the Grants to Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions Program. The SASP statute specifies a set percentage of available funding for tribal coalitions. This funding cannot be used to provide direct services to survivors.

Category Three: SASP Grants for Culturally Specific Programs Addressing Sexual Assault

The [Sexual Assault Services Culturally Specific Program](#) (SAS Culturally Specific Program) funds nonprofit organizations that focus primarily on culturally specific communities and have experience in the area of sexual assault or who partner with an organization having such expertise. SAS Culturally Specific Program grant funds support culturally specific intervention and related assistance for survivors of sexual assault.

Category Four: SASP Grants to Tribes and Tribal Organizations

The [Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program](#) (TSASP) supports projects to create, maintain, and expand sustainable sexual assault services provided by Tribes, tribal organizations, and nonprofit tribal organizations within Indian country and Alaska Native villages.

For more information on SASP Formula and available training and resources, please reach out to Elizabeth Edmondson Bauer at 515-401-8984 or sasp@iowacasa.org.

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General Purpose	Direct services to survivors (healing, emergency services, accompaniment, etc.), regardless of when the sexual assault or sexual abuse occurred. It can be used for survivors of any age. Funds cannot be used	Training, resource development, and statewide coordination of efforts to support appropriate responses to sexual assault. Funds cannot be used for direct services.	Direct services to survivors (healing, emergency services, accompaniment, etc.), regardless of when the sexual assault or sexual abuse occurred. It can be used for survivors of any age. Funds cannot be used for general	Direct services to survivors (healing, emergency services, accompaniment, etc.), regardless of when the sexual assault or sexual abuse occurred. It can be used for survivors of any age. Funds cannot be used

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