

State of Nebraska
Department of Health & Human Services
Grant Request to the U.S. Department of
Health & Human Services

Administration on Children, Youth & Families
Family & Youth Services Bureau

Family Violence Prevention and Services
Grants to States for Domestic Violence Shelters and Support Services
Application Due Date: March 14, 2014

Legislative Authority:
The Family Violence Prevention & Services Act
HHS-2014-ACF-ACYF-FVPS-0564

Submitted by:
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Director
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Signature

Date

1. STATE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is the state agency responsible for the administration of funds under this act. Thomas D. Pristow, Director of the Division of Children and Family Services, is the Chief Program Official designated as responsible for the administration of funds under this act. The grant administrator for this program is Julie Hippen, Program Specialist with the Division of Children and Family Services.

2. PLAN TO INVOLVE COMMUNITY –BASED ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE SERVICES TO UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS IN ADDRESSING UNMET NEEDS:

DHHS as well as the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition (Coalition) value collaboration with organizations that provide culturally specific services to underserved populations in our state. The Coalition and the 21 local domestic violence/sexual assault programs have established working relationships with several community groups that have the primary purpose of serving specific underserved populations.

The Coalition and network of programs will continue to partner with the Center for Legal Immigration Assistance (CLIA), coordinating the provision of immigration relief services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking. The Coalition, CLIA and network of programs have engaged in a Memorandum of Understanding that allows the agencies to support victims that are already receiving crisis services through Nebraska's network of domestic violence programs, by expanding the support they are receiving to include immigration assistance. In addition, this partnership allows an opportunity to share information, resources and knowledge regarding best practices in meeting the needs of the immigrant populations. Training for law enforcement, prosecutors and advocates will be offered in the state of Nebraska through this collaboration as well.

A partnership has been established and will be maintained with Outlinc, which is an LGBTQ organization in our state. The Coalition has partnered with Outlinc in grant

proposals as well as training opportunities. Outlinc has provided webinar trainings the last two years to the network of local programs regarding the provision of outreach and services to LGBTQ individuals experiencing domestic violence. The Coalition has also reached out to national partners at the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, who will be providing a webinar for the network of local programs regarding the accessibility of services for LGBTQ individuals as well as preventing and responding to harassment and bullying aimed at this population.

The Coalition continues to partner with the Heartland Deaf Abuse Advocacy Services, a group of advocates that serve deaf victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Plans are underway to hold a coordinating meeting to assess the training and technical assistance needs of this group. The Coalition has been in communication with a deaf trainer through the Office for Victims of Crime's Training and Technical Assistance Program, who has agreed to provide support to the Coalition in working with this group. In addition, the Coalition has worked with the Commission on Deaf and Hard of Hearing over the years. The Commission has the ability to coordinate interpreter services for the purpose of training, and they have also previously presented to the Executive Directors of our network of local programs regarding outreach and services to the deaf and hard of hearing population.

Existing partnerships with the four Native American Tribes within the state of Nebraska have been strengthened over the last year. Advocates from the tribes were included in a training and technical assistance survey to assess their needs, and they continue to attend trainings with the network of programs. In addition, tribal members have provided training for the network of programs over the last two years regarding working with native survivors. Staff members from the Coalition, as well as the Program Specialist from DHHS, have been attending meetings of the Nebraska Tribal Coalition Ending Family Violence, which has strengthened communication. An attorney with Legal Aid of Nebraska who is funded to specifically work with the tribes in Nebraska serves on the Coalition's Board of Directors.

Local domestic violence/sexual assault agencies continue to partner with the Cultural Centers in their communities. Collaborations include the provision of culturally

appropriate support groups, education, and advocacy services that are specific to the needs of the underserved populations. The partnerships also allow for the services to be taken directly to the underserved individuals in an environment that is familiar and comfortable. The collaboration is also strengthened due to the fact that the staff member from the local domestic violence program is working hand in hand with the staff of the Cultural Centers, allowing for cross-training and increased alliance.

The Coalition's Legal Director is involved in a state wide task force that focuses on the issue of human trafficking in Nebraska. The Task Force has identified the network of domestic violence/sexual assault programs as the branch of agencies to provide services to victims of trafficking that experience domestic violence and/or sexual assault. The Task Force has also recognized that the Coalition is suited to providing training and technical assistance in these areas.

Community-based organizations assist the state in identifying and addressing the unmet needs of underserved populations by serving in the state planning process. The state continues to use the Violence Against Women Act State Implementation Plan as a method to receive feedback from and engage culturally specific organizations. The development process for the state plan includes gathering input from agencies working in the area of domestic violence, as well as gathering information contributed from victims, knowledgeable individuals, interested organizations and underserved populations. The plan incorporates the feedback from across the state to identify priority populations to be the focus of culturally specific services. The most recent state plan identified several populations including those who are: non-English speaking, Native American, living in rural areas, experiencing mental health disorders, undocumented immigrants, experiencing substance abuse issues, and LGBTQ.

3. PLAN TO PROVIDE SPECIALIZED SERVICES INCLUDING TRAUMA-INFORMED SERVICES FOR CHILDREN EXPOSED TO FAMILY VIOLENCE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, OR DATING VIOLENCE, UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS, AND VICTIMS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY POPULATIONS:

Children:

The network of programs in Nebraska provides services for children in a variety of ways. Often a child accompanies the parent who is seeking shelter services. When the child is in shelter, he/she may be able to participate in group or individual activities with the Shelter Advocates. Activities often focus on healthy expression of feelings through games and crafts as well as safety planning. In addition, some programs offer a safe place for children to gather while the adult is attending a support group. An advocate is available to spend quality time with the child while facilitating activities. In some programs, advocates are able to spend time with a specific parent and child in order to “role model” healthy interactions for the parent-child bonding process.

The Coalition provides trainings each year that focus on advocacy with children and youth. We have a day-long program training scheduled this year that is devoted to the topic of Providing Children’s Services. We also educate advocates regarding the effects of domestic violence on children in our Fundamentals of Advocacy week-long training that is offered twice a year. A webinar will be provided regarding Teen Dating Violence, and a Prevention Summit is scheduled to discuss Comprehensive School Based Programming to address teen dating violence prevention in our schools. Trauma Informed Care information has been incorporated into our trainings in order to best assist the families that we are serving, and information on the trauma-informed approach has also been distributed to our programs as well as provided through webinar and in-person trainings.

Underserved Populations:

DHHS and the Coalition partner to ensure that services are being provided to underserved populations in our state. The Coalition continues to partner with the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to train deaf and hard of hearing individuals who are interested in becoming domestic violence advocates. Interpreters are arranged for special trainings, building on the relationship that has already been in existence with the Commission.

A survey was recently administered to the network of programs to ascertain training and technical assistance needs in the area of outreach, service provision and

policy development regarding LGBTQ populations. The survey results were discussed at a program director meeting, and they have been shared with the TA provider who will be developing the webinar for the network of programs.

Also, the Coalition will continue to host webinars to share the best practices and address the challenges that may exist in working with Native American populations, partnering with the Santee Sioux Nation to provide the training. A webinar focused on serving rural populations is being planned through coordination with Praxis International, who will serve as the primary presenter.

Racial and Ethnic Minority:

The Coalition and their network of programs worked in conjunction with DHHS to create an outreach plan that includes reaching victims who may be experiencing cultural or language barriers. Our outreach efforts have ultimately lead to a more effective provision of services to minority populations in our state. We have bilingual advocates scattered across our state, specialized support groups, task forces, and joint projects with minority groups. The Coalition has a bilingual staff person who translates brochures into Spanish, and an intern was engaged to translate three brochures into Arabic. The Coalition facilitates a Statewide Spanish Crisis Line, and recently received funding to share with the local programs so that they can pay for Language Line services to assist those utilizing their agency who may speak a different language than Spanish.

As with all populations, the trauma-informed care approach is used to best understand the survivors as well as to meet their needs in the most effective manner. More information regarding services to racial and ethnic minority populations will be provided in the next section.

General Information on Trauma-Informed services and care:

Trauma-informed education is incorporated into the Coalition's trainings, allowing the local programs to embrace this concept in their service provision. A focus on trauma informed care has been implemented in the Fundamentals of Advocacy Training, and is also incorporated into all program education days and webinars that are scheduled throughout the year.

Extra time has been devoted at statewide program director's meetings to focusing on two books: "Organizational Trauma and Healing" and "Trauma Stewardship: An Everyday Guide to Caring for Self while Caring for Others" in order to encourage self-care while working in this stressful field. Also, a webinar is scheduled for the advocates across our state to cover Vicarious Trauma and Self Care.

4. PLAN TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS:

a. Identify which populations in the State are currently underserved

Several populations have been identified as underserved in the state of Nebraska, and the following are the ten populations that were ranked the most underserved: Persons with mental health issues, non-English speaking, rural populations, undocumented immigrants, Native Americans, elders, adolescents/teens, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ individuals, and Latinos/Hispanics.

Process used to identify underserved populations

The underserved populations were identified through two different processes. *The first process* was the development of Nebraska's Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) State Plan. The Plan was created through a series of activities that were held across the state. The first activity centered around an Economic Security for Survivors Project in which 45 stake holders came to the table to examine system issues that interfere with a survivor's ability to achieve safety and economic security. The second activity included three Strategic Planning Sessions with 38 participants. Discussions were held to identify gaps and needs in our state. The third activity utilized an on-line survey that was used to rank the identified gaps and needs that were identified. The fourth activity conducted provided listening sessions with ten consumers of services from across the state. The discussions focused on the victim/survivor perception of barriers as well as what they found to be most and least helpful from the criminal justice system and service providers. The DHHS, Coalition and network of programs participated in the development of this plan along with law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, tribal governments, educators, population-specific organizations, homeless providers, underserved populations, National Guard etc.

It was also very helpful that several state administrators who are responsible for various federal funding programs met during 2012 and 2013 to coordinate state planning along with other efforts. The initial gathering of the administrators stemmed from the common theme of effective ways for individuals and families to develop economic security. The administrators who were involved include the STOP administrator who manages the Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP), Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) STOP grants; the FVPSA administrator; the HUD administrator who administers the Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program dollars as well as the Emergency Solutions Grant; and the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) administrator. In addition, the Coalition and the FVPSA administrator worked closely with the Rape/Prevention and Education administrator. This coordination not only aided in the above planning process, but it also assists in ensuring funding toward a continuum of services, ranging from prevention to crisis intervention.

The second process that helped to identify underserved populations was facilitated by the Coalition and included the 21 local domestic violence/sexual assault programs as participants. The programs were divided into regional groups at a statewide meeting, and each region identified the underserved populations in their service area. It was interesting to note that the populations that were identified by the network of programs largely matched those highlighted through the larger state planning process.

Describe those that are being targeted for outreach and services

The first group identified for outreach and services is individuals living in rural areas. Rural individuals are isolated to a greater extent, due to the very nature of their living arrangements. There is less access to emergency care, law enforcement or even support from family, neighbors and community members due to the great distance between homes. Other identified needs are lack of public transportation, the burden of long distance travel for appointments and the lack of reliable cell phone services. In addition, stigma continues to be a barrier for victims to access services, as it is more difficult to seek assistance without others being aware in a small community. With the

exception of the agencies based in the immediate Lincoln and Omaha areas, the majority of the domestic violence programs cover several counties, ranging in size from 2,500 to 7,000 square miles.

The second underserved group targeted includes individuals with cultural and /or language barriers. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2012, among minorities at least five (5) years old living in Nebraska, 11% spoke a language other than English at home. Of those speaking a language other than English at home, 66% spoke Spanish and 34% spoke some other language; 45% reported that they did not speak English “very well”. With more than 38 different languages/dialects spoken in Nebraska, the programs have difficulty offering interpreters and translated materials. The growth of non-English speaking persons combined with the difficulty in accessing services in rural areas doubles the barriers for victims. The Coalition is aware of this need and offers assistance in the form of a Statewide Spanish Crisis Line, translated written materials and other resources.

Those identifying as lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender or Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) has been identified as the third target population for our outreach efforts. The Coalition and network of programs are aware of the sizeable LGBTQ population in our state. However, there are not a large number of these individuals who are contacting our network for services. While it is extremely difficult for all victims of domestic violence to reach out for help, it may be an even larger challenge for LGBTQ individuals to explain the relationship violence that is occurring.

Provide a brief explanation of why those populations were selected to receive outreach and services.

The majority of the underserved populations that were identified by the network of programs in their regional groups matched those identified through the VAWA planning meetings. The top three priority populations for the purpose of this project were chosen by the network of programs based on those that were the most identified across all regions.

b. Describe the outreach plan

DHHS contracted with the Coalition to work in collaboration with the 21 domestic violence/sexual assault service providers for the purpose of creating an outreach plan for the state of Nebraska. The plan was created through a series of statewide meetings for the local programs. A summary of the plan follows:

ISSUE:

It is a challenge to reach underserved victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in the state of Nebraska. Due to this challenge, it is difficult to provide information to underserved populations regarding the services that exist in their area. It becomes complicated to adequately meet the needs of underserved populations due to this lack of knowledge of services.

PURPOSE:

The Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition's network of 21 programs desire to provide outreach to identified underserved individuals and groups throughout our state. Outreach allows the network of programs to:

1. Create awareness among underserved populations about the network of programs, specifically the program nearest the individual in need;
2. Provide a working knowledge of the existing services that are available for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault; and
3. Make the services accessible and effective.

The Coalition/network of programs desire to increase the availability and utilization of assistance through direct service contact with the identified populations.

Target Audience Objective 1:

Victims/survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault living in *rural areas*

Desired Outcome:

Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault who live in *rural areas* will be aware of services offered throughout the state, and will be able to access those services as needed.

Target Audience Objective 2:

Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault with unique *cultural and language barriers*

Desired Outcome:

Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault who have unique *cultural and language barriers* will be aware of services offered throughout the state, and will be able to access those services as needed.

Target Audience Objective 3:

Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, or Queer/Questioning (*LGBTQ*)

Desired Outcome:

Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault who identify as *LGBTQ* will be aware of services offered throughout the state, and will be able to access those services as needed.

Outreach Tools:

For each of the above identified populations, Nebraska's Outreach Plan discusses ways in which the underserved individuals can potentially be reached. The outreach methods are divided into categories based on: printed methods of outreach, electronic ways to reach the populations, visual means, personal contact and other routes such as community partnerships. The tools identified are unique to each population represented in that portion of the plan.

Explain domestic violence training to be provided

The Coalition provides a wide variety of training events for our network and the tribes each year. In-person training takes place in the form of: Training Institutes; Program Sharing and Training Days; Director's Meetings for local program directors; Prevention Summits; Legal Advocacy Days; and Collaborative Events with community partners. One of our main Training Institutes, Fundamentals of Advocacy, takes place twice a year and is targeted toward new advocates in our network. It provides 40 hours of foundation training, providing a firm base knowledge upon which advocates can build. Coalition staff incorporate information regarding outreach to our underserved populations throughout this training.

When providing in-person training, the Coalition recognizes the importance of taking the education to all areas of our state. Therefore, regional trainings are held in locations that are easily accessible to the rural programs within our network. Bringing trainings directly to rural service providers is the first step in aiding them toward outreach efforts in their areas. Coalition staff members have also provided training directly to individual programs in situations where that agency requests education that is specific to their particular needs. The education may be focused on serving rural individuals, outreach to LGBTQ populations, reaching non-English speaking victims, or any number of other topics. The Coalition values assisting our network of programs in a manner that is meaningful to ensure that each agency accomplishes its outreach efforts.

In response to several issues such as inclement winter weather, lack of travel dollars and limited staff availability to take time away from the office for training, the Coalition provides Webinar Wednesdays. These training opportunities allow the programs to gain knowledge right at their computer. We have built outreach training into our webinars as well, including: Violence Against Native Women (featuring a tribal staff member); Serving Survivors who are LGBTQ (featuring a staff member from Outlinc as well as a national TA provider); Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Rural Communities (featuring Praxis International); Reaching Human Trafficking Survivors; Teen Dating Violence etc.

Explain the means for providing technical assistance and support

DHHS contracts with the Coalition to provide technical assistance and support to Nebraska's network of domestic violence/sexual assault programs and tribes in a variety of ways. The Coalition has staff available that has knowledge in the three areas that have been identified for outreach to underserved populations. The Coalition staff members attend national trainings, access up-to-date research, and partner with culturally specific agencies in order to remain current on best practices for reaching the identified underserved populations. In addition, the Coalition employs a bi-lingual staff member who is available to help with Spanish translations and interpretations. Local program advocates regularly call and email the Coalition staff members when they are in need of assistance regarding outreach to the underserved populations. In situations

where Coalition staff members determine that more information is needed than what is currently available, national technical assistance providers are contacted in an effort to gain additional guidance, which is in turn shared with the local program advocates.

Technical assistance and support is also provided in the form of resources that are made available to the network of programs and tribes. Brochures have been created by the Coalition to assist our state in working with the identified underserved populations. The Coalition currently has 20 brochures that are available in Spanish, three brochures that are available in Arabic as well as a variety of materials that are printed in Vietnamese and Laotian. There are brochures that specifically cover the topics of LGBTQ Intimate Partner Violence as well as Cultural Services to assist with outreach to these underserved populations. Several resources are available through the Coalition's Lending Library including books, DVDs and research articles. DHHS worked in conjunction with the Coalition over the last year to revise and reprint the Breaking the Silence handbook on domestic violence, and to distribute it to agencies across the state.

The Coalition also offers the resource of a Statewide Spanish Crisis Line for use by survivors as well as the network of programs, as not all programs have a Spanish speaking advocate on staff. Funding was recently received for the programs to access the Language Line to serve victims who speak a language other than Spanish.

Specialized support is provided to four of the programs each year as they receive an on-site Peer Review from the Coalition and peer agencies. This opportunity allows the local programs to benefit from direct and individualized assistance regarding their services and outreach efforts. The Coalition helps the agencies to review each area of their operations as detailed in the Program Standards, and assists the agency to strengthen the areas in which there is a need for growth or improvement.

Over the last year, the Coalition has provided New Executive Director Training to seven of the local domestic violence/sexual assault programs, and has provided Board of Director Training to five programs, with additional trainings scheduled in upcoming months. This form of technical assistance helps to strengthen the local programs and

ultimately provides sustainability of all services, included outreach to underserved populations.

Describe the leadership role played by those representing and serving underserved populations

The Coalition recently restructured the Board of Directors to strategically include a broader representation. Rural programs in the state elected an individual to represent their programs on the board. In addition, the “at large” program representative is also from an extremely rural area, as is one of the community representatives. The board also has an attorney who works directly with the four tribes. One member of the board is Hispanic, and another member is a survivor who actively shares her story. Local programs are also striving to create diversity for their Boards to ensure that underserved populations are represented across the state.

Partnerships have also been established with agencies comprised of underserved populations. The Coalition has created a relationship with Outlinc, an agency representing LGBTQ individuals. A member from that group has collaborated with the Coalition on an educational webinar, and the group has also partnered with the Coalition on grant applications in recent years as well as providing presentations at the statewide program director’s meetings. DHHS has contracted with the Coalition to provide outreach and technical assistance to the four tribes in Nebraska, and partnerships have also been formed in this area. A tribal member has been involved in presenting a webinar to the network of programs the last two years, and tribal members will be providing a panel presentation in the future for a program director meeting. Coalition staff partner with an Immigration agency, striving to provide much needed immigration relief services across our state, and serve on a Human Trafficking Task Force to ensure outreach in this area.

c. Describe the specific services to be provided or enhanced

Nebraska’s network of 21 domestic violence and sexual assault programs will continue to provide outreach and valuable assistance to underserved populations, and will strive to continuously improve the method of service delivery. With no additional funding, the programs will maintain the level of service provision during the next year.

For each underserved population, there are examples of how the programs provide quality services.

Rural population:

Eight of Nebraska's programs that serve rural areas have satellite offices that are available throughout their region to make services more easily accessible. There are a total of 32 offices among our 21 programs across the state. Programs also hold their volunteer training programs throughout their service area to create a volunteer pool that can cover the rural communities. Presentations are taken to community groups and schools across the coverage area to make individuals aware of services. Transportation for clients is vital in rural areas, as there may be great distances for victims to reach services. All domestic violence programs in Nebraska provide transportation for those whom they serve, often transporting one individual hundreds of miles. Toll free crisis line services are also available through each program area as a means for survivors to access services without driving great distances.

People experiencing cultural and language barriers:

The Coalition will continue to offer *Linea de Crisis*, a 24-hour Statewide Spanish Crisis Line that was established in March 2003. The Coalition offers one full time bi-lingual staff who supports the Linea de Crisis, as well as partnering with one of the local programs that provides bi-lingual advocates who assist in answering the line. The Coalition staff will continue to provide training and technical assistance to local programs and assist with three-way translations for the programs that do not have their own bi-lingual advocates. The two Coalition attorneys will continue to work with the network of programs to provide immigration relief through the form of assistance with U-Visas and VAWA Self Petitions.

The local programs across the state offer a variety of services for those with cultural and language barriers. There are a total of eleven support groups that are available each week for Spanish speaking participants, as well as one group for African American women. There are also two support groups available for children who speak Spanish. There are a total of 30 paid bilingual advocates across the state with the majority speaking Spanish, and others speaking Portuguese, Bosnian, Serbian and

Croatian. In addition, there are 8 volunteer bilingual advocates. Below are some other collaborations that are coordinated by our network of programs in Nebraska:

- Heartland Family Service in Papillion has a Cultural Ambassador who serves as a liaison with the Sudanese population. In addition, their agency provides a Mujeres Y Valores (Women and Values) group for Spanish-speaking survivors. They also partner with Justice for our Neighbors to provide immigration relief for survivors.
- Bright Horizons in Norfolk has a joint Advisory Board with the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, consisting of seven women who have used the services of both agencies and who assist in providing input for future services. The women also provide cross training for the agencies to ensure the understanding of Native American culture. The Advisory Board members recently participated in Bright Horizon's Strategic Planning Process, identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.
- The Spouse Abuse Sexual Assault (SASA) Crisis Center agency in Hastings works with the Head Start Migrant program to educate and inform staff of the effects of domestic violence and to promote the services provided. SASA also provides cultural competence training on domestic violence issues to Healthy Beginnings, Law Enforcement and the local Court Appointed Special Advocate program.
- Catholic Charities and the Women's Center for Advancement-WCA (both network programs that are located in Omaha) participate in a collaborative project, the Latina Resource Center, which is housed within the Juan Diego Center.
- The WCA provides advocacy at the Latino Center of the Midlands. The Center also collaborates with the Lutheran Family Services Refugee program to provide domestic violence services to refugee victims. In addition, they are accredited to provide immigration assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

- The DOVES program connects with community agencies that are serving primarily Spanish-Speaking individuals (Latina Red Dress event and Minority Health). They are planning training in conjunction with Pine Ridge Reservation in order to establish a stronger collaboration between the agencies.
- The Center for Survivors in Columbus participates in a Community Multicultural Alliance, which is a Group of professionals (schools, law enforcement, diversion, college, social services) that work to break down barriers to better serve the Hispanic population in their community. This group recently merged with Time 4 Change (T4C) expanding focus and efforts in the community.
- Voices of Hope in Lincoln has formal partnerships with four cultural Centers; El Centro de las Americas, Indian Center, Asian Center and Malone Center (African American) and the Nebraska Center for Legal Immigration. The bi-lingual staff and DV liaisons meet monthly for staff developments, sharing resources and referrals.
- Many of the agencies utilize their Bi-lingual Advocates to help educate other local social service agencies and schools on the cultural aspects that can affect those in domestic violence situations as well as taking their services directly to cultural centers and other gathering places.

People who identify as lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, questioning/queer (LGBTQ):

Nebraska's network of programs is striving to meet the needs of the LGBTQ population in our state. Nebraska is a very conservative state, making it difficult for these individuals to reach out for help. Our programs are motivated to make their services visible and friendly to LGBTQ survivors. Advocates are trained to use the word "partner", instead of assuming that there is an opposite sex individual involved in the relationship. Many of the agencies have moved toward the use of unisex bathrooms, removing the stigma for the client of having to choose one of the other. Also, the pink triangle symbol and the rainbow are displayed in many of our programs to show that they are providing an accepting atmosphere for lesbian, gay, bi-sexual transgender or questioning/queer individuals. Brochures and posters have been created by the

Coalition for distribution to our network of programs to aid in their efforts to work with these underserved populations. In general, all the services that are offered by the local programs are available to LGBTQ survivors.

5. USE OF GRANT FUNDS:

DHHS will ensure that not less than 70% of the funds distributed are used for the primary purpose of providing immediate shelter and supportive services to adult and youth victims of family violence, domestic violence or dating violence and their dependents. In addition, not less than 25% of the funds will be used for the purpose of providing supportive services and prevention services.

DHHS will distribute the funds to the 21 domestic violence/sexual assault programs that comprise the Coalition's membership network so that services can be provided to victims of domestic violence in our state. *The target population to be served by these grant funds will be adult victims of domestic violence and their children in the state of Nebraska.*

The services that will be provided by the local domestic violence/sexual assault agencies will include: 24 hour crisis line service with access to information and assistance; transportation; emergency shelter through motels and/or shelter facilities; safety planning; crisis counseling and support; emergency financial assistance for basic items such as food, clothing and sundries; access to emergency medical care; legal advocacy, including assistance in obtaining domestic violence protection orders; economic empowerment and referral/coordination between the local program and community-based services. In addition to comprehensive emergency services, several programs provide support groups for survivors of domestic violence, for teens experiencing violence, for children who have witnessed violence and educational groups for men who batter. Finally, programs throughout the state provide educational presentations, prevention trainings and outreach to foster the awareness of domestic violence, as well as to increase the accessibility of services.

The grant funds will be used by 19 shelter programs, with a total of 29 shelters, to provide immediate shelter in shelter facilities and/or hotels across the state. The

funds will also be used by two non-residential programs in Nebraska. Both non-residential programs (Women's Center for Advancement and Voices of Hope) primarily refer to the domestic violence shelters in their area, but in emergency situations in which there is not room in the shelter, they will provide a temporary motel room for the client. The program is often reimbursed for this expense by the local domestic violence shelter. Both of the non-residential programs refer to the surrounding programs in the network for cases in which the family or individual wants to re-locate for safety. There is also the option of referring to a program anywhere in the United States if that is the request of the client.

DHHS provides oversight of the program contracts, participates in the Director's Day meetings/trainings as needed, and contracts with the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition. The Coalition provides program technical assistance and training to the network of programs as well as the tribes. DHHS and the Coalition work collaboratively to monitor the program statistics, fiscal management, training needs, and client outcomes.

Expected Results:

Our network of programs provides surveys to the people with whom they work in order to assess the quality and effectiveness of their program's services. While each agency may strive to evaluate specific areas of interest, all agencies ask survivors whether they have 1.) Learned more ways to keep them safe; and 2.) Learned more about available community resources. We have established expected results for these areas:

Outcome #1: Increased strategies for enhancing victim safety

65% of domestic violence survivors served by our program will have strategies for enhancing their safety

Outcome #2: Increased knowledge of available community resources

65% of domestic violence survivors served by our program will gain knowledge of available community resources

In addition, we have been focusing on the evaluation of enhancing support and advocacy for domestic violence survivors and their children through our Results Based Accountability planning. The following illustrates the results we will be evaluating:

	QUANTITY	QUALITY
EFFORT	HOW MUCH DID WE DO? Number of clients receiving support and advocacy from the Program	HOW WELL DID WE DO IT? Number of clients reporting that Program staff were caring and supportive
	IS ANYONE BETTER OFF?	
EFFECT	Number of clients assisted in creating a Personal Safety Plan	Percent of clients reporting increased knowledge of ways to plan for their safety
	Number of clients who received information about available resources	Percent of clients reporting that they know more about available resources

Finally, based on the training and technical assistance that is being provided to our network of programs, we expect the following results:

- Programs will receive on-going training from the Coalition which will aid them in providing trauma-informed services to survivors and their children
- Programs will make increased efforts to reach and provide services to underserved populations
- Programs will be assisted in maintaining sustainability, ensuring that a “safety net” of services is available across our state

6. EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF GRANT FUNDS:

DHHS, Division of Children and Family Services, administers the FVPSA and State funding in Nebraska. Consultation with the Coalition and the network of programs ensures an equitable distribution among the 21 programs and the four Native American tribes. In 2009, the network of programs worked with DHHS to form a committee of people to create a new and equitable manner in which to distribute the FVPSA and

State funding in Nebraska. The committee presented updated distribution options to the 21 member programs and a unanimous vote was provided to choose the new method of allocating the funds. The new method was implemented in 2010 and continues to be in use at present time.

The FVPSA and State funds are distributed using a formula based on two factors: 1) half of the funds are divided equally among all 21 of the domestic violence programs; 2) the other half of the funds are distributed based on the percentage of the state population that is served by each of the programs. The formula was updated upon receipt of the 2010 census numbers to make certain that current populations were being reflected.

In creating this allocation process, the network of programs and the State placed a value on ensuring that a "safety net" of services was available to all victims of domestic violence in Nebraska. This included embracing the fact that Nebraska has urban and rural areas that need to be fairly represented in the funding process.

7. INVOLVEMENT OF THE STATE COALITION:

DHHS contracts with the Coalition each year to ensure coordinated efforts across the state. The current contract is specifically for the purpose of: preparing the Family Violence Prevention and Services formula grant application; providing technical assistance to the local programs in the area of implementing the activities in the grant application; collecting and compiling required data from the local programs; preparing the required reports throughout the grant year; and facilitating results based accountability.

The Coalition recently updated the Sustainability Plan for the network of programs as per the contract with DHHS. The Plan was created in 2010 through combined efforts of the Coalition, local program representatives and DHHS. The purpose of the Sustainability Plan is to maintain a strong and cohesive network of programs that will provide a safety net of services across the State of Nebraska. The updated plan will help us to achieve this goal.

Program Standards have also been implemented in the State of Nebraska. They were created several years ago by the Coalition in conjunction with the network of programs in order to provide a comprehensive means to review all programs based on minimum standards for administration, community education, prevention, volunteer programming, outcomes and service delivery. The Confidentiality Guidelines were recently updated, and the Standards are currently being revised so that they remain an effective tool for use with our Peer Review process. This is another manner in which our state strives to maintain strong programs and a safety net of services to meet the needs of survivors, while also providing support to the programs to assist in sustaining their agencies.

The Coalition is providing several forms of Technical Assistance to the network of programs per the contract with DHHS. Current focus areas for training include: trauma-informed care, outreach to underserved populations, Program Peer Reviews/Standards, program sustainability training for new executive directors and board members; and working with tribal entities. In-person trainings, webinars, written newsletter articles and website postings allow the Coalition to reach local program staff in a variety of ways to increase knowledge in the specified subjects.

Efforts in the area of technical assistance have also focused on the creation of a Results Based Accountability plan for the network of programs and ensuring accurate collection of data so that precise figures are provided in statewide information that is submitted. The Coalition receives the quarterly statistical reports and outcome measures from each sub-grantee and provides the grant administrator with regular updates on the work of the programs.

The Coalition will be placing emphasis on the area of Economic Advocacy during the next year as well. Two days of program training will be devoted to this issue in order to build upon the services that are being provided by the local programs so they can strengthen the resources for survivors in this area. The Coalition recently sent their Fiscal Manager to the economic advocacy training hosted by All State and the National Network to End Domestic Violence, and this information will be shared within our state.

The Coalition also creates an annual training plan based on feedback that is obtained from the directors and advocates from the local programs and tribal entities across the state. This process is completed by surveying the network of programs and tribes, as well as partnering agencies in our state, to determine in which areas the training needs are the greatest. In completing this process, each program draws from their experiences and communications with the populations that they are serving, placing specific focus on the needs of the underserved populations in each community. The Coalition uses the results of the survey to create a Training Calendar for the year that incorporates the requested training needs of the service providers across the state.

DHHS allows the Coalition to review the grant application that is created for the network of domestic violence and sexual assault sub-grantees before it is released. This ensures that all of the pertinent data is being collected in the best possible manner, and that the Coalition is involved in the distribution of grant funds.

8. CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS:

Nebraska's Protection from Domestic Abuse Act (NE Rev. Statute 42-901 - 42-929) contains a section on confidentiality (42-918), and provides for a criminal penalty for violation of this section:

- **42-918. Contact with victims of spouse abuse and families; confidentiality; violation; penalty**

"Under the Protection from Domestic Abuse Act, strict confidence shall be observed in all contact with victims of spouse abuse and their families. Any record, report, or files maintained by the department pursuant to the act shall be confidential, except that the department may release statistical information, while not revealing names. Violation of this section shall be a Class V misdemeanor."

In addition, all contracts with each local domestic violence/sexual assault program and tribe contain a confidentiality requirement. We also make certain through

our Program Standards and Peer Review process that each program has their own procedures in place to ensure that individual identifiers of client records are not used when providing statistical data and that the address or location of any FVPSA-supported shelter is not made public. The Network of Programs' Confidentiality Guidelines additionally outline the confidentiality expectations that apply to client records, statistical data, all types of communications and the shelter location. Finally, the database program for the network of programs in Nebraska ensures that the FVPSA client confidentiality requirements are maintained at the level of federal expectations. No client-level data is shared with a third party, regardless of encryption, hashing or other data security measures, without a written, time-limited release.

9. LAW BARRING ABUSER FROM A SHARED HOUSEHOLD:

Neb. Rev. Stat 42-924(1) Any victim of domestic abuse may file a petition and affidavit for a protection order as provided in subsection (2) of this section. Upon the filing of such a petition and affidavit in support thereof, the court may issue a protection order without bond granting the following relief:

- (a) Enjoining the respondent from imposing any restraint upon the petitioner or upon the liberty of the petitioner;
- (b) Enjoining the respondent from threatening, assaulting, molesting, attacking, or otherwise disturbing the peace of the petitioner;
- (c) Enjoining the respondent from telephoning, contacting, or otherwise communicating with the petitioner;
- (d) Removing and excluding the respondent from the residence of the petitioner, regardless of the ownership of the residence;**
- (e) Ordering the respondent to stay away from any place specified by the court;

- (f) Awarding the petitioner temporary custody of any minor children not to exceed ninety days;
- (g) Enjoining the respondent from possessing or purchasing a firearm as defined in section 28-1201; or
- (h) Ordering such other relief deemed necessary to provide for the safety and welfare of the petitioner and any designated family or household member.

10. ASSURANCES:

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

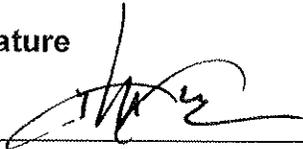
Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with

this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Signature



Thomas D. Pristow, MSW, ACSW
Director
Division of Children and Family Services
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Appendix A Assurances of Compliance with Grant Requirements

The undersigned grantee certifies that:

- (1) Grant funds under the Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA) will be distributed to local public agencies or nonprofit private organizations (including faith-based and charitable organizations, community-based organizations, and voluntary associations) that assist victims of family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence (as defined in Section 10402(2-4), and their dependents, and have a documented history of effective work concerning family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence (Section 10408(c)).
- (2) Grant funds will be used for programs and projects within the State that are designed to prevent incidents of family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence by providing immediate shelter and supportive services and access to community-based programs for adult and youth victims, as well as specialized services for children exposed to domestic violence, underserved populations, and those who are members of racial and ethnic minority populations (as defined in Section 10406(a)(1-3)).
- (3) In distributing the funds, the State will give special emphasis to the support of community-based projects of demonstrated effectiveness carried out by non-profit, private organizations, and that have as their primary purpose the operation of shelters for victims of family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence, and their dependents or those which provide counseling, advocacy, and self-help services to victims of family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence, and their dependents (Section 10407(a)(2)(B)(iii)).
- (4) Not less than 70 percent of the funds distributed shall be for the primary purpose of providing immediate shelter and supportive services to adult and youth victims of family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence, and their dependents (Section 10408(b)(2)).
- (5) Not less than 25 percent of the funds distributed shall be for the purpose of providing supportive services and prevention services as described in Section 10408(b)(2) to victims of family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence, and their dependents).
- (6) Not more than 5 percent of the funds will be used for State administrative costs (Section 10407(a)(2)(b)(i)).
- (7) The State grantee is in compliance with the statutory requirements of Section 10407(a)(2)(C), regarding the equitable distribution of grants and grant funds within the State and between urban and rural areas within the State.
- (8) The State will consult with and provide for the participation of the State Domestic Violence Coalition in the planning and monitoring of the distribution of grant funds and the administration of the grant programs and projects (Section 10407(a)(2)(D)).
- (9) Grant funds made available under this program by the State will not be used as direct payment to any victim of family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence, or to any dependent of such victim (Section 10408(d)(1)).
- (10) No income eligibility standard will be imposed on individuals with respect to eligibility for assistance or services supported with funds appropriated to carry out the FVPSA (Section 10406(c)(3)).

(11) No fees will be levied for assistance or services provided with funds appropriated to carry out the FVPSA (Section 10406(c)(3)).

(12) The address or location of any shelter or facility assisted under the FVPSA that otherwise maintains a confidential location will, except with written authorization of the person or persons responsible for the operation of such shelter, not be made public (Section 10406(c)(5)(H)).

(13) The applicant has established policies, procedures, and protocols to ensure compliance with the provisions of Section 10406(c)(5) regarding non-disclosure of confidential or private information (Section 10407(a)(2)(A)).

(14) Pursuant to Section 10406(c)(5), the applicant will comply with requirements to ensure the non-disclosure of confidential or private information, which include, but are not limited to: (1) grantees will not disclose any personally identifying information collected in connection with services requested (including services utilized or denied), through grantee's funded activities or reveal personally identifying information without informed, written, reasonably time-limited consent by the person about whom information is sought, whether for the FVPSA-funded activities or any other Federal or State program and in accordance with Section 10406(c)(5)(B)(ii); (2) grantees will not release information compelled by statutory or court order unless adhering to the requirements of Section 10406(c)(5)(C); (3) grantees may share non-personally identifying information in the aggregate for the purposes enunciated in Section 10406(c)(5)(D)(i) as well as for other purposes found in Section 10406(c)(5)(D)(ii) and (iii).

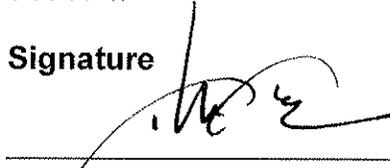
(15) Grants funded by the State in whole or in part with funds made available under the FVPSA will prohibit discrimination on the basis of age, disability, sex, race, color, national origin, or religion (Section 10406(c)(2)).

(16) Funds made available under the FVPSA will be used to supplement and not supplant other Federal, State, and local public funds expended to provide services and activities that promote the objectives of the FVPSA (Section 10406(c)(6)).

(17) Receipt of supportive services under the FVPSA will be voluntary. No condition will be applied for the receipt of emergency shelter as described in Section 10408(d)(2)).

(18) The State grantee has a law or procedure to bar an abuser from a shared household or a household of the abuse person, which may include eviction laws or procedures (Section 10407(a)(2)(H)).

Signature



Thomas D. Pristow, MSW, ACSW

Director

Division of Children and Family Services

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Appendix B
LGBTQ Accessibility Policy

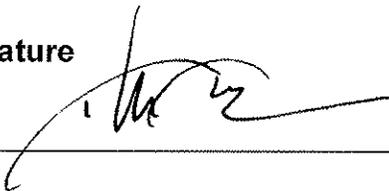
As the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) signing this application on behalf of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services,

I hereby attest and certify that:

The needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning program participants are taken into consideration in applicant's program design. Applicant considered how its program will be inclusive of and non-stigmatizing toward such participants. If not already in place, awardee and, if applicable, sub-awardees must establish and publicize policies prohibiting harassment based on race, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity (or expression), religion, and national origin. The submission of an application for this funding opportunity constitutes an assurance that applicants have or will put such policies in place within 12 months of the award. Awardees should ensure that all staff members are trained to prevent and respond to harassment or bullying in all forms during the award period. Programs should be prepared to monitor claims, address them seriously, and document their corrective action(s) so all participants are assured that programs are safe, inclusive, and non-stigmatizing by design and in operation. In addition, any sub-awardees or subcontractors:

1. Have in place or will put into place within 12 months of the award policies prohibiting harassment based on race, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity (or expression), religion, and national origin;
2. Will enforce these policies;
3. Will ensure that all staff will be trained during the award period on how to prevent and respond to harassment or bullying in all forms, and;
4. Have or will have within 12 months of the award, a plan to monitor claims, address them seriously, and document their corrective action(s).

Signature



Thomas D. Pristow, MSW, ACSW
Director
Division of Children and Family Services
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services