

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN OFFICE
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FAX TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET

DATE: 10/26/00
FROM: D. Gelman
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NUMBER OF PAGES FOLLOWING: 2
COMMENTS: Here is the
information requested.
Please confirm that you
received this. Thank you.

VAWA Grant Examples:

Ayuda, Inc. (Washington, D.C.)

Ayuda, Inc. (Ayuda), a non-profit, community-based legal and social services agency serving low-income Latino and foreign born community members of the District of Columbia recently received a VAWA grant. The grant was awarded to support legal services for victims of domestic violence through an innovative collaboration between Ayuda and Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care (Mary's Center), a local health center. The grant will support two new domestic violence case managers in the community, as well as legal staff at Ayuda. One case manager will be stationed at Mary's Center, and the other on the "M.O.M. Mobile," a mobile health van providing services to women in low-income neighborhoods. Both domestic violence case managers will refer clients to Ayuda for legal and social services.

Legal Aid Society (New York, NY)

The Legal Aid Society of New York received a VAWA grant to increase the provision of civil legal services to victims of domestic violence in traditionally underserved populations. Throughout the city, they are partnering with domestic violence or community-based organizations to provide comprehensive services to battered women who have been traditionally isolated. The various communities served include: Latino; Asian and Pacific Islander; Jewish Orthodox; Russian and other diverse racial and ethnic communities throughout the city; battered women with disabilities; and homeless battered women.

Tri-County Domestic Violence Civil Legal Assistance Project (Thurston, Mason, and Lewis Counties, WA)

The Tri-County Domestic Violence Civil Legal Assistance Project provides legal assistance to domestic violence victims in three counties in Washington state, including increasing access to services for Spanish-speaking victims of domestic violence. The Spanish-speaking community is the fastest growing ethnic population in the state, and many community members live in rural areas. The project supports a bilingual/bicultural legal advocate in domestic violence programs in each of the three counties. These advocates will work with domestic violence attorneys to provide legal assistance to victims and to educate the community about domestic violence, the law, and the legal system.

University of Minnesota (Minneapolis, MN)

The University of Minnesota is using its VAWA grant to establish a legal advocacy program on campus, including a 24-hour crisis line. In the first 6 months of 2000, they trained 7 volunteers on how to assist victims in obtaining restraining orders and provided legal advocacy services to victims of domestic violence and stalking, including victims in dating relationships. The Program Against Sexual Violence has served 80 new clients and also will install a new TTY line enabling hearing-impaired students to access services. In addition, the Program has participated in cross-training efforts with the Disability Services Division on campus.

Edgewood College (Madison, WI)

Edgewood College is using its VAWA grant to establish a peer education program drawing from diverse student populations, including members of fraternities and sororities, athletes, and international students. Recently, Edgewood piloted a program for first year international students focused on creating safety and comparing American culture with their own cultures of origin. Edgewood College also is training campus disciplinary board members, campus security personnel and all incoming students on violence against women.

Violence Against Women Act of 2000

The Violence Against Women Act of 2000 (VAWA II) not only ensures that projects like these will continue to grow, but expands existing programs and creates critical new protections for battered immigrants and victims of dating violence. For the first time, VAWA II creates authorizing language for a civil legal assistance program for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The law provides funding so that battered immigrants and other victims can receive representation in a range of legal cases. What this means for battered immigrants is that they now can be represented in immigration matters related to the abuse. In 1994, VAWA created special forms of immigration relief that removed an abuser's ability to use immigration laws as a tool of control over immigrant spouses. VAWA II expands battered immigrants' access to this relief by providing them with legal assistance in these kinds of cases. VAWA II helps battered immigrants in a number of other ways, including:

- Allowing a battered immigrant to adjust her status in the United States rather than having to go abroad – which could be dangerous if an abuser follows her.
- Allowing a battered immigrant who was divorced from an abuser within the previous two years to file for VAWA relief if the divorce was connected to the abuse.
- Creating a new nonimmigrant U-visa for victims of certain serious crimes, including domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking crimes, if the victim has been helpful or can assist in investigating or prosecuting the crime.

VAWA II also extends the relief available to victims of dating violence, who suffer abuse at alarmingly high rates. VAWA II adds dating violence to four grant programs (STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program, the Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grant Program, the Grants to Combat Violent Crimes Against Women on Campuses Program, and the Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies Program), ensuring that victims of dating violence in every jurisdiction will be able to receive desperately needed services from law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim service providers.

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