DV/SA Meaningful Access and the Requirements of the Joint DV/SA Non-Competitive Grant Fund

Meaningful access is an on-going process that embodies values, practices and policies that support the right of all survivors to obtain and make use of victim-centered services to meet individual needs stemming from domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking (and, as feasible, their family, friends, and loved ones), regardless of their status or identity.*

*Status or identity meaning language, literacy, race, ethnicity, physical and cognitive ability, age, gender identity, sexual and relational identity, geography, social status, economic status, immigration status, and any other defining cultural identity.

Access to Services: To ensure meaningful access to services for all victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking, the program is at minimum able to appropriately respond to an initial crisis call and initial disclosure of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence or stalking with safety planning and support. In addition, the program is able to directly link victims whose needs may be beyond their expertise to the appropriate partner agency.

To do this well, an agency must:

- Have leaders, staff, and volunteers who are well trained in domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking, and in the dynamics of oppression and how to provide effective services in various populations.
- Understand the individual and systemic access barriers for the underserved, inadequately served, marginalized, and/or oppressed communities, and Tribal Nations in their region.
- Reach out and engage survivors and those from underserved, marginalized, and/or oppressed communities, and Tribal Nations in planning and feedback specific to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence or stalking services.
- Coordinate and collaborate with other local and statewide agencies to develop appropriate connections for victims.

A. Training for leaders, staff, and volunteers in domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking, and in the dynamics of oppression and how to provide effective services in various populations.

- The Joint Application requires comprehensive training for leaders, staff, and volunteers that includes the dynamics of oppression, the dynamics and effects of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking in various populations, and how to effectively provide services. (see RFA, Appendix B)

- The Joint Application requires a Sexual Assault lead staff member for those agencies receiving SA funds that are dual DV/SA programs or not entirely focused on SA services.
The purpose of the lead staff is to facilitate increased expertise throughout their agency through information sharing and training.

B. Understand the **individual and systemic access barriers** for survivors from the underserved, inadequately served, marginalized, and/or oppressed communities, and Tribal Nations in their region.

- Barriers may include (but are not limited to) language, literacy, culture, transportation, logistical issues, and the ways oppression impacts these communities and Tribal Nations.

C. Reach out **and engage** survivors and those from underserved, marginalized, and/or oppressed communities, and Tribal Nations in planning and feedback specific to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence or stalking services.

- The Joint Application requires **outreach and community involvement** including survivors and those from underserved, marginalized, and/or oppressed communities, and Tribal Nations, in **planning and feedback** specific to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence or stalking services.
- The Joint Application requires programs to gather **survivor feedback** on common outcome measures.

D. **Coordinate** and collaborate with other local and statewide agencies to develop appropriate connections for victims.

- The Joint Application requires programs to demonstrate their community collaboration by indicating their involvement in coordinated community responses, councils, MDTs, SARTs, SARRCs, or other processes.
- The Joint Application requires confidentiality policies and procedures.