



Monthly Underserved Grant Newsletter

May 2021

Alliance of Local Service Organizations (ALSO) Underserved Technical Assistance Project

This newsletter from the [ALSO Underserved TA Project](#) is designed for Underserved grantees to provide them with regular and concise information including resources, training opportunities, open solicitations, and more.

You can always find more resources on the [Underserved TA Tools and Resources page](#) on ALSO's website or through the [Online Private Portal](#) for OVW Underserved Grantees.

Happy Resource & Opportunity Finding!
-Your Underserved TA Team



Safe Homes, Safe Streets.

Underserved TA Hosted Events

Topical Webinar Series on Intersectionality

The ALSO Underserved TA Project is hosting a three-part series grounded in one of the key principles of the ALSO Underserved TA Project: Intersectionality. This three-part series will focus on the following:

1. Intersectionality as activism and self-care;
2. Intersectionality in relation to serving older adult survivors using a trauma-informed framework; and

3. Intersectionality in relation to serving survivors with a history/experiences with substance use through a trauma-informed lens.

For **Part One**, presenters will introduce grantees to a new way of understanding intersectionality specifically as activism and self-care. Drawing upon the historical and current definitions of intersectionality, presenters will facilitate a discussion with grantees about how they can use intersectionality as activism and self-care in their work with survivors. Presenters will end their presentation with a charge for grantees to wrestle with what it means for them to engage in intersectional activism and self-care.

Building upon the foundation of intersectionality from Part One of the series, **Part Two** provides grantees with the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding about intersectionality in relation to older adults. We will explore how trauma-informed care strategies can support older adults who have experienced sexual violence and trauma through an intersectional lens. Grantees will learn how the quality of life and care for older adults who hold marginalized identities is impacted through an intersectional lens of activism and self-care.

Part Three will integrate key points from Parts One and Two of the series to help grantees understand when and how intersectionality is used to address survivors' experiences with substance use using a trauma-informed model. Drawing upon examples from the presenter's experiences with survivors, the presenter will illustrate how understanding and applying intersectionality as activism and self-care with survivors who have a history of or experiences with substance use can be employed.

Dates:

- **Part One:** Wednesday, May 26
- **Part Two:** Wednesday, June 2
- **Part Three:** Wednesday, June 9

Time: 11:00 am PT/12:00 pm MT/1:00 pm CT/2:00 pm ET
Each event is up to 90 minutes

Please register as early as possible to allow time for the ALSO Underserved TA Team to coordinate any language accessibility requests.

[Register for Intersectional Webinar Series Here](#)

Open Forums

Grantee Open Forums are online, interactive sessions provided to increase opportunities for Grantee connection, building community among Underserved Grantees, and time to cultivate mutual support in the current moment in

Virtual Summer Series

The ALSO Underserved TA team will be hosting the Summer Institute virtually again this year.

This required event for all Grantee organizations will consist of a series of virtual sessions focused on

time and culture.

These meetings are not recorded, to allow for open and honest discussion between the TA Team and amongst the grantees.

The Underserved TA Team is hosting open forum events over the next few months. These forums will be facilitated by members of the Underserved TA Team.

Dates:

- Thursday, June 17

Time: 11:00 am PT/12:00 pm MT/1:00 pm CT/2:00 pm ET
Each event is up to 60 minutes

[Register for June 17 Open Forum Here](#)

topics related to the core program areas of outreach and services.

Dates:

- Pre-Recorded Session (released early July)
- Thursday, July 15
- Tuesday, July 20
- Thursday, July 22

Time: 11:00 am PT/12:00 pm MT/1:00 pm CT/2:00 pm ET
Each event is up to 90 minutes

Stay tuned for more information and registration details in the upcoming months.

Grantee Spotlight: Arab-American Family Support Center



Arab-American Family Support Center

The Arab-American Family Support Center (AAFSC) is a non-profit, non-sectarian organization established in 1994 to provide culturally and

linguistically competent services to immigrants and refugees. While AAFSC services are available to anyone in need, with 27 languages represented on staff, we have developed unique expertise serving Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian (AMEMSA) immigrant and refugee communities.

With OVW's generous support, AAFSC provided critical culturally and linguistically competent, trauma-informed case management and crisis intervention services to 1,400 survivors of gender-based violence in 2020. AAFSC's Anti-Violence Program (AVP) provides trauma-informed, survivor-focused services to equip survivors with the tools they need to recover, heal, and find safety. In addition to crisis intervention and counseling, we offer empowerment groups, translation assistance, and assistance in remote court appearances. AAFSC supplements our direct service approach with community education. Our outreach events this year, which included Family Law Workshops and Domestic Violence Resources Clinics, were hosted online and in several different languages, which allowed us to reach up to 1,500 individuals per event.

In light of COVID-19 directives, we began administering services using



Image Description: A person wearing a black hijab and a surgical mask is sitting at a table talking to a person with brown hair

HIPAA-compliant teleconferencing and remote communication platforms. We also established a domestic violence helpline with extended evening and weekend hours in response to the 40% increase in demand for our services during the crisis.

Ultimately, according to the Measure of Victim Empowerment Related to Safety (MOVERS), 98% of our clients felt they were better equipped to attain safety as a result of our anti-violence services. Additionally, we supplemented our AVP with a range of other services, including emergency financial assistance. This year, we distributed \$353,000 to individuals - many of whom are survivors - facing an immediate financial crisis.



Image Description: A person with brown hair and another person wearing a blue hijab are holding pens and looking at a paper document together

COVID-19 Resources

The Underserved TA Team has curated a [COVID-19 Resource Guide](#) on the ALSO website that is tailored to Underserved grantees that include population specific resources, organizational preparedness resources, wellness resources, and information from OVW. We will continue to add more resources as they become relevant and available to us.

Please note [this new Data Dashboard](#) that has been included on the Resource Guide.

OVW Corner



Image Description: OVW Program Manager Kara Moller sitting at her desk in front of a cubicle wall that has numerous rainbow posters, the Star of David, the star and crescent symbol, a sign that reads "ALL Are Welcome Here" and other posters.

Info from your OVW Program Manager Kara Moller:

This is a reminder that there is a special condition that requires grantees to comply with the workplace violence requirements. Here is [a link to the webinar on it](#) to learn more.

Click "webinars" and then scroll to the bottom of the page for the webinar on this topic.

Non-Underserved TA Sponsored Webinars & Conferences

Serving Survivors with Mental Health Disabilities

Host: [Vera Institute of Justice](#)

Date: Tuesday, May 25

Time: 5:00 pm PT / 6:00 pm MT / 7:00 pm CT / 8:00 pm ET

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. It is a time to celebrate the resilience of people with mental health disabilities and honor their voices as they work to end stigma and increase access. Survivors of domestic and sexual violence with mental health disabilities still face significant barriers in seeking and receiving healing services, including more significant or unfamiliar responses to trauma and lingering stigma around their disabilities. Service providers must continue the work in ensuring survivors' services are safe, welcoming, and accessible and that their experiences are centered.

[Register Here](#)

Domestic Violence Through a Jewish Lens

Host: [Safe Havens Interfaith Partnership Against Domestic Violence](#)

Date: Thursday, May 27

Time: 11:00 am PT / 12:00 pm MT / 1:00 pm CT / 2:00 pm ET

This webinar series will equip advocates to better support victims and survivors from diverse communities of faith. How can advocates bridge the gap between their service agencies and faith-affiliated clients to ensure that everyone feels validated and supported? What should advocates

know about each faith tradition to help them better meet the needs of faith-based clients? Please join for any or all of the webinars to strengthen your responses to survivors of faith.

[Register Here](#)

Truth, Healing, and Transformation: Addressing structural racism and building multiracial solidarity to prevent sexual and domestic violence

Host: [Prevent Connect](#)

Date: Wednesday, June 2

Time: 11:00 am PT / 12:00 pm MT / 1:00 pm CT / 2:00 pm ET

How does telling the truth about and taking action on structural racism and generational oppression connect to sexual and domestic violence prevention? How can communities build multiracial solidarity to transform a culture of violence to a culture of safety and healing? In this web conference, we'll hear from BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) leaders who are facilitating truth-telling, healing, and transformation at the intersection of racial and gender justice.

[Register Here](#)

Your ALSO TA Team



Image Description: ALSO's Underserved TA team posing in a beige hallway at the 2018 Grantee Orientation.

From L-R: Quenette Walton, Lori Crowder, Lisa Gilmore, Cristina Damiani, Zarena Leblanc, Topher Williamson

Have Questions? We are here to help!

- For technical assistance support related to substantive and programmatic issues: Contact your ALSO Underserved TA point of contact at their individual email or the team at underservedtaproject@also-chicago.org.
- For questions about grant administration: Contact your OVW Program

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Safe Homes, Safe Streets.

Underserved TA Project | 773.235.5705 | [Email](#) | [Website](#)

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STAY CONNECTED

