



A Year in Review Special Edition

Monthly Underserved Grant Resource Email

December 2020

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

This product of 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.](#)

2020 in Review

As 2020 comes to an end, we at ALSO are reflecting on a year of working with diligent and committed cohorts of grantees during a difficult year.

We are grateful to be partners with you in this

work, and are eager to continue assisting you in reaching the goals and objectives of your Underserved project.



To conclude this year, we have included some highlights of the technical assistance provided to grantees.

We hope you enjoy this special edition of our newsletter, and join us in reflecting on the past year and the possibilities ahead. May 2021 bring a sense of feeling determined, refreshed, and hopeful.

Warmest regards,
The ALSO Underserved TA Team

The Underserved TA Team wants to acknowledge the numerous events and TA opportunities that took place over this year.

In addition to providing one-on-one consultation on a regular basis to grantees, sending a monthly newsletter with curated resources and information, and updating our TA Tools and Resources webpage with COVID-19-specific resources, the Underserved TA Team hosted the following TA offerings over the course of this year:

- 3 stand-alone topical webinars
- 1 Summer Institute
 - 6 virtual presentations
- 4 Open Forums
- 1 Peer to Peer (for Disability-serving organizations)
 - 3 virtual sessions
- 5 New Grantee Orientation sessions (with more in early 2021!)

You can find the event materials and recordings for many of the above sessions on the [Online Private Portal](#) for OVW Underserved Grantees.

Thank you for your contributions, insights, participation, and generosity this year!

Progress Reporting

Message from VAWA MEI & OVW:

VAWA Measuring Effectiveness Initiative (MEI) is hosting a webinar on January 5 and 11, 2021 with more information about progress reporting for this reporting period. More details are below in the **Non-Underserved TA Sponsored Webinars** section.

For this reporting period, [please use this form](#). Complete it, then submit it in the JustGrants System as an attachment before the deadline (January 30, 2021).

For prompt assistance when you need it, please consult these resources:

- Visit the [VAWA MEI](#) website where you can find a copy of this form on your grant program's page, along with instructions for its completion and other tools and resources related to reporting. You can also [sign up for email updates](#) and/or [request technical assistance](#) on correctly completing your form.
- For JustGrants technical troubleshooting, consult [user support resources](#) and/or contact OVW.JustGrantsSupport@usdoj.gov.
- For JustGrants technical aids for performance reporting, visit the [Performance Reporting training page](#).
- For questions about your OVW grant (e.g., allowable activities, scope, etc.), please contact your OVW Program Specialist.

***Steps to download, use and submit form:**

1. Click on the attached PDF form and then save the form to your desktop.
2. Close all internet browsers.
3. Open your computer's Adobe Acrobat Reader DC program.**
4. With Adobe Reader DC open, go to "File," select "Open," and choose the reporting form you saved to your desktop.
5. Complete the form. (If you need to stop before you're done, just save and close the form. To resume your work on it, just repeat steps 3 and 4 above.)
6. Check the report by clicking the "Validate" button at the end of the form.
7. Upload the validated form as an attachment in JustGrants.

**If you need the current version of Adobe Acrobat Reader DC, please visit [Adobe's Get Reader page](#).*

If you have questions, please contact the team at VAWA MEI at vawamei@maine.edu.

Grantee Orientation

The Grantee Orientation for FY20 grantees has begun. The Orientation consists of a series of virtual sessions presented by ALSO and OVW/DOJ.

Registration

Individuals can sign up for the [Grantee Orientation](#) taking place virtually over the next several months. Each person who will be attending must complete a registration form. To

ensure that everyone can fully participate in this opportunity, we need to know about your access needs in advance. Every effort will be made to ensure access at these virtual events. Please complete all accessibility requests as soon as possible.



[Register Here](#)

Orientation Event Page

Grantees can find information regarding the Orientation like times & dates and presenter information on [the Underserved Orientation Event Page](#). Grantees can also access the materials for each session, which will be posted on a rolling basis, including the links to the recordings.

If you have any questions about the Grantee Orientation, please reach out to the team at underservedtaproject@also-chicago.org.

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.

Non-Underserved TA Sponsored Webinars & Conferences

Progress Reporting for July to December 2020

Host: [VAWA Measuring Effectiveness Initiative](#)

Date: Tuesday, January 5 2021 *or* Monday, January 11, 2021

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

Join OVW and VAWA MEI as they detail the process for completing the July to December 2020 Semi-Annual Progress Report. Presenters will show you how to access your progress report, review the tools and resources that are available to help, and demonstrate how to submit the report in the JustGrants system.

[Register Here for January 5](#)

[Register Here for January 11](#)

The Importance of Faith in the Lives of Faith-Affiliated Survivors of Abuse

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

Date: Thursday, January 14

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?

[Register Here](#)

Grantee Spotlight!

[Shalom Task Force, Inc.](#) (STF) is an orthodox Jewish victim service provider in NYC and long standing Underserved Grantee. The mission of STF is to combat and prevent domestic violence and foster healthy and safe

relationships and families. STF focuses its work in the Jewish community, to help those that may not have access to traditional services and need culturally sensitive programming. Shalom Task Force believes everyone has the right to be safe in their relationship and family.

Shoshannah Frydman, Executive Director of the Shalom Task Force, wrote this blog post "[The Power of Community: Being the Shamash](#)" in *The Times of Israel* to talk about the practice of lighting the candles during each night in Chanukah and the role of the Shamash. Below is an excerpt from the blog post.

"Chanukah is a time of illumination and a declaration of hope during the darkest of times. When we light our candles each night of Chanukah, we connect our history of triumph and miracles. Our job is to bring light to where there is darkness, and to do this as a community. Survivors should not feel alone. They need to be embraced, believed and accepted. They need to know they will be heard and be cared for when they come forward. We can be the Shamash, which originates the light (the light that gives light to others)."



Image Description: Shalom Task Force logo in black and white.

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 underservedta@also-chicago.org.
- For questions about grant administration: Contact your OVW Program Manager Kara Moller at kara.moller@usdoj.gov.

Alliance of Local Service Organizations (ALSO)

Safe Homes, Safe Streets.

Underserved TA Project | 773.235.5705 | Email | Website

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STAY CONNECTED

