



## Monthly Underserved Grant Newsletter

March 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.](#)*

### [Sexual Assault Awareness Month](#)

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). Like last year, many of the events around this important campaign will be virtual. Below are some resources for SAAM 2021.

- The National Sexual Violence Resource Center has resources on hosting an online SAAM event. [You can find these tools and ideas here.](#)

- Here are [event ideas](#) from NSVRC
- The [No More Campaign](#) for SAAM.
- Watch this space for information from the [Rape Recovery Center](#).



## Underserved TA Hosted Events

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### Peer to Peer Opportunity

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*Image Description: A woman with dark hair stands in a red jacket and multi-colored scarf smiling at the camera*

Peer-to-Peer Engagements are facilitated opportunities for Grantees to collaborate with each other for mutual support and targeted learning on a particular topic. These may be organized around populations served by the Grantees involved or a particular topic for learning, and may be either short-term or long-term, with Grantee commitment.

The Underserved TA Project will be hosting a series of three Peer-to-Peer virtual meetings on the topic of Sustainability and Management Practices. We will discuss and problem-solve the application of management practices described in the [Sustainability in a Virtual World article](#), providing opportunity for leveraging peer wisdom and experience.

Each session will be facilitated by ALSO TA consultant Sharmili Majmudar, who will also be available between sessions for 1:1 technical assistance and support.

Space is limited so [register](#) soon!

#### Dates:

- Wednesday, March 17
- Thursday, April 8
- Thursday, April 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*

## Open Forums

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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 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:

- Wednesday, March 24
- Thursday, June 17
- TBD date in September

**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 Here for March 24  
Open Forum

## Virtual Summer Series

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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 topics related to outreach and services.

### Dates:

- Pre-Recorded Session (TBD)

## Topical Webinars

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Topical webinars are more formal trainings that the Underserved TA Team provide based on expressed needs of Grantees.

These may feature guest speakers, Underserved Grantees, and/or Underserved TA Team members providing knowledge and skill-building related to supporting Underserved populations.

The TA Team will be hosting a series of webinars this year on the topic of intersectionality and how it relates to the work of the Underserved grant.

### Dates:

- Wednesday, May 26
- Wednesday, June 2
- 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*

An announcement to register and with more details will be shared nearer to the webinar dates.

## Grantee Orientation

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The Grantee Orientation for FY20 Grantees has ended.

Grantees can find materials and recordings of all past sessions from the Orientation on [the Underserved Orientation Event Page](#).

If you have any questions about the Grantee Orientation, please reach out to the team at

release date)

- 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.

[underservedproject@also-chicago.org](mailto:underservedproject@also-chicago.org).

**Please note:**

Now that the Grantee Orientation activities have concluded, ALSO Points of Contacts (POC) have been assigned to new grantees. POC should be connecting with Grantees soon if they haven't already to set up an initial one-on-one meeting. This meeting will help POC get familiarized with the Grantee project and learn about any TA needs at this point in their grant cycle.

## Progress Reporting

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### Message from VAWA Measuring Effectiveness Initiative (MEI)/OVW:

OVW has extended the submission deadline for all performance reports that previously were due on February 28, 2021 (originally January 30). The new deadline for submitting your report in the Just Grants system is **April 15, 2021**. This extension pertains to performance reports for the July-December 2020 period.

Here are some resources for submitting & navigating the Just Grants system:

- Training [on submitting FFRs in the Just Grants system](#)
- Training video [on FFR and performance reporting](#)
- Request form [for individualized technical assistance from VAWA MEI staff](#)
- Infographic [describing the role assignments within the Just Grants system](#)

If you have questions about this, please contact your OVW Program Specialist. If you need troubleshooting assistance in Just Grants, please email [OVW.JustGrantsSupport@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.JustGrantsSupport@usdoj.gov). Visit [vawamei.org](http://vawamei.org) to obtain the correct form, find resources to help you complete it, view the [recording of the Jan. 11 webinar](#) held for all discretionary grantees, or to request technical assistance.

## COVID-19 Resources

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One emerging issue is the decision to mandate the COVID-19 vaccine for staff. Please note [this new resource](#) on the Resource Guide about the legality of doing so and the ADA implications associated with this decision.

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

### Preventing Hate-Based Violence in the United States

Host: [Prevention at the Intersections](#)

Date: Monday, March 22

Time: 2:00 pm PT / 3:00 pm MT / 4:00 pm CT / 5:00 pm ET

The purpose of this project is to provide regional capacity-building training for practitioners that work to prevent hate-based violence. In these convenings, we hope to share information and strategies for leaders in the movement to end hate-based violence in our communities. We want to engage in critical conversations about safety, accountability, and services needed to properly care for survivors and prevent additional harm.

[Register Here](#)

### Virtual EVAWI Annual Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Trauma and Resilience

Host: [End Violence Against Women International \(EVAWI\)](#)

Date: April 6-8, 2021

Cost: \$645

*This event is preapproved by OVW Program Manager Kara Moller for all Underserved Grantees*

This annual conference focuses on sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking, human trafficking, elder abuse, and violence across the lifespan. Join for this exclusive event highlighting promising practices and emerging issues to effectively respond to these crimes in all our communities.

[Register Here](#)

### Virtual Annual International Family Justice Center Conference

Host: [Alliance for HOPE International](#)

Date: April 20-22, 2021

Cost: \$495

*Grantees should email OVW Program Manager Kara Moller if they are interested in attending and provide a list of who they will be paying for (Name, title, and indication whether/not they are funded under their grant)*

The Virtual 21st Annual International Family Justice Center Conference H7: Hope-Centered Work in an Age of Trauma will host a unique and powerful convening of professionals working in the fields of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and elder abuse virtually on April 20-22, 2021! The International Family Justice Center Conference will address what hope-centered practices look like in child abuse, sexual assault, elder abuse, human trafficking, and domestic violence for:

## Your ALSO TA Team

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*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!

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- 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](mailto:underservedtaproject@also-chicago.org).
- For questions about grant administration: Contact your OVW Program Manager Kara Moller at [kara.moller@usdoj.gov](mailto:kara.moller@usdoj.gov).

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### Alliance of Local Service Organizations (ALSO)

*Safe Homes, Safe Streets.*

Underserved TA Project | 773.235.5705 | Email | Website

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STAY CONNECTED

# ALSO

