



GRANTS FOR OUTREACH
AND SERVICES TO
UNDERSERVED
POPULATIONS

Monthly Underserved Grant Newsletter

May 2022

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.

May Is Mental Health Awareness Month



Image description: Square with a green border and a white background, with a green ribbon on the inside.

Mental Health Awareness Month (MHAM)

Mental Health Awareness Month raises awareness of trauma and the impact it can have on the physical, emotional, and mental well-being of children, families, and communities. Mental Health Month was established in 1949 to increase awareness of the importance of mental health and wellness in Americans' lives, and to celebrate recovery from mental illness.

Resources for MHAM can be found here:

- [National Alliance on Mental Illness](#)
- [NAMI 2022 MHA Awareness Event Guide](#)
- [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Resources](#)
- [Fact Sheet: Celebrating Mental Health Awareness Month](#)

Grantee Spotlight

The Department Of Justice Recognizes Barrier Free Living With Innovation In Victim Services Award!

Congratulations to Underserved Grantee [Barrier Free Living](#) (FY '19), who received the [National Crime Victims' Service Award](#) for Professional Innovation in Victim Services on April 29th during the annual National Crime Victims' Service Awards Ceremony!

The Innovation award recognizes individuals, programs, organizations, or teams which have developed innovative ways of funding services for crime victims, or have instituted innovative approaches for securing financial restoration for crime victims. Barrier Free Living works with survivors of domestic violence with disabilities at its shelter and programs. They celebrated their 40th anniversary in 2021.

[National Crime Victims' Services Award Video](#)

[Barrier Free Living News Page](#)

Underserved TA Hosted Events

Topical Webinars



We are pleased to announce registration is now open for the second ALSO Underserved TA-hosted Topical Webinar of 2022: **DEI Practices for Sustainable Organizations: Creating Cultures of Care**

When: **May 18th at 11am PT / 12pm MT / 1pm CT / 2pm ET**

Presenter: **Jenna Musselman-Palles, LCSW**

In this webinar presentation, Jenna will focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion as it pertains to hiring, onboarding, and retention strategies, using ALSO as a case study. We will discuss how to prepare your agency culture and structures through practices, policies, and procedures so that you are 1) ready to welcome a diverse range of staff members 2) acknowledge the conditions that allow for harm and address when harm occurs and 3) flexible in planning for growth and change. We will discuss building an agency culture and structures that mitigate harm and support staff members being connected, creative, and in community with one another.

For those interested in attending, please register by **COB Tuesday, May 17th**. To ensure that everyone can fully participate in this opportunity, we need to know about your accessibility needs in advance. Every effort will be made to ensure access at these virtual events.

[Register Here](#)

Other Webinar Save-the-Dates to Add to Your Calendar:

Summer Series/Institute

The Underserved Institute is an annual convening of all stakeholders, to increase knowledge, skills, and connections between Grantees, the Underserved TA Team, and Office on Violence Against Women staff.

This year, the annual Summer Institute will be replaced by a Virtual Summer Series that will span two days. More details below:

Date: Tuesday, July 19



June 8 - Underserved Grant Administration: A Refresher and Q&A presented by Kara Moller and GFMD (OVW)

All webinars will be up to 90 minutes in duration and will start at 11 PT/ 12 MT/ 1 CT/ 2 ET

More details about these upcoming webinars, including how to register, will be shared by email in the next few weeks.

Time: Two 90 minutes sessions and one 60 minute lunch break
1st Session: 9am PT/ 10am MT/ 11am CT/12 pm ET
Lunch: 10:30 am PT/ 11:30 am MT/ 12:30 pm CT/ 1:30 pm ET
2nd Session: 11:30 PT/ 12:30 pm MT/ 1:30 pm CT/ 2:30 pm ET
Topic: Tenets of survivor-informed planning and what it means in relation to conducting outreach, providing services, and facilitating training sessions, the three main areas of work for Underserved Grantees.
Guest presenter: ALSO Consultant Erin Tinnon

Date: Wednesday, July 20

Time: Two 90 minutes sessions and one 60 minute lunch break
1st Session: 9am PT/ 10am MT/ 11am CT/12 pm ET
Lunch: 10:30 am PT/ 11:30 am MT/ 12:30 pm CT/ 1:30 pm ET
2nd Session: 11:30 PT/ 12:30 pm MT/ 1:30 pm CT/ 2:30 pm ET
Topic: Applying an equity-focused feedback loop for continuous program evaluation and improvement.
Guest presenter: Dr. Keisha Farmer-Smith

Please note that attendance is required for all Underserved grantee organizations at each session.

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.

Check out: [OVW Open Solicitations](#)

Check out the OVW Podcast [here](#).

[Webinars & Conferences from the Field](#)

Community Engagement: Intentionality and Health

Host: Prevent Connect

Dates: May 16th

Times: 11AM PT/ 12PM MT/ 1PM CT/ 2PM ET

Building authentic community engagement in sexual and domestic violence prevention is an important aspect of building safe, healthy, and equitable communities. Community engagement allows the lived experiences and knowledge of community members to guide and drive solutions and gives insight into the conditions in which community members live, work, and play. Engagement strategies that advance health equity are intentional in who is engaged, how they are engaged, and to what end they are engaged. Join PreventConnect and Human Impact Partners for a discussion about the connections between structural inequities, violence prevention, and community engagement.

[Register Here](#)

Working with Survivors from Diverse Communities

Host: Center for Court Innovation

Dates: May 19th, 2022

Times: 11AM PT/ 12PM MT/ 1PM CT/ 2PM ET

Survivors of diverse communities often face challenges when systems of help are not responsive to their cultural identity. They may encounter additional barriers to accessing services and obtaining fair outcomes. Recognizing and respecting individual cultural differences is essential to sensitive and practical work with survivors. In addition, differences in concepts of suffering and healing can influence how individuals may experience the effects of gender-based violence and interaction with criminal justice and human service systems. This webinar will explore how these systems, including courts, can enhance their capacity to respond to the needs of survivors of diverse communities and backgrounds.

[Register Here](#)

End Abuse of People with Disabilities: Safety and Assistive Technology

Host: [Vera Institute](#)

Dates: May 24th, 2022

Times: 11AM PT/ 12PM MT/ 1PM CT/ 2PM ET

This discussion will focus on how abusers may misuse technology as a tactic of abuse and how people with disabilities can incorporate assistive technology into their safety planning. This session will help service providers better understand how to utilize assistive technology to remove barriers to safely and effectively serve survivors with disabilities and Deaf survivors.

[Register Here](#)

Lessons Learned About Survivor-Centered Support During the Covid-10 Pandemic

Host: [Futures Without Violence](#)

Dates: May 25th, 2022

Times: 11AM PT / 12PM MT / 1PM CT / 2PM ET

Please join us for a webinar to learn more about the issue brief *Lessons Learned About Survivor-Centered Support During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Recommendations for Child Welfare and Family Violence Advocates*. This brief focuses on best practices and innovative strategies that child welfare and family violence advocates can implement to form stronger support networks for survivors of violence and abuse that continue to function in emergency conditions.

[Register Here](#)

Your ALSO TA Team



Image Description: Headshots of Underserved TA Team members arranged over pastel circles and ovals colored orange, blue, purple, pink, and green

From top to bottom: (L-R) Cristina Damiani, Rachel Hastings, (L-R) Topher Williamson, Zarena Leblanc, Lisa Gilmore, (L-R) Quenette Walton, Lori Crowder

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 Specialist 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

