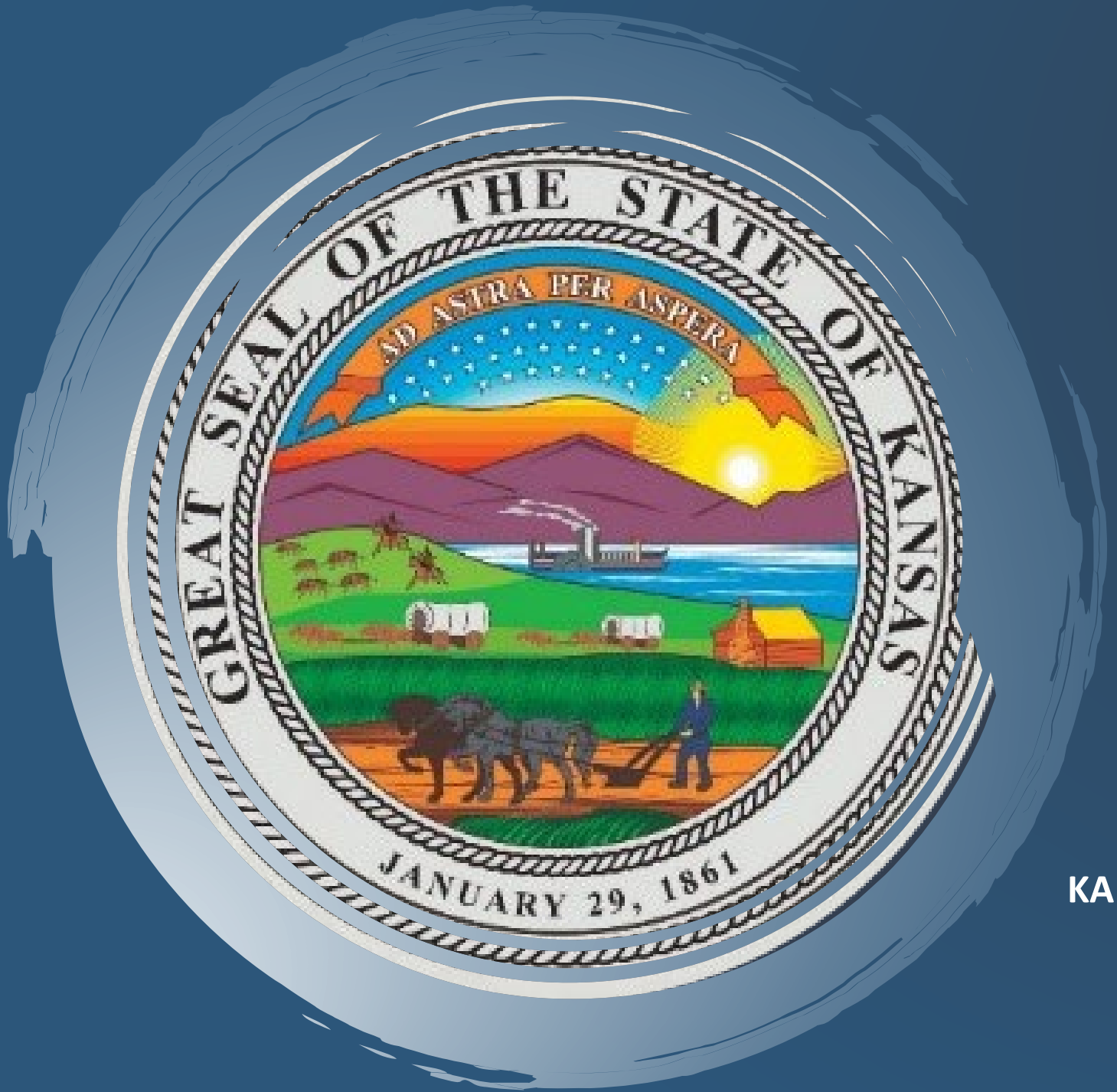

FEDERAL S.T.O.P. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN GRANT (VAWA)

KANSAS GOVERNOR'S GRANTS PROGRAM
GRANT ASSURANCES TRAINING

AUGUST 2026

VAWA Assurances

PRESENTED BY
ERICA HAAS, ATTORNEY

Workplace-Related Incidents

Subgrantee must have a policy in place within 270 days of the date of the award to address workplace-related incidents of:

- Sexual misconduct;
- Domestic violence; and
- Dating violence.

*Hereinafter referred to as “violence.”

The Subgrantee shall refer to Policy for Response to Workplace-Related Incidents for details of this condition.

Workplace-Related Incidents

The policy must address the following:

- Allegations of workplace-related incidents of violence by an employee, volunteer, consultant, or contractor;
- Workplace supports for employees, volunteers, consultants, or contractors who are victims of violence; and
- Adjudications that will result in an employee, volunteer, contractor, or consultant being prohibited from occupying positions that could undermine the ability of the subgrantee to carry out the grant funded project.

Workplace-Related Incidents

Special Condition

- Submit the agency's Workplace Related Incidents policy
- A checklist is available on the KGGP website. Workplace-Related Incidents Checklist
- Additional resource:

Workplaces Respond - Resources for OVW Grantees

Victim Safety

- Safety is the guiding principle that underlies the VAWA grant programs.
- Subgrantees' goals and services are required to reflect victim safety.

Unapproved uses of grant funds

- Supporting activities addressing missing or murdered indigenous persons unrelated to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or staking.

- Supporting activities addressing human trafficking unrelated to domestic violence dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Victim Safety

- Goals and services shall reflect the guiding principle of victim safety.

Confidentiality of Data and Information

- Policies and procedures are in place to ensure confidentiality of records of individuals receiving VAWA-funded services.

- Disclosure of personally identifying information - signed informed time-limited written release
  - Statute
  - Court Order

- Follow all state and federal laws pertaining to confidentiality
  - 34 U.S.C. 12291 (b)(2)

Dissemination of Crime Victims' Rights Information

- Subgrantees are required to provide crime victims' rights information to crime victims.
  - Statutory rights of crime victims
  - Crime victim compensation
- VAWA-funded staff and volunteers shall receive information and training on crime victim compensation and on all applicable laws pertaining to crime victims' rights.

VAWA Direct Victim Assistance

- “Direct Assistance to Victims” funds are only for the immediate health and safety of crime victims.
- Written documentation to support the use of these funds for this purpose must be maintained.
- No direct payments to crime victims or a dependent of any victim.
- Gift cards cannot be provided directly to victims as a substitute for cash.

Compromising Victim Safety

Subgrantees shall not use grants project funds to support activities that may compromise victim safety and recovery or undermine offender accountability, such as:

- Procedures/policies that exclude eligible victims from receiving services based on non-discrimination protected classes or their actual or perceived mental health condition, physical health condition, criminal record, immigration status, employment history or status, income or lack of income, or the age and/or sex of their children.
- Procedures/policies that compromise confidentiality;
- Procedures/policies that impose requirements on victims to receive services;
- Procedures/policies that fail to ensure staff conduct safety planning with victims; and
- Project design and budgets that fail to account for access needs of participants with disabilities, limited English proficiency, or are Deaf.

VAWA Legal Assistance

Any person providing legal assistance:

- Is a licensed attorney or is working under direct supervision of a licensed attorney;
- (In immigration proceedings) is a Board of Immigration Appeals accredited representative;
- (In Veterans' Administration claims)– is an accredited representative; or
- Is a person who functions as an attorney or lay advocate in tribal court.

VAWA Legal Assistance

- VAWA-funded employees providing legal assistance should have demonstrated expertise in providing legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking;

or

- Subgrantee shall be partnered with an entity or person that has such expertise and has completed or will complete training in connection with domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

VAWA Legal Assistance

- Any training shall be developed in collaboration with:
  - State, local, territorial, tribal, or culturally specific domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking victim service provider or coalition; and
  - Law enforcement officials, as appropriate

VAWA Legal Assistance

- Subgrantee shall inform the local domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking programs, state coalitions, and local law enforcement officials of their work.

- Grant funds will not be used to support criminal defense work.

VAWA Service Population

- Focus on adult and youth (age 11-24) women and girls who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

- May support direct victim services for secondary victims such as children who witness domestic violence.

- With the exception of any grant project award funded under federal purpose areas 17 or 19 (include men in the target population), activities must be focused on combating violence against women.

  - However, the Subgrantee shall provide services to male victims who are in similar situations to female victims ordinarily served and who request services.

Copyright

- The Office on Violence Against Women reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use and to authorize others to use, in whole or in part, for Federal Government purposes:
  - Any work subject to copyright developed under a VAWA subgrant; and
  - Any work subject to copyright for which ownership was purchased with support of a VAWA subgrant.
- Written approval required before using VAWA funds to purchase ownership/license to use a copyrighted work; or incorporating any copyrighted work into a new work developed under this award.

Computer Networks

- Funds must not be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

- Does not limit the use of funds for carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

Prosecutor's Office

- In order for a prosecutor's office to be eligible to receive grant funds under S.T.O.P. VAWA, the head of the prosecutor's office shall certify to the KGGP, that the office will, during a three-year period beginning with the 2024 grant award, engage in planning, developing, and implementing the following:
  - Training developed by experts in the field regarding victim-centered approaches to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking cases.
  - Policies that support a victim centered approach, informed by such training.
  - A Protocol outlining alternative practices and procedures for material witness petitions and bench warrants that shall be exhausted before employing material witness petitions and bench warrants to obtain victim-witness testimony in the investigation, prosecution, and trial of a crime related to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking of the victim in order to prevent further victimization and trauma to the victim.

Civil Rights and Nondiscrimination

VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2013:

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity (as defined in 18 U.S.C. §249(c)(4)), sexual orientation, or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available under [VAWA], and any other program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds appropriated for grants, cooperative agreements, and other assistance administered by the Office on Violence Against Women.

Civil Rights and Nondiscrimination

VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2013 (*continued*):

If sex segregation or sex-specific programming is necessary to the essential operation of a program, nothing in this paragraph shall prevent any such program or activity from consideration of an individual's sex.

In such circumstances, Subgrantees may meet the requirements of this paragraph by providing comparable services to individuals who cannot be provided with the sex-segregated or sex-specific programming.

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) has posted FAQs on the VAWA nondiscrimination provision at: OCR VAWA Nondiscrimination Provision FAQs

Civil Rights and Nondiscrimination

VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2013 (*continued*):

- Sex-Segregated Programming
  - When males and females receive services in separate settings

- Sex-Specific Programming
  - When a recipient designs programming differently for males and females

Beneficiaries choose the appropriate program based upon gender identity

Civil Rights and Nondiscrimination

VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2013 (*continued*):

- Necessary to the Essential Operation of a Program --Fact-specific inquiry, consider:
  - Nature of the services
  - Consequences to beneficiaries of making sex-segregated or sex-specific
  - Literature on efficacy
  - Impact on transgender clients

Reasons may not be trivial, based solely on convenience, or rooted in stereotypes

Civil Rights and Nondiscrimination

VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2013 (*continued*):

- Comparable Services
- Fact specific inquiry, consider:
  - Nature, quality, and duration of the service;
  - Relative benefits of different therapeutic modalities; and
  - Geographic location.

Civil Rights and Nondiscrimination

VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2013 (*continued*):

- What is Gender Identity?
  - "Actual or perceived gender-related characteristics" (from Matthew Shepard – James Bird Hate Crime Prevention Act)
  - A person's internal view of the individual's gender
  - May or may not correspond to sex assigned at birth

Civil Rights and Nondiscrimination

VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2013 (*continued*):

- Serving Transgender Clients
  - Assign clients to service which corresponds to the gender with which the client identifies
  - Consider transgender victim's health and safety in making housing assignments
  - Transgender client's own views regarding personal safety deserve serious consideration
  - Do not isolate or segregate
  - Do not make burdensome demands for identity documents
  - Do not inquire into surgery or other medical interventions

KGGP Website

Visit the KGGP website at
www.grants.ks.gov
for information on grant management.

- Grant Opportunities
- Resources – Managing a Grant Award*
- Resources – Civil Rights Information
- Kansas Academy for Victim Assistance (KAVA)

Kansas Governor's Grants Program

kggp@ks.gov

Voice: 785-291-3205

Fax: 785-291-3204

Primary Contact: KGGP Analyst contact information in grant award notice

VAWA Grant Assurances Training Link