

Violence Against Women Act: Sexual Assault Prosecution Enhancement

Purpose of Funds: Sexual assault coalitions provide direct support to member rape crisis centers through funding, training and technical assistance, public awareness activities, and public policy advocacy (e.g., state coalitions might work with law enforcement, prosecution, faith-based and community organizations to enhance their responses to victims of sexual assault). Domestic violence coalitions provide comparable support to member battered women's shelters and other domestic violence victim service providers.

Receiving Department: Denver District Attorney

Amount: \$185,961

Type of Grant: Competitive

Number of People Served: It is anticipated that 50 sexual assault victims will be served.

Public Process: The Denver District Attorney's Office identifies grants that will meet the needs of the agency and clients and applies for them. The DA Office submitted a complete list of Recover Act Grants to the City's ARRA committee. Once awards are received the agency follows the City's Grant Acceptance process.

Proposed Spending: The Sexual Assault Prosecution Enhancement project will create a full-time sexual assault prosecutor specialist position to work closely with law enforcement and prosecutors to improve the filing and conviction rates of sexual assaults in the City and County of Denver. The specialist will conduct advanced sexual assault training and assist with investigation and trial duties for law enforcement and prosecutors, based on best practices. Additionally, the specialist will work collaboratively with organizations in underserved communities to provide culturally appropriate trainings on the legal rights of sexual assault victims.

Project Director: Steve Siegel

For more information, please see the oversight committee docs at
<http://www.denvergov.org/stimulus>