



# Times Without Precedent

The Council promotes the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault and provides safety for Alaskans victimized or impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, and other violent crimes through a statewide system of prevention, crisis intervention, support, service, and perpetrator accountability.

## Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Annual Report



Alaska's Council on  
Domestic Violence  
& Sexual Assault





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# Dedication

This FY20-21 Annual Report for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault is dedicated to the 35 determined and dedicated sub-grantees representing communities across Alaska, from Utqiagvik to Unalaska, who went above and beyond to keep all victims, survivors, and family members of intimate and interpersonal crime safe and cared for during a worldwide pandemic. Thank you to your amazing communities, agencies, and staff!

## **Anchorage**

Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (AWAIC)  
Alaska Behavioral Health (ABH)  
Providence Alaska Medical Center (PAMC)  
Standing Together Against Rape (STAR)  
Victims for Justice (VFJ)  
Volunteers of America Alaska (VOAA)

## **Bethel**

Tundra Women's Coalition (TWC)

## **Cordova**

Cordova Family Resource Center (CFRC)

## **Craig**

Helping Ourselves Prevent Emergencies (HOPE)

## **Dillingham**

Bristol Bay Area Health Corp. (BBAHC)

Safe and Fear-Free Environment (SAFE)

## **Emmonak**

Emmonak Women's Shelter (EWS)

## **Fairbanks**

Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living (IAC)  
Resource Center for Parents and Children Stevie's Place  
Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC)

## **Gakona**

Copper River Basin CAC (CRB)

## **Homer**

South Peninsula Haven House (SPHH)

## **Juneau**

Aiding Women in Abuse and Rape Emergencies (AWARE)  
Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA)

Catholic Community Services SAFE (CCS)

## **Kenai**

Kenaitze Indian Tribe (KIT)  
The Lee Shore Center (LCS)

## **Ketchikan**

Ketchikan Indian Community (KIC)  
Women in Safe Homes (WISH)

## **Kodiak**

Kodiak Women's Resource and Crisis Center (KWRCC)

## **Kotzebue**

Maniilaq Family Crisis Center (MFCC)

## **Nome**

Bering Sea Women's Group (BSWG)

## **Palmer**

Alaska Family Services (AFS)

## **Petersburg**

Working Against Violence for Everyone (WAVE)

## **Seward**

Seaview Community Services (SCS)

## **Sitka**

Sitkans Against Family Violence (SAFV)

## **Valdez**

Advocates for Victims of Violence (AVV)

## **Unalaska**

Unalaskans Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence (USAFV)

## **Utqiagvik**

Arctic Women in Crisis (AWIC)

## **Wasilla**

The Children's Place (TCP)





## Our Purpose

**To empower  
Alaska communities  
to create a future  
free of domestic &  
sexual violence.**

## Council Board Members

Teresa Lowe	Chair, Public Member
Lydia Heyward	Vice Chair, Public Member
Angela Garay	Public Member
Ryon Turley	Public Member
Laura Brooks	Department of Corrections
Jillian Gellings	Department of Health & Social Services
Amanda Price	Department of Public Safety, FY2020
James Cockrell	Department of Public Safety, FY2021
John Skidmore	Department of Law
Niki Tshibaka	Department of Education & Early Development

## CDVSA Staff

L. Diane Casto	Executive Director
Morgan Cruz Erisman	Research Analyst II, FY2020
MaryBeth Gagnon	Criminal Justice Planner
Kelly Gohl	Administrative Officer I
Marjorie Hamburger	Program Coordinator I
Shannen O'Brien	Grants Administrator II
Ann Rausch	Program Coordinator II
Meggie Stogner	Program Coordinator II
Angela Wells	Administrative Assistant II





# Letter from Leadership

## FY20-21: Two Years Unlike Any Other

July 1, 2019, started out like every other new fiscal year. A flurry of end-of-year (FY19) and beginning-of-year (FY20) paperwork, grant awards, reports, special conditions, and general controlled chaos. We began FY20 with 26 sub-grantees from across the state and ended the year with 35 sub-grantees with the addition of a new Enhanced Services Grant Program.

With the new year, we began to create a new five-year strategic plan, to develop and implement a Language Access Plan, transitioned to GrantVantage (GV) to manage CDVSA sub-grantees, prepared for our quinquennial Alaska Victimization Survey, and released a new Request for Proposals (RFP) for Enhanced Services for Victims of Crime. By January, we were already in the midst of a busy year, and felt the promise of accomplishing significant change, improvement, and forward progress.

Then, January. With January came word of a novel virus detected in China that was beginning to spread beyond national borders—news that gave us pause. In March we hosted four Stakeholder Roundtables in Bethel,

Fairbanks, Juneau, and Anchorage. The last roundtable concluded on March 12—by the following week, inter-state travel and in-person gatherings began to curb, and by March 24, Governor Dunleavy issued an Emergency Health Order to begin Alaska's quarantine. Within weeks, life changed drastically—just like that.

As we reorganized to follow “shelter in place” and other social distancing and sanitation mandates, we joined the march of our community's schools, businesses, and service centers towards slow closure. But even as society shut down, the need for emergency shelters and victim services did not dissipate. To meet those needs, operations adjusted. Available bed space was reduced, alternative shelter space was sourced, and how services were delivered morphed and flexed significantly.

At the start of FY2021, circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic continued grimly onwards. Masking, social-distancing, regular sanitizing, and restricted in-person meetings continued. Yet, CDVSA's 35 sub-grantee programs remained open, remained available,

and found creative ways to ensure every victim who needed help received compassionate aid.

This combined FY20-FY21 Annual Report is dedicated to the 35 determined, gritty, and passionate community-based organizations that went above and beyond to keep all victims safe during a pandemic, provided accountability and services to those who perpetrated violence, and instilled violence-prevention messaging throughout a time of incredible challenges.

These two years taught us valuable lessons in flexibility, preparedness, and doing whatever it takes to get the job done. We each contributed to meeting our collective responsibility for keeping our state, communities, families, and individuals safe and healthy.

**Teresa Lowe, Board Chair**

**L. Diane Casto, Executive Director**





October 2019

# Updating Our Strategic Plan

CDVSA initiated a contract with Professional Growth Systems to facilitate the creation of a new five-year Strategic Plan. The process was broad and inclusive as we moved through a review of our vision, mission, and organizational strategies to pursue our statutory requirements.

Planning included a two-day facilitated staff planning session; a one-day facilitated Board planning session, and four community Stakeholder Roundtables held in Bethel, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Anchorage. Over 200 stakeholders joined us to share their insights, ideas, and contextual dialogue. The results of these meetings, discussions and dialogue include a refresh of our organization's strategic plan, centered around the following edicts:

## Purpose

To empower Alaska communities to create a future free of domestic and sexual violence.

## Core Values

**Excellence:** Committed to ethics, high standards, and best practices

**Passionate:** A driven and inquisitive approach to our work

**Receptive:** Compassionate, flexible, and openminded

**Collaborative:** Working together to find solutions

## Our Vision

We will:

- Promote statewide investment in primary prevention programming.
- Utilize data to drive our work.
- Maximize the use of technology to increase our efficiency and effectiveness.
- Improve collaboration with stakeholders.
- Enhance perpetrator rehabilitation programs.
- Shift from use of shelters as long-term housing to functional after-crisis services.
- Provide training and technical assistance to organizations/boards we fund.

As a result of this planning process, the following strategic initiatives will be undertaken to improve services and outcomes over the next five years:

1. Decrease Barriers to Access
2. Increase Collaboration with Stakeholders
3. Expand Primary Prevention Programming
4. Redesign Perpetrator Rehabilitation Programming
5. Implement & Modernize Grants Management System

Work to meet the intent of the five CDVSA strategic initiatives will continue as a priority for staff and board members moving forward, as these practices become embedded in our daily work and focus. The CDVSA Board of Directors approved the final Strategic Plan during the FY21, Quarter 1 meeting on September 3, 2020. Work continues to support and implement the CDVSA strategic initiatives.



October 2019

# Enhanced Services Grant Awards

CDVSA released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Enhanced Services for Victims of Crime to make use of our Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding. The RFP identified three focus areas for bidders to address in their proposals for how to enhance victim services:



**Operating Child  
Advocacy Centers**



**Trauma-informed mental  
health services for children  
and youth who are victims or  
witnesses to violence**



**Civil legal advocacy  
services for victims  
of crime**

Nineteen proposals were received and evaluated. The CDVSA Board conducted an electronic vote to approve funding for 18 of 19 proposals. Investing in all three focus areas is critical to providing comprehensive services to adult and child/youth victims, or witnesses of domestic and other violence.



# November 2019

# FY2020 All

# Grantee Meeting

## **CDVSA hosted its 2nd Annual All Grantee Meeting in Anchorage on**

**November 13-14, 2019.** All Grantee Meetings provide an opportunity for sub-grantees and CDVSA staff to gather for training, technical assistance, learning and networking. Key presentations focused on creating healing environments for victims of sexual assault in Alaska's dual DVSA victim service programs, financial management and internal controls for organizations receiving public funds, and improving data collection and outcome measures to document the excellent work being done by sub-grantees. Additional technical assistance trainings were offered by CDVSA staff and a lunchtime dialogue regarding Alaska's sexual assault consent laws rounded out the two-day meeting.





**December 2019**

# Dillingham Rural Outreach Meeting

**On December 3-4, 2019, a delegation of CDVSA board members and staff traveled to Dillingham, Alaska, for our FY2020 Quarter 2 Rural Outreach Board Meeting.**

Each year, one quarterly board meeting is set aside to visit a rural Alaska community hosted by a CDVSA funded agency from the community. Safe and Fear-Free Environment (SAFE) hosted the FY20 Rural Outreach meeting and led a joint Community Dialogue on domestic violence, sexual assault, teen dating violence, and other issues related to all forms of interpersonal violent crimes.

These Rural Outreach Board Meetings provide an opportunity for board members to visit funded agencies, tour facilities, meet staff and community partners, and to hear directly from community members about these critical topics—including the challenges and needs the community faces in their effort to end domestic and sexual violence. As they always do, the FY20 Rural Outreach Meeting provided staff and board members with invaluable insights into the successes and challenges rural service delivery programs encounter.

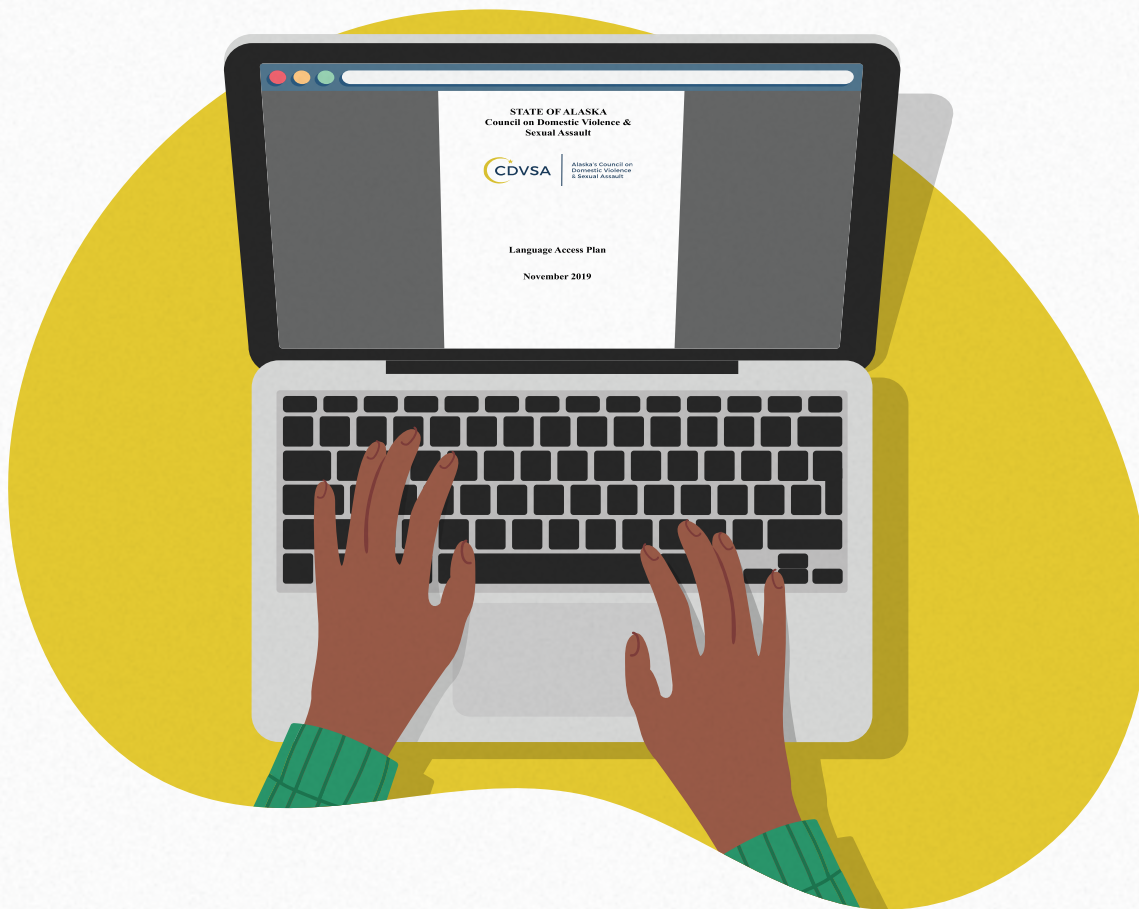
**Thank you, Dillingham!**





December 2019

# Language Access Plan



In late FY2019, CDVSA began the task of exploring policies and practices to improve access to CDVSA services, especially for Alaskans with limited or no English proficiency. Working in partnership with the Alaska Institute for Justice (AIJ), CDVSA created a Language Access Plan (LAP) to ensure reasonable efforts are made to reduce and eliminate barriers for limited English-proficient Alaskans to access CDVSA programs and activities. Additionally, the LAP establishes guidelines in accordance with Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency, 65 Federal Register 50121.

On December 4, 2019, the CDVSA Board of Directors reviewed the final LAP and approved it as official policy and practice of CDVSA. Implementation will continue over time as we determine the size, scope, and application to improve current practices.



# Responding to COVID-19

Beginning in March 2020, COVID-19's health and safety precautions overrode all aspects of normal life and daily operations. Directives for individual and environmental sanitation, social distancing, and masking became the norm. Being able to implement such broad health mitigation practices, although critical to everyone's health and safety, created significant challenges for agencies providing 24/7 emergency services (including shelter and housing services) to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

When you operate an emergency shelter with eight beds, with two or more beds sharing a room, and common areas for living rooms, children's playrooms, kitchens, and bathrooms, it is

extremely difficult to imagine maintaining the same level of service while also practicing social distancing. While such challenges were many, all 35 CDVSA-funded community agencies kept their doors open, offered quality services, created alternative ways to serve, and never stopped finding solutions to best meet the needs of Alaskans impacted by domestic and sexual violence. We hold deep gratitude to all sub-grantees and partner agencies who helped overcome the challenges of providing services during a worldwide pandemic.

To meet the growing challenge to keep community-based programming open and safe, CDVSA developed and implemented several strategies.



## Public Awareness Campaign, "You Are Not Alone"

During the pandemic, CDVSA worked with marketing contractor Walsh|Sheppard to develop a series of messages designed to address victims struggling to balance conflicting safety messages—directives from the government to "hunker down," and the fear they experienced from sharing a living environment with a person who posed a threat of physical violence. The ads above are a sample of what was developed, with core messaging focused on reminding DVSA victims and survivors that they are not alone, help is available to them, and CDVSA is able to provide guidance on locating the appropriate resources.



# Responding to COVID-19



## **Department of Corrections Masks**

As the pandemic settled in, we learned that one simple and effective way to reduce the spread of COVID-19 was the use of cloth or medical-grade masks when indoors and in groups of people. We also quickly discovered that finding enough masks to use in our programs was challenging. The Department of Corrections (DOC) stepped up to the plate to implement a program where inmates from Correctional Institutions across the state began mass production of cloth facemasks.

CDVSA was fortunate to obtain over 3,000 cloth facemasks to distribute to our funded programs around the state. This project was a lifesaver in the early days of the pandemic, and

many of those early masks are still worn by our program's service recipients. Our thanks to the DOC, and the inmates who spent days designing, sewing, and distributing masks across Alaska!

## **April 2020: FY20 Emergency Funds**

CDVSA set aside \$100,000 in late April 2020 to assist agencies struggling to keep their doors open. Between April 24 and June 10, nine emergency fund awards were issued for a total of \$81,484. Funds helped pay for cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment, hotel rooms, and alternative housing to ease social distance requirements, employee pay and administrative leave for personnel unable to work due to exposure or childcare issues, and technology needed to increase the ability to provide virtual services.





# Responding to COVID-19

## **Waiver for Grant Match Funding**

Most state and federal community-based grant funding requires a “match” from the grant recipient. Match funding ranges from 15% for state general funds, to 25% for some federal grants. The intent of match funding is for communities and agencies to provide a contribution to “match” the state or federal public funds received, and thereby demonstrate investment in seeing grant funding used successfully.

During normal, non-pandemic times, most match funding comes from community contributions, public donations, and in-kind voluntary services provided to assist the agency’s function. Unfortunately, during the COVID-19 pandemic, fundraisers ended, volunteer support shrank, and agencies were unable to meet the required match. To alleviate this additional stress on our critical community programs, CDVSA partnered with federal and state partners to reduce the minimum match amount to 5% in FY20, and completely waive match requirements in FY21.

## **Creating Flexible Grant Requirements During COVID-19**

In addition to reduced and waived grant match funding, CDVSA created opportunities for sub-grantees to utilize their CDVSA grant funding more flexibly to quickly address the shifting impacts of COVID-19. Line items could be flexed based on immediate needs necessary to maintain disinfecting, social distancing, masking, and other important mitigation efforts to keep providers and program participants safe. During the pandemic, having the flexibility to meet the everchanging landscape was critical to successfully providing services to Alaskans in need.

## **Virtual Site Visits and SART Training**

After COVID-19 health measures took effect, several of CDVSA’s normal operations ended: travel for community visits, gatherings for training, site visits, and meetings to develop and report on our organizational strategy. Social distancing required everyone to become efficient and effective at using technology to telework from home, attend virtual meetings, host virtual trainings, and provide technical

assistance and support virtually. The state embraced Microsoft Teams for all state employees, providing a platform to continue doing our jobs in a new and technology-centered way.

The first casualty of no in-person training was our Spring 2020 Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) training. With too little time to pivot to a virtual training platform, SART’s leadership began creating alternative plans for smaller, virtual training opportunities through the remainder of FY20 and early FY21, while also working with Northwest Strategies to develop a platform and process for a Spring 2021 SART Virtual Training. While not an identical training experience, the virtual SART training was a success! Technology has made it possible for work to continue in a new and creative way.

## **CARES Act Funding & Partnership with Division of Public Health**

In May 2020, the federal DHHS, Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Family Violence and Prevention Services Act (FVPSA) provided each state and state coalition with



# Responding to COVID-19

funding from the CARES Act to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency while addressing the evolving needs of domestic violence victims and survivors and local domestic violence programs in Alaska.

To meet the criteria of these additional FVPSA funds, CDVSA signed a Letter of Agreement with the Alaska Division of Public Health, thereby creating a partnership to address the COVID-19 crisis and prevent and prepare for future needs. The project and partnership continued through FY21, resulting in improved services and equipment for sub-grantees to address the pandemic's restrictions and the call for emergency services during challenging times.

## **Virtual Learning for Children in Shelters**

The start of FY21 was made easier due to the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed on March 27, 2020, and available in many iterations at the beginning of FY21. CARES Act funding was available to support sub-

grantees with technology, personal protective equipment (PPE) inventory, air filter systems for shelter programs, and expanding agency relationships with public health and community health centers.

In partnership with the Department of Education and Early Development, the Governor's Office, and the U.S. Civilian Corps, CDVSA was able to secure a donation of 10 Chromebook laptops and 26 Fire Tablets for Alaska domestic violence shelter programs to assist children in shelters with online virtual school. Seven victim service programs in Anchorage, Cordova, Kodiak, Sitka, Nome, Kenai, and Dillingham received a combination of laptops and tablets to meet the educational needs of children in shelter. Thank you to the U.S Civilian Corps, a national service organization, for your generosity.

## **July 2020: Virtual Site Visit and Program Audit with the Department of Justice's CFO Office**

In July 2020, CDVSA was informed by the Department of Justice (DOJ) that the DOJ

Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) would be conducting a virtual, enhanced Financial Desk Review covering three of our federal formula grants—Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP), and Services, Training, Officers & Prosecutors (STOP/VAWA). The Financial Desk Review covered three federal fiscal years, FFY17-FFY19. The actual review was scheduled for August 31-September 3, 2020. Prior to the review dates, CDVSA submitted documents, grant files, and written policies and procedures to the DOJ.

The exit interview indicated that CDVSA has good systems in place, with a clear financial and programmatic process for distributing and monitoring federal funds. CDVSA works diligently to improve and revise our policies, procedures, and practices to create a continuous improvement process to strengthen the quality of CDVSA's use of public funds.



# Responding to COVID-19

## **December 2020: First Virtual Rural Outreach Meeting to Petersburg**

On December 10, 2020, the CDVSA Board of Directors took a virtual trip to Petersburg, Alaska, for our first virtual Rural Outreach Meeting. Each year, CDVSA holds a rural outreach meeting in partnership with our grantee agencies in the selected host community. In FY21, Working Against Violence for Everyone (WAVE) hosted this annual event and helped create an opportunity for the CDVSA Board to 'travel' to Petersburg and learn about the community, WAVE, and the people who live and work in Petersburg.

Executive Director Annette Wooten Bennett and her staff, Hillary Hunter and Amanda Greenfield, presented a history of WAVE, Petersburg demographics, and WAVE's victim and prevention services, before discussing the challenges, needs, and impacts of providing services during a pandemic. In addition, Ms. Bennett and Dr. Kathi Trawver, UAA School of Social Work, presented the results of a joint



survey conducted among Petersburg residents to assess the need for services, including whether there was a need for a 24/7 shelter program. There was a video tour of the WAVE office, a discussion with staff, and the day concluded with a virtual Petersburg community conversation and public comment opportunity.

While we hope to travel to Petersburg one day for a more in-person experience, the staff of WAVE and the community of Petersburg made everyone feel welcome, informed, and excited that we could find an alternative way to conduct our annual Rural Outreach Meeting. Thank you to Annette and the staff of WAVE for hosting a great event!



May - November 2020

# Alaska Victimization Survey

**The Alaska Victimization Survey (AVS) is a phone survey recurring every five years (quinquennial) since 2010.**

The third survey, scheduled for 2020, began its planning and coordinating efforts in early FY20. The AVS is funded by CDVSA and conducted by the University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center. Survey phone interviews began in May 2020, and by late November, 2,100 surveys were completed—surpassing our goal of 2,000 completed surveys. The AVS surveyed Alaska women aged 18 years and older, asking questions related to their experiences with physical and psychological intimate partner violence, stalking, and sexual violence. Dr. Ingrid Johnson, UAA Justice Center, began survey data analysis and report writing in January 2021. The survey also included new information on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), which are well-established in existing research as being a strong predictor of later victimization experiences.



# AVS

## Alaska Victimization Survey

The 2020 survey estimates that 57.7% of Alaska women experienced intimate partner violence (IPV), sexual violence (SV), or both during their lifetime. This represents a 14.7% increase from 2015's survey data. The number of women who reported experiencing IPV, SV, or both during the past 12 months remained at 8.1%—the same rate reported in 2015.

The survey results were released in October 2021, during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Further Reading:



May - November 2020

# Intimate Partner Violence— Interactive Data Dashboard



**In partnership with the UAA Justice Information Center, CDVSA created a new interactive data tool to provide easier access to data related to intimate partner and domestic violence.**

The Intimate Partner Violence—Interactive Data Dashboard (IPV-IDD) combines data from the Alaska Victimization Survey (AVS) conducted in 2010 and 2015. In 2022, the data gathered from the most recent AVS (2020) will be added to the IPV-IDD. To access this tool, visit [the Intimate Partner Violence—Interactive Data Dashboard](#). Funding for this project was the result of a six-month grant award from the Justice Research and Statistics Association (a partner with the Office of Victims of Crime). Many thanks to Dr. Brad Myr Stol and Andrew Gonzalez, both with UAA Alaska Justice Information Center, who acted as the key developers of this interactive tool.



# February 2021 CDVSA Sunset Audit (Spring/Summer 2021) & Next Steps in FY22

As required by AS 44.66.050, CDVSA receives a periodic Sunset Audit to determine if there is a demonstrated public need for its continued existence and if it is operating in an effective manner. CDVSA is set to terminate on June 30, 2022, following the normal process for established state councils. The last sunset audit was conducted in FY13.

The CDVSA Sunset Audit kicked off on February 23, 2021, with the official audit engagement letter sent to the Board Chair and Commissioner of Public Safety. Soon after the official start of the audit, state auditors contacted CDVSA with a list of requested documents. The request for documents continued throughout the remainder of FY21.

After a period of review of the requested documents, auditors determined their audit methodology for testing to determine if CDVSA is following its

established policies, procedures, and practices. The Audit was completed on July 30, 2021, with auditors finding that CDVSA, “generally operated in the public’s interest by funding and monitoring Alaskan domestic violence and sexual assault programs and prevention activities. The council served as the central coordinator for related services throughout the state, conducted meetings in accordance with council bylaws, effectively met most statutory duties, and did not duplicate the efforts of other entities.” Based on these findings, auditors recommended that the legislature extend CDVSA’s termination date by six years, to June 30, 2028.

During the FY2022 legislative session, a bill will be introduced to extend the Council, hearings will be held to review the audit’s findings, public testimony will be taken, and a vote to continue or discontinue CDVSA for up to eight years will be taken.





**April 2021**

# **Perpetrator Rehabilitation Workgroup– Reshaping Services for Partners Who Abuse**

Over the past 10 years, there have been numerous attempts to revise, update, and refocus the work of Alaska's CDVSA program to rehabilitate and change the behaviors of individuals who use violence in their intimate and interpersonal relationships. One barrier has been the lack of evidence-based programming to guide decision-making and the selection of appropriate programming that can show positive outcomes and results to improve and change abusive behaviors. For this reason, CDVSA determined the need to create a Perpetrator Rehabilitation Workgroup comprised of a diverse array of individuals, disciplines, and regions representing the Alaska Court System; Department of Corrections; Victim Service Programs; Battering Intervention Programs; Alaska Native Women's Resource Center; Office of Children's Services; Behavioral Health Providers; Division of Juvenile Justice; Department of Law; Office of Public Advocacy; and the Anchorage Police Department.



Once created, the workgroup included 25 individuals ready to assist in the redesign of evidence-informed programming that can meet Alaska's diverse needs. Denali Daniels + Associates was contracted to be a neutral facilitator to keep the workgroup moving

forward with a 12 to 18-month schedule from beginning to end. The first monthly meeting of the workgroup was held on April 27, 2021. All meetings, at this time, are held virtually via Microsoft Teams.



March 2021

# VOCA Funding Decrease- VOCA Fix Legislation

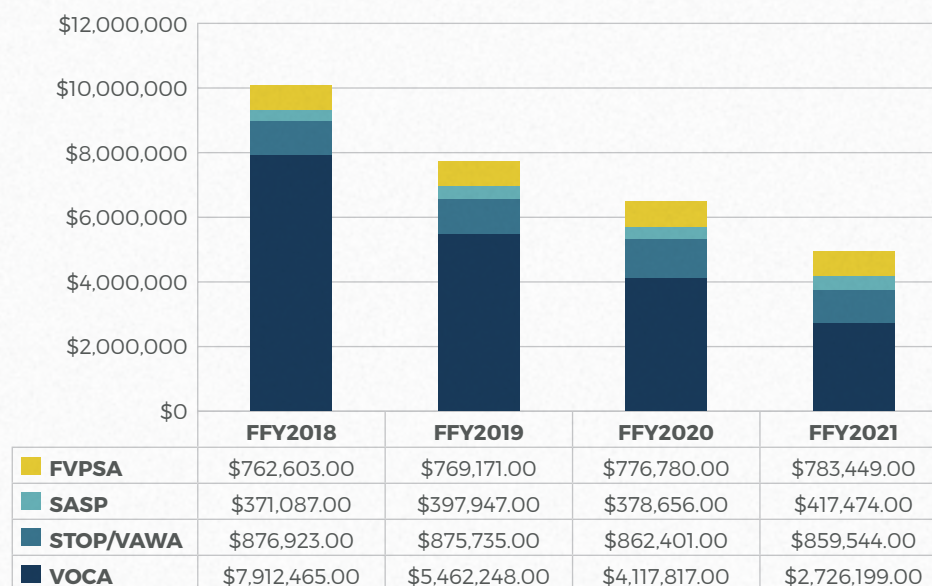
In early 2021, information began circulating about possible reductions in the federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) formula grant received by all US states and territories. The reduction was due to reduced deposits into the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) that funds VOCA formula and discretionary grants. By March, CDVSA received word that our FY21 VOCA award was projected to be reduced by 34.6% compared to FY20, which was already considerably lower than funding received during FY18 and FY19.

To address this critical drop in federal funds, the VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021 was introduced in the US Senate on March 4, 2021, and signed into law by President Biden on July 22, 2021.

Provisions of this law include:

1. Requiring funds collected by the Federal Government under deferred and non-prosecution agreements to be deposited into the Crime Victims Fund.
2. Clarification that states may waive a requirement that victim compensation programs promote victim cooperation with law enforcement.
3. Allowance for states to waive matching requirements for Crime Victims Fund grant funds under certain circumstances.
4. Provision of authority for the Attorney General to provide no-cost extensions to all Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) award recipients.

**CDVSA Federal Formula Grants  
FFY2018 - FFY2021**



Most importantly, VOCA will be able to continue funding essential and lifesaving services to crime victims, which are provided by victim service providers and allied professionals in Alaska and nationwide. Our thanks to Congress for their quick action, and especially to Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski for advocating for passage of the VOCA Fix Act.



# June 2021 COVID-19 Recovery Funding (CSLFRF) Supplements FY22 Sub-Grantee Funding



**Senator Lisa Murkowski held a gathering of agencies and individuals impacted by the deep reductions in federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding on June 30, 2021.**

The Anchorage Roundtable provided opportunities for Senator Murkowski to hear directly from those impacted by VOCA cuts and for the Senator to provide an update and additional information about the VOCA Fix Act legislation introduced and pending in Congress. CDVSA Board Chair Teresa Lowe, along with CDVSA staff L. Diane Casto and MaryBeth Gagnon, attended this gathering to support the need for the VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021 to be passed by Congress and signed into law by President Biden.

Thank you, Senator Murkowski, for your continuing support of victims and survivors of domestic, sexual, and other violent crimes.

Following the news that states and territories were projected to receive a 34.6% reduction in funding due to the federal FY21 VOCA formula grant, CDVSA notified sub-grantees that due to the VOCA reductions (our largest federal formula grant award) sub-grantee awards for FY21 could potentially be reduced by approximately 30%. A cut to funding this significant would drastically impact agencies' capacity to serve victims seeking safe shelter, advocacy services, and other emergency services designed to address the impacts of DVSA and other violent crimes.

Immediate action was taken by the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) and CDVSA sub-grantees to inform and educate Alaska legislators about specific impacts these cuts would have at the community and agency level.

CDVSA worked diligently to provide accurate FY22 projections of available funds and to communicate how large the gap between community needs and available resources would be in FY22 and beyond because of reduced funding.

Due to the incredible work of our sub-grantees, ANDVSA, the Alaska House and Senate, and the concurrence of Governor Dunleavy, the final FY22 budget included \$8 million dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act CSLFRF funding—money that can be spent over multiple years. Funds will be used in FY22 to supplement our Victim Services and Enhanced Services grant programs, replacing funds lost to VOCA fund reductions.

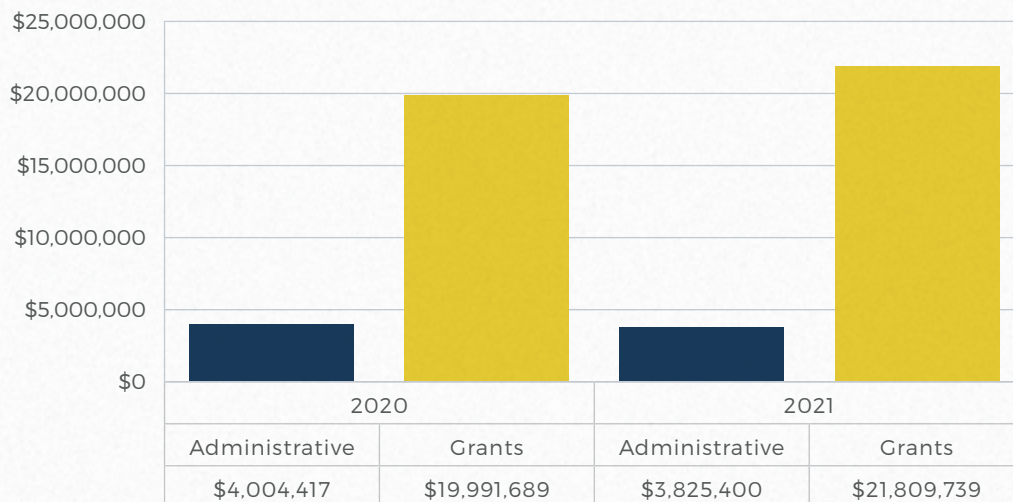
Thank you to everyone for pulling together to guarantee that Alaska's DVSA victims, survivors, and their families continue to have statewide access to emergency shelter, safety, advocacy, and transitional services.



# Care and Oversight of Public Funds

A key priority for CDVSA is the oversight, monitoring, and commitment to our fiduciary responsibilities as it relates to managing state and federal public funding. CDVSA receives significant public funds both from the state of Alaska, as well as the federal government. These funds are entrusted to CDVSA and its staff to ensure these funds are spent and awarded to sub-grantees in a transparent, efficient, and effective way. CDVSA takes this responsibility seriously, and continuously works to improve financial oversight standards and maintain high quality monitoring of sub-grantees through annual risk assessments, onsite reviews, and biannual financial desk reviews.

**CDVSA Budget - Administrative vs Grants**



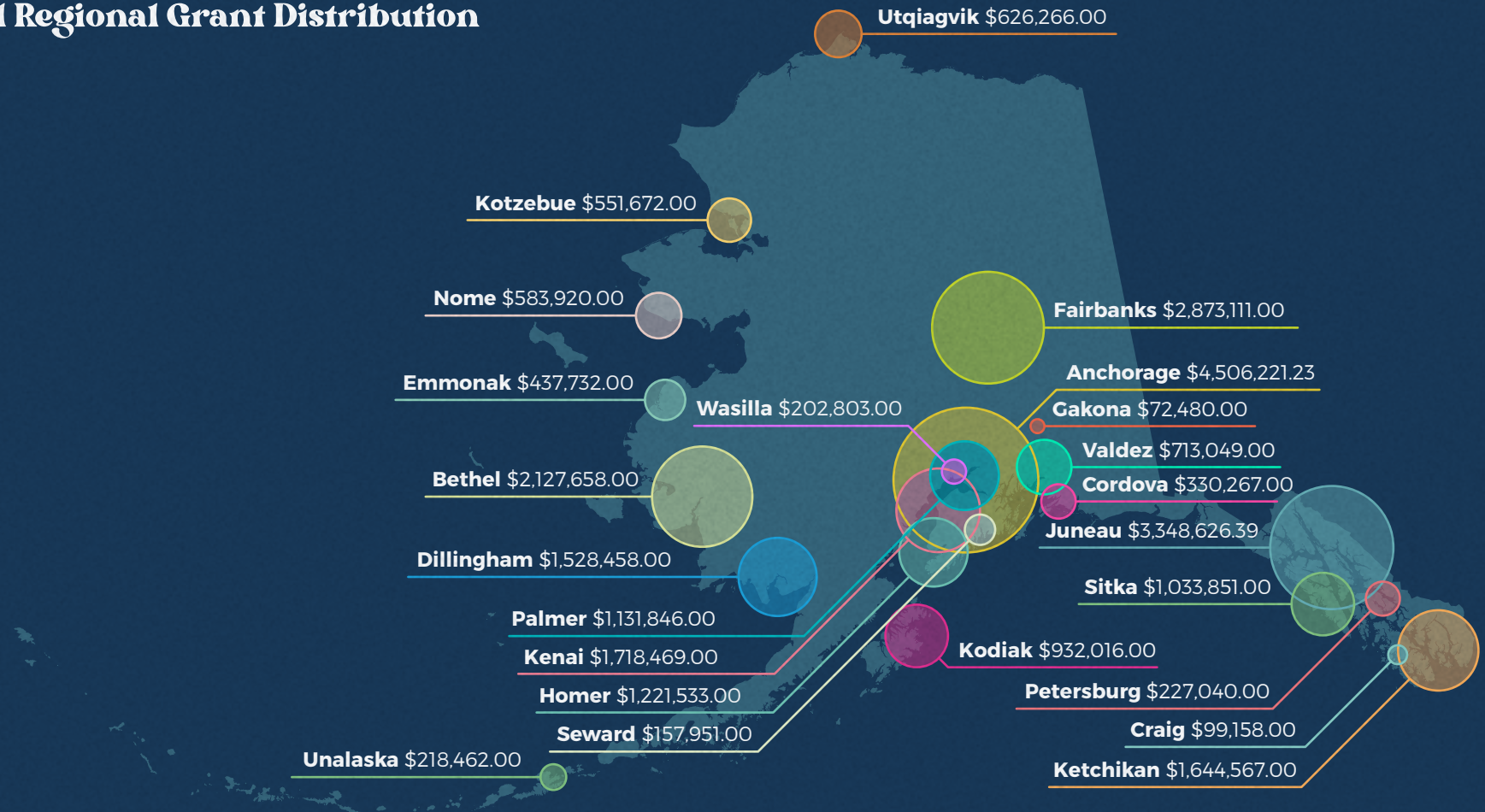
**CDVSA Programs - Grants Awarded**





# Care and Oversight of Public Funds

## FY2021 Regional Grant Distribution





# Care and Oversight of Public Funds

## GrantVantage

Managing and monitoring state and federal public grant funds is a significant responsibility. Over the past few years, CDVSA expanded both the number of individual grantees (35 beginning in October 2019) and the number of individual grant awards (101 in FY21). To create a more effective and efficient grant management process, CDVSA partnered with DPS Grant Management to procure a contract for GrantVantage (GV), a grant management solutions program integrated with Microsoft products and platforms.

GV is a cloud-based service, so there are no servers to manage or software to update. At the end of FY21, GV was ready for sub-grantees to register their licenses and begin utilizing GV to submit invoices, monthly and quarterly reports, and to request budget amendments. CDVSA, in partnership with GV, provided training and tutorials to staff and sub-grantees alike to make the migration to GV as efficient as possible. In FY22, sub-grantees will begin moving their budgets, invoicing records, and reports to GV. While a change in operations is often daunting, CDVSA is confident that grant management, including timely payments to sub-grantees, will continue to improve as we embrace GV's potential.





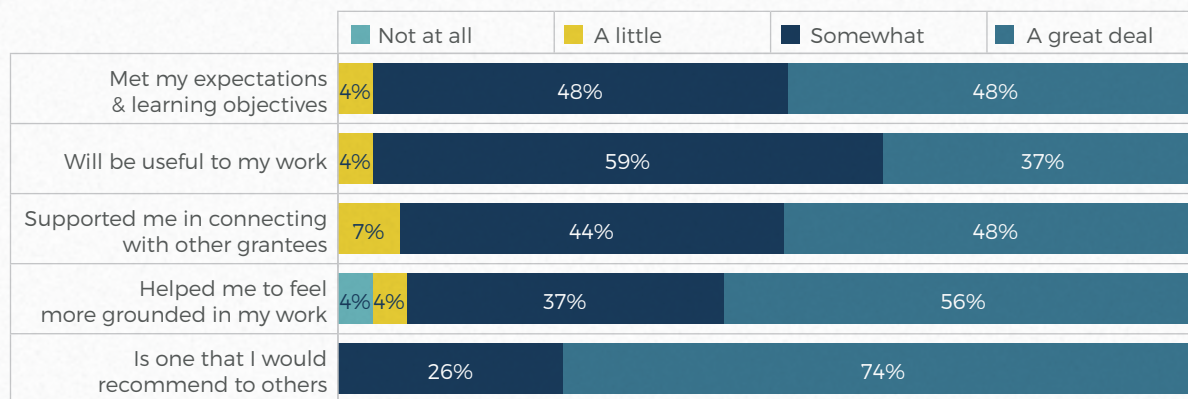
# Preventing Violence by Changing Beliefs and Behaviors

CDVSA funds 12 Community Readiness (CR) and Community-Based Primary Prevention Programs (CBPPP) across Alaska. The purpose of these grants is to strengthen and enhance the comprehensiveness of existing, community-based, coalition-driven strategies that address the primary prevention of domestic and sexual violence.

Primary prevention efforts focus on acting prior to a condition or when a problem occurs. These programs feature activities aimed to prevent the initial occurrence of intimate partner violence (IPV), and to prevent it from reoccurring. Primary Prevention initiatives are taking hold across Alaska. Proactive community prevention strategies, working along side victim services and battering intervention programs, will together, end domestic and sexual violence in Alaska. Additional prevention documents are available at:

[\[Link\]](#)  
[\[Link\]](#)

## Overall, the 2021 Prevention Summit...



113

Individuals representing

15

Alaska communities, and various community and state agencies attended the Summit

27

Attendees provided feedback related to their overall perceptions about the Summit

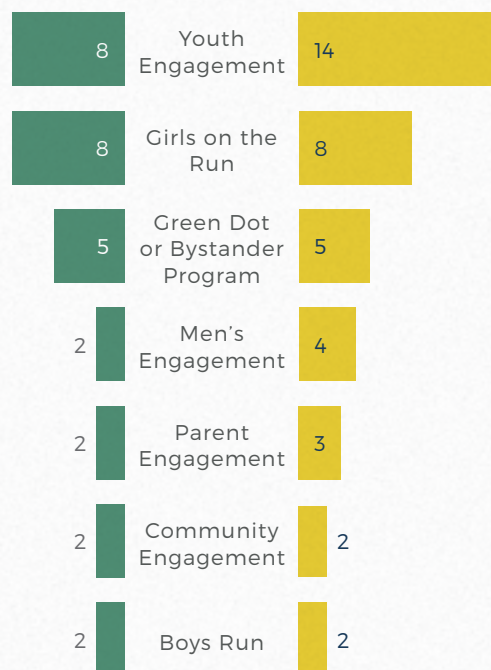
**Nearly everyone agreed somewhat or a great deal that the Summit met expectations, was useful, and promoted connections among professionals.**



# Preventing Violence by Changing Beliefs and Behaviors

## 2020 DV/SA Primary Prevention Funded Grantees

- Number of sites implementing this strategy
- Number of strategies or activities of this type being implemented across the 11 sites



**11 CDVSA Primary Prevention** funded communities implemented at least one strategy

**39 strategies** were implemented overall

**26 unique strategies** were implemented

**2,654 community members** trained in Green Dot or another Bystander Program

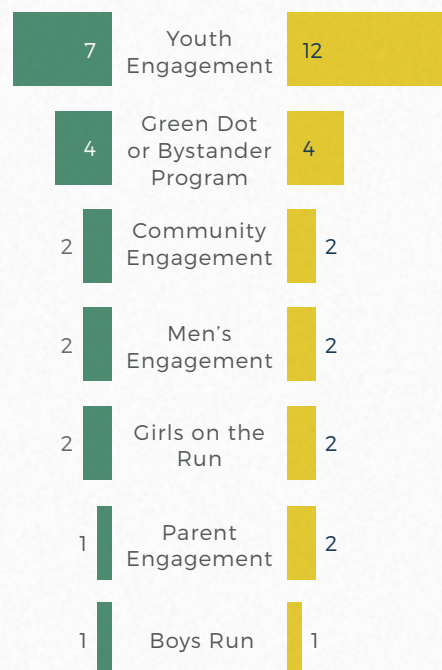
**6,001 community members** trained in DV/SA Prevention and Community Resources

**9,659 youth** participated in prevention-focused programming (e.g., training, coalition, workshop, planning/implementing)

**79% of community members surveyed** who attended a training reported improvement in their awareness of and access to community resources for DV/SA

## 2021 DV/SA Primary Prevention Funded Grantees

- Number of sites implementing this strategy
- Number of strategies or activities of this type being implemented across the 11 sites



**9 CDVSA Primary Prevention** funded communities implemented at least one strategy

**25 strategies** were implemented overall

**22 unique strategies** were implemented

**364 community members** trained in Green Dot or another Bystander Program

**2,026 community members** trained in DV/SA Prevention and Community Resources

**5,696 youth** participated in prevention-focused programming (e.g., training, coalition, workshop, planning/implementing)

**81% of community members surveyed** who attended a training reported improvement in their awareness of and access to community resources for DV/SA



# Preventing Violence by Changing Beliefs and Behaviors

## Coalitions grew, revitalized, and adapted plans for programming in 2020

77

New partners, MOUs, MOAs to address DV/SA prevention

356

Prevention coalition and work group meetings occurred to support local implementation

Effective and comprehensive primary prevention programming ensures every individual in a community can participate, learn skills, and take an informed role in fostering safe, non-violent communities.

### The five most frequent factors noted as a central component of programming were:

- ✓ Traditional Gender Norms
- ✓ Gender Equity
- ✓ Youth Violence
- ✓ Unhealthy Family Relationships and Interactions
- ✓ Belief in Strict Gender Roles

## Coalitions grew, revitalized, and adapted plans for programming in 2021

41

New partners, MOUs, MOAs to address DV/SA prevention

266

Prevention coalition and work group meetings occurred to support local implementation

### Prevention-funded communities sustained and fostered engagement through virtual environments

Innovations to retain and foster community connectedness and engagement with coalition partners, volunteers, youth, knowledge keepers, and community members were created in virtual environments during the COVID-19 pandemic.

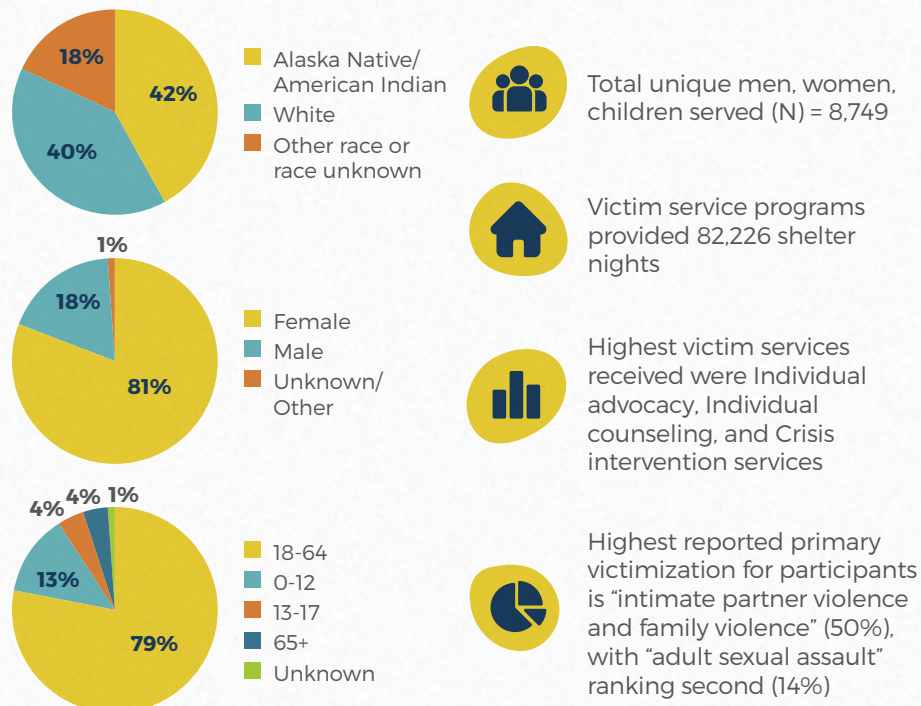
- ✓ Virtual program offerings
- ✓ Live and recorded webinars and trainings
- ✓ Adaptions and program development to distance deliveries
- ✓ Social media and community-wide virtual activities and games
- ✓ Creating community open-source learning platforms
- ✓ Hosting online youth and community conversations and dialogues



# Creating Safety for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence

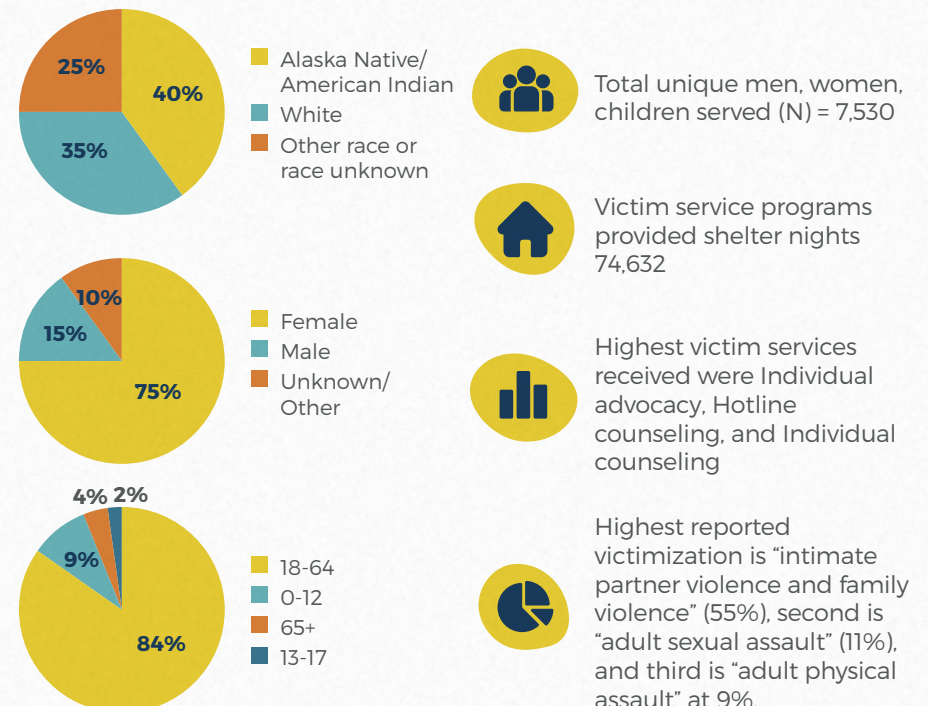
There are 26 Victim Services community sub-grantees, and 18 Enhanced Services community sub-grantees.

## 2020 Victim Services Overview Data



## 2021 Victim Services Overview Data

\*Missing BSWG, 1 quarter SCS, 2 quarters of KWRCC





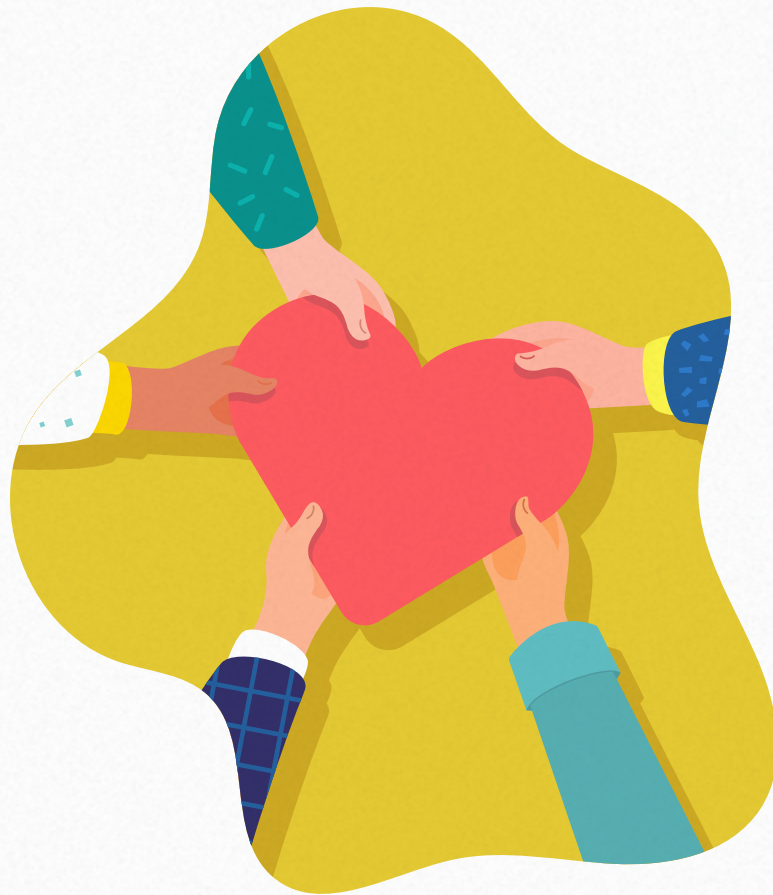
# Accountability and Healing for Perpetrators of Violence

**Battering Intervention Programs (BIP) are available to provide education, treatment, healing, and accountability to those individuals using violence against their intimate partner(s).**

- Due to COVID-19, all BIP/PBP groups stopped offering services in March 2020. Some agencies resumed limited or online groups beginning in June and July.
- The average BIP participant was 38 years old. Between 45-47% were White; 32.4% American Indian, AK Native and Pacific Islander. Most were referred from the court system or probation office.
- There are 11 State-approved BIP community programs, including 6 funded sub-grantees. BIP Funded Programs: AFS, AWARE, IAC, KIC, LSC, SPHH

## **BIP Funded Program's Demographics:**

- Alaska Family Service (Palmer): Community & Prison served 32.39% of all participants
- AWARE (Juneau): Community & Prison served 30.11% of all participants
- IAC (Fairbanks): Community & Prison served 16.48% of all participants
- LSC (Kenai): Community served 16.48% of all participants
- KIC (Ketchikan): Community served 3.41% of all participants
- SPHH: Community served 2.84% of all participants





# Accountability and Healing for Perpetrators of Violence

## Battering Intervention Program (BIP) Overview Data FY20



**275 unique men** participated in the program in FY20

**326 victim safety checks** were completed



**59 participants** were in continual contact with their partner (victim)—approximately 21%

**92 new intakes** occurred



**32 individuals** successfully completed the program

**Assault 4** remains the top reported charge the participant was either convicted of or plead down to



**48% of BIP participants** report some type of childhood trauma including: Parents in an abusive relationship (27%), Physically abused as a child (24%), and Sexual abuse as a child (5%)

## Battering Intervention Program (BIP) Overview Data FY21

**176 unique program participants** in FY21

**323 victim safety checks** were completed

**40 participants** were in continual contact with their partner (victim)—approximately 22%

**57 new intakes** occurred

**16 individuals successfully** completed the program\*

**Top types of violence used by perpetrators:** physical force/violence (70.45%), threats of violence (31.82%), destruction pets/property (23.30%), weapons used (21.59%)

**40% of BIP participants** report some type of childhood trauma: Physically abused as child (28.98%), Parents in abusive relationship (24.43%), and Sexual abuse as a child (6.25%)





# Discussion of Building a Strong Continuum of Services to End DVSA

Ending domestic and sexual violence is a monumental effort for many reasons, and includes addressing individual attitudes, beliefs, early trauma, generational violence, and learned behaviors. Reducing intimate partner and other interpersonal violence takes both time and a comprehensive, consistent, and sustainable approach with strategies for prevention, early intervention, emergency safety and advocacy services, transitional services, and services to address perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence.

CDVSA has three primary grant programs: Prevention, Victim Services, and Battering Intervention. All three programs are needed to create lasting change. Currently, funding for a strong, comprehensive approach to ending DVSA is unbalanced—Victim Service programs are rightfully prioritized, and receive the largest percentage of available grant funds—almost 90%. Prevention programs receive 8% of available grant funds, and Battering Intervention Programs (BIP) receive less than 2% of grant funds.



While the need for emergency shelter and safety programming is of highest priority—to meet the immediate, emergency needs of those impacted by domestic and sexual violence—there remains a need for strong prevention and BIP programs in communities

across Alaska to address the root causes motivating individuals who perpetrate DVSA. CDVSA is committed to expanding prevention and abusive partner services in the future, to better support an Alaska free from domestic and sexual violence.



# Moving Forward into FY22

We enter FY22 with hopeful optimism that the year will bring fewer operational challenges, less COVID-19, and more opportunities to continue our progress to reduce and eliminate DVSA in Alaska.

Over the last two years, the enormous challenges weathered by CDVSA staff, board, contractors, and subgrantees ironically provided us with clarity, and opportunities to celebrate the great work that continued, every day, regardless of circumstances. We exercised our ability to be creative in making adaptations to get the job done, and to serve all Alaskans reaching out for shelter, safety, advocacy, and a supportive person to make their situation less overwhelming.

Thanks to this attitude and perseverance, victims found safety, services were available across Alaska's communities, and Alaska's system of providers emerged as strong, dedicated, and undeterred as they started. Our thanks to everyone who served those

whose lives were impacted by both a pandemic and experiencing domestic, sexual, and other violent crime.

Listed below are CDVSA's predictions for FY22:

- Funding challenges will continue for the near future
- Our state and community workforce will stabilize
- The pandemic will ebb and flow
- Lessons learned during FY20-21 will lead to alternative ways to keep victims and survivors safe
- Following the conclusions drawn from the CDVSA Sunset Audit, legislation will be introduced and passed to extend CDVSA for another six years
- CDVSA will continue the work achieved by the Perpetrator Rehabilitation Workgroup to create a clearer and evidence-informed approach for serving individuals who use violence in relationships





**For more information  
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Alaska's Council on  
Domestic Violence  
& Sexual Assault

