



**2014-2015 Sexual Battery Victims' Access to Services Act  
Legislative Report**

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**February 1, 2016**

**Rick Scott  
Governor**

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Surgeon General and Secretary of Health**

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**Report to the Florida Legislature:  
*The Sexual Battery Victims' Access to Services Act,  
The Rape Crisis Program Trust Fund, and  
Rape Crisis Services in Florida***

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Florida Department of Health, Sexual Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) is honored to provide to the Florida Legislature the 2014-2015 Rape Crisis Program Trust Fund legislative report, as mandated by section 794.055, Florida Statute. In 2003, the Florida Legislature created "The Sexual Battery Victims' Access to Services Act" and the Rape Crisis Program Trust Fund (RCPTF) within the Department of Health. The Act created a funding system for distribution of monies generated by a \$151 fine assessed on offenders convicted of sexual battery and other offenses, including aggravated battery and many of the other battery offenses. While the clerk of the court retains \$1 of the fine as a service fee, \$150 goes to the RCPTF. This Act also requires the department to contract with a statewide, nonprofit association to distribute these funds for the provision of sexual battery recovery services. The department contracts with the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence, Inc. (FCASV), a statewide nonprofit organization committed to assisting victims and survivors of sexual violence and the rape crisis centers who serve them. FCASV subcontracts with rape crisis centers throughout the state to serve victims and enhance services.

From September 2003 to June 2015, county clerks deposited \$16,309,310 into the trust fund. In 2014-2015, the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence received \$191,217 to provide statewide initiatives in support of victims, while 28 certified rape crisis centers received \$1,048,549, for a total annual distribution amount of \$1,239,766, to provide victims with a variety of sexual battery recovery services.

**THE SCOPE AND IMPACT OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

In its 2014 Uniform Crime Report, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement reported 10,236 forcible sex offenses and 2,576 arrests; arrest numbers show a slight decrease over the data from the 2013 report, while the offenses have increased slightly. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) published data in 2011, which found that approximately one out of every six women in Florida – more than 1.3 million – had been the victim of rape or attempted rape while 42% of women in Florida had experienced other forms of sexual violence.

Victims of sexual violence who do not receive recovery services face serious risks to their health and well-being. Adverse childhood experiences, including child sexual abuse, can lead to serious long-term physical and mental health problems, poor job performance, and work absenteeism in adulthood (Anda et al., 2004). Further, research has found that rape survivors who had the assistance of an advocate were significantly more likely to have police reports taken and were less likely to be treated negatively by police officers. These women also reported that they experienced less distress after their contact with the legal system (Rebecca Campbell, 2006).

**THE RESPONSE TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE: RAPE CRISIS SERVICES**

During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, advocates in 28 certified rape crisis centers across the state provided immediate and ongoing response to sexual violence victims. Certified rape crisis

centers serve recent adult and adolescent rape victims and adult male and female survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Rape crisis centers provide in-person crisis intervention and/or hotline services, advocacy and accompaniment, and information and referral 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in an attempt to meet victims' needs with limited resources.

## **SEXUAL BATTERY SERVICES**

In 2014-2015, 2,003 new and ongoing primary and secondary victims received services. Certified rape crisis centers also received 25,214 hotline calls related to sexual assault. The following details the sexual battery recovery services provided:

<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>Number of Services</u>
Advocacy and Accompaniment	6,164
Crisis Intervention	2,069
Information and Referrals	3,001
Forensic Exams	283
Support Group	272
Therapy	977
<u>Other</u>	<u>1,657</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>14,423</u>

*Source: Florida Department of Health Sexual Violence Data Registry.*

## **SERVICE STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION OF RAPE CRISIS CENTERS**

FCASV is responsible for service standards and the certification process for Florida's rape crisis centers. Service standards and certification are based on the following:

- A broad array of high quality, sexual violence services must exist in every community.
- Victims are best served through sexual violence services provided in the context of a coordinated, collaborative, and multidisciplinary approach including medical/forensic providers, advocates, criminal justice professionals, and other social service providers.
- All service providers must have victim empowerment as the cornerstone of service delivery.

Independent on-site reviews of each rape crisis center are conducted every other year to ensure compliance with the service standards and the certification process.

**RCPTF ALLOCATIONS BY CENTER**  
**7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015**

<b>Certified Rape Crisis Centers in Florida</b>	<b>Counties Served</b>	<b>Total Award</b>
Abuse Counseling and Treatment, Incorporated (Fort Myers)	Lee, Hendry, Glades	\$46,912
Alachua County Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center (Gainesville)	Alachua, Bradford, Union	\$36,933
Another Way, Incorporated (Bronson)	Levy, Gilchrist, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Suwannee, Columbia	\$74,190
Broward County Sexual Assault Treatment Center (Fort Lauderdale)	Broward	\$58,978
Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies (Punta Gorda)	Charlotte	\$14,711
Creative Services, Incorporated (Ocala)	Marion	\$19,870
Crisis Center of Tampa Bay (Tampa)	Hillsborough	\$44,085
Haven of Lake and Sumter Counties, Incorporated (Leesburg)	Lake, Sumter, Citrus	\$41,721
Lakeview Center Rape Crisis and Rape Awareness Programs (Pensacola)	Escambia, Santa Rosa	\$30,648
Manatee Glens Rape Crisis Services (Bradenton)	Manatee	\$18,584
Mujeres Unidas en Justicia, Educación y Reforma (M.U.J.E.R.), Incorporated (Women United in Justice, Education, and Reform) (Homestead)	South Miami-Dade	\$25,138
Palm Beach County Victim Services (West Palm Beach)	Palm Beach	\$46,983
Peace River Rape Recovery and Resource Center (Lakeland)	Hardee, Highlands, Polk	\$49,300
Project Help, Incorporated (Naples)	Collier	\$20,190
Putnam County Health Department Sexual and Physical Violence Intervention Program (Palatka)	Putnam Awarded by DOH – not FCASV	\$35,013
Quigley House, Incorporated (Orange Park)	Clay	\$15,145

Certified Rape Crisis Centers in Florida	Counties Served	Total Award
Refuge House, Incorporated (Tallahassee)	Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla	\$87,270
Roxcy Bolton Rape Treatment Center/Jackson Memorial Hospital (Miami- Dade)	Miami-Dade	\$58,088
Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center (Sarasota)	DeSoto, Sarasota	\$30,237
Safety Shelter of St. Johns County, Incorporated dba Betty Griffin House (Saint Augustine)	St. Johns	\$25,668
Salvare, Incorporated dba Dawn Center of Hernando County (Spring Hill)	Hernando	\$14,443
Sexual Assault Assistance Program State Attorney's Office, 19th Circuit (Fort Pierce)	Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, St. Lucie	\$50,310
Sexual Assault Victim Services (Viera)	Brevard, Seminole	\$42,907
Shelter House, Inc. (Fort Walton Beach)	Okaloosa, Walton	\$26,640
Suncoast Center, Incorporated dba Family Service Centers (Clearwater)	Pinellas	\$34,852
Sunrise of Pasco County, Incorporated (Dade City)	Pasco	\$22,381
Victim Service Center of Central Florida (Orlando)	Orange, Osceola	\$57,146
Women's Center of Jacksonville Rape Recovery Team (Jacksonville)	Baker, Duval, Nassau	\$55,219
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,083,562</b>

#### **OTHER FUNDING SOURCES FOR RAPE CRISIS CENTERS**

**General Revenue:** In response to the overwhelming need for rape crisis services in Florida, Governor Rick Scott continued to recommend, and the Florida legislature approved, \$2,500,000 in recurring general revenue to fund rape crisis centers, bringing the State's total general revenue appropriation in 2014 to \$3,000,000. The funds appropriated for sexual battery recovery services include \$500,000 provided through the Office of the Attorney General and \$2,500,000 through the Department of Health to FCASV for distribution to certified rape crisis centers for the provision of services to victims of sexual battery.

**Victims of Crime Act (Federal):** The Victims of Crime Act, passed in 1986 and reauthorized in 2013, supports many direct service programs at rape crisis centers. This fees-and-fines-based funding is from the United States Department of Justice and is administered in Florida through the Office of the Attorney General.

**Violence Against Women Act (Federal):** The Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act has improved the systemic response to sexual violence victims by funding training and technical assistance to first responders at rape crisis centers, law enforcement agencies staff and allied professionals to improve the provision of the sexual battery recovery services for sexual assault victims.

- The Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program (SASP) funding is passed through from the Department to FCASV for distribution via a competitive grant process to eight certified rape crisis centers.
- FCASV receives Services-Training-Officers-Prosecutors (STOP) funds so that FCASV staff can provide training and technical assistance to first responders at rape crisis centers, law enforcement agencies and allied professionals to improve the provision of the sexual battery recovery services for sexual assault victims.

**Injury Prevention and Control Research and State and Community Based Programs (Federal):** The CDC provides Rape Prevention Education Program funding to the Department's SVPP. This source supports some of Florida's rape crisis hotlines and primary rape prevention education.

**Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (Federal):** The Department's SVPP funds nine rape crisis centers to provide sexual battery recovery services through the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant.

## **FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE**

As required by The Sexual Battery Victims' Access to Services Act, the department ensures that funds allocated through the trust fund are expended in a manner that is consistent with the provisions of the Act. The SVPP ensures that no more than 15 percent of the funds are used by FCASV for administrative costs and no more than 5 percent of the funds are used by the department for administrative costs. Additionally, FCASV submits quarterly financial expenditure reports and an annual audit to the department for review.

## REFERENCES

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