What is the purpose of the program?

The overarching goals of this program are:

a) to increase sexual assault survivors’ access to high quality LAV/Rural services that are tailored to their unique needs; and

b) develop mentoring and collaborative relationships with and among participants.

What kind of commitment does this involve?

This will be a year-long collaborative program that includes an in-person site visit to a VRLC or selected LAV/Rural grantee office and Cohort Calls before and after the site visit. The Cohort Calls will be offered at least quarterly. Participants selected will be expected to participate in both the site visit and all Cohort Calls.

Who pays for the travel costs?

The participants will cover their own travel costs. This is an OVW-funded project specifically for LAV and Rural grantees. Participants do not need to request approval from their OVW Program Manager to attend, as the Cohort gathering is pre-approved.

May we use our OVW training/travel money to participate in this collaborative learning program?

Yes!

What will the site visit involve?

The agenda for the 3-day site visit will be created with participant input.

Who is the target audience for this program?

The Cohort gathering will prioritize participants who are new grantees and/or new to providing legal services to sexual assault survivors.

Will my supervisor need to be involved with the program?

Participants’ supervisors will need to participate in an initial call as part of the selection process. In addition, they will need to attend the initial cohort call and commit to participating in at least 2 follow-up calls with a VRLC TA attorney.

What is expected of participants?

Participants should be prepared to share the challenges and successes they’re experiencing in launching and implementing their sexual assault-focused LAV and/or Rural project. We will be asking participants to critically evaluate their outreach materials, website, intake process, provision of services, etc., as well as demonstrate a willingness to pursue individual, programmatic, and organizational changes to improve access to and quality of services for sexual assault survivors.