



**2015-2016 Sexual Battery Victims' Access to Services Act  
Legislative Report**

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**February 1, 2017**

**Rick Scott  
Governor**

**Celeste Philip, MD, MPH  
Surgeon General and Secretary**

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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 (Department), Sexual Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) is pleased to provide the Florida Legislature the 2015-2016 Rape Crisis Program Trust Fund legislative report, as mandated by section 794.055, Florida Statutes. 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. 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. 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 that serve them. FCASV subcontracts with rape crisis centers throughout the state to serve victims.

From September 2003 to June 2016, county clerks deposited \$18,032,778 into the trust fund. Rape Crisis Program Trust Fund monies are awarded annually to FCASV. In fiscal year 2015-2016, the FCASV received \$223,167 to provide statewide initiatives in support of victims, while 28 certified rape crisis centers received \$1,282,254, for a total annual distribution amount of \$1,505,421 to provide victims with a variety of sexual battery recovery services.

**THE SCOPE AND IMPACT OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

In the 2015 Florida Statewide Violent Crime by Offense Report, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement reported 10,732 forcible sex offenses and 2,487 arrests; arrest numbers show a slight decrease over the data from the 2014 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 percent 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 receive negative treatment by law enforcement 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 2015-2016 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.

## SEXUAL BATTERY SERVICES

In fiscal year 2015-2016, 1,849 new and ongoing primary and secondary victims received services. Certified rape crisis centers also received 23,588 hotline calls related to sexual battery. The following details the sexual battery recovery services provided:

<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>Number of Services</u>
Advocacy and Accompaniment	4,291
Crisis Intervention	1,979
Information and Referrals	3,860
Forensic Exams	157
Support Group	379
Therapy	1,185
Total	11,851

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**  
**7/1/2015 - 6/30/2016**

Certified Rape Crisis Centers in Florida	Counties Served	Total Award
Abuse Counseling and Treatment, Incorporated (Fort Myers)	Lee, Hendry, Glades	\$56,395
Alachua County Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center (Gainesville)	Alachua, Bradford, Union	\$44,586
Another Way, Incorporated (Bronson)	Levy, Gilchrist, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Suwannee, Columbia	\$88,675
Broward County Sexual Battery Treatment Center (Fort Lauderdale)	Broward	\$70,674
Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies (Punta Gorda)	Charlotte	\$18,289
Centerstone of Florida, Inc. (Bradenton) (formerly Manatee Glens)	Manatee	\$22,874
Creative Services, Incorporated (Ocala)	Marion	\$24,395
Crisis Center of Tampa Bay (Tampa)	Hillsborough	\$53,050
Haven of Lake and Sumter Counties, Incorporated (Leesburg)	Lake, Sumter, Citrus	\$50,253
Lakeview Center Rape Crisis and Rape Awareness Programs (Pensacola)	Escambia, Santa Rosa	\$37,149
Mujeres Unidas en Justicia, Educación y Reforma (M.U.J.E.R.), Incorporated (Women United in Justice, Education, and Reform) (Homestead)	South Miami-Dade	\$30,629
Palm Beach County Victim Services (West Palm Beach)	Palm Beach	\$56,479
Peace River Rape Recovery and Resource Center (Lakeland)	Hardee, Highlands, Polk	\$59,221
Project Help, Incorporated (Naples)	Collier	\$24,774
Putnam County Health Department Sexual and Physical Violence Intervention Program (Palatka)	Putnam <b>Awarded by Department of Health – not FCASV</b>	\$17,643
Quigley House, Incorporated (Orange Park)	Clay	\$18,803

Certified Rape Crisis Centers in Florida	Counties Served	Total Award
Refuge House, Incorporated (Tallahassee)	Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla	\$104,154
Roxcy Bolton Rape Treatment Center/Jackson Memorial Hospital (Miami- Dade)	Miami-Dade	\$69,621
Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center (Sarasota)	DeSoto, Sarasota	\$36,662
Safety Shelter of St. Johns County, Incorporated dba Betty Griffin House (Saint Augustine)	St. Johns	\$31,256
Salvare, Incorporated dba Dawn Center of Hernando County (Spring Hill)	Hernando	\$17,972
Sexual Battery Assistance Program State Attorney's Office, 19th Circuit (Fort Pierce)	Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, St. Lucie	\$60,416
Sexual Battery Victim Services (Viera)	Brevard, Seminole	\$51,656
Shelter House, Inc. (Fort Walton Beach)	Okaloosa, Walton	\$32,406
Suncoast Center, Incorporated dba Family Service Centers (Clearwater)	Pinellas	\$42,124
Sunrise of Pasco County, Incorporated (Dade City)	Pasco	\$27,366
Victim Service Center of Central Florida (Orlando)	Orange, Osceola	\$68,506
Women's Center of Jacksonville Rape Recovery Team (Jacksonville)	Baker, Duval, Nassau	\$66,226
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,282,254</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 2015 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 sexual battery recovery services for sexual battery victims.

- The Sexual Battery 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 sexual battery recovery services for sexual battery 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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