

Supporting Statement for Paperwork Reduction Act Submission

Semiannual Performance Report for the Training and Services to End Violence and Abuse Against Individuals with Disabilities and Deaf People Program

A. Justification

1. Statutorily Mandated Need for Information

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) is responsible for improving the Nation's response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking through the implementation of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA) as amended and reauthorized in 2000, 2005, 2013 and 2022. OVW's mission is to provide federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to reduce domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and administer justice for and strengthen services to victims of those crimes. To accomplish this mission, OVW administers federal grant programs that support communities around the country that are creating programs, policies, and practices aimed at these crimes.

The Grants for Training and Services to End Violence Against Individuals with Disabilities and Deaf People Program (Disability Grant Program) seeks to create sustainable change within and between organizations that improves the response to individuals with disabilities and Deaf individuals who are victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking and to hold perpetrators of such crimes accountable. The program was created by Congress to address the pressing need to focus on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking against individuals with disabilities and Deaf individuals due to the proliferation of such crimes.

Disability Grant Program funds are used to establish and strengthen multidisciplinary collaborative relationships; increase organizational capacity to provide accessible, safe, and effective services to individuals with disabilities and Deaf individuals who are victims of violence and abuse; identify needs within the grantee's organization and/or service area; and develop a plan to address those identified needs that builds a strong foundation for future work. Eligible applicants are limited to states; units of local government; Indian tribal governments or tribal organizations; and victim service providers, such as state or tribal domestic violence or sexual assault coalitions or nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations serving individuals with disabilities. This program is authorized by 34 U.S.C. § 20122.

Currently, there are different statutory and regulatory reporting requirements that affect Disability Program grantees. VAWA requires all grantees, including Disability Program grantees, to report on the effectiveness of their programs to the Attorney General who, in turn, must report to Congress every two years. Section 1003 of VAWA 2000 states that

(a) REPORT BY GRANT RECIPIENTS.- The Attorney General or Secretary of Health and Human Services, as applicable, shall require grantees under any program authorized or reauthorized by this division or an amendment made by

this division to report on the effectiveness of the activities carried out with amounts made available to carry out that program, including number of persons served, if applicable, numbers of persons seeking services who could not be served and such other information as the Attorney General or Secretary may prescribe.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.- The Attorney General or Secretary of Health and Human Services, as applicable, shall report biennially to the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the grant programs described in subsection (a), including the information contained in any report under that subsection.

34 U.S.C. §10228.

OVW must also comply with the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA) (Pub. L. 103-62) which was enacted to increase Congressional and Administrative focus on the results from government programs and activities. To meet its GPRA reporting obligations and elicit more meaningful information about grantee performance, OVW has recently developed performance measures, including output measures, regarding which the Disability Program grantees must report on a semiannual basis.

2. Use of Information

OVW uses data from the information collection¹ in different ways. OVW will use the information collected from Disability Program grantees to monitor their grant-funded activities and qualitatively assess those activities. In particular, OVW is seeking data that includes baseline information to review activities supported with Disability Program funds, including, for example, an increase in the number of trainings or an increase in the number of victims served. OVW will review each semiannual performance report to monitor individual grantee's performance, including the grant-funded activities and to ensure that the goals and objectives set forth in applications for funding and award documents are met.

The Disability Program grantees collect information that addresses the following grant-funded activities (different sections on the reporting form): staff, statutory purpose areas, training, and victim services. Narrative questions at the end of these different sections enable grantees to give more detailed qualitative information about their grant-funded activities. In addition, grantees must answer narrative questions on the most significant areas of remaining

¹ Under a cooperative agreement between OVW and the University of Southern Maine's Muskie School of Public Service, data collected from OVW grantees on all of OVW's performance report forms is transmitted to the Muskie School for analysis. For the analysis of the data, standard descriptive statistics (frequency, sum, percentage, mean, etc.) are used to describe the characteristics of the grantees and report basic findings. All analyses are conducted in SPSS 13.0.

need with regard to improving services to victims/survivors, increasing victims/survivors safety, and enhancing community response, what has federal funding allowed the grantee to do that grantee could not do prior to receiving funding, additional information about the Disability Program grant and/or the effectiveness of the grant and any additional information about the data submitted.

In addition to the proposed information collection, OVW will continue to use a number of other techniques to assess the performance of Disability Program grantees. These may include OVW staff attendance at site visits, grant-funded training and technical assistance events, staff review of products prior to dissemination, and ongoing consultation with OVW staff.

OVW will aggregate data from all grantees' performance reports to assess the performance of the Disability Program as a whole and to respond to Congressional, Department of Justice, and other inquiries about how Disability Program funds are being used. In addition, information collected from grantees will support the following performance measures:

Number of victims receiving requested services;
Number of policies developed /revised;
Number of communities with improved CCR (community coordinated responses);
Number of grant funded training events;and
Number of professionals trained to respond to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking;

Information collected from Disability Program grantees will enable OVW to respond to statutory requirements to report on the effectiveness of grant-funded activities. OVW has submitted the 2024 Measuring Effectiveness Report to Congress, which includes information about how funds were expended and an assessment of the effectiveness of funded programs. This report is based on data submitted by grantees reflecting Disability Program awards made and the Disability Program-funded activities engaged in from July to December 2024 and from January to June 2022.

The data that OVW collects on the semiannual performance reporting forms is currently not used in connection with an evaluation of the Disability Program. OVW is currently exploring the development of a multi-layered evaluation agenda for its grant programs.

It is important that OVW collect this information from Disability Program grantees on a semiannual basis so that OVW can ensure that they are performing within the statutory limitations of the program in a timely manner. Because OVW is not able to perform site visits with every Disability Program grantee, the review of performance reports every six months enables OVW to monitor grantees in timely manner.

3. Use of Information Technology

The collection of information will involve the use of automated, electronic, mechanical or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. OVW

grantees are required to submit semiannual performance reports through the Just Grants System.

4. Duplication of Information Request

There is no other mechanism by which OVW collects information about grant funded activities including number of victims served, victims seeking services who could not be served, or persons trained.

5. Impact on Small Entities

There is no impact on small entities as the collection of this type of information is routinely kept by most grantees receiving funds under the Disability Program.

6. Consequences to Federal Programs or Policy

By statute, Congress has mandated that Disability Program grantees report to the Attorney General on the effectiveness of their activities funded under VAWA. If OVW was not able to collect the information necessary to complete these reports on behalf of the Attorney General, not only would it be failing to meet a statutorily required reporting mandate, but also the existence of this important and necessary grant program could be jeopardized.

7. Special Circumstances

There are no special circumstances as identified in the specific instructions for a supporting statement for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions.

8. Federal Register Publication

OVW has consulted with persons outside the agency who have advised that the data proposed to be collected is available, the semiannual collection of such data is not burdensome, the form is clear, and that the information is routinely kept by most grantees receiving funds under the Disability Program. OVW has solicited public comment on this form in accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act. A 60 day notice was published in the Federal Register on December 2, 2024, (Federal Register, Volume 89, page 95239) and a 30-day notice was published in the Federal Register on , 2025 (Federal Register, Volume , page). OVW did not receive any public comments.

9. Payment or Gift to Respondents

There will no payment or gift to respondents.

10. Confidentiality

Although this information is needed for a public report to Congress, it will not involve any personal information about victims that could identify them as specific individuals.

However, anecdotal, non-identifying information about the effectiveness of individual programs may be included in the report. There is no assurance to confidentiality.

11. Specific Questions

The semiannual performance report will not contain any questions of a personal, sensitive nature such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

12. Hour Burden of the Collection of Information

This semiannual performance report is not overly burdensome. The data collection tool will be completed by approximately 18 Disability Program grantees twice a year. There will be 36 semiannual responses, and it is estimated that it will take grantees no more than 1 hour to complete the performance report form. Thus, the annual reporting and recordkeeping hour burden is 36 hours. Disability Program grantees are informed about the reporting requirements during the grant solicitation process and during the grant award process.

OVW is seeking basic information that is routinely kept by the grantees in the normal course of their operations. Thus, the requirement that grantees complete this performance report within a period of less than 30 days after receipt of it is not overly burdensome. OVW estimates that it will take approximately 1 hour for a grantee to complete the form. OVW developed this estimate based on the fact that information of this nature is already kept by grantees receiving funds under the Disability Program and that the grantees have been apprized of these reporting requirements during the solicitation process and reminded throughout the grant award process. The performance report is divided into sections that pertain to the different types of activities that grantees may engage in, i.e. training, product development, victim services. Grantees will only have to complete the sections of the form that relate to their specific grant-funded activities.

13. Cost Burden of the Collection of Information

OVW does not believe that there is any semiannual cost burden on respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of this information.

14. Annualized Costs to the Federal Government

The annualized costs to the Federal Government resulting from the OVW staff review of the performance reports submitted by grantees are estimated to be \$2016.

15. Program Changes or Adjustments

There are no program changes or adjustments for the estimates identified in Section 13 and in Section 14. This is an information collection that is necessary for OVW and its Disability Program grantees to comply with the statutory reporting requirements and the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (Pub. L. 103-62).

16. Published Results of Information Collections

There will be no complex analytical techniques used in connection with the publication of information collected under the request. Information will be gathered twice a year at the end of the reporting periods. OVW is statutorily required to submit a report on the effectiveness of all grant-funded activities on a biennial basis.

17. Display of the Expiration Date of OMB Approval

OVW will display the Expiration Date of OMB Approval in the upper right-hand corner of the Performance Report.

18. Exception to the Certification Statement

OVW is not seeking any exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19, Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions, of OMB Form 83-I.