

## Violence Against Women Act Rural Program (VAAWA Rural)

**Program Title:** Violence Against Women Act (Rural Domestic Violence)

**Point of contact:** Lisa Stephens

**Title:** General Counsel

**Agency:** Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

**Phone:** 312-793-8550

**Email:** [lisa.stephens@illinois.gov](mailto:lisa.stephens@illinois.gov)

---

### PROGRAM Information

**Detailed description of the program for which funding is requested:**

The Violence Against Women Act Rural Program (VAAWA Rural) recognizes that child, youth and adult victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking living in rural jurisdictions face unique barriers to receiving assistance and additional challenges rarely encountered in urban areas. The geographic isolation, economic structure, particularly strong social and cultural pressures, and lack of available services in rural jurisdictions significantly compound the problems confronted by those seeking support and services to end the violence in their lives and complicate the ability of the criminal justice system to investigate and prosecute domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking cases. In addition, socio-cultural, economic, and geographic barriers create difficulties for victim service providers and other social services professionals to identify and assist victims of these crimes.

The primary purpose of the Rural Program is to enhance the safety of child, youth and adult victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by supporting projects uniquely designed to address and prevent these crimes in rural jurisdictions. OVW welcomes applications that propose innovative solutions for achieving this goal. The Rural Program challenges victim advocates, law enforcement officers, pre-trial service personnel, prosecutors, judges and other court personnel, probation and parole officers, and faith- and/or community-based leaders to collaborate to overcome the problem of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and to ensure that victim safety is paramount in providing services to victims and their children.

All eligible applicants must demonstrate that the target area to be served is a rural area or community, as defined by the Statute. For the purpose of the Rural Program, a **rural area or community** is defined as (a) any area or community, respectively, no part of which is within an area designated as a standard metropolitan statistical area by the Office of Management and Budget; or (b) any area or community, respectively, that is (i) within an area designated as a metropolitan statistical area or considered part of a metropolitan statistical area; and (ii) located in a rural census tract.

The grant projects that we fund addresses three goals. Goal number one is to ensure the safety of child, youth, and adult victims of domestic

	<p>violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. Goal number two is the training of professionals who respond to and assist victims by producing and distributing Domestic Violence, Domestic Violence by a Law Enforcement Officer, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, and Stalking Protocols, along with the development and coordination of a training program and training manual for local law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and court personnel. Goal number three is the formation of multi-jurisdictional training teams consisting of a law enforcement officer, a prosecutor, state's attorney's (SAO's) victim/witness coordinator, a sexual assault advocate, and a domestic violence advocate.</p> <p>Rural VAWA is a discretionary grant. Illinois' proposed application is judged against all other submissions and funds are awarded based on the availability of funds and the strength of the program proposed. The Authority applies for this grant in even numbered years and the Department of Human Services applies for it in odd numbered years.</p> <p>Please note that under the definition of the Act, Illinois is not a rural state, but the area targeted by the 2008 grant proposal does satisfy the definition for being rural.</p>				
<p><b>If this program already has federal authorization, please list the public law number and section in known.</b></p>	<p>PL 111-117 * 3131</p>				
<p><b>If this is an existing federal program, what statewide programs are supported by this funding? How do these programs benefit Illinois residents?</b></p>	<p>This is not a statewide program.</p>				
<p><b>Do any of these state programs target or benefit a specific district in Illinois?</b></p>	<p>This grant targeted the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit.</p>				
<p><b>Please provide a brief history of previous federal funding for this program including the fiscal year and amount.</b></p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="571 1270 779 1312">Fiscal Year</th> <th data-bbox="779 1270 1546 1312">Award</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="571 1312 779 1354">2008</td> <td data-bbox="779 1312 1546 1354">\$513,348</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Fiscal Year	Award	2008	\$513,348
Fiscal Year	Award				
2008	\$513,348				