

Statutory Preference Certification Letter

Instructions

- Applicants addressing the statutory preference for the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Grant Program must certify that they will coordinate with a rape crisis center or state sexual assault coalition (**Project Partner**) to facilitate sexual assault advocacy services to support sexual assault survivors, as part of their project.
 - The term “*rape crisis center*” means a nonprofit, nongovernmental, or Tribal organization, or governmental entity in a state (other than a territory) that provides intervention and related assistance, as specified in section 12511(b)(2)(C) of this title, to victims of sexual assault without regard to their age. In the case of a governmental entity, the entity may not be part of the criminal justice system (such as a law enforcement agency) and must be able to offer a comparable level of confidentiality as a nonprofit entity that provides similar victim services (34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(30)).
 - The term “*state sexual assault coalition*” means a program determined by the Center for Injury Prevention and Control of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention under the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b et seq.) (34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(39)).
 - Applicants that meet one of the definitions above may certify that their organization is a rape crisis center or a state sexual assault coalition.
- The certification must take form of a letter, on letterhead, signed, and dated by the applicant’s Authorized Representative.
- In the letter, applicants also must certify that they will use grant funds for one or more of the required activities and identify the applicable activities, and provide the name of the required Project Partner as described above.
- The letter must be uploaded as a separate attachment under the Additional Components section in JustGrants. Failure to provide the certification letter will not disqualify an application, but the application will not qualify for the statutory preference.
- Use of the sample letter below is highly encouraged.

[Applicant Letterhead]

Sample Statutory Preference Certification Letter

[Date]

Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N Street, NE Suite 10 W
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Director:

This letter serves to certify that [Applicant Name] proposes to address one or more of the uses of grant funds that qualify for a statutory preference under the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Grant Program as described in 34 U.S.C. § 40723(b)(2) and will coordinate with a rape crisis center or its state sexual assault coalition to facilitate sexual assault advocacy to support victims served by the project.

Specifically, the [Applicant Name] will use grant funds to (check all that apply):

- ☐ Establish qualified SANE training programs in localities with a high volume of forensic trauma cases, including adult and child sexual assault, domestic violence, elder abuse, sex trafficking, and strangulation cases
- ☐ Increase the local and regional availability of full and part-time sexual assault nurse examiners in a rural area, Tribal area, an area with a health professional shortage, or for an underserved population, including efforts to provide culturally competent services
- ☐ Establish or sustain sexual assault mobile teams or units or otherwise enhance SANE and SAFE access through telehealth

[Select the applicable sentence below.]

[Applicant Name] certifies a partnership with [Project Partner Name].

[Applicant Name] certifies its organization is a rape crisis center or a State sexual assault coalition.

Sincerely,

[Signature: Applicant Authorized Representative]