



Statutory Authority – SB282/CH0004

White Paper Solicitation for Proposals

Submission Deadline: May 15, 2026

***This is noncompetitive funding, please contact MCASA
at mgrants@mcasa.org to request an extension***

Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault

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MCASA STATE GENERAL FUNDS FOR RAPE CRISIS CENTERS GRANT AWARD INFORMATION

The Maryland General Assembly and Governor Wes Moore enacted SM282/CH0004, for the purpose of making the proposed appropriations contained in the State Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, in accordance with Article III, Section 52 of the Maryland Constitution, and included \$1 million in the budget of the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy for the purpose of awarding a grant to the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault for the support of community rape crisis centers.

A portion of this funding will be sub-awarded to certified community rape crisis centers as follows:

Funding Mechanism:	Subgrant
Estimated Total Available Funding:	\$850,000
Estimated Total Number of Awards:	17
Estimated Award Amount:	\$50,000 per grantee
Length of Project Period:	July 1, 2026-March 31, 2027
Proposed budgets:	\$50,000

Technical Assistance

The application process is substantially the same as last fiscal year. Please contact MCASA at mgrants@mcasa.org if you have any questions or would like to set up a Technical Assistance Call or Zoom Meeting.

PURPOSE

The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault announces the solicitation of proposals for the MCASA State General Funds for Rape Crisis Centers grant program from the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy. This program will provide funding for community rape crisis/sexual assault programs (RCCs). In lieu of the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) process, MCASA is accepting abbreviated applications from current eligible entities through this White Paper Solicitation.

Note regarding project period and applications: The grant period will be from July 1, 2026-March 31, 2027 and expenses for this grant can be charged back to July 1, 2026 if the funds would not supplant other funds. Applicants may also choose to begin expenditures at a later date in order to manage cash flow challenges related to federal grants.

Applicants should apply for the full \$50,000 available. All funding must be expended by March 31, 2027. No cost extensions may be available to allow subgrantees to spend funds slightly beyond March 31. If you are interested in using funds for professional development or travel April 1, 2027 – June 30, 2027 please reach out to MCASA via mgrants@mcasa.org for further instructions.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants are:

- Rape Crisis Centers (RCCs) – Eligible rape crisis centers are listed at <https://mcasa.org/survivors/find-a-rape-crisis-center>. Maryland's 17 RCCs are compliant with a set of shared program standards developed in conjunction with MCASA. Each year MCASA works with each RCC to certify their compliance with these standards. The term "rape crisis center" means a nonprofit, or governmental agency that provides intervention and related assistance to survivors 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. See 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(25).
- This is non-competitive funding and applications will be considered as they are submitted. Applicants are encouraged to submit applications as soon as they are able.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

MCASA State General Funds for Rape Crisis Centers grant program funding is to support sexual assault survivors, prevent sexual violence, and ensure the stability and continuity of Maryland's community based comprehensive rape crisis centers. This includes provision of direct services for survivors of sexual assault, training for staff to enhance services for survivors of sexual assault, strengthening collaborations and relationships with stakeholders in the community, and support for outreach materials and staff to help prevent sexual violence and increase community awareness of available services for survivors.

Funds *may not be used solely* for survivors who are in intimate relationships with the perpetrator but may be used to support survivors of intimate partner sexual assault if non-intimate partner sexual assault survivors are also provided with *significant* services. **Applications must include a description of how funds will be used to support survivors of non-intimate partner sexual assault survivors.**

COST SHARING AND MATCHING REQUIREMENTS

No match is required for these supplemental grant award(s).

EVIDENCE OF EXPERIENCE AND CREDENTIALS

Grant recipients must demonstrate infrastructure and financial capacity for delivering programmatic and financial requirements of the grant.

- The applicant must have a financial management system that can identify the source and application of grant funds and that can provide for effective control and accountability for all funds, property, and other assets
- The applicant must be in compliance with all applicable local (city, county) and state licensing, accreditation, and certification requirements, as of the due date of the application
- The applicant must be in compliance with or have an approved plan to become in compliance with the comprehensive sexual assault/rape crisis center MCASA program standards.
- The applicant must be able and willing to accept funds electronically through EFT (electric funds transfer) or direct deposit. No funds will be distributed via paper checks.

APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

REQUIRED APPLICATION COMPONENTS

Program Narrative

The project narrative should be no longer than **3 (three) double-spaced pages**, with 12-point font, and one-inch margins.

Provide a narrative which describes your project as it relates to one or more of the following objectives. For further information of these objectives, including definition of terms, refer to the MCASA Program Standards for Comprehensive Sexual Assault Programs (CSAPs).

Please include information about whether your proposed project start date is delayed in anticipation of delayed federal funding. Include what steps you are taking to ensure there is no supplanting (for example, “These funds will support clinical staff from October 1st – December 31, 2026 and we anticipate VAWA funds will support clinical staff from January 1 through April 30, 2027).

1. Provide specialized support services to adult and minor alleged victims of sexual assault crimes, including one or more of the following:

- sexual assault victim advocacy
- hospital accompaniment and medical advocacy
- legal advocacy
- legal services by an attorney
- information, referrals, and awareness
- crisis intervention
- support groups
- therapy
- culturally specific services or work with CSOs
- services to assist immigrant survivors of sexual violence
- services to assist LGBTQ survivors of sexual violence

2. Activities to ensure that the applicant maintains close connections to the community where it seeks to provide services to survivors of sexual assault and to facilitate support for survivors in the community, help change communities and engage local leaders.

3. Activities to ensure all survivors of sexual assault have access to services, including to:

a. Develop and implement policies and practices that prohibit discrimination against survivors of sexual assault based on race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation, disability, immigration/refugee status or limited English proficiency

b. Ensure all staff and volunteers receive training on implicit bias, culture awareness, and other services to prepare them to appropriately reach out to underserved and marginalized communities

c. Provide outreach to underserved and marginalized communities to help all survivors receive services regardless of background, culture, or personal characteristics

d. Develop and implement policies that prevent sexual assault, sexual harassment and other forms of violence in the workplace, recognizing that employees, board members, and

volunteers may be survivors of sexual violence, and all staff and volunteers deserve a safe work environment.

4. Activities to increase the community's awareness of sexual violence and ensure access to services for victims of sexual violence. This may include outreach materials such as pens, shoe cards, and similar items provided the cost of each item does not exceed ten dollars.

5. Training for staff related to the provision of activities necessary to meet the objectives listed in 1-4 herein. Out-of-state training must receive prior approval from MCASA and must include significant focus on the issue of sexual violence or be necessary for service provision for survivors of sexual violence.

Program Reporting and Statistical Information.

The program narrative should include Goals and Objectives and details of how goals and objectives will be measured. Grantees will be required to submit quarterly reports describing the use of funds, successful outcomes, and any challenges. Program reports should not exceed 6 pages. Grantees will be required to report statistics on activities using the same categories as used for the SARC grant; this form will be provided. Additional requirements will be included in the award packets.

Spending Plan

Include a brief spending plan for funds in the application

Agency and Staff Qualifications

Note that MCASA has substantial information regarding the certified comprehensive rape crisis/sexual assault programs as a result of the certification process. Additional information is not required.

If funding for personnel is proposed, include names in the budget narrative and attach a resume or biography.

Budget Information Form

All applicants must submit a standardized summary budget form using the budget template provided in *Appendix A - GF-RCC Budget Form AGENCY NAME - TEMPLATE BLANK*. An example of the budget information form is provided in *Appendix B – GF-RCC Budget Form ABC Agency EXAMPLE*. These files contain detailed instructions on how to use the form and demonstrate how to tailor to your own agency's needs.

The Budget Form is designed to work with numerical values only; however, custom formats can be used to display words in the cells such as “per year” or “/month”, etc. to provide more information about your budget line items.

The following tutorial video provides in-depth instruction on working with the Budget Information Form.

- How to use custom formats in excel

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_2PGkdPbAM

PLEASE NOTE: The MCASA State General Funds for Rape Crisis Centers *must be used to supplement and not supplant other federal, state, and local public funds*

Budget Narrative and Supporting Documents

Provide detailed costs for the project period, for each class category, with calculations for how each cost is derived. A sample budget narrative is included in *Appendix C - GF-RCC Budget Narrative ABC Agency – EXAMPLE* and includes guidance for each section. Please review this document carefully.

The tables created in your Budget Form should be copied and pasted into each category of your Budget Narrative.

Please note that if you are a dual agency providing both services to both sexual assault and domestic violence survivors, line-item descriptions need to include a basis for allocation. For example, if a staff member is being supported 100% by this funding, the description should state that all services provided by the staff member will be for sexual assault survivors.

Other Supporting Documentation

The applicant will need to provide the following updated supporting documentation:

- Last two (2) years of 990s for non-governmental organizations
- Audit Findings and Corrective Action Plans in the last year
- **Organization Capacity Questionnaire** (enclosed *Appendix D – MCASA GF- RCC, Subrecipient Organizational Capacity Questionnaire*)
- **Awards Similar to Subaward Form** (*Appendix E - MCASA GF-RCC Similar Awards Form*)
- **Certified Assurances** - All applicants must read and sign the Certified Assurances form (*Appendix F - MCASA SA GF-RCC Certified Assurances*).
- **Certification Regarding Lobbying** – All applicants must read and sign the Certification Regarding Lobbying form. (*Appendix G - MCASA GF-RCC Certification Regarding Lobbying*).
- If partnering with another organization a Letters of Commitment is required from that organization or agency

Organizational Documents: Subrecipients submitted the following documents during the FY26 application process. Please only submit with your FY27 documents if there have been changes or updates.

- Articles of Incorporation
- Bylaws
- IRS Determination Letter
- Licenses or certifications (if applicable)

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

MCASA has implemented a streamlined application process and timeline for submitting applications. Applications are due via email to mgrants@mcasa.org, subject Application, GF-RCC FY2027, [NAME OF ORGANIZATION] by **11:59 PM** (Eastern Time) on **May 15, 2026**. Each entity will receive only **one** award from this announcement. Funds will be distributed on a rolling basis and MCASA will issue an official Award Letter to grantees whose applications have been approved for funding. Awards are contingent on funds being awarded to MCASA for the purpose of administering this award.

* please contact MCASA via mgrants@mcasa.org to request an extension of this deadline.

FUNDING LIMITATIONS/RESTRICTIONS

The funding restrictions for this period are as follows:

Ineligible Costs

The following are ineligible costs:

- Direct payment to survivors
- Construction costs
- Renovation costs
- Food/beverage for meetings, conferences, training, or other events
- Fundraising events
- Lobbying and administrative advocacy

AMOUNT OF FUNDING – SPENDDOWN REQUIRMENTS

Applicants responding to this announcement may request funding for a project period of up to 9 months (July 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027), for \$50,000 for a single RCC. The funding opportunity is non-competitive. Awardees will be required to spenddown grant funds. If awards are not spent down as planned, awardees must request a modification to use funds in accordance with grant purposes. Awards will be reviewed regularly and may be reduced so funds can be reallocated if an awardee is not spending funds.

Applicants are encouraged to contact MCASA if they anticipate challenges spending down awarded funds. It is important that all funds be expended. Applicants who request an extension to expend funds will be asked for verification of what has been expended prior to any extension request.

GRANT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) may monitor grant recipients via regular reporting of key statistics and narrative data as a condition of award funding. Grant recipients will receive quarterly distributions and will be subject to the programmatic and financial reporting requirements included in the Reporting Schedule below. MCASA will review all quarterly expenditures to ensure compliance and allowability of costs. The reviews and monitoring MCASA conducts will include: Program Narrative Progress Reports, Performance Measures, Financial Reports, and standard statistics (MCASA will collect the same statistics as used for the SARC grant). MCASA staff will provide tools and resources for complying with expenditures reporting. Desk site visits, audits, regular communication, and more reporting may also be required, per state regulation or as otherwise requested.

Funding Termination

The performance of work under this award may be terminated by MCASA in accordance with this clause in whole, or in part, whenever MCASA determines that such termination is in the best interest of MCASA or the grantee. If the subrecipient fails to fulfill obligations under this award properly and on time, or otherwise violates any provisions of the subaward, MCASA may terminate the award by written notice to the subrecipient. The notice shall specify the acts or omissions relied upon as cause for termination. MCASA will pay all reasonable costs associated with this program that the subrecipient has incurred prior to the date of termination, and all

reasonable costs associated with the termination of the subaward. When an award is terminated or partially terminated, the awarding agency remains responsible for reporting on activities performed and funds expended and compliance with applicable conditions and regulations.

Reporting Schedule

Month of Service	Programmatic and Financial Reports Due
July 2026 through September 2026	October 10, 2026
October 2026 through December 2026	January 10, 2027
January 2027 through March 2027	April 10, 2027

As indicated above, all **Programmatic and Financial reports are due quarterly** by the 10th of the month following the end of the “Quarter of Service.” If the 10th of the month falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, the reports remain due on the 10th. Quarterly reports are due by **ALL** subgrantees. If the deadline is missed, quarterly reports can still be turned in and MCASA can still issue payment. Note, in this instances, payment will be delayed.

Post Award Requirements

General Conditions

If funds are awarded, in addition to special conditions related to this grant, grantees must comply with applicable general grant conditions.

Funding Contingency

This grant program is contingent on funds being awarded by GOCPP to MCASA for the purpose of administering this award and may be cancelled with 45 days notice if GOCPP does not comply with administrative obligations.

Funding Reallocation

Post award grantees must request and receive authorization for any reallocations between funding categories that exceed 10% of the total grant funds via a Grant Adjustment Notice (GAN). Grantees must also request and receive authorization to add new line items to the budget. Details and instructions on this process will be included in the grant award documents.

PROCESS TO APPLY

Applications are due via email to mgrants@mcasa.org, subject: Application, GF-RCC FY2027, [NAME OF ORGANIZATION] by **11:59 PM (Eastern Time) on May 15, 2026**

CHECKLIST

- ___ Project Narrative
- ___ Budget Information Form (*Appendix A*)
- ___ Budget Narrative (*Appendix C*)
- ___ Most recent Form 990
- ___ Audit Findings and Corrective Action Plans in the last year
- ___ Organizational Capacity Questionnaire (*Appendix D*)
- ___ Awards Similar to Subaward Form (*Appendix E*)
- ___ Certified Assurances (*Appendix F*)
- ___ Certification Regarding Lobbying (*Appendix G*)

Organizational Documents: Subrecipients submitted the following documents during the FY26 application process. Please only submit with your FY27 documents if there have been changes or updates.

- _____ Articles of Incorporation
- _____ Bylaws
- _____ IRS Determination Letter
- _____ Licenses or certifications (if applicable)

Appendix Index (and can be found on MCASA's website at <https://mcasa.org/providers/funding-opportunities>)

Appendix A –GF-RCC, Budget Form AGENCY NAME - TEMPLATE BLANK

Appendix B –GF-RCC, Budget Form ABC Agency EXAMPLE

Appendix C - GF-RCC, Budget Narrative ABC Agency – EXAMPLE

Appendix D - MCASA GF-RCC, Subrecipient Organizational Capacity Questionnaire

Appendix E - MCASA GF-RCC Similar Grant Award Form

Appendix F - MCASA GF-RCC Certified Assurances

Appendix G - MCASA GF-RCC Certification Regarding Lobbying