



Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice
Grant Project Fact Sheet

Project Title

“PROJECT REACH: ADDRESSING VIOLENT CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN
AT THE UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK”

Funder

Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice

Funding Amount

\$299,875

Funding Period

3 Years

Project Director/Principal Investigator

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Co-Project Directors

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Evaluator

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The Project Reach Model

Respond	▶ Create and sustain a coordinated campus-community response to violence against women on campus
Educate	▶ Continue to implement mandatory prevention and education programs about violence against women for all incoming students and other groups at risk, working in collaboration with campus and community-based victim advocacy and law enforcement organizations.
Assist	▶ Train and provide technical assistance/support to members of the campus community to help them respond effectively in dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking cases and establish, strengthen, and sustain programs to train members of our campus disciplinary board to respond effectively to charges of violence against women.
Collaborate	▶ Establish a coordinated Campus/Community Response Team that will meet on a regular basis to review protocols, policies and procedures and provide cross training on the missions and roles of individual agencies. In addition, the coordinated response team will develop formal policies and protocols for responding to violent crimes against women when they occur.
Help	▶ Enhance and sustain counseling and victim assistance services for students.

Abstract

The University at Albany, State University of New York, in partnership with community and law enforcement agencies including the Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center, the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Program, the Albany District Attorney's Office, and the Albany (City) Police Department, seeks funding assistance from the Office on Violence Against Women to establish and implement a comprehensive, coordinated, and collaborative program to address violence against women on and off campus. In the spirit of the proactive and collaborative focus of the program, it has been entitled "Project REACH, an acronym for its goals. To accomplish project goals and objectives, the University proposes to 1) create a permanent position of Campus-Community Liaison, 2) provide mandated training and education for our campus and community police agencies, our judicial board, campus/community staff and students, 3) improve communication between campus and community agencies when they respond to sexual assault and violent crimes against women, 4) work with the community Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) to develop protocols, review cases and assess progress, and 5) to sensitize students, staff, campus/community agencies and police departments about issues related to sexual violence, the victim's experience and her rights, through mandated education and training. The Campus-Community Liaison will serve as the campus link with our community partners, coordinate campus/community training, education and prevention efforts, function as the link for all victim referrals, and provide all these services in a culturally competent, safe, and supportive environment. This grant offers the University a well-timed opportunity to expand, accelerate, and work to sustain current efforts, develop a dedicated and integrated resource and response system for victims, and design comprehensive educational, curriculum and training modules that will impact the University and community for years to come.

About the Violence Against Women Campus Grant Competition

The Grants to Reduce Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking on Campus Program (Campus Program) is designed to encourage institutions of higher education to adopt comprehensive, coordinated responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Campuses, in partnership with community-based nonprofit victim advocacy organizations and local criminal justice or civil legal agencies, must adopt protocols and policies that treat violence against women as a serious offense and develop victim service programs that ensure victim safety, offender accountability, and the prevention of such crimes.

Many campuses are beginning to address violent crimes against women by developing campus-based responses that include campus victim services, campus law enforcement, health services, housing authorities, campus administration, student organizations, and disciplinary boards. To be effective, these responses must be linked to local criminal justice agencies and service providers, including local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices, courts, and nonprofit, nongovernmental victim advocacy and victim services agencies. This coordinated community response is intended to enhance victim safety and hold offenders accountable.

Institutions of higher education must develop services and programs tailored to meet the specific needs of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking on campuses. In addition, colleges and universities must address the underlying causes of violence against women on their campuses by instituting prevention programs that seek to change the attitudes and beliefs that permit, and often encourage, such behavior. Through their policies, protocols, and actions, colleges and universities can demonstrate to every student that violence against women in any form will not be tolerated and sexual assault, stalking, domestic violence, and dating violence are crimes with serious legal consequences.