



Alaska's Council on
Domestic Violence
& Sexual Assault

Greetings CDVSA FY2020 Sub-Grantees:

Wow, can you believe it is the end of April and we are moving into month three of the challenges of the COVID-19 health emergency in Alaska? I am extremely proud of all of you, as well as Alaskans in general for the sacrifices everyone has made to mitigate this deadly virus, while staying positive, providing necessary services and looking out for one another in our homes, workplaces and in our communities. I believe we are all holding our breathe a little as the soft opening of our state continues—not knowing what these changes will bring in terms of the virus continuing its “flattening” trend or increasing as there is more shopping, dining and social interaction. I do know, that each of you will be as prepared as possible for the new challenges ahead.

This week's COVID-19 Update will provide some information as well as request your feedback to a couple of questions regarding data, masks and needs for children. Please review the information below and do not hesitate to contact me or your Program Coordinator if you have questions or need additional information/clarification.

- One revision regarding last week's announcement about the availability of CDVSA GF Emergency Funds for our 35 sub-grantees to apply for between now and June 10. The Application was missing one line of information [how much funding you are requesting]—the form has been revised. It is attached to this email and posted on our website under Highlights on our homepage: https://dps.alaska.gov/getmedia/6ca7db6e-b45f-4d57-9b0c-631a0f61ae73/CDVSA-COVID-19-Emergency-Funding-Application_1.docx. The Funding Protocol document is also posted on our webpage. These funds are to help cover necessary costs to stay open and provide critical services to those Alaskans seeking help. Please remember to leverage and realign all your current CDVSA grant funds before requesting Emergency Funding;
- We concluded the Survey Monkey request for information about how your agency/community is doing amid the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 30 surveys or 85% of our 35 sub-grantees responded. Morgan has analyzed the data and developed a point-in-time picture of how victim services are impacted by COVID-19, at this time. Attached is a draft Infographic using aggregate data to indicate increases, decreases and no change in services, delivery of services and other points. Please review this document and let us know if you feel it is a fair representation of the situation between March 11-April 24. We plan to post this document to our website next week and share with those interested including media who have requested information. Thank you;



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- CDVSA now has 1,000 cloth masks and we are ready to send them to our programs. If you are in need of masks now or think you will need more in the future please let us know how many you would like and they will be sent ASAP. Thank you to DPS, DOC and Board member Niki Tshibaka for helping us secure these masks.
- Additionally, Board member (and DEED Assistant Commissioner) Niki Tshibaka wants to provide assistance to our sub-grantees who are sheltering not only adults, but also children and youth, during this time of virtual school. CDVSA shared comments from the two Survey questions related to the status of children in programs and how they were coping with school work and other challenges. It is possible that DEED is able to obtain laptop computers and/or tablets to better serve children, especially school-age children in our programs. DEED may also be able to offer assistance with counseling to help kids cope with this crisis as well as other trauma they have experienced, and possible tutoring. If you are interested in obtaining either technology hardware or other support as indicated above please send Morgan Erisman an email with the number of laptops or tablets you can use and the general age of children in shelter (now and overtime); also indicate if you would like to explore access to counseling or educational support for the children in your programs. Once we have this information we will send it to Niki along with your contact information – we will help coordinate where we can. Thank you DEED!
- On April 23, United States Attorney General William Barr issued a Memorandum to all United States Attorneys addressing the need to Stop Predatory Practices Related to COVID-19 and Housing. A copy of this critically important memo is attached and it is posted on our webpage at: <https://dps.alaska.gov/getmedia/d1ca28e3-01c1-4908-904d-1bebc96c46e3/AG-Memo-Stopping-Predatory-Practices-Related-to-COVID-19-and-Housing-4-23-2020.pdf>.

As we head into May and the final two months of FY2020, I think we can all agree this fiscal year has turned out much different than what we planned. Flexibility, creativity and resolve have become our new “best friend.” Your commitment and hard work is truly amazing!