

Domestic Violence Prevention Fund Request for Proposals



Section 1: Introduction

The Deborah DeBare Domestic Violence Prevention Fund (DVPF) was established by the Rhode Island General Assembly (R.I.G.L. § 12-29-12), creating a fund which has as its primary purpose the prevention of domestic violence and dating violence. The term “intimate partner violence” will be used throughout this Request for Proposals to refer to both domestic violence and dating violence across the lifespan. The DVPF is administered by the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV) and is used to promote primary prevention programs in Rhode Island aimed at stopping intimate partner violence before it has the chance to start.

A total of \$39,000 will be distributed to support several short-term Community Micro-grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$15,000. Awards are dependent on the availability of funds from the state of Rhode Island. Please note this funding is issued on a reimbursement basis after project expenses have been incurred, according to the state’s guidelines.

The funding period will begin on December 15, 2024. Community Micro-grants will support short-term projects to be completed by June 30, 2025. Proposed short-term projects must supplement or enhance an existing program and cannot be used as start-up funding for new programs.

Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 15, 2024. Applications should be emailed in PDF format to Janie Woodard, Community Engagement Specialist, Janie@ricadv.org.

Section 2: Background and Purpose

Background

[Rhode Island’s 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey \(YRBS\)](#) data show that the percentage of Rhode Island public high school students who reported dating violence during the past 12 months, among those who have dated someone within the past year, was 21.3% among females and 13.6% among males; 26.2% among gender expansive students, and 15.7% among gender conforming students; 29.8% among LGBTQ+ students and 12.7 among straight/cisgender students; and 32.7% among students who have a disability and 12.7% among students with no disability.¹

¹ Analysis was provided by Tracey Jackson, RIDOH 3-19-24

In 2021, [children were present in 24% \(1,262\)](#) of the domestic violence incidents that resulted in arrests, which occurred in nearly [every city and town in Rhode Island](#). In 2022, the RICADV's member agencies provided critical services to 9,362 clients. 80% of the services were provided to women and girls. State data show men perpetrate the majority (84%) of domestic violence in Rhode Island.² According to the CDC's [National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey \(NISVS\)](#), the lifetime prevalence of rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner for Rhode Island women is 32.6%. For men, it is 25.2%. NISVS data show that Rhode Island women, like women globally, are victimized at higher rates, and the negative health impacts they experience are disproportionate to those faced by men. Data also show that LGBTQ+ people experience intimate partner violence [at the same or higher rates nationally](#).

For over 20 years, the RICADV has been implementing and evaluating strategies funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prevent intimate partner violence before it happens in the first place. As a result of its longstanding partnership with the CDC, the RICADV has been at the forefront of applying a public health approach to prevention.

Education and awareness about the problem of intimate partner violence are crucial; however, they cannot end domestic violence alone. To end the violence, we must address its root causes. A public health approach to preventing intimate partner violence aims to address the factors in our communities that make violence more or less likely to happen so we can stop the violence before it begins and promote the conditions necessary for healthy relationships to thrive. Primary prevention strategies are situated at the community and societal layers of the [Social Ecological Model](#) and address the [social determinants of health](#). They seek to have a broader impact, such as changing policies, systems, social and cultural norms, and the environments of settings such as schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods.

[Research shows](#) that rates of domestic violence decrease in communities with access to safe, affordable housing, jobs that pay a living wage, and green, open spaces, such as parks. Efforts to empower and mobilize community members and community-based organizations to identify needs and create solutions can help foster positive relationships and increase "collective efficacy," defined as the shared belief among a group of people that they can create positive change. [Studies show](#) strong social support networks and neighborhood collective efficacy can protect against intimate partner violence.

Since the DVPF was established in 2016, the RICADV has partnered with and learned alongside funding recipients as they have implemented primary prevention strategies in communities throughout Rhode Island. In 2023, the RICADV released [Preventing Intimate Partner Violence in Rhode Island](#), a prevention vision for the state. This vision reflects the primary prevention capacity and knowledge that the DVPF recipients and learning community have built with the support of this funding, as well as the RICADV's well-established primary prevention practice that includes strategies funded by the CDC over the past two decades.

² Rhode Island Supreme Court Domestic Violence Training and Monitoring Unit. Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault/Child Molestation Reporting Form, 2020.

The priorities of the state vision for prevention are to:

1. Address the root causes of intimate partner violence (IPV), which are systems of oppression and inequity, by centering the experiences of those most impacted by IPV.
2. Create safe, supportive environments and change harmful social norms.
3. Work together to coordinate and sustain primary prevention on the state level to stop IPV and related forms of violence before they start.

For more information about primary prevention approaches and strategies to address the root causes of violence, please refer to the [state vision for prevention](#) and the Resource List on page 11 of this RFP.

Purpose

The DVPF seeks to increase the number of schools, community groups, and community-based organizations that are applying a public health approach to prevent intimate partner violence.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) aims to address disparities in health outcomes and rates of violence by supporting prevention strategies that center the experiences of communities most impacted by intimate partner violence and its risk factors. The RFP welcomes applications that address [shared risk and protective factors](#) for violence and focus on changing systems, policies, social and cultural norms, and community conditions that contribute to intimate partner violence. Projects may also seek to increase community connectedness through public awareness, education, and the arts.

Priority will be given to proposals that focus on engaging and affirming youth of color, LGBTQ+, Two-Spirit, and gender nonconforming youth, and youth with disabilities in intimate partner violence prevention activities. This RFP will fund strategies that are situated at the community and societal levels of the Social Ecological Model, address the social determinants of health, and align with the state prevention vision.

Priority will also be given to proposals that support the implementation of Rhode Island's [Lindsay Ann Burke Act](#), the state's comprehensive teen dating violence education law. Notably, Rhode Island was the first state in the United States to mandate teen dating violence education and policy in all public middle schools and high schools through the Lindsay Ann Burke Act. Funding from the DVPF can support Rhode Island schools to strengthen their implementation of the law through school climate and systems change strategies (e.g., policy implementation, staff training, and media campaigns) and community organizing strategies (e.g., engaging school health and wellness committees, parent organizations, and athletic programs).

Community organizations can apply to train school administrators, educators, and other school personnel on teen dating violence prevention, engage young people to develop positive norms media campaigns, or implement an evidence-informed program, such as [Coaching Boys into Men](#) for an athletics team or a [One Circle Foundation](#) program in an afterschool setting. The RICADV's recommendations in its [Policy Implementation Evaluation Report on the Lindsay Ann Burke Act](#) outline strategies and initiatives to enhance the implementation of the law, foster safe,

supportive school environments, and prevent multiple interrelated forms of violence. Please note that classroom-based instruction to students on teen dating violence is not an eligible activity under the DVPF. The Lindsay Ann Burke Act already requires that public school health teachers provide teen dating violence education annually to students in grades 7-12. Direct classroom education under the DVPF would be a duplication of services.

The RICADV provides individualized technical assistance and convenes a Community of Practice for funding recipients. The purpose of the Community of Practice is to promote partnership building, shared learning, and storytelling to understand the facilitators, barriers, and outcomes of DVPF-funded projects.

Examples of DVPF Projects

Applicants are encouraged to visit www.ricadv.org for a list of previously funded projects and project descriptions.

Previously funded projects have:

- Mobilized community members to build leadership skills and educate decision makers on policy solutions (Progreso Latino)
- Empowered young people to become peer educators and advocates who promote safe, healthy relationships in their communities (Sojourner House)
- Engaging young men in exploring their relationship with violence or a bystander of violence and working towards being active allies to all genders in their pursuit to practice healthy relationships (The Gentlemen’s Club, Ten Young Refugee Men, and Ten Young Men)
- Adapted an evidence-based model to provide a culturally responsive, gender inclusive, trauma-informed program that supports the social and personal development of young people of color (Alliance of Rhode Island Southeast Asians for Education - ARISE)

Examples of potential projects include:

- Engaging young people to establish or sustain a community garden or design and paint a community mural
- Supporting young people to identify school policy priorities and develop strategies for bringing their ideas and concerns to school administrators
- Beautifying a bus stop or making improvements to a local park to make it safer and more accessible

Section 3: Eligibility

Public and not-for-profit community-based organizations, faith institutions, and middle schools and high schools in Rhode Island are eligible to apply for DVPF Implementation Projects and Community Micro-grants. Only established 501(c)(3) organizations that have been operating for at least 2 years will be considered. Community groups and associations that are not 501(c)(3) can use a local fiscal agent to apply. Applicants can visit www.ricadv.org to view a list of previously funded projects.

Section 4: Community Micro-grants Scope of Work

Community Micro-grants will range from \$1,000 to \$15,000 and will support short-term projects that supplement or enhance an existing program or initiative. Community Micro-grants cannot be used as start-up funding for new programs.

1. Implement the proposed project by June 30, 2025.
2. Attending Community of Practice meetings and individual meetings with the RICADV.
3. Provide an end-of-project program report and monthly fiscal reports to the RICADV. Reporting templates and due dates will be provided to successful applicants.
4. Required activities:
 - Provide appropriate credit to the Domestic Violence Prevention Fund as the source of funding for project activities.
 - Maintain regular communication with the RICADV during the funding period. Share updates and materials, such as photos, flyers, social media graphics, and publications developed with the support of the funding.

Section 5: Community Micro-grants Proposal Narrative

The proposal narrative is not to exceed 5 pages, excluding the cover letter, budget narrative, budget template, and optional attachments. The applicant must include a signed cover letter on official organization letterhead from an agent who is authorized to sign contracts on behalf of the applicant and must include the primary contact information (email, phone, and address).

Applications should be emailed in PDF format to Janie Woodard, Community Engagement Specialist, at Janie@ricadv.org. Applications must be typed in 12-point font, double-spaced, and paginated with 1-inch margins. PDF files should contain text that can be selected, copied, and pasted and should not be scanned images of text. The proposal narrative should address the following criteria and sent no later than November 15th, 2024.

DVPF Priority Areas (30 points)

Describe your proposal's priority population. Describe your organizational history working with the DVPF priority populations (youth of color, LGBTQ+, Two-Spirit, and gender nonconforming youth, and youth with disabilities). Proposals that focus on engaging and affirming the priority groups in intimate partner violence prevention activities will receive priority consideration.

Community Building, Co-creation, and Empowerment (30 points)

Empowerment is a critical component of both the anti-domestic violence movement and the public health approach to preventing intimate partner violence. As we strive to serve victims and survivors and create thriving community conditions to end violence, we must listen to, learn from, collaborate with, and compensate the community to create solutions that are grounded in

the strengths and priorities of the community. We must center the experiences of those most impacted by intimate partner violence and its risk factors.

Describe how your organization values and plans to use an empowerment approach to co-create this project with the intended participants, target audience, and/or broader community. How will the people most impacted be involved in or connected to the work of your project?

Work Plan (20 points)

Describe the project's work plan and timeline. Include the project goals, objectives, and activities, as well as the intended outcomes of the project. You may use the [sample work plan template linked here](#), but it is not required.

Referral Capacity and Experience (10 points)

As you implement the work of your project, people may come forward who need support and resources related to intimate partner violence. Describe your staff capacity to refer victims of intimate partner violence and those looking to assist victims to available resources and the local network of domestic violence agencies. Please indicate if you are a previous funding recipient of the DVPF. If so, describe your past accomplishments as a DVPF recipient, if and how the application builds on previously funded efforts, and why funding is still needed.

Section 6: Community Micro-grants Budget and Budget Narrative (10 points)

Submit a 7-month project budget for the estimated grant period of December 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. Please provide a detailed budget narrative, not to exceed 1 page, in addition to completing the budget template form provided. The budget and budget template do not count towards the page limit.

Allowable Expenses

1. Personnel: Indicate each staff name and/or position for the project. Show percentage of time allocated to this project, the total annual salary or hourly rate, the personnel costs being requested under this RFP, and the percentage of time that will be in-kind, if any.
2. Fringe Benefits: Include those benefits normally provided by the organization. Percent and detailed breakdown of each benefit is required, such as FICA, unemployment, worker's compensation, medical, dental, and vision.
3. Consultants/Speakers: List each consultant or speaker individually, specifying the hourly rate. Only expenses for functions related to this project may be included.
4. Travel: Local travel to meetings and community-building activities is allowed. Reimbursement for mileage expenses is not to exceed \$.65/mile. Reimbursement of travel expenses is allowed for activities related to this project only.
5. Printing/Copying: Include the cost of duplicating educational materials to be distributed during the contract period. The duplication of flyers, brochures, booklets, information sheets, and other educational materials related to this project should be included.

6. Supplies: List office and program supplies allocated to the project. Food is an allowable program expense.
7. Telephone/Internet: Include telephone and Internet expenses associated with the project.
8. Educational/Resource Materials: List books, curricula, videos, or other resource materials to be purchased for program use.
9. Postage: Indicate postage expenses allocated to the project.
10. Facility/Rental Expenses: Indicate the cost of office space (rental) and other facility expenses to be incurred because of this project.
11. Equipment: Indicate the cost of computer or other equipment related to this project.
12. Other: Please itemize any other expenses related to this project.

Section 7: Community Micro-grants Scoring Criteria

Criteria	Maximum Points
Proposal Aligns with DVPF Priority Areas	30 points
Community Building, Co-creation, and Empowerment	30 points
Work Plan	20 points
Experience and Referral Capacity	10 points
Budget and Budget Narrative	10 points
Total Possible Points	100 points

Section 8: Applicant Technical Assistance Call

An applicant technical assistance call will be held via Zoom web conference on Tuesday, October 23rd, 2024 at 9:30 – 10:30am. [To register for the technical assistance call, please click here.](#)

Participants are encouraged to complete the registration link including their questions in advance to Janie Woodard, Community Engagement Specialist at Janie@ricadv.org . Questions will be addressed during the call, and a recording will be posted to our website at www.ricadv.org shortly thereafter. The Zoom information will be emailed to registered participants only.

Domestic Violence Prevention

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScjSzI9Vsv5xPAgZgW6r3NqloIrEJpAugei8tsPTOX3TQVbDA/viewform?usp=sf link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScjSzI9Vsv5xPAgZgW6r3NqloIrEJpAugei8tsPTOX3TQVbDA/viewform?usp=sf_link)Fund

Proposed Budget

Please provide a detailed budget narrative, not to exceed 1 page, in addition to completing this budget template form.

Name of Program/Organization: _____

Cost Category

Personnel

Salaries
Benefits & Taxes

Total Personnel \$

Non-Personnel

Program Supplies Equipment & Rental Telephone
Space Travel Printing Consulting Postage Advertising
Dues/subscriptions Other (specify)

Total Non-Personnel \$

Total Budget \$

Please include a brief budget narrative on a separate page to explain the specific budget items outlined above. For the personnel expenses, specify the exact job title and percentage of FTE (full time equivalent) staff supported by this funding.

Domestic Violence Prevention

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScjSzI9Vsv5xPAgZgW6r3NqloIrEJpAugei8tsPTOX3TQVbDA/viewform?usp=sf link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScjSzI9Vsv5xPAgZgW6r3NqloIrEJpAugei8tsPTOX3TQVbDA/viewform?usp=sf_link)Fund

Proposed Budget

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Cost Category

Personnel

Salaries
Benefits & Taxes

Total Personnel \$

Non-Personnel

Program Supplies Equipment & Rental Telephone
Space Travel Printing Consulting Postage Advertising
Dues/subscriptions Other (specify)

Total Non-Personnel \$

Total Budget \$

Please include a brief budget narrative on a separate page to explain the specific budget items outlined above. For the personnel expenses, specify the exact job title and percentage of FTE (full time equivalent) staff supported by this funding.

APPENDIX A

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Is the RFP limited to programs for youth?

A. The RFP is not limited to programs for young people. However, priority will be given to proposals that focus on engaging and affirming youth of color, LGBTQ+, Two-Spirit, and gender nonconforming youth, and youth with disabilities.

Q. What types of attachments have been submitted in the past?

A. A proposal to engage young people through a mobile app included screenshots of the app to illustrate how it works. Attachments may be an outline of a curriculum to be implemented or examples of materials to be used, such as community flyers or workshop handouts. Attachments could include samples of an existing public awareness campaign to be utilized or as an example of what will be developed, or an evaluation report that describes promising outcomes related to the proposal.

Q. Can attachments include links to videos?

A. Yes, attachments can include web links to videos. The funding advisory committee will receive electronic copies of proposals, so links will be accessible. Applicants should consider linking to one or two brief videos to ensure they are viewed by the committee.

Q. Is it allowable to amend a previously unfunded proposal and submit it this funding cycle?

A. Yes, applicants may submit a proposal that builds on a previous one. There is no restriction that would prohibit applicants from submitting a past proposal that was not funded. However, the proposal may need to be revised or strengthened and should closely align with the goals of the RFP. The RICADV is available to provide feedback to applicants on any proposals that are not successfully funded. If the applicant is a previous funding recipient of the DVPF, they should be sure to describe past accomplishments as a DVPF recipient, if and how the application builds on previously funded efforts, and why funding is still needed.

Q. Can an applicant apply for and receive both an Implementation Project and a Community Micro-grant award during the same funding cycle?

A. Yes. There is no restriction that would prohibit applicants from submitting a proposal for an Implementation Project and a proposal for a Community Micro-grant to the same RFP. There is no restriction that would prohibit the funding advisory committee from awarding both grants to the same applicant. However, given the limited amount of funding available and the number and quality of proposals received, the grant-making process can be competitive. Both proposals would have to strongly align with the goals and criteria of the RFP and make a compelling case for why each grant type is needed. In another scenario, the applicant may apply for an Implementation Project, and then also apply for a Community Micro-grant as the fiscal agent on behalf of a community member or group that is not 501(c)(3), as noted in the eligibility criteria of the RFP.

APPENDIX B Resource List

Applicants may use these resources to find examples of primary prevention strategies and learn more about applying a public health approach to preventing intimate partner violence.

[Preventing Intimate Partner Violence in Rhode Island](#)

Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence

- This publication outlines three priorities for the state of Rhode Island to prevent intimate partner violence before it starts and build safe, connected communities. The resource serves as a prevention vision for the state, inviting Rhode Islanders to imagine a future free from violence, where all people have what they need to thrive.

[Voices of Change: Building safe, supportive communities to end violence](#)

Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence

- This video series tells the stories of several RI organizations leading transformative change efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. The videos offer examples of prevention strategies that center the experiences of those most impacted by violence and the pandemic. This project was a collaboration between the Alliance of Southeast Asians for Education (ARISE), Progreso Latino, the RICADV, SISTA Fire, and Youth In Action.

[Intimate Partner Violence Resource for Action: A Compilation of the Best Available Evidence](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- “This Resource for Action, formerly known as the ‘technical package,’ represents a select group of strategies based on the best available evidence to help communities and states sharpen their focus on prevention activities with the greatest potential to prevent intimate partner violence (IPV) and its consequences across the lifespan.” ([source](#))

[Connecting the Dots: An Overview of the Links Among Multiple Forms of Violence](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- Many forms of violence are interconnected, including intimate partner violence, sexual violence, youth violence, bullying, and suicide. They share some of the same risk factors that increase the likelihood violence will occur, such as poverty and social isolation, and some of the same factors that protect against violence, such as community connectedness and access to safe, stable housing. Use this resource to learn more about strategies that focus on shared risk and protective factors and how they can help prevent multiple forms of violence at the same time.

[A Health Equity Approach to Preventing Sexual Violence](#)

Prevention Institute & National Sexual Violence Resource Center

- “Across the country, people are advancing health equity in their sexual violence prevention work by: Elevating community leadership and resilience; Creating spaces for healing in prevention efforts; Facilitating internal organizational change; Addressing underlying factors that contribute to violence and safety; and partnering across fields and movements. This document dives into each of these themes and shares specific local examples.