

RFP: Statewide Needs Assessment for Sexual Violence Services & Policies

Date Issued: February 15, 2018

Submission Date: March 15, 2018

SUMMARY

The New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault is seeking proposals from strategy consulting firms to undertake an assessment of statewide sexual violence services and policies in New Jersey. The findings of the assessment must illuminate key needs across the field, note the varied challenges and opportunities that exist when addressing sexual violence at the local and statewide levels, and recognize the policy considerations that impact outcomes for survivors and service providers.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The FBI recognizes sexual assault as the second most violent crime in the United States—the first being murder. As a public health issue, interpersonal violence impacts the physical and emotional health and safety of individuals, families, and communities. Combined with the statistic that sexual assault is the most underreported crime in the United States, it is evident that this urgent priority must be addressed through effective strategies that reduce the impact and prevalence of sexual violence.

As a statewide coalition of twenty-two county- and university-based sexual violence service organizations, NJCASA recognizes the importance of identifying and addressing the ways in which sexual violence influences the health, safety, and well-being of communities throughout the State of New Jersey. Over the next two years, NJCASA will undertake an assessment of the response and information systems available to survivors of sexual violence with the goal of creating service and policy recommendations that enhance our ability to assist all survivors of sexual violence. Through this needs assessment, NJCASA aims to identify opportunities for New Jersey to best serve *all* survivors of sexual violence.

ABOUT NJCASA

NJCASA is a unifying voice for the countless individuals living in New Jersey affected by sexual violence. Founded in 1981, NJCASA's mission is to promote the compassionate and just treatment of survivors and their loved ones, foster collaborative relationships between community systems, and affect attitudinal and behavioral changes in society as we work towards the elimination of sexual violence against all people. We represent the state's recognized 21 county-based sexual violence service organizations and the Office of Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance at Rutgers University, New Brunswick.

Our comprehensive approach includes elevating the voice of survivors and service providers, advocating for survivor-centered legislation, training allied professionals, and supporting

statewide prevention strategies that work to defy the socio-cultural norms that permit and promote rape culture. We are the *only* New Jersey organization dedicated exclusively to working with issues of sexual violence and to supporting the county-based organizations that provide essential services to survivors and their loved ones.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

NJCASA seeks to execute a sexual violence needs assessment that engages key stakeholders in an in-depth exploration of statewide service and policy gaps. The goal of the assessment is to gain a firm understanding of the current comprehensive system response to sexual violence as experienced by survivors. Findings from the assessment will help us identify ways to enhance information and response systems in the State of New Jersey for all survivors of sexual violence.

NJCASA will engage survivors and partners (local rape crisis centers, frontline responders, legal advocates and prosecutors) in a discussion of the current challenges and opportunities—particularly as they pertain to serving marginalized communities—and explore service, policy, and advocacy considerations to enhance processes and systems. NJCASA aims to bolster statewide sexual violence response efforts and ensure that New Jersey’s services and policies remain survivor-centered and trauma-informed.

The objectives of the project are to:

1. Identify training and capacity building needs across systems and sectors;
2. Highlight policy gaps and inform strategies for supporting healthier, safer, and more just communities in New Jersey;
3. Understand the challenges and opportunities for better serving marginalized communities; and
4. Recommend ways in which funders and partners can allocate resources to support a safer Garden State.

Preferred Qualifications of Consulting Firm

NJCASA seeks a consulting firm with a demonstrated history in designing and administering successful needs assessments to implement the project. Consulting firms should demonstrate the following qualifications:

- Experience in conducting strategic evaluations and/or assessing the impact of social services and policies;
- A professional team comprised of social sector strategists;
- Previous experience and proven results in supporting organizations in assessing their service model, and developing and delivering on strategies; and
- Ability to interact with and facilitate result-oriented sessions with boards, advisory councils, senior management, and staff.

Duration

The needs assessment will be completed within a 12 to 18 month period, including all planning, implementation, data analysis, and reporting of findings and recommendations.

NJCASA Staffing

Project management will be overseen by NJCASA's development consulting firm, [Advance NYC](#), with key decisions and overall vision led by NJCASA's senior staff, Executive Director Patricia Teffenhart and Assistant Director Robert Baran. While the project manager will assist with the execution and planning of the assessment, NJCASA will assign the Executive Director, Assistant Director, other staff, and Board of Trustees as necessary.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Please include the following information in the proposal narrative:

- Company background and history;
- Proposed approach;
- Evaluation to measure the success of this project as it relates to your services;
- Team bios and roles for all staff engaged in the project;
- Demonstrated experience with executing similar projects (narrative or case studies);
- Client list, highlighting nonprofit or social sector clients, and clients for whom you've executed assessments and/or strategic plans;
- Three clients who can act as a reference for your work; and
- Detailed fee schedule that includes total charges related to the execution of this project.

Applications must be received no later than close of business on March 15, 2018. Please email the proposal package (in one file attachment, ideally as a PDF document) to Ms. Sara Elghobashy at sara@advancenyc.com with the email subject line: "Proposal: NJCASA Statewide Needs Assessment."

All questions related to this proposal must be submitted in writing to Ms. Sara Elghobashy at sara@advancenyc.com. Please include in the email subject line: "Questions: NJCASA Statewide Needs Assessment."

Shortlisted candidate will have the opportunity to present their proposal in-person to the Executive and Assistant Directors of NJCASA. A final decision is expected by mid-April 2018.

Due to overwhelming responses, not all candidates will be contacted.

NJCASA is an equal opportunity employer for all regardless of race, color, citizenship, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age,

disability, veteran or reservist status or any other category protected by federal, state or local law.

GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

This RFP is not an agreement. Its purpose is to provide interested parties with information that may be useful to them in the formulation of their proposals pursuant to this RFP. The issuance of this RFP does not imply that NJCASA is bound to select any bidder for the project described in this RFP. This RFP does not guarantee or commit NJCASA to proceeding with the above described work.

NJCASA reserves the right to reject all or any of the proposals, in whole or in part, at any time prior to selecting a consultant and entering into a contract, without assigning any reasons whatsoever and without liability being incurred by NJCASA to any bidder.

All bidders shall bear all costs in any way associated with the preparation and submission of proposals, including but not limited to expenses associated with demonstrations or presentations which may be required by NJCASA as part of its selection process. These costs shall remain entirely with the bidder regardless of the outcome of the selection process. [L]
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All proposals and supporting materials, as well as correspondence relating to this RFP, become the property of NJCASA when received. Any proprietary information contained in the proposal should be so indicated. However, a general indication that the entire contents, or a major portion, of the proposal is proprietary will not be honored. [L]
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