



June 23, 2008

**MEMORANDUM TO OVW TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS**

FROM: Cindy Dyer  
Director  
Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)

SUBJECT: New OVW Policy Regarding Children at OVW-Sponsored Events

As technical assistance providers you provide critical training, information, resources and assistance to our grantees. We know we would not be successful without your assistance and we value this important relationship. This memo is to inform you of a new OVW policy.

I have instituted the following office policy effective immediately:

As the current Director of the Office on Violence Against Women, it is my policy that children of participants are not prohibited at OVW-sponsored trainings, consultations, and meetings. We encourage parents to use their best judgment regarding whether to bring their children with them, taking into consideration the issues that will be discussed, the age of the child(ren), and the right of fellow participants to learn and exchange information in a forum free from distractions.

This directive supersedes all previous instructions from OVW regarding children at OVW-sponsored events. Thank you for your willingness to help us communicate and adhere to this new office policy. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.