



## SERVICES, TRAINING, EDUCATION AND POLICIES TO REDUCE SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, AND STALKING IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS GRANT PROGRAM

The 2010 School Survey on Crime and Safety notes that during the 2007–08 school year, 75 percent of public schools recorded that one or more violent incidents of crime had taken place at school. According to a study released in 2009 by the National Institute of Justice, dating violence incidents reached 5.6-percent in the past year. Six percent of all children surveyed had been sexually victimized in the past year. Adolescents ages 14 to 17 were by far the most likely to be sexually victimized. Nearly one in six adolescents were sexually victimized in the past year. The most common forms of sexual victimization included flashing or exposure by a peer and sexual assault.

### Program Overview

The **Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)** currently administers 21 programs authorized by the *Violence Against Women Act of 1994* and subsequent legislation. These grants are designed to develop the nation’s capacity to reduce domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by strengthening services to victims and holding offenders accountable for their actions.

The **Services, Training, Education and Policies to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking in Secondary Schools Grant Program (STEP)**, created by the *Violence Against Women Act of 2005 (VAWA 2005)*, will support middle and high schools to develop and implement effective training, services, prevention strategies, policies, and coordinated community responses for student victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

The STEP Grant Program is designed to support projects that provide training to school administrators, faculty, and staff; develop policies and procedures for response; provide support services; develop effective prevention strategies; and collaborate with mentoring organizations to support middle and high school students who have experienced or are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

**VAWA 2005 authorized the appropriation of \$5 million for each of Fiscal Years 2007 through 2011 for the STEP Grant Program. The first funding for this program was for Fiscal Year 2010 when \$2.5 million was appropriated to fund projects that serve middle and high school student victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.**

### Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include:

- **Public, Charter, Tribal, or Nationally Accredited Private Middle or High School**
- **A school administered by the Department of Defense**
- **A group of middle and/or high schools ( 2 or more)**
- **A school District**

Eligible applicants must partner with each of the following entities: a non-profit non-governmental domestic violence victim services provider that has a history of working with children and youth victims of domestic and dating violence; a non-profit non-governmental sexual assault victim services provider that has a history of effective work with children and youth victims of sexual assault; and law enforcement agencies or relevant courts (i.e. dependency court).

### The STEP Grant Program

April 2011

\*National Institute of Justice, Children Exposed to Violence Study, 2010

\*National Center for Education Statistics, Indicators on School Crime and Safety, 2010.