

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD:

CHILDREN AND YOUTH AND ENGAGING MEN GRANT PROGRAM



**SERVING
OUR YOUTH**

INTRODUCTION

This product is designed to highlight the Office on Violence Against Women's (OVW) grant program to address children and youth impacted by domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and engaging men and boys in the prevention of violence against women and girls. It is intended to provide a glimpse into the background and focus of the grant program as well as the work and impact of the grantees.



A photo of a large group of CYEM Grantees and Serving Our Youth team members standing and posing together in front of round tables in a grey hotel conference room at the 2019 Spring Institute

This project was supported by Grant No. 2018-TA-AX-K023 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.



THE HISTORY OF THE CYEM GRANT PROGRAM

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 2013 included four programs focused on children, youth, and men: the **Children and Youth Exposed to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Stalking Program (Children Exposed to Violence or CEV Program)**, the **Services, Training, Education, and Policies to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking in Secondary Schools Grant Program (STEP Program)**, the **Services to Advocate for and Respond to Youth Grant Program (Youth Services Program)**, and the **Engaging Men and Youth in Preventing Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program (Engaging Men and Youth or EMY Program)**. The four programs are grouped together and funded as one program by Congress in the appropriations act each year.

In FY 2012, OVW released the first solicitation in which the four programs were grouped together, the Consolidated Grant and Technical Assistance Program to Address Children and Youth Experiencing Domestic and Sexual Violence and Engage Men and Boys as Allies. The short name for the program is the **Children and Youth and Engaging Men Grant (CYEM) Program**. The CYEM Program supports comprehensive, community-based efforts to develop or expand prevention, intervention, treatment, and response strategies to address the needs of children and youth impacted by domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking (also referred to in this document as the four VAWA crimes), sex-trafficking, and projects that create educational programming and community organizing to encourage men and boys to work as allies with women and girls in the prevention of the VAWA crimes.

In FY 2020 and FY 2021, OVW released two solicitations under the CYEM program: 1) Grants to Prevent and Respond to Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Against Children and Youth Program; and 2) Grants to Engage Men and Boys as Allies in the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls Program. Children and Youth projects focus on providing a continuum of efforts, including comprehensive child- and youth-centered prevention, intervention, treatment, and response strategies to address children and youth impacted by domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Engaging Men projects support multi-faceted prevention strategies involving community organizing, outreach, mentorship, and public education through the mobilization of men and boys.





RESPONSE AND PREVENTION: HOW YOUTH-CENTERED AND ENGAGING MEN WORK TRANSFORMS INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

The CYEM grantees work tirelessly to engage communities across the country to create safer homes, safer schools, and safer communities for children and youth. Serving young people and engaging boys and men requires a comprehensive, trauma-informed, people-centered approach to prevention, intervention, treatment, and response work that is most impactful when led by a coordinated community response (CCR). In order to be effective, a CCR must center the voices and lived experiences of young people, their non-abusing caregivers, and boys and men. By creating innovative, intersectional, and multifaceted projects, CYEM grantees are pioneering programs that touch the lives of young people and boys and men in lasting and impactful ways. CYEM grantees are working collaboratively with domestic violence and homeless shelters, rape crisis centers, victim service providers, schools and school districts, fatherhood organizations, faith-based organizations, children advocacy centers, LGBTQ centers, head start programs, men's organizations, community-based programs, sports teams, local government agencies and programs, tribal governments and organizations, and across diverse communities to create opportunities for children and youth that they will carry across their lifetime.



THE CORNERSTONE OF THE WORK: YOUTH-CENTERED COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE (CCR)

While most projects are unique and tailored to the diverse communities they are developed in and with, the development of a collaborative CCR is an essential component of every CYEM project. Addressing the complex and diverse needs of children and youth who are victims of and/or exposed to the four VAWA crimes cannot be addressed by one organization or program. Nor can comprehensive engaging men prevention efforts be limited to one organization. In order to have a wide impact and sustainability of programs, it is essential that multiple parts of a community are working together to respond to and



prevent the varying levels of violence impacting children and youth. This response work, while similar to CCR's work to support adult survivors of violence, must also include key stakeholders supporting and caring for young people. For example, it is essential to have schools, community-based youth serving organizations, faith-based organizations, afterschool programs, social services, homeless and run-away youth programs, as well as other children and youth programs, participating as key partners within the response. In engaging men prevention work, key community stakeholders are often limited to schools, but in order to have broader impact should also extend to stakeholders such as businesses, faith-based institutions, youth sports leagues and teams, fatherhood groups, homeless shelters, public housing, civic groups, re-entry programs, and more. It is through the youth centered CCR that lasting healing and community change can occur.



PROJECT PARTNERS

Project partners are an essential aspect of each CYEM grantee's success. It is together, in meaningful partnership, that each grantee and their partners can impact the safety and wellbeing of children and youth. To ensure that the voices and experiences of survivors are central to the development and implementation of each project, every grantee is required to have a victim service provider as a project partner, if not the grantee. Additionally, grantees must include partners that have experience that reflects their proposed project as well as those who have expertise engaging and supporting children and youth.

PURPOSE AREAS

To meet the intent of congress, OVW created specific purpose areas within each solicitation to address the original four programs that are funded as one consolidated program. Grantees must choose to focus their projects based on these purpose areas.

The purpose areas of the children and youth (CY) solicitation include:

- Services and Training to Address Children Exposed to Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and/or Stalking (within ages 0-10)
- Creating Safer Communities for Youth: Prevention, Intervention, Treatment, and Response Services for Youth Impacted by Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and/or Stalking (within ages 11-24)

- Providing School-Based Services: Prevention, Intervention, and Response to Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and/or Stalking (within ages 5-19)

The purpose areas of the engaging men and boys (EM) solicitation include:

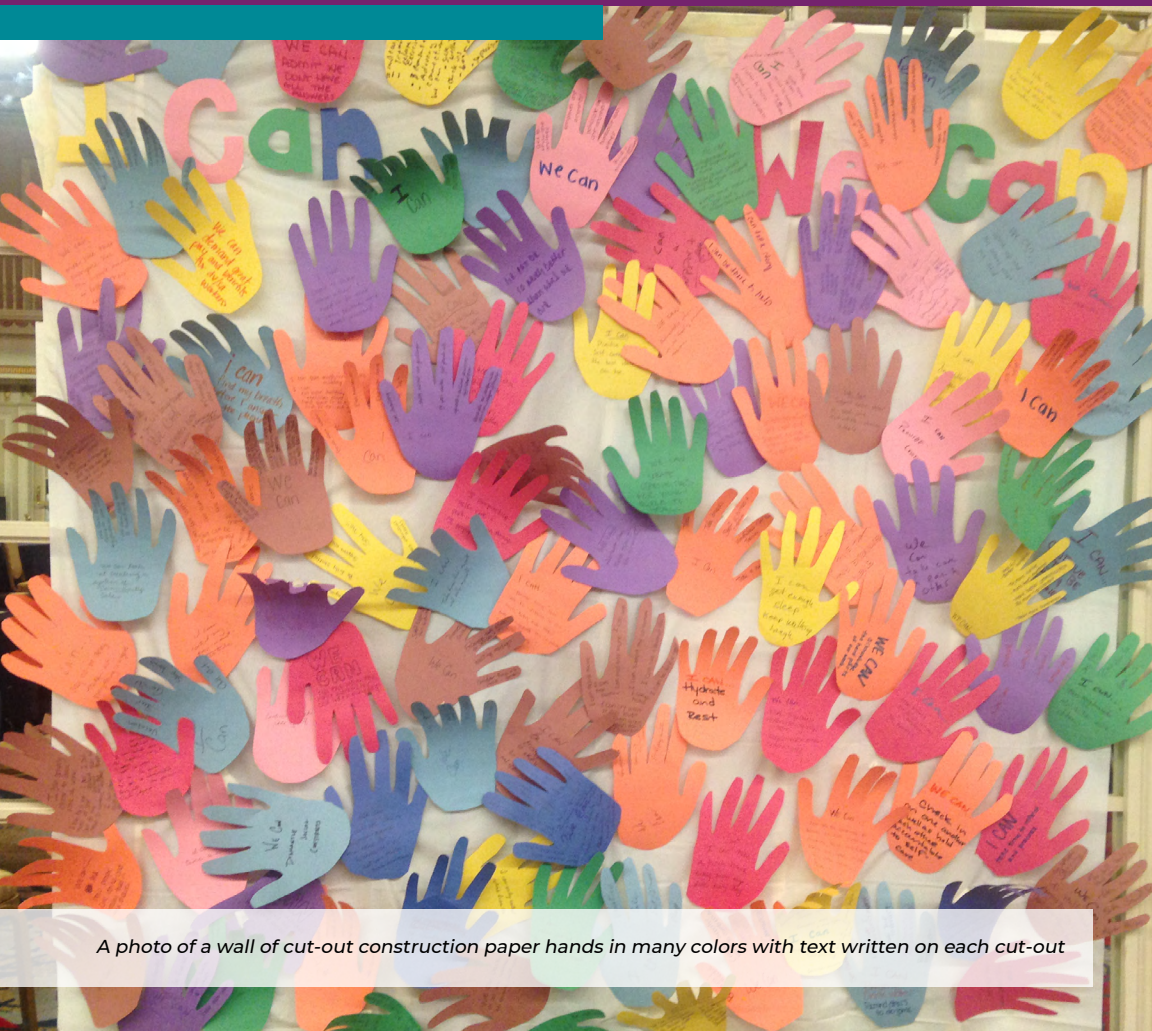
- Programming to develop mentorship programs for men and boys to serve as role models, positive influencers, and change agents in preventing violence against women and girls
- Integrate education on the VAWA crimes into existing programs that are focused on assisting men and boys developing healthy relationships within their families and communities.
- Develop programs for community organizations, businesses, governmental agencies, and schools to incorporate training into their existing work with male clients to prevent violence against women and girls.

In the following section we will highlight some of the innovative and promising practices/programs that have emerged from the work of CYEM grantees.



THE HEART OF THE WORK: CYEM GRANTEES

The heart of the CYEM program are the grantees and the young people they serve. Because grantee projects center the lived experiences of young people in their mission, vision, purpose and impact, grantees have created a variety of innovative strategies to serve communities and create lasting change. To discover all of the CYEM grantees currently funded by OVW please visit servingouryouth.org.



A photo of a wall of cut-out construction paper hands in many colors with text written on each cut-out



Location: Boston, MA

Year(s) Funded: FY 2015; FY 2018

Purpose Area: Creating Safer Communities

Casa Myrna's CYEM work started in FY 2015 with the vision to expand young people's access to healthy relationship education in the Boston area. They were awarded a continuation grant to continue this meaningful work in FY 2018, to expand the body of youth leaders and educators who provide peer-to-peer education in the Boston community.



A photo of four smiling young people from Casa Myrna wearing bright green sweatshirts sitting at a table with a projection on a screen behind them that reads “M+M SHOW Let’s Talk About It”



A photo of a young person in a bright green sweatshirt speaking into a microphone on stage with a projection on a screen behind them that reads "Share on Social Media using #BreakUpSummit"

In Casa Myrna's pursuit to educate young people in Boston on what teen dating violence looks like and empower them with tools to have healthy relationships and be active bystanders in the prevention of the VAWA crimes, they partnered with the award-winning Start Strong Program of the Boston Public Health Commission. Their

CYEM project resulted in what has become a national resource in the field, the web-based video series called *The Halls*. *The Halls* centers Boston youth stories about struggles sifting through relationships, trauma, masculinity, and their own identities. It features young actors and was written in partnership with youth and includes a discussion guide for both seasons of *The Halls*.

Casa Myrna's work in community with youth continued with their FY 2018 award, expanding youth leadership opportunities to provide peer-led education in the Boston community. Casa Myrna continues to work with youth leaders and experiment with new approaches to educating and reaching Boston youth, including event planning, developing new social media strategies, and co-creating educational workshops. Not including the many viewers of *The Halls*, Casa Myrna has reached over 200 area youth with their curricula and youth leadership opportunities.



A photo of a group of twelve smiling young people from Casa Myrna posing together outside in front of a mural on the side of a building with the words "El Rey"

Melrose Alliance Against Violence



Location: Melrose, MA

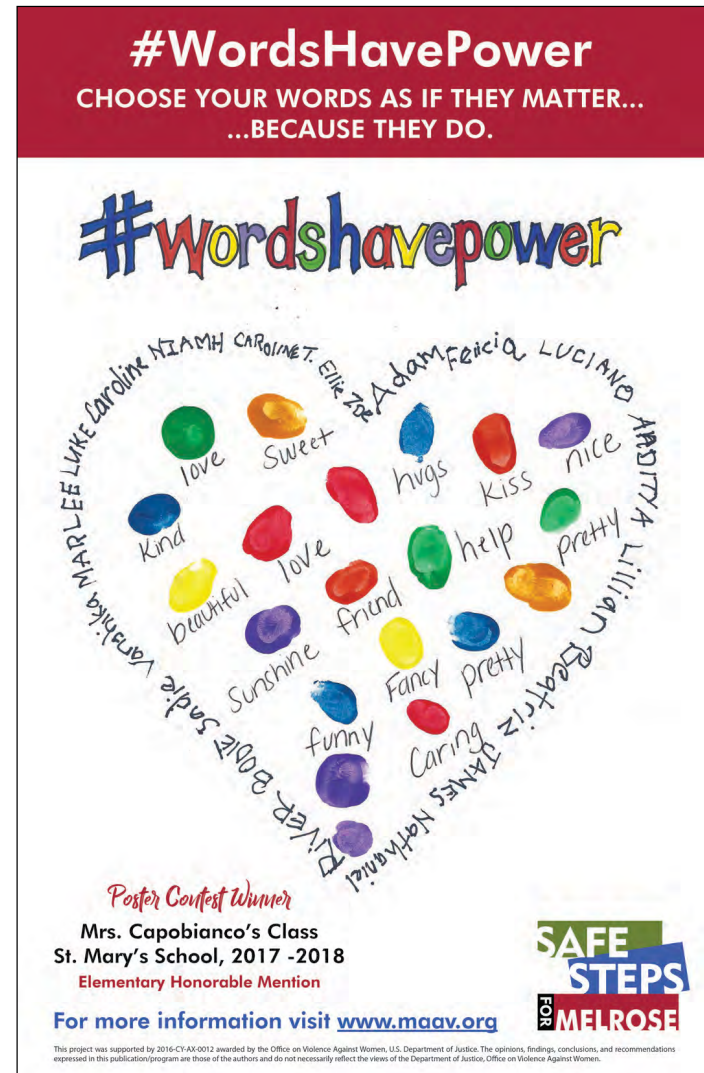
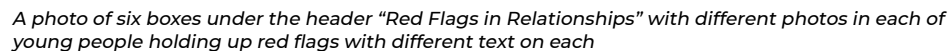
Year(s) Funded: FY 2016

Purpose Area: Providing School Based Services

The Safe Steps for Melrose Project promotes healthy relationships, prevents relationship violence, and supports children and teens impacted by the VAWA crimes in the schools and community. This is accomplished by focusing on increasing community awareness and responsibility, creating safe and responsive environments, educating and engaging youth influencers, promoting prevention programs across grade levels, and supporting children and teens exposed to violence. One of the reasons the project has had great success is that they have youth peer leaders who provide input, ideas, and actions that inform and guide every aspect of the project.

The Safe Steps for Melrose Project started as a partnership between a community-based agency, the Melrose Alliance Against Violence (MAAV), the Melrose Public Schools, and other community organizations. It builds on a previous grant project through OVW called Safe Steps for Teens in which the Melrose Public Schools was the grantee and MAAV was the project partner. The Safe Steps for Teens project focused on school-based services, training, education, and policies to reduce dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking among high

Since the project was implemented, they have seen rates of teen dating violence decrease, according to the biannual Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Additionally, as a result of the project, students, teachers, counselors, administrators, coaches, parents, clergy, police, and healthcare providers have all received education on promoting healthy relationships and preventing abuse among teens.



Under a banner that reads “#WordsHavePower Choose your words as if they matter...because they do.” an outline of a heart is made up of names and filled in with colorful fingerprints with positive words underneath each one

Jewish Women International (JWI)



Location: Washington, DC

Year(s) Funded: FY 2016, FY 2019

Purpose Area: Engaging Men and Boys

Established in 1897, Jewish Women International (JWI) is the foremost Jewish organization working to end gender-based violence and to create gender equity. JWI believes engaging men and boys is a part of the solution to achieving that vision and their work continually encourages them to rethink their perceptions of masculinity.

In their first grant, their greatest success was engaging orthodox Jewish leaders and implementing their project “Boys to Mentsch”. They were able to build the necessary trust within the orthodox community to be allowed to implement a train-the-trainer program with the male leadership to do anti-violence against women work. Building on the work and resources received in their first award, they have been able



A photo of a large group of people from Jewish Women International sitting at tables together in discussion

to expand their prevention programming to college campuses by working with Jewish fraternities. JWI has equipped college students involved in campus Greek life and the Jewish community with skills, resources, and information to be allies and activists, including serving as role models for college bound high school male youth.



A photo of two people from Jewish Women International smiling and posing while wearing shirts with the logo ZBT on them and hats



A photo of large group of people from Jewish Women International posing together in a room under a sign that says "I will find a way or I will make one"

“Change the Culture,” the project title of JWI’s most recent grant, encourages young men to cultivate healthy masculinity, reevaluate societal norms, and build supportive communities through leadership, mentorship, and allyship. Employing the highest values of fraternity culture (leadership, brotherhood, service, and the common-good), this project empowers Jewish fraternity men at the University of Maryland and Towson University to be leaders and active bystanders in ending dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking on campus and beyond.



A photo of room full of people from Jewish Women International sitting around round tables in a room, with several people raising their hands

King County Sexual Assault Resource Center



Location: Renton, WA

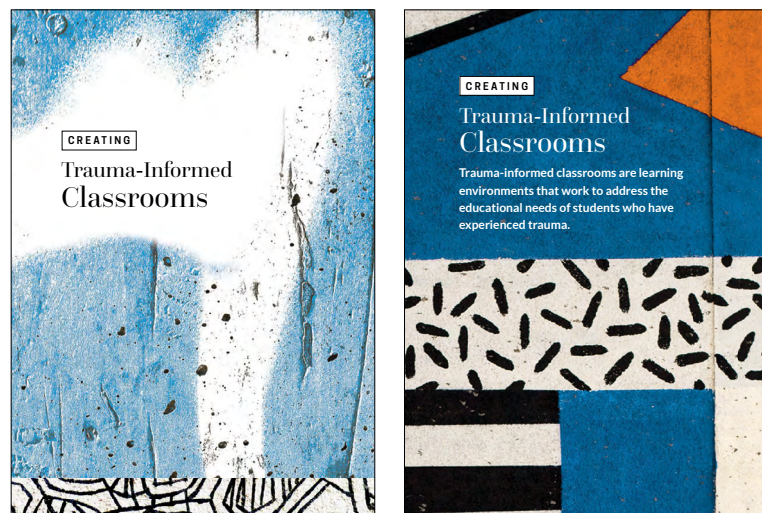
Year(s) Funded: FY 2013, FY 2016

Purpose Area: Creating Safer Communities

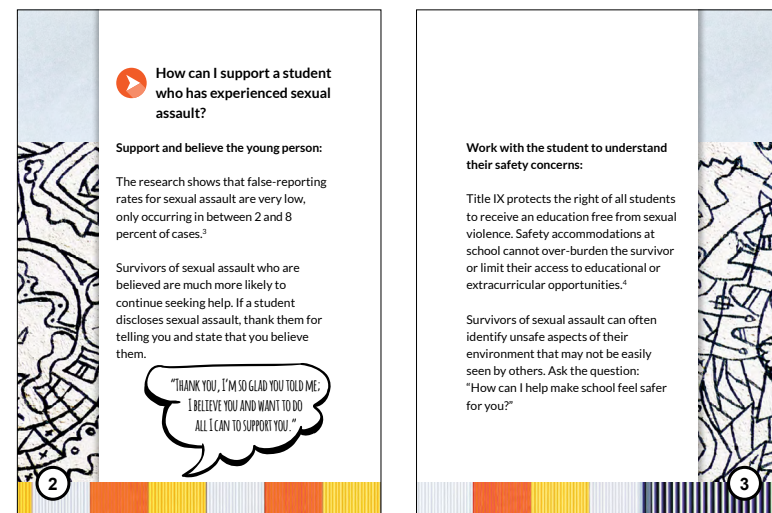
Project360 (P360) focuses on bringing services to youth who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness in the Seattle, Washington area. The King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC) prevention team works in schools and community centers with youth at-risk of violence. This project teaches prevention and connects youth to services. Typical models of providing mental health services have not worked for many homeless serving agencies, so this model was created to meet youth in the places they typically receive other services, such as schools,

homeless shelters, youth drop-in centers, and LGBTQ centers. Youth are paired with a case manager and a therapist who work together to address the many needs of homeless youth. The therapist treated symptoms related to trauma while the case manager assisted the youth with obtaining basic needs such as housing, food, employment, and transportation. This coordinated approach to serving youth increases resilience and reduces the risk of future victimization for in-risk youth. By increasing the ease of accessibility, youth were more willing and more likely to engage in and continue with mental health treatment, victim services, and other resources.

The greatest impact that KCSARC experienced was youth's eagerness to participate in P360 activities and services. As young people see their friends change and improve their sense of self and well-being, they have inspired others to want to engage and participate as well. Additionally, P360 has become a known name in the community among both professionals and youth.



A photo of covers of curriculum books with the text "Creating Trauma-Informed Classrooms" and "Trauma-informed classrooms are learning environments that work to address the educational needs of students who have experienced trauma."



A photo of inside a curriculum book with a header that reads "How can I support a student who has experienced sexual assault?" and a page full of text

YWCA Knoxville

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
Knoxville & the Tennessee Valley

Location: Knoxville, TN

Year(s) Funded: FY 2013, FY 2016, FY 2020

Purpose Area: Engaging Men & Boys

YWCA Knoxville aims to educate young boys through a group mentoring model on how to intervene and prevent violence against women and girls. *GameChangers* is a unique program, conceived by the YWCA Knoxville, that teaches boys and young men about healthy and unhealthy relationships, violence in relationships, skills for speaking out when they witness violence against women and girls, and more. *GameChangers* sets itself apart by using a hands-on, group mentoring model to pair small groups of middle school boys with adult male mentors. By focusing on topics discussed less often, such as healthy masculinity, victim blaming, and bystander intervention skills, *GameChangers* offers a well-rounded and thorough curriculum. Groups meet once a week for 14 weeks. Through strategic partnerships with schools, after-school programs, and youth-serving organizations, *GameChangers* provides boys and young men opportunities to learn lifelong skills, connect with peers, build positive relationships, and form bonds with positive role models in their communities to prevent violence against women and girls.

YWCA Knoxville has seen a great impact in both their community and throughout YWCA's across the country. On a local level, their project partners are pivotal in reaching the youth they serve and have been champions of the program

when talking to parents and youth. *GameChangers* has also been uplifted throughout the larger YWCA organization as a promising program for YWCA chapters across the United States to adopt as part of their regular programming in their local communities.



A photo from YWCA Knoxville of an adult sitting at a desk in a classroom with younger people with the text "YWCA is on a mission to make heroes every day. Join us."



A compilation of black and white photos from YWCA Knoxville with headshots of people and a colored photo of people with a basketball in a gym with the text "Mentor. We are gamechangers."

Project Pave

Location: Denver, CO

Year(s) Funded: FY17, FY20

Purpose Area: Engaging Men and Boys



A photo of a large group of young men sitting in a room at round tables and party streamers hung up looking at Yoal from Street Fraternity, a partner with Project PAVE, speaking at their Phree Expression event - a talent show for participants

Project Pave's vision is for men to perceive and practice masculinity with equity and health to end violence against women and girls. Through the CYEM grant, Project Pave has partnered with Street Fraternity and the Denver Broncos in Denver, Colorado. Street Fraternity is a small grassroots organization that serves the immigrant and refugee community in Denver. It is a safe haven in a tough neighborhood where boys and men can receive a meal, access computers and internet, and utilize a gym, library, and recording studio. This project engages Street Fraternity's male participant population (14-24 years old) in conversations and support around healthy masculinity and ending violence.

Project Pave has had great success in drawing local attention and engagement from men in various sectors. They have mobilized a growing group of men meeting monthly to discuss issues around advocacy and how to influence other men to join the movement. This networking and collaboration promotes community consistency and ongoing cultural transformation. Project Pave has also had the privilege of partnering with the Denver Broncos to provide prevention education to young athletes in the community football league.

Project Pave looks to young people to help them understand that advocacy must adapt to meet participants where they're at. This shame-free approach fosters positive impact and further influences young people to become allies in this work. As a result of this project, more boys and men in their area are connected to resources and support needed for them to be holistically healthy, with the potential to influence other boys and men to transform as well.



A photo of Jalen Love of Project PAVE talking to True Man Participants at Boulder High School in Boulder, Colorado in a classroom with several maps behind him in front of students sitting at their desks



A photo of Derek McCoy of Project PAVE conducting a workshop at North High School around gender socialization and stereotypes with the boy's football team, who are standing at desks

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING MEET THE SERVING OUR YOUTH OVW TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA) TEAM

The Serving Our Youth Team is the comprehensive TA provider that provides technical assistance and training for OVW's Children and Youth & Engaging Men grantee program.

The Serving Our Youth TA team is diverse, responsive, and reflective of the field of grantees in the CYEM program. The TA team believes it is through strong and meaningful partnerships that shared learning and lasting change can occur in communities and nationwide. The TA team leads from a set of values that inform each and every aspect of TA delivery. Our collective values include a commitment to intersectionality, collaboration, transparency, and being change agents, children and youth defined, needs-responsive, and trauma sensitive. These values are woven into every aspect of TA including one on one interactions, cohort meetings, document review, the development of training institutes and events, and the tailored training and support offered to grantees. The TA team has developed, in partnership with OVW, a robust, responsive, and innovative menu of opportunities for ongoing learning and networking for grantees and their project partners.

The Serving our Youth TA team brings over 35 years of direct service, leadership, and national TA and training

experience to their work with CYEM grantees. The TA team has changed and evolved over the years with the Alliance of Local Service Organizations (ALSO) and Men Can Stop Rape as the two organizations that have provided consistent, bold, and change-inspiring leadership to over 90 grantee organizations. ALSO and Men Can Stop Rape are not only leaders in the field, but organizations that are in the field working directly with young people and their local communities.



A screenshot of a Zoom meeting of the members of the Serving Our Youth TA team

ALLIANCE OF LOCAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS



ALSO's mission is to work in partnership with those living in risk of violence to promote safer streets and homes. ALSO possesses 20 years of experience in building local and national connections among non-profit organizations, schools, private industry, churches, law enforcement, government agencies, and community members to prevent violence in the streets and homes of Chicago, Illinois and

communities nationwide.

Through its work at both the local and national levels, ALSO has working knowledge of the challenges local jurisdictions face as they attempt to improve their responses to violent crime, but also maintains a national perspective, with knowledge of emerging issues and promising practices states and local communities can adapt to address their unique needs.

MEN CAN STOP RAPE



Men Can Stop Rape (MCSR), based in Washington, D.C., is widely viewed as the national leader on engaging boys and young men in gender-based violence prevention. The organization continues to mentor boys and young men and successfully mobilize them to prevent men's violence against women, girls, and other men; inspire young men to create their own positive, non-violent identity; develop healthy relationships with others; work in partnership with female peers; and do their part to build safe communities.

The three areas that define MCSR's work – youth development programming, public education, and training and TA – combine to create a comprehensive approach to engaging boys and men in prevention that raises awareness about the costs of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; teaches young men how they can be strong without being violent; and promotes men and boys taking community action.

TYPES OF TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

INSTITUTES: Institutes are opportunities for learning from subject matter experts and each other. They are a way to provide grantees and project partners with additional skills and knowledge to strengthen and enhance their projects and assist toward sustainability of the work in their communities. Institutes offer sessions on both foundational and new and innovative strategies and practices in addressing the needs of children and youth impacted by violence, and engaging men as allies. In addition, institutes are opportunities for grantees and project partners to strengthen their CCR teams, as well as network and develop a larger community of individuals and programs working on common and similar goals.

WEBINARS: Webinars are opportunities for both subject-matter experts, grantees, and project partners to provide training and information about their work. In addition to topic specific webinars led by subject-matter experts, grantees have the opportunity to share their successes through the Grantee Spotlight Webinar series.

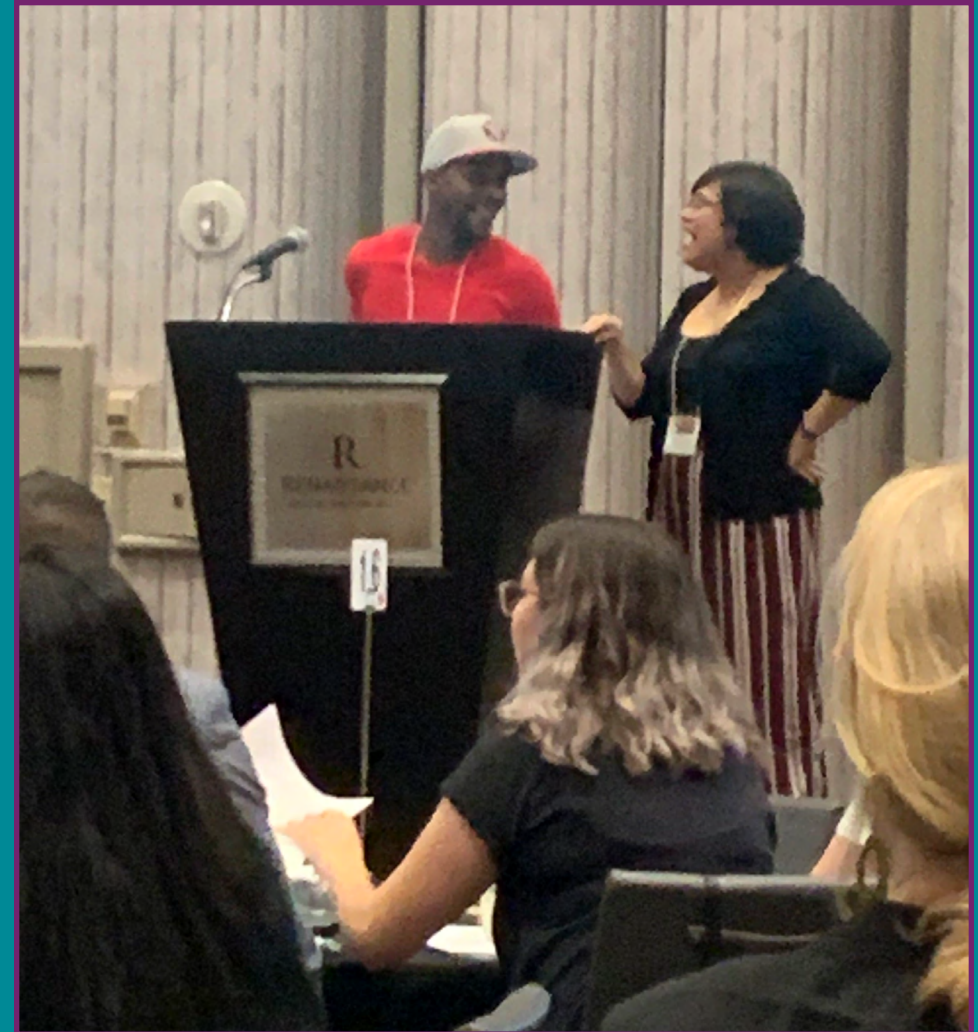
PEER-TO-PEER: Peer-to-Peer opportunities are often topic specific and provide opportunities for grantees and project partners working with similar populations or issues to come together, observe one another's programs, meet with local youth, and spend time learning, problem solving, and growing together. Grantees work with the Serving Our Youth team on developing the agenda and activities for the peer-to-peer events.

LEARNING COLLABORATIVES: Learning Collaboratives are deep dive learning opportunities for grantees and project partners to explore current issues and opportunities related to best serving children and youth exposed to violence and engaging boys and men in prevention. They often entail reading, practicing, exploring, and co-creating solutions to emerging issues in the field. Often the learning in a learning collaborative happens in the process of meeting, building trust, and having brave conversations.

ROUNDTABLES: Roundtables are convenings organized to take on a current issue and/or aspect of working with children and youth or engaging boys and men that are both emerging and persisting in the field. Roundtables bring together grantees, project partners, TA providers, subject-matter experts, and other stakeholders such as victims, survivors, and community members. Roundtable summaries are written and often result in a report or recommendations for the larger field.

ONE-ON-ONE TAILORED SUPPORT: Each CYEM grantee is assigned a primary point of contact from the TA team. The point of contact works with each grantee to provide individualized support based on each grantee's unique needs.

COHORTS: In addition to one on one support, grantees are grouped together by type of projects to learn from and network with other grantees and project partners doing similar work and/or facing similar challenges.



A photo of two CYEM Grantees standing behind a podium in front of people sitting at tables at the 2019 Spring Institute



A photo of a large group of CYEM Grantees and Serving Our Youth team members standing in a circle looking at an individual speaking into a microphone at the 2018 Summer Institute



SERVING
OUR YOUTH

