

## Background checks for teen volunteers

**Q:** Our program has teen volunteers. How can we meet the MCADSV service standards and guidelines regarding background checks when information on juvenile offenders is not always public?

**A:** MCADSV service standards and guidelines require that programs keep a confidential file for each volunteer that includes a background check with the Children's Division of the Department of Social Services, a criminal background check and reference checks. This standard is not meant to prevent programs from allowing teens to volunteer. Programs can request other types of information to help determine if the teen is an appropriate fit for the organization. However, it is important to remember that information on juvenile offenders is not always available to the public. Programs should know that following the steps below does not guarantee that a teen has no history that could cause concern for direct service providers.

1. Programs can and should conduct reference checks of two to three individuals who are non-family members of the teen.
2. The Department of Social Service Children's Division will release reports of minors who are offenders if the victim was in the "care, custody and control" of the minor during the offense. There is no fee to request this background check within the Children's Division, and it should be conducted for teens.
3. Criminal background checks may result in information if the teen was convicted as an adult. A name search costs \$9 and a fingerprint search costs \$20.
4. In 2006, Missouri passed legislation to keep a statewide sex offender registry. Information about offenders who are minors can be released. However, the teen's information will only be included in the statewide registry if the teen was convicted as an adult. Otherwise, programs must contact their local Juvenile Office to inquire if the teen is a registered sex offender.

## alliance opportunities

### MCADSV REGIONAL MEETINGS

Location	Date/Time	Regional Rep.
<b>CENTRAL</b> Jefferson City	Feb. 5 11:30 A.M.	Rita Westermann (417) 533-5201
<b>KANSAS CITY</b> Rose Brooks	Jan. 31 10:30 A.M.	Beth Savitzky (816) 561-0550
<b>NORTHEAST AVENUES</b> Marshall	Mar. 31 10:30 A.M.	Donna Rodenbaugh (660) 642-1418
<b>NORTHWEST</b> Marshall	Feb. 20 Noon	Debbie Wallace (660) 886-9880
<b>ST. LOUIS</b> Safe Connections	Feb. 12 Mar. 11 9:00 A.M.	Melissa Dann (314) 533-1313
<b>SOUTHEAST</b> Cape Girardeau	Feb. 14 11:30 A.M.	Brenda Smelser (636) 931-2700 ext. 196
<b>SOUTHWEST</b> Springfield	Feb. 1 11:00 a.m.	L. Deana Mueller (417) 777-3229

### UPCOMING MCADSV TRAININGS

Date/Time/Location	Information
<b>FOUNDATIONS FOR EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY</b> February 6-7 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Courtyard Marriott, Columbia	MCADSV (888) 666-1911
<b>ADVOCACY IN PRACTICE</b> March 4-5 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Courtyard Marriott, Columbia	MCADSV (888) 666-1911
<b>PARTNERING WITH RELIGIOUS LEADERS</b> April 7 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Courtyard Marriott, Columbia	MCADSV (888) 666-1911



### REGISTER ONLINE

Registration for all MCADSV trainings is online only. Visit [www.mocadsv.org/](http://www.mocadsv.org/) membership to register.

Need your username and password? Call MCADSV at (888) 666-1911.

# the latest

January-February 2008

a bulletin for the members of the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence



## New grant program to provide up to \$4.5 million for domestic and sexual violence services and prevention

On January 3, the Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH) announced a significant new grant program to fund domestic and sexual violence services and prevention. In the first year, MFH plans to provide between up to \$4.5 million to agencies addressing violence against women. The maximum amount each program can receive is \$50,000 a year for three years.

As programs struggle to make ends meet with federal budget cuts and increasing service demands, the MFH Request for Applications (RFA) comes at an opportune time. The unique flexibility of the grant also is significant. Unlike most grant programs, MFH funding will support both direct services (hotlines, shelter, counseling, support groups, hospital advocacy, etc.) and prevention and education (social marketing campaigns, school-based programming, interventions targeted at men and boys, training and advocacy, etc.). The MFH grant allows for the funding to be used to support salaries, indirect or overhead expenses and does not contain a supplanting prohibition. This flexibility gives programs an opportunity to apply for funding that will fill critical gaps in programming and meet the unique needs of their communities and agencies.

Not all Missouri domestic and sexual violence programs can apply for the MFH funding. Programs based in most counties in the Kansas City and Northwest regions are not eligible to receive funding. The reason for this is that the Missouri Foundation for Health formed as a result of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Missouri's conversion from non-profit to for-profit status. Only the City of St. Louis and the 84 counties served by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Missouri can receive funding that has resulted from that conversion. To determine if your program is eligible, please consult [www.mffh.org/grant\\_map.html](http://www.mffh.org/grant_map.html).

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217 Oscar Drive, Suite A  
Jefferson City  
Missouri 65101

(573) 634-4161  
(573) 636-3728 fax  
[mocadsv@mocadsv.org](mailto:mocadsv@mocadsv.org)  
[www.mocadsv.org](http://www.mocadsv.org)

**New student loan forgiveness program benefits non-profit employees**

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 established a new public service loan forgiveness program. This program discharges any remaining debt after 10 years of full-time employment in public service (which include employees of 501c3 tax-exempt organizations). The borrower must have made 120 payments as part of the Direct Loan program in order to obtain this benefit. Only payments made on or after October 1, 2007 count toward the required 120 monthly payments. (Borrowers may consolidate into Direct Lending in order to qualify for this loan forgiveness program starting July 1, 2008.) More information and eligibility requirements can be found at [www.finaid.org/loans/public-service.phtml](http://www.finaid.org/loans/public-service.phtml).

**Continental breakfast will be offered at MCADSV trainings**

Due to rising costs, MCADSV will no longer offer hot breakfasts at its statewide trainings. A continental breakfast will be offered instead. MCADSV apologizes for any inconvenience.

**Regional Legislative Advocacy Days will be held each Tuesday in February**

MCADSV will host Regional Legislative Advocacy Days (RLAD) during February. This event provides participants with the opportunity to meet and speak with their state lawmakers about the need of their programs and communities as well as to familiarize themselves with legislative advocacy.

MCADSV will offer evening and morning training sessions preceding most of the trips to the Capitol. There will be no evening training session preceding the February 12 Regional Legislative Advocacy Day. The training sessions will be at the Coalition office in Jefferson City and will present the same information. The seven MCADSV regions and their corresponding training sessions are scheduled for the following dates. Members unable to attend the date for which their region is scheduled are welcome to attend any of the other three dates.

- ▶ **February 5: St. Louis and Central Regions**
  - Evening training: February 4, 6:30 p.m.
  - Morning training: February 5, 8:00 a.m.
- ▶ **February 12: Northwest and Northeast Regions**
  - Morning training only: February 12, 8:00 a.m.
- ▶ **February 19: Kansas City Region**
  - Evening training: February 18, 6:30 p.m.
  - Morning training: February 19, 8:00 a.m.
- ▶ **February 26: Southwest and Southeast Regions**
  - Evening training: February 25, 6:30 p.m.
  - Morning training: February 26, 8:00 a.m.

MCADSV members can register for RLAD at the Coalition's Web site, [www.mocadsv.org/membership](http://www.mocadsv.org/membership).

MCADSV members' voices and visits during Regional Legislative Advocacy Days are critical to the success of MCADSV's public policy advocacy. Legislators are much more likely to support legislation and increased funding for domestic and sexual violence services if they believe and hear that these issues are important in their own communities. Contact MCADSV staff at (888) 666-1911 with any questions or for directions to the Coalition office.

**Final federal budget for fiscal year 2008 includes some increases in VAWA programs; VOCA cut by \$35 million**

In December 2007, the U.S. House and Senate passed the final appropriations bill for the 2008 federal fiscal year. While the bill includes increases for many programs under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), it also includes a \$35 million cut in the Victims of Crime Act Fund (VOCA).

VAWA programs that received increases in funding include: STOP Grants (for a total of \$8.8 million), Transitional Housing (\$2.6 million) and Services for Rural Victims (\$1.6 million). New programs funded include: Services for Children Exposed to Domestic Violence (for a total of \$2.8 million), Services for Teens (\$2.8 million), Engaging Men and Youth in Prevention (\$2.8 million) and the Sexual Assault Services Program (\$9.4 million).

While the VOCA cuts will be felt across the country, the reductions in actual dollar figures for Missouri's VOCA funds are still unknown. The Coalition will keep members apprised of this information as it becomes available. MCADSV and other national partners already are working on a strategy to restore this funding in the 2009 budget. In the coming months, the Coalition will need the help of Missouri advocates to let the state's federal delegation know how critical VOCA—and the other un- or under-funded programs of the Violence Against Women Act—is to the work to end violence against women.

Watch for federal legislative action alerts on the Coalition's listserv. For more information on national public policy goals to address violence against women, visit [www.nnedv.org/legislative-priorities/](http://www.nnedv.org/legislative-priorities/).

**MCADSV members elect 2008 Board of Directors; Board chooses officers**

The MCADSV Board of Directors voted on officers for 2008 in January. The 2008 Board officers are: Chair, Sharon Meusch; Vice-Chair, Brenda Smelser; Secretary, Jim Clardy; and Treasurer, Debbie Wallace.

**Regional Representatives**

- Central:** Rita Westermann, COPE, Lebanon
- Kansas City:** Beth Savitzky, KCAVP, Kansas City
- Northeast:** Donna Rodenbaugh, CARDV, Fulton
- Northwest:** Debbie Wallace, The Lighthouse Shelter, Marshall
- St. Louis:** Melissa Dann, St. Martha's Hall, St. Louis
- Southeast:** Brenda Smelser, A Safe Place/COMTREA, Festus
- Southwest:** L. Deana Mueller, Polk County House of Hope, Bolivar

**New Members**

- Judy Edmonson,** AVENUES, Hannibal
  - Tina Malinowski,** Rose Brooks Center, Kansas City
  - L. Deana Mueller,** Polk County House of Hope, Bolivar
- Continuing Members**
- Ebony P. Brabham,** St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office
  - Kim Carroll,** YWCA Shelter, St. Joseph
  - Jim Clardy,** RACS, Jefferson City

- Erin Ercoline,** ALIVE, St. Louis
- Kathleen Hanrahan,** YWCA St. Louis Regional Sexual Assault Center
- Jennifer Hill,** Haven House, Poplar Bluff
- Joyce Karrenbrock,** Turning Point, Warrenton
- Philip Masaoay,** Legal Services of Southern Missouri, Springfield
- Bridgette D. Mavec,** Newhouse, Kansas City
- Sharon Meusch,** Russell House, Rolla
- Susan Miller,** Rose Brooks Center, Kansas City
- Palle Rilinger,** MOCSA, Kansas City
- Barb Tenholder,** A Safe Place, Festus
- Jelena Todic',** AWARE, St. Louis