



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Criminal Justice Services

The Honorable Jackson H. Miller
Director

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To: Criminal Justice Services Board Executive Committee
From: Kristina Vadas, Victims Services Manager
Date: July 10, 2025
Re: Sexual Assault Services Program, Modified Award for STEPS

STEPS is a multi-service organization serving residents of Amelia, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Lunenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward Counties. STEPS started providing sexual and domestic violence services in this multi-county region in the early spring of 2024 after another provider closed its doors.

In August of 2024, STEPS received a 12-month award from DCJS in the amount of \$80,858 to provide victim assistance services for sexual assault survivors, utilizing Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) grant funds¹. The end date for their award is August 31, 2025. DCJS would like to extend STEPS's grant period by 15 months and add additional funds to their award in the amount of \$100,255, which will support their sexual assault services for this period.

This extension will put STEPS on a grant period schedule with all other DCJS SASP grants, which are calendar year grants. STEPS's new SASP grant end date will be 12/31/2026.

STEPS has made great strides in establishing sexual assault services in their service area. Since September 2024, utilizing SASP funds, STEPS has served 28 primary victims and 14 secondary victims of sexual assault. STEPS has provided hospital accompaniment, court accompaniment, transportation to court and medical services, crisis intervention, safety planning and counseling services. Additionally, STEPS has conducted 17 outreach activities to inform their service area of the supportive services they provide.

In summary, DCJS staff **request approval to modify STEPS's SASP award by adding funding to support an additional 15-month period (9/1/2024–12/31/2026), totaling \$100,255.00**, using federal SASP funds allocated for this purpose.

¹ The purpose of the Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) is to support the establishment, maintenance, and expansion of rape crisis centers and other nongovernmental or tribal programs and projects to assist individuals who have been victimized by sexual assault. Funds may be used for the provision of direct services. SASP funding originates from the U. S. Federal Office on Violence Against Women.