



VISION OF HOPE FUND Open Call for Letters of Inquiry ~ FY 2012-2013

About the Vision of Hope Fund

The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) established the Vision of Hope Fund in 2005 to battle child sexual abuse through the promotion of critical research, effective prevention strategies, teaching adult responsibility and accountability, and supporting crisis response services to children who have been sexually victimized. The Vision of Hope Advisory Council was chaired by Former PA First Lady Michele Ridge from 2005 through 2009. Mrs. Ridge continues to serve on the Advisory Council. In 2009, Dr. Wanda Filer succeeded Mrs. Ridge as the Chair. For a complete listing of advisory council members and more information about Vision of Hope, go to www.theirhope.org.

Vision of Hope Fund Purpose – Eliminating Child Sexual Abuse

The Vision of Hope Fund supports activities in three critical child sexual abuse program areas: Prevention, Protection, and Intervention. The emphasis is on engaging research, development, and implementation of “*best practices*”. Best practices embody evidence-based solutions designed to eliminate sexual violence against children and ameliorate its effects on individuals and our society. Sexual violence against children is/includes:

- **Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act definition:** The employment, use, persuasion, inducement, enticement, or coercion of any child to engage in, or assist any other person to engage in, any sexually explicit conduct or simulation of such conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct; or the rape, statutory rape, molestation, prostitution, or other form of sexual exploitation of children, or incest with children.
- **Pennsylvania Statute:** An act or failure to act by a perpetrator that causes sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of a child under age 18; any recent act, failure to act, or series of such acts or failures to act by a perpetrator that creates an imminent risk of sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of a child under age 18. Sexual abuse or exploitation means the employment, use, persuasion, inducement, enticement, or coercion of any child to engage in or assist any other person to engage in any sexually explicit conduct or any simulation of any sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing: any visual depiction, including photographing, videotaping, computer depicting, or filming of any sexually explicit conduct. The rape, sexual assault, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, aggravated indecent assault, molestation, incest, indecent exposure, prostitution, statutory sexual assault, or other form of sexual exploitation of children.

- **NSVRC/PCAR definition:** Any sexual contact between a child and an adult (or older child) that results in sexual stimulation and gratification for the adult or older child. Child sexual abuse may include rape, incest, sodomy, indecent assault, sexual touching or fondling of the child's genitals, exposing children to adult sexual activity, exposing the child to adult movies and photographs (pornography), sexualized talk, having the child pose, undress, or perform in a sexual nature, voyeurism, and prostitution.

Funding Priorities

PCAR/NSVRC, through the Vision of Hope Fund, welcomes grant proposals that address the following funding priorities:

Prevention

Efforts that focus on identifying, replicating, and disseminating best, evidence-based practices that will inform and support the work of diverse stakeholders and communities of practice at all levels across a spectrum of prevention. Such efforts include:

- Evaluating the appropriateness and efficacy of existing treatment procedures and protocols commonly used with abused children and their families
- Conducting reviews of current research literature and studies and synthesizing results that identify models of best practice
- Translating current theory, research and practice into practical recommendations to support the prevention of child sexual abuse

Protection

Supporting initiatives and innovative strategies that provide adults with the knowledge and tools to recognize risk factors or signs of abuse and learn to become the interveners and protectors of children. Areas of strategic focus include:

- Reducing child sexual abuse through adult-based education and public awareness
- Providing adults with information to prevent, recognize and respond responsibly in the face of child sexual abuse
- Shifting responsibility for child sexual abuse prevention from children to adults
- Motivating adults to move beyond bystander behavior to become active protectors of children

Intervention and Treatment

Efforts include crisis intervention and therapy to help young victims of sexual violence recover. Equally critical are efforts to identify and disseminate the most effective treatment interventions in helping young victims recover. Activities in this area include:

- Providing training for children's crisis advocates and counselors in cutting-edge treatment strategies such as trauma-focused play therapy
- Disseminating effective, family-focused intervention treatment modules and parent/child therapy protocols to professionals working with families where a child has been sexually abused
- Promoting parenting training in households at high risk for child sexual abuse
- Investing in offender-focused interventions such as the treatment of juvenile sex offenders

Guidelines

The proposal process includes two stages:

1. Open call for **Letter of Inquiry** – letters must be submitted to PCAR by November 1, 2011 (see Additional Information for mailing address)
2. Invitation for select applicants to submit a full **Grant Proposal**
 - Applicants who are invited to submit a full Grant Proposal will be notified by November 30, 2011 and provided further guidelines.
 - Deadline for full grant proposal to be submitted to PCAR is January 5, 2012.

All Applicants must submit a Letter of Inquiry. Letters will be reviewed by PCAR/NSVRC staff and members of the Vision of Hope Advisory Council. A limited number of applicants will be invited to submit a full grant proposal.

A total of \$50,000 is available to fund one or more projects during FY 12-13. Awards are contingent on the availability of funding and are subject to approval of the PCAR/NSVRC Chief Executive Officer.

One-year grants will be awarded. The grant is for activities to be conducted during the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

Eligibility of Applicants

Eligible applicants include public agencies (including state agencies, units of local government, public universities and colleges) and private organizations (including faith- and community-based organizations) conducting grant activities, including 501(c)(3), LEA (local education agencies), individual researchers or research organizations.

Applicants must provide documentation of 501(c)(3) determination, and be registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations or able to provide a description of the reason they are exempt from BCO registration.

Joint applications from two or more eligible applicants are welcome; however, one applicant must be clearly indicated as the primary applicant (for correspondence, award, and management purposes) and the others indicated as co-applicants.

Applications are encouraged from researchers and evaluators in all relevant disciplines, using traditional or innovative methodological strategies. Multi-disciplinary research collaborations, as well as collaborations between researchers and community programs, are strongly encouraged. If the research is collaborative, written assurances of the collaboration must be provided. Similarly, when specific programs or agencies are the subject of an applicant's research or evaluation, the application should include letters of commitment or cooperation from the relevant program or

agency. Applicants must demonstrate that they have experience or ability related to the type of research or evaluation they propose to conduct.

Research that demonstrates collaboration among multiple disciplines and between researchers and practitioners is encouraged.

Additional Information

- The RFP is issued by the Vision of Hope Fund of PCAR. The Vision of Hope Administrative Assistant is the primary point of contact for any questions. Please submit your letter of inquiry to the following:
Patti Gilbert
PCAR
125 N. Enola Drive
Enola, PA 17025
717-728-9740 ext. 150
pgilbert@pcar.org
- This is a competitive process. Not all applications will be funded and applications that are funded may not be funded at the requested levels.

Letters of Inquiry Formatting

Letters should include:

- Brief description of your organization
- Project goals
- Primary activities, including how your project reflects the mission, goals, and priorities of the Vision of Hope Fund
- Measurable outcomes
- Funding amount requested

Letters should use the following format:

- 12 point font size
- 1 inch margins on all sides
- Typed and single-spaced in Times New Roman font
- Maximum 3 pages (numbered)
- Saved in Microsoft Word or PDF format