



A project of the New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault

## **New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault Sexual Assault Demonstration Initiative**

### **New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NYSCASA)**

The New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault is a private, nonprofit coalition of community-based rape crisis programs that deliver free, confidential sexual assault crisis intervention services in every county. These programs also provide sexual violence prevention activities in several counties, primarily in New York State's most densely populated areas. Our mission is to end all forms of sexual violence and exploitation, and we also work to address the impacts of sexual assault and abuse. We advocate for policy/systems changes, provide training and technical assistance, serve as a clearinghouse of information, develop and distribute resources, offer consultation, and provide pass-through funding to rape crisis programs.

### **What is the Sexual Assault Demonstration Initiative (SADI)?**

Roughly one decade ago, the National Resource Sharing Project (RSP) established the Sexual Assault Demonstration Initiative (SADI) to address the challenges dual/multi-service programs face in reaching sexual assault survivors. SADI provided tailored resources, support, and replicable tools to enhance sexual assault outreach, services, and community partnerships in dual/multi-service programs. Six sites across the nation engaged in a multi-year process of assessment, planning, and implementation of new and enhanced services and organizational capacity building. The RSP SADI lessons learned and tools developed have informed efforts in the field, and several state sexual assault coalitions have adapted these materials to convene smaller-scale SADI projects within their states. NYSCASA now joins this group.

To learn more about RSP's SADI, go to:

<https://www.resourcesharingproject.org/sexual-assault-demonstration-initiative-0>.

### **What are the benefits of being a SADI site?**

Sites that participated in the RSP SADI and in state-based SADI projects were surprised by what they learned about the services they provide. As a result of their participation in the SADI projects, they strengthened their capacity to meet the needs of sexual assault survivors in their communities. Community and organizational assessments will shape plans and strategies that are relevant to the local contexts. SADI sites will receive in-depth customized assistance, peer learning opportunities, and related support.

Programmatic outcomes of the SADI include:

- Knowledge learned from the community and organizational assessments
- Site-specific plans for enhancing sexual assault services
- Increased numbers of sexual assault survivors served
- Broader reach of sexual assault survivors served
- Integration of active listening and trauma-informed approaches into sexual assault services
- New group-based services to support healing from trauma
- Increased community outreach focused on sexual violence
- Development of multilingual and culturally specific services

Organizational outcomes of the SADI include:

- Increases in perceived effectiveness of services and work with systems
- Increased confidence for providing services, advocating in systems, and identifying sexual violence
- Shared responsibility for providing sexual assault services
- Clearer organizational identity as a provider of sexual assault services
- New and revised policies and protocols to support sexual assault services

### What is the timeline for NYSCASA’s SADI?

NYSCASA anticipates convening three 20-month cohort periods during 1/1/21-12/31/25:

Month	Activity	Cohort Period 1	Cohort Period 2	Cohort Period 3
1	Application Phase	1/1/21-2/28/21	9/1/22-10/31/22	5/1/24-6/30/24
2				
3	Cohort Kickoff	3/1/21-3/31/21	11/1/22-11/30/22	7/1/24-7/31/24
4	Assessment Phase	4/1/21-7/31/21	12/1/22-3/31/23	8/1/24-11/30/24
5				
6				
7				
8	Plan Development Phase	8/1/21-12/31/21	4/1/23-8/31/23	12/1/24-4/30/25
9				
10				
11				
12				
13	Plan Implementation Phase	1/1/22-6/30/22	9/1/23-2/28/24	5/1/25-10/31/25
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19	Lessons Learned	7/1/22-8/31/22	3/1/24-4/30/24	11/1/25-12/31/25
20				

During each 20-month period, NYSCASA will offer three different cohort groups:

- a. one focused on strengthening sexual assault services and outreach
- b. one focused on fortifying sexual violence prevention activities
- c. one focused on mitigating vicarious trauma in professionals addressing sexual assault

We also will convene a cohort focused on developing student activists on campuses to respond to sexual violence. While that project will use a similar model, the cohort participants, timeline, and activities will vary enough from the three cohorts described above to warrant its own set of informational and application materials.

During the application phase, NYSCASA will distribute the invitation to organizations to apply to become a SADI site for one or more of the specific cohorts. We will review the applications, and select five SADI sites for each of the four different cohorts. NYSCASA will announce the SADI sites and hold an orientation meeting for the selected sites to kick off each cohort.

### **Who can apply to become a SADI site?**

Any New York State-based organization delivering sexual assault crisis intervention and/or sexual violence prevention services in New York State is eligible to apply.

Organizations interested in participating in Cohort A (focused on strengthening sexual assault services and outreach) must be a dual domestic violence/sexual assault agency or another multi-service agency.

### **What is required of the SADI sites?**

In each cohort, participants will be challenged to think critically about their agency perception in every community in their area, assess dynamics in their agencies, listen to communities and their needs, and, most importantly, enhance services to be reflective of the communities they serve. This journey will be based on the principles of community growth, critical reflection and introspection, an inclusive and equitable framework, and action driven.

Expectations of the SADI sites support successful outcomes and include:

- a willingness to be open to self-examination and change
- participation of one staff member who is in a leadership, decision-making position and one staff member who is in a frontline sexual assault intervention or prevention position in monthly activities (additional staff may participate)
- review/use of information/materials provided by NYSCASA
- participation in a 15-minute check-in call each month
- collaboration with NYSCASA during each phase of the cohort
- participation in a 1-2 hour activity each month (e.g., in-depth one-on-one technical assistance call, collective peer learning call, or training presentation)

- equipment/technology needed to participate in videoconference calls, webinars, and other virtual meetings (e.g., computer with webcam and internet access)

During the assessment phase with Cohorts A-C, NYSCASA will share census data and work with each SADI site to identify one or two populations to focus on for additional data collection. We will conduct, or we will assist the SADI sites to conduct, interviews and/or focus groups with community members. This information will drive the next phase.

During the plan development phase, NYSCASA will help each SADI site identify areas of opportunity to strengthen their work internally and externally. We will provide training, technical assistance, and resources that respond to the issues identified in the assessments.

During the plan implementation phase, we will assist sites with reviewing and updating organizational policies and practices related to sexual assault. We will collaborate to create and implement strategies to increase community awareness of agencies' sexual assault services.

Each cohort will culminate with a celebration of achievements, followed by sharing of lessons learned with the field.

Cohort activities will be conducted virtually until further notice. Once in-person events become safe again, we will reconsider holding an in-person meeting for cohort members. If we convene an in-person meeting, we will be able to provide travel stipends to support attendance.

### **How can I become a SADI site?**

Those who are interested in participating in one or more of the cohorts must complete the online application. The application questions are on the next page for reference only.

- Application released: January 13, 2021
- Information meeting: January 28, 2021, 2-3pm
- Application deadline: February 10, 2021
- Notification to participants: March 3, 2021
- Cohort 1 project period: March 2021-August 2022

### **How will applicants be selected to become SADI sites?**

Applications will be reviewed by a committee, and we will be making selections for each cohort based on individual, organizational, and geographic factors. For example, for the prevention-focused cohort, we are looking to work with five sites within a single region during each cohort. For all other cohorts, we are looking to work with one site from each of the state's five regions during each cohort. We will consider the individual and organizational attributes of applicants and how those strengths can promote their own and other cohort members' successes.

**Questions:**

If you have questions, please contact Josie McPherson, Senior Director of Systems Advocacy, [jmcperson@nyscasa.org](mailto:jmcperson@nyscasa.org) , 518-482-4222 x315

**New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Sexual Assault Demonstration Initiative Application**

**Note: The information below is included for your reference.**

**Applications must be submitted using this form:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F3S8T5Z>

**Provide your contact information.**

Name of Organization:

Organization Address:

County(ies) Covered:

**Check all that apply.**

My organization is interested in participating in the following cohort(s):

- a. strengthening sexual assault services and outreach
- b. fortifying sexual violence prevention activities
- c. mitigating vicarious trauma in professionals addressing sexual assault

**Provide frontline staff contact information for the cohort(s) for which you are applying.**

	Cohort A (SA services)	Cohort B (SV prevention)	Cohort C (vicarious trauma)
Name			
Title			
Email			
Phone			

**Provide leadership staff contact information for the cohort(s) for which you are applying.**

	Cohort A (SA services)	Cohort B (SV prevention)	Cohort C (vicarious trauma)
Name			
Title			
Email			
Phone			

**Provide a brief answer to the following questions.**

What is your program philosophy about sexual violence and how is sexual violence prioritized in your organization?

Please provide a summary of the sexual assault services your program currently provides.

Please provide a summary of your program's sexual violence prevention activities.

How does your program work to meet the diverse needs of all survivors, particularly survivors from marginalized communities?

How does your program address vicarious trauma?

Explain your main focus for participating in a cohort.

What does your outreach and engagement plan look like right now?

Explain if and how you have utilized data to assess and evaluate sexual assault services, as well as any outcomes.

What does community mean to your organization, and how do you build community within your organization?

What changes do you hope to see in your program as a result of your participation in this initiative, and how will you measure those changes?

**Note: The information above is included for your reference.  
Applications must be submitted using this form:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F3S8T5Z>**