

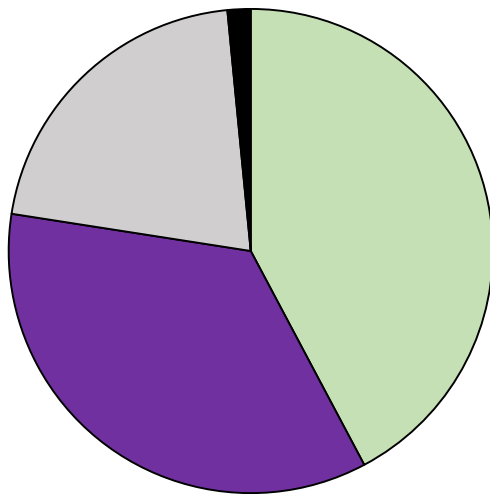


# New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Working for a World Without Violence.

## 2017 Annual Report

### 2017 NYSCASA EXPENSE SUMMARY



- Rape Crisis Programs \$661,428
- Training, Advocacy & Other Personnel \$551,684
- Other Grant Expense \$328,874
- Non-Grant Expense \$24,141

### NYSCASA THANKS ITS 2017 BOARD:

President Raini Baudendistel • Vice President Phillip Burse • Treasurer Stacey Jones • Secretary Dee Levy • Directors Sarah Tubbs, Graciela Heymann, and Inaudy Esposito

### NYSCASA THANKS ITS 2017 DONORS:

Holly Akins; Luis Aponte; Pam/John Carrol; Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region; Ajanta Daval; Kevin Devine; Luke Haseloff; Dee Levy; Christopher Long; Abigail Murray; Tides Foundation; and Joan Tiska.

### NYSCASA THANKS ITS 2017 MEMBERS:

In addition to our 81 member rape crisis programs located throughout New York State, as well as the NYSCASA Board of Directors, the following individuals and organizations became NYSCASA members in 2017: Bonnie Allen; Denise Ascencio; Heather Austin; Phillip Burse; Ashley Casey; Janenny Cervantes; Heather Cruz; Lisa Feldman; Janice Harrison; Tia Jimenez; Tamara Kenney; Evelyn Kohr; Sandra Lahrache; Malcolm Lasky; Shamecca Legette; Dee Levy; Renee Paser-Pauli; Indira Singh; Toni Spera; Emmett Stoffer; Kevin Sustad; Joan Tiska; Sarah Tubbs; Dennis Tyson; Valerie Wasilewski; and Alaina Wilson.

### NYSCASA THANKS ITS 2017 STAFF:

Joanne Zannoni, Executive Director • Tobi Downing, Associate Director  
 Chrys Ballerano, Senior Director of Collaboration and Training  
 Josie McPherson, Senior Director of Systems Advocacy  
 Sandra Siciliano, Senior Director of Finance and Human Resources

Selena Bennett-Chambers, Public Policy Director  
 Michelle Carroll, Campus Projects Director  
 "Sam" Sujathi Mitchell, Human Resources Director  
 Agnes Pala-Bukhala, Senior Director of Prevention

Eirik Bjorkman, PREA Outreach Director  
 Sarah Podber, Prevention Director  
 Sana Abdelkarim, SASP Director  
 Ariela Perez-Wallach, Special Projects Director

One of NYSCASA's biggest successes (and challenges) of 2017 was our *Weaving a World Without Violence: Transformative Possibilities* conference. Attendees said:

*"As a survivor, being in a space and conference that authentically brought survivors to the forefront was encouraging, energizing, and felt very meaningful."*

*"The last panel helped give me a sense of direction . . . I so often leave conferences with more questions and feelings of overwhelm/stuckness. But this panel left me feeling more capable of going out and doing the work proactively."*

*"One of the best conferences I've ever attended in the last 10 years."*

The entire NYSCASA team, along with our partners, The Social Justice Center and Holding Our Own, worked very hard to bring a worthwhile event to you. NYSCASA will continue to build on this momentum, and our team looks forward to demonstrating our new bold vision as we move forward together.

### MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*Joanne Zannoni*

## EXTRA CHALLENGES SERVING INCARCERATED VICTIMS

The PREA Project continues to grow and gain sustainability through critical conversations and increased understandings. The respect and working relationships of NYSCASA's member programs and the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision speaks volumes to the efforts of everyone involved. Partnering to be able to deliver services to the 77,000+ people in New York State prisons takes the professional work that crisis centers have been established in doing into a whole new area; one where the clients have many more limitations and fewer options than the average community client. In June, rape crisis center representatives met with Corrections administration to gain a better understanding of how the work can be done professionally and collaboratively. That meeting has strengthened the relationships between the programs and over half the prisons in the state. The PREA Institute, held in September 2017, highlighted the collaboration, brought together presenters from Just Detention International and other sexual assault coalitions, and presented to DOCCS an Art Therapy workshop for trauma survivors. The groundwork for the program to have a truly statewide reach is well laid, and the work's tone has been established as one of mutual respect, communication, and understanding.

## POLICIES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Public Policy Director Selena Bennett-Chambers explains why the project she leads is so crucial: *"This project allows me to engage decision makers, policy makers, and other officials around what it truly means to support survivors and how important the programs are that serve survivors. It also allows me to engage state agencies around the impact of their policies on survivors and how they can improve their policies and services to be more survivor centered. I see this project as a way to incorporate survivors' voices so that policies and laws can be more responsive to their needs and help to create the cultural change necessary to prevent violence in the first place."*

## STRENGTHENING SYSTEMS RESPONSE

NYSCASA remained committed to anti-oppression work including caucus work, building an advisory board made up of organizations that serve culturally specific and marginalized groups, and increasing our collaboration with other organizations that are doing the work but may not be at the table. We hosted webinars regarding working with indigenous populations, forensics reimbursement, and working with the transgender community. We also continued our work with the Women of Color Network, as they engaged our staff in anti-racism efforts.

## CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT RAMPANT

NYSCASA's campus work is dedicated to partnering with rape crisis center advocates, college administrators, and law enforcement to support the development of trauma-informed and victim-centered prevention and response policies in New York's universities. In August 2017 NYSCASA's New York State Campus Consent Consortium (NYSCCC) partnered with the Campus PRISM Project to offer a unique two-day Restorative Justice training to rape crisis center advocates, New York State agency professionals, and Title IX coordinators. This training gave attendees an understanding of how restorative justice practices could be utilized with college populations. In January 2017, the NYSCCC launched several working groups for its members to speak directly with other professionals in their fields regarding the implementation of New York State's Education Law 129 B (also known as "Enough is Enough"). The advocate-only group offered advocates an opportunity to ask candid questions of one another, while the Title IX coordinator group offered professionals from universities across the state to connect on current topics such as developing campus climate surveys.

## SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES PROGRAM (SASP)

In 2017 NYSCASA'S SASP awarded \$607,429 to 46 rape crisis centers to provide direct services to victims and survivors of sexual assault throughout New York State's 62 counties. This included multilingual services to underserved communities. In 2017, SASP supported rape crisis centers in providing services to 1,186 survivors.

## SEXUAL VIOLENCE PRIMARY PREVENTION

NYSCASA continued to provide significant pass-through funding and technical assistance to two rape crisis center prevention pilot projects who are engaged in innovative and evidence-informed prevention work. With this support, in 2017, these pilot projects provided sexual violence prevention training to over 1,700 members of their communities, including youth, incarcerated individuals, staff at schools and youth-serving organizations, parents, and military personnel. Additionally, NYSCASA hosted several prevention-focused workshops at its September 2017 *Weaving a World Without Violence: Transformative Possibilities* conference, largely focused on systemic, community-based, and intersectional approaches that center the voices of marginalized survivors and communities. Workshop topics offered to the nearly 200 conference attendees included: organizational approaches to preventing sexual violence in disability services; uplifting and engaging marginalized communities in anti-sexual violence work; centering the wisdom and leadership of adult survivors of child sexual abuse; sexual violence prevention through a racial justice framework; and community-building.

## TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE HERE AND ABROAD

In November the Building Connections: Sexual Assault and Mental Health Project worked with a panel of interfaith community counselors to provide a learning collaborative, *Healed People Heal Communities*, in Schenectady. The event, attended by 95 people, focused on intergenerational trauma and resilience of individuals and families. Strong Oak Lefebvre facilitated a healing circle practice. Food Not Bombs provided lunch. First United Methodist was the sponsoring venue for the event. In addition, Senior Director of Collaboration and Training Chrys Ballerano received and accepted an all-expenses-paid invitation from Initiative for the Child in Greece (yes, in Europe!) to present at their conference.

NYSCASA received support from: the New York State (NYS) Department of Health; NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services; NYS Office of Mental Health; and Grant No. 2015-SW-AX-0022 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), US Department of Justice Office. *The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of any funder.*