

WHY RAPE CRISIS CENTERS NEED FUNDING FOR PREA

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What is PREA?

PREA, The Prison Rape Elimination Act, is a federal law that responds to the Bureau of Justice information that 200,000 inmates were sexually abused in 2012 (JDI, "How Detention Facilities Can Stop Sexual Abuse Behind Bars" 2013). PREA seeks to decrease sexual assault in prison and increase safety for inmates to report sexual assaults.

What does PREA require for Rape Crisis Centers (RCC)?

PREA requires collaboration between correctional facilities (CFs) and local rape crisis centers (RCCs) in order to provide inmates access to "outside confidential support services." The CF must provide inmates survivors of sexual assault a toll-free hotline number and must "enable reasonable communication between inmates and these organizations and agencies in as confidential a manner as possible." PREA §115.53.

The CF "shall maintain or attempt to enter into memoranda of understanding or other agreements with community service providers that are able to provide inmates with confidential emotional support services related to sexual abuse."

PREA' requires RCCs to set aside staff resources to:

- Create, negotiate and enter into an MOU with however many CFs are in the RCC's service area (the RCC for ABQ has 7 CFs in its service area).
- Train the CF staff on sexual assault
- Assist in creating a hotline for inmates and a **safe** process for inmates to use the hotline
- Create and/or participate in a "sexual assault response team" (SART) to develop protocol and systems responses within the CF for sexual assault reports, responses and prevention
- Urge the CF to provide trauma-informed advocacy and trauma-informed systems
- Prepare the RCC for inmates coming out of the CF who have been sexually assaulted
- Provide a system for RCC advocates to safely work within the CF
- Assist the CF in problem solving to reduce barriers to providing services to sexual assault victims, including determining the appropriate scope of services, logistics for services, policy development necessary to provide safety in services, liability concerns, compliance with reporting requirements, safety planning, and training

RCCs need funding to create an infrastructure for these specialized services:

- a) Hire additional and specifically trained advocates to:
 - a. Work in CF with specialized safety and confidentiality training
 - b. Respond to CF hotline calls, letters
 - c. Facilitate SANE exams
 - d. Participate in collaboration efforts, including SART
 - e. Train CF staff and administration and be trained by them

- b) Need: 1 FTE per RCC → 10 FTE @ \$75,000 each = \$750,000