

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN FEDERAL FUNDING AND “BY AND FOR” AGENCIES.

2023 VOCA CONFERENCE

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AGENDA

- Why supporting culturally specific services matters
- Barriers for culturally specific services
- Bridging the Gap
- The National Center for Culturally Responsive Victim Services



Ujima Inc.

The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community, also known as Ujima Inc., serves as the national, culturally-specific services issue resource center to provide support to and be a voice for the black community in response to domestic, sexual and community violence.



SCESA

The National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault (SCESA) is an advocacy organization of Women of Color dedicated to working with our communities to create a just society in which all Women of Color are able to live healthy lives free of violence.





**SUPPORTING CULTURALLY
SPECIFIC SERVICES MATTERS**



INCREASED RISK



Nationally, the risk of becoming a victim of serious violent crime for Black people has remained roughly 1.5-2x greater than white people over the past four decades and risks for Hispanic people have been roughly 1.2-1.5x greater than those of white people.



DISPARATE RATES OF VIOLENCE

During 2010-2015, non-Hispanic American Indians reported rates of serious violence that were approximately 2.4x (or 140%) greater than those of non-Hispanic white people, and persons who report multiple race backgrounds reported rates of about 4.1x (or 310%) greater.



PERCEPTIONS



Adults perceive Black girls as less innocent than White girls at as young as 5–9-years-old.

-Georgetown Law Center on Poverty

BIAS, TRAUMA, AND VULNERABILITY



- Implicit and Explicit Bias in Systems' Response and Service Provision Impacts Survivor's Ability to Access Services
- Intersectionality = Vulnerability

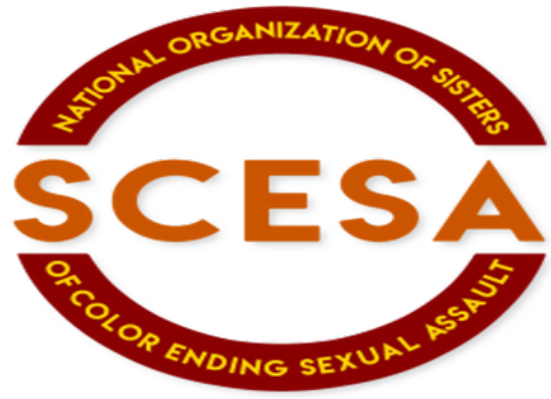
Multigenerational trauma together with continued oppression

+

Absence of opportunity to heal or access the benefits available in the society

=

Increased Vulnerability



An [October 2021](#) study found that “Black Americans are incarcerated in state prisons across the country at nearly five times the rate of whites, and Latinx people are 1.3 times as likely to be incarcerated than non-Latinx whites.”

-The Sentencing Project





According to [a 2014 report](#) on racial discrimination in America, juveniles of color represented 67 percent of “juveniles committed to public facilities nationwide,” nearly twice their share of the juvenile population.



The poverty rate for Black and Latin@ Americans is more than double that of non-Hispanic Whites.

-The Federal Safety Net



SECTION 1: BARRIERS FOR CULTURALLY SPECIFIC ORGS





Principle of Ujima

- Ujima - collective work and responsibility
- No community is safe when the most vulnerable remain at-risk of victimization
- Personal safety is needed for community safety





Meeting the Needs of Black Survivors

- Traditional services can serve as a barrier to healing
- Oppression, implicit/explicit bias, and racial loyalty/collectivism





The Role of the Legal System

- Interaction with systems responders
- Lack of empathy in the legal system
- Racism and stereotypes





The Need for Accessible Culturally Specific Services

- Survivors need culturally specific services that are rooted in the realities of the survivors they serve
- These organizations remain significantly under-resourced





Barriers to

Access

- No common understanding of how to implement culturally specific responses for victims/survivors of color
- Institutional bias remains
- Culturally are misunderstood and often used interchangeably
- Culturally specific organizations lack equal access to funding
- Racial bias is often conflated with class and socio-economic status





Need for Funding

- Culturally specific organizations are underfunded and disconnected from traditional resources
- Limited organizational capacity and barriers to accessing TTA opportunities
- Doing "more with less" with maximum flexibility
- Limited experience with managing federal/state/local funds





Hierarchy of Needs

- Culturally specific organizations also struggle with a hierarchy of needs
- Bias, oppression, and systemic racism often take priority over a community physical and emotional safety
- This phenomenon reinforces a sense of racial/cultural allegiance over personal safety for victims/survivors





Lifting the Veil

- The criminal legal system is not always the safest place for communities of color
- Linkage of VOCA funds to the criminal legal system can become a point of contention





The Need for Culturally Specific National TTA Providers

- Deficit of national organizations that are culturally specific
- Need for victim/survivor centered TTA
- The default for many funders is often to "staff up" the programs that exist





Considerations for VOCA State Administrators:

- We can not address the disparate experiences of violence without addressing root causes
- Longstanding discriminatory and biased policies have left some communities of color more vulnerable
- Programming, policy, and approaches must be grounded in the cultural realities of the community and reflective of the healing practices that are germane to the victims/survivors being served
- Investing in culturally specific organizations that are led by and for communities of color is a critical strategy





SECTION 2: BRIDGING THE GAP

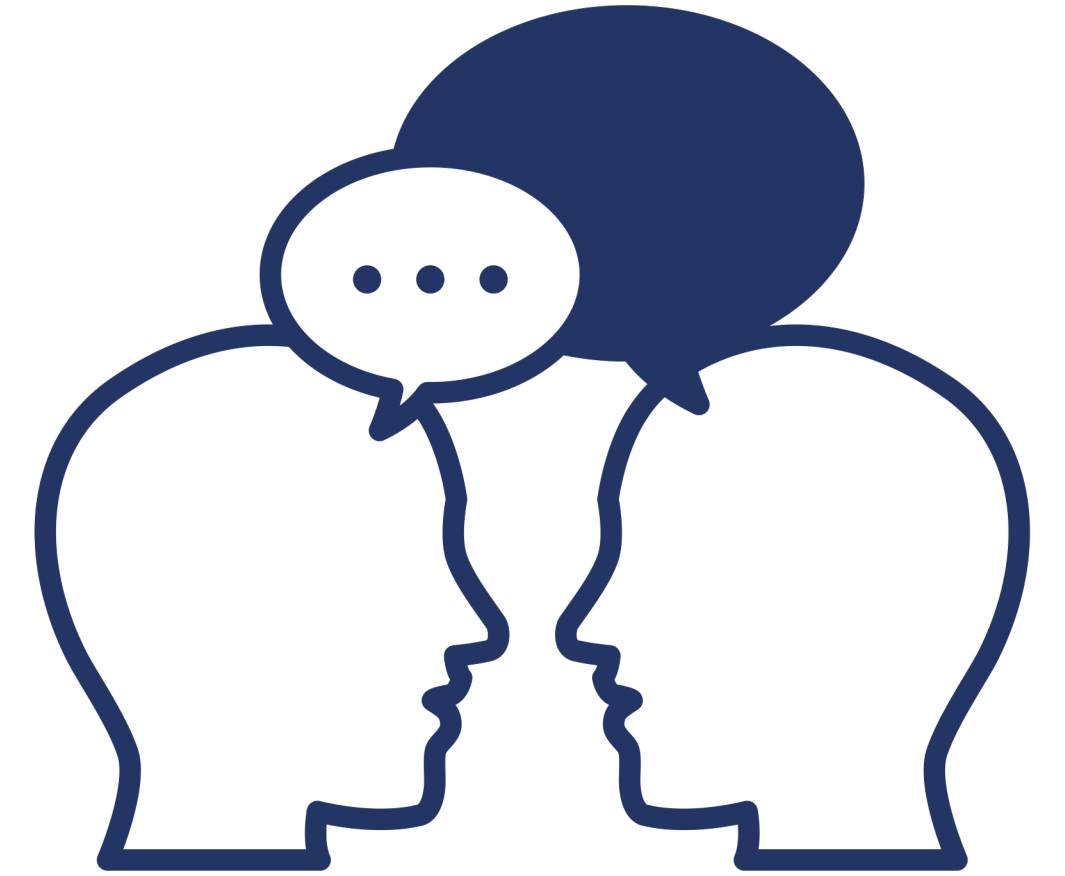
What can VOCA Administrators do to better connect with communities of color?



ON-SITE OUTREACH



LISTEN



INVEST TO BUILD TRUST



RESEARC

H



CONNECT WITH GRASSROOTS ADVOCATES





BE OPEN TO
SUPPORTING
INNOVATIVE EFFORTS



BE ACCESSIBLE





CONNECT WITH NATIONAL CULTURALLY SPECIFIC TA PROVIDERS



SECTION 3:

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE VICTIM SERVICES



WHO WE ARE

ABOUT UJIMA

Launched in 2015, Ujima, Inc.: The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community (Ujima, Inc.) serves as a national, culturally-specific services issue resource center to provide support to and be a voice for the Black Community in response to domestic, sexual, and community violence.

Ujima was founded in response to a need for an active approach to ending domestic, sexual, and community violence in the Black community. Ujima recognizes the diversity of the Black community and defines it as the African Diaspora in its broadest sense, e.g., African Americans (descendants of slaves and freedmen in the U.S.), African immigrants, Afro-Caribbeans, and Afro-Latinos/as.

OUR VISION

To create a world where Black women and girls are valued, respected, safe, and free from violence.

OUR MISSION

- Mobilize the community
- Respond to and end violence
- Serve as a resource to survivors of violence, advocates, service providers, and the community at large.





WHO WE ARE

ABOUT SCESA

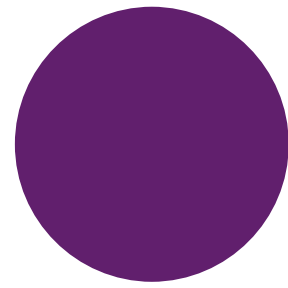
The National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault (SCESA) is a Women of Color led non-profit committed to ensuring that systems-wide policies and social change initiatives related to sexual assault are informed by critical input and direction of Women of Color.

As a national advocacy organization, SCESA utilizes a multi-strategy approach of leadership development and support for Women of Color; advocacy and support for organizations by and for Communities of Color; as well as technical assistance, training and advocacy regarding sexual assault in Communities of Color.

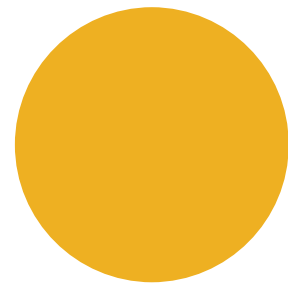
OUR MISSION

- To ensure that the realities of our communities inform systems change and public policy initiatives at the national level that impact/intersect with sexual assault.

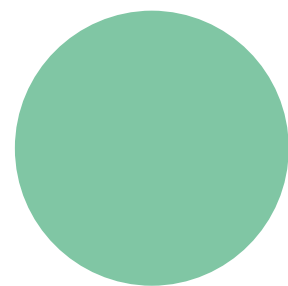
OUR AREAS OF FOCUS



Domestic Violence



Sexual Violence



Community Violence



PRIMARY GOALS

Promote racial equity in victim services and compensation by enhancing the organizational and programmatic capacity of culturally specific victim services organizations

Provide comprehensive TTA to advance services to victims of crime from culturally specific communities

Build the capacity and infrastructure of culturally specific victims services in communities of color





WHAT DOES THE CENTER DO?

- Develop a Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis
- Convene Subject Matter Consultant Pool
- Convene Alana Working Circle
- Host Sunrise Series Listening Sessions
- Conduct Onsite Visits and Consultations in Community and with VOCA Administrators
- Develop National Report Highlighting Lessons Learned
- Host Knowledge Institutes for Culturally Specific Organizations
- Develop Quarterly Webinars
- Host National Conference

How Can VOCA State Administrators Use The Center?

- Bias and Equity Training
- Onsite Training and Technical Assistance
- Capacity Building for Culturally Specific Orgs.
- Reaching Culturally Specific and Underserved Communities
- Statewide/Strategic Planning
- Community/Statewide Focus Groups
- Knowledge Institutes



The National Center on Violence Against
Women in the Black Community

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Q&A