



Advancing an Adult & Child Survivor-Centered Approach

Request for Applications for Research and Capacity Building Projects

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When is the application deadline?

All applications must be received by **September 29, 2017**, by 11:59 EST

Applicants should email their application to Wendy Gutierrez at WGutierrez@futureswithoutviolence.org. Please include "QIC-DVCW Application" in the subject line of the email.

Who can apply?

State, county and tribal child welfare agencies are eligible to apply. The QIC-DVCW's has a strong emphasis on collaboration, and therefore child welfare agencies are strongly encouraged to partner with a domestic violence agency or state coalition as a co-applicant for the project. Applicants who do not have a domestic violence partner agency as a co-applicant will be considered, but will need to justify their decision in their application. See the Request for Applications for information about additional required partners.

A state child welfare office is eligible to apply, however, the state level partnership would still need to identify two county or local child welfare offices that serve two different communities to test the intervention. See Scope of a Research and Capacity Building Project on page 10 of the RFA.

Domestic violence agencies are eligible to apply with a public child welfare agency partner, but not as the sole applicant.

Can agencies outside of the U.S. Apply?

No. Unfortunately we are limited to working with projects within the United States.

Can a city child welfare system or agency apply to the QIC-DVCW?

Yes.

Can a child welfare agency apply with more than one domestic violence program co-applicant?

Yes.

Can two county child welfare agencies apply as one project?

Yes.

What support will a Research and Capacity Building Project (RCBP) receive if selected?

Substantial training and technical assistance (T/TA) to:

- Strengthen and build collaborative capacity of child welfare, dependency courts, domestic violence and DV offender intervention programs, and other community partners to address the needs of families involved with child welfare who are experiencing DV
- Develop policy and practice in child welfare, domestic violence programs for survivors and offenders, and in other community-based programs to support these families
- Strengthen judicial and dependency court leadership to be responsive to their needs and circumstances
- Enhance responses of domestic violence, DV offender intervention and other community-based organizations to provide trauma-informed, culturally relevant, developmentally appropriate services and supports for children and families involved in the child welfare system who are experiencing DV
- Begin to examine disparities in DV practice, and access to services.

Financial support for personnel, evaluation and capacity building strategies. The QIC-DVCW can support RCBPs with funds through direct contracting with individuals and organizations to further project goals and to support evaluation activities. RCBP funding will be in the range of \$125,000 - \$150,000 per year, over four years.

Participation in a Learning Community with the QIC-DVCW, other RCBPs, and interested researchers, practitioners and organizations who share a commitment to this work.

What are the time frames for the RCBPs?

RCBPs will be selected in October, 2017. The QIC-DVCW will work with RCBPs on implementation planning between Nov 2017 and Mar 2018 . RCBPs will receive technical assistance (TA) in developing implementation plans (including logic models, research methodologies, evaluation plans, etc.) and will work with Futures Without Violence in finalizing mutually binding contractual

agreements during this time period. RCBPs will begin implementation in April 2018. Dependent on continued federal funding, projects will continue through September 2021 with 12-month budget periods.

What are RCBPs required to demonstrate in the application?

- A plan for developing an RCBP structure that will facilitate implementation and evaluation, and sustain the project through completion.
- Commitments from required collaborative partners: DV programs that serve survivors; DV offender or responsible fatherhood programs, or other programs that serve fathers; and jurisdictional dependency courts.
- Ability to create and support organizational processes to sustain collaborative child welfare and domestic violence practice development with key partners.
- Ability to make practice enhancements to serve families involved in the child welfare system who are experiencing domestic violence.
- Existence of domestic violence practice guidance for child welfare staff of the RCBP.
- Collaboration between child welfare and domestic violence fields.
- Use of family-centered child welfare practice.
- Capacity to actively support, facilitate, and complete tasks required to implement rigorous outcomes, implementation, and cost studies, including direct data collection.
- Child welfare use of, or willingness to develop the capacity for, on-going domestic violence consultation.
- Commitment to examining and addressing disparities in practice, access to services and resources, and outcomes for families.

What are the research questions that will guide the work of the RCBPs?

The QIC-DVCW evaluation will address four interrelated research questions:

1. Does a **collaborative, adult and child survivor-centered approach** -- that includes safely engaging and establishing accountability of the DV offender -- improve adult and child survivor safety, child permanence, and child and family well-being for child welfare involved families experiencing DV?
2. For **which families, and in which social contexts**, does an adult and child survivor-centered approach improve these outcomes?
3. What **factors are associated with successful implementation and sustainability** of an adult and child survivor-centered approach?

4. What are the **costs associated with the implementation and maintenance** of an adult and child survivor-centered approach, and how do these compare to the costs of "practice as usual"?

What are the roles and responsibilities of RCBPs in the evaluation process?

Evaluation activities supported directly by the QIC-DVCW include funding, developing, and administering web-based surveys of child welfare caseworkers and supervisors, and field surveys of survivor parents served by each RCBP's child welfare agency. In addition, the QIC-DVCW will help support the RCBP's efforts to participate in the evaluation through the provision of technical assistance and data collection support.

In order to facilitate data collection, RCBPs will be asked to complete a number of evaluation-related tasks:

- Designate a staff person to serve as the primary point of contact for the evaluation.
- Provide access to available subject-level administrative and program data from participating agencies and organizations (e.g., child welfare agencies, dependency courts, domestic violence providers)
- Facilitate implementation of rigorous evaluation methods, including random assignment of study participants (e.g., families, caseworkers) and direct data collection.
- Where needed, modify existing agency policies, protocols, and procedures to facilitate implementation of data collection and other evaluation-related tasks.
- Provide estimates of costs associated with collaboration, adult and child survivor-centered practices and service enhancement.
- Establish business associate agreements and data use agreements with the evaluator.

Can you be more specific about what the QIC-DVCW evaluation TA would provide, and what will be expected of RCBPs that might be managed by a “supplemental evaluator”? Would you envision that person as part- or full-time? Is there a scenario where an RCBP would not need a supplemental evaluator?

The evaluation-related tasks that an RCBP would be expected to accomplish are outlined in the FAQs and the RFA. Applicants should determine whether they have existing staff capacity to facilitate the accomplishment of those tasks — whether by one person or through shared efforts by several people. While the QIC-DVCW does not anticipate these tasks to constitute a full-time position, they will require time and effort from RCBP staff. These tasks are likely to be more time-intensive in the first year of the project when randomization, case assignment and other procedures will need to be established, data sharing agreements executed, IRB approvals obtained, and so on. Whether or not a site chooses to supplement existing staff to support

evaluation and data collection efforts, the QIC-DVCW evaluators will still need a single point of contact with whom they can communicate regularly, and who has the authority to facilitate completion of the tasks described. The QIC-DVCW will provide technical assistance on any aspect of evaluation or data collection that a Project requires.

What types of data collection are anticipated?

RCBP evaluations will incorporate a variety of data collection methods, data sources, and study participants. Although these may vary somewhat depending upon goals and capacities of each RCBP, applicants should anticipate that the following types of data, and data collection procedures, will be used in the evaluation:

- Child welfare agency administrative data describing child and family service outcomes, service receipt, and program costs
- Federally required child welfare administrative data (i.e., AFCARS and NCANDS datasets)
- Web-based surveys of child welfare caseworkers and supervisors
- In-person computer-assisted interviews of survivors, survivors' partners, and/or children
- Qualitative interviews or focus groups of child welfare caseworkers, supervisors, and managers; survivors; survivors' partners; and/or community partners (e.g., DV advocates, batterers intervention programs, juvenile and family courts)

Applicants should note that the QIC-DVCW will also be conducting a cross-site evaluation of RCBP results.

What is the application process?

Required elements:

- Submit an application that addresses each area listed in *Application Requirements* (at Attachment 1 of the Request for Applications) by 11:59 p.m. EDT on September 29, 2017 to Wendy Gutierrez at WGutierrez@futureswithoutviolence.org. Please include “QIC-DVCW Application” in the subject line of the email.
 - Applications should not exceed 20 pages (double-spaced, font size 12, 1 inch margins). Supplementary materials do not count toward the 20 page limit.
- The QIC-DVCW selection committee reserves the right to schedule follow-up phone meetings with applicants to ask specific questions based on the review of the application.

Optional elements:

- Participate in a webinar to ask questions of QIC-DVCW partners to inform the development of the site’s application on **September 1st, 2017** from 2-3:30 pm EDT; 1-2:30 pm CDT; noon – 1:30 pm MDT; 11 am – 12:30 pm PDT; 10 – 11:30 am AKDT; 8– 9:30 am HST. [Register Here](#)

- Submit a brief Letter of Intent to Apply on agency letterhead, and include a point of contact. **Submit by midnight EDT September 8, 2017** to Wendy Gutierrez at WGutierrez@futureswithoutviolence.org. Please include “QIC-DVCW Letter of Intent to Apply” in the subject line of the email.

Selected RCBPs will be notified by October 30, 2017.

Who do I contact if I have any questions?

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