

Good morning everyone,

I am writing to update all Elder program grantees on the status of the revision of the semi-annual progress report form.

As you know, the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) revised the progress report forms for all Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant programs to reflect statutory changes made by VAWA 2005 and suggestions from grantees and the Muskie School to improve the clarity of questions and instructions and to ensure greater accuracy in the reporting process. OVW submits all progress report forms, including all revisions and extensions to currently approved forms, to the Executive Office of the President, Office on Management and Budget (OMB), for approval in connection with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

OVW had hoped that the revised form for the Elder Program would be approved and ready for use for the current reporting period; however, we only recently received OMB approval and are still in the final stages of making the form available on GMS. Therefore, we will not be able to post the new form on GMS by June 30, 2009, the end of the current reporting period.

OVW requests that all Elder Program grantees delay reporting on activities for the January 1 through June 30, 2009 until we post the form on GMS. OVW will notify all grantees when the new version of the semi-annual progress report form is available for reporting on GMS. It is imperative that you keep your contact information up-to-date so that we can notify you as quickly as possible once the revised form becomes available. We anticipate that the form will be available by July 15.

If you have any questions, please contact me. The Muskie School staff also are available for technical assistance on the form. You may e-mail them at vawamei@usm.maine.edu or call their technical assistance line at 1-800-922-VAWA (8292). Please remember that any questions about the GMS system should be directed to 1-888-549-9901.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation in this process of providing critical data to OVW and to Congress regarding the valuable work you are doing with VAWA funds.

Sincerely,

Janice