



AmeriCorps Victim Assistance Program

Helping Survivors Through Community Service

What is the AmeriCorps Victim Assistance Program (AVAP)?

The AmeriCorps Victim Assistance Program (AVAP) is a multi-agency collaboration designed to address critical service needs in our communities and justice systems by ensuring services and education are available to victims of domestic and sexual violence, stalking and human trafficking throughout New Hampshire, and promoting community service and a lifetime commitment to volunteerism. AVAP is part of AmeriCorps, a national service program that offers opportunities to Americans who are interested in making a substantial commitment to serve their country through national service.

AVAP members serve at the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence's 12 crisis centers and criminal justice system agencies in New Hampshire, where they provide critical direct services to individuals and families impacted by domestic and sexual violence. AVAP members strive to empower survivors and receive special training to help survivors overcome the significant barriers that financial abuse poses to accessing safety and stability.

Since 1994, AVAP members have assisted over 45,000 victims and survivors. Whether seeking a restraining order, creating a safety plan, or providing financial literacy and assistance in securing safe, stable and affordable housing, AVAP members work with individuals to end the cycle of violence. They engage in a variety of interventions with victims such as assisting adult and child victims through civil and criminal court proceedings by offering information, support and referrals to meet victims' needs.

Economic Empowerment

Financial abuse occurs in 99% of domestic violence cases (Adams et al., 2008, 563) and is a primary reason victims find themselves unable to leave their abusers. AVAP members are trained and supported throughout their service year on providing financial literacy and economic empowerment services to survivors. Members will facilitate economic empowerment workshops, assist with victim's compensation applications, support survivors in financial safety planning, administer the Allstate Matched Savings Program, educate volunteers on the impact of financial abuse, and continue to develop the program's work in meeting the needs of survivors.



It's been so incredibly humbling to be able to work with a client throughout their time here, having them come in their lowest point and being able to see them not fully heal but making steps – seeing them come out stronger than they were before and being able to help them rediscover the voice that they already knew they had.

-Shivani, AVAP Member





What do AVAP Members do?

AVAP members provide a variety of direct services to meet the needs of survivors and their families:

Crisis Center Advocate:

- Provides financial literacy sessions and referrals to services that will assist those seeking to gain financial independence
- Provides housing services and referrals to safe, affordable housing
- Assists in obtaining restraining orders and offering support at legal hearings
- Provides confidential support to survivors and answers crisis hotline calls
- Accompanies survivors to the hospital, police department, criminal proceedings and social service agencies
- Participates in public outreach and education to community organizations and agencies
- Facilitates support groups and workshops for survivors

Criminal Justice System Advocate:

- Refers victims to local crisis centers and social service agencies
- Educates the victim and witness about the criminal justice system
- Provides information on the victim's compensation program
- Provides information, resources, and referrals on housing and housing assistance
- Providing information on financial literacy and referrals to meet literacy needs
- Informing the victim and witness of case status, procedure and hearing or trial dates
- Supports and assists victims in preparing victim impact statements
- Collaborates with community partners to offer financial literacy sessions and workshops in the community

How to Apply

Scan the QR Code or visit nhcadsv.org/AVAP to access the application. Email your completed application to emily@nhcadsv.org



AVAP Benefits

- Weekly living allowance
- Health insurance*
- Childcare (if eligible)*
- Segal education award can be used for student loans or future educational expenses
- Student loan forbearance and loan interest accrual coverage
- Excellent training and professional development throughout the service year
- Opportunity to enter the field of victims' services with a cohort of new advocates

*Only available to full-time members

Where AVAP Members Serve

AVAP Members are placed across NH in the following locations:

- Claremont
- Concord
- Conway
- Durham
- Epping
- Keene
- Laconia
- Lebanon
- Nashua
- Manchester
- Milford
- Plymouth
- Portsmouth
- Rochester

