

"Health Act" continued from page 1

This important legislation builds on the work of my administration, particularly the efforts of the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), Donna Shalala, to develop a truly national commitment to end disparities in health through research, training, and data gathering. Under Secretary Shalala, HHS committed to eliminate disparities in health by race and ethnicity by the year 2010. Eliminating disparities will require additional research and new approaches, but in the process of addressing the health needs of our most vulnerable populations, we will improve the nation's health care system for everyone. This act was made possible through the bipartisan efforts of the Congress; a multiracial coalition of leaders in public health, business, education, and charitable foundations; and my administration.

"The elimination of health disparities will require a comprehensive effort, involving both the federal government and the private sector"
William J. Clinton

The act creates a National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This center will fund research programs on health disparities and minority health; support training of members of health disparity populations as researchers; and provide education loan relief for health professionals who commit themselves to perform health disparities research. The center will also coordinate all NIH research efforts in this area. The center promises to help all Americans who bear the burden of health disparities regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, or geographic location.

This legislation also authorizes the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to conduct and support activities and research to measure health disparities and identify causes and remedies. In addition, it authorizes the Health Resources and Services Administration to support research and demonstration projects to train health professionals

on reducing health care disparities.

I would like to thank many individuals who helped develop and pass this landmark law, particularly Senators Kennedy, Frist, Jeffords, and Hatch, as well as Representatives Thompson, Lewis, Jackson Jr., Watts, Norwood, Strickland, Brown, Bilirakis, Christensen, Towns, Rodriguez, Underwood, and Roybal-Allard. I also would like to acknowledge the diligent efforts of Secretary Shalala; David Satcher, the Surgeon General; Ruth Kirschstein, principal deputy director of NIH; and the many others who worked tirelessly to bring this legislation forward.



The elimination of health disparities will require a comprehensive effort, involving both the federal government and the private sector. The federal government must continue to make measurable progress against diseases and conditions that are major contributors to health disparities, and our commitment to health disparities research must ensure that new knowledge generated in federally supported laboratories and clinics benefits all of our citizens. We must also ensure that there is a diverse health care and research workforce in the future by making efforts to attract and train a generation of scientists and health care professionals who are prepared to dedicate themselves to helping eliminate health disparities.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON
THE WHITE HOUSE,
November 22, 2000.

Mending the Sacred Hoop Newsletter December 2000 Technical Assistance Project

Mending the Sacred Hoop S.T.O.P. Violence Against Indian Women Technical Assistance Project
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Mending the Sacred Hoop Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1 December 2000

Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education Act of 2000 STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release November 22, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign into law S. 1880, the "Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education Act of 2000." This Act will enhance biomedical and behavioral research on minority health and health disparities, support medical training for minorities and others, and improve the study and collection of data regarding minorities and other populations.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FOR INDIAN TRIBES

The Violence Against Women Act of 2000

Debra Gee
Tribal Legal Counsel, Violence Against Women Office

The Violence Against Women Act of 2000, signed by the President on October 28, 2000, improves legal tools and programs addressing domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The act reauthorizes critical grant programs created by the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 and subsequent legislation, establishes new programs, and strengthens federal laws. The following information highlights many of the important changes and improvements included in the act that affect Indian tribes.



Full Faith and Credit

- Prohibits states and tribes from requiring notification (to the perpetrator) of the registration of an out of state or tribal protection order, unless the victim requests the notification.
- States that registration and/or filing cannot be a prerequisite for enforcing out of state or tribal orders of protection.
- Clarifies that tribal courts have full civil jurisdiction to enforce orders of protection.

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"VAWA" continued from page 1

Amendments to Domestic Violence and Stalking Offenses

- Amends the interstate domestic violence and stalking offenses to clarify the elements of these offenses and to improve effective prosecution of these crimes.
- Expands the interstate stalking law to include interstate cyberstalking and adds entering or leaving Indian country to the interstate stalking offense.

Grants to Indian Tribal Governments

- Increases the set aside for tribes under the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program from 4% to 5% and creates a 5% set aside for tribes under the Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies Program, the Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grant Program, the Civil Legal Assistance Program and new Safe Havens for Children (supervised visitation) Program.



Dating Violence

- Defines "dating violence" as violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim. The existence of such a relationship is determined by the following factors: 1) length of the relationship; 2) type of relationship; and 3) frequency of interaction between the persons involved.
- Adds "dating violence" to several of the purpose areas under the Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies Program, the STOP (Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program, the Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grant Program, and the Grants to Combat Violent Crimes Against Women on Campuses Program.

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program

- Reauthorizes the program at \$185 million for fiscal years 2001-2005.

- Establishes four new purposes for which funds may be used: 1) to support coordinated community responses; 2) to train sexual assault forensic medical personnel examiners; 3) to develop, enlarge, and strengthen programs to assist law enforcement, prosecutors, courts and others to address and recognize the needs and circumstances of older and disabled individuals who are victims of domestic violence and sexual assault; and 4) to provide assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in immigration matters.

- Requires that 2.5% of total STOP funds be awarded to domestic violence coalitions and that 2.5% be awarded to sexual assault coalitions, with 1/54 going to develop and operate nonprofit tribal coalitions.
- Provides that state, local and tribal courts are eligible STOP subgrantees.
- Allocates not less than 25% of STOP funds to police, 25% to prosecutors, 30% to victim services, and 5% to state and local courts.

Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies Program

- Reauthorizes the program at \$65 million for

"VAWA" continued on page 3

Upcoming MSH-TA Training Brochure

Be on the lookout for MSH-TA's upcoming training schedule set to be mailed February 2001. This schedule will list the training descriptions, date, and locations and will include hotel and registration information.

MSH-TA will be offering introductory training for new program staff, covering the basics of advocacy, sexual assault, Coordinated Community Response (CCR), and roles of CCR team members. New trainings this year will cover sexual assault, CCR in PL280 states, and a CCR (STOP Grant) coordinators training. Plus many more!

Keep on the lookout for your mailing or check our web site at www.msh-ta.org for upcoming schedule.

Nin Gikenoo Amadimin

(We Teach Each Other) – In Our Best Interest

Two women's education/support group facilitator trainings scheduled in 2001



Nin Gikenoo Amadimin in Ojibwa means *We Teach Each Other*. This training is based on the curriculum *In Our Best Interest: A Process for Personal and Social Change* and is used to train participants on advocacy, community organizing, and to facilitate women's educational groups. Through community organizing and social change, the curriculum provides a model of critical thinking that is used in working directly with Native women who have been battered and in providing a framework for domestic violence work to take place in.

Participants will learn critical thinking methods and examine the impact of creating environments where change can take place. The social problem of domestic violence, barriers faced by Native women and how it is linked to forms of oppression, racism, sexism, and classism will be explored. In addition participants will look at personal, community and social forces that shape women's lives. Participants will also look at developing alliances with non-Native programs involved in working with Native women who have been battered and ways to meet the needs of the women.

This women's gathering creates an environment so participants can experience women's educational groups in a process where facilitators and participants share the role of teacher-student: *We Teach Each Other*. Be prepared to be interactive. Skits, role-plays, talking circles and exercises are used to focus discussions. The training can be uncomfortable at times for various reasons for a number of people. Some will embrace this work and some will push it away. In challenging belief systems, participants can strengthen their ability to be advocates for social change.

MSH-TA has scheduled two of these training sessions for 2001, the first location will be California in March and the next will be Denver in May. The exact locations and dates will be available in our training brochure (see page 2), along with registration information.



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fiscal years 2001-2005 and changes the name of the program to the "Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program."

- Adds facilitating widespread enforcement of protection orders as a purpose of the program and requires that priority be given to applicants that demonstrate a commitment to strong enforcement of protection orders from other states and jurisdictions, including tribal jurisdictions.
- Allows funds to be used to develop and strengthen policies and training for police, prosecutors, and the judiciary on domestic violence and sexual assault against older individuals and individuals with disabilities.
- Requires grantees under the program (and under the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program) to certify that their laws, practices, and policies do not require victims to pay filing or service costs related to criminal charges or protection orders.

Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grants

- Reauthorizes the program at \$40 million for fiscal years 2001-2005.



Grants to Reduce Violent Crimes Against Women on Campus

- Reauthorizes the program at \$10 million for fiscal years 2001-2005.
- Changes the definition of "victim services" to clarify that victim services organizations at public universities are covered.

Legal Assistance for Victims

- Authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to provide civil legal assistance for victims of domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault at \$40 million for fiscal years 2001-2005.

"VAWA" continued on page 4

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- Requires that a minimum of 25% of the funding be used to support projects focused solely or primarily on providing legal assistance to victims of sexual assault.
- Defines legal assistance to include family, immigration, administrative agency, housing, protection orders, and "other similar matters."
- Includes private nonprofits, Indian tribal governments, and law school clinics as eligible grantees.
- Requires grantees to certify that any person providing legal assistance has completed or will complete training that was developed with a domestic violence or sexual assault coalition or program and that the grantee's policies do not require mediation or counseling of offenders and victims together.

Shelter Services for Battered Women and Children

- Reauthorizes this program at \$175 million for fiscal years 2001-2005.



Transitional Housing Assistance for Victims of Domestic Violence

- Creates a new grant program to be administered by the Department of Health and Human Services authorized at \$25 million for fiscal year 2001.

Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation, Including Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Against Older or Disabled Individuals

- Creates a new Department of Justice grant program to provide training for law enforcement, prosecutors and courts on elder abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against individuals with disabilities, including domestic violence and sexual assault against older or disabled individuals.
- Authorizes the program at \$5 million for fiscal years 2001-2005.

Safe Havens for Children Pilot Program

- Creates a pilot program to make grants to states, units of local government, and Indian tribal governments to work with nonprofit entities to provide supervised visitation and safe visitation exchange of children in domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, or stalking cases.
- Authorizes the program at \$15 million for fiscal years 2001-2002.



Report on Effects of Parental Kidnapping Laws in Domestic Violence Cases

- Expands emergency jurisdiction under the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act to include domestic violence cases.

Rape Prevention and Education

- Reauthorizes and expands this Department of Health and Human Services grant program at \$80 million for fiscal years 2001-2005.

Education and Training to End Violence Against and Abuse of Women with Disabilities

- Creates a new Department of Justice grant program to make grants to states, units of local government, tribal governments, and nongovernmental private entities to provide education and technical assistance on domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault against women with disabilities. Authorizes the program at \$7.5 million for fiscal years 2001-2005.

Standards, Practice and Training for Sexual Assault Forensic Examinations

- Requires the attorney general to evaluate existing standards and protocols and develop and report to Congress on a national standard and protocol for sexual assault forensic examinations.

For additional information, contact Debra Gee, Tribal Legal Counsel, Violence Against Women Office, at (202) 353-1841 or visit the VAWO website at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo.