

**Office of Massachusetts Attorney
General Maura Healey**



Request for Proposal (RFP)

**Game Change:
The Patriots Anti-Violence Partnership**

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Response Due Date: December 3, 2015

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Need for Violence Prevention Efforts in Schools

Relationship violence is a pervasive problem in Massachusetts and across the country. Nationwide, one in three adolescents is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner. In Massachusetts, one in five female public high school students reports having experienced physical or sexual violence from a dating partner. That relationship violence can be fatal, as we witnessed in 2011 with the murder of Wayland High School student Lauren Astley by her boyfriend, a star football player.

Many young people who experience violence in their intimate relationships will continue to be abused as adults, and they are at higher risk for substance use, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, and suicide.

A 2010 Massachusetts law requires school districts to implement specific [policies](#) to address teen dating violence in public schools, and to provide instruction on violence prevention.

Game Change

The New England Patriots Charitable Foundation and the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office (AGO) recently partnered to fund Game Change: The Patriots Anti-Violence Partnership (Game Change), an innovative approach to helping schools provide violence prevention education.

The goal of Game Change is to prevent violence before it begins, by reaching students while they are young and teaching them how to develop and maintain healthy relationships, engage in conflict resolution, and intervene as bystanders when they witness signs of violence.

The first phase of the Game Change program will train 180 school personnel from 90 high schools via a series of six regional training institutes across Massachusetts. Those trainings will be led by the Mentors in Violence Prevention ([MVP](#)) program, run by The Center for the Study of Sport in Society at Northeastern University (Center) – a national leader in violence prevention.

MVP's approach includes: (1) educating young people about healthy relationships and raising awareness about the prevalence of intimate partner violence and sexual assault; (2) encouraging young people to play an active role in reducing sexual assault, harassment, and abuse; and (3) empowering high school student leaders to mentor and educate younger students on these issues and to be role models in their schools and local communities.

In the second phase of Game Change, the AGO and the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation will select 30 high schools from the original 90 to receive more in-depth, in-school anti-violence trainings for students, staff, and parents. In this intensive pilot, each of the 30 high schools will be paired with a local domestic violence and sexual assault (DV/SA) service provider.

Regional Institutes for 90 Schools (Winter-Spring 2016)

MVP will host and facilitate the Game Change regional institutes, using a "Train the Trainer" model. These will be highly interactive seminars in six regions of the state. Each of the 90 participating high schools will select two educators to send to the institute, and each of the DV/SA service providers will send staff as well. The institutes will begin as early as January 2016.

The institutes are in-depth, each lasting three days, and educators who attend receive Professional Development Points (PDPs). During the first two days, the institute facilitators lead the participants through the curriculum to give them the experience that their students would have. On the last day, the participants get to practice facilitating the curriculum for the group. Once a school has received the training, it will have the ability to institutionalize the MVP curriculum long-term.

Applications to attend the regional institutes are now being accepted at the AGO website, www.mass.gov/ago.

MVP will also provide longer-term support for all schools which have attended the Game Change institutes, in the form of webinars and a website called the "Club House" that includes a number of online support tools to support implementation of the curriculum.

Intensive Pilot Services for 30 Schools (2016-2017 School Year)

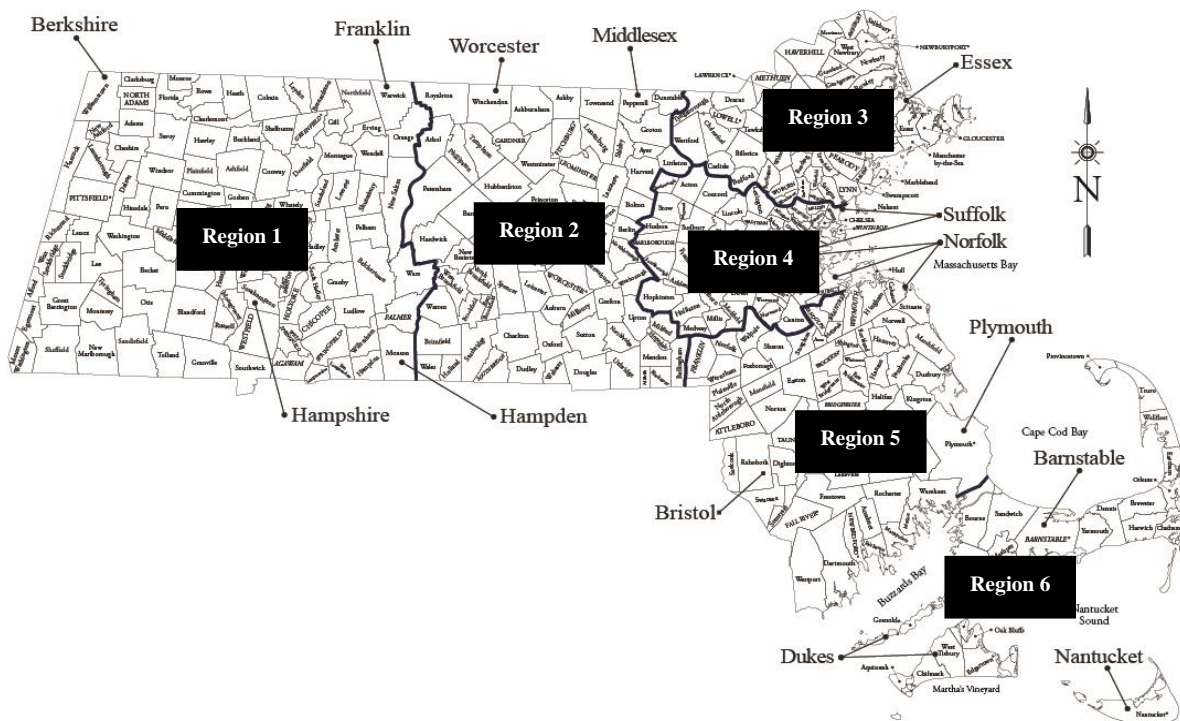
Of the 90 schools that receive the MVP training, 30 (five schools in each of six regions across the state) will be selected for an intensive pilot to be implemented during the 2016-2017 school year. The 30 schools will receive more in-depth and personalized school-based trainings from MVP for students, parents, faculty, staff, and coaches, and they will receive also services from regional DV/SA service providers to provide ongoing support to schools participating in the intensive pilot as they implement the curriculum.

Through an RFP process, the AGO will work with MVP to select the five high schools in each region that want to commit to fully institutionalizing the MVP trainings via health classes, advisory classes, athletics, or clubs. Schools selected for this enhanced pilot project will:

- Work with the Center and the assigned local DV/SA service provider to develop a plan to institutionalize MVP at the school.
- Provide time and space for the Center and DV/SA service provider to train 30 students in MVP.
- Commit to having those 30 students conduct peer trainings for younger students and parents in the district.
- Receive a 90-minute awareness-raising session for faculty, to ensure that all school personnel are aware of the MVP program, understand what students will be learning, and can support students who disclose abuse.
- Receive a 90-minute awareness-raising session for athletic department staff and coaches.

Grants to Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Prevention Programs

The purpose of this RFP is to request proposals from Massachusetts non-profit service programs that specialize in DV/SA prevention (providers) to partner with and provide intensive support services to schools. We will select one provider for each designated region (Northeast, Metro, Central, Western, Southeast, and Cape & Islands), and each provider will work intensively with five schools in their respective region.



Eligible Grant Applicants

The following types of organizations are eligible to apply as providers.

- Non-Profit Organizations within Massachusetts with demonstrated experience and expertise in providing DV/SA prevention education and intervention in high school settings.

Requirements of Providers

Providers must:

- Have experience providing preventative DV/SA educational programming in high schools;
- Participate (may send up to five staff) in their respective regional training institute;
- Hire or assign a designated, specially trained full-time staff member to help deliver and support the violence prevention programming in the region's selected schools;
- Develop an ongoing role with the schools, including helping to provide classroom education, training other school staff, delivering parent programming, working with the administration on policy, and offering services for students and families dealing with violence and abuse;
- Participate in an evaluation conducted by an outside evaluator¹, to gauge whether individual youth participants had changes in attitudes, knowledge, and beliefs around interpersonal violence; and
- Be committed to viewing its agency's involvement in the initiative as a way to help schools sustain violence prevention programming long-term, beyond the grant funding cycle.

Funding

The AGO anticipates six awards of up to \$45,000 each to six DV/SA service providers (one award per region).

Duration of Grant

September 2016 – June 2017.

Providers are also expected to attend the initial 3-day institute for their region (anticipated to be held in the winter of 2016).

¹ Research will be conducted in a manner which protects the rights and welfare of young people participating as subjects, under the review of a University's Internal Review Board. All participants will need to have written parental consent in order to receive training.

Grant Proposal

The grant proposal will be submitted via the online grant application portal, which can be accessed at www.mass.gov/ago/grants.

The grant proposal will include providing the following information:

1. Grant Narrative

- a. **Applicant Information:** Provide a brief description of the organization, the organization's mission statement, and geographic service area.
- b. **Applicant Expertise in DV/SA Prevention in School Settings:**
Provide a detailed description of the applicant's previous or current experience addressing DV/SA prevention and intervention in high school settings, including the specific school(s), populations served, activities and services provided, use of additional resources, outcomes achieved, measures of success, lessons learned, and evidence of sustainability.
- c. **Supplementation statement:** Provide a statement affirming that this grant funding will supplement (and/or expand) and not simply supplant existing funding for current efforts.
- d. **Privacy statement:** To the extent applicable, provide a statement confirming that your organization has security policies in place regarding the safeguarding of personal data and personal and medical information.

2. Budget Details

- a. **Line Item Budget:** Provide a detailed budget proposal.
- b. **Budget Narrative:** Provide a budget narrative including a detailed description of how grant funds will be utilized and a description of any financial and/or in kind resources leveraged (if applicable). Please note, although in kind resources are not required, applicants which are cost-effective and which have stronger cost-benefit ratios are more likely to be evaluated favorably.

Submission Instructions

- Interested applicants may access the application here: www.mass.gov/ago/grants.
- Applications will not be accepted in any other format or through any other means.

- New applicants will be asked to create a free online account. Any applicant that has applied for any grant using the online grant management system may log into its existing account.
- Proposals must be delivered electronically through the AGO's online grant application portal (which can be accessed at www.mass.gov/ago/grants) by 4:00 p.m. on **Thursday, December 3, 2015**.
- Confirmation of Receipt: Applicants typically receive an email confirmation within 24 business hours; if one is not received please call 617-963-2024 or 617-963-2217 for further instructions and assistance.

Selection

All funding decisions and amounts of funding will be made at the sole discretion of the AGO and the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation. Applicants may receive no funding or less funding than requested. Some of the criteria utilized in the selection process include:

- Ability of applicants to dedicate one staff member (or new hire) to work on this project from September 2016 – June 2017 and to attend a regional training institute in the winter or spring of 2016;
- Applicant's previous experience providing DA/SA prevention in high school settings; and
- Geographic diversity of applicants (intention is to fund one provider for each of the six regions across the state).

Questions

Questions regarding this RFP may be submitted to AGOgrants@state.ma.us by email **only** until 4:00 p.m. on **December 2, 2015**. No telephone calls will be accepted. When submitting your question(s), please include "Game Change" in your email subject line. Questions received and answers provided regarding this RFP will be posted on the AGO's website here:

www.mass.gov/ago/grants.

Reasonable Accommodation

Applicants with disabilities who seek reasonable accommodation, which may include the receipt of the RFP information in an alternative format, must communicate such requests in writing to AGOgrants@state.ma.us no later than **November 20, 2015**.

Grant Requirements for Successful Applicants

- Award of grant monies is contingent upon the organization satisfactorily completing all necessary documents (see below) by the deadlines established during the contract period.

- Any changes to a grant program or budget, at any time during the grant period, must be requested in writing by grantees and must be approved, in advance, by the AGO.
- Grantees will be informed of all reporting requirements, including completion of quarterly and final financial and programmatic reports, by the deadlines established and in a format to be provided by the AGO.
- Grantees must remain in full compliance with all annual non-profit reporting requirements of both the AGO and the Internal Revenue Service, as applicable.
- It is the duty of all grant funded programs to immediately notify the AGO if the organization is or becomes the subject of any investigation, complaint, or lawsuit by any federal, state, or local law enforcement or regulatory agency.
- As a condition of grant award, each awardee agrees that representatives of the AGO at any time may review its financials and print and/or electronic records (as they relate to the grant) to ensure compliance with the terms of the grant award. Such inspection, review and/or audit by representatives of the AGO may occur at any time, with or without notice to the awardee.
- Failure to comply with any portion of the grant requirements may result in:
 - Forfeiture of grant monies not yet disbursed and/or reimbursement of previous monies awarded; or
 - Suspension or termination of grant.
- The awardee agrees to identify the AGO as a funding source for any print, electronic, or media materials produced with grant resources.
- At the end of the grant period, any unexpended grant funds must be returned.

Required Commonwealth Contract Documents for Successful Grantees

These documents are listed for informational purposes and should not be submitted with the grant application. Successful grantees will be required to complete these documents within the deadline established at the time of the notification of grant award.

- Standard Contract Form
- Commonwealth Terms and Conditions
- Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing
- Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification (W-9)
- Electronic Funds Transfer Sign Up Form
- Scope of Services

Disbursement of Grant Funds

Direct payments will be made by Electronic Funds Transfer to the grantees quarterly, upon satisfactory completion of all required programmatic and financial reports.

Public Records

All responses and information submitted in response to this RFP are subject to the Massachusetts Public Records Law, M.G.L. c. 66, § 10, and to M.G.L. c. 4, § 7, cl. 26. Applicants should not submit personal medical information. Any statements in submitted responses that are inconsistent with these statutes shall be disregarded.

Updates to this RFP

Any changes/corrections to any part to this RFP will be posted on www.mass.gov/ago/grants. It is the applicant's responsibility to check this web page frequently for any updates.