

**Survivors Empowerment and Access in Louisiana (SEAL) Project Talking Points**

- Who: A collaborative project of the Advocacy Center, Louisiana's protection and advocacy agency for people with disabilities and the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LaFASA), Louisiana's statewide coalition of sexual assault programs, with funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, and technical assistance from the Vera Institute of Justice.
- What: A three-year project to effect viable, sustainable, systemic changes in the sexual assault and disability services systems to ensure that all survivors with disabilities and D/deaf survivors living in Louisiana will be able to access appropriate and responsive services.
- When: Three-year project which began on October 1, 2008. There is an initial planning period followed by implementation.
- Where: Several local communities in Louisiana, to be selected through an intensive selection process that will take place during the planning phases of the project.
- Why: Currently the disability and sexual assault service delivery systems are not fully accessible, responsive, and welcoming to the needs of survivors with disabilities and D/deaf survivors.
- How: Our work together during this grant program has two phases - (1) Planning and Development and (2) Implementation. During the Planning and Development phase, the collaborative partners will work together to develop the following processes: strengthening the collaboration, determining where we will work in the state, identifying the needs in terms of serving survivors with disabilities, and creating a plan to address those needs. Our Plan will map out the activities our agencies and our pilot sites will use to improve the disability and sexual assault service delivery systems in Louisiana during our Implementation phase. The activities include fostering collaboration at the local level, changing organizational policies and practices, and creating accessible, responsive, and welcoming environments for survivors with disabilities and D/deaf survivors.