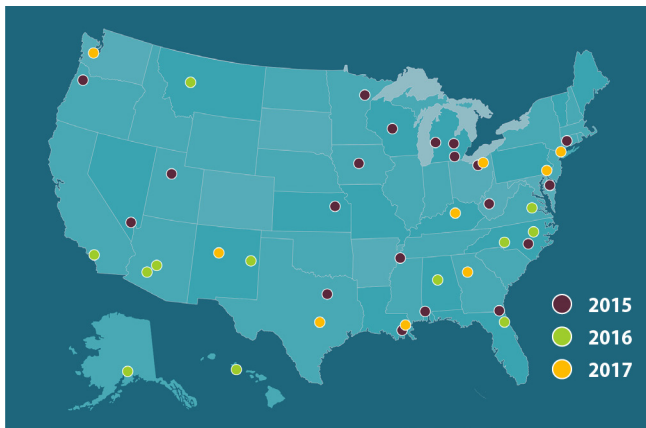


SAKI TTA: Factsheet

The Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) is a Bureau of Justice Assistance-led program that assists jurisdictions contending with unsubmitted sexual assault kits (SAKs). In 2015, 20 state and local jurisdictions were selected as SAKI sites; the Bureau of Justice Assistance funded 12 additional jurisdictions in 2016 and 9 jurisdictions in 2017. The SAKI Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) program, provided through RTI International, offers expertise and assistance to these and other jurisdictions as they establish effective and sustainable practices for collecting and processing forensic evidence, investigating and prosecuting sexual assault cases, and supporting survivors of sexual assault.



The SAKI TTA team provides customized TTA to meet the needs of each SAKI site regarding investigations, prosecution, inventorying and tracking of SAKs, and victim advocacy engagement. Our team develops effective practices addressing sexual assault response and facilitating the sexual assault response teams (SART) concept in communities, including those that have struggled with unsubmitted SAKs.

Project Activities

- ◆ Deliver TTA to address immediate needs
- ◆ Assess long-term needs to address strategic challenges and priorities
- ◆ Facilitate cross-site learning
- ◆ Develop TTA curricula and materials—on site and on the Web—that align with policy and implementation needs
- ◆ Disseminate and assist with implementation of evidence-based practices

Focus Areas & Partners

Multidisciplinary response: Effective practices, including creating and maintaining a sustainable SART: SANE-SART Resource Service (SSRS)

Law enforcement: Identifying investigative steps to take after a CODIS (Combined DNA Index System) hit, prioritizing multiple CODIS hits, writing policy and procedure on investigative standards, collecting and handling evidence, managing investigations: International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)

Prosecution: Overcoming challenges associated with cold case prosecutions, training on witness preparation and questioning, and presenting sexual assault evidence at trial: AEquitas

Sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE): Identifying needs, gaps, and challenges in the local SANE program and identifying the role of a SANE in sexual assault cases: SSRS

Crime laboratory: Linking crime laboratory information management systems with investigations and prosecutions, understanding DNA analysis, and prioritizing cold case evidence: IACP, RTI International, and Rebecca Campbell

Victim advocacy: Support and training on cold case notification policy, advocacy training programs, and the roles and responsibilities of the victim advocate: The Joyful Heart Foundation and The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)

More Information

If you have questions or want more information about the SAKI TTA program, please contact us:

Patricia A. Melton, PhD

SAKI TTA Co-Project Director
(919) 541-6546
pmelton@rti.org

SAKI TTA Help Desk

sakitta@rti.org
(800) 957-6436

Follow SAKI on Twitter:

@SAKInitiative

Kevin J. Strom, PhD

SAKI TTA Co-Project Director
(919) 485-5729
kstrom@rti.org

SAKI TTA Website

<http://sakitta.org/>

Like SAKI on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/sakinitiative

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Where can I find more information about applying for SAKI funding?

- A. The BJA website provides information on upcoming funding opportunities. Check <https://www.bja.gov/funding.aspx> for details.

Q. How do I connect with SAKI TTA news and events?

- A. The SAKI TTAalk newsletter offers an excellent communication channel for providing comprehensive information on project news and noteworthy happenings among stakeholders. Sign up to receive SAKI TTAalk to your inbox (<https://sakitta.us13.list-manage.com/subscribe/post?u=ee5523512411738bf07923a86&id=22f25150f7>), and follow SAKI TTA on Facebook (@sakinitiative) and Twitter (@SAKInitiative) for up-to-date project-related news and events!

Q. How were grantees chosen to be SAKI sites?

- A. The U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), has released competitive grant announcements under the National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative. State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies; prosecutors' offices; and governmental non-law enforcement agencies acting as fiscal agents for these types of agencies were eligible to apply for funding. The period of performance for these awards is 36 months.

Q. What types of activities are SAKI grantees allowed to conduct with SAKI funding?

- A. SAKI grantees are permitted to use grant funds to enhance or expand their ability to address the issues associated with unsubmitted SAKs in their jurisdictions. For example, grantees may use funding for testing SAKs (through the jurisdiction's assigned crime laboratory or through a private laboratory) or creating an evidence tracking system. SAKI funding may not be used for testing SAKs that have already been submitted to a laboratory or for purchasing laboratory equipment.

Q. How do I find out more about the SAKI TTA program?

- A. Please visit <http://sakitta.org/>. You will find information on the goals of the SAKI and TTA programs, grantee profiles for each of the funded sites, training resources, and much more. Additional information is also available on the BJA SAKI website, https://www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program_ID=117.

Q. What types of training and technical assistance (TTA) are available?

- A. Technical assistance activities provided by the SAKI TTA team are developed based on the needs of each site. The SAKI TTA team works closely with each SAKI grantee to establish and provide technical assistance that will help the site to sustain a successful sexual assault investigation program. The SAKI TTA program offers live and archived webinars and training events that address the most pressing and emerging issues jurisdictions face when addressing unsubmitted SAKs. Some of these topics include building a multidisciplinary team to address unsubmitted SAKs, providing trauma-informed or victim-centered care, submitting and testing SAK evidence, and maintaining best practices for investigating sexual assaults.

Q. Are TTA resources available to everyone?

- A. SAKI grantees have access to customized TTA resources as part of their BJA funding that are not available to the general public. However, the SAKI TTA team also creates materials (e.g., guidelines, trainings, webinars) that will showcase best practices and lessons learned and that will be openly accessible to other jurisdictions and the public. To access these materials, check the SAKI TTA website, <http://sakitta.org/>.

Q. How do I request TTA?

- A. Requests can be submitted through the SAKI TTA website, <http://sakitta.org/>, on the Contact Us page. Or you may submit a request by emailing the SAKI TTA Help Desk at sakitta@rti.org.