

OVW FY2026 Consolidated Youth Grant Program

Proposal Narrative

Statutory Purpose Area 4: Programs to Engage Men and Youth in Preventing Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking

Eligibility and Organizational Role

Under the FY2026 NOFO Partnership Information, Purpose Area 4 may be satisfied by a single organization that qualifies as (a) a victim service provider, as defined at 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(50), with (b) a documented history of effective work with children and/or youth focused on preventing the specific VAWA crime(s) the project addresses. One Love Foundation submits that it satisfies both elements. As to (b), One Love's history is extensively documented throughout this application: nearly 4 million young people reached since 2014, almost 60,000 trained volunteer facilitators, and a randomized controlled trial [4] with college students finding statistically significant improvements in bystander intervention attitudes and preparedness after a single workshop, further evaluated in a larger-scale RCT with U.S. Navy sailors [5]. As to (a), One Love submits that its documented history of assisting and advocating for domestic violence, dating violence, and sexual assault victims — including workshop-embedded distribution of a national resource list of victim helplines and text lines at every session, survey-documented outcomes showing 89% of participants would talk to a friend experiencing abuse and 80% would reach out to a trusted adult for help, and program staff with direct, individual experience providing advocacy and counseling support to survivors (see Section 3, Who Will Implement) — constitutes a documented history of effective work concerning these forms of violence within the meaning of the statute [6].

1. Purpose of the Project (30%)

Why We Are Applying

One Love Foundation was founded in memory of Yeardley Love, a University of Virginia student killed by her ex-boyfriend in 2010. In the sixteen years since, we have built the infrastructure that this NOFO exists to fund: a film-based relationship health and intimate partner violence prevention education curriculum with peer-reviewed, randomized controlled trial evidence of effectiveness; a train-the-trainer model that has already trained almost 60,000 volunteer facilitators; and a national reach of nearly 4 million young people, including 300,000 in the most recent fiscal year alone. Few, if any, applicants to this program bring an evidence base, delivery infrastructure, and proven scale of this magnitude already in place.

To date, over 5,500 schools, community organizations, and companies have implemented One Love's education, including more than 2,750 K-12 schools, 1,100 colleges and universities, 400 domestic violence organizations, and 650 additional nonprofits and community-based organizations — reaching nearly 4 million young people. Over 13,000 groups, schools, and individuals have received direct training from One Love, including more than 3,800 K-12 schools, 1,500 colleges and universities, 800 domestic violence organizations, 1,200 nonprofits and community-based organizations, and 5,000 unaffiliated individuals, totaling nearly 60,000 people trained.

OVW's investment in this project will not fund a pilot or an unproven concept. It will fund the next phase of expansion for a model that is already working at national scale, with a specific and disciplined focus: engaging men and youth directly as prevention allies, not just as workshop recipients. Every dollar of this award goes toward growing infrastructure that already has a decade of demonstrated results behind it — a lower-risk, higher-return use of federal prevention funding than standing up new, unproven programming from scratch.

This train-the-trainer model is the core of One Love's cost-effectiveness: every facilitator we train becomes a force multiplier, going on to educate tens if not hundreds of additional young people in their own schools and communities over time. Over the grant period, One Love will train at least 5,000 new volunteer facilitators, while an additional 5,000 existing facilitators will return for advanced training to deepen and expand on their existing skills. Funding facilitator infrastructure, rather than funding workshops one at a time, is what allows this project's impact to compound well beyond the life of the grant itself.

One Love has deliberately built this model around trained human facilitators rather than app-based, video-only, or purely digital delivery. A trusted teacher, coach, or mentor delivering this curriculum in person can read the room, adapt in real time to what students are actually experiencing, and respond immediately if a student discloses something that needs support — none of which a self-paced app or video module can replicate. Face-to-face facilitation also builds the kind of ongoing relationship between a trusted adult and a student that makes it more likely a young person will actually reach out for help later, rather than simply completing content and moving on. This is not a lower-tech version of a more scalable digital solution; it is a deliberate design choice, grounded in the reality that relationship abuse prevention is fundamentally about human connection and trust, not information delivery alone.

One Love's curriculum reaches youth of all genders, because unhealthy relationship behaviors and their impacts are not confined to one gender. National data show that approximately 1 in 5 female students and 1 in 10 male students have experienced physical and/or sexual teen dating violence in the prior year [1], and CDC data confirm that while female students and LGBTQ+ students experience the highest rates of violence victimization, male students are meaningfully affected as well [2]. Every student who completes One Love's curriculum, regardless of gender, learns to recognize unhealthy and abusive relationship behaviors both in their own actions and in the actions of others, and to identify concrete steps and resources to seek help before harm occurs or escalates — addressing prevention of both future victimization and future harmful behavior, rather than treating either as the concern of only one population.

This project's specific emphasis on engaging men and youth as allies builds on that universal foundation, not apart from it. Deliberately inviting boys and young men into prevention work as active participants and allies — rather than treating them only as a population associated with risk — is itself a recognized, evidence-informed prevention strategy. This approach does not characterize masculinity or male identity as inherently linked to violence; it reflects that broad, gender-inclusive engagement, including specifically inviting young men into the work of prevention, produces stronger outcomes for all students.

Goals and Objectives

1. Recruit and train at least 5,000 new volunteer facilitators nationally over the grant period through One Love's Education Center train-the-trainer platform, with particular focus on engaging male-identifying facilitators and youth leaders as prevention allies.
2. Increase male representation in named Youth Leader roles from 13% to 25% over the three-year project period, and grow the overall Youth Leadership Program by at least 10% year-over-year — a deliberate, countable expansion of One Love's Youth Leadership Program under Nate King's direction.
3. Increase facilitator retention and strengthen delivery consistency by improving facilitator support infrastructure — refresher trainings, a community of practice, and quality assurance check-ins.

These are not incremental additions to business as usual. They represent a deliberate investment in converting an already-proven model into a more durable, better-supported national infrastructure with a greater priority on engaging young men through intentional programming, new and instructive trainings,

and focused recruitment to enhance One Love's programming — the kind of capacity-building investment OVW is uniquely positioned to fund, and that One Love cannot fully build with unrestricted revenue alone.

These goals respond to a documented and specific national need. According to the CDC's 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 8.5% of high school students reported physical teen dating violence and 9.7% reported sexual teen dating violence in the prior year, with certain populations — including female students — experiencing disproportionately higher rates [3]. Engaging men and boys as allies in prevention — rather than solely addressing violence after it occurs — is a recognized prevention strategy consistent with this program's purpose.

This project does not introduce a new or unproven program. It strengthens the infrastructure behind a curriculum with a substantial evidence base — including a pilot randomized controlled trial of our Escalation workshop with college students, led by Dr. Emily Rothman of Boston University, which found statistically significant improvements in participants' bystander intervention attitudes and preparedness after a single workshop [4], with a larger, separate follow-on RCT conducted with U.S. Navy sailors [5].

Communities to Be Served

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This project will serve middle, high school, and college students nationally, delivered through newly recruited and existing volunteer facilitators, with particular emphasis on engaging young men and boys as active participants in prevention. Facilitator recruitment under this project will prioritize school districts and communities currently underserved by relationship abuse prevention education.

2. What Will Be Done (35%)

Activities

Goal 1 — Facilitator Recruitment and Training: One Love will recruit new volunteer facilitators nationally and train them through our established Education Center platform, an online learning management system offering on-demand training and over 300 educational resources at no cost to trained facilitators. Recruitment under this project will place particular emphasis on engaging male-identifying facilitators, coaches, and mentors as prevention allies.

Goal 2 — Youth Leadership Development: One Love's Youth Leadership Manager will lead development of peer leadership pathways that engage young men and boys directly as prevention advocates and peer educators within their schools and communities. This work builds on One Love's existing Youth Leadership Program, currently comprising 204 Team One Love Clubs nationally with 367 One Love Youth Leaders. Young men are currently underrepresented in named leadership roles within this structure — only 13% of Youth Leaders identify as male, compared to 77% female and 9% unknown/other — though program staff observe that young men already participate as general club members at meaningfully higher rates than this figure suggests. This indicates the gap lies less in interest and more in the step of taking on the administrative responsibility of founding and registering a club. This project will address that specific gap by providing dedicated support designed to lower that barrier — including streamlined registration guidance, founder mentorship, and targeted outreach to male club members already engaged informally — with a goal of increasing male representation in named Youth Leader roles to 25% over the three-year project period. Beyond this specific goal, One Love will grow the overall Youth Leadership Program by at least 10% year-over-year.

Goal 3 — Facilitator and Partner Support: One Love's Program Growth Manager and Partner Success Coordinator will provide ongoing, structured support to facilitators and the schools/organizations they are embedded within. This includes: (1) live virtual trainings for facilitators, held twice per year (once per semester), specifically geared toward engaging young men and boys in relationship health conversations; and (2) development of a dedicated resource guide — modeled on One Love's existing Trusted Adults guide — providing facilitators with concrete strategies and language for engaging boys and young men on relationship health, to be distributed across the national facilitator network. Beyond these two deliverables, program staff will conduct ongoing check-ins, troubleshooting, and relationship management with facilitators and partner schools/organizations to ensure consistent program delivery as the network grows.

Responsible parties: One Love's Director of Program will oversee curriculum and training quality; the Program Growth Manager will lead facilitator recruitment; the Youth Leadership Manager will lead youth engagement and peer leadership programming; and the Partner Success Coordinator will manage ongoing facilitator and community partner relationships.

Victim Safety, Privacy, and Confidentiality

As part of One Love's standard facilitator training, all facilitators — new and existing — receive our Safe and Inclusive Facilitation guidance, which covers trauma-informed concepts, resilience, and inclusion, and equips facilitators with practices for establishing safe spaces and using restorative practices during and after workshops.

If a student discloses abuse during or after a workshop, facilitators are guided to share One Love's national resource list — encompassing phone hotlines, text-based chat services, and safety apps — which is embedded directly into workshop presentations and distributed to participants as a handout. Facilitators are also guided to build their own localized resource sheet, using One Love's provided template and instructions, so participants have access to community-specific support options, including local domestic violence organizations, campus or school-based counseling services, and other in-person resources relevant to their specific community. Facilitators are further instructed to notify professional school staff (such as social workers or counselors) in advance of any workshop so that appropriate staff are aware a session is taking place and can connect with any student who may need support during or afterward.

Facilitators who are mandated reporters are encouraged to acknowledge that status at the start of any workshop. Facilitators are also expected to follow their own school or organization's policies regarding parental notification and consent for supplementary programming.

Outcomes and How They Will Be Tracked

One Love's outcomes measurement is grounded in a formal Logic Model, developed with numerous internal and external experts, which maps the progression from foundational to initial to intermediate outcomes — including recognizing healthy and unhealthy relationship signs, engaging in conversations about relationships, practicing healthy relationship behaviors, communicating boundaries and consent, helping a friend, navigating relationship endings, and accessing resources. This framework provides the structure for all of One Love's educational tools and evaluation instruments, including the workshop survey referenced below.

One Love measures outcomes through a mixed-methods survey distributed at the close of each workshop, evaluating knowledge gained, attitudinal shift, and absorption of material against our seven learning objectives: 1) know and spot the signs of a healthy and unhealthy relationship, 2) engage in conversations about healthy and unhealthy relationships, 3) practice healthy relationship behaviors, 4) communicate

boundaries and practice consent, 5) help a friend in an unhealthy relationship, 6) navigate ending a relationship, 7) access resources when in need. In the most recent fiscal year, participant survey data showed strong outcomes: 89% of respondents found the workshop engaging and would recommend it to others; 89% said they would talk to a friend experiencing an unhealthy or abusive relationship; 80% said they would reach out to a trusted adult for help with an unhealthy relationship; and 86% said they would reach out to a friend for help with an unhealthy relationship, after completing the workshop [6].

For this project specifically, we will track: the number of new facilitators recruited, the number of young men and boys engaged as youth leaders/peer educators, facilitator retention rates, and pre/post survey results measured against our seven learning objectives, with a focus on the impact on young men. This measurement will be conducted internally by One Love program staff, building on our existing survey infrastructure.

Accessibility

One Love's workshop films include closed captioning in both English and Spanish, and translated materials are available in Spanish and Mandarin for many resources and curriculum tools. Our content library also includes workshops specifically developed for LGBTQ+ youth and for youth in the disability community. No additional grant funds are requested for language access or disability accommodation, as these needs are already met through One Love's existing translated materials, closed captioning, and disability-inclusive curriculum content.

3. Who Will Implement the Project (20%)

Project Team

Name	Organization	Title	Role on This Project	Relevant Experience
Julie Myers	One Love Foundation	Chief Executive Officer	Provides executive oversight; ensures the project advances One Love's strategic priorities for engaging men and youth in prevention.	Julie joined One Love as CEO after 30 years of service at the University of Virginia, where she directed the UVA women's lacrosse program for 28 years, mentoring over 1,300 collegiate athletes — including Yeardeley Love herself.
Kate Biddle	One Love Foundation	Director of Development	Serves as grant administrator: leads reporting, compliance, and financial oversight of the award; primary liaison to OVW.	Kate has more than eight years of experience in non-profit fundraising and institutional grant management, with a proven track record of securing and stewarding institutional support alongside major gift and donor engagement work.
Yesmina Townsley	One Love Foundation	Program Growth Manager	Leads national facilitator recruitment and growth strategy, with a focus on expanding engagement of male-identifying facilitators and youth leaders.	Yesmina supports public school districts and youth-serving organizations in implementing healthy relationship education at scale, bringing a background in sales and communications.
Michael Harley	One Love Foundation	Director of Program	Oversees curriculum content, facilitator training quality, and overall program strategy for this project.	Michael oversees programming and strategy across schools, community-based organizations, and individuals. He previously served over three years as an Engagement Manager on the Tri-State team, and before that led Sexual Assault Prevention and Bystander Intervention workshops for Binghamton University's 20:1 Prevention Programs.
Emma Tucek	One Love Foundation	Partner Success Coordinator	Supports facilitator and community partner relationships, ensuring facilitators and the schools/organizations they work within remain engaged and well-supported over time.	Emma manages programming and strategy for middle schools, high schools, and colleges across the Midwest, South, and East Coast. Emma brings direct experience in interpersonal violence prevention, education, and advocacy, including four years as a Peer Educator for a college sexual violence prevention group, undergraduate research on

				sexual assault and victim-blaming, and a counseling/advocacy internship at a domestic violence agency providing direct support to survivors.
Nate King	One Love Foundation	Youth Leadership Manager	Leads youth leadership and peer engagement components of the project, with particular focus on engaging young men and boys as active participants and allies in prevention work.	Nate leads One Love's Youth Leadership Program, helping young people grow as leaders in their communities. He previously worked in education, teaching lower school and working in data management at a charter school. Nate first got involved with One Love in high school as a student leader in his school's One Love club, an experience that continues to inform his work today.

Coordination and Collaboration

This project is implemented directly by One Love staff, drawing on our existing national infrastructure: an established train-the-trainer curriculum, a proven Education Center training platform, and a nearly 60,000-person facilitator network already active in schools and communities nationwide. Michael Harley (Director of Program), Yesmina Townsley (Program Growth Manager), Emma Tucek (Partner Success Coordinator), and Nate King (Youth Leadership Manager) will coordinate closely on facilitator recruitment, training, youth leadership programming, and ongoing partner support, with Kate Biddle overseeing grant compliance and reporting.

Sources

[1] Vagi KJ, Olsen EO, Basile KC, Vivolo-Kantor AM. Teen Dating Violence (Physical and Sexual) Among US High School Students: Findings From the 2013 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey. *JAMA Pediatrics*. 2015;169(5):474-482.

[2] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About Teen Dating Violence. <https://www.cdc.gov/intimate-partner-violence/about/about-teen-dating-violence.html>

[3] Clayton HB, Kilmer G, DeGue S, et al. Dating Violence, Sexual Violence, and Bullying Victimization Among High School Students — Youth Risk Behavior Survey, United States, 2021. *MMWR Supplements*. 2023;72(1):66-74.

[4] Rothman EF, Paruk J, Banyard V. The escalation dating abuse workshop for college students: Results of an efficacy RCT. *Journal of American College Health*. 2018;66(6):519-528.

[5] Rothman EF, Campbell JK, Quinn E, Smith S, Xuan Z. Evaluation of the One Love Escalation Workshop for Dating Abuse Prevention: A Randomized Controlled Trial Pilot Study with a Sample of US Navy Sailors. *Prevention Science*. 2021;22(8):1060-1070.

[6] One Love Foundation internal program data, FY26 (impact statistics: facilitator counts, workshop reach, and post-workshop survey results).