

The Baystate Family Advocacy Center (BFAC) of Baystate Health is a nationally accredited Child Advocacy Center (CAC) serving the children, families and communities of Western Massachusetts affected by child abuse, domestic violence and/or homicide. As child abuse, domestic violence and homicide are community problems the FAC coordinates services with our community partners. The FAC has long been a recipient of Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding through the Massachusetts Office for Victims Assistance. In early 2015, the FAC submitted an application to expand our Trauma Focused Assessment & Treatment and Homicide Bereavement Programs. Notification of award was received in late May that we were granted our full request which increased our 3-year award from \$600,000 to \$1.2 million.

The VOCA funded programs at the FAC are:

The Trauma-Focused Assessment and Treatment Program's (ATP) goal is to improve access to and coordination of services for children and their families who have experienced child abuse, sexual assault or exploitation, or witnessed violence. Children and families served reside in Hampden County or surrounding areas. ATP provides culturally sensitive, comprehensive assessment of treatment needs, advocacy and coordination of services for children and families after a forensic interview, a child abuse medical assessment or after receiving a call on the intake hotline. Also provided under the ATP program are evidence-based trauma-focused individual and family therapy as well as group therapy for children and non-offending caregivers.

The Homicide Bereavement Program's (HBP) main goal is to provide individualized, coordinated, evidence-based trauma and grief focused mental health services to co-victims of homicide and vehicular homicide in Western Massachusetts. Free services include: culturally sensitive needs assessment, individual and group trauma and grief focused therapy, crisis counseling, peer support, information and referrals, court and criminal justice support and advocacy, as well as activities for transforming pain into meaning-making and healing. Services are available for child, adolescent and adult co-victims in English or Spanish.