ABSTRACT

Rhodes College ("Rhodes") is a private, liberal arts college with 2,010 students and one campus located in the DOJ Public Safety Partnership city of Memphis, Tennessee. Seventy percent of Rhodes students reside in college-owned, -operated or -affiliated housing. In addition, more than 50% of the student body are members of fraternities and sororities, and 32% are athletes.

In collaboration with the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), through this grant Rhodes commits to the following activities: (1) Create a Coordinated Community Response Team (CCRT) to enhance response systems, education, and prevention programs related to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking (SADDVS). The CCRT will focus on developing and reviewing policies and procedures, cross-training disciplines, building relationships, engaging key partners, including community members, to assist with prevention efforts, measuring efficacy of programs, and implementing a communications strategy. The CCRT will use Year One of the grant period to complete a core competency technical assistance assessment; develop a needs assessment; and develop a strategic plan to implement project goals. Rhodes staff who will attend the five Training and Technical Assistance Institutes will include the project coordinator, Associate Dean for Student Experience, Vice President of Student Life/Dean of Students, Director of Campus Safety/Clery Act Compliance Officer, and Director of Greek Life. The off-campus victim service provider Shelby County Crime Victims & Rape Crisis Center (SCCVRCC) will send its Community Engagement Supervisor to the five Training and Technical Assistance Institutes, and the local law enforcement partner Memphis Police Department (MPD) will send a detective who is assigned to the Sex Crimes Unit. (2) Enhance the mandatory prevention program for incoming students and implement ongoing prevention trainings for returning students. Rhodes will coordinate with SCCVRCC – the county sexual assault and domestic violence services organization – to provide mandatory trainings with a bystander intervention component to all students or to train facilitators to train all students, with emphasis on students who reside on campus, belong to Greek organizations, or are student athletes. Rhodes will also offer Green Dot prevention programming to the general student population. SCCVRCC will aid and support in selecting and/or creating curriculum and providing training. (3) Implement training for campus safety personnel, disciplinary boards, and faculty and staff. Rhodes will coordinate with MPD and SCCVRCC to provide mandatory new-hire and quarterly trainings to campus safety officers and any personnel involved in campus judiciary/disciplinary hearings/Title IX panels. Rhodes also commits to creating and implementing new-hire and ongoing, semi-annual trainings for faculty and staff in collaboration with SCCVRCC, focused initially on Residence Life, Greek Life, and Athletics. (4) Enhance universal prevention strategies. Rhodes commits to selection and implementation of five campus campaigns, with emphasis on the target audiences of students living on campus, students who belong to Greek organizations, and student athletes.

Rhodes will hire a full-time (100%) project coordinator, reporting to the Associate Dean for Student Experience, to serve as the point of contact for all project activities, ensure compliance with OVW requirements, and facilitate all related project meetings, trainings, and campaigns.