



State Of Oklahoma

S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Act Grant

Implementation Plan 2014 - 2016

Submitted By

Oklahoma District Attorneys Council

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The State of Oklahoma 2014 – 2016 S.T.O.P. VAWA Implementation Plan was approved by the VAWA Grant Board on March 6, 2014.

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I. Introduction

The Oklahoma District Attorneys Council (DAC) has served as the state administering agency (SAA) for the Services Training Officers Prosecutors Violence Against Women Act (S.T.O.P. VAWA) Grant since the federal grant program was established in 1995. The purpose of the S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant is to improve the way that law enforcement, prosecution, and the courts respond to and treat victims and to develop and strengthen victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women.

Federal statute mandates projects are funded in five categories. These are: 1) Victim Services; 2) Law Enforcement; 3) Prosecution; 4) Courts; and 5) Discretionary. The Discretionary funding category can supplement any of the four (4) other areas or fund other types of projects that fall under one or more of the twenty (20) purpose areas of the grant. The purpose areas for the S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant can be found in the Appendix A.

The S.T.O.P. VAWA funds must be applied according to a statutorily-created formula. Of the S.T.O.P. VAWA federal funds that are awarded the state, 10% is used for administrative management of the grant program. Of the remaining amount, 30% must be used for victim service programs, of which 10% must be community-based, culturally specific victim service programs. In addition, 25% must be used for law enforcement, 25% for prosecution, and 5% must go to the courts. Fifteen percent (15%) can be used for discretionary projects or may go toward any other service category.

The DAC utilizes the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant Board. The VAWA Grant Board is charged with providing general oversight for the S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant Program, reviewing and approving the Implementation Plan, reviewing grant proposals, and determining awards. Comprised of six (6) members, the S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant Board represents a cross section of state agencies in Oklahoma as well as allied partner agencies and organizations.

Through the dedication and knowledge of these professionals, strategies and approaches have been developed and executed to support the overall purpose of the grant program. In addition, the VAWA Grant Board encourages victim service providers, prosecutors, law enforcement, and the courts to implement coordinated multidisciplinary approaches to address domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. In this capacity, the Board leverages federal funding in order to marshal the State's resources in responding to these crimes against women.

The members of the Violence Against Women Grant Board are:

Member

Suzanne McClain Atwood,
Executive Coordinator
Trent Baggett, Designee

Representing Agency or Organization

District Attorneys Council

Brian Hermanson, District Attorney David Wilkie, Designee	District Attorney
Scott Pruitt, Attorney General Lesley March, Designee	Office of the Attorney General
Don Hyde, Chief Calera Police Department	Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police
Marcia Smith, Executive Director	Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Michael D. Booth, Sheriff Pottawatomie County Sheriff Amanda McKay, Designee	Oklahoma Sheriffs' Association

In order for the state to receive S.T.O.P. VAWA funding, the state must develop an Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan identifies the planning process of the SAA in which consultation and coordination occurred with the victim service agencies throughout the state, as well as with underserved populations and other allied professionals. The Implementation Plan assesses the needs of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking as well as examines related data and information pertaining to these crimes. After compiling all of the information, the Implementation Plan guides how the S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant will be utilized in the future.

The 2013 VAWA Reauthorization significantly amended the existing S.T.O.P. VAWA Implementation requirements. In order to be compliant, DAC adopted a planning process as provided in the Implementation Plan Toolkit developed by the Alliance of Local Service Organizations, a S.T.O.P. technical assistance provider. The planning process is “inclusive and coordinated, documents the efforts of those involved in the planning, and considers how jurisdictions will meet a number of S.T.O.P. VAWA funding requirements.”

As a result, DAC met with a wide variety of professionals, agencies, and organizations in order to obtain a more in-depth perspective on the system that responds to Oklahoma’s domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking victims. This expanded process has proven to be very beneficial. The Listening Meetings provided a forum for victim advocates, members of the state and local courts, members of coordinated community response (CCR) teams and representatives from various underserved populations to express their thoughts and opinions about how S.T.O.P. VAWA funds can be utilized to best serve victims and keep offenders accountable. DAC has incorporated this vital information into the Implementation Plan.

DAC used a variety of strategies was used to obtain input for the 2014 - 2016 S.T.O.P. VAWA Implementation Plan. These strategies included: 1) a statewide on-line survey; 2) Listening Meetings; 3) the review of local, state, and national reports and data on domestic violence, dating, violence, sexual assault, and stalking; and, 4) information provided by current S.T.O.P. VAWA subgrantees through the semi-annual progress and Muskie Reports.

This plan encompasses a comprehensive coordinated approach that identifies the needs in the state for survivors and those that provide services to victims and the thought-process behind the identification of priorities and the planning process for the allocation of funds. It also encompasses a breakdown of statistics that show the context of violence against women in Oklahoma and where these funds can have the most impact. From that information, the Plan describes the DAC's goals and priorities for S.T.O.P. VAWA funds in Oklahoma.

The Implementation Plan was reviewed and approved by the S.T.O.P. VAWA Board on March 6, 2014, for the period of 2014 through 2016.

II. Description of the Planning Process

A. Description of the Planning Process

The purpose of this section is to provide an overview of the various strategies used to obtain information and input to develop Oklahoma's 2014 - 2016 S.T.O.P. VAWA Implementation Plan, including: 1) a statewide survey; 2) Listening Meetings; 3) local, state, and national reports and data on domestic violence, dating, violence, sexual assault, and stalking; and, 4) information provided by the subgrantees through the semi-annual progress and Muskie Reports.

1. *Statewide Survey*

In an effort to obtain input from a broad section of the professionals throughout the state that respond to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, DAC implemented an on-line statewide survey using Survey Monkey. Prior to obtaining the survey, the SAA requested surveys that had been conducted by other SAAs throughout the country. The survey was crafted to gather the opinions from law enforcement, prosecution, and victim services throughout the state about the use of S.T.O.P. VAWA funds as well as gaps in services and the needs in order to improve the services to victims. A copy of the survey questions can be found in the Appendix D.

DAC sent survey requests to the following agencies, organizations, and allied professionals; however, in some instances, the survey was sent to an agency that was asked to forward it on to their membership:

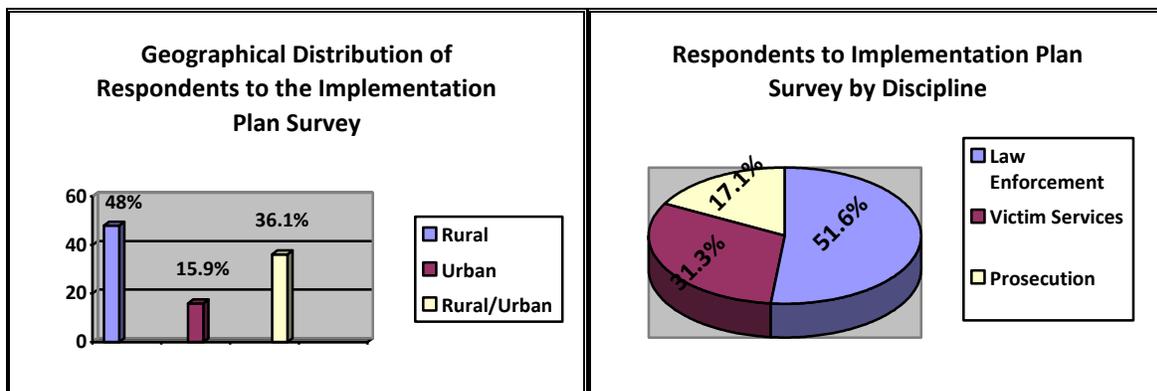
- Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (OCADVSA) who forwarded the survey to their members
- Native Alliance Against Violence (NAAV) who forwarded the survey to their members
- Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) who forwarded the survey to their members
- Oklahoma Sheriff's Association (OSA) who forwarded the survey to their members
- Victim Services Division, Office of the Attorney General (OAG)
- Injury Prevention Service, Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH)
- Oklahoma District and Assistant District Attorneys
- Current S.T.O.P. VAWA and Sexual Assault Service Program (SASP) Subgrantees
- Victims Division of the Oklahoma District Attorney Council
- S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant Board Members
- Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Teams

A total of 252 responses were received which provided invaluable information to the DAC about domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking as well as their perspective on how the S.T.O.P. VAWA funds should be used.

The majority of the respondents to the survey were from rural areas, which indicates that the survey generally mirrors the rural nature of Oklahoma. Of those that responded to the survey, 48% of the respondents identified that they were from rural areas, 15.9% were from urban areas, and 36.1% were from a jurisdiction that served both urban and rural areas.

In terms of the disciplines that responded to the survey, 51.6% were law enforcement, 31.3% were victim services, and 17.1% were prosecutors. Again, given the number of professionals in each discipline throughout the state, this also represents a positive distribution of responses.

The information obtained through the survey was outstanding and provided input on a broader and more inclusive basis than would have been obtained through a Planning Committee alone. The input and information obtained through the survey has been incorporated throughout the plan. Highlights from the survey are provided in Section D.



2. *Listening Meetings*

In addition to the survey, the Federal Grants Division Director and the Grant Program Specialist conducted Listening Meetings in the summer and fall of 2013 through the beginning of 2014 in order to incorporate the changes required by the 2013 S.T.O.P. VAWA Reauthorization related to the Implementation Plan. Listening Meetings were conducted with representatives from the following agencies and organizations:

1. Staff with the Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault;
2. Staff with the Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General that manages the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board and the Family Violence Prevention and Service Act;
3. Chairperson of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board (DVRFB);
4. Coalition Victim Service Member Programs, including those that serve the Latina population;
5. Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC);
6. Staff of the Victims Division in the District Attorneys Council that implements the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA);
7. Staff of the Injury Prevention Service with the Oklahoma State Department of Health, that implements the Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) Grant;
8. Members and Staff of the Native Alliance Against Violence; and,
9. Cimarron Alliance, an LGBT Advocacy and Education Organization;

By conducting these Listening Meetings, DAC was able to spend more time with each entity. Additionally, the individual sessions provided an environment where entities could speak to the issues that impacted their specific population, clientele, discipline, or community. Suggestions brought forth from these meetings are also incorporated throughout this plan.

3. *Local, State, and National Reports and Data*

As a part of compiling the Implementation Plan, DAC also reviewed information from a variety of local, state, and national reports and data. Using this information helped DAC gain a clearer picture of the needs and gaps in services as they relate to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. These reports included, but were not limited to, the following:

- The Uniform Crime Report from the Oklahoma Bureau of Investigation;
- The Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board Reports;
- Violence Policy Center Reports;
- U.S. Census Data;
- The National Domestic Violence Hotline Reports, National Network to End Domestic Violence; and,
- The 2013 Needs Assessment Report from the Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

DAC also utilized information obtained through six (6) Sexual Assault Focus Groups and fifty (50) survivors of sexual assault throughout the state. Funded by the Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders (ARREST Grant), the purpose of the sexual assault focus groups was to learn more about the survivor's experience with the criminal justice system after reporting their sexual assault or why they felt that they could not report.

Finally, information from bi-annual telephone surveys with the 27 Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Teams was also incorporated. Located in both urban and rural counties throughout the state, the CCR Teams have been one of the most successful strategies implemented in Oklahoma to address domestic violence since change in the way a system operates will primarily occur at the local level. The CCR Teams bring together victim services, law enforcement, prosecution, probation and parole, among other professionals to develop protocol, implement best practices, improve interagency relationships, and create systemic changes to improve the community's response to ensure victim safety and offender accountability.

At this point, there are at least six (6) CCR Teams that have either incorporated sexual assault in addition to domestic violence or have developed a separate Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) in addition to their CCR Team.

The information reports and data as well as the information obtained through the Sexual Assault Focus Groups, the CCR and SART Teams has also been incorporated into the development of the Implementation Plan.

4. *Semi-Annual Progress and Muskie Reports from Subgrantees*

All S.T.O.P. VAWA and Sexual Assault Services Program Grant subgrantees are required to complete a semi-annual progress report documenting the progress on their goals and objectives, as well as any barriers and/or highlights. In addition, DAC and the subgrantees are required to complete the Muskie Report, a national progress report completed by every recipient of these federal funds.

The administrative and subgrantees’ Muskie Reports are then submitted to the Muskie School of Public Policy to provide information on the activities and accomplishments of the S.T.O.P. VAWA and SASP funds and to aid in the planning and implementation of the national plan. The information from the progress reports and the Muskie Reports were reviewed and incorporated into the development of the Implementation Plan.

B. Documentation From Planning Committee

Beginning in the summer and fall of 2013 through the beginning of 2014, the DAC staff either met individually with the entities below in order to encourage meaningful participation in the Implementation Plan or provided them an opportunity to participate through an on-line survey. The survey allowed broader participation from law enforcement, prosecution, and victim services. Because the survey could be completed on-line and anonymously, front line staff as well as those in management was able to contribute. Individual meetings are documented through agendas and/or sign-in sheets. Prior to the meeting, all participants were provided a copy of the current Implementation Plan.

As per the Implementation Plan Checklist, the following identifies participation in development of this plan:

REQUIRED PARTICIPANTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN PROCESS	
State Sexual Assault Coalition	Not Applicable
State Domestic Violence Coalition	Not Applicable
State Dual Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalition	Listening Meeting and Survey
Law Enforcement Entities	Survey
Prosecution Entities	Survey
State and Local Courts	Listening Meeting
Tribal Governments	Listening Meeting
Representatives from Underserved Populations	Listening Meeting and Survey
Victim Service Providers	Listening Meeting and Survey
Population Specific Organizations	Listening Meeting

After compiling the Implementation Plan, a draft was provided with an opportunity to review and provide input. The documentation from the required participants can be found in the Appendix B.

C. Coordination with the Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA), the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), and the Rape Prevention Education (RPE) Program

The Federal Grants Division Director and Grant Programs Specialist held a meeting with representatives with state agencies that oversee FVPSA, VOCA, and RPE Programs. The most recent S.T.O.P. VAWA Plan was provided to each representative prior to the meeting as well as a copy of the RPE Program's strategy. The FVPSA and VOCA Programs are not required to develop such a document. During this meeting, discussion was held on the types of projects that are funded by each federal grant, the distribution processes, the potential overlap among the programs, and the ways that these federal grant programs can improve gaps in services and increase coordination.

While the SAAs of these four (4) federal grant programs work together on an ongoing basis, this was the first time that a meeting between the administrators had ever occurred. All who attended felt it was extremely beneficial. In fact, one of the major outcomes of this meeting was that such a meeting will be held annually in the future to leverage all federal funding sources to work more effectively to enhance services to victims. All entities at the meeting also agreed that knowledge of other direct and pass through federal funding sources would be beneficial to prevent duplicative funding and maximize resources.

The Oklahoma State Department of Health, Injury Prevention Service manages RPE Funds. The RPE Grant Program is currently saturating five (5) communities in the state with the prevention monies. These communities are: 1) Oklahoma City; 2) Tulsa; 3) Stillwater; 4) Tahlequah; and, 5) Miami. Two (2) of the sites are located in urban areas and three (3) are located in rural areas.

There was strong agreement among the group that there is a critical need for more domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking prevention initiatives throughout the state. With 2013 S.T.O.P. VAWA Reauthorization which now allows for 5% of the state's total award to go to prevention activities, it was decided that the best approach for these funds would be for each program to use a portion of their award for prevention activities. This way, more communities would benefit. In addition, in order to ensure best practices, any subgrantee using prevention monies would be required through a Special Condition on the S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant to coordinate with the RPE program staff and obtain technical assistance in order to get networked with successful programs before conducting their prevention activities. Additionally, it was discussed that some prevention funds could be utilized by the Partnership Conference, a statewide multidisciplinary conference on domestic violence, dating violence sexual assault, and stalking, to disseminate education and information in order to obtain a broader impact throughout the state.

However, with the additional information from OVW requesting that prevention programs be funded via discretionary funding, the approach of using the prevention monies within local programs may need to be reassessed.

In addition to certifying the victim service agencies and batterer's intervention programs throughout the state, the Office of the Attorney General manages the FVPSA Grant. In Oklahoma, all victim service programs are dual programs, serving victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. There are no stand-alone sexual assault programs.

The FVPSA grant is used to supplement the budgets of the certified victim service programs. Funding is allocated using a formula that includes a base amount in addition to population and geography factors. One of the issues discussed in the meeting was that the FVPSA Grant does not fund Tribal victim service programs. Due to issues of Tribal sovereignty, Tribal programs are not required to be certified. Given that Tribal programs are not funded by the FVPSA funds, outreach to Tribes will continue in order to expand the knowledge and awareness about the S.T.O.P. VAWA funding. Through a Tribal Liaison grant funded through the Office on Victims of Crime and administered by the Victims Division in DAC, it is believed that outreach to Tribes can continue about state level funding sources.

The VOCA Grant is managed by the Victims Division at the DAC and supports over 100 programs throughout the state. A significant number of these programs are focused on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Over the last several years, the S.T.O.P. VAWA and VOCA Grants have increased coordination and collaboration regarding the funding of projects. In some instances, the grant programs fund the same victim service agency; however, the positions funded are generally different. If there is any overlap, VOCA may fund one-half of a position, while S.T.O.P. VAWA funds the other half.

One of the significant differences between these two (2) federal funding sources is that the VAWA Grant Board does not fund shelter personnel. While shelter services are an eligible project under the S.T.O.P. VAWA grant, due to the input from the field, the focus is on direct services such as advocates or counselors.

As a result of this meeting, the Implementation Plan will now look to expand outreach to Tribal programs, have prevention activities funded by S.T.O.P. VAWA coordinated with RPE, and will continue to use S.T.O.P. VAWA funds to complement VOCA funded agencies or fund those who may not receive any other federal funds.

D. Results From Data Collection, Listening Meetings, Local Reports and Data, and Semi-Annual Progress and Muskie Reports

The section below includes a brief overview of the recommendations obtained from Listening Meetings and other data collected by DAC for the Implementation Plan. Recommendations include how DAC, as the SAA, can improve administrative procedures to enhance services to victims around the state. Additional recommendations are focused on how funds should be distributed within the allocations and the specific needs around the state. The needs were further broken down in terms of training, protocols and policy changes, community needs, statewide needs, and victim specific needs.

Grant Administration Recommendations

- Extend the application period from 30 days to a minimum of 45 days in order to assist Tribes with a more ample timeline for applications to get through their governing structure.
 - Provide regional training/outreach on the availability and use of grant funds.
 - Provide grant writing training.
- Increase coordination between DAC, other state agencies that provide similar funding opportunities, and S.T.O.P. VAWA recipients.
- Encourage ongoing coordination between S.T.O.P. VAWA subgrantees and members of other disciplines, Tribal programs, and the underserved
 - Give preference to projects that show meaningful collaboration with the Tribes.
 - Focus funding on projects that target the underserved, especially Tribal and Latina victims.

Use of Grant Funds Recommendations

- Use the mandatory allocations for Victim Services, Law Enforcement, and Prosecution for direct service projects.
- Continue to provide training on domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking to law enforcement, prosecution, and the judiciary.
- Continue to fund statewide initiatives with the discretionary funding category but also consider funding local programs that will have a significant impact.
- Statewide initiatives that would best serve victims
 - Law Enforcement Training
 - Coordinators for CCR Teams
 - Supervision for Offenders
 - Multidisciplinary Statewide Training Conference

Effective Existing Initiatives

- The cited examples of effective community programs which were overwhelmingly mentioned include:
 - CCR Teams
 - SART Teams
 - High-Risk Teams that prevent domestic violence homicides

Training Needs

- Best practices for effectively responding to sexual assault victims
- Immigration issues
- Effects of trauma
- Cultural competency in providing services, especially to the Hispanic, LGBT, and Tribal underserved populations.
- Discipline specific training on domestic violence and sexual assault for the judiciary, law enforcement, prosecution, and victim services
- Lethality assessment
- Domestic violence fatalities

Victim Specific Needs

- Victims with drug and alcohol addiction
- Counseling services for victims of sexual assault
- Legal assistance involving immigration, child custody, divorce
- Language services
- Transportation
- Affordable housing
- Job training
- Increase assistance/services for the mentally ill, children of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, teens, and the LGBT community

Community Needs

- Increased awareness and outreach
 - Domestic violence, sexual assault, services available
 - Enhanced community coordination, collaboration, and response
 - Issues related to stalking

Policy and Protocol Changes

- Increase the use of the Lethality Assessment Program by law enforcement, prosecution, and social service agencies

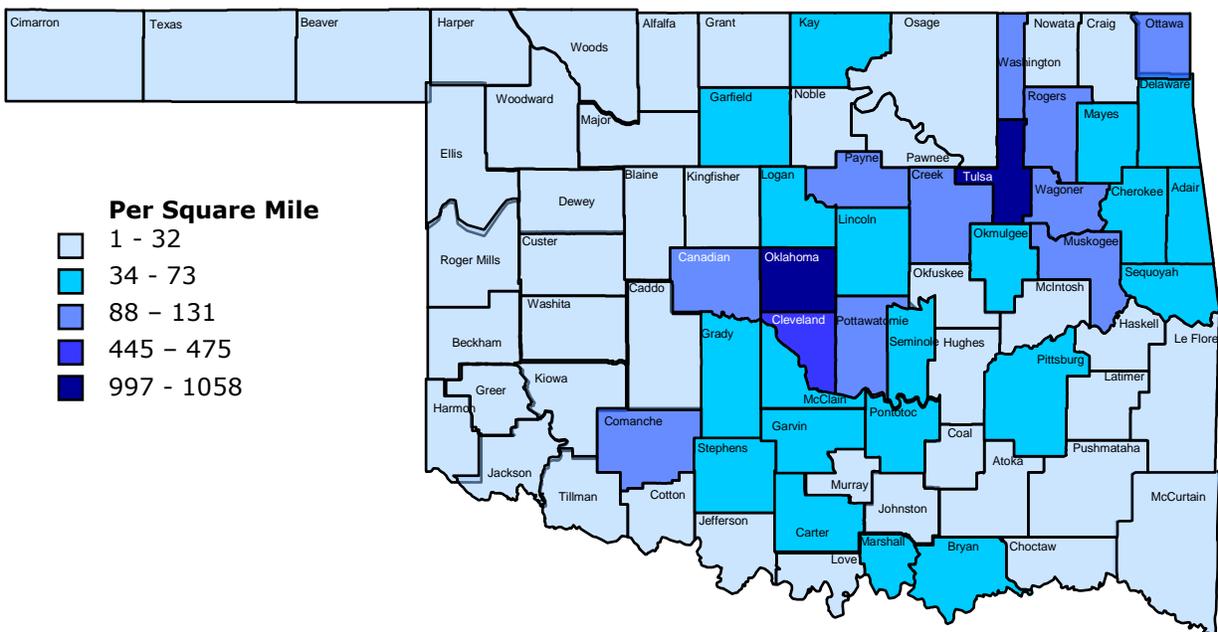
III. Needs and Context

The purpose of this section is to provide an overview of the context of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in Oklahoma. By analyzing population demographics, geographical distribution, and violent crime data in Oklahoma, as well as incorporating the information from the Listening Meetings, Implementation Plan survey, and other data, DAC can identify the priorities for funding and the needs of the underserved populations in order to make informed decisions of how to best serve victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

A. State's Population Demographics and Geographical Information

According to the 2010 Census from the U.S. Census Bureau, Oklahoma's population was 3,751,351. From 1990 to 2010, Oklahoma experienced an 8.7% increase in population. The 2012 Census data estimates the total population in Oklahoma was 3,815,780, resulting in a ranking of 28th out of 50 states. Oklahoma encompasses 68,594.92 square miles and is comprised of 77 counties.

**State of Oklahoma
Persons per Square Mile
2010 Census**

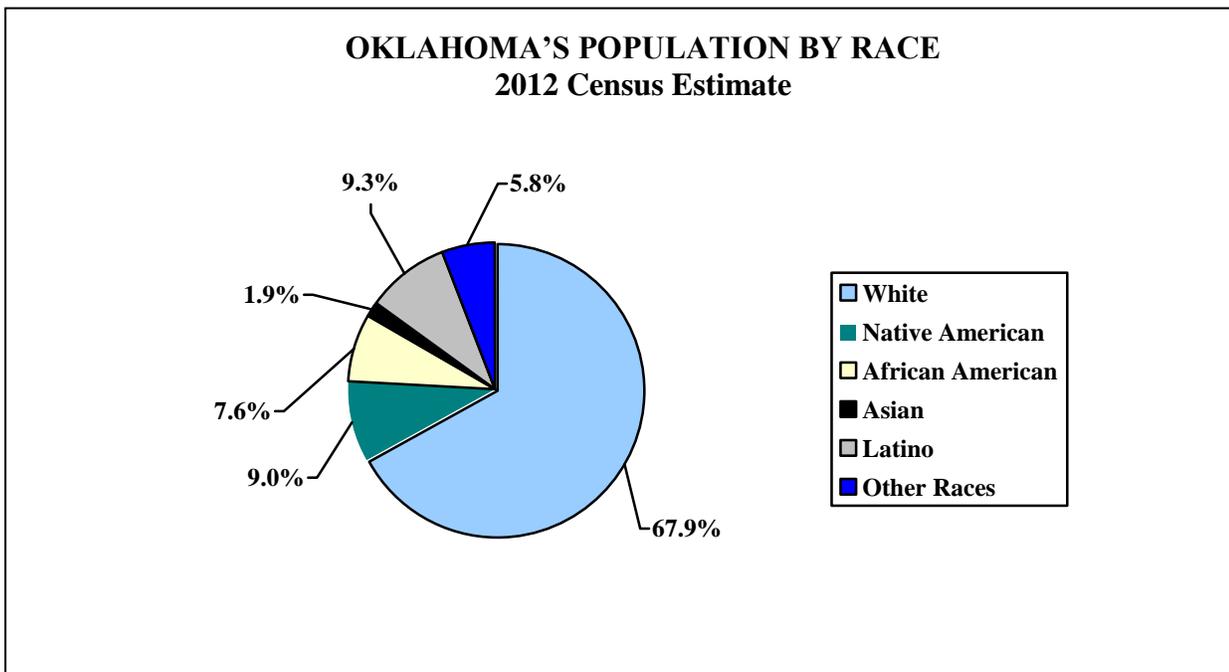


Oklahoma is considered to be a rural state. The only two (2) major metropolitan areas in the state are Oklahoma City and Tulsa. The populations of these two (2) counties comprise approximately 35.6% of the total population in the state, but only 1.9% of the land area. The remainder of the state varies from somewhat sparsely populated to very sparsely populated. Oklahoma has 54.7 persons per square mile vs. the national average of 87.4 persons per square mile according to the 2010 census data. Addressing the needs of child, youth, and adult sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking victims in rural areas is obviously of special concern.

Demographic Data on the Distribution of Underserved Populations

As defined by the federal law that guides the S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant, populations that are underserved are so identified because of geographic location, underserved racial and ethnic populations, and/or populations because of special needs (such as language barriers, disabilities, alienage status, or age). OVW does not issue a definitive list of “underserved populations,” because they support the belief that these populations vary by state and community. The following information is not intended to exclusively identify the underserved populations in Oklahoma. There may be additional underserved populations and previously indicated underserved populations for which no census or other data may be available.

Based on the 2012 Census estimates, the largest Oklahoma racial/ethnic groups are White (67.9%) followed by Hispanic (9.3%) and American Indian (9%). Slightly over 7% of the population is African American. Nearly six percent (6%) identify as more than one race and 1.9% of the population is Asian.



The following information provides an overview of the various races and ethnicities in Oklahoma:

Native Americans

- One-third of the 2,900,000 Native Americans in the United States live in three states: California, Arizona, and Oklahoma.
- Oklahoma is second only to California in the number of Tribes in the state.
- Thirty-eight (38) federally recognized Tribal Nations are represented in Oklahoma.
- An estimated 481,591 Native Americans live in Oklahoma.
- All of the counties with the highest percentage of Native Americans are rural counties.
- Adair County (pop. 22,683) has the highest Native American population with 44.3%.

Hispanic/Latinos

- Seven (7) of the ten (10) counties with the highest Hispanic and Latino populations are located in panhandle, southern, and western Oklahoma.

African Americans

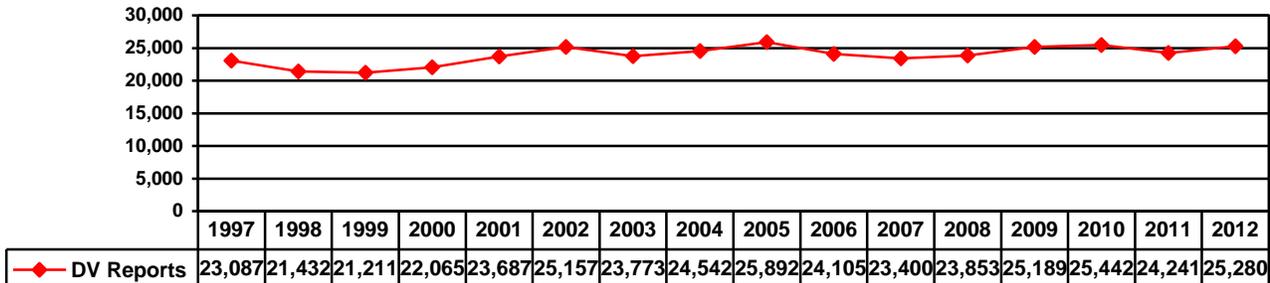
- Seven (7) of the top ten (10) counties with African American populations are rural counties.
- Comanche County has the highest percentage of African Americans in the state at 17.7%.

B. Local Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Data

According to the most recent data available from the *2012 Uniform Crime Report*, published by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI), between 2003 and 2012, domestic abuse reports increased by 6.3%. Domestic abuse is defined as threatening, causing, or attempting to cause serious physical harm between family or household members. Domestic abuse includes such offenses as murder, sex crimes, and assault and battery. Family or household members are defined as spouses, former spouses, present spouses of former spouses, parents, foster parents, children, persons otherwise related by blood or marriage, or living in the same household or who formerly lived in the same household. Also included in this category are persons in dating relationships (defined as courtships or engagement relationships) or someone with whom they had a child.

In 2012, OSBI reported 25,280 domestic abuse incidents. This is a 4.3% increase over 2011. Of these, 53 were homicides, 931 were sex crimes, 2,354 were assaults, and 21,942 were assault and battery.

**Uniform Crime Report
Reports of Domestic Abuse
1997 - 2012**



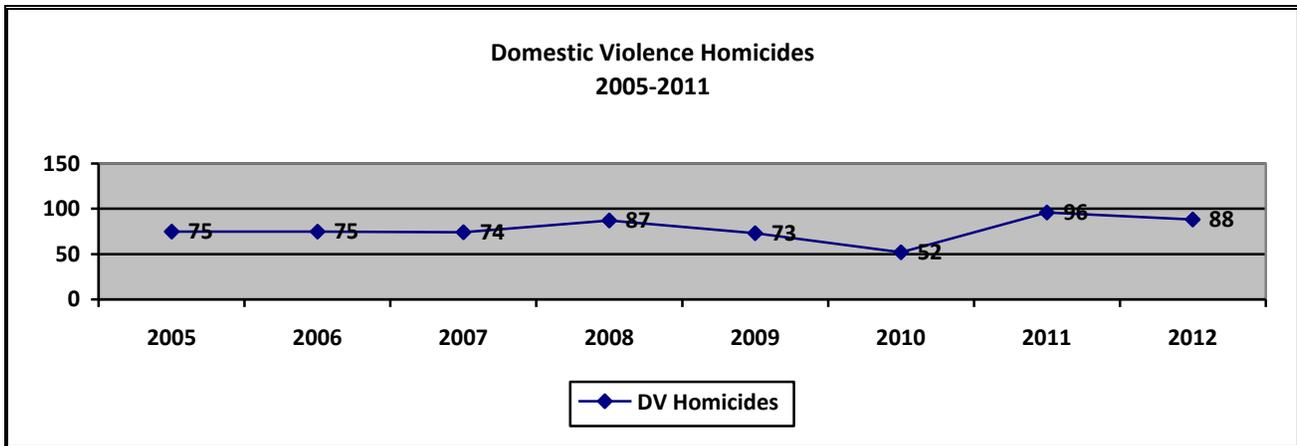
Other data collected by the OAG, Victim Services Unit which oversees the funding for victim service programs reports that 13,218 victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking were served by certified providers in FY2012, the most current statistics available.

Anecdotal information, progress reports, and Muskie data from victim service provider agencies frequently involve three factors: 1) the types of services required for victims have significantly changed within the last decade; 2) the severity of the injuries to the victims has increased; and, 3) victims are staying longer and longer in shelter in order to ensure that they do not have to return to an abusive situation. More and more frequently, victims need more intense and specialized services after making contact with the victim service agency. These services may include:

- legal services;
- medical services;
- housing services;
- job training; and,
- child advocacy services.

Oklahoma and Domestic Violence Homicides

In terms of national data, in 2010 Oklahoma was ranked 17th in the nation in the rate of women murdered by men in a single victim/single offender incident. Unfortunately in a single year, Oklahoma’s ranking increased significantly. ***Oklahoma now ranks 3rd in the nation in the number of women murdered by men in a single victim/single offender incident according to the most current data that is based on 2011 numbers through the Violence Policy Center.*** Oklahoma’s high rate of domestic homicides makes it necessary to give it separate mention.



In 2000, the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board (DVFRB) was statutorily created in an attempt to get a grasp on the problem of domestic violence homicides in Oklahoma. The Board began operation in 2001. Currently the DVFRB is staffed by the Office of the Attorney General. The mission of the Board is to reduce the number of domestic violence related deaths in Oklahoma through multidisciplinary case reviews of statistical data and information to improve policies, procedures, and practices within the systems involved and between agencies that protect and serve victims of domestic abuse.

According to the most recent 2013 DVFRB Annual Report which was printed in February 2014 based on 2012 information, 109 people lost their lives in Oklahoma as a result of domestic violence. Eighty-eight (88) of those killed were homicide victims. An additional 21 were suicides related to the domestic violence homicide perpetrators. Of those that were killed, the youngest was a 2-month old and the oldest was an 89-year old.

The vast majority of the fatalities were caused by a firearm (51), followed by a knife/cutting (15), blunt force (12), automobile (3), drowning (2), and strangulation (2). Fire, neglect, and an “other” category make up the remaining three (3) of the fatalities.

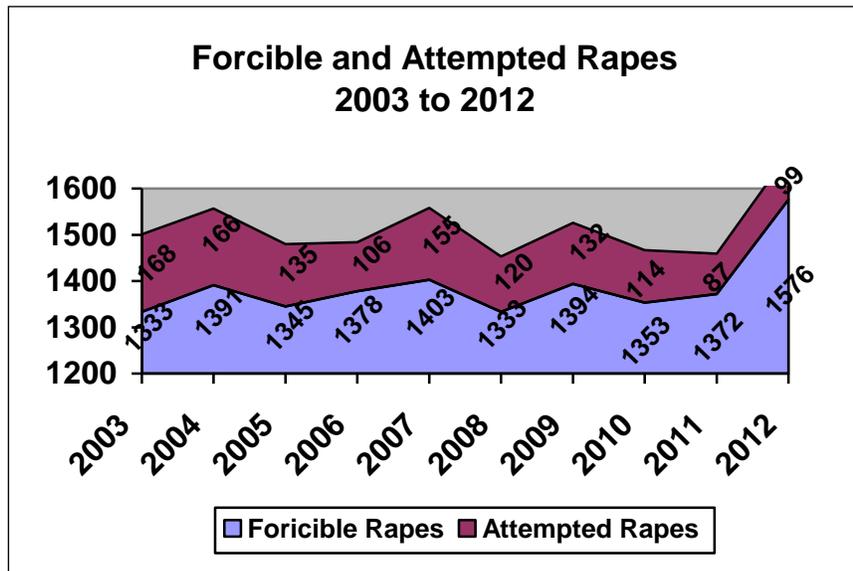
Sexual Assault

Sexual assault, or rape, differs from all other violent crimes in that the victim, in many cases, is hesitant to report the offense. It should be noted that because the crime of rape is so significantly underreported, the UCR data is under representative of the true picture of rape in Oklahoma, yet Oklahoma is sixth in the nation in the number of sexual assaults reported.

According to the most recent data from the *2012 Uniform Crime Report*, there were 1,576 forcible rapes and 99 attempted rapes for a total 1,675. Over the last decade, the number of rapes has fluctuated from a low in 2008 of 1,453 to a high in 2012 of 1,675.

Forcible rape is approximately 9.2% of all the violent crimes reported. Only 555 rapes, or slightly less than 33.1%, of the reported rapes were cleared by arrest or exceptional means. According to the OSBI “Crime Clock”, a rape is perpetrated or attempted every 6 hours and 29 seconds.

While the information reported through the UCR is valuable, the data is only reflective of reports provided to law enforcement. With research suggesting that only **one in six rapes** are reported to law enforcement, *the true picture of sexual assault is unknown.*¹



Sexual assault in rural areas is even more of an issue since Oklahoma is primarily considered a rural state.

Research has found that there are greater barriers in reporting sexual assault in rural areas than in urban areas. The lack of services, the lack of anonymity, and the greater social familiarity within a small community are just a few of the barriers that victims living in rural areas must face.

In urban areas, the response to sexual assault by the victim service providers, the criminal justice system, and the medical professionals is generally well established due to the frequency of the crime. These responses include established protocols, advocacy services for victims, trained law enforcement, and the availability of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) to provide specialized exams. Having these systems in place often encourages a victim to report.

However, in the rural areas, these systems may not be as available. In rural communities, these crimes are not as frequent so law enforcement is often not as comfortable or as well trained in interviewing victims who have just been sexually assaulted. A dedicated sexual assault advocate and a SANE nurse who provides the forensic exam may or may not be available. As a result of these barriers, lower rates of reporting may occur in rural areas where a victim suspects the services are not available to them.

¹ Kilpatrick, D.G., Edmonds, C.N., and Seymour, A. (1992). Rape in America: A report to the nation. Arlington, VA: National Victim Center and Medical University of South Carolina.

IV. Plan Priorities and Approaches

The purpose of this section is to outline the specific priorities for Oklahoma and describe the approaches that will be utilized.

A. Identified Goals

After reviewing all of the previously identified information, the following section identifies the Implementation Plan's priorities and approaches for the S.T.O.P. VAWA funding.

A significant change in the 2013 S.T.O.P. VAWA Reauthorization was the language change regarding the Courts category. As per the reauthorization, funding in the Courts category must now go 'to' the courts instead of 'for' the courts. This change has created a substantial challenge in the implementation of the 5% Courts allocation for Oklahoma. The current Court category subgrantees are programs which provide offender supervision for the courts. These subgrantees will no longer be eligible under reauthorization language change.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, which directs the activities of the AOC, has a solid stance and will not accept any federal funds. This information has been verified through phone calls and in-person meetings. Therefore, at this point, while the state judiciary has indicated interest in utilizing these funds for training, the state court system will not be able to participate in the use of the S.T.O.P. VAWA funds. To mitigate this considerable issue, DAC has been conducting outreach to the Tribal courts about the use of these funds for programs, such as judicial training.

The primary priorities in Oklahoma for the S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant funding have been, and continue to be, the funding of direct services, such as personnel and benefits for victim services, law enforcement, and prosecution. This is overwhelmingly the information that has been conveyed through the survey and the Listening Meetings.

Finally, Oklahoma has historically utilized the Discretionary Category to fund programs that provide a statewide impact; however, through the Listening Meetings and the survey, it was strongly voiced that many communities would like to use these funds for local programs as well.

Using the priorities as identified by the statewide survey, the Listening Meetings, the review of the local, state, and national reports and data on domestic violence, dating, violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and, the information provided by the subgrantees through the semi-annual progress and Muskie Reports, the following goals and objectives for use of the S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant funds are, but not limited to:

A1. Goals and Objectives in Effectively Responding to Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.

1) Provide advocacy and support to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

- a. In each year covered in this plan, S.T.O.P. VAWA monies will support direct advocacy services for approximately 2,500 unduplicated victims by funding advocates and counselors throughout the state that specialize in domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
- b. In each year covered in this plan, at least 95% of the 2,500 victims that seek services from S.T.O.P. VAWA funded advocates and counselors will be served or partially served according to OVW's definitions.

2) Improve access to and awareness of direct advocacy services, counseling, safety planning, language services, and other resources for women who are members of underserved and minority populations.

- a. In each year covered in this plan, S.T.O.P. VAWA monies will support two (2) programs that provide language specific and culturally specific advocacy and counseling services to Hispanic and/or Tribal populations.
- b. By the end of year two, S.T.O.P. VAWA monies will fund at least one (1) outreach project that will create informational materials geared towards domestic violence and sexual assault dynamics and services as they relate to underserved populations to include but not limited to the Hispanic population, Tribal population, and the LGBT community.
- c. In each year covered in this plan, all S.T.O.P. VAWA funded victim service programs will be required to include an outreach activity that targets underserved populations as required by the special conditions of their award.
- d. In each year covered in this plan, DAC staff will attend the Tribal Roundtable meetings and other meetings with underserved populations to encourage applications for S.T.O.P. VAWA monies.

3) Improve the ability of prosecutors to more effectively prosecute cases of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

- a. In each year covered in this plan, S.T.O.P. VAWA monies will fund specialized prosecutors that will focus on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
- b. In each year covered in this plan, S.T.O.P. VAWA funded programs will prosecute approximately 2,200 combined cases of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
- c. In each year covered in this plan, S.T.O.P. VAWA funded prosecutors will increase the acceptance rate of cases for prosecution by holding at least one (1) law enforcement training on the information and evidence they need from an

investigation for a case to be accepted by the District Attorney's office as required by the special conditions of their award.

4) Improve the ability of law enforcement to more effectively respond to and investigate cases involving victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and to increase the service of protective orders.

- a. In each year covered in this plan, S.T.O.P. VAWA monies will enhance effective investigations by law enforcement by funding specialized investigators in local law enforcement or sheriff's offices that focus on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking cases, and the service of protective orders.
- b. In each year covered in this plan, S.T.O.P. VAWA monies will support local law enforcement investigations by funding District Attorney Investigators that focus on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking cases.
- c. In each year covered in this plan, all S.T.O.P. VAWA funded law enforcement programs will meet with their local victim service provider no less than four (4) times per year to coordinate services to victims as required by the special conditions of their award.
- d. In each year covered in this plan, S.T.O.P. VAWA funded officers and investigators will investigate approximately 1,000 cases combined by responding to calls for assistance and submitting thorough incident reports with approximately 75% of the cases investigated will be referred to the District Attorney.
- e. In each year covered in this plan, S.T.O.P. VAWA funded officers and investigators will refer approximately 1,300 victims combined to governmental and non-governmental victim services.

5) Increase the judiciary's capacity to serve victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, and stalking.

- a. In each year covered in this plan, the primary use of the Court category will be to send state, local, and tribal judges to national training facilitated by the National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence.
- b. In each year covered in this plan, the DAC will continue outreach to explore other strategies for the Court category including programs that provide the supervision and monitoring of court requirements with misdemeanor and felony domestic violence offenders to ensure offender accountability.

6) Through education and training, build the capacity of professionals who impact victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

- a. In each year covered in this plan, S.T.O.P. VAWA monies will support efforts to provide discipline specific and multidisciplinary training.
- b. By the end of year three, the S.T.O.P. VAWA monies will support efforts to provide three (3) trainings on cultural competency. The DAC will coordinate with agencies that represent and provide services to underserved populations such as the LGBT community, Hispanic population, and Tribal programs.

- 7) **Enhance and build the capacity and coordination of the community response to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.**
 - a. By the end of year two, all S.T.O.P. VAWA funded programs in the victim services, culturally specific victim services, prosecution, and law enforcement shall participate in at least ten (10) CCR Team and/or SART meetings as required by the special conditions of their award.

- 8) **Increase efforts to prevent domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.**
 - a. By the end of year two, identify opportunities in which prevention initiatives funded through the Oklahoma RPE program, best practice models for starting prevention projects, and networking opportunities with already successful programs in Oklahoma can be provided to a multidisciplinary audience.
 - b. By the end of year one, the DAC will coordinate with RPE and OCADVSA to provide prevention technical assistance to victim service agencies around Oklahoma.

- 9) **Balance the distribution of S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant funds so that funding has the most effective impact on combating crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.**
 - a. In each year covered in this plan, the DAC and VAWA Grant Board will ensure the equitable balance of funds between rural and urban areas.
 - b. In each year covered in this plan, the DAC and VAWA Grant Board will ensure the equitable balance of funds between domestic violence and sexual assault projects in the state.
 - c. In each year covered in this plan, the DAC will continue coordinate with FVPSA, RPE, and VOCA to prevent duplicative efforts.

A2. Goals and Objectives for Reducing Domestic Violence Related Homicides

The 2013 VAWA Reauthorization requires more specific goals and objectives for reducing domestic violence homicides.

- 1) **Provide support to initiatives that help study domestic violence related homicides.**
 - a. In each year covered in this plan, the DAC will support the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board so they may review domestic violence homicides and determine best practices for preventing these homicides.
 - b. In each year covered in this plan, the DVFRB will complete an annual report that includes recommendations to improve system response to domestic violence and prevent DV-homicides. Additionally, each new report shall include an update on the progress and outcomes of previous recommendations.
 - c. By the end of year one, the DVFRB will coordinate at least two (2) meetings annually with the agencies that are responsible for implementing changes in their protocols per the recommendations in their report.

2) Increase the ability of law enforcement, the judiciary, prosecutors, and civil attorneys to more effectively serve the needs of high risk victims.

- a. By the end of year three, provide discipline specific trainings on the dynamics of domestic violence and lethality so that decisions made by these professionals are in the best interests of the victims.

3) Increase social service agencies' awareness of and coordination with victim service agencies.

- a. In each year covered in this plan, continue awareness initiatives on domestic violence such as the lethality assessment that target social service agencies that come into contact with domestic violence victims in order to increase referrals to victim service agencies.
- b. By the end of year three, enhance domestic violence protocols for social service agencies so they are aware of the signs and dynamics of these relationships and can tailor services and referrals accordingly. This shall also include enhancing Trauma Informed Services within these agencies.

4) Increase the capacity of law enforcement to recognize the potential for domestic violence homicides and enhance the coordination with law enforcement and victim service agencies.

- a. By the end of year three, expand the use of the lethality assessment in the protocols of law enforcement agencies around Oklahoma.
- b. In each year covered in this plan, continue and expand the use of Victim Information Packets which include the lethality assessment for law enforcement officers to provide at the scene.

5) Increase the collaboration the coordination of community agencies.

- a. In each year covered in this plan, provide technical assistance to CCR Teams as they develop and incorporate the high-risk team model within their community efforts.

B. Priority Areas

BI. All subgrants awarded with S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant must address at least one (1) of the twenty (20) purpose areas. Applicants are required to indicate the primary and secondary purpose areas in the applications of the proposed projects. No single purpose area is given priority by the VAWA Grant Board and all purpose areas are open for funding; however, applications that provide direct services in the victim service, law enforcement, and prosecution categories are given priority. Traditionally, the VAWA Board has funded projects within the following purpose areas²:

² Purpose areas are based on the 14 purpose areas prior to the 2013 S.T.O.P. VAWA Reauthorization.

Allocation Area	Purpose Area(s)
Victim Services	5, 7, 11, 12
Prosecution	1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 11, 12
Law Enforcement	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12
Courts	1, 2, 3, 4
Discretionary	1, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12

B1a. The state does not plan to address the Crystal Judson purpose area at this time. However, should a project be submitted under this purpose area, the DAC will ensure the required training is met.

B2. General Description of the Types of Programs and Projects that Will Be Supported with S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant Funds

The following is a general description of the types of programs and projects that are funded with S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant funds:

Victim Services

In the Victim Services Category, the VAWA Grant Board generally funds direct victim advocacy services for domestic violence, dating violence sexual assault, and stalking. These advocate positions provide guidance and support to the victim by assisting victims with completing and filing Victim Protective Orders, accompanying the victim to court, assisting with other resource needs, and safety planning. Rape crisis advocates meet victims at the hospital, direct them to appropriate services and keep the victims apprised of their rights, while trying to restore a sense of safety to their lives. Most of the projects that are funded are within rural areas.

Victim Services (Culturally Specific)

In the Culturally Specific Victim Service Category, the VAWA Grant Board generally funds direct victim advocacy services. These positions provide the core services to victims – advocacy, safety planning, etc., but expand by providing bi-lingual advocates to assist Hispanic victims and incorporating cultural needs into services for Native Americans.

Law Enforcement

In the Law Enforcement Category, the VAWA Grant Board funds local law enforcement and district attorney investigators exclusively dedicated to investigating domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking crimes, serving protective orders, making arrests for protective order violations, and offering testimony for the prosecution. Most of the projects that are funded are within rural jurisdictions. These small communities could not provide these specialized services without the assistance of the S.T.O.P. VAWA funds. Although Oklahoma will continue to primarily fund officers, the VAWA Grant Board will conduct outreach to potentially fund SANE initiatives that would have multi-county impact.

Prosecution

In the area of Prosecution Category, the VAWA Grant Board funds prosecutors and/or victim witness coordinators/advocates. The trend in the last several years has moved the focus to prosecutors. The prosecutors are assigned to caseloads that focus exclusively on violent crimes against women. The concept of evidence-based prosecution is embraced in this state. By assigning these cases to one prosecutor, a repeat offender will more likely be known and more stringent sentences for the offender can be sought. In addition, knowledge and expertise is developed. The victim witness coordinators/advocates assist domestic violence and sexual assault victims by providing information about the legal process and accompanying the victim to court. Most of the projects that are funded are within rural jurisdictions.

Courts

Historically, in the Courts area, the VAWA Grant Board has funded probation officers who monitor and supervise domestic violence offenders. Offenders in violation of probation suffer revocation of probation and possible jail time. However, the language change with the 2013 VAWA Reauthorization prevents current applicants from applying under the Courts category as the money must go ‘to’ the courts instead of ‘for’ the courts. The AOC has indicated they will not accept funds. As such, it is likely that Tribal Courts will be the target of this category.

Discretionary Programs

In the Discretionary area, the VAWA Grant Board has historically funded programs that have a statewide impact. However, through the survey and the Listening Meetings, it was strongly emphasized that while statewide programs are valued, funding for local initiatives that have a significant impact should also be considered.

B3. Distribution Across Law Enforcement, Prosecution, Courts, Victim Services, and Discretionary Funding

The DAC adheres to the percentage allocations as delineated in the S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant solicitation. The previous Implementation Plans and this current plan have stressed direct services in each category with the exception of the Courts and Discretionary categories. With this, applicants in the Law Enforcement, Prosecution, Courts, and Victims Services are directly impacting victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

B4. Documentation From Prosecution, Law Enforcement, Courts, and Victim Services About the Need, Intended Use, Expected Results, and Demographics

Letters from Prosecution, Law Enforcement, Courts, and Victim Services that document the need, intended use, expected results and demographics can be found in Appendix C.

B5. Sexual Assault Set-Aside

The 2013 VAWA Reauthorization requires a 20% set-aside for sexual assault in at least two (2) of the allocation categories (Victim, Law Enforcement, Prosecution, and the Courts) that meaningfully address sexual assault. Currently, nearly 20% of the projects in the Victim Services Category address sexual assault. However, given the rural nature of the state, many programs outside of the victim services category would not have the workload that would

require a full time prosecutor, investigator, etc. that could be exclusively dedicated to sexual assault, especially in smaller communities.

Oklahoma will meet the sexual assault set-aside by funding victim service programs from the Victim Services category that focus on advocacy and counseling services for sexual assault victims. Additionally, Oklahoma will look to use the Law Enforcement Category to fund the SANE program to expand and enhance the capacity of nurses around the state in providing these exams to victims and/or to fund investigators and/or deputies.

C. Grant Making Strategy

The VAWA Grant Board takes into consideration many factors when awarding grants and strives to be as objective as possible in the review process. The VAWA Grant Board distributes funds so that S.T.O.P. VAWA funding may have the greatest statewide impact. Additionally, the unique award period and application process encourage competition and compliance in order to receive grant funding but still allow new programs the opportunity to establish themselves due to multi-year funding being available. Lastly, checks and balances work to prevent subjectivity when making grant awards.

1. Equitable Distribution of Subgrants Based on Geographic Size

Priority may be given to areas of varying geographic size showing the greatest need based on the availability of existing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking programs for the population and geographic area to be served in relation to the availability of such programs for other such populations and geographic areas.

2. Equitable Distribution of Subgrants Based on Population and Geographic Size

The VAWA Grant Board takes into account both the population served and geographic size of a service area when making awards. For example, programs in the urban areas of the state such as Tulsa and Oklahoma City may have smaller service areas but the number of victims served would far exceed rural areas. However, there may also be more resources available in an urban area rather than a rural area. The S.T.O.P. VAWA Board still looks to distribute funds in a manner that ensures the greatest statewide impact.

3. Equitable Distribution of Subgrants Based on Rural Vs. Urban

Funds are generally distributed between rural and urban areas of the state. However, the vast majority of the state is rural and as a result, projects are more frequently awarded to rural programs.

4. Description of Methods Used for Solicitation and Review

The S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant award process is a competitive process in Oklahoma. To be considered for funding, the applicant must be an eligible applicant under the grant program, be in good standing with all previous and current grant awards, and meet the requirements of the application process.

The Notice of Availability of Funds is mailed to current subgrantees and to a mailing list in which various entities have requested information about the grant. The DAC uses OKGrants, an on-line grants management system. Applicants must register and be approved prior to

making application in order to ensure that the applicant is an eligible entity under the grant program. The applicants apply on-line and staff and board reviews of the applications are conducted on-line.

In addition to providing information on programmatic and fiscal compliance, the DAC staff reviews and scores the applications prior to the Board Review. The Board is able to access this information when they conduct their review.

Each member of the VAWA Grant Board is assigned to review and score applications in two (2) service areas. To avoid a conflict of interest, Board members do not review or make recommendations on applications that fall under their specific discipline.

In the application the maximum points for each section of the application are identified as well as the requirements for that section. In making awards, the VAWA Board considers the following:

- Equitable distribution between domestic violence programs and sexual assault programs;
- Programs that serve underserved populations;
- Demonstrated need for S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant funds;
- Ability to implement the S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant;
- Compliance with administrative, fiscal, and programmatic guidelines for continuation grants; and,
- Application scores.

On the first day of the award process, the VAWA Grant Board provides subgrantees with the opportunity of a phone conference call so that any questions that may arise through the reading of the application by staff or the board may be answered. The VAWA Grant Board then meets for a second day to deliberate and make the awards.

5. Timeline

The Notice of Availability of Funds is generally distributed in June or July with applications due in August. As part of the Listening Meetings conducted by the DAC, potential applicants were made aware of funding, given guidelines for funding use, and encouraged to sign up for the Notice of Availability of Funds. In addition, information on the grant program, the application process, purpose areas of the grant are provided on DAC's website.

In the past, the application period for the VAWA Grant was open in OKGrants for thirty (30) days but will now be open for forty-five (45) as per information obtained from the Listening Meetings. The DAC staff takes a month to review the grants. Then the VAWA Grant Board has a month to review the applications. The VAWA Board meets in November to review and make award decisions. Awards are made via the OKGrants for a 12-month period beginning January 1 and ending December 31.

Multiple or Single Year

Although each applicant is required to submit a new application each year, Oklahoma does offer a renewal system every other year. If an applicant is in good standing with the fiscal,

programmatic, and administrative aspects of the grant, the applicant is eligible for an additional twelve (12) months of funding, if the funding levels remain the same. If after awarding these funds, there are new monies available, then the funding is available to new applicants for a twelve (12) month period. This means that every other year the application is restricted to existing subgrantees unless new monies are received or if a current subgrantee has lost funding due to compliance issues and/or other potential issues.

For 2014, all 2013 subgrantees will be given the opportunity to apply for a VAWA Renewal Award. The only exception is those in the Courts category as they are no longer eligible based on the change in 2013 VAWA Reauthorization. This funding will be open to courts around the state. The DAC will continue outreach and coordination with other entities that are eligible, such as Tribal Courts so that these funds may be used as soon as possible and expand the capacity of the judiciary around the state.

6. Consultation with Victim Service Providers

Those applicants applying within the Prosecution, Law Enforcement and Courts categories are required to submit a Documentation of Collaboration demonstrating they consulted with the local victim service agency during the course of developing their application. The Documentation of Collaboration must be signed by the Authorized Official and the Executive Director of the local victim service agency. This documentation ensures that the proposed activities would promote victim safety, confidentiality, and economic independence. Failure to submit these documents in their application will result in disqualification from funding consideration.

Additionally, all applicants are required to submit at least one Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with another agency. In many cases multiple MOUs are submitted thus encouraging the collaboration between the subgrantee and partnering agencies.

A Program Specialist is assigned to the grant and acts as the point of contact for all applicants and subgrantees. This person offers technical support prior to the award process in terms of grant applications and throughout the life of the grant after the award. The Program Specialist further assists on ensuring activities continue to promote victim safety.

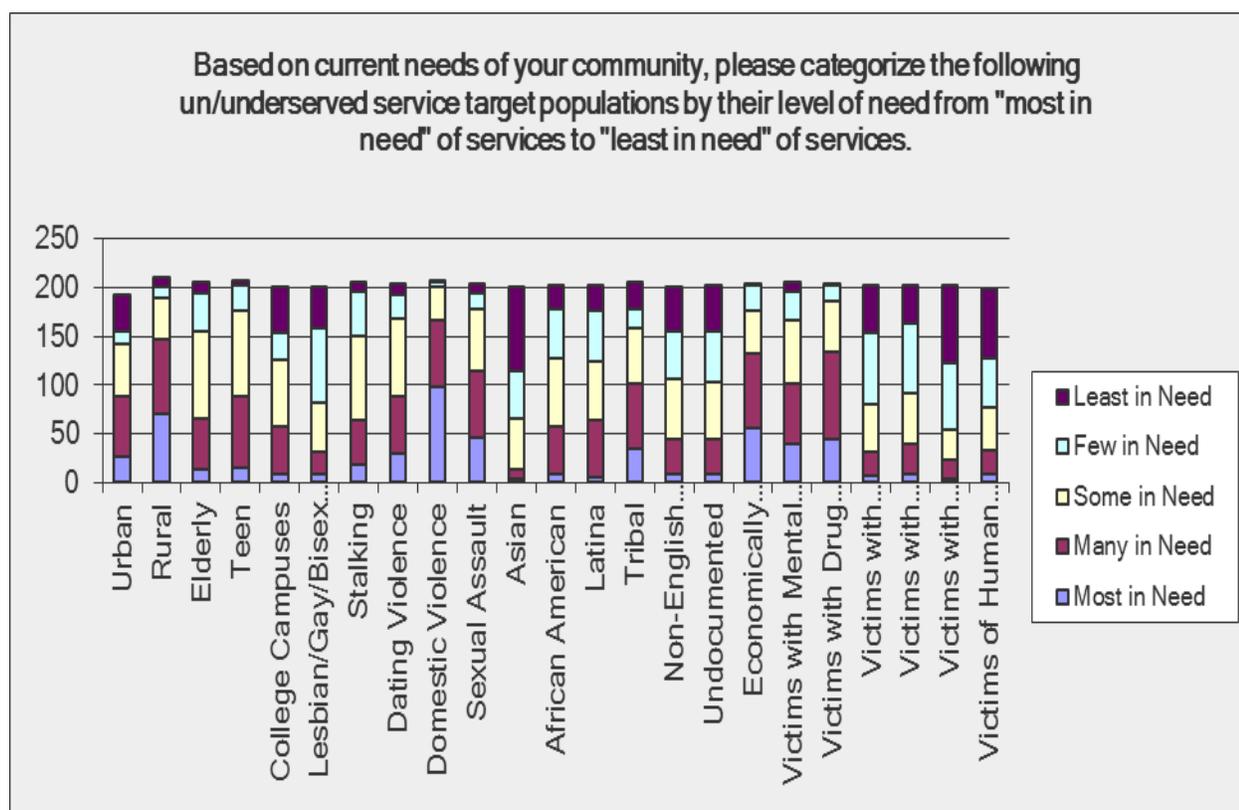
D. Addressing the Needs of Underserved Victims

The largest group of underserved victims in Oklahoma is rural victims. That group encompasses all the other types of underserved victims that the S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant assists. The other primary underserved populations, such as the Native American and Latina populations live in the sparsely populated rural counties throughout the state. Other than in urban communities, there is not a concentrated population of underserved in most communities and jurisdictions.

DAC constantly seeks input from representatives from all underserved groups, as well as those who provide services to them on a daily basis. The Listening Meetings described earlier offer representatives from our largest underserved populations – Native American, Latino, and Rural – in addition to the smaller underserved communities such as the LGBT community the opportunity to voice their concerns and desires in a completely neutral

environment. By hosting the Listening Meetings, those who participated had the opportunity to share their concerns with the DAC without feeling conflicted or challenged by another group. In the future, the DAC will look to hold more frequent individual Listening Meetings and group meetings so that potential S.T.O.P. VAWA recipients to include representatives of the underserved have the ability to network with one another. As has been found in the past, attendees will likely discover that many of their concerns and desires are very similar. This will also allow them to develop new contacts and share information and resources.

As part of the development of this Implementation Plan, the on-line survey described earlier specifically asked about the needs of underserved and unserved populations in the various communities. From the survey results, almost one third (1/3) of respondents said rural, tribal, economically disadvantaged and victims with drug and alcohol addiction had the highest need in their communities. This was followed by the elderly, teen, college campuses, African American, Latina, non-English speaking, undocumented, and victims with mental illness.



Aside from communities identifying a need for underserved populations in the survey, the Listening Meetings indicated that one of the major issues for underserved populations is their knowledge of available services, and in other cases, knowledge of available funding so that programs can cater to the needs of these populations. Additionally, Oklahoma is a state that is limited in resources. In many of the rural areas, underserved populations may not necessitate a full time employee focused on their needs and are instead served by a generalist. Solutions to these issues include the DAC conducting more outreach for potential

applicants and the VAWA Grant Board expanding priorities to include outreach to underserved communities and programs that would provide culturally competent training to advocates and members of the criminal justice system.

Oklahoma plans to meet the needs for culturally specific community based organizations through the funding of programs that focus on tribal and Hispanic populations. Traditionally, requests for S.T.O.P. VAWA funding in the culturally specific category has exceeded the amount available. In order to fulfill the VAWA Grant Board priority of providing services to underserved populations, the VAWA Grant Board looks to fund the highest rated applications until the culturally specific set aside is used and then supplements the rest of applications from the Victim Service category. In supplementing the culturally specific applications from the Victim Services category, the VAWA Grant Board maintains the criteria mentioned in the grant-making strategy.

Currently the Culturally Specific Community-Based Victim Service Category funds two (2) programs. These programs are focused on serving Hispanic victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in two areas of the state. Southwest Oklahoma Community Action Group in the southwestern part of the state was funded to employ, a full-time bilingual Hispanic advocate to provide a full range of services to non-English speaking victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and dating violence. The Latino Community Development Agency provides two (2) part-time advocates that provide bilingual crisis intervention, safety assessment and planning, translation, and support and advocacy services to Spanish speaking victims in the Oklahoma City Metro area. Although not funded through Culturally Specific funds due to the limited amount available, the Comanche Nation was funded through the Victim Services category. Their program will focus on providing outreach and enhancing access to Tribal victims in the Southwest part of the state.

E. Subgrantee Management, Monitoring, and Assessment

The Federal Grants Division within the DAC manages the S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant. In administering this grant, the Federal Grants Division:

- Prepares the application for the federal grant funds;
- Ensures coordination between the federal funding source and the subgrantees;
- Provides staff support to the Violence Against Women Grant Board;
- Develops and distributes the Notice of Availability of Funds and the grant application;
- Receives and coordinates the distribution of the grant applications to the Board for review;
- Reviews and makes recommendations to the Board regarding the funding for submitted grant applications;
- Receives funds from the federal granting agency and then disburses funds to the subgrantees throughout the grant cycle;
- Evaluates and monitors compliance of subgrantees in meeting state and federal requirements;
- Provides guidance and technical assistance to subgrantees;
- Collects statistical data from the subgrantees to assess program effectiveness and provide information to the federal granting agency; and,

- Prepares and submits the required progress, financial, and evaluation reports to the federal granting source.

Monitoring is a principal responsibility of the Federal Grants Division. The purpose of monitoring is to assist the subgrantees in implementing the approved projects within a framework of relevant state and federal statutes, regulations, policies, procedures, and guidelines so as to achieve maximum success. In order to be effective, it is imperative that the monitoring process occurs throughout the course of the award period. No less than 50% of the subgrantees receive an on-site monitoring visit during the award period.

Site visit selection is based on a risk assessment conducted at the beginning of the grant period. The purpose of conducting a risk assessment is to create a proactive system to ensure the programmatic and fiscal success of all subgrantees during the monitoring process. A subgrantee receives a risk value based on circumstances of the grant, past performance, individual situations, information gathered during the application or monitoring process, and other criteria deemed relevant.

A value is assigned based on the number of criteria that apply. A high risk designation has four or more criteria identified. A moderate risk designation has between two and three criteria and low risk designation has two or less. A subgrantee that has never received funds from the DAC is automatically rated as a moderate risk since there is no demonstrated history.

- A high risk subgrantee may receive two site visits
- A moderate risk subgrantee will receive a minimum of one site visit
- A low risk subgrantee, a site visit may or may not be conducted

Additional selection criteria for site visits:

1. There is a change in the Chief Executive, Project Director, and/or Fiscal Officer from the previous grant award.
2. The subgrantee had a previous grant which was not successfully closed out within 90 days of the end of the grant period or had significant difficulties closing out.
3. The subgrantee does not draw down funds for more than two consecutive months without notifying the Grant Programs Specialist of the circumstances.
4. The subgrantee does not draw down funds by the end of the first quarter of the award period without notifying the Grant Programs Specialist of the circumstances.
5. The subgrantee has been placed on Draw Hold on more than one occasion in a previous or current grant.
6. The subgrantee has had, or has, significant monitoring exceptions in a previous or current grant.
7. The subgrantee had significant challenges in executing the Goals and Objectives in a previous grant.
8. The subgrantee had difficulty revising the Initial Budget after the award was made.
9. The subgrantee had difficulty revising the Goals and Objectives after the award was made.

10. The subgrantee was delinquent on two or more quarterly reports during the award period.

In addition to the progress report that is required by the Office on Violence Against Women which is submitted to the Muskie School of Public Service, subgrantees are required to submit an annual performance report based on the approved goals and objectives of the project. The annual performance reports are due 30 days following the end of the project. This additional process evaluation information assists in future funding decisions.

V. Conclusion

In an effort to reduce domestic violence homicides and continue the fight against domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking, the DAC took the following steps to expand its Plan for VAWA funds between 2014 and 2016:

- ❖ Developed and disseminated an Implementation Plan Survey,
- ❖ Conducted Listening Meetings to gain insight and input from various partnering agencies to include representatives of the underserved,
- ❖ Analyzed statistical data of Oklahoma population, including, but not limited to: race, gender, population density; crime statistics for domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence, and
- ❖ Researched current statewide resources and practices as they relate to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking

After studying the information from the above sources, the DAC and the S.T.O.P. VAWA Board formulated a specific list of goals and objectives:

- ❖ Provide advocacy and support to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking;
- ❖ Improve access to and awareness of basic advocacy services, counseling, safety planning, language services and other resources for women who are members of the underserved and minority populations;
- ❖ Improve the ability of prosecutors to more effectively prosecute cases of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking;
- ❖ Improve the ability of law enforcement to more effectively respond to and investigate cases involving victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and to increase the service of protective orders;
- ❖ Increase the judiciary's capacity to serve victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, and stalking;
- ❖ Enhance the capacity of professionals who impact victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
- ❖ Enhance and build the capacity and coordination of the community response to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking;
- ❖ Increase efforts to prevent domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; and,
- ❖ Balance the distribution of S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant funds so that funding has the most effective impact on combating crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Additionally, the S.T.O.P. VAWA Board has identified the following as priorities for reducing Domestic Violence Related Homicides:

- ❖ Provide support to initiatives that help study domestic violence related homicides;
- ❖ Increase the ability of law enforcement, the judiciary, prosecutors, and victim attorneys to more effectively serve the needs of high risk victims;
- ❖ Increase social agencies' awareness of and coordination with victim service agencies;
- ❖ Increase the capacity of law enforcement to recognize the potential for domestic violence homicides and enhance the coordination with law enforcement and victim service agencies; and,
- ❖ Increase the collaboration and coordination of community agencies.

The DAC will take immediate action on these priorities by funding programs in areas of the state that need it the most in every discipline; seek advice and input from diverse communities; provide more core victim services; and continue to train law enforcement, court personnel, victim service providers and the general public on the dynamics of violence against women.

APPENDIX A

Allowable Purpose Areas for the S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant Program

In order to be considered for funding under the S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant, applications must fall under one or more of the following purpose areas:

1. Training law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.
2. Developing, training, or expanding units of law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors specifically to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.
3. Developing and implementing more effective police, court, and prosecution policies, protocols, orders, and services devoted to preventing, identifying, and responding to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.
4. Developing, installing, or expanding data collection and communication systems, including computerized systems linking police, prosecution, and the courts or for the purpose of identifying and tracking arrests, protection orders, violations of protection orders, prosecutions, and convictions for violent crimes against women, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
5. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening victim services and legal assistance programs, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking programs; developing or improving the delivery of victim services to underserved populations; providing specialized domestic violence court advocates in courts where a significant number of protection orders are granted; and increasing reporting and reducing attrition rates for cases involving violent crimes against women, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.
6. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing the needs and circumstances of Indian tribes dealing with violent crimes against women, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.
7. Supporting formal and informal statewide, multidisciplinary efforts, to the extent not supported by state funds, to coordinate the response of state law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts, victim services agencies, and other state agencies and departments, to violent crimes against women, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.
8. Training of sexual assault forensic medical personnel examiners in the collection and preservation of evidence, analysis, prevention and providing expert testimony and treatment of trauma related to sexual assault.
9. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs to assist law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and others to address the needs and circumstances of older and disabled women who are

victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, including recognizing, investigating, and prosecuting instances of such violence or assault and targeting outreach and support, counseling, and other victim services to such older and disabled individuals.

10. Providing assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in immigration matters.
11. Maintaining core victim services and criminal justice initiatives, while supporting complementary new initiatives and emergency services for victims and their families;
12. Supporting the placement of special victim assistants (to be known as "Jessica Gonzales Victim Assistants") in local law enforcement agencies to serve as liaisons between victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and personnel in local law enforcement agencies in order to improve the enforcement of protection orders. Jessica Gonzales Victim Assistants shall have expertise in domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and may undertake the following activities--
 - Developing, in collaboration with prosecutors, courts, and victim service providers, standardized response policies for local law enforcement agencies, including triage protocols to ensure that dangerous or potentially lethal cases are identified and prioritized;
 - Notifying persons seeking enforcement of protection orders as to what responses will be provided by the relevant law enforcement agency;
 - Referring persons seeking enforcement of protection orders to supplementary services (such as emergency shelter programs, hotlines, or legal assistance services); and,
 - Taking other appropriate action to assist or secure the safety of the person seeking enforcement of a protection order.
13. Providing funding to law enforcement agencies, nonprofit nongovernmental victim services providers, and State, tribal, territorial, and local governments, (which funding stream shall be known as the Crystal Judson Domestic Violence Protocol Program) to promote --
 - The development and implementation of training for local victim domestic violence service providers, and to fund victim services personnel, to be known as "Crystal Judson Victim Advocates," to provide supportive services and advocacy for victims of domestic violence committed by law enforcement personnel;
 - The implementation of protocols within law enforcement agencies to ensure consistent and effective responses to the commission of domestic violence by personnel within such agencies (such as the model policy promulgated by the International Association of Chiefs of Police ['Domestic Violence by Police Officers: A Policy of the IACP, Police Response to Violence Against Women Project' July 2003]; and,
 - The development of such protocols in collaboration with State, tribal, territorial and local victim services providers and domestic violence coalitions.
14. Developing and promoting state, local or tribal legislation and policies that enhance best practices for responding to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
15. Developing, implementing, or enhancing Sexual Assault Response Teams, or other similar coordinated community responses to sexual assault.
16. Developing or strengthening policies, protocols, best practices, and training for law enforcement

agencies and prosecutors relating to the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases and the appropriate treatment of victims.

17. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing sexual assault against men, women, and youth in correctional and detention settings.
18. Identifying and conducting inventories of backlogs of sexual assault evidence collection kits and developing protocols and policies for responding to and addressing such backlogs, including protocols and policies for notifying and involving victims.
19. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs and projects to provide services and responses targeting male and female victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking whose ability to access traditional services and responses is affected by their sexual orientation or gender identity.
20. Developing, enhancing or strengthening prevention and education programming to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, with not more than 5% of the amount allocated to a state to be used for this purpose.

APPENDIX B

Documentation of Collaboration

Please refer to separately uploaded pdf file in GMS

APPENDIX C

Letters from the Prosecution, Courts, Victim Services, and Law Enforcement

Please refer to separately uploaded pdf file in GMS

APPENDIX D

Survey Monkey Questions

Survey Questions
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2014

1. My service area is located mainly in:

- A Rural Location
- An Urban Location
- Both Urban and Rural

2. My agency is:

- Law Enforcement
- Victim Service Agency
- Prosecutor's Office
- Other (please specify):

3. Approximately how many primary victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking victims does your agency have contact with in a 12-month period?

- 0
- 1-25
- 26-50
- 51-75
- 76-100
- 101-125
- 126-150
- 151-175
- 176-200
- 201-500
- 500+

4. How many employees are there in your agency?

- 1
- 2-5
- 6-10
- 11-15
- 16-20
- 20+

5. Based on the needs in the community that you serve, please rate the following types of “UNSERVED” and “UNDERSERVED” victims which are in most need of attention and resources:

	Least	Some	More	Most
Elderly Victims				
Rural Victims				
Urban Victims				
Economically Disadvantaged				
Victims with Mental Illness				
Victims with Drug & Alcohol Addictions				
Victims with a Mobility Disability				
Victims with a Developmental Disability				
Victim with a Hearing Impairment/Loss				
Victims with Visual Impairment				
Victims of Human Trafficking				
Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Victims				
Victims on College Campuses				
Teen Victims				
Stalking Victims				
Dating Violence Victims				
Domestic Violence Victims				
Sexual Assault Victims				
Non-English Speaking Victims				
Asian Victims				
African American Victims				
Latina Victims				
Tribal Victims				
Undocumented Victims				

6. Based on the needs in the community that you serve, please rank the predominant barriers to providing assistance to victims of DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

Least Some More Most

- Transportation for Victims
- General Community Knowledge About the Dynamics of Violence Against Women
- Knowledge and Information About Available Domestic Violence Services in the Community
- Affordable Housing for Victims
- Available Job Training for Victims
- Affordable/Free Legal Services for Victims
- Cultural Barriers
- Language Barriers
- Accessibility Issues
- Coordination Between Victim Service Providers and Criminal Justice Agencies
- Batterer Intervention Program Availability
- Victim Service Agencies/Advocates Availability
- Advocate Knowledge on Domestic Violence Issues
- Prosecutor Knowledge on Domestic Violence Issues
- Enforcement Knowledge on Domestic Violence Issues
- Judicial Knowledge of Domestic Violence Issues
- Services for Male Victims
- Shelter Bed Space
- Other (Please Specify)

7. Based on the needs in the community that you serve, please rank the predominant barriers to providing assistance to victims of SEXUAL ASSAULT:

Least Some More Most

- Transportation for Victims
- General Community Knowledge About the Dynamics of Sexual Assault
- Knowledge and Information About Available Sexual Assault Services in the Community
- Cultural Barriers
- Language Barriers
- Accessibility Issues
- Victim Service Agencies/Advocates Availability
- Advocate Knowledge About Sexual Assault Issues
- Prosecutor Knowledge About Prosecuting Sexual Assault Issues
- Law Enforcement Knowledge About Investigation Sexual Assault Issues
- Judicial Knowledge About Sexual Assault Issues
- Coordination Between Victim Service Providers and Criminal Justice Agencies
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Availability
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Training
- Other (Please Specify)

8. Based on the needs in the community that you serve, please rank the predominant barriers to providing assistance to victims of STALKING:

Least Some More Most

- General Community Knowledge About the Dynamics of Stalking
- Knowledge and Information About Available Services in the Community for Stalking
- Cultural Barriers
- Language Barriers
- Accessibility Issues
- Lack of Community Knowledge About the Dynamics of Stalking
- Lack of Professional Knowledge About Stalking
- Lack of Coordination Between Victim Service Providers and Criminal Justice Agencies
- Lack of Victim Service Agencies/Advocates
- Not Enough Police Officers
- Not Enough Prosecutors
- Lack of Judicial Knowledge of Stalking Issues
- Lack of Volunteers
- Other (Please Specify)

9. For the mandatory 30% VAWA Grant funding that must go to victim services, do you support the continued use of VAWA funds for victim services so that advocates or counselors can provide direct services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking?

- Yes
- No

If the answer is no, what should the victim services funding be used for?

10. For the mandatory 25% VAWA grant funding that must go to law enforcement, do you support the continued use of STOP VAWA funds for law enforcement so that investigators can exclusively investigate domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking cases?

- Yes
- No

If the answer is no, what should the victim services funding be used for?

11. For the mandatory 25% VAWA grant that must go to prosecution, do you support the continued use of STOP VAWA funds for prosecutors in order that they can exclusively prosecute domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking cases?

Yes
No

If no, what should the funding in this category be used for? _____

12. For the mandatory 5% of the VAWA Grant that must go “to” the courts, do you support use of S.T.O.P. VAWA funds for training judges?

Yes
No

If no, what should the funding be used for? _____

13. For the mandatory 15% discretionary funding, do you believe that the funding should go to statewide initiatives only?

Yes
No

If yes, The projects below are examples of statewide initiatives. Please select the top 4 projects that you think currently best serves, or would best serve, victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking if funded by VAWA funds:

Best Choice Second Choice Third Choice Fourth Choice

Coordinators for Coordinated Community Response Teams
Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board
Multi-Disciplinary Statewide Training Conference
Allocate the 15% to the Victim Service Categories
Statewide Law Enforcement Training
Services for Deaf/Hard of Hearing Victims of Domestic Violence
Batterer’s Intervention Programs
Allocate the 15% to the Law Enforcement Category
Allocate the 15% to the Prosecution Category
Allocate the 15% to the Courts Category
Supervision of Offenders
Courthouse Security
Developing High-Risk Fatality Review Teams
Other, (Please Specify)

13. On a scale of 1-4 (with 1 being least effective and 4 being very effective), how would you rate your community's ability to effectively assist and respond to:

Sexual Assault Victims	1	2	3	4
Stalking Victims	1	2	3	4
Domestic Violence Victims	1	2	3	4
Dating Violence	1	2	3	4

14. Do you have a program that responds to victims of domestic violence or sexual assault victims that you are particularly proud of?

15. What are the strengths in your community in responding to victims of domestic violence?

16. What are the weaknesses in your community in responding to victims of domestic violence?

17. What are the strengths in your community in responding to victims of sexual assault?

18. What are the weaknesses in your community in responding to victims of sexual assault?