



State Of Oklahoma

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

Implementation Plan
2022 - 2025

Submitted By

Oklahoma District Attorneys Council

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I. Introduction

The State of Oklahoma 2022-2025 S.T.O.P. VAWA Implementation Plan was approved by the VAWA Grant Board on May 4, 2022.

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 S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant, awarded to states and territories, enhances the capacity of local communities to develop and strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat violent crimes against women 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 to 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. Under the 2013 Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, 20% of funds granted to a state must be allocated for projects in two or more allocations (victim services, courts, law enforcement, and prosecution) that meaningfully address sexual assault, including stranger rape, acquaintance rape, alcohol or drug-facilitated rape, and rape within the context of an intimate partner relationship. The 20% is counted based on the total amount granted to the state, but is not a separate allocation.

The DAC utilizes the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant Board to provide general oversight for the S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant Program, to review and approve the implementation plan, to review grant proposals, and to determine awards. Comprised of seven (7) 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. In 2017, the Executive Director of the Native Alliance Against Violence, the Native American Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault was added as a seventh board member to provide valuable insight into the needs of the 27 tribal victim service programs in Oklahoma.

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:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Representing Agency or Organization</u>
Kathryn Boyle Brewer Executive Coordinator	District Attorneys Council
Brian Hermanson, District Attorney District # 8 Billie Chrz, Designee	District Attorneys Council
John O’Connor, Attorney General Melissa Blanton, Designee	Office of the Attorney General
Don Hyde, Chief Calera Police Department Daniel Thurman, Designee	Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police
ReJeania Tolliver, Associate Director**	Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Michael D. Booth, Sheriff Pottawatomie County Sheriff’s Office Scott Hawkins, Designee	Oklahoma Sheriffs’ Association
Shelley Miller, Executive Director Aime Torres, Designee	Native Alliance Against Violence

*Kathryn Brewer replaced Trent Baggett as Executive Coordinator January 1, 2022

**This position is normally held by the Executive Director of the Coalition; however, the Executive Director has resigned, and the position is currently vacant.

The 2013 VAWA Reauthorization significantly amended the existing S.T.O.P. VAWA Implementation requirements. In order to be compliant, the DAC adopted a planning process as provided in the implementation plan toolkit developed by the Alliance of Local Service Organizations (ALSO), 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, the 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, sex trafficking, and stalking victims. This expanded process has proven to be very beneficial. The listening meetings provided a forum for victim advocates and representatives from various tribal and 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. The DAC has incorporated this vital information into the implementation plan.

The DAC used a variety of strategies to obtain input for the 2022-2025 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.

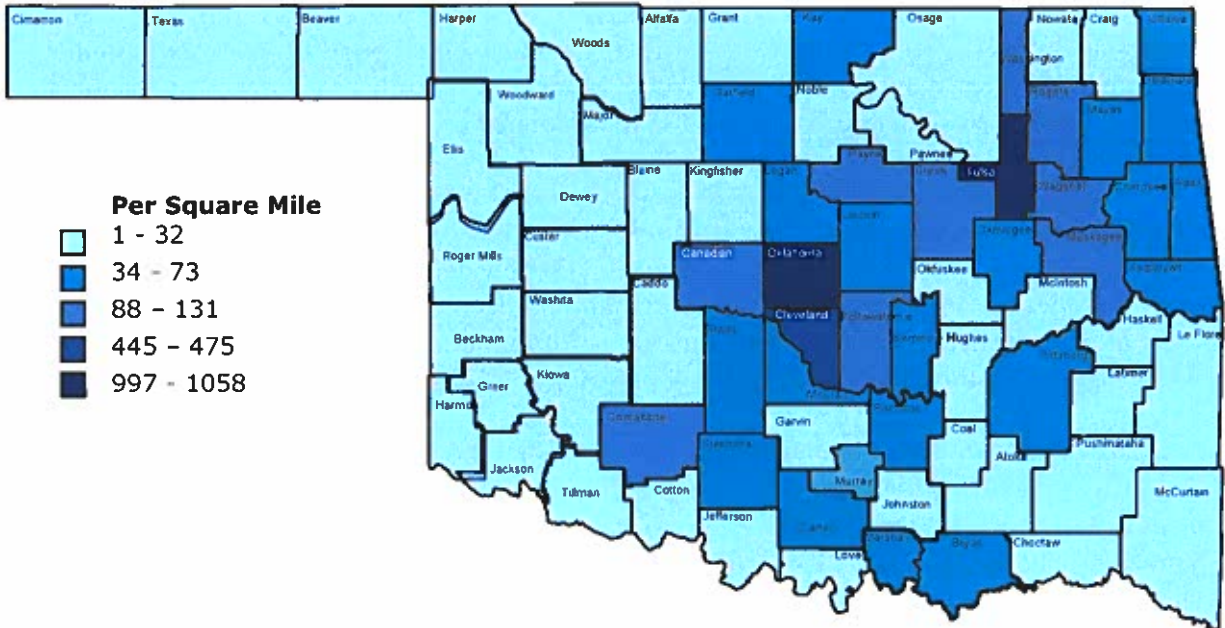
II. Needs and Context

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, the 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. Demographic information regarding the population of the state derived from the most recent available United States Census Bureau data including population data on race, ethnicity, age, disability, and limited English proficiency. (28 C.F.R. 90.12(g)(1)) (Required)

According to the 2020 Census from the U.S. Census Bureau, Oklahoma's population was 3,959,353 which is a population density of 57.7%. From 2010 to 2020, Oklahoma experienced a 5.5% increase in population. Oklahoma is the 28th most populous state in the United States. Oklahoma encompasses 68,577.8 square miles and is comprised of 77 counties (2020 Census Demographic Data Map Viewer).

State of Oklahoma Persons per Square Mile 2020 Census



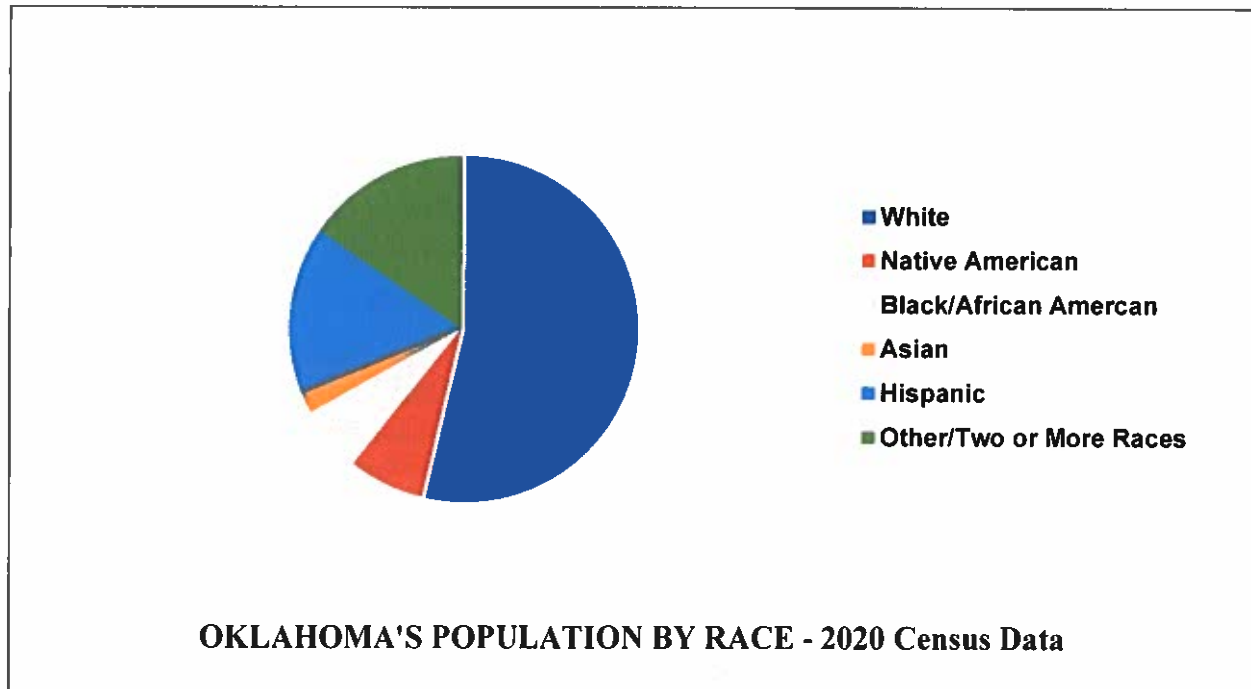
Oklahoma is considered to be a rural state. The only two (2) major metropolitan areas in the state are Oklahoma City and Tulsa. From the Oklahoma 2020 Census (<https://www.census.gov/library/stories/state-by-state>), the populations of these two (2) counties comprise approximately 37% of the total population 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 58.03 persons per square mile vs. the national average of 94 persons per square mile. Addressing the needs of 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 2020 census, the largest Oklahoma racial/ethnic groups are White alone (63.5%) followed by Hispanic (18.7%), American Indian/Alaska Native alone (8.4%), Black/African American alone (7.3%), Asian alone (2.3%), Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone (0.2%), Some Other Race alone (5.4%), and Two or More Races (12.8%) (2020 Census

Demographic Data Map Viewer). The Diversity Index increased to 61.1% from 54.9%. (Oklahoma 2020 Census <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/state-by-state>).



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

Native Americans

- 29% of the 3,727,135 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 332,791 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 42.3%.

(Oklahoma 2020 Census (<https://www.census.gov/library/stories/state-by-state>))

Hispanic

- Eight (8) of the ten (10) counties with the highest Hispanic populations are located in the panhandle, southern, and western parts of 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 15.6%.

(Oklahoma 2020 Census (<https://www.census.gov/library/stories/state-by-state>))

Age

- 24% of the population is under 18 years of age, 59.7% is 18 -64 years old, and 16.4% is 65 years old and over.

(US Census Bureau 2020 ACS 1-year Estimate)

Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

Of the estimated 1,514,051 households in Oklahoma, 1,342,029 spoke English only with 109,400 Spanish speaking households. Of those Spanish speaking households, 15,976 were limited English speaking households. There were 62,622 households that spoke languages other than Spanish with 10,625 of those being limited English speaking households.

(US Census Bureau 2020 ACS 1-year Estimate)

According to the LEP.gov website, as of 2015, which is the most recent available data, Oklahoma as an entire state has between 100,000 and 200,000 LEP persons. This is $\leq 1\%$ of those age 5 years or older who speak a language other than English at home and speak English less than “very well.” Oklahoma County and Tulsa County, the two major metropolitan areas in Oklahoma, have the highest concentrated numbers of LEP persons.

Disability

According to www.disabilitystatistics.org, using data from the 2018 Disability Status Report, published by Cornell University, the prevalence of the six disability types that are tracked among persons of all ages in Oklahoma was:

- 9.2% reported an Ambulatory Disability
- 6.7% reported an Independent Living Disability
- 6.4% reported a Cognitive Disability
- 5.2% reported a Hearing Disability
- 3.3 % reported a Visual Disability
- 3.0% reported a Self-Care Disability

The prevalence of disability for working-age people (ages 21 – 64) by race was:

- 17.6% among Native Americans
- 14.5% among persons of some other race(s)
- 14.3% among Whites
- 13.9% among Black/African Americans
- 4.9% among Asians

Demographic Data on Income and Wages, Poverty

The median household income in Oklahoma is \$54,536 as compared to the national median household income of \$67,340

(US Census Bureau 2020 ACS 1-year Estimate)

Poverty is defined as not having enough income to meet basic needs. This goes beyond just not having enough money for a new vehicle, smartphone, or to take a vacation. Instead, people who live in poverty struggle to keep a roof over their heads, put food on the table, or even purchase basic items like clothing, shoes, and hygiene items. In 2021 Oklahoma was 8th in the nation with 15% of its population living in poverty. This amounts to 598,373 Oklahomans living in poverty (worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/poverty-rate-by-state).

Demographic Data on Education/Literacy

Only 27% of Oklahomans have a Bachelor's degree or higher as compared to the national percentage of 35.1%. 31.5% have a high school degree or equivalent, 22.5% have some college but no degree, 17.7% have a bachelor's degree, and 9.2% have a graduate or professional degree. For school enrollment for those ages 3 and over, 5.9% are enrolled in nursery school/preschool, 76.1% are enrolled in kindergarten to 12th grade, 19.4% are enrolled in college undergraduate school, and 4.5 % are enrolled in graduate, professional school (US Census Bureau 2020 ACS 1-year Estimate).

Demographic Data on Employment

The employment rate in Oklahoma is 60.1% as compared to the national rate of 62.4%. 90% are in the civilian labor force and 10% are in the armed forces. 63.6% are employees of private companies, 4.2% are private not-for-profit wage and salary workers, 6.8% are local government workers, 6.6% are state government workers, 4.8% are federal government workers, and 6.6% are self-employed in their own, not-incorporated business (US Census Bureau 2020 ACS 1-year Estimate).

Demographic Data on Homelessness and Access to Availability of Housing and Homelessness

The median gross rent in Oklahoma is \$814.00 compared to the national median gross rent of \$1,097.00. There are 1,514,051 occupied housing units and 245,525 vacant housing units. Owner occupied housing units accounts for 68% of housing while 32% of housing units are renter occupied (US Census Bureau 2020 ACS 1-year Estimate).

As of January 2020, which is the most current statistic available, Oklahoma has an estimated 3,932 people are experiencing homelessness on any given day according to the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. That number included 255 total family households, 325 veterans, 1,128 persons experiencing chronic homelessness, and 290 unaccompanied young adults. Public school data reported to the U.S. Department of Education for the 2018-2019 school year shows that an estimated 23,372 students experienced homelessness during some part of that school year. Of that total, 1,668 were in shelters, 774 were unsheltered, 615 were in hotels/motels, and 20,325 were doubled up. From conversations with victim service programs, these numbers have increased with the Covid pandemic as families and individuals lost their jobs and thus their housing. Also, these are just the persons that reported homelessness; many don't report and slip through the cracks so the numbers are actually much higher (<https://www.usich.gov/homelessness-statistics/ok/>).

Demographic Data on Significant Concerns

- 14.3% of Oklahomans do not have health care insurance.
- 94% of households have a computer in the United States with only 6% without an internet subscription
- 93% of the households in Oklahoma have a computer and 8.4% of households are without an Internet subscription

(US Census Bureau 2020 ACS 1-year estimates).

B. Description of the methods used to identify underserved populations within the State and the results of those methods, including demographic data on the distribution of underserved populations within the State. (34 U.S.C. 10446(i)(2)(E); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(e)). (Required)

Rural is understood to be the most underserved population in Oklahoma from the comments on the subgrantee Muskie reports. Because this encompasses almost every county in Oklahoma, from there it was determined that within the rural areas there are victims who are being further denied the chance for services. These populations have been identified by the VAWA funded programs themselves through survey results, monitoring visits, and listening meetings. The largest ethnic/racially underserved population in Oklahoma is Hispanic followed by Native American. With 38 federally recognized tribes, Oklahoma is second behind California with the number of Native Americans living in the state. The survey put out by the Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault asked programs to identify their top underserved populations, specific to victims/survivors in their service areas. The results identified the top underserved populations as those with substance abuse issues (94%), mental health issues (89%), disabilities (84%), American Indian (78%), African American/Black (78%), Hispanic (73%), Rural (73%), Limited English Proficiency (63%), Elderly (57%), LGBTQIA+ (57%), Homeless/Living in Poverty (57%), Immigrants, Refugees, Asylum Seekers (36%), Asian (26%), and Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (10%). The survey put out by the DAC had Rural as the population most in need of services (47.32%) followed by Economically Disadvantaged (43.75%), Victims with Drug and Alcohol Addiction (47.32%), Victims with Mental Illness (41.07%), and Tribal Victims (34.23%). Listening meetings also emphasized victims with limited English proficiency, undocumented aliens, as well as tribal victims. Even among Hispanic individuals, there are significant cultural differences between those from different countries including language variances. From monitoring visits it was discovered that there were communities of Marshallese living in the Enid area as well as in the southeast corner of the state. These are very tight knit populations that do not seek services and keep to themselves. If they do reach out for help, language is a serious barrier. Oklahoma City also has a significant Vietnamese population where language again serves as a barrier to victims seeking services.

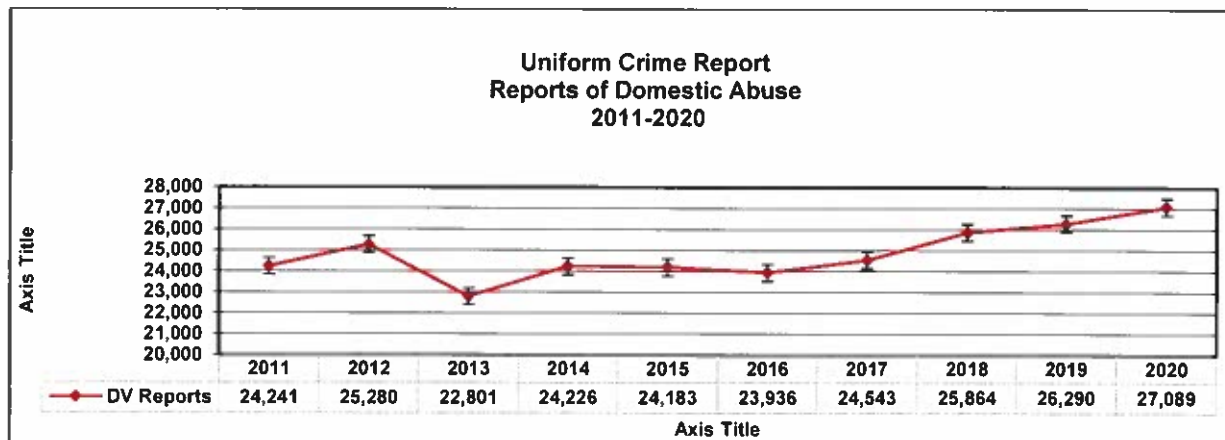
As a result of primarily the listening meetings, for the upcoming 2022/23 VAWA and SASP funding cycle, we have had a LGBTQIA+ organization apply and receive funding, and a tribe apply and receive funding under the court category. The tribe later denied the funding since it was not the entire amount requested. Tribes have applied and been awarded under victim services – culturally specific but not under the courts or the prosecution category. For the first time this funding cycle a tribe has applied and been awarded funding for the SASP grant as well. These focus/listening meetings allow the DAC to get to know the members of the organizations who are working with the unserved and underserved populations and to better understand what the needs for their communities are. There have been discussions with the Asian Task Force about the possibility of funding training for interpreters for several Asian languages, both for victim services and courts. These listening meetings will continue to be a focus for DAC staff to reach marginalized communities such as the Pacific Islanders, refugees, African American/Blacks, and LGBTQIA+ who have been served by the mainstream victim service programs, but could be better served by funding an organization that better knows their needs and their culture.

C. Local Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Data

According to the most recent data available from the *2020 Uniform Crime Report*, published by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI), between 2011 and 2020, domestic abuse reports decreased for only three out of the ten years, and had an average increase of only .7% per year. When compared to the five years prior (2016) domestic abuse increased 13.2% in 2020 while compared to ten years prior (2011) the increase had been 11.7%. 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, ex-spouses, present spouses of ex-spouses, parents, grandparents, stepparents, adoptive parents, foster parents, children, grandchildren, stepchildren, adopted children, foster children, persons otherwise related by blood or marriage, persons living in the same household or who formerly lived in the same household, and persons who are the biological parents of the same child, regardless of their marital status, or whether they have lived together at any time. This shall include the elderly and handicapped. Also included in this category are persons in dating relationships which means a courtship or engagement relationship.

In 2020, OSBI reported 27,089 domestic abuse incidents. Of these, 61 were homicides, 1,229 were sex crimes, 4,329 were assaults, and 21,470 were assault and battery.

Data collected by the Office of the Attorney General, Victim Services Unit, which oversees the state and Family Violence and Prevention Services Act (FVPSA) funding for victim service programs, reports that 22,908 victims of domestic violence were served by certified providers in the calendar year 2020. In addition, 4,759 nights in shelter were provided to victims of domestic violence, and programs answered 21,690 hotline calls. The number of shelter nights were much lower in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic.



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, especially during the Covid pandemic; and, 3) victims are staying 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.

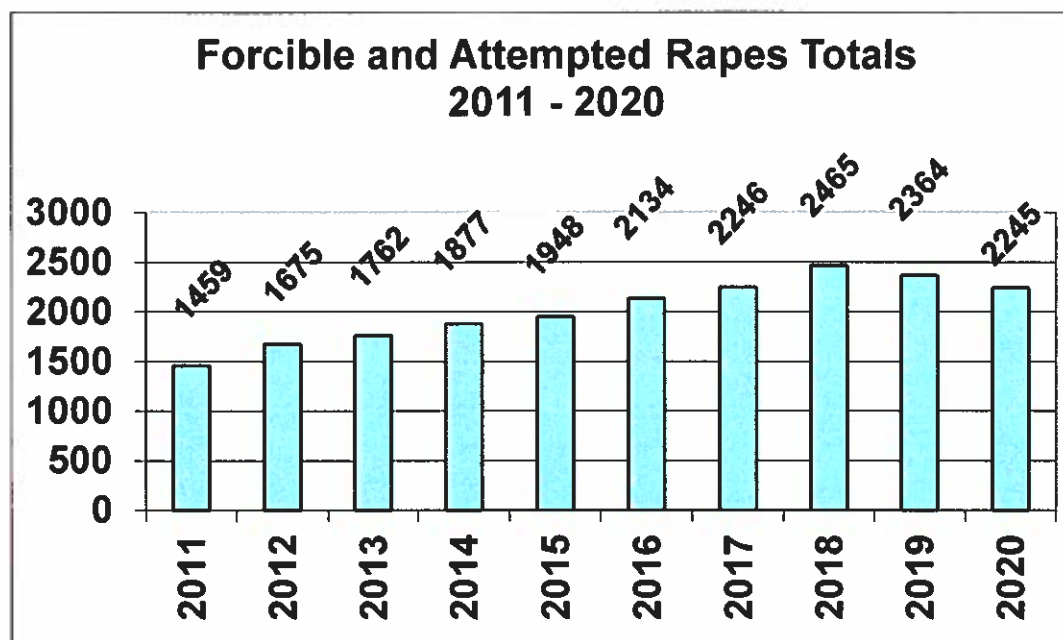
These services may include:

- legal services;
- medical services;
- housing services, especially transitional housing;
- substance abuse treatment;
- job training; and,
- child advocacy services.

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.

According to the most recent data from the *2020 Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Report*, there were 2,179 forcible rapes in 2020 and 66 attempted rapes for a total of 2,245. Since 2018, the number of reported rapes has decreased each year. The Part I UCR Offenses definition of rape changed between 2013 and 2014 which could also account for the fluctuation. Prior to 2014, the definition of rape was “Forcible Rape – The carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will, including attempts.” After 2014, the definition was changed to: “Rape – the penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part, object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without consent from the victim.”



Rape is approximately 11.8% of all the violent crimes reported. Only 430 rapes, or slightly less than 20% of the reported rapes were cleared by arrest or exceptional means. According to the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, Native women are 2.5 times more likely to be raped or abused than any other ethnic or racial group. This is true not just in Oklahoma, but in the nation.

While the information reported through the UCR is valuable, the data is only reflective of reports provided to law enforcement. Only 47% of sexual assaults are reported to the police and only 12% of child sexual abuse is reported to the authorities (National Sexual Violence Resource Center).

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.

III. Description of the Planning Process

A. A brief description of the planning process (Required)

The purpose of this section is to provide an overview of the various strategies used to obtain information and input to develop Oklahoma's 2022-2025 S.T.O.P. VAWA Implementation Plan, including: 1) planning committee meetings; 2) a statewide survey; 3) listening/focus group meetings; 4) information provided by local, state, and national reports and data; and 5) information provided by the subgrantees through the semi-annual progress and Muskie Reports.

1. Planning Committee Meetings

Beginning in the spring of 2020 and continuing through the spring of 2022, the DAC staff held in-person planning committee meetings, virtual meetings, or a combination of in-person meetings with some attending virtually. Individuals or organizations that participated on our planning committee or in listening meetings for the 2017-2020 implementation plan were invited

by email to participate on the planning committee for the 2022-2025 plan. Also invited were other underserved populations identified since that time. Several weeks prior to each meeting, the agenda, as well as what was going to be discussed at the meeting such as sections of the 2017-2020 plan to be reviewed for revision and suggestions for improvement, were emailed to each member. The first planning committee meeting on March 12, 2020 was held in-person. The meetings on June 11, 2020, August 12, 2020, November 11, 2020, and March 11, 2021, were held virtually due to Covid. For these virtual meetings, in addition to sending an email, a GoTo Meeting invitation was also sent to all the committee members. Once the governor ended the State of Emergency for the state, the meetings resumed in-person for the VAWA Board members. The other planning committee members could opt to attend in-person or virtually. The June 10, 2021 and October 20, 2021 meetings were attended in-person by the board and virtually by the other attendees. Again, for those attending virtually a GoTo Meeting invitation was sent in addition to an email. The October 20, 2021 meeting was called to discuss the results of the survey that the DAC sent across the state to victim service agencies, tribal leaders, tribal victim service programs, law enforcement agencies, courts, LGBTQIA+ organizations, Asian organizations, and to the planning committee members.

Agendas, sign-in sheets, and participation forms from committee members can be found in Appendix B

2. State-wide 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, the DAC implemented an online statewide survey using Survey Monkey. Prior to obtaining the survey, the SAA requested surveys that had been conducted by other SAAs throughout the country and built upon the survey utilized in the 2017-2020 Implementation Plan. 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.

The 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 member programs
- 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)
- Oklahoma District Attorneys, Assistant District Attorneys, and Victim Witness Coordinators
- Current S.T.O.P. VAWA and Sexual Assault Service Program (SASP) Subgrantees

- Current VOCA Subgrantees
- Current Rural Subgrantees
- S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant Board Members
- VAWA Implementation Planning Committee
- Tribal Leaders
- Tribal Victim Service Programs
- Surayya Anne Foundation – Asian Organization
- Catholic Charities
- The Spero Project – Asian Organization
- United We Dream – Asian Organization
- Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Oklahoma
- Diversity Center OKC – LGBTQIA+
- SISU Youth – LGBTQIA+
- LGBTQIA+ programs at state universities
- PFLAG Programs – LGBTQIA+

A total of 133 responses were received which provided invaluable information to the DAC about domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, 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, 55.88% of the respondents identified that they were from rural areas, 17.29% were from urban areas, and 41% were from a jurisdiction that served both urban and rural areas.

In terms of the disciplines that responded to the survey, 18.8% were law enforcement, 62.41% were victim services, 9.02% were prosecutors, and 9.77% responded as other. The other included outliers such as CASAs, SANE, tribal victim services, and victim services within a prosecutor's office, court, and government agency.

On the additional question regarding agency type, "Do you work in a tribal based organization?" 19.55% of respondents answered "Yes" while 80.45% of respondents answered "No".

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 information obtained through the survey has been incorporated throughout the plan.

Top Five Immediate Service Needs of Victims

1. Emergency shelter
2. Crisis intervention services
3. Basic needs, i.e., food and clothing
4. Case management
5. Transportation

Un/Underserved Populations Most in Need of Services

1. Rural
2. Economically disadvantaged
3. Victims with drug and/or alcohol addiction
4. Victims with mental illness
5. Tribal victims

Top Five Factors Most Important to Victims Seeking Services

1. Concern for children or dependents
2. Severity/frequency of the abuse or violence
3. Financial issues
4. Familiarity or comfort with local victim services
5. Family support

Top Five Long-Term Service Needs of Victims

1. Trauma-specific therapy
2. Employment assistance/job skills
3. Transitional housing/long-term housing
4. Mental health services
5. Legal advocacy

Top Five Ways Victims Learned about Services Agencies Provided

1. Word of mouth
2. Referrals from other agencies
3. Brochures
4. Referrals from police
5. Social media webpages

Top 5 Infrastructure Needs Within the Programs

1. Funding for/increase of staff
2. Basic program supplies
3. Computer equipment upgrade-hardware/software
4. Administrative overhead
5. Technology other – communication systems, assisted technology, etc.

Top Five Barriers Affecting Programs' Ability to Provide Service for DV

1. Transitional housing
2. Affordable housing
3. Transportation services
4. Shelter bed space
5. Substance abuse treatment

Top Five Factors that kept survivors from seeking services

1. Lack of trust in the system
2. Fear of retaliation to the children, self, or family
3. Feelings of shame or embarrassment
4. Lack of social support
5. Lack of knowledge about victims' rights

Top Five Barriers for Sexual Assault Victims

1. Transportation services
2. Shelter bed space
3. Affordable housing
4. Lack of transitional housing
5. Community awareness of sexual assault

Top Five Barriers for Stalking Victims

1. Transportation services
2. Affordable housing
3. Community awareness of stalking
4. Shelter bed space
5. Tied: Legal services and Knowledge of stalking among law enforcement

Top Five Barriers for Dating Violence Victims

1. Transportation services
2. Shelter bed space
3. Community awareness of dating violence
4. Cultural barriers
5. Knowledge of dating violence among law enforcement

Top Five Barriers for Sex Trafficking Victims

1. Shelter bed space
2. Community awareness of sex trafficking
3. Transportation services
4. Affordable housing
5. Lack of transitional housing

Except for a couple differences, the barriers for all the crime types were very much related to the rural nature of Oklahoma with small programs with limited shelter space, affordable housing, and transportation services.

Regarding the required 30% mandated funding to victim service agencies, 99% agreed that VAWA funding should support the work of advocates and/or counselors. 96% agreed with the 25% mandated funding for law enforcement, 89% agreed with the 25% mandated funding for prosecutors, and 90% agreed with the 5% mandated funding for courts. When asked whether the 15% allocated to discretionary should be used only for statewide initiatives, only 76% agreed. In the comments section it was noted rural areas were often overlooked in statewide initiatives.

As always, training is always a need and the most needed trainings were trauma informed, training on Oklahoma laws, sensitivity training and cultural knowledge, topic specific training such as sex trafficking, stalking, etc., and navigating the criminal justice system.

As for areas in need of work in their community, increased funding for services was the highest need followed by access to temporary and permanent affordable housing, access to shelter beds, access to civil legal assistance, and understanding how abusers use technology against survivors.

There were a lot of responses to the question about how Covid has affected an agency's ability to provide services. Most continued to provide services but with increased safety procedures such as telehealth and social distancing. For many, face-to-face interactions stopped. It did force agencies to shift how services were being offered and to get innovative. It challenged agencies financially to meet salaries and operating costs and there was turnover in all agencies whether non-profit victim service agencies, law enforcement, or prosecution.

The U.S. Supreme Court McGirt decision also impacted many agencies, especially those in the eastern half of the state. Many of the law enforcement agencies worked with tribal law enforcement to become cross deputized but victims are confused and not sure who is working their case. Tribal courts were not prepared for the onslaught of cases so many went to the federal courts which were also not prepared.

The survey questions can be found in Appendix E.

3. Listening/Focus Group Meetings

In addition to the survey, the Federal Grants Division Director and the Grant Programs Specialist conducted listening meetings beginning in the spring of 2020 through the fall of 2021 in order to incorporate the changes required by the 2013 S.T.O.P. VAWA Reauthorization related to the implementation plan. By conducting these listening meetings, the 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. Meetings were held in-person until spring of 2020 when meetings were held virtually via a variety of meeting platforms depending on which agency was hosting. The DAC used GoTo Meetings or TEAMS while the meetings hosted by the Coalition or the Office of the Attorney General utilized ZOOM. Tribal listening/focus meetings are discussed in the tribal

consultation section. Listening meetings were conducted with representatives from the following unserved and underserved agencies and organizations:

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) – May 6, 2021

- Suraya Anne Foundation – Asian
- Asian Task Force for DV and SA Services for AAPI
- CAIR Oklahoma – Islamic

The meeting was facilitated by Laura Russell, the Grant Programs Specialist for the DAC.

From your perspective, what are the barriers and gaps to services for domestic violence victims in your community?

- Financial stability, awareness of the laws, fears of reprisal – especially when children are involved
- Many times they have no work permit as spouses so afraid of losing their support and kids
- Taboo and stigma about reporting; afraid they will be harmed more than helped
- Lack of educational awareness of resources and help
- Distrust of the system, especially if they are immigrants or refugees; they don't trust anyone in uniform since those were often the oppressors in their native country
- Language barriers – it takes much longer for services if translators are involved and without leaders who speak the language, the survivors don't get the benefits of group sessions; they don't get the sense that they aren't alone and don't get any rapport with other survivors which further isolates them
- For civil cases they have to bring their own translator to court
- Distrust of confidentiality of translators/translation services and accuracy of those services; not convinced that what they say will not be leaked to the community
- Fear that their kids will be removed and placed in a home that does not respect their religious beliefs
- Reporting a Muslim male for abuse further perpetuates the negative stereotype of Muslim men and contributes to the oppression; oppression from society and from home
- Reporting risks deportation of the abuser who they may still love and is the father of their children
- 1 in 7 Asians are undocumented
- Finding translators for court at the last minute is a constant struggle and translators for civil cases are not guaranteed

From your perspective, what are the barriers and gaps to services for sexual assault victims in your community?

- Same as above but including how to access a SANE and then the lack of translators for an exam. This is a very personal exam and having to use a phone translator makes it very clinical and cold
- Cultural stigma about sexual assault – will this get back to my community since translators are part of the community?

- Very hard to go through a SANE or counseling/advocacy with a translator and then know that you will see that translator, who has heard everything about the worst thing that could happen to you, in the grocery store or your place of worship since the translation pool is so small
- Hooria said this is why she doesn't counsel Pakistani but recommends having people that can staff other cases of similar cultures to try to eliminate some of this
- Vietnamese 5 times more likely to get cervical cancer since they won't schedule gynecology appointments or get PAP smears so how likely is it they will report SA or get a SANE

From your perspective, what are the gaps and barriers to services for stalking victims in your community?

- Same as with DV
- Burden lies with the victim to document and collect evidence for law enforcement and many lack the technology or skills to do this
- Language barriers with LE
- Have to be much more creative with safety planning for stalking and have to use technology which itself is a huge barrier since many victims don't understand it
- Lack of education on what constitutes stalking; many still only think of stalking as a stranger lurking outside your house and following you
- Protection requires contacting law enforcement which many won't do as they distrust LE
- There needs to be non-police options for DV, SA, and stalking so that victims don't have to tell their stories to a system that they feel doesn't respect them
- Many clients scared to go to Palomar or a family justice center because of the presence of law enforcement there; many victims assume everyone there has access to their information even though that isn't true
- Need to normalize who law enforcement are and build better relationships with law enforcement

What do you think would be the most effective services; without taking cost into consideration, that would help victims?

- Language access
- Grant funded training for interpreters so that they can be certified and then pay back with hours
- More staff that speak more languages than Spanish so victims can access the benefits of group therapy
- Adult education on resources and what is available that doesn't necessarily involve the criminal justice system
- Non-incarceral and non-police response – more anonymous hot/help-line services
- Currently we are addressing the problems after they occur which is putting a Band-aid on the situation; we need to dig deep into the culture and see what parts of the culture are empowering and enabling the abuser. This needs to start with preventative youth focused

programs on body autonomy, consent, healthy relationships, etc. in a culturally relevant way.

- Easier to lock people away than to force communities to examine their culture – DV and SV only rises to the level the community allows
- Veronica is working on a gender equality platform at CAIR

LGBTQIA+ - May 7, 2021

- Diversity Center OKC
- Stillwater Chapter of PFLAG – LGBTQIA+

The meeting was facilitated by Laura Russell, the Grant Programs Specialist for the DAC.

From your perspective, what are the barriers and gaps to services for domestic violence victims in your community?

- Funding and ability to write grants but most agencies are so short staffed and don't have grant writers – they are too busy providing services
- Challenging to pay staff to stay late for groups for people not certified to provide those services
- Lack of communication between queer community, especially agencies providing services
- Lack of communication between agencies that serve the LGBTQIA community
- Lack of resources and services in the rural communities; great resources at the universities but not outside of the universities
- There are no laws protecting the community specifically; there are for cisgender folk but not for the queer community so this impacts the community in coming forward
- Community is not educated as to what their rights are such as their mail can go to a PO box to prevent their offender from finding them. So agencies have to look at how they can protect their community in a different way. Shelters are being more accommodating but still a lot of room for improvement, especially for trans people – they need a safe place to go just like cisgender folk do
- Lack of knowledge of resources
- Stigma in the community for victims
- Denial that DV can occur among same sex
- Small community so finding counselors, advocates, etc. skilled in dealing with the LGBTQIA community, especially the trans community is difficult
- Recent legislation in Oklahoma and the U.S. which seems to be going backward instead of forward - for every two to three strides forward, it is then a step back
- PFLAG used to be for parents but now have friends, allies, etc. but now have many more parents of trans than any other group and they need resources and training on how to treat a friend or family member who has encountered DV or SA; they can actually put them in more harm -Significant Other Friends and Allies (SOFA)
- Already lost over 20 transwomen this year. Average life span of transwomen of color is 32. They feel they are a time bomb ticking if they make it to 32.

- There is still such stigma against the LGBTQIA community as a whole despite the recent improvements that many victims feel that reporting won't do any good. They feel that the criminal justice system won't protect their rights or even try to help.
- Don't want to involve the criminal justice system which has not historically been sympathetic to the community
- Blame for events like Covid always comes to minorities such as Asians, Blacks, Hispanics, and LGBTQ+, Native – comes with all the stereotyping

From your perspective, what are the barriers and gaps to services for sexual assault victims in your community?

- Same as above
- Lack of training for medical professionals in dealing with trans and LGBTQIA+ victims. Often the expressions on their faces makes the situation even worse if possible. Need training on treating queer folks appropriately. It would be great if SANE nurses and DV nurse examiners could receive sensitivity training of some sort so that victims wouldn't be made to feel worse about receiving an exam
- There is still such stigma against the LGBTQIA community as a whole despite the recent improvements that many victims feel that reporting won't do any good. They feel that the criminal justice system won't protect their rights or even try to help.
- Don't want to involve the criminal justice system which has not historically been sympathetic to the community

From your perspective, what are the barriers and gaps to services for stalking victims in your community?

- Lack of knowledge about what constitutes stalking – need education that it doesn't have to be extreme and it is not romantic but is stalking
- Having to report stalking to law enforcement for any restitution or help – law enforcement has not historically been sympathetic to the LGBTQIA community

What do you think would be the most effective services; without taking cost into consideration, that would help victims?

- Ability to provide on-site services at the Diversity Center with dedicated unit just for LGBTQ+ with advocate able to link survivors to services; shelter services on site and not have to use a hotel
- Trained SANE volunteers since it would be more comfortable for the victims
- Medical professionals, counselors, advocates, who are actually LGBTQIA so that they actually understand the culture and community and the special needs of the victims, especially sexual assault victims
- More community training
- More funding for resources and services for the community
- This community much prefers face-to-face as opposed to telehealth so the center is going to start back with group sessions; trans especially tend to isolate and once they get out and meet with other trans they don't want to isolate again and crave interaction with people they identify with

Hispanic – June 24, 2021

- Latino Community Development Agency – Hispanic
- La Luz Organization – Hispanic Faith Based
- ICAN -bilingual advocate

The meeting was facilitated by Laura Russell, the Grant Programs Specialist for the DAC.

From your perspective, what are the barriers/gaps to services for domestic violence victims in your community?

- Lack of trust in law enforcement
- Fear of deportation and fear of losing children
- Transportation
- Culture – Machismo will prevent men from seeking services or following through if they make a call
- Language barrier – 1 in 3 DV shelters do not have Spanish speaking staff
- Lack of knowledge in the Hispanic communities about local services for domestic violence
- Institutionalization – OG&E requires a SS# to get service which is a barrier for undocumented individuals
- Advocates not understanding the victim's cultural upbringing, family values and dynamics, and faith principles
- Lack of funding

From your perspective, what are the barriers/gaps in services for sexual assault victims in your community?

- Lack of trust in law enforcement
- Language barrier – 1 in 3 DV shelters do not have Spanish speaking staff
- Lack of knowledge in the Hispanic communities about where to get services/SANE exams for sexual assault
- Advocates not understanding the victim's cultural upbringing, family values and dynamics, and faith principles
- Lack of funding
- Culture response team
- SANE – in Canadian County have to go OKC to get the exam so transportation is an issue and the length of time between the assault and the exam or advocacy often causes clients to give up; finding bilingual services for victims is a huge problem
- Bilingual SANEs and therapists
- Small community and don't want to be at their most vulnerable with someone they may see out in the community

From your perspective, what are the barriers/gaps to services for stalking victims in your community?

- Lack of knowledge as to what stalking is – they think it is normal behavior
- It is the neglected child off to the side; everyone focuses on DV and SA
- Having to make a report to law enforcement to file a VPO which is required by state statute when most victims don't trust law enforcement or are afraid of deportation even if they know stalking is happening and they know it is wrong

- Stalking is not considered a crime in Latin America so lots of education is needed; need a full-time person just for more aggressive outreach on stalking education
- Clients fear they are not going to be listened to or taken seriously
- Using the term stalking lightly, i.e. Facebook stalking, watering down the phrase and making it seem to be no big deal

From your perspective, what are the barriers/gaps to underserved/unserved/inadequately served victims in your community?

- Lack of cultural specific service providers
- Spanish speaking advocates and advocates that speak different dialects
- Lack of funding

What barriers do victims face in your community regarding access to interpreters?

- Latina advocates for years have been providing interpretation but it is unethical for an advocate to provide interpretation for her own client in a legal setting as it can be biased.
- Interpretation and advocacy are two different job roles. Just because you're bilingual does not make you an interpreter. Also the pay rate is very different. The discrepancy in pay is huge, bilingual victim advocates get paid \$11-\$15 dollars an hour where interpreters get paid \$60-\$150 an hour. Getting bilingual victim advocates certified as interpreters would have issues.
- Having clients forced to pay for interpretation in civil cases; this needs to be provided at no cost
- Just knowing Spanish isn't enough; there are so many different dialects throughout Central and South America
- Interpreters need to be trauma informed
- Just being bilingual does not mean you are a translator or interpreter
- Other agencies just expect La Luz and LCDA to provide free services because they are bilingual
- Lack of funding for certified interpreters
- Lack of division between duties of advocates/duties of interpreters
- In Canadian County, the court is providing a certified interpreter/translator for VPO/paternity cases if the victim asks for it
- Often many of the clients have a dialect as a primary language with Spanish as their second language
- LCDA has over 25 nationalities in their caseload

What do you think would be the most effective services without taking cost into consideration, that would help victims?

- Outreach/education – using buses, billboards, etc.
- Court programs – having someone in the courthouse trained to offer cultural services helping with VPOs and other court related topics as well as having the interpreters trauma informed
- More counseling programs – offering Spanish speaking clients counseling in their languages(s)
- Having more advocates focused on SA advocacy to primary or secondary victims
- More bilingual SANEs
- Stalking outreach/education

- Expanding the focus on secondary efforts on children of DV, SA, and stalking such as after-school programs, tutoring, counseling, and helping parents with IEP or 501 plans
- 24 hour crisis bilingual hotline – unfair to advocates to always be on call

How has Covid and/or McGirt affected services in your community?

- Lots of challenges with support groups via phone or Zoom; many clients didn't understand the technology
- Most of the information regarding COVID was not available in Spanish for the first few months
- Many of the clients were undocumented so received no stimulus or unemployment income; this forced many to stay with or return to their abusers; 25-30 % estimated number from La Luz returned to their perpetrator since there was no income and the family didn't want them due to fears of Covid
- Actually saw an increase in clients and for Luz (ICAN), she saw a drastic increase in male victims; many did not follow through but she had a lot more calls from males
- LCDA and La Luz also saw an increase in clients, possibly due to loss of jobs and having the perpetrator at home. LCDA went from one BIP group to three groups, one of which is for females.
- Trying to keep staff safe and still provide services was very difficult
- Hispanic clients go to family and not a shelter but during Covid they began asking for shelter services
- Trying to do a VPO via Zoom with the application form in English was a nightmare
- More cases of DHS involvement once the children went back to school since teachers now observing DV

Describe any successes you have had in serving victims in your community.

- La Luz
 - In the short time they have been an organization, they have provided services to an estimated 1,200 Spanish speaking victims
 - In their partnership with the children's advocacy center, they helped parents of child sexual assault victims by offering advocacy and working as a liaison between the parent/caregiver and the governmental agency
 - During Covid they
 - Collaborated with a Christian non-profit and were able to hand out over 100 packages of toilet paper
 - Handed out water jugs with filters for clients to use instead of water bottles (1-2 jugs per family)
 - Contracted with a local seamstress and handed out over 600 reusable masks to clients and the community (used CARES funding)
 - Partnered with the Health Department and BCBS to provide Covid resources and information in Spanish at outreach events
 - Created 3 outreach events where over 100 gallons of milk and 350 boxes of food as well as Covid information and information about La Luz services was provided
 - Since March 2020, they have provided non-perishable items to clients on a bi-monthly basis
- LCDA

- Being able to make VPOs succeed despite challenges of Covid
- Able to work with Legal Aid
- Seeing clients gain back their lives even during Covid
- Help from United Way to be able to give clients a \$500.00 gift card during Covid
- Rewarding to help clients overcome trauma
- ICAN
 - Just being able to move step by step with clients to get them out of the harmful situation whether it is advocacy, VPO, referral for legal assistance, etc.
 - Helping with immigration status

Black/African American – October 26, 2021

- Clinton Patton, Sr. and Kinyada Singleton with the Ashley Renae Foundation – serves domestic violence victims and provides transitional housing in the Black Community

The meeting was facilitated by Laura Russell, the Grant Programs Specialist for the DAC.

From your perspective, what are the barriers/gaps to services for domestic violence victims in your community?

- Trust within law enforcement
- Societal silence – the black community is taught to hold stuff in and if we see someone abused, it isn't our business
- Resources – lack of organizations that cater to African Americans
- Fear of losing the children to DHS
- Transportation
- Lack of education
- Lack of employment and employment history
- Lack of housing where victims can go where they feel safe – don't trust police or the justice system; time after time it has failed them. DV is premeditated and if there is a murder why would a plea bargain even be offered since a life was taken and that life was taken prior to the actual murder by each act of violence
- Church – uses the Bible to tell people to stay in abusive relationships and pray the offender will change which can be a death sentence
- Lack of mental health services – very few providers that are run by African Americans – therapists have to make sure to make clients know that what is said is confidential
- Very rare to hear victims talk about trauma in childhood, adolescence, etc. Need more training and education on how to recognize and overcome trauma. Need to relabel trauma so they can discuss it and heal from it
- Teaching offenders and victims how to break the trauma bonds that tie them together; victims stay with their offender out of fear and trauma bonds; often offenders have been victims as well and the trauma both the offender and the victim have experienced is the bond that keeps them together
- DAC hasn't had the contacts in the community and we send out the information to everyone we can think of but if they don't know who we are they aren't going to respond

so having a contact like Clinton is fabulous. The name DAC conjurs up the image of the criminal justice system/DA system

- No programs that cater to Black/African Americans in Oklahoma County
- Need to change how offenders are treated – batterers' intervention doesn't work because it doesn't target the trauma and why they are doing what they do; many taught they are supposed to be in charge, the main breadwinner

What do you think would be the most effective services without taking cost into consideration, that would help victims?

- More funding for transitional housing
- Funding to hold more trauma healing workshops

Meeting invites, sign-in sheets, and notes can be found in Appendix B

4. Information provided from Local, State, and National Reports and Data

As a part of compiling the implementation plan, the DAC also reviewed information from a variety of local, state, and national reports and data. Using this information helped the 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 State Bureau of Investigation
- The Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board Reports
- U.S. Census Data
- The National Domestic Violence Hotline Reports, National Network to End Domestic Violence
- The 2020-2022 Needs Assessment Report from the Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey 2020

5. Information provided by the subgrantees through the semi-annual progress and Muskie Reports.

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, the 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 each member of the planning committee as to their participation in the planning process. (34 U.S.C. 10446(i)(2)(B); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(b)(7)). (Note: cross out and note "N/A" to the right if not applicable.) (Required)

As per the implementation plan checklist, the following list identifies participation in development of this plan:

REQUIRED PARTICIPANTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN PROCESS	
State Sexual Assault Coalition	N/A
State Domestic Violence Coalition	N/A
State Dual Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalition	Planning Committee, Listening Meetings, and Survey
Law Enforcement Entity	Planning Committee, Survey
Prosecution Entity	Planning Committee, Survey
A court or the State AOC	Planning Committee, Survey
Representatives from tribes, tribal organizations, or tribal coalitions	Planning Committee, Listening Meetings, Survey, Tribal Victim Roundtable Quarterly Regional Meetings
Population Specific Organizations representing the most significant underserved populations and culturally specific populations in the state other than tribes	Planning Committee, Listening Meetings, Survey
Other if relevant (including survivors, probation, parole, etc.	Planning Committee: Survey

The VAWA Board which is comprised of the executive directors of the two state coalitions, the Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (OCADVSA) and the Native Alliance Against Violence (NAAV), a representative from the Oklahoma Association of the Chiefs of Police, a representative of the Oklahoma Sheriff's Association, an elected DA or ADA, the Attorney General of the State or his designee, and the executive coordinator of the DAC served as the nucleus of the planning committee. Members also included victim service representatives from the Eastern Shawnee Tribe, Chickasaw Nation, Delaware Tribe, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Choctaw Nation, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, and Iowa Nation, the Latino Community Development Agency which provides services to Hispanic victims, the LGBTQIA+ community, Black Lives Matter, the Renae Ashley Foundation which provides transitional housing for victims in the Black/African American community, The Dragonfly Home which is one (1) of three (3) certified programs in the state which provides services for victims of sex trafficking, the Asian Task Force for DV and SA Services for AAPI, probation, and the courts. Despite initially agreeing to serve, several members only attended one or two meetings and some none. Individual meetings are documented through agendas and/or sign-in sheets. 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. Description of consultation with other collaboration partners not included in the planning committee (do not include tribes in this section) (Required)

1. Sexual assault victim service providers. (34 U.S.C. 10446(c)(2)(H): 28 C.F.R. 90.12(b)(1))

A Zoom meeting was held on September 28, 2020 with the Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault program partner agencies that provide sexual assault services in the state. All of the victim service agencies in the state are dual agencies, serving both sexual assault and domestic violence victims. The state has no stand-alone rape crisis centers. Participating in this meeting were representatives from Family Crisis Center, Community Crisis Center, Northwest Domestic Crisis Services, Inc., Domestic Violence Intervention Services, YWCA – OKC, Women’s Resource Center, Project Safe, Help-in-Crisis, Inc., Family Shelter of Southern Oklahoma, Inc., Crisis Control Center, Inc., Okmulgee County Family Resource Center, Family Resource Center, and Suzanne Breedlove the former VOCA Director at DAC. All agencies that provide sexual assault services in the state were also sent the survey the DAC created which asks questions about what type of services were provided, what populations the agencies served, gaps and barriers in services for victims, etc. Some of these agencies received SASP and S.T.O.P. VAWA funding while others received VOCA funding. This discussion was facilitated by Laura Russell, the Grant Programs Specialist.

How has Covid impacted your services and your relationships with other agencies?

- Tribal shelters and other shelters shut down which was very hard for victims – nowhere to refer victims
- Equine therapy was shut down
- The closure of DHS offices across the state due to budget cuts as well has had a very negative affect on victims
- Once courts opened back up, there has been a rush with court cases.
- They are seeing a lot more sexual assault cases than before and what they are seeing is much more severe.
- SANE advocacy is by phone since facilities are not letting the advocates in the building; this does not work nearly as well
- Many victims are scared to go to hospitals and clinics for services due to Covid
- Many of the agencies are dealing with a lot more homeless victims
- Almost impossible to get volunteers to help provide advocacy

Do you have victims asking for non-traditional services, and if so, what are they asking for?

- It is hard for victims to ask for something outside of the norm if they don’t know what services are available
- Advocates let all the victims know what services are provided and the victims are very grateful for what they can be helped with
- We do have a couple of tribes on rotation for sexual advocacy and they give our staff training on their culturally specific advocacy
- For native victims, we refer them to the tribal program in the area for non-traditional services

There is evidence that some younger victims are preferring telehealth which appears to be a generational thing. What are you seeing with technology preference with the generations since Covid has forced agencies to use more technology?

- Clients either love or hate it; legal aid via phone did not work
- College students seem to prefer telehealth
- Many victims in the past were unable to physically come to the office for counseling due to lack of transportation but now can do it via telehealth
- Stable internet access is a challenge for many rural areas
- Some agencies used Covid funding to upgrade technology and internet access

2. Domestic violence victim service providers. (34 U.S.C. 10446(c)(2)(H); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(b)(1))

A Zoom meeting was held on October 11, 2021 with the Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault program partner agencies that provide domestic violence services in the state. All of the victim service agencies in the state are dual agencies, serving both sexual assault and domestic violence victims. Participating in this meeting were representatives from SOS for Families, Family Resource Center, Survivor Resource Network, Family Safety Center, The Dragonfly Home, Family Shelter of Southern Oklahoma, Ray of Hope Advocacy Center, The Spring, Latino Community Development Agency, Safe Center, Inc., Wings of Hope, Project Safe, YWCA – Enid, and Women’s Resource Center. All agencies that provide domestic violence services in the state were also sent the survey the DAC created which asks questions about what type of services were provided, what populations the agencies served, gaps and barriers in services for victims, etc. Some of these agencies received SASP and S.T.O.P. VAWA funding while others received VOCA funding. This discussion was facilitated by Laura Russell, the Grant Programs Specialist.

From your perspective, what are the barriers/gaps to services for domestic violence victims in your community?

- Lack of affordable housing which forces clients to stay in shelter longer than they need to; all the paper work has been filled out with all the proper authorities but just waiting for something to come open they can afford
- Legal services, never enough attorneys to help with guardianships, evictions, VPOs
- Translation/ interpretation services are a huge barrier, especially interpreters for court services
- Lack and/or cost of day impacts clients' ability to have employment which impacts their ability to have housing
- Lack of affordable housing
- Lack of trauma informed mental health and substance abuse treatment program

From your perspective, what are the barriers/gaps to services for sexual assault victims in your community?

- Quick access to in patient substance abuse treatment and trauma informed mental health treatment programs
- Legal services, lack of affordable housing, transportation

From your perspective, what are the barriers/gaps to services for stalking victims in your community?

- Lack of knowledge among LE that per state statute two police reports have to be filed; they don’t think it is a big deal
- Lack of knowledge in the community about what stalking really is

From your perspective, what are the barriers/gaps to services for underserved/unserved

and inadequately served victims in your community?

- Legal services - so many needs and so few attorneys; housing outside of shelter since most governmental housing is eligible only for those who are documented

What do you think would be the most effective services, without taking cost into consideration, that would help victims?

- Lots of available lower skill jobs that provide a living wage
- Court interpreters and translation services

Describe any successes you have had in serving victims in your community.

- Client from Venezuela who came here and after receiving services and counseling, after a year she was living free from abuse. Her son received scholarships through their program and is now an engineer and she is working as an accountant. She comes back to speak to groups at the agency to show that they too can be successful in leaving their abusers and breaking free of the cycle of violence.
- Another agency had a client who received services from both the rape crisis center staff and the VAWA advocate who was finally able to get a VPO against a high profile abuser who at one point had law enforcement as his witness

Notes from these meetings can be found in Appendix B

3. Population specific organizations, representatives from underserved populations, and culturally specific organizations. (34 U.S.C. 10446(c)(2)(G); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(b)(2)); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(b)(2))

a. How the state meaningfully consulted with the included organizations

The DAC reached out to all culturally specific organizations that were funded as well as all those we have communicated with in the past to ask if they would not only serve on the implementation planning committee, but also participate in listening/focus meetings. The DAC also googled Black/African American, LGBTQIA+ agencies, and agencies that served the blind, deaf, and disabled communities to ask for participation. On the planning committee we had representation from the Hispanic community, LGBTQIA+ community, Black/African American community, AAPI community, and the Tribal communities. All of these communities were sent the survey used to ask about services and barriers to services.

b. How the state considered both demographics and barriers/historical lack of access to services for each population.

The DAC has historically never had any contact with the AAPI community despite there being a fairly significant community, especially in Oklahoma City. Through our SASP grant with the YWCA, we became aware of one of their employees, Cindy Nguyen, who also served as the head of the Asian Task Force for DV and SA Services for AAPI. She was very excited to set up a listening meeting with us with other agencies on the task force and is considering applying for VAWA funding for a translation services program. Through her the DAC now has contact with several AAPI and Muslim agencies. The DAC has had very limited inroads into the Black/African American community. The representative from the 2017-2020 implementation planning committee who agreed to serve again this time unfortunately never made any meetings.

By a stroke of luck, the executive director of the Ashley Renae Hamilton Foundation, an organization that provides transitional housing to domestic violence victims in the Black/African American community, reached out to our agency for access to our on-line grant management system. He was looking to see what grants were out there that might be available to help his program. He not only participated in a listening/focus meeting, but he agreed to serve on the planning committee and has been a wealth of information into the Black/African American community.

4. Information on any others that were consulted but not part of the planning committee

The DAC consulted virtually with two probation programs that were not part of the planning committee but which are funded with S.T.O.P. funding. One of the programs is funded through a District Attorney's office which covers five counties in rural western Oklahoma. Despite Covid shutting down the courthouse when Covid first became an issue, teams were formed within each office of the five (5) courthouses with designated days to work in the office and days to telework. This was done in order to reduce the likelihood of a complete shutdown due to mass infection by limiting exposure through social distancing and reduction in the number of persons in the offices to five (5) or fewer people at one time. This protocol remained in place for approximately 3 months before a soft opening by appointment only occurred in the middle of May 2020. The courthouses opened back up completely at the end of May with face masks required upon entry to the buildings. Supervising offenders proved to be challenging when teleworking from home. Criminal files and documents needed for supervision were not able to be accessed during teleworking days. Contact with offenders was possible through email during teleworking and working from the office, but contacting offenders by phone had to be done while in the office. Face-to-face meetings occurred before the shut down and once the courthouse opened back up to the public. From this experience, the program is currently implementing ways to better access all programs and criminal files for teleworking purposes and to find ways to better communicate with offenders should something like this happen again. In addition to Covid, barriers for the program include the cost of Batterers' Intervention programs for offenders. The area served by the program is very rural and very poor so being able to afford the cost of the classes is a challenge. Covid made this problem worse as many offenders lost their jobs. One of the counties has a separate domestic violence docket and one has a domestic violence court. This allows for more accountability for offenders than those counties without; when offenders are being supervised through a domestic violence court they are more successful. Language was not a barrier for them as the probation supervisor was bilingual.

The other program is run through a rural victim service agency in rural central Oklahoma which serves two (2) counties. In early 2020, their agency as well as the counties they provide services to were faced with the obstacle of COVID-19 and the challenges the pandemic set forth. The courts were closed to the public. The Domestic Violence Review Dockets in Seminole and Hughes County were dismissed due to this closure for the months of April and May. Batterers' Intervention Programs were suspended for five weeks during the month of April and part of May. Alternative sources of contact were developed to stay in contact with those offenders who were participating in the BIP at their agency. The agency remained in contact with court staff through Zoom staffing on a weekly basis and through email of any concerns identified during this time. Agency staff remained in contact with local law enforcement, the District Attorney's Office and the Oklahoma Department of Health to ensure the safety of those victims in their service area. As the courts re-opened in June, all in person contact was resumed. With the

backlog in cases being tried due to the courts being closed earlier in the year it is taking longer for offenders to get sentenced. In addition to the barrier of Covid, the U.S. McGirt decision has proven to be a huge barrier which will result in victims being re-victimized as their cases are either re-tried or the charges are dropped and the offenders are released. As with the other agency, the area is rural and poor so the cost of the BIP classes is a barrier. The funded personnel from both agencies attend Coordinated Community Response Team meetings which they feel is vital in providing an understanding of who the offenders truly are outside of the courthouse and providing information on weekly progress and/or setbacks.

D. Consultation and coordination with tribes (34 U.S.C. 10446(c)(2)(F); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(b)(3) and (c)(2)(iii))

1. A description of efforts to reach tribes

2. Which tribes were consulted and which tribal official(s) for each tribe was contacted

3. The means by which tribes were given the opportunity to offer their opinion

The first step was identifying the current names and titles of all the 38 tribal leaders in the state. Each tribal website was checked for the most current information which in most cases included the tribal leader's name, title, and date he/she took office. Tribal offices were called to verify the information as well as the mailing and email addresses. Oklahoma has a State Tribal Crime Victim Services Liaison/Special Projects Outreach Coordinator who is located in the Victims Division at DAC. This Tribal Liaison/Outreach Coordinator sets up quarterly Victim Tribal Roundtable Regional Meetings hosted by one of the tribes in that region. Other tribes in the region attend as well. Letters were sent out January 7th, 2020, to the tribal leaders of the Apache Tribe, Caddo Nation, Comanche Nation, the Delaware Nation, Fort Sill Apache Tribe, the Kiowa Tribe, and the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes in the southwest region asking if it would be possible to visit them either the day before, the day of, or the day after the Southwest Regional Victim Tribal Roundtable Meeting to be held on February 6th, 2020. The letter that was sent explained who the DAC Grant Programs Specialist (specialist) was, what the VAWA Grant was and that one of the goals was to increase VAWA funding to the tribes, and that the specialist would love their tribal perspective on the barriers and gaps in services to the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in their communities and how these can be addressed. Follow-up emails were sent to these same tribal leaders on January 16th, 2020, again asking if it would be possible to meet around the Victim Tribal Roundtable Meeting date of February 6th, 2020. Chairman Matthew Komalty of the Kiowa Tribe responded that he would like to meet and would get back with a time, but that never happened. President Parton of the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes replied that she would be out of town during those dates but asked about meeting another time. Other options for meeting dates were given but President Parton never confirmed. Responses were received from the Ft. Sill Apache Tribe regarding a change in leadership; emails were sent to the new leadership requesting a meeting but these did not materialize.

In April, 2020, emails were sent to the tribal leaders of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe, Alabama Quassarte Tribal Town, Apache Tribe, Caddo Nation, Cherokee Nation, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Comanche Tribe, Delaware Nation, Delaware Tribe, Eastern Shawnee Tribe, Fort Sill Apache Tribe, Iowa Tribe,

Kaw Nation, Kialegee Tribal Town, Kickapoo Tribe, Kiowa Tribe, Miami Tribe, Modoc Tribe, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Osage Nation, Otoe-Missouria Tribe, Ottawa Tribe, Pawnee Nation, Peoria Tribe, Ponca Tribe, Quapaw Tribe, Sac and Fox Nation, Seminole Nation, Seneca-Cayuga Tribe, Shawnee Tribe, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, Tonkawa Tribe, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, and the Wyandotte Nation explaining about VAWA, the implementation plan, and the desire to visit with them virtually at their convenience. By that time, the tribes had closed their offices due to Covid so the best way to reach them was by email. The Caddo Chairperson Tamara Francis replied that she was forwarding the request for a virtual meeting to Officer Lyon the head of their SORNA and Security. Officer Lyon emailed he would get back with a date for a meeting but no meeting was ever scheduled. Chief Hoskin, Jr. with the Cherokee Tribe replied that he would have his executive director for government relations Kim Teehee contact the DAC to assist. Kim never emailed or called. Cathleen Osborne-Gowey, the administrator of the Eastern Shawnee Haven Program which provides domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking advocacy services for the tribe emailed stating that Chief Glenna Wallace had asked that she reply to the email. Cathleen had been asked previously to serve on the Implementation Planning Committee to which she had agreed. Cathleen also agreed to participate on a phone call which was held on 5/19/2020. Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief David Hill forwarded his email to Shawn Partridge with their victim service program to discuss but never replied with a date for a meeting. Kayla Burgess and Andrea Kihega with the Otoe Missouria Tribe's victim service program were both asked by Chairman Shotton to respond to the DAC's email. Emails were exchanged discussing potential meeting dates and times but it never materialized. Principal Chief Justin Wood of the Sac and Fox Nation in a series of emails set up a phone call meeting for April 13th but never answered the phone when called or responded when emailed if that day was still convenient. Brian Hendrix, the Tribal Liaison for the state, was able to set up an in person meeting with President Martin of the Tonkawa Tribe for June 8th. President Martin then emailed his written answers to the questions regarding barriers and gaps in services to the DAC. President Martin of the Tonkawa Tribe's responses to the focus group questions are: **The barriers for domestic violence victims in his community have been those who have been incarcerated, those who live in poverty, and those with substance abuse. The gaps to services for domestic violence victims have been free legal services such as child custody, divorce, filing for a protective order, etc. For sexual assault victims, the main barriers have been cultural barriers, distrust in the justice and service systems due to historical trauma that can prevent their tribal community victims from accessing important services and using the criminal justice system to hold their perpetrators accountable. The gaps for sexual assault victims is that their community has little to no cultural or traditional practices to provide healing to those who are seeking healing ceremonies, talking circles, etc. The Tonkawa Tribal Victim Services Program is in the stages of getting these services started so that hopefully in the future they will have these in place to help heal those who are in need. Lack of knowledge and/or resources needed to respond to stalking victims effectively was the main barrier while the biggest gap for stalking victims was laws and policies implemented to protect victims of stalking. For the underserved/unserved/inadequately served, not having services specific to their needs was a barrier. Not all tribal or local programs have specific services to the vulnerable victims within their community or county. Tribal policies, laws, training specific to victims of crime that are underserved/unserved/inadequately served that is not yet implemented into providing the appropriate services to those in need is the largest gap in services while identifying the language**

needs of the people they serve or could serve is the barrier to victims regarding access to interpreters. The most effective types of services would be collaboration with multiple service providers. Not only specific to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, or elder abuse victims, but rather reaching out to churches and other organizations that could help with specific needs for that victim. President Martin was very pleased that the Tonkawa Tribe Victim Service Program was able to provide masks, hand sanitizer, and program information to community members for their safety during this pandemic. The program was getting their name and services out into the community to let survivors and victims know that they were essential workers and were still available to provide services.

Jennifer Cole-Robinson with the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians replied in place of Chief Joe Bunch but a meeting was never confirmed. In all of the replies that were received, the leaders were very gracious but indicated they were much too busy with the tasks of keeping their nations safe and functioning and therefore delegated this task to the members of the tribe who did the victim service work in the field. Another email was sent September 28, 2020, again asking to set up either a virtual listening meeting or if that was not possible, have the tribal leaders respond to the same questions that had been asked at the tribal victim service roundtable meetings. There was no response to any of these emails.

Emails were sent in April 2020, to the executive directors of the victim service programs of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Fort Sill Apache Tribe, Kiowa Tribe, Otoe-Missouria Tribe, Quapaw Tribe, Sac and Fox Nation, Seminole Nation, Seneca-Cayuga Tribe, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, and the Wyandotte Nation asking if the programs would be agreeable to participating in a virtual meeting to discuss their tribal perspective on the crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking in their communities, the gaps and barriers to services, and the successes their programs have had in serving survivors. Emails were sent again in July 2020 to the Choctaw Nation, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Fort Sill Apache Tribe, Kiowa Tribe, Otoe-Missouria Tribe, Sac and Fox Nation, Seminole Nation, Seneca-Cayuga Tribe, and the Wyandotte Nation asking about setting up a virtual meeting or having the programs email their responses to the attached questions. Virtual listening meetings were set up with the Absentee Shawnee Tribe April 15, 2020, the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes April 22, 2020, the Quapaw Tribe May 12, 2020, and the Choctaw Nation July 7, 2020. Laura Russell, the Grant Programs Specialist facilitated the meetings.

April 15, 2020 - Absentee Shawnee Victim Service Program Listening Meeting

Phone Conversation with Melissa Lopez, Executive Director

Barriers and gaps in services for domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and underserved/unserved/and inadequately served victims included:

- Transportation
- Reaching people in the rural areas – getting information about their services to them and then having the victims being able to access those services
- Affordable housing
- Transitional housing
- Mental health services
- Substance health services
- Employment

- Judges who don't understand domestic violence
- Lack of ability to provide shelter for pets
- COVID 19 Issues
 - Not being able to serve victims face to face and knowing there are victims out there not able to reach out to seek services right now.
 - Issues finding a virtual platform for counseling services that meets confidentiality standards as well as being user friendly has been a real problem.
 - Before, they were getting 3-5 intakes from Palomar a day, now they are getting that per week
 - Do have 1 person in the office for emergency services, the rest are teleworking which is so much slower since the resources, files etc. are at the office.
 - Shelters have fewer beds and since they are keeping clients longer finding space is even more of an issue
 - Employment is always a problem but now some victims that had jobs have lost those jobs and no one is hiring or interviewing now
 - Victims are not able to access mental health treatment or substance abuse treatment currently

The barrier for victims in the community regarding access to interpreters is:

- Funding to pay for interpreters. They use interpreters from La Luz whom they have formed a close relationship with and from whom they receive a lot of referrals; however, they have to pay for their services which takes funds away from other services. Just recently they had to have a document translated and it cost \$.15 a word. Certified court reporters are also quite expensive. They do use non children family members in emergency situations.

The most effective services that would help victims would be:

- Money for affordable housing and transitional housing
- Moving assistance which still meets confidentiality – unmarked trucks
- Assistance with pet bills such as food, vet bills, deposits for pets at apartments and housing
- Shelter space for pets
- Transportation
- Give the programs enough money and they would be able to take care of everyone who needed help
- Judicial training

Some of the successes of their program included:

- A transitional housing program which is making a huge difference for their clients
- They have a legal court advocate who works closely with Native Alliance Against Violence's Circle Project to help navigate the legal system with the victims
- They provide emergency rental assistance – they provide the first month's rent along with case management

April 22, 2020 – Wichita and Affiliated Tribes Victim Service Program Listening Meeting
 Virtual Meeting with Executive Director Andrea Longoria, advocate LaRisha Wabaunasee

Barriers and gaps in services for domestic violence, sexual assault, and underserved/unserved/inadequately victims included:

- Transportation – the agency is basically a two person VS agency serving 10 counties in the heart of Indian country. They serve Caddo, Grady, Stephens, Jefferson, Comanche, Cotton, Kiowa, Tillman, Jackson, and Harmon Counties. Getting clients to them and getting to clients is a huge problem when many of the clients do not have vehicles. Currently the executive director and the advocate are both teleworking so not physically seeing clients but are talking to them on the phone
- Jurisdictional issues – tribal jurisdiction vs city or county jurisdiction is a huge issue with trust lands. The BIA, local PD, and sheriff departments don't always play nice and there is a history of lack of honoring restraining orders. BIA courts will issue custody orders but the local PD won't honor the tribal court's paperwork,
- More training is needed – victims are at risk when the agencies fight over jurisdiction
- Prejudice, especially in areas with a small native population which makes the situation much more hostile between the victims and LE
- Lack of shelters – there are only two shelters that provide services for DV victims, one in Lawton and one in Chickasha
- Resources such as household items, money for housing deposits, first month's rent
- Starting over with nothing is a huge barrier for victims – fear of being on their own with nothing is very scary and as a result many return to their abuser
- Been an increase lately in victims having their children taken by DHS due to failure to protect, so many victims are choosing not to report or seek services – the history of stealing Indian babies and children is still very fresh in the minds of the people
- Lack of training for LE and constant turnover – in addition to the officers being trained, the police chiefs and sheriffs need to be trained as well so they can also train their officers and keep the knowledge within the department and it doesn't disappear when the officer leaves. Train the trainer. Also, that training needs to be put into a resource notebook all officers have with them in their patrol cars for easy reference
- Lack of well-paying employment opportunities in the area – other than the casinos most jobs for victims are minimum wage at best
- Lack of communication and collaboration with other victim service programs, DHS, law enforcement, etc.

The barriers and gaps in service for stalking victims are:

- Stalking is not taken seriously by the DA. Victims will call law enforcement when they have a restraining order which the offender is ignoring by stalking but law enforcement is often not quick to respond.
- The victim must file a police report in order to get anything done, but even then, unless there is enough provable evidence to convict, the district attorney won't prosecute. They had a case where the officer was with the victim when the offender was calling and harassing her and he even had the bodycam footage but even then the prosecutor wouldn't file charges. They eventually arrested the offender but on a probation violation, not stalking.

The agency so far does not have a need for interpreters but the agency plans on having their brochures printed in both English and Spanish and having their public service announcement in both English and Spanish. The agency will be coming up with a plan for providing access to interpreters.

The most effective services to help victims would be:

- Transportation – paying the down payment on a used car so that clients could find a better paying job instead of the job at the convenience store within walking distance
- Relocation costs – paying deposits for utilities, first month's rent, furniture and housing supplies, kitchen supplies
- Providing for services for victims for the long term instead of just the immediate crisis

Successes the agency has included:

- They are updating their agency policies and resources
- They plan on doing a lot more outreach and do it consistently
- One of the participants had a client who came to her 8 months ago with nothing. She had her children taken away by DHS despite being a DV victim. The advocate worked with her and today the client is employed, has her children, and has rebuilt her life.

May 12, 2020 – Quapaw Nation Victim Service Program Listening Meeting

Virtual Meeting with Linda Davis and Stacy Holcomb of the Quapaw Nation

The barriers for domestic violence victims are:

- Lack of public transportation, and
- The community is geographically challenged; it is a very rural area

The gaps to services for domestic violence victims are:

- Employment opportunities,
- Affordable housing, and
- Need for rehabilitative programs to reenter the workforce with a felony

The barrier for services for sexual assault victims is:

- Having to travel outside the local area for a forensic exam.

The gap to services for sexual assault victims is:

- The lack of a regularly staffed SANE at the local hospital

The barriers/gaps in services for stalking victims are:

- Lack of awareness and knowledge in the community about stalking, and
- Availability of funds for assistance and services through the domestic violence programs

The barriers for underserved/unserved/inadequately served victims is:

- The lack of education/training for judicial staff, law enforcement, healthcare
- Childcare workers related to the dynamics of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

The biggest gap in service is:

- The lack of a cohesive and functioning multidisciplinary team approach within the local community.

Regarding access to interpreters, the ability to coordinate an “in-person” translator/interpreter is an issue in their community.

The most effective services would include:

- Housing,
- Gainful employment,
- Vocational training, and
- Transportation

The program has success in:

- Their ability to assist clients in relocating and making fresh starts,
- Helping clients obtain and maintain gainful employment, and
- The ability to witness a survivor of domestic violence give her testimony to other victims/survivors. She was no longer a victim but a victor.

May 19, 2020 – Eastern Shawnee Haven Victim Service Program Listening Meeting

Phone Conversation with Cat Osborne-Gowey

The barriers for domestic violence victims are:

- Location
- Funding
- Education (that services are available and what domestic violence is)
- Clients have to travel a long distance to their or any services due to the rural nature of the community
- Continued funding is a struggle to ensure clients have consistent services and advocacy for their varying needs
- Educating the community that services are available and what all domestic violence entails is an ongoing task for their program, ensuring that everyone in the tribal community, regardless of where they live, knows what type of services their program provides as well as what constitutes domestic violence is something the agency is continually having to work hard to achieve
- Their tribal community is allotted not reservated which does make a difference for tribal communities. One third of their tribal community lives outside of the state of Oklahoma so their services must be able to meet the needs of all domestic violence victims, within the tribe, regardless of where they live. They also serve all community members within Ottawa County, Oklahoma. Trying to ensure services for victims in many different states can be a challenge.
- Along those lines, educating all in their tribal community within many different states, that violence against women (or anyone) isn't acceptable and all of what domestic violence entails can be a real challenge. Many understand that physical violence is domestic violence but often don't realized that emotional abuse, financial abuse, etc. are also domestic violence...nor do they see that domestic violence can be by a family member as well as an intimate partner.

The gaps to services for domestic violence victims included:

- Their tribal community lives mainly in rural areas which makes physically accessing services challenging. They don't have public transportation, and many don't have the financial means to continually drive long distances to access a myriad of services.
- Continued services is also a gap domestic violence victims in our community face in obtaining services. Their funding is largely federally funded by competitive grants. Having to compete for funding every three years makes it difficult to ensure continued services for victims in their tribal community. Without federal funding to their tribal program, like most, they would have to close.

The biggest barrier for sexual assault victims is:

- Access to sexual assault exams and advocacy. They only have a few SANE nurses in their tribal community who works through many local tribal clients. When a sexual assault victim requires an exam, she or he hopes the SANE nurse is in their area. If the SANE nurse isn't available, the victim then needs to stay in their soiled

clothing and travel up to 90 miles to the nearest metropolitan area or larger tribal clinic with access to a SANE exam. If the SANE nurse is available in their area, victims then must go to the local clinic for the exam. While this is a shorter distance, living in a rural small community many worry that confidentiality is lost by seeking the exam at the small clinic where everyone sees their vehicle after hours. They have found that many clients choose not to seek services rather than everyone knowing what has happened to them. It is imperative that local tribal communities be able to fund their own SANE nurses for exams in tribal advocacy offices. More SANE nurses in the area that are tribally funded and working in the tribal advocacy programs is the largest gap in services for sexual assault victims.

The barrier for stalking victims is:

- Training on what stalking entails especially on social media platforms and technology. Social media and technology are tools used by stalkers to monitor victims. Because social media platforms and technology are relatively new and constantly changing, advocates need training on these tools so that they can educate their victims on the many ways perpetrators use these tools to track them.

The gap to services for stalking victims is:

- The availability and funding of training for advocates to understand how social media and technology can be used to track stalking victims as both sources change rapidly.

Regarding barriers to underserved/unserved/inadequately served victims, the tribal communities ARE the underserved/unserved/inadequately served victims in the community and the barriers and gaps to services are the same as listed above which include:

- Consistent advocacy and services
- SANE nurses and exams
- Transportation to services victims are referred to

Regarding access to interpreters, the largest barrier is:

- Access itself; their tribal community lives in a rural area that does not have many, if any, interpreters working via contract to help when needed

As for what services would best help victims, they included:

- Larger tribal advocacy centers that have a staffed SANE nurse
- Staffed lawyer, staffed counselor, DHS liaison, and ICW liaison on-site. The largest issues for many tribal victims is having to retell their story over and over to varying agency representatives and then traveling to access the many agency representatives or services (such as lawyer, counselor, DHS or ICW) they need to meet their needs. If they had a center where a team was ready to meet the many needs of their victims, it would provide comprehensive care.
- Transitional housing units attached to the office with access to those housing units only available through the main advocacy office. If they had transitional housing units, attached to the center, it would allow victims to have continual housing available to them while seeking permanent housing solutions, securing jobs, and needing the continual access to advocacy.

Their successes are:

- The victims they serve. When they started their program through a small formulated HHS Family Violence Prevention Grant, they were only able to provide domestic violence advocacy and services to 5 victims and their children a year. Over the past 8 years they have been able to secure a steady stream of federal funding (though competitive) and provide emergency assistance and long-term transitional housing services to over 250 women and 300-400 of their children a year. The agency provides assistance for clients to seek legal and counseling services, inpatient and outpatient substance abuse treatment, emergency services including food, clothing, hygiene items, and long term needs such as rental assistance, utility assistance, car repair, etc. While the need is great in the community, their success is that more and more victims are realizing that services are available and that violence, in all its forms, against women and men is NOT traditional.

July 7, 2020 – Choctaw Nation Victim Service Program Listening Meeting

Virtual Meeting with Linda Goodwin, Teola Maytubby, and Tasha Mitchell

The barriers to services for domestic violence and stalking victims are:

- Lack of transportation
- Lack of affordable housing
- Job availability
- Backlog of court cases due to the courthouses being closed due to Covid 19. They can call the courthouse and someone will meet them and take paperwork from them but no cases are being heard. POs are being done through the sheriff's office or online through the tribal court.
- Covid 19 has made all the barriers worse; advocates haven't been able to work with the victims as much in person and have been unable to provide transportation. Many victims have lost their jobs and some have even lost their housing.

Gaps to service for domestic violence and stalking victims are:

- Lack of public housing
- Not enough shelter space; it is always full

Barriers and gaps in service for sexual assault victims are:

- Lack of transportation
- Lack of affordable housing
- Job availability
- Victims are scared to report and are afraid to go through the criminal justice system
- Covid 19 has made all the barriers worse; advocates haven't been able to work with the victims as much in person and have been unable to provide transportation. Many victims have lost their jobs and some have even lost their housing.
- Backlog of court cases due to the courthouses being closed due to Covid 19. They can call the courthouse and someone will meet them and take paperwork from but no cases are being heard. POs are being done through the sheriff's office or online through the tribal court.

The barriers and gaps in service for underserved/unserved/inadequately served victims are the same as those for domestic violence and sexual assault victims.

The agency does not have a problem so far with Hispanic victims that don't speak English. They do have deaf victims in the tribal community and communicate with them via text.

The most effective service for victims would be:

- More shelter space in their community. Their goal is to have a tribal shelter which would include all the services they currently offer all housed in the same location.

The program's successes include:

- Transitional housing
- A healing circle
- An LPC on staff
- Education services
- An attorney on contract to help with civil issues such as custody and divorce
- Essential life skills,(i.e. parenting classes, budgeting, interview help)
- Hair cut vouchers, school clothes, school supplies, emergency food, emergency clothing, and emergency shelter.
- They provide the survivor with a life plan so that they are able to complete their education if necessary, find a job, find a place to live, and not have to return to their abuser.

Copies of the letters, emails, and notes from the meetings can be found in Appendix B

The State Tribal Crime Victim Liaison works out of the Victim Services Division at DAC. He normally schedules four (4) regional Tribal Victim Services Discussion Groups yearly which are hosted by a tribe in that region. The Grant Program Specialist did attend some of the meetings during the summer of 2018 but mainly just to introduce herself and to visit with the representatives from the tribal victim service agencies present to discuss VAWA. She was not on the agenda and did not receive the sign-in-sheets from the Tribal Victim Liaison. This was the same at the 2019 meetings but discussion was also held regarding funding opportunities for VAWA and SASP through the DAC. At the 2020 meetings, additional discussion was held regarding barriers and gaps in service for domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and underserved/unserved/inadequately served victims, barriers regarding access to interpreters, the most effective services that would help victims without taking cost into consideration, and successes programs have had in serving victims in their communities. Unfortunately, time almost always ran out before agencies could get to the promising practices of their programs. Again, Laura Russell, the Grant Programs Specialist with the DAC, facilitated these discussions.

October 30, 2019 – SW Region Roundtable Discussion Meeting hosted by the Kiowa Tribe – Present were representatives from the Comanche Nation, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, and the Kiowa Tribe.

November 13, 2019 – NE Region Roundtable Discussion Meeting hosted by the Delaware Tribe of Indians – Present were representatives from the Pawnee Nation, Osage Nation, Modoc Tribe, Delaware Tribe of Indians, Quapaw Nation, and the Otoe-Missouria Tribe.

November 18, 2019 – SE Region Roundtable Discussion Meeting hosted by the Choctaw Nation – Present were representatives from the Choctaw Nation, Chickasaw Nation, the Chickasaw Nation Lighthouse Police, and the Choctaw Nation Tribal Police

November 21, 2019 – Central Region Roundtable Discussion Meeting hosted by the Absentee Shawnee Tribe – Present were representatives from the Chickasaw Nation Lighthouse Police, Iowa Tribe, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Sac and Fox Nation, and the Absentee Shawnee Tribe

February 12, 2020 – SE Regional Roundtable Discussion Meeting hosted by the Chickasaw Nation – Present were representatives from the Choctaw Nation, the Chickasaw Nation, and the Chickasaw Lighthouse Police.

The barriers/gaps in service for domestic violence victims as well as underserved/unserved/inadequately served victims are:

- Transportation
- Affordable housing and transitional housing
- The service area is very rural and very spread out
- Lack of mental health services
- The growing number of male victims and the lack of services for them
- Lack of legal aid for victims so that they can leave their abusers
- Lack of privacy and confidentiality in small rural towns
- Fear of the judicial system
- Uncaring prosecutors

The same answers are barriers/gaps in service for sexual assault victims with the addition of:

- Lack of medical treatment
- Lack of SANEs
- More education needed on college campuses for students regarding sexual assault and harassment

For stalking victims, the most prevalent barriers/gaps in service are:

- Judges want documentation of 3-5 instances and most victims don't report that many times.
- Lack of knowledge for officers and advocates about stalking
- The hoops needed to jump through to get stalking prosecuted

For LEP persons, they have access to the language department at East Central University as well as local police officers fluent in Spanish.

The most effective services for victims would be:

- Legal aid lawyers embedded in the agencies
- Family justice centers

February 18, 2020 – SW Regional Roundtable Discussion Meeting hosted by the Comanche Nation. Present were representatives from the Comanche Nation.

The barriers in services for domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking victims are:

- Transportation
- Small town mentality

- Jurisdictional issues
- Victims not sure of resources available
- Lack of education for law enforcement officers, and high turnover rates for law enforcement officers
- Low Coordinated Community Response Team response or lack of a CCRT
- Fear of deportation
- No grant funding for vehicles

The biggest gaps in services are:

- Advocacy within the tribal courts
- Continued education on protective orders
- Affordable housing,
- Lack of mental health services
- Lack of substance abuse services

There are no different answers for lack of services for underserved/unserved victims and they have certified interpreters if required by the courts.

- Finding sign language interpreters for the deaf was the biggest struggle for everyone at the meeting.

The best services to aid survivors would be to:

- Fund more legal aid lawyers
- More prevention services
- More mental health services
- A case manager/navigator for every victim
- More advertising so victims are more aware of the resources available
- More and better training for staff
- For victim advocates in western Oklahoma, more trauma-based counselors who are not working within a mental health facility
- Regional training centers with standard curricula for certain areas of the state
- Free vocational training for victims with daycare provided
- More evidence-based prosecution

February 19, 2020 – NE Regional Roundtable Discussion Meeting hosted by the Cherokee Nation. Present were representatives from the Cherokee Nation, Delaware Tribe, United Keetoowah Band of Indians, Wyandotte Nation, and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The barriers and gaps in services for domestic violence victims are:

- Transportation
- Affordable housing and transitional housing
- Money to help victims with car insurance and IDs
- Cribs and strollers
- Apartment fees and deposit assistance
- Past due bill assistance in order to help victims get utilities turned on
- Long hours for advocates with lots of overtime which they are not compensated for
- Lack of self-care for advocates
- Lack of livable wages with bonuses and non-monetary perks which leads to turnover for advocates

- Multiple funding streams with different ending and starting times can be difficult to navigate for agencies

The same answers are barriers and gaps for sexual assault victims with the addition of:

- Lack of sexual assault attorneys
- Lack of SANE nurses
- Lack of sexual assault counselors

For stalking victims, the main barriers/gaps are:

- Lack of surveillance cameras
- More education for judges and law enforcement officers regarding victim/stranger stalking
- The need to file the initial police report in order to get a protective order filed
- Judges are requiring victims to file several reports on several stalking incidents before a PO can be issued which increases the danger for victims

The same barriers and gaps as for domestic violence victims are present for underserved/unserved/inadequately served victims.

The most effective services for victims are:

- Legal aid lawyers embedded in the agencies
- U-hauls
- Storage units, and moving costs to help victims get away
- Transitional housing
- Shelter and supplies for pets
- Ability to get crime victim compensation without having to file a police report
- Money to cover RX costs
- Money to cover dental costs
- Mental health services
- Substance abuse treatment services
- Well trained and well paid Elder care givers
- Legal vehicles with current insurance, money to be able to transport victims back to tribal jurisdictions, even if that is from out of state
- Money to buy birthday and Christmas presents for children of victims

March 9, 2020 – Central Region Roundtable Discussion Meeting hosted by the Iowa Tribe. Present were representatives from the Iowa Tribe, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, the Tonkawa Tribe, the Pawnee Nation, the Osage Nation, and the Kaw Nation.

The barriers and gaps in services for domestic violence victims discussed at this meeting included:

- Transportation
- Lack of IDs
- Lack of shelter and affordable housing
- Lack of mental health treatment
- Court clerks stop protective orders reaching judges
- Lack of child care for victims to be able to look for work, talk to a counselor or advocate, etc.
- Taking 30 days or longer for an emergency protective order to get looked at and/or issued

The barriers/gaps in services for sexual assault victims are the same as for domestic violence victims as well as:

- More SANE nurses needed
- Education for judges and prosecutors regarding sexual assault
- The wait time for SANE exams; it can take between 4-8 hours for an exam.

Regarding stalking victims, the biggest barriers are:

- Legal assistance
- Law enforcement training as many officers don't know enough about it

The biggest barrier for underserved/unserved/inadequately served victims is:

- Lack of shelter for male victims

They don't really have a problem with access to interpreters.

The most effective services to helping victims would be:

- Legal aid for emergency custody, divorce, and protective orders
- Judicial training
- Affordable housing
- More legal aid lawyers so the dockets don't conflict
- Transportation since the communities are so rural

Copies of the agendas and sign-in-sheets can be found in Appendix B

On July 9, 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of eastern Oklahoma, which includes the second largest city of Oklahoma (Tulsa), remains an American Indian reservation as it was never disestablished by Congress. The majority opinion on *McGirt v. Oklahoma*, which was written by Justice Neil Gorsuch, asserts that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's tribal reservation established by Congress in 1866 remains in effect for the purposes of federal criminal law. The federal government, and not the state, has the jurisdiction to prosecute cases that take place on tribal land under the Major Crimes Act. This ruling applies to those currently convicted under state law and to future tribal members who may be arrested for crimes included in Oklahoma's Major Crimes Act, including murder, manslaughter, rape, assault with intent to kill, arson, burglary and larceny. The *McGirt* ruling which applied to the Muscogee (Creek) reservation has led to similar lower Oklahoma court rulings upholding the historic reservations of several other Native American tribes in Oklahoma including the Chickasaw, Cherokee, Seminole, Choctaw, and Quapaw.

In January of 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected the appeal of three inmates challenging an Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals ruling that *McGirt* does not apply retroactively to state convictions that are finalized and in which an inmate's appeals have been exhausted. On April 27th, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments from the state of Oklahoma asking the court to limit the *McGirt* ruling. The court agreed to take up only the first of three questions presented by the state's petition, whether a state may impose procedural or equitable bars to postconviction relief on the claim that the state lacked prosecutorial authority because the crime of conviction occurred in Indian Country. A decision will not be made until later in the year.

Since the *McGirt* decision and the subsequent rulings from the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals validating the reservation lands of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Seminole and the Quapaw, there has been a lot of discussion with victim service providers, law enforcement

agencies, and prosecutors. Some of the law enforcement agencies who operate in these areas immediately became cross deputized with the tribal police if they weren't already so that responses to calls didn't fall through the cracks. In some other areas reports from law enforcement indicate that it is the wild west with cases and calls involving tribal members not being responded to or investigated and not enough tribal police to pick up the slack. District Attorney's offices in the eastern half of the state have lost many of their experienced prosecutors to the tribal courts or the U.S. Attorney's Offices due to better pay. The U.S. Attorney's Offices are prosecuting more cases in a month than they used to in a year; many of the tribal courts are not equipped to deal with major crimes and also don't have enough law enforcement officers. Victim service providers are hearing from victims whose perpetrators have been released and the case won't be retried in federal court because the statute of limitations has been reached or there are just too many cases. For advocates, this is a nightmare for victims who are being re-victimized. This is an issue that has polarized many of the VAWA funded agencies.

Oklahoma's governor has a very contentious relationship with the tribes which has been made worse by the McGirt decision. At every chance he can he has tried to undermine tribal sovereignty which has not helped with the state's relationship with the tribes.

Tribal offices were locked down from March of 2020 through most of 2021 and then with each new outbreak. This made it very difficult to communicate with tribal leaders whose priority was just keeping the tribes running. The State Tribal Crime Victim Liaison Brian Hendrix resigned from that position in June of 2021 and the position was vacant until the end of the year when Nick Lay was hired to fill that position. Nick has slowly and steadily been building relationships and will let the Grant Programs Specialist travel with him when visits with tribal leaders resume, hopefully in late 2022. The quarterly Tribal Roundtable Meetings were not held in 2020 or 2021 and none have been scheduled for 2022 at this time.

E. A summary of major concerns that were raised during the planning process and how they were addressed or why they were not addressed, which should be sent to the planning committee along with any draft implementation plan and the final plan. (28 C.F.R. 90.12(c)(2)(i))

The planning committee suggested a number of changes to the survey which was sent to victim service agencies, tribal agencies, law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and probation. These changes included:

Question 5. What PRIMARY victim communities or populations does your agency serve? Mark all that apply.

- To children ages 12 years old and younger
- Adding African Americans
- Adding male domestic violence survivors
- Adding Native Americans
- Adding non-binary individuals
- Adding sex-trafficking survivors

Question 7. What type of funding does your agency receive? Mark all that apply.

- Added FVPSA Grant through the OAG

Question 8. Please mark the top five (5) infrastructure needs within your program

- Added transitional housing

Question 9. Which immediate supports/services do you think are most important for people who have experienced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and/or stalking? (Choose 5)

- Added sex trafficking to the question
- Added crisis intervention services

Question 10. Which long-term supports/services do you think are most important for people who have experienced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and/or stalking? (Choose 5)

- Added sex trafficking to the question
- Added educational assistance/GED assistance

Question 11. Services provided directly through your agency that are available to victims of violence include: (mark all that apply)

- Added pet care
- Added referral to services your agency does not provide

Question 13. How do survivors affected by violence learn about services in your community? (mark all that apply)

- Added social webpages

Question 16. Specific to DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, please indicate how the following barriers affect your ability to provide services with a rating of 1 indicating no barrier to 5 indicating a persistent barrier.

- Added lack of transitional housing

Question 19. Specific to DATING VIOLENCE, please indicate how the following barriers affect your ability to provide services with a rating of 1 indicating no barrier to 5 indicating a persistent barrier. **Added this entire question.**

Question 20. Specific to SEX TRAFFICKING, please indicate how the following barriers affect your ability to provide services with a rating of 1 indicating no barrier to 5 indicating a persistent barrier. **Added this entire question.**

Question 28. Please rate your community's ability to effectively assist and respond to the following: High Ability, Moderate Ability, Low Ability, No Ability, Don't Know

- Added sex trafficking victims

Question 30. Please rank the areas in need of work in your community: High Need, Moderate Need, Low Need, No Need, Don't Know

- Added increased funding for services
- Added prosecution response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, sex trafficking, and stalking

Deleted six narrative questions and added two:

Question 32. How has Covid affected your ability to serve victims?

Question 33. How has the McGirt decision affected your ability to serve victims?

Discussion was held at committee meetings about translation and interpretation services as an avenue for discretionary funding. Funding for translation/interpretation services would assist court certified interpreters available at the state level who would help with legal aid and be versed in legal terms pertaining to domestic violence and other violent acts perpetrated against women. OAG certification may not be necessary to receive VAWA funding. The deaf and hard

of hearing community was also suggested as an unserved population to explore for discretionary funding. These will be a target in the next round of grant funding.

The committee also wanted sex trafficking victims added along with domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking victims in the plan's goals and objectives. This was done.

F. A description of how the State coordinated this plan with the State plan for the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, the programs under the Victims of Crime Act, and section 393A of the Public Health Services Act (Rape Prevention Education) including the impact of that coordination of the contents of the plan. (34 U.S.C. 10446(c)(3); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(b)(6) and (g)(6)).

The Federal Grant Division Director and/or the Federal Grant Programs Specialist attended meetings on March 13, 2019, April 17, 2019, May 15, 2019, July 22, 2019, October 16, 2019, with representatives of state agencies that oversee FVPSA, VOCA, VAWA, SASP, and RPE Programs. A meeting was scheduled for March 18, 2020 but was cancelled with the COVID outbreak and no further meetings were held due to the pandemic. The OAG's Office, in coordination with the OCADVSA, was currently working on the FVPSA Strategic Plan and the DAC was beginning work on the implementation plan. The VOCA Program is not required to develop such a document. During these meetings, 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.

The SAAs of these four (4) federal grant programs work together on an ongoing basis. A lot of the coordination and collaboration occurs in the planning of the statewide Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault/Stalking Partnership Conference. All three agencies represented are partners. The VAWA Administrator was previously a VOCA Program Specialist for 18 years and she and the Grant Programs Specialist currently sit on the FVPSA Grant review committee. The FVPSA Administrator is a member of the VAWA Grant Board.

After each award period, the lists of agencies that have been awarded are distributed to the other SAAs to prevent duplicative funding and to maximize resources. This has been extremely beneficial since the large influx of VOCA funds and CARES and ARPA funding. While VOCA has had an increase in funding, needed expenses such as dedicated domestic violence and sexual assault prosecutors and investigators are not allowable under that funding source. VAWA funds are usually focused on direct services only due to past input from the field.

The Oklahoma State Department of Health, Injury Prevention Service manages RPE Funds. The RPE Grant Program is currently saturating seven (7) communities in the state with the prevention monies. These communities are: 1) Oklahoma City; 2) Tulsa; 3) Norman; 4) Stillwater; 5) Tahlequah; 6) Miami; and, 7) Claremore. Three (3) of the sites are located in urban areas and four (4) are located in rural areas. All of the programs follow the CDC's RPE guidelines, but technically the funding is a combination of funds from the Oklahoma State Department of Health's CDC RPE Cooperative agreement, CDC Protective Health and Health Services Block Grant funds, and state funding, though all receive some level of RPE direct funding.

In addition to certifying the victim service agencies and batterers' 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 was that the FVPSA Grant does not fund tribal victim service programs as a part of its formulary. Due to issues of tribal sovereignty, tribal programs are not required to be certified. To combat this issue, starting in 2016, a specific amount of FVPSA funding was held aside to be awarded on a competitive basis for organizations, including tribal entities, which wanted to provide services to underserved populations. The first year, 10% was held out and an award was made to only one (1) subgrantee. In 2017, the amount was increased to 15% and three (3) subgrants were awarded. In 2021, 15% which amounted to \$264,885.27 was awarded to seven (7) programs. La Luz and the Latino Community Development Agency will provide services to Hispanic clients, Native Alliance Against Violence is the Native American domestic violence/sexual assault coalition in the state, Northwest Domestic Violence Crisis Services, a very rural program covering 10 counties, will use the funds to serve immigrant clients, Intervention and Crisis Advocacy Network will use the funds to serve Native American, Hispanic, elderly, and rural clients, Domestic Violence Intervention Services, Inc. will provide services to the LGBTQIA+, deaf, Black/African American, and Hispanic communities, and the YWCA-OKC will provide services to the LGBTQIA+ and immigrant communities. Outreach to tribes and other underserved programs will continue in order to expand the knowledge and awareness about the S.T.O.P. VAWA funding in order to compliment the availability of VOCA, VAWA, and FVPSA funding.

The VOCA Grant is managed by the Federal Grants Division at the DAC and in FY2021 funded 143 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 area that VOCA funds that S.T.O.P. VAWA does not is legal aid attorneys embedded in victim service agencies.

As a result of this meeting, the implementation plan will now look to continue expansion on 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.

Sign-in-sheets from these meetings can be found in Appendix B

IV. DOCUMENTATION FROM PROSECUTION, LAW ENFORCEMENT, COURT, AND VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAMS

This documentation may be in the form of letters from current subgrantees or State-wide organizations representing prosecution, law enforcement, courts, and victim services able to comment on the current and proposed use of grant funds. The documentation must describe:

1. The need for the grant funds;
2. The intended use of the grant funds;
3. The expected result of the grant funds; and
4. The demographic characteristics of the population to be served including age, disability, race, ethnicity, and language background

(34 U.S.C. 10446(i)(2)(C))

Letters from current subgrantees can be found in Appendix C.

V. PLAN FOR THE FOUR-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

This section should describe how the state will address the needs of sexual assault victims, domestic violence victims, dating violence victims, and stalking victims, as well as how the state will hold offenders who commit each of these crimes accountable. (28 C.F.R. 90.12(g)(3)).

A. Goals and Objectives

1. Concise description of the State's goal and objectives for the implementation period. 28 C.F.R. 90.12(a))

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 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 DAC received special permission from the Office on Violence Against Women to reallocate the 5% to discretionary. The subgrantees utilizing this money are providing probation officers, batterers' coordination, and a court liaison to track offenders in the court system.

The Chief Justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court, which directs the activities of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), will not accept any federal funds. This information has been verified through phone calls and in-person meetings. Therefore, 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, the 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 survey, it was voiced that some communities would like to use these funds for local programs as well. According to the survey, while 76.24% of the respondents agreed with programs that provided a statewide impact, 23.76% did not with the reasoning being that funds should benefit the most needed initiatives in each community. Rural areas may need funding that an urban area may not and tribal may want something different than statewide initiatives. The NE corner of Oklahoma needs support due to having their reservation boundaries reaffirmed.

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 are not limited to:

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

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

a. In each year covered in this plan, S.T.O.P. VAWA monies will support direct advocacy services for victims by funding advocates and counselors throughout the state that specialize in domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and stalking.

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 underserved and minority populations, including tribal populations.

b. In each year covered by this plan, S.T.O.P. VAWA monies will support outreach projects 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 LGBTQIA+ community.

c. In each year covered by this plan, S.T.O.P. VAWA funded administrative staff will work to identify ways to better outreach and serve the needs of underserved and minority populations, specifically the Black/African American, AAPI, LGBTQ+, and tribal communities.

d. 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.

e. In each year covered in this plan, DAC staff will attend the Tribal Roundtable meetings, hosted by the U.S. Attorneys' Offices, and other meetings with underserved populations such as Black/African American, AAPI, LGBTQIA+, etc. to encourage applications for S.T.O.P. VAWA monies for programs that would not necessarily be certified by the AG's office.

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

b. 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, sex trafficking, 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, all S.T.O.P. VAWA funded law enforcement programs will abide by the special condition of their award that states that the agency's officers and investigators will comply with the Full Faith and Credit provision of VAWA and recognize and enforce all protective orders regardless of jurisdiction.

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

a. In each year covered in this plan, the DAC will continue outreach with the Administrative Office of the Courts to explore the acceptance of federal funds.

b. In each year covered in this plan, the DAC will outreach and educate tribal courts on the availability of S.T.O.P. VAWA monies.

c. 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. The DAC will also reach out to district attorneys' offices to promote funding Domestic Violence Court programs.

6) Enhance the capacity of professionals who impact victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and stalking through education and training.

a. In each year covered in this plan, S.T.O.P. VAWA monies will support efforts to provide discipline specific and multidisciplinary training, including high-risk training and lethality assessment training.

7) Enhance and build the capacity and coordination of the community response to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and stalking.

a. In each year covered in this plan, all S.T.O.P. VAWA funded programs in the victim services, culturally specific victim services, prosecution, and law enforcement shall participate in 75% of CCR Team and/or SART meetings held as required by the special conditions of their award.

8) Increase efforts to prevent domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and stalking.

a. In each year covered by this plan, 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. In each year covered by this plan, 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 to coordinate with FVPSA, RPE, and VOCA to prevent duplicative efforts.

A2. Goals and Objectives for Reducing Domestic Violence Related Homicides

1) Provide support to initiatives that help study domestic violence related homicides.

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. The DVFRB added two representatives from the Native Alliance

Against Violence to its ranks in November 2019, bringing the total membership of the Board to twenty multidisciplinary team members. The addition of both a Native American survivor of domestic violence and a Native American domestic violence victim service provider brought a crucial perspective to the board's review of identified domestic violence-related death cases, particularly as the state continues to navigate the impact of the U.S. Supreme Court's 2020 *McGirt v. Oklahoma* decision.

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

- a. In each year covered in this plan, continue to encourage the use of the lethality assessment in the protocols of law enforcement agencies around Oklahoma.
- b. In each year covered in this plan, continue awareness initiatives on domestic violence, such as the lethality assessment data and the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board Annual Report, that target social service agencies that come into contact with domestic violence victims in order to increase referrals to victims service agencies.
- c. In each year covered in this plan, continue to encourage the use of Victim Information Packets which include the lethality assessment for law enforcement officers to provide at the scene.

3) Increase the collaboration and coordination of community agencies.

- a. In each year covered in this plan, work with the DAC's CCR Specialist in providing technical assistance to CCR Teams as they develop and incorporate the high-risk team model within their community efforts.

2. Description of how S.T.O.P. Funding will be used to meet the state's goal and objectives during the implementation period (34 U.S.C. 10446(i)(1); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(a)).

The VAWA Board will prioritize funding to meet the goals and objectives, especially with regard to funding underserved and culturally specific agencies. Special conditions may be placed on agencies in order to meet these goals and objectives.

3. A description of how funds will be distributed across the law enforcement, prosecution, courts, victim services, and discretionary allocation categories (See 34 U.S.C. 10446(c)(4)).

The VAWA Board will award 30% of the funding to victim service agencies with at least 10% of that funding going to culturally specific agencies. 25% will be awarded to law enforcement agencies for law enforcement officers to investigate the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. 25% will be awarded to prosecution for dedicated prosecutors for the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. 5% will go to the courts with the remaining 15% going to discretionary with the emphasis in this category to programs that provide a statewide impact.

B. Statutory Priority Areas

1. Information on how the State plans to meet the sexual assault set-aside, including how the State will ensure the funds are allocated for programs or projects in two or more allocations (law enforcement, prosecution, victim services, and courts) (34 U.S.C. 10446(c)(5)).

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, all of the projects in the victim services category and the victim services culturally specific category address sexual assault to some degree, with five agencies providing 100% Sexual Assault services. 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 or investigator 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 and prosecution categories to fund dedicated domestic violence and sexual assault investigators and prosecutors. In the prosecution category, five (5) of the seven (7) programs funded prosecute sexual assault cases. In the law enforcement category, all nine (9) of the funded agencies investigate some sexual assault cases with one dedicating 95% of his VAWA funded time to sexual assault cases.

All subgrants awarded with S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant must address at least one (1) of the twenty (20) purpose areas (located in Appendix A). Applicants are required to indicate all purpose areas relevant to the proposed projects in the application. 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 services, law enforcement, and prosecution categories are given priority. Traditionally, the VAWA Board has funded projects within the following purpose areas:

Allocation Area	Purpose Area(s)
Victim Services	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 19
Prosecution	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16
Law Enforcement	1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20
Courts	1, 2, 3, 4
Discretionary	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 16, 17, 19

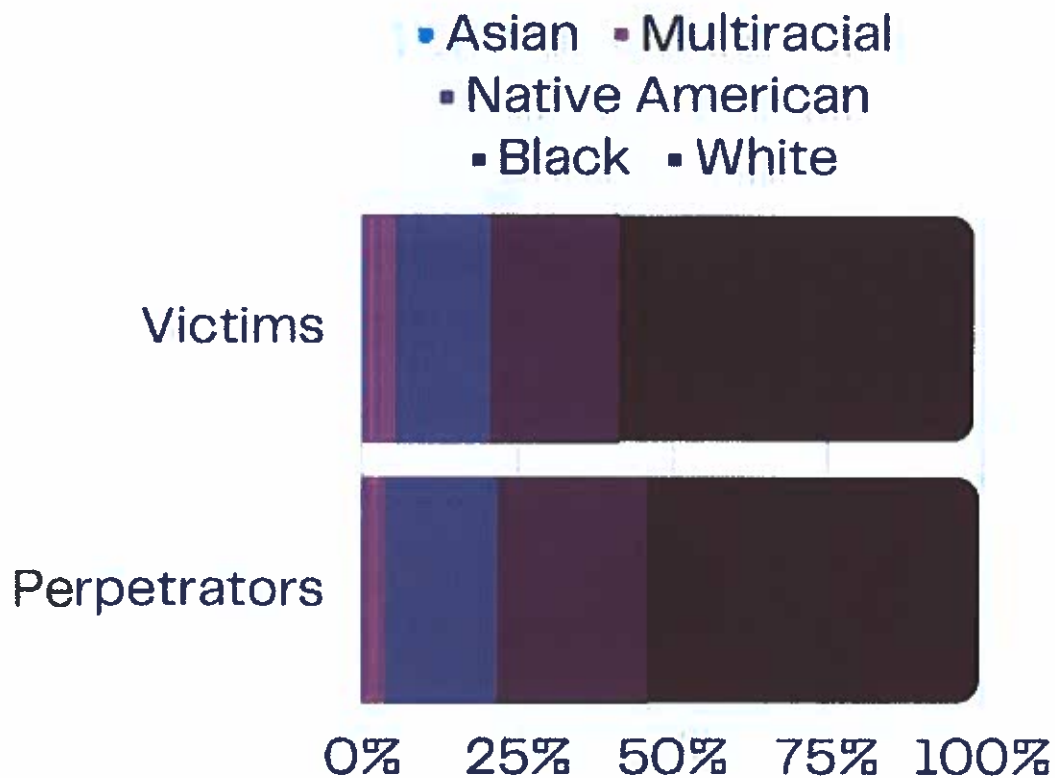
2. Goals and objectives for reducing domestic violence-related homicides within the State, including available statistics on the rates of domestic violence homicide within the State and challenges specific to the State and how the plan can overcome them. (34 U.S.C. 10446(i)(2)(G); 28 C.F.R. 90.12.12(f)).

Oklahoma ranks 8th in the nation in the rate of women killed in single victim/single offender incidents in the United States. More than 90% of women are killed by someone they know. (Violence Policy Center, 09/2021). Oklahoma's high rate of domestic homicides makes it necessary to give it separate mention.

In 2001, 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. 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. The DVFRB added two representatives from the Native Alliance Against Violence to its ranks in November 2019, bringing the total membership of the board to twenty multidisciplinary team members. The addition of both a Native American survivor of domestic violence and a Native American domestic violence victim service provider brought a crucial perspective to the board's review of identified domestic violence-related death cases, particularly as the state continues to navigate the impact of the U.S. Supreme Court's 2020 *McGirt v. Oklahoma* decision. The DVFRB aspires to continue expanding its membership in the coming years to include more stakeholders from the state's various systems as they recognize the safety of victims, their children and families. Communities depend on the ongoing commitment, collaboration, and cooperation of the legislature, criminal justice system, law enforcement, domestic violence services, medical providers, mental health and substance abuse treatment services, and so many others.

According to the 2021 DVFRB Annual Report which was based on 2020 information, in 2020 there were 106 incidents, also known as cases or events, identified by DVFRB Program Staff in which one or more people were killed in a domestic violence-related incident. There were 119 victims and 112 homicide perpetrators, 19 of whom died, for a total of 138 Oklahomans who died due to domestic violence. Consistent with prior years, the highest numbers of domestic violence-related deaths were concentrated in Oklahoma and Tulsa Counties where a total of 65 people lost their lives to domestic violence in those two counties alone, comprising 46.8% of the total number of deaths. This is to be expected, given a combined 37.0% of Oklahoma's population resides in those two counties. However, the rate of domestic violence-related fatalities in Tulsa County was 5.1 per 100,000 citizens and in Oklahoma County it was 3.9 per 100,000; both are higher than the statewide rate of 3.5 deaths per 100,000 people, with Tulsa's rate being 45.5% higher than the state rate. At least one domestic violence-related homicide occurred in 35 out of Oklahoma's 77 counties (45.5% of all counties) in 2020. While this is consistent with previous years – an average of 31 counties experienced at least one domestic violence homicide for the period from 2015-2019 – it is the highest number of counties since 2016, when there were also 35 counties. Domestic violence fatalities occurred in four more counties in 2020 than 2019 and 2018, an increase of 12.9%. For both the OSBI and the DVFRB, 2020 represented the

highest number of domestic abuse homicides in the ten-year period from 2011-2020. Of the 119 total domestic violence homicide victims, 51 (42.8%) were female and 67 (56.3%) were male. There were two prenatal victims, only one whose gender was identified, resulting in the total percentage of gender being less than 100%. There were 43 adult female victims, 42 of whom (97.7%) were killed by male perpetrators. Of the 63 adult male victims, 47 (74.6%) were killed by male perpetrators and 16 (25.4%) were killed by female perpetrators. The overwhelming majority of the 112 perpetrators were male (79.5%). There were 23 female perpetrators, 14 (60.9%) of whom killed their current or former intimate partner. There was a total of 119 victims ranging in age from two months to 89 years old, including two killed in utero. Most victims killed, about 61.4%, fell between the ages of 19-49 years old; 31.1% were between the ages of 19 and 34 years old and 30.3% were between the ages of 35 and 49 years old. The average age of adult victims was 42.4 years. Of the 13 juvenile victims, seven (53.8%) were under the age of five and five (38.5%) were less than a year old. The average age of all victims was 38.4 years old. Of the 112 perpetrators, those between the ages of 19 and 34 years old (48.2%) represented the largest age group. The youngest perpetrator was 12 years old, and the oldest perpetrator was 88 years old. The average age of all perpetrators was 39.3 years old, with the average age of adult perpetrators being 37.6 years. Seven perpetrators (6.3%) were juveniles under 18 years old.



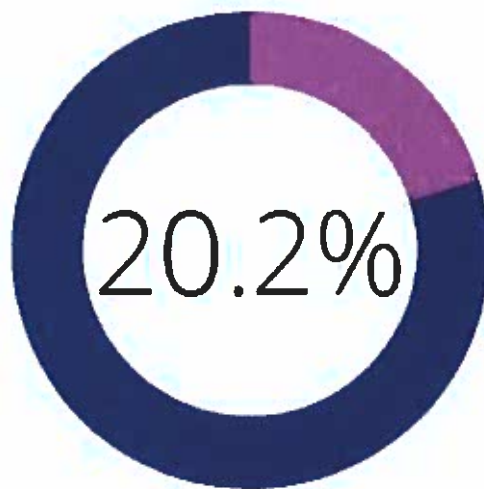
Victim and Perpetrator Race

The Black community is the most impacted by domestic violence–related fatalities, comprising 5.5% of Oklahoma's population but 21.0% of homicide victims and 24.1% of perpetrators. Native Americans are next with 5.8% of the population but 15.1% of victims and 17.9% of perpetrators.

The rise in the identification of Native American victims and perpetrators is likely due to two factors. First, the U.S. Supreme Court's 2020 decision in *McGirt v. Oklahoma* required more stringent identification of Native American individuals involved in crimes. Second, program staff have implemented a methodology whereby they use three sources to validate the race and ethnicity of victims and perpetrators.

HOMICIDE-SUICIDES

Twenty-four victim were killed in homicide-suicide events, including 4 children. Homicide-suicide victims comprised 20.2% of all domestic violence-related homicide victims.



Cause of Death

Firearms were used five times more frequently than any other weapon in domestic violence-related fatalities and were the identified cause in 68.8% of deaths.



Since November 1, 2014, Oklahoma peace officers have been required by 21 O.S. § 142A-3 to assess the danger level of victims of intimate partner violence at the scene by asking them a series of questions and provide referrals to services for those screened as high risk. Although the law mandated that law enforcement ask at least the 11 Lethality Assessment questions based on the research of Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing and validated by the Maryland Network to End Domestic Violence (MNEDV), it did not prohibit officers from asking additional, unvalidated questions. Furthermore, the statute did not require law enforcement to implement the accompanying protocol, despite research demonstrating the full protocol, and not the questions alone, is what increases victim safety. To aid in LAP implementation the Office of the Attorney General Victim Services Unit assembled a team of allied professionals and conducted LAP training across the state throughout 2015 and again in 2019. After the 2014 legislation went into effect the DVFRB continued to recommend implementation of the full LAP protocol and in 2021, a bill mandating peace officers implement the full LAP protocol was submitted in the Oklahoma Legislature. Senate Bill 17 was signed by Governor Kevin Stitt on April 28, 2021. Effective November 1, 2021, officers are required to administer the 11-question lethality assessment provided on the Office of the Attorney General's

website when responding to incidents of intimate partner violence. Regardless of the results of the lethality assessment, officers must provide referral information for shelters, domestic violence programs, and other social services to the victim. If the assessment indicates the victim is at high risk of homicide, officers must implement the full lethality assessment protocol. The full lethality assessment protocol entails law enforcement initiating a referral to a domestic violence advocate from an OAG-certified or Tribal domestic violence program. This is done by the officer advising the victim of the results of the assessment, then informing the victim that they will call the domestic violence hotline to allow the victim to speak with an advocate. After advising the domestic violence advocate of the results of the assessment, the officer offers the victim the opportunity to speak with the advocate for safety planning, advocacy, and referrals for services. If the victim declines to speak with the domestic violence advocate, law enforcement must document the refusal on the lethality assessment form.

C. Addressing the Needs of Underserved Victims

Description of how the state will recognize and meaningfully respond to the needs of underserved populations as identified above in II.B. (34 U.S.C. 10446(e)(2)(D) and (i)(2)(F); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(d)(4))

1. Description on how the state plans to meet the needs of the identified underserved populations, including, but not limited to, culturally specific populations, victims who are underserved because of sexual orientation or gender identity, and victims with limited English proficiency. (34 U.S.C. 10446(i)(2)(E); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(e))

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 Latinx populations live in the sparsely populated rural counties throughout the state. Other than in urban communities, there is not a concentrated population of underserved individuals in most communities and jurisdictions. The 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, Hispanic, and rural – in addition to the smaller underserved communities such as the LGBTQIA+, AAPI, and Black/African American communities 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 listening meetings and group meetings so that potential S.T.O.P. VAWA recipients ensure 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 online survey described earlier specifically asked about the needs of underserved and unserved populations in the various communities. From the survey results, 47.32% of respondents said rural victims had the highest need in their community. This was followed by economically disadvantaged victims, victims

with mental illness, and tribal victims. Also ranked with some need were elderly, Hispanic, Black/African American, teen, boys and young men of color, and LGBTQIA+ victims.

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 applications with the highest needs until the culturally specific set aside is used and then supplement the rest of the applications from the victim services 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.

2. A description on how the state will ensure that monies set aside to fund culturally specific services and activities for underserved populations are distributed equitably among those populations. (34 U.S.C. 10446(i)(2)(E); and (i)(2)(F); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(d)(4))

Currently, the culturally specific community-based victim service category funds two programs. These programs are focused on serving Hispanic victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Latino Community Development Agency was funded for two bi-lingual advocates that provide crisis intervention, safety assessment and planning, translation, education, support, and advocacy services to Spanish speaking victims in the Oklahoma City metro area. The La Luz Organization was funded for a part-time advocate to provide culturally specific faith-based victim services for Hispanic victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking. This was the first grant cycle that a Native American organization did not apply in this category. There has been ongoing dialogue with both AAPI organizations and a Black/African American organization regarding applying for funding; however, non-tribal victim service organizations must be certified through the Office of the Attorney General in order to receive grant funding and this has been a barrier. The Black/African American organization has recently become certified so that they can apply for all the federal grants that the DAC administers. Dialogue will continue with tribal organizations and AAPI organizations about the funding through the DAC.

3. Specifics on how the state plans to meet the set -aside for culturally specific community-based organizations, including a description of how the state will reach out to community-based organizations that provide linguistically and culturally specific services. This could include specific information as to which subgrantees met the required 10% set aside within

the victim services allocation for culturally specific organizations during the prior funding cycle. (34 U.S.C. 10446(i)(2)(E); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(g)(2))

Information regarding funding culturally specific services and underserved populations is stated on the Notice of Availability of Funds (NOAF) that is mailed to all potential applicants as well as placed on the DAC's website. The information is also on the on-line grant application so that all applicants are aware that funding culturally specific services and underserved populations is a VAWA Board priority. The DAC has not had a problem meeting the 10% mandate.

D. Grant Making Strategy

1. Timeline for the STOP grant cycle. (See 28 C.F.R. 90.12(g)(8))

The NOAF is distributed in June with applications due in August. Potential applicants are made aware of funding and given guidelines for funding use. In addition, information on the grant program, the application process, and purpose areas of the grant are provided on the DAC's website. As a result of the 2014 listening meetings and survey, the application period was increased from 30 days to 60 days.

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 OKGrants, Oklahoma's online grant management system, for a 24-month period beginning January 1 and ending December 31.

2. Description of how the state will ensure that eligible entities are aware of funding opportunities, including projects serving underserved populations. (28 C.F.R. 90.12(d)(5) and (g)(4))

A NOAF is both mailed and emailed to current and past recipients and applicants of VAWA funds as well as all tribal entities, law enforcement offices, organizations that participated in the VAWA Implementation Planning meetings and listening meetings, and anyone else who has called the office and requested to be placed on the mailing list. The NOAF is also located on the DAC's website.

3. Description of how the state will ensure that any subgrantee will consult with victim service providers during the course of developing their grant applications in order to ensure that the proposed activities are designed to promote the safety, confidentiality, and economic independence of victims. (34 U.S.C. 10446(i)(2)(D))

Those new 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 new 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 Grant Programs 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.

4. Description of how the state will identify and select applicants for subgrant funding, including whether a competitive process will be used. (28 C.F.R. 90.12(g)(8))

The S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant award process is a competitive process in Oklahoma. To be considered for funding, the applicant must be eligible under the grant program, be in good standing with all previous and current grant awards (if applicable), 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 online grants management system. Applicants must register and be approved prior to making an 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 and unserved 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 for a virtual meeting 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. Whether STOP subgrant projects will be funded on a multiple or single-year basis. (28 C.F.R. 90.12(g)(8))

Beginning with 2017, VAWA awards switched from being 12 months in length to being 24 months in length. Previously, after the first 12 months, only existing subgrantees could apply again for a “continuation” grant. The switch to a full 24-month grant eliminated the need for an entire grant application submission and review period, allowing subgrantees to continue work on goals and objectives and SAA staff to concentrate on other items such as on-site monitoring and training.

6. Description of how the state will determine the amount of subgrants based on the population and geographic area to be served. (34 U.S.C. 10446(e)(2)(B) and (i)(2)(F): 28 C.F.R. 90.12(d)(2))

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. The VAWA Board is provided detailed information regarding the service area of each applicant to guide them in their decision making.

7. Description of how the state will give priority to areas of varying geographic size with the greatest showing of need based on the availability of existing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking programs. (34 U.S.C. 10446(e)(2)(A) and (i)(2)(F): 28 C.F.R. 90.12(d)(1))

The VAWA Grant Board takes into account both the population served and geographic area 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.

8. Description of how the state will equitably distribute monies on a geographic basis including nonurban and rural areas of various geographic sizes. (34 U.S.C. 10446(e)(2)(C) and (i)(2)(F): 28 C.F.R. 90.12(d)(3))

There is no formula used but the VAWA Board is made aware of the location of each applicant, and they know the counties served and whether they are rural, urban or a combination, size of urban area, etc. The board tries to spread out the funds; however, the vast majority of the state is rural and as a result, projects are more frequently awarded to rural programs.

9. Information on projects that the state plans to fund, if known. (See 28 C.F.R. § 90.12(g)(5))

a. Crystal Judson (34 U.S.C. § 10441(b)(13))

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.

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, sex trafficking, 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 by 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, sex trafficking, 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.

Prosecution

In the prosecution category, the VAWA Grant Board funds prosecutors assigned to caseloads that focus exclusively on violent crimes against women. 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. Most of the projects that are funded are within rural jurisdictions.

Courts

Prior to the VAWA 2013 Reauthorization, the VAWA Grant Board funded probation officers who monitored and supervised domestic violence offenders in the courts category. As the AOC has indicated they will not accept funds, tribal courts will be the target of this category. Permission was granted from OVW to reallocate the 5% courts funding to the discretionary category. For the 2021/2022 funding cycle, the Choctaw Nation's court was funded to provide judicial training. Unfortunately, the day the award documents for the grant were due, the Choctaw Nation turned down the award.

Discretionary Programs

In the discretionary area, the VAWA Grant Board has historically funded programs that have a statewide impact. However, through the survey, it was strongly emphasized that while statewide programs are valued, funding for local initiatives that have a significant impact should also be considered. One program is funded to provide SANE training across the state. Currently three agencies are funded for probation officers, and the Victim Services Unit of the Office of the Attorney General is funded to staff the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board and to provide an annual Partnership Conference on Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, and Stalking for over 700 members of victim service agencies, law enforcement agencies, and prosecutors.

VI. CONCLUSION

Results from Data Collection, Listening Meetings, Local Reports, and Progress Reports

The section below includes a brief overview of the recommendations obtained from listening meetings and other data collected by the 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:

- Provide regional training/outreach on the availability and use of grant funds.
- Continue coordination between the 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 rural victims; victims with drug and alcohol addiction; economically disadvantaged victims; victims with mental illness; victims of human trafficking; Black/African American; teens; Hispanic; non-English Speaking and/or undocumented victims; and LGBTQIA+ 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.
- Statewide initiatives that would best serve victims
 - Law enforcement, prosecution, and judicial training

- Coordinators for CCR Teams
- Multidisciplinary statewide training conference
- Supervision for offenders
- Domestic Fatality Review Board
- Prevention plan for domestic violence/sexual assault that could be distributed to all agencies.
- Special minority training or minority intervention program coordinators
- Explore the use of discretionary funding for tribal specific projects.
- Empower agencies to collect data with improved technology in order to better serve victims.

Policy and Protocol Changes

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

Effective Existing Initiatives

- The cited examples of effective community programs which were overwhelmingly mentioned include:
 - CCR Teams
 - SART Teams
 - Multi-Disciplinary Teams
 - SANE
 - Family Justice Centers

Training Needs

- Trauma informed/sensitive service and supports
- Oklahoma laws – domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, victim’s rights, lethality assessment
- Sensitivity training and cultural knowledge
- Topic specific training such as sex trafficking, Title IX, stalking, etc.
- Best practices for effectively responding to sexual assault victims
- Immigration issues
- Effects of trauma
- Cultural competency in providing services, especially to the Hispanic, LGBTQIA+, and tribal underserved populations.
- Discipline specific training on domestic violence and sexual assault for the judiciary, law enforcement, prosecution, and victim services, with the judiciary as being the most in need of training
- Lethality assessment
- Domestic violence fatalities

Victim Specific Needs

From the Survey

- Emergency shelter – immediate support/services

- Crisis intervention services-immediate support/services
- Basic needs (food/clothing)-immediate support/services
- Case management/advocacy to plan and coordinate support – Immediate support/services
- Transportation – immediate support/services
- Trauma specific therapy – long-term supports/services
- Employment assistance – long-term supports/services
- Transitional housing/long-term housing – long-term supports/services
- Mental health services – long-term supports/services
- Legal advocacy – long-term supports/services
- Childcare services – long-term supports/services

From the Listening/Focus Meetings

- Transportation
- Affordable housing/transitional housing
- Lack of mental health/substance abuse treatment
- Education for judges, law enforcement, and prosecution
- Language services
- Lack of SANE nurses
- More community education regarding domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking

Community Needs

- Increased awareness and outreach
 - Domestic violence and sexual assault, services available
 - Enhanced community coordination, collaboration, and response
 - Issues related to stalking
 - Cultural/marginalized communities
- Specialized Disciplines
 - Prosecutors and law enforcement specifically trained in domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking
 - Counselors trained in trauma-informed care for domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking victims
 - Advocates trained in trauma-informed care for domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking victims