

A map of New Jersey with its 21 counties outlined and filled with various pastel colors. The colors include shades of blue, pink, purple, yellow, green, and light blue. The map is centered on the page.

New Jersey

STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Formula Grant Program Three Year Implementation Plan 2014-2016

**New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety
Division of Criminal Justice
State Office of Victim Witness Advocacy
March 2014**

Table of Contents

| | | |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| I. | Introduction | 1 |
| II. | Description of Planning Process | 1 |
| III. | Needs and Context | 3 |
| IV. | Plan Priorities and Approaches | 4 |
| | A. Identified Goals | 4 |
| | B. Priority Areas | 5 |
| | C. Grant-making Strategy | 7 |
| | 1. 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 | |
| | 2. A description of how the state will determine the amount of subgrants based on the population and geographic area to be served | |
| | 3. A description of how the state will equitably distribute monies on a geographic basis including nonurban and rural areas of various geographic sizes | |
| | 4. Description of methods to be used for solicitation/review proposals and selection of subgrant projects and for which sectors these methods apply | |
| | 5. A timeline for the STOP grant cycle | |
| | 6. Whether STOP subgrant projects will be funded on a multiple or single-year basis | |
| | 7. A description of how the state will ensure that any subgrantees 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 | |
| | D. Addressing the Needs of Underserved Victims | 9 |
| | 1. Description of how the state will recognize and address the needs of underserved populations as defined by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) 2013 | |
| | 2. Specifics on how the state plans to meet the set aside for | |

- culturally specific community based organizations
3. A description of 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
 4. Specific information as to which subgrantees meet the required 10% set aside for culturally specific organizations within the victim services allocation (if known).

Appendices

I. Introduction

The New Jersey STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Three Year Implementation Plan (Plan) was developed with an Advisory Committee assessing the performance of STOP funded programs, discussing needs of victims of violence against women and identifying priority funding areas. The general goals of this Plan are to:

- continue funding for the domestic violence programs
- continue to support successful sexual assault VAWA initiatives
- ensure equitable allocation of funds among types of victim services

The 2013 - 2015 Plan, was submitted by the New Jersey Attorney General and OVW approved the Plan in January 2013. Alyson Gush, Chief of the DCJ State Office of Victim Witness Advocacy contacted OVW and spoke with Marnie Shiels, JD. The second year of our Plan is approaching and DCJ was advised that it would be acceptable to update the current three year plan with the understanding it specifically adheres to the current statutory Eligibility Requirements of VAWA. New Jersey's updated Plan was approved by the Attorney General in March 2014 and was distributed to all STOP VAWA Advisory Committee members. FFY13 STOP funds will support the subgrants awarded in calendar year 2014.

II. Description of Planning Process

The Office of the Attorney General and the State Office of Victim Witness Advocacy (SOVWA) facilitate and staff the VAWA Advisory Committee and the SOVWA administers the VAWA grant programs. The VAWA Advisory Committee includes representatives from law enforcement, prosecution, courts and victim advocacy organizations. Non-profit, non-governmental victim services were included in the planning process through representatives from the statewide coalitions: New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women, which represents twenty-nine domestic violence agencies, and New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault, which represents the twenty-one county sexual violence programs. Diverse communities were represented through the Department of Human Services. A Department of Labor and Workforce Development representative participated in the planning process as well.

The Advisory Committee met three times to discuss the needs, priorities and recommendations for the VAWA grant program. New Jersey remains committed to a planning and implementation plan that is driven by the needs of victims and survivors of violence against women. Members gathered and shared information to assist the Advisory Committee in identifying the needs and priorities. The Advisory Committee continued to provide members and the SOVWA additional information, comments, priorities, needs and recommendations via email and telephone conferences. Based on these discussions, the SOVWA prepared an implementation plan that was forwarded to the Director of the Division of Criminal Justice and the Attorney General for review and approval.

Documentation of Collaboration - STOP VAWA Advisory Committee (see attached meeting minutes and sign in sheets)

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Honorable Glenn A. Grant, J.S.C. Geraldine Washington, Designee Administrative Office of the Courts | Vincent Giardina Special Response Unit Department of Human Services |
| Patricia M. Hart, Executive Director Womanspace, Inc. | Alyson Honrath, Sergeant Victim Services Unit New Jersey State Police |
| Jewel Johnson, Director Division on Women Department of Children and Families | Leonard Ward Community Programs Unit New Jersey State Parole Board |
| Pamela McCauley and Linda Burkett, New Jersey Victim Witness Coordinators Association | Daniel Posluszny, Chief, Lawrence Township Police Department New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police |
| Sandy Clark, Executive Director New Jersey Coalition Against Battered Women | Mary Ellen Clark, Assistant Commissioner Deborah Darbee, Designee Department of Labor and Workforce Development |
| Allison Blake, Commissioner Grace Hamilton, Designee Department of Children and Families | Jennifer Nix New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault |
| Bruce Kaplan, President County Prosecutors Association of New Jersey | Alyson Gush, Chief State Office of Victim Witness Advocacy Division of Criminal Justice |
| Denise Hollingsworth, DAG State Office of Victim Witness Advocacy Division of Criminal Justice | Lynne Rybicki, RN, FN-CSA Cape May County SANE/SART Coordinator |
| Mary Houtsma, Executive Director Essex County Family Justice Center | |

Coordinated Services

New Jersey has always coordinated their victims services programs and strategies with the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, section 393A of the Public Health Services Act as well as the Victims of Crime Act. The administering agencies for the above mentioned Acts are all members of the STOP VAWA Advisory Committee and any needs or gaps in services related to the Acts above are consistently part of the planning and coordination of STOP VAWA priority initiatives. The State of New Jersey’s implementation plan has not changed.

Victim Services are available in all twenty-one counties through designated agencies. County domestic violence programs and shelter services for victims are funded by the Department of Children and Families. Each program provides twenty-four hour hotline and in-person response services for victims as well as shelters, social services, crisis intervention, supportive counseling and referrals. There are additional domestic violence providers who supplement the work of the designated programs. Services for sexual violence victims are available at the county sexual violence programs that receive primary funding from the Department of Community Affairs. Each program provides a twenty-four hour hotline and in-person response services for victims of sexual violence as well as community education, crisis intervention, supportive counseling and referrals.

III. Needs and Context

Snapshot of New Jersey

New Jersey is the ninth most populous state in the country with a population of 8.8 million people according to the 2010 U.S. Census Data. Flanked by New York City and Philadelphia, all of New Jersey is designated as metropolitan. New Jersey ranks 46th in state size, but has an average of 1,195 people per square mile, making New Jersey the most densely populated state in the country. Population varies by region. In the northeast, Bergen County has a population of 905,116 with approximately 4,000 people per square mile; conversely, southern Salem County has a population of 66,083 or 199 people per square mile.

New Jersey has the highest per capita income in the country, yet 10% of New Jerseyans live below the poverty level. In Essex County, where the City of Newark is located, the median household income is \$52,394 with 13.9% of families living at or below the poverty level. In neighboring Morris County, the median household income is \$91,469 with 3.7% of families living at or below the poverty level.

New Jersey is ethnically, culturally, economically, and religiously diverse. According to 2010 U.S. Census Data, New Jersey's population is 69% White, 14% Black or African American, 8% Asian and 9% other race. A total of 18% of New Jersey's population is of Hispanic or Latino origin. There are growing immigrant communities from Central America, Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe. In 2010, 29% of the New Jersey population spoke a language other than English at home. Approximately 14% of New Jerseyans are age sixty-five or older and over 800,000 residents have a mental or physical disability.

In addition, New Jersey is a popular tourist destination for residents of the Mid-Atlantic States as well as international visitors. There are large seasonal swells in population along with a steady influx of tourists to the casinos; more than thirty million visitors come to New Jersey each year.

New Jersey grapples with some of the same problems and challenges that confront the rest of the nation. These include urbanization and sprawl, budget deficits, poverty, economic hardships,

demographic shifts, environmental threats, and the social and public safety problems such as gangs, crime and its aftermath. These issues are magnified in New Jersey because of the population density and the ethnic, cultural, and religious diversity of its citizens. All of these factors impact victims of violence against women. Subgrants are awarded to approximately thirty (30) agencies and priority consideration is given to those agencies that provide services to underserved populations. Geographic distribution and types of victim services provided are taken into account in the selection of projects.

IV. Plan Priorities and Approaches

A. Identified Goals

This Advisory Committee was committed to supporting services based on the needs of the victims. The following goals were identified by the Advisory Committee:

- Maintain multi-disciplinary training programs
- Continue funding for the Domestic Violence Response Teams
- Expand services and advocacy for victims with disabilities
- Address funding parity for sexual violence programs
- Continue support for municipal court domestic violence advocates

New Jersey's unified system of law enforcement provides an integrated structure to coordinate criminal justice strategies. The Attorney General, as the chief law enforcement officer of the State, works with the twenty-one county prosecutors and all other law enforcement agencies to implement public safety and policing initiatives.

New Jersey has a comprehensive structure of domestic violence laws. These laws cover same sex partners and dating violence and providing temporary and final restraining orders. Final restraining orders can be obtained after an initial temporary restraining order is filed and do not have an expiration date. There are mandatory arrest requirements. Annual domestic violence training is mandatory for law enforcement and the judiciary. New Jersey looks to reduce domestic-violence related homicides within the state by empowering victims through trained law enforcement responders, advocacy and working collaboratively with our non-profit agencies that provide domestic violence services.

Additionally, the Office of the Attorney General created a model for Domestic Violence Response Teams (DVRT) for use by municipal law enforcement agencies (N.J.S.A. 2C:25-21(3)). At present, there are DVRTs in 170 municipalities.

B. Priority Areas

1. Priorities for STOP funds

The following were identified by the Advisory Committee as priority areas for STOP funds:

- Sexual violence advocates and services
Provide funding for the specially trained advocates participating in a county Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)
- Legal representation for victims
- Domestic Violence Advocates
Continue the initiative providing county prosecutor domestic violence advocates in municipal and family courts
- Domestic Violence Response Teams (DVRT)
Continue funding for the DVRT coordinator projects
- Law enforcement training
- Education, training, and enhanced services to end violence against and abuse of women with disabilities

2. Projects to be supported by STOP funds

a. Law Enforcement

Domestic Violence Response Team Coordinators

- ▶ recruit, train and supervise volunteers that respond to local police stations for domestic violence victims

New Jersey State Police Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Trainer

- ▶ responsible for training all new recruits and annual mandatory trooper training

b. Prosecution

Sexual Violence Programs

- ▶ Sexual Violence Programs to support advocates and core services in the participating county SART programs County Prosecutors' Offices Domestic Violence Advocates

- ▶ support statewide domestic violence advocate projects

c. Courts

Multi-disciplinary training on domestic violence and sexual violence

- ▶ continued training for judiciary, probation and court staff

d. Victim Services

Competitive Grant Program for all non-profit, non-governmental agencies that provide services to victims of violence against women. Geographic distribution and types of services are considerations. Ten percent is awarded for culturally specific programs.

e. Discretionary

Edna Mahon Project

- ▶ Services for domestic violence victims incarcerated in the State's female correctional facility

New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault

- ▶ Public Awareness, Education and Training Initiative

Department of Human Services

- ▶ Education, Training, and Enhanced Services to Victims with Disabilities Initiative.

3. Description of How Funds will be Distributed Across STOP VAWA Categories

The FFY13 STOP Formula Grant Award to New Jersey was \$3,210,595. Ten percent of the award, \$321,060, will be utilized for administrative purposes. These funds will support the salaries and fringe for the Division of Criminal Justice and SOVWA personnel assigned to the grant program. The balance of the award, \$2,889,535 will be allocated as follows:

Law Enforcement - \$722,384

Funds from this category will support the New Jersey State Police Training Coordinator (\$100,000). The twenty-one Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT) Coordinator projects throughout the state (\$580,112) and the balance of the funds will be used to support the law enforcement component for the Department of Human Services Education, Training, and Enhanced Services to Victims with Disabilities Initiative (\$42,272).

Prosecution - \$722,384

In this category, \$526,729 will be available to support the 21 County Prosecutors' Offices of Victim Witness Advocacy-Domestic Violence Advocates and \$195,655 will be allocated for the

21 county Sexual Violence Programs to support advocates and core services in the participating county SART Programs.

Courts - \$144,476

Funds will be awarded to the Administrative Office of the Courts to develop and implement protocols to continue the Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Training for judiciary, probation and staff.

Victim Services - \$866,861

A competitive grant program will utilize this allocation to support non-profit, non-governmental organizations that provide services to victims of violence against women. Ten percent of this allocation will be awarded to culturally specific projects.

Discretionary - \$433,430

Funds will be used to support the Edna Mahon Project (\$76,000) and the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault Public Awareness, Education and Training Initiative (\$90,000) and Education, Training, and Enhanced Services to Victims with Disabilities Initiative (\$47,600). The balance of the funds, \$219,830, will be awarded to the county Sexual Violence Programs to support advocates and core services in the participating county SART Programs.

Grants awarded during calendar year 2014 will be for a minimum of one year. Continued funding may be available for a maximum of three years, contingent upon the subgrantee's submission of an application, performance of goals and objectives and compliance with grant conditions. Subgrants, crime data, trends and the Attorney General's priorities will be reviewed on an annual basis and any modifications will be submitted to Office on Violence Against Women for review and approval.

4. Please See Attached Letters for Documentation from the: Prosecution, Law Enforcement, Courts, Victim Services and Discretionary Categories
5. Sexual Assault Set-Aside

New Jersey meets and exceeds the 20% sexual assault set-aside with its current implementation plan through various priority initiatives - 21 county Sexual Violence Programs, the NJ Coalition Against Sexual Assault Public Awareness, Education and Training Initiative, the Courts Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Training as well as various competitive victim services programs. Over \$675,000 in STOP VAWA 2013 money is allocated for programs and projects in the prosecution, victim services, courts as well as the discretionary categories.

C. Grant-making Strategy

Subgrant awards will be for a one-year period. Most subgrantees may be eligible for continued funding for a second and third year, contingent upon submission of an application,

performance of goals and objectives, and compliance with subgrant conditions. As stated previously in this Plan, Subgrants are awarded to approximately thirty (30) agencies and priority consideration is given to those agencies that provide services to underserved populations. Geographic distribution and types of victim services provided are taken into account in the selection of projects.

The Victim Services Category funds will be awarded through a competitive grant program. All non-profit, non-government organizations that provide services to victims of violence against women will be eligible. The grant applications will be reviewed and scored by the SOVWA and Office of the Attorney General staff. These subgrants begin July 1, 2014 and run for twelve months. Again, continued funding for a second and third year, contingent upon submission of an application, performance of goals and objectives, and compliance with subgrant conditions.

Formula-based awards will be utilized for the grant programs wherein all eligible agencies will receive funding: all county Sexual Violence Programs, County Prosecutors' Offices and Domestic Violence Response Team Coordinators will be eligible to apply for their respective grant program. For each grant program, a formula will be developed based on relative data such as the number of SART activations in a county for the Sexual Violence Programs.

In those instances where statewide specialized services are only offered by one agency, grants will be awarded at the discretion of the Director of the Division of Criminal Justice and the Office of the Attorney General.

The Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, State Office of Victim Witness Advocacy is responsible for the administration of the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant. The SOVWA manages the review, program development, technical assistance, and monitoring of the VAWA grant programs in accordance with the STOP Violence Against Women Formula and Discretionary Grant Program Final Rule.

According to the 2010 New Jersey Uniform Crime Report (UCR), there were 74,244 domestic violence offenses reported, 38 of which included the offense of murder. There were 985 rapes and attempted rapes reported. In addition, 1471 other sex offences resulted in arrests. Due to the large number of people living or visiting the State, reports of violence against women are high compared to other states. Cultural and linguistic barriers provide challenges to the outreach and delivery of victim services to those in need.

New Jersey sexual assault laws were revised in 1979, providing a broader definition of sexual assault and eliminating the narrow definitions of rape and sodomy. Sexual assault offenses are now based on the age of the victim, the relationship between the victim and offender, the nature of the sexual contact, and the use of force. Restrictions were also revised to set sixteen as the age of consent. In 1989, the laws also added protections for those unable to consent, including people with developmental disabilities. Legislation is pending to require annual sexual assault training for law enforcement and the judiciary.

In order to provide coordinated and unduplicated services, partnerships and collaborations between criminal justice systems and victim service providers are in place for victims of violence against women. Legislation mandates a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program and Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) in each of the twenty-one county prosecutors' offices (N.J.S.A. 52:4B et seq.). As part of this legislation, the Attorney General convened the Attorney General SART/SANE Coordinating Council and each county established a SART Advisory Board with law enforcement, sexual violence advocates, forensic nurses and prosecutors. SARTs are operational in every county.

The unemployment rate in New Jersey is over 9% and more than 205,200 jobs have been lost since September 2008. Funding, both from private contributions and governmental appropriations, for victim service organizations and criminal justice agencies has decreased. A budget gap of \$1.4 billion is projected through the end of fiscal year 2013. With high unemployment and reduced funding, essential services have been scaled back or eliminated. During periods of economic stability, New Jersey's implementation plans allowed for greater funding for training, education and public awareness projects. Because of the unstable economy, this implementation plan will focus on maintaining and expanding funding to support victims' needs, including direct services of advocacy, protection, strengthening systems, and laying the ground work for new policies and procedures.

The County Prosecutors' Offices of Victim Witness Advocacy provide case status notifications, court accompaniment and referral for all crime victims. During 2012 victim-witness advocates provided services to 20,154 victims of domestic violence and 6,594 victims of sexual assault.

New Jersey's fifteen court vicinages are unified under the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). Victim service programs in the courts are coordinated statewide by the AOC.

D. Addressing Needs of Underserved Victims

Representatives from organizations serving these populations were included in the Advisory Committee. Their participation in meeting discussions helped the Advisory Committee identify the needs and priorities for these victims. Additionally, the Notice of Availability of Funds for the competitive programs provide a priority for services to these populations. For example, current VAWA funds support the Hispanic Family Center which provides approximately twenty programs to more than 5,000 victims annually. The program provides case management, counseling and group counseling sessions for women.

Under the New Jersey Implementation Plan, funding will be used to support women with disabilities, their families and direct care staff. The Department of Human Services will conduct various training sessions focused directly towards women with disabilities and those who provide direct care for them. Also, there will be a session conducted during New Jersey's statewide lecture series related to developmental disabilities.

New Jersey meets the ten percent (10%) Culturally Specific set-aside requirement associated with the FY2012 VAWA program by awarding subgrants to: New Jersey Association on Correction (Camden), Latina Outreach Project; Jewish Family Service & Children's Center of Clifton-Passaic, Inc., Project S.A.R.A.H.; and the New Jersey Association on Correction (Passaic), Libre de Violencia - Free of Violence. The Latina Outreach Project supports a Latino bilingual/bicultural Outreach Worker and a Legal Advocate who provide direct services, including counseling and legal advocacy. Project S.A.R.A.H. is a multicultural services project targeting the Orthodox Jewish community by ensuring a network of culturally sensitive response systems. The Libre de Violencia - Free of Violence Project supports the utilization of social services and civil and criminal remedies for incidents of domestic violence and sexual assaults in the Latino community.

Appendices

(This is where OAG can put the PDFs for the Documentation of Collaboration and letters of support.)