



Summary and Highlights from AVA Connect Call August 21, 2025, 2:00pm (ET)

Number of Attendees: 14 (*registered 26*)

Facilitator: Tierra Williams, *VSTOP & VSDVVF Grant Program Coordinator, Division of Programs and Services, Victims Services, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, AVA Board Vice President*

CALL HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Opening Check-in

Prompt: Weekend in a Word?

Responses included: tasty, deserved, restful, windshield, pool, relaxing, joy (2), busy, chaos, *“wish it was travel for vacay, but just lots of road time,”* and *“this whole week has felt like it is a Friday, or maybe just my wishful thinking.”*

2. Open Discussion

A. New “Out of Scope” Activities—subgrantees sign a certification?

- Option: add it to grant management system, certify when going through an application
- Not asking subgrantees to certify
- Contract documents include any grant specific conditions
- States are on different timelines for awarding funds
- Waiting on the status of the court case(s)
- OVW sent out a press release email announcement about how it applies to our funding (<https://www.justice.gov/ovw/fy-2025-general-terms-and-conditions#42>)

B. Tribal Courts Funded under the Court Allocation

- No administrators reported direct experience
- Would think yes
- Concern noted when tribal lands cross state lines

C. Funding State Corrections Department Under Law Enforcement or Prosecution

- Experience that it could be out of law enforcement

3. Implementation Planning

A. What avenues have you deemed the greatest resources in promoting your success in this process? (ex. TA clinics attended)

- Break apart implementation plan and getting approvals in pieces – in case anything changes with EOs or language use. Can get approval throughout process while working on other parts of the plan. – Track approval dates
- Template: <https://stopgrants.org/implementation-planning/>
- Team for implementation planning, meet for an overview of the process, first step is to read the current plan, assign different parts of the plan to team members (ex. Attendance documentation, data section, consultation letter, etc.)
- Pacing guide
- PA plan <https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/pccd/documents/victim-services/documents/stop%20final%20version%20for%20website.pdf>
- Using a survey to check boxes of collaboration partners
- **Document everything!!** Specifically attempts to contact required partners (ex. Tribes, culturally specific service providers). Program manager could ask you to provide the emails you sent for outreach.

B. Prosecution Updates

- ALSO conducted listening sessions – they will be following up with OVW
- Example: One state worked with one agency contact for State's Attorneys, had them sign a certification to the SAA office for compliance.
- How often does training need to happen? – ALSO getting clarification
- Clarification – only to STOP funded prosecutor or to the entire office?
“...guidance from Fara that the requirement is applicable to any attorney who prosecutes STOP eligible crimes.”
- Should include the requirement in the RFA
- One state worked with Aequitas – developed a training (free) one in person and a virtual training series. Developed training and resources for

prosecutors. Prosecutors have to detail their progress towards being in compliance during reporting.... On site monitoring, provide documents”

- Still waiting for more concrete guidance on how to monitor for compliance going forward.

4. Resources Shared

1. <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/fy-2025-general-terms-and-conditions#42>
2. The template from STAAR is helpful Implementation Planning - STOPGrants.org
<https://stopgrants.org/implementation-planning/>
3. PA'sPLAN
<https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/pccd/documents/victim-services/documents/stop%20final%20version%20for%20website.pdf>
4. Approved IPs
<https://www.avadministrators.org/implementation-plans-2/>
5. (CT) This is our survey; it is live until the end of the month (I'll probably do an extension)
https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=-nyLEd2juUiwJjH_abtzi2jPfs8_WVZLosQMaaDFtkxUMVI4MDFNRTNHQ0tPVjBaSUZLSFRNRDVRWi4u&route=shorturl
6. VSTOP Needs Assessment-VA (*see attached PDF*)

5. Announcements & Upcoming Events

A. Peer to Peer In-person Meeting

- Planned conversations facilitated by guest speakers include culturally specific TA provision and updates on what is happening in the federal world
- Registration remains open until we're at capacity (*typically 25 attendees*). Arlene will send an email when we reach capacity
- Lodging deadline: book by September 2nd to use AVA's room block and group rate.
- Please remember to register early so we can plan for accommodation requests, dietary needs, etc.

B. Relaunch of AVA Peer Support and Mentoring Program

- More information will be shared at the Peer-to-Peer In person and future Connect Calls
- If you've been an administrator for 3+ years and want to learn more about becoming a mentor, let us know.

C. OVW/AVA Quarterly Meeting

- Great meeting!
- Q/A summary has been sent out via the listserv

6. Action Items:

- Membership packets distributed via email, form and dues are due September 1st
- Arlene and Board members are welcome member feedback regarding any unmet needs, trends to explore, etc.
- For the Peer-to-Peer -n-person meeting – submit your GAMs to attend!!

Note: Members continue to report that messages from Arlene are landing in their spam folders. If you are awaiting a reply or document and haven't received it, please check your **Spam/Junk** folders and mark messages from Arlene as **Not Spam** to receive future messages in your inbox.