

**State of Louisiana**

**Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement**

**and Administration of Criminal Justice**

**Fiscal Years 2022 – 2025**



**STOP Violence Against Women**

**Formula Grant Program**

**Implementation Plan Update II**

**Application ID: A-469793 (FY 2023)**

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## **I. Introduction**

### **A. Overview of Louisiana STOP Formula Grant Program**

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) is a component of the United States Department of Justice (DOJ). OVW implements the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and subsequent legislation and provides national leadership on issues of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Since its inception, OVW has supported a multifaceted approach to responding to these crimes by implementing several grant programs authorized by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

One of the OVW grant programs authorized by VAWA is the STOP (Services\* Training\* Officers\* Prosecutors\*) Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program; also referred to as the STOP Formula Grant Program. This program continues to emphasize the implementation of comprehensive strategies to address violence against women that are both sensitive to their immediate and long-term needs as well as ensuring their safety, holding offenders accountable for their behavior. The Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice (LCLE) is the state agency named by the Governor to administer the STOP Formula Grant Program.

The Mission of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement is to improve the operations of the criminal justice and juvenile justice system and to promote public safety by providing progressive leadership and coordination within the criminal justice community. LCLE intends to use STOP Program funds to fund new and continuation projects that focus on one or more of the twenty-four (24) program purpose areas, as set forth in the statutes of the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program, supported by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). The results of this plan are intended to reduce violent crimes against women.

Implementation of the STOP Formula Grant Program complements the Mission of the LCLE, which is to improve the operations of the criminal justice and juvenile justice system and promote public safety by providing progressive leadership and coordination within the criminal justice community. The STOP Formula Grant Program will enhance these strategies by forging lasting partnerships between victim service providers and the criminal justice system, as well as encourage communities to look beyond traditional resources.

The Commission is a fifty-eight (58) member governing body appointed by the Governor for the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement. Commission members represent all areas of criminal justice and law enforcement disciplines as mandated in Louisiana Revised Statutes §15:1202 and are subject to change with the election of each new Governor. The Commission appoints the members of the Victims Services Advisory Board. Appointments to the Board are also subject to change with appointment changes to the Commission's membership.

The Victim Services Advisory Board consists of twelve (12) members that include the executive directors of the domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions, representatives from law enforcement, prosecution, the judiciary sector, and nonprofit victim services programs. The LCLE STOP Program Manager is the State Administrator who works closely with OVW, the Commission, the Victim Services Advisory Board, the eight local law enforcement planning districts, and other interested entities in order to successfully accomplish this Plan.

The Victim Services Advisory Board may recommend to the Commission, or the Commission may adopt on its own motion, specific operational policies relative to the funding of specific project types, eligibility for funding, or additional restrictions and/or limitations on funding, as well as monitoring, evaluation, or reporting requirements as deemed prudent in the administration of specific grant funds. Such regulations shall be in conformity and not inconsistent with these general guidelines, or with applicable state or federal law, regulation, or rules.

Such operational guidelines shall be reviewed by the Commission at least once every four years and adopted by a two-thirds vote. The Commission may waive such operational policies provided the potential subgrantee has made written request for such a waiver and the waiver granted by a two-thirds vote of the commission.

## **B. Approval Date**

The LCLE STOP Program Manager will present the 2022–2025 STOP Implementation Plan Update II to the Victim Services Advisory Board on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, for its review and consideration before presenting to the Commission. After its review, the Board Chair of the Victim Services Advisory Board will provide the Plan Update II accompanied with its recommendation to the Commission for final approval of the updated Plan on Thursday June 22, 2023. Once that approval is received, the LCLE STOP Program Manager will notify the federal Program Manager at the Office on Violence Against Women.

## **C. Time Period**

The 2022–2025 STOP Implementation Plan, as well as any subsequent updated Plans, will be used as a guide for LCLE and all STOP subrecipients during the federal project periods of this Plan beginning July 1, 2023, until the end of the federal Fiscal Year 2023 funding period, June 30, 2025. The Plan will support the state in its efforts to revise, update, and strengthen existing law enforcement and prosecution strategies, as well as, enhance partnerships between victim service providers and the criminal justice system.

## II. Needs and Context

### **A. Demographic information regarding the population of the state derived from the most recent available United States Census Bureau data including 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))**

The State of Louisiana is located in the southern region of the United States of America and is the only state in the United States with sixty-four (64) political subdivisions termed as “parishes.” According to the 2020 U.S. Census will give an overview of Louisiana’s current population and demographic statistics.

Louisiana encompasses a total of 43,193.1 square miles and a water area of 9,168.3 square miles. It is the 33<sup>rd</sup> largest state by area bordered by Arkansas, Mississippi, and Texas. When comparing the number of persons per square mile in Louisiana to that of other states, Louisiana has 107.84 persons per square mile versus the national average of 89.25 persons per square mile.

The total population reported for Louisiana in the 2020 Census report totals 4,657,757. This total includes persons under 5 years of age totaling 6.3% (284,614), 19.7% under the age of 18 years (1,074,116), and 16.5% persons 65 years and older (757,390). Of all the population totals reported, approximately 51.0% are female (2,295,121), which aligns with national percentages reported.

The largest parish by population is East Baton Rouge Parish with a population of 455,884. Baton Rouge is the capitol city of Louisiana with a population of 224,480. The largest parish by land area in square miles (169.42) is Cameron Parish, which has a population of 5,619 people. The City of New Orleans is a major United States port and the state’s largest metropolitan area. Its population totals 383,282, classifying it as the largest city in Louisiana.

Each parish is listed below by population per square mile – largest to smallest populations in each parish throughout the state as reported in the 2020 Census report. Breakdowns of population demographics by parish with population totals are as follows:

- Major metropolitan areas in Louisiana in order of population density of 216,785 people or more are located in the parishes listed below. These seven parishes consist of total population of 2,242,515 people, or 48.15% of the total state population.

1. East Baton Rouge Parish	456,781
2. Jefferson Parish	440,781
3. Orleans Parish	383,997
4. St. Tammany Parish	264,570
5. Lafayette Parish	241,753
6. Caddo Parish	237,848
7. Calcasieu Parish	216,785

- The parishes listed below are in order of population density of 109,319 people or more. These seven parishes consist of a total population of 930,656 or 20.0% of the total state population.

8. Ouachita Parish	160,368
9. Livingston Parish	142,282
10. Tangipahoa Parish	133,157
11. Rapides Parish	130,023
12. Bossier Parish	128,746
13. Ascension Parish	126,500
14. Terrebonne Parish	109,580

- The following thirteen parishes make up a group with population densities ranging from 42,394 to 97,495. The parishes consist of a total population of 747,533 or 16.05% of the total state population.

15.	Lafourche Parish	97,557
16.	St. Landry Parish	82,540
17.	Iberia Parish	69,929
18.	Acadia Parish	57,576
19.	Vermilion Parish	57,359
20.	St. Charles Parish	52,549
21.	St. Martin Parish	51,767
22.	St. Mary Parish	49,406
23.	Vernon Parish	48,750
24.	Lincoln Parish	48,396
25.	Washington Parish	45,463
26.	St. Bernard Parish	43,764
27.	St. John the Baptist Parish	42,477

- The next group of seven parishes have populations of 39,616 to 30,095 people in each parish. The population total is 245,565 or 5.27% of the total state population.

28.	Avoyelles Parish	39,693
29.	Natchitoches Parish	37,515
30.	Webster Parish	36,967
31.	Beauregard Parish	36,549
32.	Evangeline Parish	32,350
33.	Jefferson Davis Parish	32,250
34.	Iberville Parish	30,241



- The following list consists of the parishes listing populations totaling 20,043 to 27,236 in each parish. The twelve parishes total of 273,368 persons or 5.87% of the total state population.

35.	West Baton Rouge Parish	27,199
36.	DeSoto Parish	26,812
37.	Morehouse Parish	25,629
38.	Plaquemines Parish	23,515
39.	Allen Parish	22,750
40.	Grant Parish	22,169
41.	Sabine Parish	22,155
42.	Union Parish	21,107
43.	Assumption Parish	21,039
44.	Pointe Coupee Parish	20,758
45.	St. James Parish	20,192
46.	Richland Parish	20,043

- The last eighteen parishes are rural and/or underserved parishes. These parishes are considered underserved due to the limited number of service providers in the areas, as well as being the poorest parishes in the state. Each parish lists population totals of 4,147 to 19,774 people living in these parishes totaling 218,120 or 4.7% of the total state population.

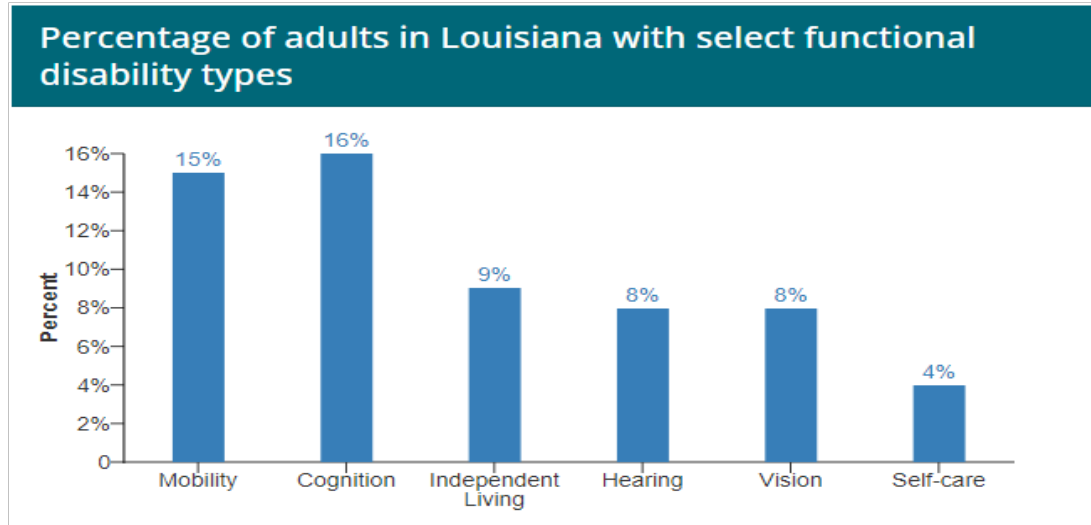
47.	Franklin Parish	19,774
48.	East Feliciana Parish	19,539
49.	Concordia Parish	18,687
50.	West Feliciana Parish	15,310
51.	Jackson Parish	15,031
52.	LaSalle Parish	14,791
53.	Claiborne Parish	14,170

54.	Winn Parish	13,755
55.	Bienville Parish	12,981
56.	St. Helena Parish	10,920
57.	Madison Parish	10,017
58.	West Carroll Parish	9,751
59.	Caldwell Parish	9,645
60.	Catahoula Parish	8,906
61.	Red River Parish	7,620
62.	East Carroll Parish	7,459
63.	Cameron Parish	5,617
64.	Tensas Parish	4,147

Louisiana has an interesting diversity of races at any given time. The percentage of African Americans and blacks in the state is the second-highest in the nation, only trailing behind Mississippi. The 2020 U.S. Census reports totals for race and Hispanic origin reported:

- 61.5% white (2,864,310),
- 33.0% Black or African Americans (1,514,780),
- 0.08% American Indian and Alaska Native (36,722),
- 1.9% Asian (87,215),
- 0.01% Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander (45,902),
- 5.7% Hispanic or Latino of any race (322,549), and
- 1.8% two or more races (82,624).

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 16.1% of Louisiana’s population are disabled compared to 13% of the total population in the United States. The types of disabilities include –



- Hearing difficulty – 4.2%
- Vision difficulty – 3.8%
- Cognitive difficulty – 6.9%
- Ambulatory difficulty – 8.4%
- Self-care difficulty – 3.3%, and
- Independently living difficulty – 7.1%

Languages spoken in homes are reported as:

- 92.6% English only, 3.6% Spanish,
- 2.2% other Indo-European languages,
- 1.0% Asian and Pacific Islander languages, and
- 0.5% other languages.

The median household income totaled \$52,087 and the employment rate was 53.4%. Poverty by age in Louisiana is 36.9% under 18 years of age, 18.3% 18 to 64 years of age, and 14.1% 65 years and over. Almost half of Louisiana's population earns below the average median household income of \$50,000.

As of January 2020, Louisiana had an estimated 3,173 people experiencing homelessness on any given day, as reported by Continuums of Care to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Of that total, 182 were family households, 246 were unaccompanied young adults aged 18-24, 378 were Veterans, and 437 individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.

**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))**

LCLE researched Census data to determine the poorest rural parishes with the least populations in Louisiana. When established, LCLE staff identified the victim service providers by parish to determine there were nineteen (19) rural parishes that are not near a service provider within a fifty (50) mile radius. This, coupled with the lack of transportation options and available housing, make these parishes severely underserved.

Census data statistics reveal that 46.96% or 439,690 African Americans of Louisiana's population live in poverty, followed by 38.2% or 54,826 Hispanics and 30.82% or 5,411 Native Americans. Louisiana has an education rate of 47% have obtained a high school diploma or less. African Americans in Louisiana have a graduation rate of 81.15% from high school but only 16.54% obtained a bachelor's degree.

In the U.S., especially Louisiana, domestic violence disproportionately affects ethnic minorities. Among ethnic minority groups, African American and Native American men and women are most likely to experience domestic violence. In Louisiana:

- 35.9% of women and 35.2% of men experience intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner sexual violence and/or intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes.
- In 2017, Louisiana had the 2nd highest femicide rate in the United States.
- About 48% of African American women, 46% of American Indian or Alaska Native women, and 53.8% in two multiracial non-Hispanic women have been the victim of intimate partner violence, rape, physical violence, or stalking in their lives.
- These rates are 30% to 50% higher than those experienced by Hispanic, White non-Hispanic women and Asian or Pacific non-Hispanic women.

Domestic violence occurs at the same rates, or at higher rates, in LGBT relationships than occur in heterosexual couples. According to the NCADV:

- 43.8% of lesbian women and 61.1% of bisexual women have experienced intimate partner violence, rape, or stalking at some point in their lives, compared to 35% of heterosexual women.
- 26% of gay men and 37.3% of bisexual men have experienced intimate partner violence, rape, or stalking at some point in their lives, compared to 29% of heterosexual men.

According to a report by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs:

- People who identify as LGBTQ and are also African American are more likely to experience physical intimate partner violence, compared to those who do not identify as African American.
- Similarly, those who identify as LGBTQ and are Caucasian are more likely to experience sexual violence, compared to those who do not identify as Caucasian.
- People who identify as LGBTQ and are on public assistance are more likely to experience intimate partner violence compared to those who are not on public assistance.

Other domestic violence victim facts:

- Women with disabilities have a 40% greater risk of intimate partner violence, especially severe violence, than women without disabilities.
- 40% of child abuse victims also report experiencing domestic violence.

Gender-based violence is more prevalent in rural communities than in urban and suburban communities.

- Homicides in rural communities are three times as likely to involve an intimate partner than in large cities.
- Survivors in rural communities face unique barriers to achieving safety, including:
  - More than a quarter of survivors in rural communities live more than 40 miles from the nearest domestic violence program. Rural communities lack public transportation and other transportation options.

- Geographic isolation makes it less likely that a neighbor or other community member will witness or otherwise become aware of the violence.
- First responders take longer to respond to calls for assistance in rural and remote communities.
- Abusers typically isolate survivors from friends and family and services. Survivors in rural communities are already physically isolated from their support systems. LGBTQ+ are stigmatized.
- Rural communities are more likely to adhere to traditional gender roles, in which family cohesion is the highest value - over the safety of the victim – and intimate partner violence and sexual assault are seen as normative behavior.
- Domestic violence and sexual assault are considered to be private, personal or familial matters rather than issues of public safety.
- Women and LGBTQ+ members are shamed for reporting domestic violence or sexual assault.
- Friends and family members often encourage victims to stay in abusive relationships.
- Survivors seeking services cannot remain anonymous. Due to the small and tight-knit nature of rural communities, community members know when a survivor is seeking services, including medical treatment for domestic violence or sexual assault, and the service providers are acquainted with the victims socially or from other settings.

Poor criminal justice response or lack of trust in impartiality of criminal justice process:

- Addressing domestic violence and sexual assault are lower priorities in rural communities, with a heavier emphasis on other crimes.
- Law enforcement, prosecutors and judges are not neutral parties, because they often have social relationships with the perpetrator or the perpetrator's family.
- Political and social connections may trump victim safety.
- Victims are less likely to receive protective orders, those protective orders are less likely to be served and victims are more likely to be charged a fee related to the process.
- Survivors have more complex needs and require a greater variety of services, but there are few services available in rural areas.
- Domestic violence and sexual assault are less likely to be identified in rural survivors.

Obstetricians/gynecologists and emergency room staff are more likely to do screening for intimate partner violence than primary care physicians, but rural communities are less likely to have specialized clinics.

- Survivors have fewer financial resources, making them more financially dependent on an abusive partner.
- Rural communities have a scarcity of rental units or other affordable housing options, making it more difficult for survivors to leave spouses or cohabiting abusers.



The most dangerous time for a victim is after he/she leaves their abuser. Leaving an abusive relationship isn't a matter of courage, but it's a matter of not wanting to die. According to the Center for Relationship Abuse Awareness, seventy-five percent (75%) of homicides related to domestic violence occur after separation. Leaving could also put loved ones at risk. According to a recent study on homicides linked to intimate partner violence, twenty percent (20%) of homicide victims were family members, friends, neighbors, people who intervened, law enforcement responders, or bystanders.

For a project to be considered eligible to receive STOP funds it should address the needs of the underserved populations and must provide victim services explicitly tailored to meet the needs of those victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. LCLE not only considers the ethnicity of the victims that are to be served but also how the agency's services will be provided and if the services provided are culturally appropriate to the ethnicity of the victims served.

Other decisions include the agency's involvement in their community, the number of victims that will be served, the methods used to deliver the services provided, and whether the services provided are made available to all victims who live in the community served. Applicant agencies are required to provide how their STOP-funded project will address the underserved and culturally-specific populations in accordance with the VAWA Reauthorization Act. Requirements include:

- A description of the culturally-specific population to be served;
- A description detailing how the victim services to be provided are appropriately tailored to meet the unique needs of the culturally-specific community;
- Specifics demonstrating the agency's ability to work effectively in providing victim services unique to the culturally-specific community being served; and

- Evidence of the ability to acquire the needed expertise through collaboration, cooperative agreements, or memorandums of understanding with other entities in the community.

Beginning with the distribution of the FY 2012 STOP funding, it was determined that an improved use of the ten percent (10%) portion of the award meant to be allocated to a culturally-specific project was to allocate it to a culturally-specific nonprofit victim service agency, a tribal government agency, or a tribal victim service agency.

Louisiana's demographic representation has consistently changed through the years since that time and funding is used to improve culturally specific community-based projects designed to meet the needs of diverse populations. These populations include limited and non-English victims, urban and rural victims, victims living in poverty, victims with disabilities, Black victims, LGBTQ+ victims, American Indian victims, Hispanic victims, and Asian victims. These and other victims with barriers not listed may impact how they may or may not have access to services provided by victim service providers and the criminal justice system.

Louisiana has the third largest American Indian population in the south behind the states of North Carolina and Florida. The Louisiana parish that has the highest percentage of American Indian population is Sabine Parish, while Terrebonne Parish has the largest population. Beginning with FY 2015 STOP funds and later, a ten percent (10%) set-aside portion of the STOP award has been awarded to two Tribal Governments – The Jena Band of Choctaw Indians and the United Houma Nation.

Resources are provided for victims/survivors of the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians through the STOP-funded Native American Domestic Violence Program. Tribal members' needs can be solved by understanding domestic violence through educating the tribal members and providing resources to empower the victims,

create safety plans, provide access to services, and have shelters available to victims and their families.

The STOP program is bringing awareness and knowledge into the tribal community that help is available to provide support, shelter, education and advocacy. This awareness will help to build a knowledgeable core system for tribal members to be encouraged to report these crimes without fear of their abuser. Victims will also, recognize their own denials about the severity of the situation, their economic limitations, and learn where services are available to them through the JBC's Social Services Department. The STOP culturally specific funding allows the tribe to implement Louisiana's first Native American Domestic Violence Program. The program is being managed through the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians' Social Services Department where tribal members will have immediate access to services.

The Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) works with its member programs to ensure culturally-specific underserved populations have access to victim services provided by the programs. The member programs offer technical assistance and training to culturally specific organizations that target African-American, LGBTQ+, Hispanic and Vietnamese victims of domestic violence.

### **III. Description of Planning Process**

#### **A. A brief description of the planning process.**

The April 2019 OVW Implementation Plan Checklist was utilized by the LCLE STOP Program Manager in creating the Louisiana 2022 – 2025 STOP Implementation Plan Update II. The checklist continues to be used as a foundation to guide key stakeholders from all disciplines in Louisiana to coordinate and collaborate to incorporate new methods to best serve victims, hold offenders accountable, and improve on the services which are currently being provided statewide.

Planning includes face-to-face quarterly meetings with the District Directors of the state's law enforcement planning districts or councils, the Executive Directors of the domestic violence and sexual assault Coalitions, and the Victim Services Advisory Board members. Additional in-person meetings are held with representatives from various state, governmental agencies, nonprofit victim service agencies, as well as meetings with representatives from Native Americans.

Part III, Subpart 3, General Subgrant Guidelines, of Title 22 of the Louisiana Administrative Code applies to all subgrants available from the LCLE. The Administrative Code 22 requires LCLE to hold quarterly meetings with District Directors, Coalition Executive Directors, and members of the Victim Services Advisory Board. The objective is to gather their expertise, input, and vision on existing services; consider the creation of new projects for new initiatives when gaps for needed victim services are discovered; seek advice on how to provide services to underserved, diverse, or culturally specific populations, collaboration efforts among the different agencies; and, collecting ideas and conducting needs assessments or surveys when necessary to prioritize STOP program objectives.

Under Louisiana Revised Statutes §15:1205 and §15:1206 (both added by Acts 1976, No. 592, §1), the law enforcement planning districts or councils serve as local points of contact for agencies requesting to receive STOP funds administered by the LCLE. They also perform functions similar to those prescribed to LCLE in planning, developing, coordinating, and administering criminal justice improvement programs within their respective districts. Each law enforcement planning district or council has its own local advisory board that oversees the distribution and approval of the allocation of STOP funds within their districts. Their boards are comprised of nonprofit victim service organizations, criminal justice and law enforcement officials, as well as other stakeholders from the parishes in their respective districts.

Victim Services Advisory Board and Commission members oversee, review, and approve the preparation of the state plan and its implementation. Strategies include bringing together those persons most familiar with problems of law enforcement and the administration of criminal justice. Commission members study and encourage the adoption of methods by which law enforcement can be made more effective and justice administered more efficiently and fairly. Collectively, their contributions and guidance provide direction for appropriate protocol and policies to be used for identifying responses needed for the needs of women who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and other violent crimes.

When approved by the State and the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), this Plan will be used as a foundation to guide key stakeholders from all disciplines statewide to incorporate new methods to best serve victims, hold offenders accountable, and improve on those methods which are currently being implemented statewide.

**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)):**

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) requires that the state plan follow the April 2019 STOP Formula Program Implementation Plan Checklist. The LCLE 2022–2025 Implementation Plan Committee is inclusive and coordinates across multiple areas and populations. The Louisiana Implementation Planning Committee includes subject-matter experts from numerous fields and the populations they represent are included in the table in this section.

1. State sexual assault coalition;
2. State domestic violence coalition;
3. ~~Dual domestic violence and sexual assault coalition~~; N/A
4. Law enforcement entity or state law enforcement organization;
5. Prosecution entity or state prosecution organization;

6. A court or the state Administrative Office of the Courts;
7. Representatives from tribes, tribal organizations, or tribal coalitions;
8. Population specific organizations representing the most significant underserved populations and culturally specific populations in the state other than tribes (which are addressed separately, including LGBTQ+, Women of Color, etc.);
9. Other individuals or entities, if relevant (including survivors, probation, parole, etc.).

<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Agency Name</b>	<b>Entity Represented</b>
<b>Amanda P. Larkins</b> Outreach Manager	Louisiana Department of Justice Attorney General's Office	Law enforcement entity or state law enforcement organization
<b>Billi J. Lacombe</b> Executive Director	Faith House, Inc.	State domestic violence coalition - Member
<b>Bobbie O'Bryan</b> Captain Houma Police Department	Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government – Houma Police Department & United Houma Nation Tribal Member	Law enforcement entity or state law enforcement organization & Representatives from tribes, tribal organizations, or tribal coalitions
<b>Cathy Ayo</b> Executive Director	D.A.R.T. – Domestic Abuse Resistance Team	State domestic violence coalition - Member
<b>Cherrise Picard</b> Executive Director	Chez Hope, Inc.	State domestic violence coalition – Member & Representatives from tribes, tribal organizations, or tribal coalitions
<b>Crystal Scrantz</b> Formerly Battered Women Roundtable Coordinator	Formerly Battered Women Roundtable	Other individuals or entities - Battered Women Roundtable
<b>Cynthia Austin</b> Grants Manager	24 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney's Office	Prosecution entity or state prosecution organization
<b>Darlene Santana</b> Executive Director	Metro Centers for Community Advocacy	State sexual assault coalition – Member & State domestic violence coalition - Member
<b>Fabian Blache, Jr.</b> Executive Director	Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police	Law enforcement entity or state law enforcement organization
<b>Gail Gowland</b> Executive Director	Family Violence Program of St. Bernard	State domestic violence coalition - Member
<b>Hatari Washington</b> Housing Advocacy Coordinator	Women of Color Roundtable	Population specific organizations representing the most significant underserved populations and culturally specific populations in the state other than tribes – Women of Color

<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Agency Name</b>	<b>Entity Represented</b>
<b>John Silver</b> Executive Director	Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana, Inc. Institute for Indian Development, Inc.	Representatives from tribes, tribal organizations, or tribal coalitions
<b>Joycelyn Johnson</b> Chief of Police	Southern University Police Department; Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police	Law enforcement entity or state law enforcement organization
<b>Kaye Celeste Kilpatrick</b> Executive Director	Geaux 4 Kids, Inc.	Other individuals or entities - Child Victims of Domestic Violence
<b>Lacy Robbins McGuffee</b> Tribal Councilwoman	Jena Band of Choctaw Indians	Representatives from tribes, tribal organizations, or tribal coalitions
<b>Lanor Curole, MA</b> Director/Administrator	United Houma Nation	Representatives from tribes, tribal organizations, or tribal coalitions
<b>Laura Tuggle</b> Executive Director	Southeast Louisiana Legal Services Corporation	Other individuals or entities - Legal Assistance
<b>Mariah Wineski</b> Executive Director	Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence	State domestic violence coalition - Director
<b>Marjorie Hebert, Sister</b> CEO	Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans	Other individuals or entities - Faith-Based
<b>Melinda Butaud</b> CSBG Director of the Tribal Organization	Institute for Indian Development, Inc.	Representatives from tribes, tribal organizations, or tribal coalitions
<b>Michael Ranatza</b> Executive Director	Louisiana Sheriffs' Association	Law enforcement entity or state law enforcement organization
<b>Mona Maxwell</b> Social Services Director Education Director	Jena Band of Choctaw Indians	Representatives from tribes, tribal organizations, or tribal coalitions
<b>Nicolette Joseph</b> Children's Advocacy Roundtable Coordinator	Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Other individuals or entities - Children's Advocacy Roundtable
<b>Olivia Jones</b> Executive Director	Forensic Nurse Examiners of Louisiana, Inc.	Other individuals or entities - Sexual Assault Victims, SANE & SAFE Professionals
<b>Rachel L. Africk</b> Chief, Domestic Violence Prosecution Unit	24 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney's Office	Prosecution entity or state prosecution organization
<b>Rafael de Castro</b> Executive Director	Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault	State sexual assault coalition - Director
<b>Ramona M. Harris</b> LPOR Director	Louisiana Supreme Court	Court or the State Administrative Office of the Courts - Louisiana Protective Order Registry
<b>Rheneisha Robertson</b> Executive Director	Covenant House New Orleans	Other individuals or entities - Human Trafficking
<b>Sandra Vujnovich, The Honorable</b> Judicial Administrator	Louisiana Supreme Court	Court or the State Administrative Office of the Courts

<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Agency Name</b>	<b>Entity Represented</b>
<b>Sheri Lochridge Combs</b> Human Trafficking Special Populations	Covenant House New Orleans	Other individuals or entities - Human Trafficking
<b>Stephen Knight</b> President	People Acting for Change and Equality (PACE); Shreve Pride; Queer Port; Artists Act Out; Shreveport Healthcare Equity; Q-Prom: Pieces of Pride; Pride in the Park	Population specific organizations representing the most significant underserved populations and culturally specific populations in the state other than tribes - LGBTQ+
<b>Valerie Martinez-Jordan</b> Director	Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office	Law enforcement entity or state law enforcement organization
<b>Wanjennia Atkins</b> Victim Services Liaison	Louisiana District Attorney's Association (LDAA)	Prosecution entity or state prosecution organization

A form was created and is being provided to Implementation Planning Committee Member participants at in-person and online meetings. (Appendix A.) The document includes the following information, in accordance with 34 U.S.C. 10445(i)(2)(B); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(c)(2)(ii):

1. Which category the participant represents of the entities listed in 34 U.S.C. 10446(c)(2), such as law enforcement, state coalition, population specific organization, etc.
2. Whether they were informed about meeting(s);
3. Whether they attended meeting(s);
4. Whether they were given drafts of the implementation plan to review;
5. Whether they submitted comments on the draft;
6. Whether they received a copy of the final plan and the summary of major concerns; and
7. Any significant concerns with the final plan.



**C. A description of consultation with other collaboration partners not included in the planning committee.**

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

Each Sexual Assault Center under the guidance of the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LaFASA) plays a large part in serving the underserved communities throughout the state. Now that the COVID-19 pandemic is not so prevalent, the Sexual Assault Centers have resumed meetings with local multi-jurisdictional task forces comprised of individuals from traditionally underserved groups in their respective service areas to ensure that each Center's services, including outreach services, are relevant, appropriate, and accessible to all victims. Feedback from these meetings is communicated to the LaFASA staff on a quarterly basis. LaFASA continues to provide and receive training and technical assistance that specifically addresses services for underserved groups, including D/deaf sexual assault survivors, victims with disabilities, and people who are homeless.

LaFASA is also committed to empowering advocates of color in our state and providing them with support, guidance, and mentorship to help them grow professionally and assist them to best serve survivors in their communities. LaFASA facilitates affinity groups – including groups for Advocates of Color, LGBTQ+ Advocates, and survivor-advocates, as well as an action and discussion group for White Aspiring Allies at sexual assault centers. Affinity groups are designed to be spaces for healing, deep connections, networking, to ultimately equip diverse advocates with the necessary skills and tools to amplify their voices within their agency and community, and, to center their power within the anti-sexual violence movement. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the difficulty in creating and maintaining a trusted community virtually, these calls have been paused. LaFASA will resume these discussions before the grant cycle begins.

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

The Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) works with its member programs to ensure culturally-specific underserved populations have access to victim services provided by the programs. The member programs offer technical assistance and training to culturally specific organizations that provide services to African-American victims of domestic violence, as well as victims of the LGBTQ, Hispanic, and Vietnamese communities.

The LCADV describes how local domestic violence programs throughout the state are working on additional programming and initiatives to meet the varied needs of underserved survivors. Some examples of these efforts include the following: mobile advocacy programs, rapid re-housing projects, an onsite medical clinic, wellness programs to address holistic health, high risk response teams, and alternate camping/mentoring programming.

Mobile advocacy programs provide flexible advocacy services to survivors at the place of their choice. This programming ensures that survivors can access services easily and is particularly helpful to survivors that live in rural areas or who have multiple barriers to accessing services. Through mobile advocacy programs, many programs are expanding their hospital responses to survivors who are hospitalized due to serious domestic violence incidents.

Many domestic violence agencies are accessing HUD DV funds to operate Rapid Re-housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, or Coordinated Entry projects for domestic violence survivors. These initiatives seek to increase the opportunities for survivors to access safe and affordable housing while receiving the supportive services that they need. These programs work in conjunction with the LCLE-funded Flexible Housing Assistance Program funded with Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) funding received from the State to provide holistic and comprehensive housing assistance for survivors.

Onsite medical clinic provides the opportunity for survivors to access primary health care, forensic sexual assault exams and forensic strangulation exams during the same visit as domestic violence services. Having the clinic as part of the domestic violence program also ensures that medical services are provided using a trauma informed lens, childcare can be provided while health care is accessed, and that quality health care can be provided free of charge. This initiative increases the number of survivors accessing mainstream health care services which is particularly important for survivors who have experienced strangulation and head injuries.

Domestic violence programs provide wellness programs to address holistic health to help survivors build unity with each other. This program is designed to prevent the isolation that occurs during domestic violence which oftentimes leaves survivors feeling alone and unsupported and once the crisis has passed. The programs assist survivors with long-term opportunities for specialized support groups, yoga, acupuncture, massage, art, and other healing activities within a space to heal while being around others in a safe environment.

**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))**

- a. How the state selected and meaningfully consulted with the included organizations; and**
- b. How the state considered both demographics and barriers/historical lack of access to services for each population.**

A few committee members listed in Section III.B. of this Plan have been involved in the state's STOP implementation planning process since 2014. There are also a number of new committee members who have contacted LCLE and expressed an interest in being a part of the implementation planning committee. Existing and some of the new committee members also

recommended additional persons listed below to be invited to the committee because of their expertise, experiences, and important perspectives of specific challenges and barriers experienced they can disclose on behalf of the survivors and their families they represent.

Overall, the population specific organizations and culturally specific organizations have been reluctant to speak with LCLE. They fear that LCLE is law enforcement by our organization's name and do not wish to speak with law enforcement. We have been slowly able to have meetings with both types of organizations with the understanding that we are here to learn from them. The first two meetings we were able to have included the Women of Color Roundtable, which is a population specific organization, and a representative of the LGBTQ+ community, which is a culturally specific organization. This valuable information is necessary to assist LCLE with adding new initiatives to improve and strengthen existing victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women for those populations they represent.

The Planning Committee includes representatives of the state sexual assault and domestic violence coalitions, law enforcement agencies, prosecution agencies, state and local courts; Tribal governments; and nonprofit victim service providers. The Committee also consists of representatives of populations that include underserved, culturally-specific marginalized communities, and diverse ethnic backgrounds (refer to page 24 for additional information about meetings, etc.). The populations currently targeted Native Americans, Women of Color, Black/African Americans, Hispanics, Latinos/Latinx, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and LGBTQI+ persons who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking.

The purpose of the meetings is to gather expertise, input, and their thoughts regarding existing services. The information received is helpful in identifying gaps in communities' resources and creating new services for unmet needs to share how to effectively provide services to the underserved, diverse, and culturally specific populations. These discussions are used to share positive collaboration efforts among the different types of agencies and are critical to this Plan's success.

Since March 2020, it has been very difficult for the STOP Program Manager to schedule and conduct planning sessions with stakeholders for the State's STOP Implementation Plan. In-person meetings did not occur due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Other disasters occurring in Louisiana during the 2021 calendar years, such as Hurricane Ida, severe storms, tornadoes, an ice storm, and flooding also prevented meetings and sessions to discuss the Plan.

Despite the difficulties caused by these disasters, LCLE continued to communicate on a consistent basis via email and telephone to work with all key stakeholders in providing solutions for problems that remained constant and new problems that arose from each new catastrophe that made the delivery of services problematic.

A zoom meeting was held on February 17, 2022. A second meeting was scheduled for March 23, 2022; however, it had to be canceled due to an EF3 tornado moved through the New Orleans metropolitan area on March 22, 2022, producing severe damage in Arabi resulting in one death and at least two injuries.

After receiving input and assistance from the Planning Committee members during the meeting and the sharing of information through emails, letters were mailed to the existing and new individuals listed in the Implementation

Planning Committee table in the Section III.B. of this Plan on Monday, December 20, 2022. (Appendix B.) The letter introduces and explains the purpose of the STOP Implementation Plan and includes an invitation to all letter recipients to participate in future planning meetings.

As part of the implementation planning process, determinations made to consider and identify demographics and barriers/historical lack of access to services for population specific organizations and representatives from underserved populations, and culturally specific organizations, LCLE reviewed information from local, state, and national reports and data from the following sources:

- **Louisiana Domestic Violence Prevention Commission**

Act 663 of the 2014 Regular Louisiana Legislative Session established a new, state-wide Domestic Violence Prevention Commission, effective as of August 1, 2014. Members include representatives or designees of:

1. Executive Director of Louisiana Sheriff's Association;
2. Executive Director of Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence;
3. Executive Director of Louisiana District Attorneys Association;
4. Executive Director of New Orleans Family Justice Center;
5. Chair of the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus;
6. Chairman of the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice;
7. Chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary B;
8. District Court Judge with experience in criminal law matters;
9. District Court Judge with experience in family law matters;
10. President of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association;

11. Representative of the Louisiana Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General;
12. Executive Director of Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice;
13. Secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services;
14. Secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals;
15. Representative of the Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers;
16. Representative of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives;
17. Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court;
18. President of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police;
19. Attorney licensed to practice law in Louisiana who has at least five years' experience in representing victims of domestic violence who seek protective orders (appointed by Governor); and
20. Executive Director of a shelter-based or direct service program provider for victims of domestic violence (appointed by Governor).

This Commission is charged with seven (7) primary responsibilities:

1. Assist local and state leaders in developing and coordinating domestic violence programs.
2. Conduct a continuing comprehensive review of all existing public and private domestic violence programs to identify gaps in prevention and intervention services and to increase coordination among public and private programs to strengthen prevention and intervention services.
3. Make recommendations with respect to domestic violence prevention and intervention.

4. Develop a state needs assessment and a comprehensive and integrated service delivery approach that meets the needs of all domestic violence victims.
5. Establish a method to transition domestic violence service providers toward evidence-based national best practices focusing on outreach and prevention.
6. Develop a plan that ensures state laws on domestic violence are properly implemented and provides training to law enforcement and the judiciary.
7. Develop a framework to collect and integrate data and measure program outcomes.

Act 663 provides that the report may include any recommendations for legislation it deems necessary and appropriate; however, such legislation requires a two-thirds vote of the Commission members present. In keeping with the mandates of Act 663, the Commission is charged with meeting on a quarterly basis and to issue a report annually of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate on or before February 1 each year.

- **Louisiana Incident-Based Crime Reporting System (LIBRS)**

LIBRS is a reporting standard that is a superset of NIBRS (slightly more restrictive in some places) that allows for agencies, including LCLE, to simultaneously meet State and Federal reporting requirements. Since reporting to the Federal Government is crucial in securing funding in the state, it's critical that Officers and Deputies are properly trained and equipped to use their Records Management Systems (RMS) to accurately



track Incidents in their jurisdiction that will ultimately provide statewide data for uses such as acquiring data necessary for the STOP Implementation Plan, as well as other federal applications.

LIBRS is a centralized database and repository for participating Louisiana agencies. LIBRS contains all components of NIBRS with the addition of Louisiana-specific data elements.

The benefits of Louisiana state reporting programs include:

- Facilitates electronic submission to FBI for participating law enforcement agencies;
  - Provides quality control prior to submission to FBI;
  - Facilitates translation of Louisiana laws and statutes into federal charges and crimes;
  - Provides a statistical analysis resource for planners and policy makers; and
  - Provides a Records Management System at no cost to law enforcement agencies.
- **Louisiana Sexual Assault Oversight Commission**

Act 354 of the 2018 Regular Louisiana Legislative Session established a new, state-wide Sexual Assault Oversight Commission, effective as of August 1, 2018. The Commission is charged with developing recommendations for a standardized sexual assault collection kit and protocols for forensic medical examinations of victims of sexually oriented criminal offenses to be used statewide.

The recommendations shall include but are not limited to recommendations for the physical dimensions, labeling, and contents of the collection kit, as well as recommendations regarding the collection and preservation of evidence from the examination and the identification of appropriate entities to perform the examination.

The Commission continuously reviews its standards and protocols and make subsequent recommendations as needed to ensure that the sexual assault collection kit and forensic medical examination protocols are up-to-date with technological advancements and best practices.

The office of the attorney general shall adopt all rules necessary to implement the recommendations for a standardized sexual assault collection kit and protocols for forensic medical examinations and any subsequent recommendations. All rules shall be adopted pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act.

The Louisiana Sexual Assault Oversight Commission, R.S. 15:555 et 4 seq., is placed within the Department of Justice and shall perform and exercise 5 its powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities as provided by law. Commission members include representatives or designees:

1. Executive Director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association;
2. Executive Director of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police;
3. Executive Director of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Criminal Justice;
4. President of the Louisiana State Coroner's Association;
5. Director of the Louisiana State Police Crime Laboratory;
6. President of the Louisiana Hospital Association;

7. Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health;
8. Louisiana Attorney General;
9. Member of the House of Representatives;
10. Member of the Senate;
11. Governor of Louisiana;
12. Chief Sexual Assault Forensic Nurse Examiner from each of the two Level I Trauma Centers in Louisiana;
13. Director of the North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory; and
14. Executive Director of the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault.

- **Louisiana STOP Annual Report to Congress**

The Violence Against Women Act mandates that the Attorney General submit a report to Congress every two years on the STOP Program (Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors). The report includes:

1. The number of grants made and funds distributed;
2. A summary of the purposes for which those grants were provided and an evaluation of their progress;
3. A statistical summary of persons served, detailing the nature of victimization, and providing data on age, sex, relationship of victim to offender, geographic distribution, race, ethnicity, language, and disability, and the membership of persons served in any underserved population; and
4. An evaluation of the effectiveness of programs funded.

The information reported to Congress is reviewed by LCLE to evaluate performance of the data reported by its subgrantee agencies, identify gaps in services, categorize victimizations, and assess services provided, to determine if the needs of the victims are being fulfilled in our state.

- **National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)**

National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) is an incident-based reporting system used by law enforcement agencies in the United States for collecting and reporting data on crimes. Local, state and federal agencies generate NIBRS data from their records management systems. Data is collected on every incident and arrest in the Group A offense category. These Group A offenses are 52 offenses grouped in 23 crime categories. Specific facts about these offenses are gathered and reported to NIBRS. In addition to the Group A offenses, 10 Group B offenses are reported with only the arrest information.

LCLE uses the website to review the data reported to NIBRS for the purpose of statistical analysis for the Plan. The electronically submitted data, in particular, includes crimes against persons (e.g., murder, rape, assault, robbery) which is useful for use in analyzing and providing statistics regarding the nature of crimes and offenses to properly identify victimizations reported for Louisiana.

- **National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)**

NNEDV supports efforts to end domestic violence by providing state and territorial coalitions with critical information and resources. From training and technical assistance to innovative programs and strategic funding, NNEDV brings much-needed resources to local communities. At NNEDV's national and regional meetings, members share information and

ideas with NNEDV staff and with each other, working together to develop comprehensive solutions.

These resources are often used as a tool by LCLE to study NNEDV's programs and initiatives that address the complex causes and far-reaching consequences of domestic violence. Their cross-sector collaborations and corporate partnerships offer support to victims of domestic violence who are escaping abusive partners—and empower survivors to build new lives.

- **U.S. Census Data**

The United States Census Bureau, officially the Bureau of the Census, is the principal agency of the U.S. Federal Statistical System, responsible for collecting and producing data and conduct surveys about the American people and economy every ten years. The information provided by the census assists states, local communities, and businesses make informed decisions.

Data provided includes:

1. Datasets and files for public use with all personally identifiable information removed to ensure confidentiality. Users analyze, extract, customize, and publish statistics.
2. Census data tables show stats in spreadsheets by subject, or in rank order, or made in the way the user needs to create in XLS, CSV, and PDF formats. Tables can be modified by adding and/or removing geographies, print, download, create a map, and view notes.
3. The American Community Survey (ACS) releases new data every year through a variety of data tables that can be accessed with different data tools.

4. Data Profiles are the most frequently requested social, economic, housing, and demographic data. Each of the four subject areas is a separate data profile. The Profiles summarize the data for a single geographic area, both numbers and percent, to cover the most basis data on all topics.
5. Race data includes facts on people, places and business collected in censuses and surveys and through administrative records (e.g., birth certificates). The results provided on the Census Bureau website are based on their data collections and are often called statistics.
6. Interactive maps were developed to supplement the statistics collected by the Census Bureau for address counts, demographic data, in-field address canvassing, mail contact strategies, quality metrics, enumeration areas that show how different geographic areas were invited to respond to the 2020 Census, poverty data for the population for whom poverty status is determined, story maps that provide information about centers of populations, interactive web maps, tables, information and images to help explain who the Census Bureau defines “rural”, and the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) Interactive Data Tool which provides the ability to quickly and easily view small-area modeled data. There are other mapping tools available for those wishing to access different types of data, but the ones listed were instrumental in gathering demographic information for this Plan.

- **USAFACTS**

USAFacts is a not-for-profit, nonpartisan civic initiative making government data easy to access and understand. Their website provides accessible analysis on the United States’ population. The ages, races, and population density of the United States is provided by each state or the

entire United States so one understands the shifts in demographic trends with their charts visualizing decades of population data.

The Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program data by county includes details like counts by age, race, or ethnicity and goes back for decades. But how the Census Bureau reported and grouped those populations changed over time. To provide the most detail across all available data, USAFacts combined the census data on race and ethnicity into three groupings.

The website provides many data-specific sections that explain how the population changed over the years, how many people live in the U.S., how the racial and ethnic populations changed, how the racial and ethnic makeup changed, how old the population is, how the distribution of ages changed, how the age and sex demographics changed, and what is the size of the population and how it has changed.

- **Victims of Crime Act Louisiana Annual Performance Reports**

The Crime Victim Assistance grant issued by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) collects performance measures data during the time period of October 1 through September 30 each year. The data consists of the number of victims served, victim demographics, types of victimization, and services provided. The data reported by subgrantees demonstrate how they are accomplishing the goals and objectives of the VOCA Victim Assistance grant program.

The accuracy and timeliness of reporting data is extremely important to assist OVC to demonstrate the value and specific benefits of the program to government agencies, the victim services field, the public, and other stakeholders. The data is used to generate an annual report to demonstrate

outputs of grant funds and assists LCLE in determining progress made toward achievement of OVC’s strategic and program goals to be compared to the performance measures reported by the subgrantees receiving STOP Formula Grant funds issued in the state.

**4. Information on any others that were consulted but not part of the planning committee. (28 C.F.R. 90.12(b)(8))**

The persons listed in the table below were referred to LCLE by existing committee members because of their expertise, perspectives, and experiences to best explain the challenges and barriers the populations they represent face each day. Letters were mailed on December 20, 2022, to introduce LCLE and explain the purpose of LCLE as the State Administering Agency and the purpose of the STOP Implementation Plan. (Appendix C.) The letter also extended invitations to the recipients to participate in future planning meetings at their convenience. As of March 28, 2023, LCLE has not received any response from those listed.

<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Agency Name</b>	<b>Population Represented</b>
<b>Angela Ramirez</b> Executive Director	Puentes New Orleans	Latinx Organization
<b>Jacqueline Thanh, MSW</b> Executive Director	VAYLA New Orleans	AAPI Organization
<b>Syria Jackson</b> Board President	LGBT Community Center in New Orleans	LGBT
<b>Zoe Francis, PHD</b> Chief Operations Officer	Institute of Women & Ethnic Studies & LCADV’s Women of Color Roundtable	Women of Color – IWES Organization led by women of color who focus on marginalized communities.

Letters were not required to be sent to Hatari Washington and Stephen Knight because they were referred to LCLE by existing committee members. LCLE was informed that these two persons had conveyed their interests and concerns about the underserved populations they represent. And, in addition, they wished to



participate in a Zoom meeting to speak about these issues that affect the populations they represent.

Both representatives did participate in Zoom meetings held by LCLE. The first Zoom meeting was held February 28, 2023, with members of the Women of Color Roundtable. LCLE held a second Zoom meeting March 3, 2023, with the President of PACE on March 3, 2023.

The following questions and topics were discussed at both meetings:

1. From your perspective, what are the greatest unmet needs for domestic violence survivors in your community?
2. What barriers does your community face when seeking services at domestic violence programs?
3. What barriers does your community face when seeking safety more broadly?
4. What gaps in services, training, law enforcement, or prosecution exist for your community?
5. What improvements or changes would you like to see in order to help overcome these gaps?

During the Zoom meeting with Women of Color Roundtable held on February 28, 2023, it was disclosed that women of color are a major, but largely forgotten underserved population in Louisiana. Women of color face very different social challenges in the U.S. including childcare and transportation needs as well as better response to domestic violence calls by law enforcement and services providers.

Most women of color have a critical need for childcare. Childcare is needed when women of color are going to work, going to court, etc. Childcare challenges become a barrier for women of color to work. Many women of color do not have the funds for childcare while living in shelters or trying to pay for the basic necessities of living

day-to-day and setting up a new place to live for themselves and their children. Women of color also face housing shortages as there are not many places available for families within their current area that will accept children and extended families. These women have a hard time leaving domestic abuse situations for shelters without pulling children out of schools and/or daycares they are entrenched in to go to a shelter or temporary housing with no childcare support in place. This causes an endless cycle of domestic violence against women of color to exist. Women of color are the most likely to be killed by their partner from domestic violence than any other demographic in Louisiana.

With most of Louisiana being a rural state, transportation is another critical need. Most of our residents in the state do not personally own a vehicle. Many have to borrow a vehicle from someone they know or take public transportation if available. Borrowing vehicles, asking for rides, or having access to public transportation are not reliable sources of transportation. Women of color need transportation to shelters, work, healthcare access and to court.

Women of color do not usually use rideshare apps for the expense of the rides and overall safety of a ride with an unknown driver. When a woman of color has inefficient transportation options but must accomplish multiple errands such as chauffeuring children to school, going to the store, going to work and finally going home, she much has less time, money, mobility, and overall access to receiving critical services that women of color need but commonly do not receive.

The final piece of need for women of color is a better response to domestic violence calls by law enforcement, service providers, and courts. Law enforcement have threatened arresting women of color when they call about domestic violence or arresting both parties without determining who is the primary aggressor. When women of color make repeated calls to report domestic violence/abuse to law enforcement or service providers, they are not believed or taken seriously. These victims also do not receive respect during these calls and their abuse and injuries are not properly documented.

Women of color asks for implicit bias training, racial sensitivity training, and more women of color in law enforcement, healthcare, etc. that look like them. They also need counseling services immediately upon leaving domestic violence/ abuse.

Women of color have gaps in service with access to healthcare, treatments, mental health care, and long-term access to these services after an assault has occurred.

Women of color need more advocates of color that look like them and they can feel comfortable with them opening up about issues. Advocacy and counseling services need to be free or covered by Medicaid to really make a difference in their lives.

The process of filing for protective orders with the courts is the most difficult component of seeking safety and protection from the domestic violence most women of color face. There are barriers to overcome such as not having access to legal assistance to help them file a protective order or discovering that the abuser has filed a protective order first to legally hurt the domestic violence victim in court proceedings.

It was also revealed that prosecutors often do not follow through with promises made to women of color who are domestic abuse survivors. They also revealed that judges are another injustice suffered when they are not respected when they self-represent in court, do not have funds to pay for court filings when filing for divorce, pleading child custody disputes, and other legal matters related to the domestic violence case.

A Zoom meeting was held with Stephen Knight, an LGBTQ+ Community Member on March 3, 2023. Mr. Knight stated that the LGBTQ+ population is a fringe community in Louisiana. The greatest unmet needs for the LGBTQ+ community were shelter, food and safety. Most LGBTQ+ youth are thrown out of their homes at the age of majority. Only seven percent (7%) of youth identify as LGBTQ+, but forty percent (40%) are homeless. This can have long term effects on young adult LGBTQ+. In Louisiana LCLE works with the coalitions to provide housing to these LGBTQ+ adults, but the youth are usually turned away from shelters because of their

age or scared to enter for fear of being abused, etc.

There is a gap in Louisiana that exists for LGBTQ+ youth and housing. Most housing in shelters is for 18-year-olds and up, while 15–16-year-olds are kicked out of their homes by coming out to their parents and having to live with friends or other family members because they have nowhere else to go. These youth do not want to enter the foster care system for fear of verbal harassment and physical violence. Homeless LGBTQ+ youth more inclined to not find services that are knowledgeable and understand them. These youth are fearful of churches, law enforcement and family justice centers. They want support that looks like them, is an LGBTQ+ community-based organization and makes them feel seen, heard and included.

With homelessness usually but always comes food insecurity. Homeless LGBTQ+ youth suffer the most with food insecurity due to a lack of funds. Twenty-seven percent (27%) of LGBTQ+ adults in the U.S. have gone through a time that they did not have enough money to feed themselves or their families. Most LGBTQ+ youth and young adults are underemployed or unemployed, taking whatever jobs they can obtain.

Most jobs available for young people are food service, retail, or gig workers' jobs. These hourly jobs don't pay a basic living wage to support anyone, let alone someone that usually is starting out with nothing and no additional support. They are in need of basic necessities like toiletries, clothes, furniture, and other daily items to live.

Finally, a feeling of safety is a huge need in the LGBTQ+ community. Living in the south, most LGBTQ+ youth and adults are scared to tell anyone they are not hetero-normal. They are afraid of being stalked, assaulted, bullied, harassed and possibly killed. LGBTQ+ persons want safe spaces in their communities. LGBTQ+ youth often face neglect and abuse with their gender identity and sexual orientation. LGBTQ+ youth and adults do not want to be a victim or have a victim mentality. They already experience shame with reporting being a victim of both sexual and physical abuse/assault.

LGBTQ+ community members that have survived violence have the highest rate of unsolved cases in the U.S. They cite the lack of interest by law enforcement to investigate their cases and follow-up with them after the assault happens. Most law enforcement and the community as large states they can't help the LGBTQ+ community and that is where the lack of safety begins. The LGBTQ+ community wants more proactive responses to violence against them than reactive responses.

The community would welcome law enforcement and others into the community to join the community in learning about each other instead of only being there for the community whenever the worst is happening.

When following up with the representatives who participated in the meeting, LCLE was told that the groups appreciated having their voices heard and would like to continue participating in future meetings and join our state's implementation planning committee. The participants of this meeting also stated the information they shared in their community has sparked interest in others that may wish to also participate in future meetings.

**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 opinions.**

The STOP Program Manager and the Federal Section Manager attended an in-person meetings listed below with the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians and the United Houma Nation. In the past, the Federal Section Manager attended meetings with the Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana when invited, however due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, opportunities to attend those meetings are postponed until further notice. In-person meetings were held with the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians and the United Houma

Nation on various dates in addition to frequent communications with both Tribes through phone calls, emails, and other correspondence.

Meetings with the Jena Band took place March 5, 2021, February 24, 2022, June 16, 2022, October 20, 2022, and January 19 2023, in Trout, Louisiana. The meetings held were discussions in regard to discuss questions and concerns about the Tribal members of the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, assisting Tribal staff by providing technical assistance and federal guideline advice concerning their current STOP- and VOCA-funded projects, and receive current news in regard to recent changes to staff persons after the election of the current Tribal Chief in October 2022.

Meetings with the United Houma Nation were held on February 1, 2019, January 27, 2020, June 25, 2021, and March 5, 2022, in Houma, Louisiana. During the time period of November 14 – 25, 2022, phone calls and emails were shared with Tribal members of the United Houma Nation for the purpose of setting up an in-person meeting in Houma, Louisiana, at the Houma United Nation offices. A copy of the STOP Implementation Plan was provided to all meeting participants before the meeting by way of email.

Attendees at the meeting were Lanor Curole, MA, a Tribal Member of the United Houma Nation, serves as Director/Administrator of the United Houma Nation. Ms. Curole is also a long-standing member of the STOP Implementation Planning Committee. Bobbie O'Bryan is a Captain with Houma Police Department and a Tribal Member of the United Houma Nation. John Silver is a Tribal Member of the United Houma Nation and serves as the Executive Director of the Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana, Inc. and the Institute for Indian Development, Inc. The fourth attendee was Melinda Butaud, a Tribal Member of the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana and serves as the CSBG Director of the Tribal Organization at the Institute for Indian Development, Inc. and the Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana, Inc. Their names and Tribal information are now provided in the Implementation Planning Committee table on Pages 16 – 18 of this Plan. (Appendix D.)

As the meeting came to a close, Bobbie O’Bryan, John Silver, and Melinda Butaud stated that they wanted to participate in future STOP Implementation Plan meetings throughout the upcoming years beginning in 2023. As the meeting closed, all attendees were assured they would be provided with a copy of the revised STOP Implementation Plan to allow them to review before another meeting is schedule to allow them to provide their feedback, concerns, and recommendations for the Plan.

During this November meeting, the Tribal representatives of the United Houma Nation and Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana advised the LCLE Federal Section Manager that the Tribes listed in previous Plans and in the recently submitted Plan were incorrect. After the meeting, emails and phone calls between Bobbie O’Bryan and LCLE were conducted to provide follow-up, research, and sharing of information to update the list that contains official names of the Tribes, as well as contacts, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of the Native Americans in Louisiana. Dates for this collaborative effort were November 26-29, 2022. While the list of all fifteen federally-recognized and state-recognized tribes in Louisiana was being updated, an existing letter to be mailed to all tribes was updated and prepared for a mailout.

After receiving input and assistance from the Tribal members, letters were mailed to the State’s four (4) federally-recognized and eleven (11) state-recognized Sovereign Tribal Nations on Tuesday, December 6, 2022. (Appendix E.) The letter introduces and explains the purpose of the STOP Implementation Plan and invite all recipients to participate in future planning meetings.

### **Federally-Recognized Tribes:**

- 1. Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana**  
Melissa Darden, Chairman  
St. Mary Parish

- 2. Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana**  
Jonathan Cernek, Chairman  
Allen and Jefferson Davis Parishes
  
- 3. Jena Band of Choctaw Indians**  
Libby Rogers, Tribal Chief  
LaSalle, Catahoula, and Grant Parishes
  
- 4. Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana**  
Marshall Pierite, Chairman  
Avoyelles Parish

**State-Recognized Tribes:**

- 1. Adai Caddo Indian Nation**  
Tribal Chief Rufus Davis  
Natchitoches Parish
  
- 2. Bayou Lafourche Biloxi Chitimacha**  
Randy P. Verdun, Chief  
Lafourche Parish
  
- 3. Choctaw-Apache of Ebarb**  
Thomas N. Rivers, Chief  
Sabine Parish
  
- 4. Clifton Choctaw Tribe of Louisiana**  
Brian Neal, Chief  
Rapides and Natchitoches Parishes
  
- 5. Four Winds Tribe Louisiana Cherokee**  
Leonard Wiggins, Principal Chief  
Vernon, Beauregard, Allen, Rapides, Natchitoches, Sabine, and  
Jefferson Davis Parishes
  
- 6. Grand Caillou/Dulac Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw**  
Shirell Parfait-Dardar, Tribal Chief  
Terrebonne Parish



**7. Isle de Jean Charles Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw Indians of Louisiana**

Albert P. Naquin, Tribal Chief  
Terrebonne Parish

**8. Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana**

Fred Dale Simon, Chief  
Natchitoches Parish

**9. Louisiana Band of Choctaw**

Rebecca Britt, Principal Chief  
Concordia Parish

**10. Pointe-au-Chien Indian Tribe**

Charles Verdin, Sr., Tribal Chairperson  
Terrebonne Parish

**11. United Houma Nation**

Lora Ann Chaisson, Principal Chief  
Terrebonne Parish

The following week on November 23, 2022, John Silver shared a detailed Organizational Overview and Program Synopsis provided by the Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana and Institute for Indian Development to be included in the STOP Implementation Plan to be discussed with the meeting groups in future committee meetings. The following information is about their organization and membership.

**ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW**

The Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana provides comprehensive employment and training opportunities to American Indians in the State of Louisiana who are unemployed, underemployed, economically disadvantaged, or determined to-be-in-need of services by the Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana. The Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana is a consortium of five Native American Tribes and has successfully administered Section 166 Indian and Native American Programs for more than 40 years. Consortium members are the Coushatta

Tribe of Louisiana, Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana, Jena Band of Choctaw Tribe, Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana and the United Houma Nation Tribe of Louisiana.

To further develop in a more comprehensive manner, in 1981, the tribes organized and formed the Institute for Indian Development. The Institute for Indian Development was formed by the tribes to plan and promote new areas of future development through trained community leadership while recognizing the traditions and success of earlier years of the Inter-Tribal Council.

The goal of the Institute for Indian Development is to promote self-determination, identify and develop existing resources, promote comprehensive community planning, and finally to package these assets for the future growth of the member tribes. The Institute for Indian Development (IID) is a consortium of seven (7) tribes in the State of Louisiana. Institute for Indian Development consortium members include four federally recognized tribes: the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana (St. Mary Parish) located in Charenton, LA which is 115 miles southwest of New Orleans, the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana (Allen & Jefferson Davis Parishes) located in Elton, LA which is 190 miles northwest of New Orleans, the Tunica Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana (Avoyelles Parish) located in Marksville, La which is 85 miles northwest of Baton Rouge, LA, and the Jena Band of Choctaw Tribe (Lasalle Parish) located in Jena, LA which is 140 miles northwest of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The Institute's consortium state recognized tribes include: the United Houma Nation Tribe (St. Mary, Terrebonne, Lafourche, Jefferson, Plaquemines, & St. Bernard Parishes) located in Golden Meadow, Louisiana, which is 84 miles southeast of New Orleans, and has seven (7) designated communities spread from southwest Louisiana to southeast Louisiana, the Choctaw Apache Tribe of Louisiana (Sabine Parish) located in Zwolle, Louisiana, which is 200 miles

northwest of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and the Clifton Choctaw Tribe of Louisiana (Rapides Parish) located in Clifton, Louisiana, which is 155 miles northwest of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

All consortium tribes are headquartered in rural areas. The total population of individuals who identify themselves as American Indian or Native American is over 53,000, and IID consortium serves over 25,000 tribal members in the State of Louisiana.

## **SYNOPSIS OF PROGRAMS PROVIDED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR INDIAN DEVELOPMENT & THE INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL OF LOUISIANA**

**Administration on Aging (AOA)** - The purpose of Title VI of the OAA is to promote the delivery of nutrition, supportive and caregiver services to American Indians that are comparable to services provided under Title III of the OAA. The goal of these programs is to support the independence and well-being of tribal elders and caregivers living in their communities with nutrition, supportive and caregiver services consistent with locally-determined needs.

Title VI Parts A/B authorize grants to Indian tribal, public, or non-profit organizations representing federally recognized Tribes, Alaskan villages, and Native Hawaiians to provide nutrition and supportive services. Required nutrition services include congregate meals and home-delivered meals. Other nutrition-related services could include nutrition counseling, nutrition education, sponsorship of farmer's market programs, or distribution centers for food banks and charitable organizations.

Required supportive services include information and assistance, but these funds could also provide transportation, chore services, and many other services that contribute to the well-being of elders.

**Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)** - The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program provides the Institute for Indian Development Consortium Member Tribes with funds to address the causes and conditions of poverty in their communities. CSBG is a flexible, community-responsive block grant that can support a range of services and activities, including employment, education, housing, emergency services, nutrition, health, income management, support for improved service linkages, and self-sufficiency programs. The Institute for Indian Development Community Service Block Grant pass-through fund was open for competition, with a June 15, 2021 deadline. The actual amount of the award was based on the total number of consortium member tribes requesting funds through this funding opportunity announcement.

**Family Violence Prevention & Services State Grant (FVPSA)** - This is a formula grant under the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) to tribes (including Alaska Native Villages) and tribal organizations. The purpose of this grant is to assist tribes in efforts to support the establishment, maintenance, and expansion of programs and projects to: 1) prevent incidents of family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence; 2) provide immediate shelter, supportive services, and access to community-based programs for victims of family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence, and their dependents; and 3) provide specialized services for children exposed to family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence, underserved populations, and victims who are members of racial and ethnic minority populations.

**Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Program (TVSSA)** - In recent years, OVC has conducted numerous Tribal Consultations and listening sessions with tribal leaders, representatives, and stakeholders to discuss the programming needs for crime victims' services throughout tribal communities. In 2021, Congress authorized set-aside funds from the Crime Victims Fund for a tribal

victim services set-aside program which will provide support to tribal communities to enhance services for victims of crime, consistent with the requirements of the Victims of Crime Act.

**Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP)** - is a community service and work-based job training program for older Americans. Authorized by the Older Americans Act, the program provides training for low-income, unemployed seniors. Participants also have access to employment assistance through American Job Centers. SCSEP participants gain work experience in a variety of community service activities at non-profit and public facilities, including schools, hospitals, day-care centers, and senior centers.

The program provides over 40 million community service hours to public and non-profit agencies, allowing them to enhance and provide needed services. Participants work an average of 20 hours a week and are paid the highest of federal, state or local minimum wage. This training serves as a bridge to unsubsidized employment opportunities for participants. Participants must be at least 55, unemployed, and have a family income of no more than 125% of the federal poverty level. Enrollment priority is given to veterans and qualified spouses, then to individuals who are over 65, have a disability, have low literacy skills or limited English proficiency, reside in a rural area, are homeless or at risk of homelessness, have low employment prospects, or have failed to find employment after using services through the American Job Center system, and/or Native American.

**Native American Career & Technical Education Program (NACTEP)** - Funded under the United States Department of Education Native American Career and Technical Education Training Program (NACTEP) with a purpose to improve career and technical education (CTE) and to increase employment opportunities for Native Americans and Alaska Natives who are chronically

unemployed or underemployed, including individuals with disabilities, individuals from economically disadvantaged families, out-of-work individuals, youth who are in, or have aged out of, the foster care system, and homeless individuals.

Provide Native American students with rigorous academic content in an effort to prepare for further education and careers in current or new professions that will allow students to gain higher wages in in-demand industry sectors.

**Workforce Invest Opportunity Act (WIOA) Section 166 Indian and**

**Native American (INA)** - provides economic self-sufficiency through employment and job training programs for Native Americans. The section 166 programs are designed to support employment and training activities in order to develop more fully the academic, occupational and literacy skills; make individuals more competitive in the workforce; and promote economic and social development in accordance with the goals and values of our tribal communities. These programs are administered in a way that not only meet regulatory requirements, but also in ways that are consistent with the traditional cultural values and beliefs of the people they are designed to serve.

**Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC)** - creates

economic prosperity, gainful employment, and high-quality career outcomes for eligible workers who live in the impacted Mississippi Delta region, enabling them to remain and thrive in these communities. Provides and/or facilitates the delivery of employment and training services to help eligible individuals pursue or advance in full-time employment aligned with community- or regionally-defined priorities.

**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))**

During the February 17, 2022, Zoom meeting with members of the Implementation Planning Committee, the following topics were discussed:

1. Shelter beds and transitional housing needs for domestic violence victims.
2.
  - a. The Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence utilized state funds, the State of Louisiana's Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI), from LCLE to address this issue. Discussions with the Coalition's Executive Director in regard to the accomplishments achieved with this funding as well as what challenges remain in this area.
3. How to increase services and support for underserved populations, including culturally specific communities, LGBTQ survivors, individuals with disabilities, immigrant survivors, survivors with language barriers, older adults, and victims in rural communities. Victim service providers and the Coalition Directors were instrumental in providing their expertise and suggestions.
4. Statewide training ideas and concepts to create awareness of victim sensitivity among law enforcement agencies, district attorneys, judges, medical personnel, and hearing officers because many agencies have reported that survivors are often revictimized by the system.
5. Enhancing efforts to reduce homicides through enforcement of federal and state firearms laws.

Other discussions remain that include the receipt of continued funding by all disciplines and the amount received by the State. Other concerns are staffing problems experienced by victim service providers, the lack of trainings due to the nationwide shutdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the continued lack of transportation in that victims often require assistance in obtaining transportation to and from appointments necessary to help them recover and become self-sufficient members of society.

Now that the pandemic circumstances have lessened in recent months, the LCLE STOP Program Manager has continued to coordinate meetings with the Planning Committee members to have an opportunity to discuss concerns and issues impacting their communities as circumstances have impacted their service areas and the populations they represent.

During the February 28, 2023, Zoom meeting with the members of Women of Color Roundtable and the March 3, 2023 Zoom Meeting with a member of the LGBTQ+ Community, some of the topics discussed are emphasized below:

1. Transportation - Most of Louisiana is a rural state with 26 parishes classified by the U.S. Census as a rural parish not urban or city. Most residents in the state do not own their own vehicle. Public transportation is also very scarce outside of urban and city locations. Almost all domestic violence victims/survivors need transportation for work, healthcare, childcare, court appearances, and to and from shelters. Ride share apps are very expensive in rural areas and not often accessible.

STOP funding is not current available for transportation with most subgrantees as this is quite expensive and budgets cannot stretch to include this for all areas in the state. Some subgrantees, with private donations, hire drivers, vans, etc. for this purpose.



2. Housing – Many domestic violence victims/survivors are not able to find housing due to needs for families, close proximity to family, work, childcare and others needed services. Temporary shelters are few and far between in the state. Most temporary shelters are full and more are needed to meet the demands of the victims in the state.

STOP funds are not available for housing with most subgrantees as this is quite expensive and budgets cannot stretch to include this for all areas in the state. However, LCLE provides state funding for this purpose (Justice Reinvestment Initiative).

3. A better response to domestic violence calls by law enforcement, service providers, and court - Law enforcement have threatened arresting domestic violence victims when they call about domestic violence or arresting both parties without determining who is the primary aggressor. When women of color and LGBTQ+ members make repeated instances calls about domestic violence/abuse, most times they are not believed or taken seriously when they are reporting to law enforcement or service providers.

Women of color and LGBTQ+ members do not receive respect during these calls and their abuse/injuries are not documented properly. They also need counseling services immediately upon leaving domestic violence/abuse. Domestic violence victims have gaps in service with access to healthcare, treatments, mental health care, and long-term access to these services after an assault has occurred.

The filing of protective orders with courts is the hardest part of a domestic violence response. Most domestic violence victims face barriers with not having legal assistance to help them file a protective order or the abuser has filed a protective order first. Prosecutors then do not follow through with their promises to domestic abuse survivors.

The Louisiana Supreme Court LPOR department provides training to judges, courts, prosecutors, law enforcement and victim advocates to explain how LPOR works, to educate those with a need-to-know about state and federal laws related to issuing and enforcing orders of protection, and to disseminate the most current standardized forms that are mandated for use by all courts.

4. Childcare – Most domestic violence victims have a critical need for childcare. Childcare is needed for most domestic violence are going to work, going to court, etc. Childcare challenges become a barrier for women of color to work. Many domestic violence victims do not have the funds for childcare while living in shelters or trying to pay for the basic necessities of living day-to-day and setting up a new place to live for themselves and their children.

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

The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, Emergency Preparedness Shelter Grant Program, Family Services, Disability Determination Services, and Training and Development are implemented by the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

Until recently, the LCLE coordinated efforts with DCFS for the purpose of effectively and efficiently coordinating initiatives to fund shelters, sexual assault centers, advocates, monitors, and partners. The initiatives were meant to end domestic violence in Louisiana and ensure survivors and their loved ones lead safe, independent, and quality living. Due to the recent ending of the COVID-19

Pandemic, LCLE will reach out to the agency to coordinate efforts and resume collaboration opportunities.

The Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault Coalition (LaFASA) is the pass-through agency and training and technical assistance provider for Louisiana's Rape Prevention Education (RPE) funds. These funds are distributed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to the Louisiana Health Department's Office of Public Health (LDH/OPH) using a funding formula. LDH/OPH contracts with LaFASA to collaborate on the state's objectives and workplan for the grant, implement statewide sexual violence prevention program, select sub-grantees, and monitor sub-grantee activities and funding.

Until 2018, these funds were distributed to all sexual assault centers, but due to changing federal and state priorities related to prevention and funding shortages for primary prevention, it became a competitive grant. Accredited sexual assault centers are eligible to apply for a two-year grant for sexual violence primary prevention activities, with a focus on community-level programming that changes norms, policies, and environments. Six centers are selected, and LaFASA works closely with these centers on program design, implementation, and evaluation.

The two VOCA program managers, the Crime Victims Reparations (CVR) program manager, the Louisiana Victim Information & Notification Everyday Program (LA VINE) program manager work closely with the SASP & STOP program manager in the Federal Programs Section of the LCLE. All subrecipient agencies funded by VOCA, SASP and STOP are constantly monitored by the program managers to ensure there are no duplication in services and operating costs, provide technical assistance as needed, and help the agencies better coordinate their community responses to victims.

#### **IV. Documentation from Prosecution, Law Enforcement, Court, and Victim Services Programs. (34 U.S.C. 10446(i)(2)(C))**

The documentation included in the form of letters received from current subgrantees representing prosecution, law enforcement, courts and victim services able to comment on the current and proposed use of grant funds. (Appendix F.) The letters 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.

#### **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))**

Using the priorities identified by conversations during quarterly meetings, zoom calls, listening sessions, the review of applicable national reports, data on domestic violence, dating, violence, sexual assault, and stalking, the information provided by the subgrantees through the semi-annual program, and the Muskie data, the following goals and objectives for use of the STOP Program funds listed.

Goal 1: To improve collaboration and coordination of services provided by the criminal justice system; improve the delivery of services to victims; increase officer understanding of and compliance with state and local laws statewide and departmental policies and procedures related to the enforcement of domestic violence laws and protection orders.

Objective 1: Provide individualized trainings to criminal justice agencies designed to improve collaboration and coordination of services and referrals provided.

Activity 1: Courts and law enforcement and prosecution agencies are required to consult with victim service programs during the course of developing their STOP program.

Timeline: Projects are funded on a 12-month basis, to allow funds to be expended prior to the end date of each Federal award.

Objective 2: Provide individualized trainings to private, nonprofit, and non-governmental victim service providers.

Activity 1: Victim service providers are required to consult with courts, law enforcement and prosecution agencies during the course of developing their STOP program.

Timeline: Projects are funded on a 12-month basis, to allow funds to be expended prior to the end date of each Federal award.

Goal 3: To improve and enhance cultural competency in the delivery of victim services to underserved, culturally-specific areas in the state.

Objective 1: STOP funds will support criminal justice agencies to identify and address the needs of communities of color, the underserved, and culturally specific populations.

Activity 1: Continue support for the provision of cultural competency standards trainings designated for underserved and culturally specific populations.

Activity 2: Continue support for the provision of cultural competency standards trainings designated for underserved and culturally specific populations.

Timeline: Projects are funded on a 12-month basis, to allow funds to be expended prior to the end date of each Federal award.

Goal 4: Continue with the planning process of the STOP Implementation Plan.

Objective 1: Schedule meetings with authorized officials and staff of criminal justice programs, battered women shelters and sexual assault centers.

Objective 2: Schedule meetings with Tribes.

Objective 3: Schedule meetings with culturally-specific and underserved groups or their representatives.

Activity 1: Allow IP Committee Members to have an opportunity to discuss their concerns and/or issues impacting their areas of expertise and the populations they represent.

Activity 2: Document and collate all information received to be used for the continued development of the STOP Implementation Plan.

Timeline: Conduct at least four (4) in-person or online video conferencing platform meetings each calendar year.

**2. Description of how STOP funding will be used to meet the state’s goal and objectives during the implantation period. (34 U.S.C. 10446(i)(1); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(a))**

All recipients awarded with STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program funds must address at least one or more of the twenty-four purpose areas required under the Violence Against Women Act. Applicant agencies are required to specify which purpose area or areas their projects address. No single purpose is given priority by the Board or the Commission; each project is evaluated on its own merit.

Currently, there are permanent physical points of access to domestic violence services in only 35 of the 64 parishes. These points of access are necessary in underserved areas to ensure access to services after leaving their abusers. During this time, battered women’s programs provide a wide range of services, such as crisis counseling, case management, individual and family assistance, assistance with job placements, and completing petition and supplemental paperwork for Temporary Restraining Orders and Protective Orders to victims of domestic violence.

Advocates and volunteers are utilized to accompany victims to the Clerk of Court's Office and/or to assist them in filing a petition for the Court’s protection, as well as assisting in all other matters resulting from services provided. More than 90,000 shelter nights and 33,000 crisis calls were handled

within the last year. To adequately assist women and their children seeking services, the programs are striving to provide physical points of access to services in all sixty-four parishes.

Law enforcement, prosecution, court agencies, and non-profit, non-governmental, faith-based victim services providers are encouraged to include victims considered a member of a diverse population as well as the underserved residing in their jurisdictions. Many agencies work collaboratively in their local jurisdictions to provide coordinated services through collaborative agreements, memorandum of understandings, and information and referral, as needed, to ensure victims receive the services needed. Additionally, several law enforcement officers and staff members from courts or district attorneys' offices volunteer to serve on boards or multi-jurisdictional task forces to assist private, non-profit agencies in the development of providing specialized services and/or procedures to improve services provided to women who are victims of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking crimes.

Law enforcement, prosecution, and victim services agencies are striving to meet the needs of victims/survivors of all ages, disabilities, race ethnicity, and language backgrounds. There are many ethnic populations located throughout the state, such as African American, Asian, Hispanic, Latino, Laotian, Native Hawaiian, Vietnamese, and Pacific Islanders. The subgrant agencies are utilizing their STOP funds to provide outreach, advocacy, victim services, referrals, victim notifications through the Louisiana Victim Information and Notification Everyday (LA VINE), Crime Victim Reparations (CVR), shelter, transportation, as well as a myriad of other services to make every effort to provide optimum services to the victims they serve.

At the Coalition level, LCLE funding also provides an opportunity to improve coordination among the various systems that serve survivors. With both VOCA and STOP funding, we have been able to improve coordination at both the



statewide level and the local level in communities across the state. Coordination between victim services and other systems like law enforcement, child welfare, healthcare, and prosecution, is a crucial component of effective and seamless responses that meet survivors' varied needs. LCLE has recognized the need for increased collaboration and has funded efforts to address that need, for which we are grateful and survivors are better protected.

Domestic violence programs utilize STOP funding, in coordination with all funding sources to provide vital services throughout the state. A majority of the advocates working throughout the state with domestic violence survivors are funded or partially funded through STOP funding. The number of advocates working directly translates into the number of survivors served and the number of services provided.

Several domestic violence programs throughout the state are leading multi-disciplinary high risk response teams. Each team has identified their own communities' criteria for determining which domestic violence cases are the most lethal. Those cases are then staffed by the multi-disciplinary team. Agencies share information regarding high-risk cases to ensure that all entities have the full picture of the case. Enhanced responses by participating agencies create a higher level of care for these cases. The goal of high-risk response teams is to eliminate preventable domestic violence homicide.

Sexual assault centers meet with local multi-jurisdictional task forces of individuals from traditionally underserved groups in their respective service areas to ensure that each center's services, including outreach services, are relevant, appropriate, and accessible to all victims. Feedback from these meetings is communicated to the LaFASA staff on a quarterly basis. In addition, LaFASA is involved in several projects specifically addressing services for underserved groups, including deaf sexual assault survivors, victims with disabilities, and people who are homeless.

LaFASA's Board of Directors includes both Sexual Assault Center representatives and other members of the statewide community, for both their expertise in agency governance as well as their input into sexual assault services in the state from their personal and professional perspectives. LaFASA's Board of Directors now includes or has included people with disabilities, bilingual/bicultural sexual assault survivors, women and men of color, male survivors of childhood sexual assault, members of the LGBTQ community, leaders of faith communities, staff of programs serving people with HIV/AIDS, and sexual assault survivors in recovery from substance abuse.

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

LCLE distributes STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program funds to new and continuation projects focused on one or more of the twenty-four (24) STOP program purpose areas. These projects are designed to develop and strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies in collaboration with victim services agencies to combat violent crimes against women. The method of distribution provides an equitable distribution of STOP funds allowing for the placement of funds to meet victims' needs on a local or regional basis.

Law enforcement and prosecution applicant agencies apply for funding through one of the eight (8) local Law Enforcement Planning Districts or Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils. Nonprofit, non-governmental victim service providers apply for funding through their respective coalitions, which are the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) and the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LaFASA). All other statewide programs

focused on one or more of the twenty-four (24) STOP purpose areas apply directly to the LCLE for their funding.

The LCLE will allocate the total federal award based on the following computations:

- At least five percent (5%) will be allocated to court projects;
- At least twenty-five (25%) will be allocated to law enforcement agencies;
- At least twenty-five percent (25%) will be allocated to prosecution agencies;
- At least thirty percent (30%) for nonprofit victim service agencies;
  - Of the nonprofit victim services allocation, ninety percent (90%) of the thirty percent (30%) allocation is to be distributed to non-profit, non-governmental victim services agencies through the state's two coalitions:
    - Fifty percent (50%) of the ninety percent (90%) will be allocated to the member agencies of the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV).
    - The remaining fifty percent (50%) of the ninety percent (90%) will be allocated to the Sexual Assault Centers through the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault Coalition (LaFASA).
  - The remaining ten percent (10%) of the thirty percent (30%) will be allocated to culturally-specific victim services projects; and
- A maximum total of fifteen percent (15%) will be allocated to statewide projects at the discretion of the LCLE.

Once the State has been awarded STOP funding from OVW, funds are passed through to the eight Law Enforcement Planning Districts/Councils listed below. Each district office is notified of their allocation, which is based on the population and crime statistics within their respective districts. These districts

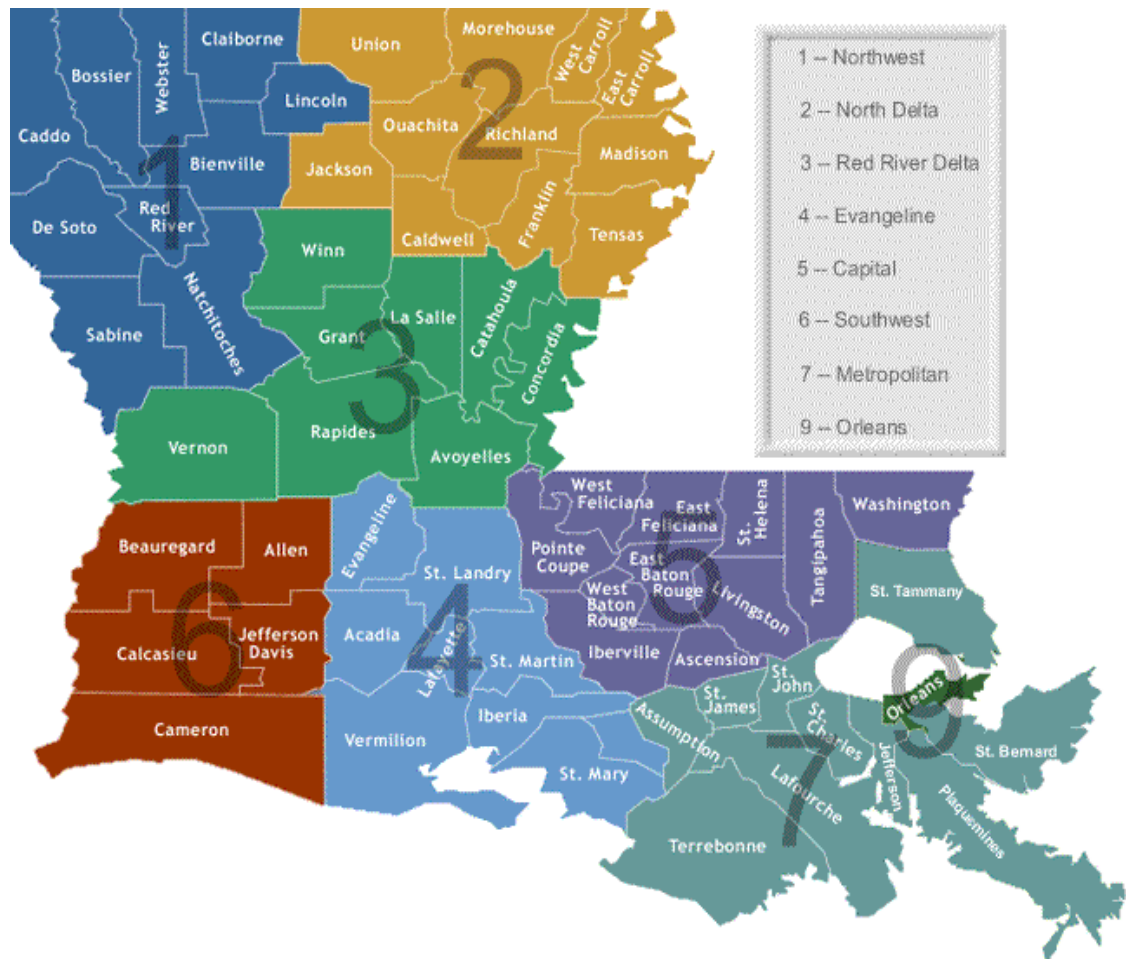
must distribute their allocations equally between law enforcement and prosecution agencies using a fifty-fifty (50-50) split according to the formulas in the table on the next page.

The LCLE distribution formula in the table below will be adopted and approved on June 22, 2023, in accordance with LA Rev Stat § 15:1201 by the Office of the Governor and documented in Chapter 57, Formula for Distribution of Federal Grant Funds of Title 22, Subpart 5, Grant Application or Subgrants Utilizing Federal, State or Self-Generated Funds of the Louisiana Administrative Code (June 2017) after the completion of the 2020 U.S. Census report.

**Law Enforcement Planning Districts/Councils**

District 1	Northwest Law Enforcement Planning Council, Inc.	12.20%
District 2	North Delta Law Enforcement Planning District, Inc.	10.09%
District 3	Red River Delta Law Enforcement Planning Council, Inc.	9.59%
District 4	Evangeline Law Enforcement Council, Inc.	10.28%
District 5	Capital District Law Enforcement Planning Council, Inc.	19.31%
District 6	Southwest District Law Enforcement Planning Council, Inc.	10.11%
District 7	Metropolitan District/Jefferson CJCC	17.79%
District 9	New Orleans, City of/Office of Criminal Justice Coordination	10.63%

**NOTE: The formula was revised upon release of the 2010 U.S. Census Report. Final approval of this formula distribution is contingent on adoption and approval of the Commission on 6/22/2023.**



## 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))**

Louisiana is currently meeting and slightly exceeding the STOP twenty percent (20%) Sexual Assault Set-Aside Requirement in accordance with the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 though the victim services provided by STOP-funded victim service providers, law enforcement, and

prosecution agencies. In a review of the FY 2020 through FY 2021 STOP funds issued to the sub-recipient agencies, each subrecipient reported to LCLE the percentages of their awards that are devoted to the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The percentages used in the calculations according to the total federal amount awarded are compared to the total amount of the federal award allocated to Louisiana to get a monetary total for sexual assault services provided in each award.

The State of Louisiana does not provide state or local funding designated for direct services to sexual assault victims. However, the LCLE awards federal monies to the Sexual Assault Centers (SACs) from the OVW STOP Formula Grant Program and Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program (SASP). In addition, the Sexual Assault Centers receive funding from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), Crime Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program (CVA).

The sexual assault centers are also familiar with additional services to victims of crime provided through the LCLE, such as the Crime Victims Reparations Program (CVR) program and the Louisiana Victim Information and Notification Everyday (LA VINE) system. The LCLE coordinates with each sexual assault center by requesting the name and contact information of the individual charged with the responsibility of assisting victims in regard to accessing and using the LA VINE system as well as responsible for assisting victims in applying for reparations and services by coordinating with a Crime Victim Reparations Officer available through each of the state's Parish Sheriff's Offices.

Currently, there are twelve (12) Sexual Assault Centers (SACs), also known as Rape Crisis Centers, located throughout the state. The Sexual Assault Centers are ADAPT, Inc. in Bogalusa, Hearts of Hope in Lafayette, Metro Centers for Community Advocacy in Jefferson, New Orleans Family Justice Center in New Orleans, Oasis in Lake Charles, Pine Hills Children's Advocacy Center, Inc. in

Ruston, Project Celebration, Inc. in Many, St. Landry-Evangeline Sexual Assault Center in Opelousas, Sexual Trauma Awareness & Response (STAR) Center in Baton Rouge and Alexandria, The Haven in Houma, and The Wellspring Alliance for Families in Monroe are all fully accredited. Southeast Advocates for Family empowerment (SAFE), in Hammond, received provisional accreditation in 2021, a process that gives time and limited funds to agencies that are building up their sexual assault prevention and survivor services capacity before applying for full accreditation. There are currently four (4) parishes that do not have an accredited service provider.

These Centers work diligently to provide direct intervention and critically related assistance to women, men, and children of all ages who are victims of sexual assault. Seven (7) of the Sexual Assault Centers are dual programs providing services to both sexual assault and domestic violence victims. The “dual” Centers are the Metro Centers for Community Advocacy, the New Orleans Family Justice Center, Oasis, Project Celebration, Inc., SAFE, The Haven, and The Wellspring Alliance for Families.

The Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LaFASA) utilizes Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) funds after discovering access to community resources/advocacy services for incarcerated individuals differs drastically from that of a member of the general public due mainly to offenders living in guarded detention, communications restrictions, and stigmas attached to dealing with incarcerated people.

**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.D. 10446(i)(2)(G); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(f))**

The Lafourche Parish Sheriff’s Office (LPSO) under the leadership of Sheriff

Craig Webre continues to develop and implement Louisiana's firearms relinquishment program fully funded through the Sheriff's Office. This program is leading the fight in keeping victims of abuse from becoming victims of murder through the effective enforcement and education of current Louisiana statutes.

The goal of the program is to remove firearms from those individuals who are prohibited possessors through a qualifying protective order for domestic violence or a qualifying conviction for domestic abuse battery (and 2nd conviction of battery of a dating partner). The Lafourche Firearms Divestiture Protocol was planned during the last months of 2009 and implemented January of 2010. It is important to note that since the program's inception there have not been any domestic violence homicides in Lafourche Parish by a prohibited possessor.

To ensure that firearms are taken out of the hands of domestic abusers, Louisiana implemented the Domestic Violence Prevention Firearm Transfer Act in 2018, amended in 2019. This Act was a much-needed enforcement mechanism for already-existing laws that prohibit domestic abusers from possessing firearms. It required a thoughtful roll-out statewide, focusing most crucially on education on the law and related procedures. Instrumental in both passing this legislation and in spearheading the efforts to educate law enforcement, prosecutors, and other involved personnel on the law were Lafourche Parish Sheriff Craig Webre and Lt. Valerie Martinez-Jordan.

The Act, which comprises Title 35 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, became effective October 1, 2018, with full implementation of jurisdictional specific forms and policies effective January 1, 2019. The subsequent 2019 amendments, which were made to further improve the language from 2018, went into effect on August 1, 2019. A new data reporting provision went into effect on August 1, 2022.



The involvement of principle stakeholders, in this one-of-a-kind program in Louisiana, is the key component that leads to the program's overall success. Effective implementation and management of the project makes it necessary to enlist the collaboration and coordination from all participants in the criminal justice system from the Sheriff's office, the Judges in the judicial district, the Clerk of Court's Office, the District Attorney's Office, and victim service providers. Without the efforts from each of these agencies, the program would not enjoy the successes that it has to date. Each stakeholder has a unique and critical role to play.

The Sheriff's Office takes the lead as the "hands-on" component for the successful execution of the program's goals. Once the Sheriff's Office becomes aware of the prohibition through the courts required notification or the Clerk's Office, the immediate review and relinquishment process begins.

The foundation of the plan lies with the in the defendants in court under oath declaration /possession status while in court the judge advises the defendant of their now mandated firearm prohibition status and the suspension of any concealed handgun permits. There are many unique nuances to this firearm transfer law, one in particular requires the courts to recognize both state and federal laws. Prior to this legislation many times, the prohibited possessor is unaware that they are in violation of the law.

The prohibited possessor then acknowledges that they possess / do not possess firearms. If a prohibited possessor has a firearm, the Sheriff's Office assists the prohibited possessor in safely and securely removing any firearms. Without the close working relationship with the other stakeholders, the Sheriff's Office would not become aware of a firearm possessor's change of status. Due to many domestic violence incidents being a misdemeanor crime, some cases are still held in municipal courts. Their role mimics the district court's role with convictions and the notifications are being submitted to the sheriff's office so

cases files can be created and alerts placed in LPSO's case management system.

The Louisiana Legislative support for this initiative originated with a Senate Bill by Senator J. P. Morrell for the Louisiana Legislative 2018 Regular Session. This Senate Bill was written to provide relative to the transfer of firearms for the violation of a protective order and was signed by Governor John Bel Edwards on May 20, 2018. The Senate Bill then became Act Number 367 becoming effective October 1, 2018. During the Louisiana Legislative 2019 Regular Session, House Bill Number 279 by Representative Joseph Marino was to provide relative to the transfer of firearms of persons who are prohibited from possessing a firearm in domestic abuse cases. This Bill was signed by Governor Edwards on June 20, 2019, and the Bill became Act Number 427.

In 2022, the Law Implementation and Training Subcommittee continued its efforts to improve Louisiana's statewide response to domestic violence, including targeted legislation to better protect victims and hold perpetrators accountable, working with Victimization Data Subcommittee members to craft procedures for the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Fatality Review Panel, and training law enforcement and prosecutors so as to pursue better evidence-based investigations and prosecutions of domestic violence.

Act 75 – Senate Bill 66 of the 2022 Regular Session, sponsored by Senator Pat Connick and endorsed by the Louisiana District Attorney's Association and Jefferson Parish District Attorney Paul Connick, Jr., passed both chambers of the Legislature unanimously. Act 75 strengthened La. R.S. 14:79, Louisiana's statute criminalizing the violation of a protective order, by making it a felony crime of violence to violate a protective order by going to the protected person's residence, school, or place of employment while in possession of a firearm. This bill addressed the fact that domestic violence situations can escalate very quickly with tragic results when the perpetrator is armed with a firearm and that the penalty for this crime should therefore be increased when a firearm is involved in the violation of a protective order.

In accordance with Act 484 of the 2022 Legislative Session, to enact Code of Criminal Procedure Article 1005, relative to firearm data collection; to provide for required reporting of aggregate firearm transfer data to the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice (LCLE); to provide for the creation of standardized form used to report aggregate data fields; to provide for submission of forms; to provide for submission dates; to provide for the publication of data; to provide for a report; and to provide for related matters.

Act 484 states that the LCLE shall create and distribute a standardized form for use by the sheriff of each parish to be used to report all aggregate data fields required no later than January 1, 2023. A single point of contact or web portal will be provided by LCLE to which each sheriff shall submit the completed form to LCLE no later than January 31<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year. LCLE will publish the data collected from the sheriff of each parish and submit a report containing all information received to the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice and the Senate Committee on Judiciary C no later than March first of each calendar year.

At the mid-winter 2021 Louisiana Sheriff's Association (LSA) Conference in Natchitoches, the Louisiana Department of Justice (LADOJ) and the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) partnered to help facilitate the immediate and effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Prevention Firearms Transfer Act.

This important law, which created a process for the transfer of firearms from domestic abusers, has the potential to greatly reduce domestic violence homicides in Louisiana. According to Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure Tit. XXXV, Art. 1001-1004 – the Sheriff, the Clerk of Court, and the District Attorney of each Parish were to develop forms, policies, and procedures no later than January 1, 2019, regarding the communication of convictions and orders issued between agencies, procedures for the acceptance of transferred firearms, procedures for

storage, return, the proof of transfer form, the declaration of non-possession, and any other form, policy, or procedure necessary to effect the provisions of this title.

The Louisiana Department of Justice provided supplemental training and technical assistance for the implementation of these procedures for the transfer of firearms in accordance with this law. The goal is to work together to discover potential issues and find effective solutions in enforcing this crucial law. LADOJ assists in training efforts regarding the Firearm Transfer; and plan to use feedback received to evaluate, assess, and develop even more productive trainings in the future.

In accordance with Act 367 of the 2018 Legislative Session, the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE) receives firearms denials from certified Federal Firearms License Dealers statewide by way of email, fax, and through the post office. Since the legislation did not stipulate what the LCLE should do with the denials, the LCLE entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Louisiana Department of Justice on December 11, 2019. This MOU allows the LA DOJ to review the information provided and to investigate the information it deems necessary. The denials are currently being stored on the LCLE's servers and are provided to the LA DOJ on a weekly basis through an exchange portal, which the LA DOJ set up. The portal allows the LCLE to upload all denials received each week. The uploads have been done on a weekly basis since the beginning of the MOU and LCLE will continue to do so until further notice from the Louisiana Department of Justice.

The ongoing work of the Domestic Violence Prevention Commission and the associated stakeholders has made significant strides in the understanding of and education on intimate partner violence. Key legislation to improve Louisiana's response to domestic violence has been passed in recent years, including expanding domestic abuse protections to same-sex couples, expanding domestic abuse protections to non-cohabitating dating partners, broadening the definition of

family members to include all ascendants and descendants and to better address co-parenting situations, and strengthening the penalties for particularly dangerous forms of domestic violence, including domestic violence involving strangulation, serious bodily injury, and dangerous weapons.

For the third year in a row, Louisiana ranks fifth for its homicide rate of female victims murdered by males, according to the most recently available data from the Violence Policy Center analyzing 2019 deaths — though that number is an improvement from previous years where the state ranked in the top three. Louisiana still ranks fifth in 2022.

Preliminary data gathered from media reports show there were at least 61 homicides related to domestic violence in 2021. Eighty-one percent (81%) of female homicides in Louisiana are committed by a partner or ex-partner. Not only are women murdered at an alarming rate in Louisiana, but many of them are pregnant or new moms. Tulane University researchers found that during 2016 and 2017, women who were pregnant or within a year of childbirth had “a mortality rate from homicide was 12.9 murders per 100,000 live births.” That’s higher than Louisiana’s overall murder rate and almost twice the general murder rate of the country.

### **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 of 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))**

- 2. 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. (34 U.S.C. 10446(e)(2)(D) and (i)(2)(F); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(d)(4))**
  
- 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))**

During the February 17, 2022, zoom meeting with members of the Implementation Planning Committee, the following topics were discussed:

1. Shelter beds and transitional housing needs for domestic violence victims.
  - a. The Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence utilized state funds, the State of Louisiana's Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI), from LCLE to address this issue. Discussions with the Coalition's Executive Director in regard to the accomplishments achieved with this funding as well as what challenges remain in this area.
  
2. How to increase services and support for underserved populations, including culturally specific communities, LGBTQ survivors, individuals with disabilities, immigrant survivors, survivors with language barriers, older adults, and victims in rural communities. Victim service providers and the

Coalition Directors were instrumental in providing their expertise and suggestions.

3. Statewide training ideas and concepts to create awareness of victim sensitivity among law enforcement agencies, district attorneys, judges, medical personnel, and hearing officers because many agencies have reported that survivors are often revictimized by the system.
4. Enhancing efforts to reduce homicides through enforcement of federal and state firearms laws.

Other discussions remain that include the receipt of continued funding by all disciplines and the amount received by the State. Other concerns are staffing problems experienced by victim service providers, the lack of trainings due to the nationwide shutdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the continued lack of transportation in that victims often require assistance in obtaining transportation to and from appointments necessary to help them recover and become self-sufficient members of society.

Now that the pandemic circumstances have lessened in recent months, the LCLE STOP Program Manager has continued to coordinate meetings with the Planning Committee members to have an opportunity to discuss concerns and issues impacting their communities as circumstances have impacted their service areas and the populations they represent.

During the February 28, 2023, Zoom meeting with the members of Women of Color Roundtable and the March 3, 2023 Zoom Meeting with a member of the LGBTQ+ Community, some of the topics discussed are emphasized below:

1. Transportation - Most of Louisiana is a rural state with 26 parishes classified by the U.S. Census as a rural parish not urban or city. Most residents in the

state do not own their own vehicle. Public transportation is also very scarce outside of urban and city locations. Almost all domestic violence victims/survivors need transportation for work, healthcare, childcare, court appearances, and to and from shelters. Ride share apps are very expensive in rural areas and not often accessible.

STOP funding is not current available for transportation with most subgrantees as this is quite expensive and budgets cannot stretch to include this for all areas in the state. Some subgrantees, with private donations, hire drivers, vans, etc. for this purpose.

2. Housing – Many domestic violence victims/survivors are not able to find housing due to needs for families, close proximity to family, work, childcare and others needed services. Temporary shelters are few and far between in the state. Most temporary shelters are full and more are needed to meet the demands of the victims in the state.

STOP funds are not available for housing with most subgrantees as this is quite expensive and budgets cannot stretch to include this for all areas in the state. However, LCLE provides state funding for this purpose (Justice Reinvestment Initiative).

3. A better response to domestic violence calls by law enforcement, service providers, and court - Law enforcement have threatened arresting domestic violence victims when they call about domestic violence or arresting both parties without determining who is the primary aggressor. When women of color and LGBTQ+ members make repeated instances calls about domestic violence/abuse, most times they are not believed or taken seriously when they are reporting to law enforcement or service providers.



Women of color and LGBTQ+ members do not receive respect during these calls and their abuse/injuries are not documented properly. They also need counseling services immediately upon leaving domestic violence/ abuse. Domestic violence victims have gaps in service with access to healthcare, treatments, mental health care, and long-term access to these services after an assault has occurred.

The filing of protective orders with courts is the hardest part of a domestic violence response. Most domestic violence victims face barriers with not having legal assistance to help them file a protective order or the abuser has filed a protective order first. Prosecutors then do not follow through with their promises to domestic abuse survivors.

The Louisiana Supreme Court LPOR department provides training to judges, courts, prosecutors, law enforcement and victim advocates to explain how LPOR works, to educate those with a need-to-know about state and federal laws related to issuing and enforcing orders of protection, and to disseminate the most current standardized forms that are mandated for use by all courts.

4. Childcare – Most domestic violence victims have a critical need for childcare. Childcare is needed for most domestic violence are going to work, going to court, etc. Childcare challenges become a barrier for women of color to work. Many domestic violence victims do not have the funds for childcare while living in shelters or trying to pay for the basic necessities of living day-to-day and setting up a new place to live for themselves and their children.

The culturally specific project to be considered must provide victim services explicitly tailored to meet the needs of the domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking victims being served. LCLE not only considers the ethnicity of the victims that are to be served but also how the

services will be provided and if these services are culturally appropriate to the ethnicity of the victims to be served.

Other decisions include whether the agency encourages the community's involvement in the delivery of the services provided and whether outreach services are made available to victims who live outside the community served. Applicant agencies are required to provide how the project will address the STOP purpose area or areas as well as other VAWA requirements:

- A description of the culturally-specific population to be served;
- A description detailing how the victim services to be provided are appropriately tailored to meet the unique needs of the culturally-specific community;
- Specifics demonstrating the agency's ability to work effectively in providing victim services unique to the culturally-specific community being served; and
- Evidence of the ability to acquire the needed expertise through collaboration, cooperative agreements, or memorandums of understanding with other entities in the community.

At least thirty percent (30%) for nonprofit victim service agencies.

- Of the nonprofit victim services allocation, ninety percent (90%) of the thirty percent (30%) allocation is to be distributed to non-profit, non-governmental victim services agencies through the state's two coalitions:
  - Fifty percent (50%) of the ninety percent (90%) will be allocated to the member agencies of the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV).

- The remaining fifty percent (50%) of the ninety percent (90%) will be allocated to the Sexual Assault Centers through the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault Coalition (LaFASA).
- The remaining ten percent (10%) of the thirty percent (30%) will be allocated to culturally-specific victim services projects.

## **D. Grant-making Strategy**

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

Upon receiving the federal award and the special conditions being released, if applicable, Staff at the District or Council offices and LCLE provide direct assistance to the subgrant agencies working to ensure that these agencies utilize the funds to meet intended goals and objectives, maintain statistics and fiscal records have a full understanding of reporting requirements, and submit the required reports to LCLE as scheduled. LCLE requires that all applicant agencies receiving Federal funds through the STOP program must comply with the applicable provisions of the STOP Program Federal Register Final Rule, OVW Grants Financial Management Division (GFMD), the Louisiana State Travel Guidelines, the Advisory Board Guidelines, and the LCLE Program Guidelines. Programs use the funds for any of the twenty-four (24) named purpose areas listed in the STOP Application Instructions.

Reporting requirements include maintaining appropriate programmatic and financial records that fully disclose the amount and disposition of STOP funds received by the applicant agency to ensure proper management, fiscal control and efficient disbursement of the STOP funds. Written procedures regarding the reporting requirements of a project are provided in the STOP Application Instructions. The procedures inform the applicant of specific reporting requirements before and after receiving a subgrant award and those requirements are to be followed during the federal project period.

Projects are normally funded on a twelve-month basis. Beginning with the FY 2013 award, most subgrant project periods were gradually adjusted to end on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. This will allow our subrecipients' progress report to coincide with the OVW Annual Progress Reports' timeline. Therefore, almost all projects that would receive FY 2022 funds will be funded on a twelve-month basis (i.e., January 1 through December 31) each year.

**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))**

Units of local government, law enforcement and prosecution agencies, are advised by Law Enforcement Planning District/Council staff of the availability of grant funding and guidelines for funding through public advertising of funding available. The two Coalitions notify their member victim services organizations of the availability of grant funding and guidelines. The LCLE posts notices on its website availability of grant funding to courts, culturally-specific agencies, and other criminal justice agencies that are considered for receipt of discretionary funding.

Each year, this process is initiated by announcing the availability of STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program funds. This process starts with publishing the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) in local and regional newspapers statewide, as well as displaying notice on Internet websites available to the public. The NOFO documents provide potential applicant agencies with the necessary information on requesting and applying for the funds, meeting dates and times.

Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) are run in local and regional newspapers statewide to announce the availability of the STOP Program funds each funding year as well as posting the notice of availability on Internet

websites for at least 30 days. Potential applicant agencies are provided with appropriate information on requesting and applying for the funds, meeting dates and times.

**3. 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. (34 U.S.C. 10446(i)(2)(D))**

All subgrant recipients submit documentation within their applications verifying they have or will consult with tribal, state, or local victim service programs during the course of developing their grant applications in order to ensure that proposed services, activities, and equipment acquisitions were designed to promote the safety, confidentiality, and economic independence of victims of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking when applicable. Each applicant agency also provides Memorandums of Understanding, Cooperative Agreements, contracts, and numerous letters of support from various agencies in their service areas, as applicable to their individual proposed program.

**4. Description of how the state will identify and select applicants for subgrant funding, including whether a competitive process will be used. If different selection methods will be used for each allocation category, describe the method. (28 C.F.R. 90.12(g)(8))**

STOP funds are allocated to non-profit, non-governmental organizations that provide victim services to women who have become victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking crimes. These organizations include rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, faith-based and other community organizations that have a documented history of effective work providing services tailored to meet the needs of these victims.

The STOP Program Manager in the LCLE office is responsible for managing victim services allocations for District 8 or State-Level Projects. The STOP Program Manager is also responsible for providing technical assistance as needed and advising all victim services programs of the twenty-four (24) STOP statutory program purposes. In addition, the STOP Program Manager will advise the victim services programs of the funding eligibility guidelines for OVW Grants Financial Management Division, and other pertinent State and Federal guidelines regarding crimes against women as outlined in the OVW STOP Formula Grant Program.

LCLE collaborates with the Coalition Executive Directors of the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) and the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LaFASA) when determining allocation decisions for the victim services agencies in their memberships.

The Coalition Executive Directors provide LCLE with their member programs' needs based on:

- How each program will address the STOP purpose areas and other OVW requirements;
- The general population demographics to be served;
- The victim services to be provided;
- Other funding and resources available to the programs;
- The financial and programmatic administration integrity of each agency; and
- A subjective evaluation of each member agency's situation.

Victim services agencies that belong to the Coalition membership are highly encouraged to use STOP funds to develop and improve their domestic violence,

dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking programs. These programs assist battered women by providing counseling, advocacy, legal assistance, care management, job placement, and shelter. They also provide other critical care needs, support services, and advocacy to victims navigating through the judicial system.

A Notice of Intent (NOI) Worksheet, which is posted on the LCLE website along with a Program Plan Worksheet, its instructions detailing how to submit the completed form(s) to their respective Districts and/or the LCLE, and a Conflict-of-Interest Form are completed by applicant agencies interested in applying for a STOP award. When collected by the District Directors, the Executive Directors of the Coalition, and the LCLE STOP Program Manager, a two-paged Risk Assessment form and a proposal review worksheet are then completed based on the information in each Notice of Intent.

Afterward, Requests for Allocation and Program Plan Worksheet forms are completed by District Program Directors and Coalition Directors, as well as those collected by the LCLE STOP Program Manager listing all eligible applicant agencies' programs. The allocation listings are based on the results of the Notice of Intent and Risk Assessment forms, which are designed to help determine the risk level of a program and if its project meets the requirements of one or more of the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program's statutory purpose areas.

The Law Enforcement Planning Districts/Law Enforcement Planning Councils, the LCLE's Priorities Committee, and the Victim Services Advisory Board review all potential requests and make their respective recommendations to the LCLE Commission. The Commission retains final approval or denial of the allocations and program plans before a full application can be submitted for final approval. The allocations can be approved or disapproved at any point in the process.

After the proposed allocations are approved by the Commission, the LCLE creates Funding Announcements in Egrants in order for applicants to apply for funding. LCLE will then conduct Part II of the Risk Assessment of each applicant agency.

Applicant agencies' applications are prepared and submitted as directed in the Funding Announcements on the web-based Egrants management system to LCLE. LCLE staff assesses the documented needs and conformity to STOP requirements. The STOP Program Manager, Fiscal Staff, and/or Section Supervisor will advise via the Egrants system to the applicant if issues need to be addressed and/or resolved. The LCLE staff can place special conditions upon the application that the applicant agency must adhere to as required.

Applications are prepared for submission for the LCLE Priorities Committee's review. The application can be approved, denied, or tabled by the Priorities Committee. The Priorities Committee can place special conditions upon the application that the applicant agency must adhere to during the project period.

If the applications meet the requirements as assessed by LCLE staff and receive the Priorities Committee's recommendation for approval, the applications are submitted to the Victim Services Advisory Board for review and recommendation for a status of approval, denial, or table to the Commission. All new applicant agencies or existing applicant agencies who have submitted a new application, regardless of the amount of funding, must be present at both the Victim Services Advisory Board meeting and the LCLE Commission meeting.

Applicants who have a continuation application requesting funding to continue an existing project, and/or requesting an increase of funding to an existing project, regardless of the amount of funding, is required to attend only the Victim Services Advisory Board meeting. Potential applicants should be knowledgeable about the proposed project and be able to answer any questions that may arise. An



application can be deferred, tabled, or denied if there is no representative of the applicant agency present at these meetings. The Victim Services Advisory Board and the Commission can place special conditions upon the application that the applicant agency must adhere to as required.

If approved by the Commission, LCLE staff then issues the Award Letter. The Subgrant Award packet is forwarded directly to the applicant agency for acceptance with the respective districts copied. When the original award letter has been returned to LCLE with the original signatures of the LCLE Executive Director and the agency's Signatory (Authorized Official), the subgrant in the Egrants system is then marked Open-Awarded and becomes active for processing required reporting documentation and other activities during the course of the program's project period.

**5. Whether STOP subgrant projects will be funded on a multiple or single-year basis. (See 28 C.F.R. 90.12(g)(8))**

Projects are normally funded on a twelve-month basis. Most subgrant project periods end on December 31 each funding year, with a few exceptions. This was planned to allow the subrecipients' quarterly progress reporting periods to coincide with the reporting period of the OVW Annual Progress Report. Therefore, almost all projects that receive STOP funds during the time period of this Plan will be funded on a twelve-month basis (i.e., January 1 through December 31) each year.

**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))**

The proposed distribution formula for federal grant funds was adopted by the commission at its meeting on March 1, 2012. in accordance with R.S. 15:1201, et seq. The commission distributes federal grant funds to the state's local law

enforcement agencies through law enforcement planning districts via a funding formula initially devised in 1977, and subsequently modified as necessary by the commission.

Included in the 1977 distribution formula was a variable base of funding for each law enforcement planning district based on the percentage of the district's crime rate to that of the entire state, as well as a rural adjustment for those areas of the state facing unique fund distribution problems given their population and criminal justice manpower percentage deviations. The rural adjustment allowed these rural districts to have sufficient funding for meaningful programs. Once the variable base and adjustments have been determined, the formula uses the following variables to determine how the remaining funds are distributed to each law enforcement planning district:

1. Planning district's percentage of the state's total Uniformed Crime Reporting Part 1 Offenses;
2. Planning district's percentage of state's total criminal justice manpower; and
3. Planning district's percentage of state's total population.

Given the changes in the state's crime, population, and manpower figures since 1977, the commission collected data on the aforementioned variables through the year 2011, to include the most recent year for which data was available. The distribution formula devised for the years 2012 through 2021 modifies the variable base and maintains the rural and urban adjustments to reflect existing conditions within each planning district.

The LCLE distribution formula in the table below will be adopted and approved on June 22, 2023, in accordance with LA Rev Stat § 15:1201 by the Office of the Governor and documented in Chapter 57, Formula for Distribution of Federal Grant Funds of Title 22, Subpart 5, Grant Application or Subgrants Utilizing Federal, State or Self-Generated Funds of the Louisiana

Administrative Code (June 2017) after the completion of the 2020 U.S. Census report.

**Law Enforcement Planning Districts/Councils**

District 1	Northwest Law Enforcement Planning Council, Inc.	12.20%
District 2	North Delta Law Enforcement Planning District, Inc.	10.09%
District 3	Red River Delta Law Enforcement Planning Council, Inc.	9.59%
District 4	Evangeline Law Enforcement Council, Inc.	10.28%
District 5	Capital District Law Enforcement Planning Council, Inc.	19.31%
District 6	Southwest District Law Enforcement Planning Council, Inc.	10.11%
District 7	Metropolitan District/Jefferson CJCC	17.79%
District 9	New Orleans, City of/Office of Criminal Justice Coordination	10.63%

**NOTE: The formula was revised upon release of the 2010 U.S. Census Report. Final approval of this formula distribution is contingent on adoption and approval of the Commission on 6/22/2023.**

**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 LCLE is the federal cognizant agency for allocating the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program funds throughout the state. For the purposes of the STOP funds that the Commission administers, the state is divided into nine districts. There are eight law enforcement-planning districts and one district reserved for two statewide coalitions and state-level projects. The STOP Program Manager in the LCLE office is responsible for managing victim services

allocations for District 8 or State-Level Projects.

Funding priority is given to law enforcement, prosecution, court agencies, tribal governments, and nonprofit victim service providers all of which strive to reduce violence against women by developing and strengthening effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies created to combat crimes committed against women. Law enforcement and prosecution applicant agencies apply for STOP funding through one of the eight Local Law Enforcement Planning Districts or Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils.

Non-profit, non- governmental victim service agencies apply through their respective coalitions, the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault. Other programs such as courts, tribal governments, and discretionary statewide programs apply directly to the LCLE.

All subrecipients awarded STOP funds must address at least one or more of the twenty-four (24) purpose areas required under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Applicant agencies are required to specify which purpose area or areas their project addresses. No single purpose area is given priority by the Victims Services Advisory Board. Each project is evaluated on its own merits.

STOP funds are passed through to the eight Law Enforcement Planning Districts/Councils listed below. Each district office is notified of their allocation, which is based on the population and crime statistics within their respective districts. These districts must distribute their allocations equally between law enforcement and prosecution agencies using a fifty-fifty split according to the formulas in the table below. The district map portrays the parishes for which each District is responsible for allocating the law enforcement and prosecution funding.

The two statewide coalitions, the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) and the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LaFASA) represent the nonprofit, non-governmental victim services programs in the state that receive STOP funding.

### **Battered Women’s Programs and Shelters**

The Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence is the federally designated statewide coalition of shelters, non-residential programs and individuals working to end domestic violence in Louisiana. The local domestic violence programs serve people from everywhere in Louisiana and who come from all backgrounds. LCADV opposes violence as a means of control over others and support equality in relationships.

The Coalition represents rural, urban and suburban areas. The domestic violence programs support and involve battered women and children of all racial, social, ethnic, religious and economic groups, ages and lifestyles. Services are provided regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, or disability status. LCADV works at the statewide level and serves four main purposes:

1. To provide training and technical assistance to local member programs and allies.
2. In partnership with the programs, create social change around the issue of violence against women through public education, awareness and task groups.
3. Act as the lead organizer on public policy issues at the state and federal level.
4. Support the programs by advocating for funding and assisting in the administration of funds, primarily those provided by state and federal government funding.

The mission of the LCADV is to eliminate domestic violence through public education, systems change, social change, and public policy; to promote and strengthen quality comprehensive services for member programs and all individuals affected by domestic violence; support a statewide network of programs, organizations, and individuals who share the goal of ending domestic violence in Louisiana; and empower its members and communities through advocacy, education, resource development, and technical assistance. LCADV is dedicated to bringing about change in Louisiana institutions, laws, politics, attitudes, and beliefs which will allow individuals to live free of violence.

The LCADV is a statewide network of fifteen (15) battered women's programs and shelters operated by the organizations and individuals who share the goal of ending domestic violence and other related crimes committed against women in Louisiana. The domestic violence shelter programs are:

1. **Beauregard Community Concerns, Inc. dba June N. Jenkins Women's Shelter**  
Parishes Served: Beauregard & Vernon  
Local Crisis Line: (337) 462-6504
2. **Capital Area Family Violence Intervention Center, Inc. dba Iris Domestic Violence Center**  
Parishes Served: East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, West Feliciana, Pointe Coupee, Iberville, & Ascension  
Local Crisis Line: (800) 541-9706
3. **Chez Hope Family Violence Crisis Center**  
Parishes Served: Assumption, St. Mary, St. Martin & Iberia  
Local Crisis Line: (800) 331-5303
4. **Domestic Abuse Resistance Team (DART)**  
Parishes Served: Bienville, Claiborne, Grant, Jackson, Lincoln, Union & Winn  
Local Crisis Line: (318) 251-2255
5. **Faith House, Inc.**  
Parishes Served: Acadia, Avoyelles, Evangeline, Lafayette, Rapides, St. Landry & Vermilion  
Local Crisis Line: (337) 232-8954

6. **Family Violence Program of St. Bernard**  
Parishes Served: Plaquemines & St. Bernard  
Local Crisis Line: (504) 277-3177
  
7. **Jeff Davis Communities Against Domestic Abuse (CADA)**  
Parish Served: Jefferson Davis  
Local Crisis Hotline: (337) 616-8418
  
8. **Metro Centers for Community Advocacy**  
Parishes Served: Jefferson, St. Charles, St. James & St. John  
Local Crisis Line: (504) 837-5400
  
9. **New Orleans Family Justice Center**  
Parish Served: Orleans  
Local Crisis Line: (504) 866-9554
  
10. **Oasis: A Safe Haven for Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence**  
Parishes Served: Allen, Calcasieu & Cameron  
Local Crisis Line: (337) 436-4552
  
11. **Project Celebration, Inc. dba Taylor House, Sabine Shelter,**  
Parishes Served: Desoto, Natchitoches, Sabine, Caddo, Bossier, Red River, &  
Webster  
Local Crisis Line: (318) 256-3403  
Shreveport Area Crisis Line: 318.226.5015
  
12. **Safe Harbor, Inc.**  
Parishes Served: St. Tammany & Washington  
Local Crisis Line: (985) 626-5740
  
13. **Southeast Advocates for Family Empowerment (SAFE)**  
Parishes Served: Livingston, St. Helena, Tangipahoa & Washington  
Local Crisis Line: (985) 542-8384
  
14. **The Haven, Inc.**  
Parishes Served: Terrebonne & Lafourche  
Local Crisis Line: (985) 853-0045
  
15. **The Wellspring Alliance for Families**  
Parishes Served: Caldwell, Catahoula, Concordia, East Carroll, Franklin,  
LaSalle, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas & West Carroll  
Local Crisis Line: (318) 323-1505

## **Sexual Assault Centers**

Currently, there are twelve (12) Sexual Assault Centers (SACs), also known as Rape Crisis Centers, located throughout the state. The Sexual Assault Centers are ADAPT, Inc. in Bogalusa, Hearts of Hope in Lafayette, Metro Centers for Community Advocacy in Jefferson, New Orleans Family Justice Center in New Orleans, Oasis in Lake Charles, Pine Hills Children’s Advocacy Center, Inc. in Ruston, Project Celebration, Inc. in Many, St. Landry-Evangeline Sexual Assault Center in Opelousas, Sexual Trauma Awareness & Response (STAR) Center in Baton Rouge and Alexandria, The Haven in Houma, and The Wellspring Alliance for Families in Monroe are all fully accredited. There are currently four (4) parishes that do not have an accredited service provider.

These Centers work diligently to provide direct intervention and critically related assistance to women, men, and children of all ages who are victims of sexual assault. Seven (7) of the Sexual Assault Centers are dual programs providing services to both sexual assault and domestic violence victims. The “dual” Centers are the Metro Centers for Community Advocacy, the New Orleans Family Justice Center, Oasis, Project Celebration, Inc., SAFE, The Haven, and The Wellspring Alliance for Families.

Two (2) of the Sexual Assault Centers are also Child Advocacy Centers, which offer specialized services to children (including on-site forensic interviews). These Centers are Pine Hills Children’s Advocacy Center, Inc. and Hearts of Hope. Some Sexual Assault Centers have satellite or branch offices, in addition to their main office, which are staffed on a full-time basis, in an effort to ensure sexual assault victims are served in those parishes in which there is no Sexual Assault Center.

The Sexual Assault Centers operate under the guidance of the state’s sexual assault coalition, the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LaFASA).



The *LAFASA Sexual Assault Center Accreditation Standards* were originally developed in 1993 and recently revised in 2020. Addenda related to virtual outreach, primary prevention, advocacy, and long-term support were developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure advocate, client, and community safety.

These Standards contain key components outlining the requirements of the Centers to serve all sexual assault victims, regardless of age, gender, race, socioeconomic status, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, disability, relationship to the perpetrator, or any other factor; serve all sexual assault victims regardless of the circumstances of the crime, and restrictive conditions are never to be placed on victim clients; provide services to sexual assault victims regardless of whether the crime was reported to law enforcement; and maintain confidentiality within the limits of the law.

Confidentiality is to be strictly maintained unless the victim has provided a signed, time-limited consent form indicating her/his willingness to share specific information, or if the Sexual Assault Center employee or volunteer learns of a threat of harm to others, to the client herself/himself, or of unreported child or dependent adult abuse or neglect. These confidentiality policies are explained to victims of sexual assault at the time services are initially provided, and exceptions are in Louisiana statutes.

Quality services provided to sexual assault victims are based on services designed to restore a victim's empowerment and self-determination. Sexual Assault Centers have developed specific procedures to meet the needs of potentially high-risk populations with whom communication may be challenging, including non-English speaking people, D/deaf clients, those with disabilities, elders, and children.

LaFASA's Accreditation Standards are based on core and additional sexual assault prevention and intervention services provided throughout the service area. All Centers must meet basic governance, fiscal, and personnel standards. Accreditation is granted at Provisional, Level One, Level Two, or Level Three. For example, both Level One and Level Two Centers provide quality hotline services, but the Level Three Center provides other services, such as support groups or a primary prevention coalition. The levels are determined by the range of services provided at an acceptable level, and do not reflect the quality of services. Services provided by all Centers include:

- 24-hour crisis hotline;
- In-person on-site crisis response;
- Information and referral for community resources, medical advocacy, and criminal justice advocacy;
- 24-hour emergency medical accompaniment in the primary parish served;
- Criminal justice system accompaniment in the primary parish served;
- Individual support from a trained advocate;
- Community engagement throughout the service area; and
- Primary prevention trainings throughout the service area.

Centers that are accredited at Levels Two and Three also provide services such as medical and criminal justice accompaniment throughout their service area, social change campaigns, individual therapy, support groups, coalition participation (SARTs and primary prevention), and systems-based advocacy, among other services.

Regrettably, some Sexual Assault Centers sometimes have to limit the number of counseling sessions they can provide due to the high demand for their services. Some Centers, at times, must create waiting lists for victims waiting for counseling services, and, if so, Center staff take steps to ensure that any victim placed on a waiting list is in stable condition and their situation is frequently

assessed to ensure their safety. Victims who live in rural parishes are served from a Sexual Assault Center in the closest city to their location. The Sexual Assault Centers are:

1. **ADAPT, Inc. dba Washington Parish Rape Crisis Center**  
Parishes Served: Washington  
Phone: (985) 735-0160  
Crisis Line: (985) 732-4961
  
2. **Hearts of Hope**  
Parishes Served: Acadia, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Martin, St. Mary, Vermilion  
Phone: (337) 269-1557  
Crisis Line: (337) 233-7273
  
3. **Metro Centers for Community Advocacy**  
Parishes Served: Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John, St. Tammany  
Phone: (504) 837-5400  
Crisis Line: (504) 837-5400
  
4. **New Orleans Family Justice Center**  
Parishes Served: Orleans  
Phone: (504) 592-4005  
Crisis Line: (504) 866-9554
  
5. **Oasis A Safe Haven for Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence**  
Parishes Served: Calcasieu, Jefferson Parish  
Phone: (337) 494-7273  
Crisis Line: (866) 570-7273
  
6. **Pine Hills Children's Advocacy Center**  
Parishes Served: Bienville, Claiborne, Grant, Jackson, Lincoln, Union, Winn  
Phone: (318) 255-7273  
Crisis Line: (318) 255-7273
  
7. **Project Celebration, Inc.**  
Parishes Served: DeSoto, Red River, Sabine  
Phone: (318) 256-6242  
Crisis Line: (318) 227-7900
  
8. **St. Landry-Evangeline Sexual Assault Center**  
Parishes Served: Avoyelles, Evangeline, St. Landry  
Phone: (337) 585-4673  
Crisis Line: (800) 656-4673

**9. Sexual Trauma Awareness & Response (STAR) Center**

Parishes Served: Ascension, East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, West Feliciana, Iberville, Orleans, Pointe Coupee, Rapides

Phone: (225) 615-7093

Crisis Line: (225) 383-7273

**10. The Haven, Inc.**

Parishes Served: Assumption, Lafourche, Terrebonne

Phone: (985) 872-0757

Crisis Line: (800) 777-8868

**11. The Wellspring Alliance for Families, Inc.**

Parishes Served: Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas & West Carroll

Phone: (318) 323-1505

Local Crisis Line: (800) 716-SAFE

**OTHER PROGRAMS**

Other programs have been developed and implemented with the use of STOP funding, such as the Louisiana Protective Order Registry. In 1997, legislation passed (La. R.S. 46:2136.2) which created the Louisiana Protective Order Registry (LPOR) and named the Judicial Administrator's Office of the Louisiana Supreme Court as the entity responsible for the development and maintenance of this computerized database.

The LPOR officially launched in April 1999, when the database was completed and the initial version of the standardized forms was ready for release. Since that time, the registry has provided training seminars across the state to explain how the registry works, highlight relevant state and federal laws, and disseminate the standardized forms and interactive software. These seminars are designed for, but not limited to, judges, magistrates, commissioners, hearing officers, judicial administrators, clerks of court, other court personnel, prosecutors, probation and parole officers, law enforcement personnel, victim assistance providers, victim advocates, legal services providers, and attorneys.

LPOR is a statewide repository for court orders issued for the purpose of preventing harassing, threatening, or violent acts against a spouse, intimate cohabitant, dating partner, family or household member. In addition to developing and maintaining the database, the Judicial Administrator's Office is responsible for creating and disseminating standardized order forms, called Uniform Abuse Prevention Order forms. All courts are mandated to use these standardized forms.

Legislation passed in 2012 added orders of protection issued in criminal stalking cases, regardless of the relationship of the stalker to the victim, to the list of orders that courts must send to the Registry. In 2014, legislation passed that provided for victims of stalking to obtain civil orders of protection, issued on Uniform Abuse Prevention Order forms and sent to the Registry. In 2015, legislation passed that provided the same form of civil relief for victims of sexual assault by a stranger or acquaintance.

The Louisiana Victim Information and Notification Everyday (LA VINE), funded with VOCA funding, is an important initiative used as a resource. This program is proving to be instrumental to the collaborative efforts of the criminal justice system and service providers. LA VINE is an automated victim notification system that monitors the custody status of offenders in parish jails, state prisons and current court cases.

LA VINE focuses on disseminating custody information to all victims of crime. Two important features provided by LA VINE to victims are information and notification. The information is available to callers (victims) 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. LA VINE is available in over ninety (90) languages. The collaborative efforts of the criminal justice system and service providers focus on the dissemination of LA VINE information to the victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

**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))**

Louisiana's efforts to target the underserved populations are to utilize statewide collaboration to identify the underserved and provide services to them.

The identified underserved populations found were nonurban and rural victims of all types with special needs, such as ethnic or cultural differences or physical and mental disabilities. Services are being expanded for immigrant populations and single women. Another area of need involves women with children who are also identified as underserved because of the effects of domestic violence on children are known to be profound.

Within the field of victim services, there is always a need to continue training to increase sensitivity and awareness of the dynamics of domestic violence, particularly in rural, underserved populations. While it is evident that there has been substantial progress to increase victim services, there is always the risk of forgetting why the victim needs the services provided.

In the variety of care offered by various agencies, trainings are helpful to emphasize sensitivity and awareness to ensure that the safety of those served is an essential function. Law enforcement, the judicial system, prosecutors, healthcare providers and other victim service providers are focusing on who the underserved victims are, identifying their needs by consulting with each other and working collaboratively to provide protection and promote awareness of the existence of domestic and dating violence in the community.

Agencies are working diligently to provide safety measures and support to the victims through a variety of services. The judicial system provides advocacy and review hearings to enhance victims' safety. Various agencies work to provide 24-hour toll-free crisis or hotlines, emergency safe haven placements, crisis

intervention, transportation, individual and group empowerment-based counseling, transitional housing, non- residential programs, children's programs, and a host of other services provided for the safety and healing of battered women and their children.

Trained volunteers assist victims by providing transportation, accompanying women to court, assisting victims in their search for housing, and helping with any general duty necessary in their respective agencies. These trained volunteers assisted personnel in providing information to communities about domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking awareness, about the effects of domestic and dating violence on the family, and the services available through victim services agencies.

Programs provide safe housing to domestic violence victims in supervised, secure environments. This is done to ensure improvement in the victims' emotional and financial stability after leaving their abusers. During this time, the victims receive a wide range of services, such as crisis counseling, case management, individual and family assistance, assistance with job placements, and completing paperwork for Temporary Restraining Orders, Restraining Orders, and Protective Orders.

The State of Louisiana does not provide state or local funding to criminal justice agencies and victims services programs designated solely to provide services to victims. However, the LCLE does award federal monies from the Office for Victims of Crime, Crime Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program to many of the agencies currently receiving STOP Formula Grant Program funding.

The primary purpose of VOCA funding received from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is to support the provision of direct services to victims of crime. Funding priority is given to public or private (or a combination of both) agencies that provide direct services to victims of sexual assault, spouse and child abuse, and underserved populations.

The staff at each of the Districts or Councils and the LCLE VOCA Program Manager provide direct assistance to subgrant agencies and work diligently to ensure that these agencies utilize the funds to meet the intended goals and objectives of the VOCA Formula Grant Program. In addition, the staff at each of the District or Councils and LCLE VOCA Program Manager ensures that subgrant agencies have a full understanding of reporting requirements, maintain statistics and fiscal records, and submit the required reports to LCLE as scheduled.

Additional services are available to all victims of crime provided through the LCLE, such as the Crime Victim Reparations Board (CVR) and the Louisiana Victim Information and Notification Everyday (LA VINE). The LCLE coordinates with each subgrant agency asking for the name and contact information of the individual of the applicant agency who is charged with the responsibility of assisting victims in regard to accessing and using the LA VINE system as well as responsible for assisting victims in applying for services available through the CVR Program.

Awards available directly to sexual assault victims through the Office for Victims of Crime, Crime Victim Reparations (CVR) helps innocent victims and their families when they have no other means of paying for the financial cost of crime outside the services provided by the sexual assault centers. The fund is administered by the Crime Victim Reparations Board under the jurisdiction of the LCLE.

The LA VINE Program is an on-line resource that allows victims to search for information regarding an offender's current custody and case status. Victims may also register to be notified automatically when an offender is released, transferred, or escapes from a Parish facility or has a change in case status. The LA VINE service is provided to victims in an effort to help keep them safe and informed; however, victims are also advised to not depend solely on LA VINE for their



protection. Victims are also advised if they feel they may be at risk, to take precautions as if the offender has already been released, which is encouraged to be part of a victim's safety plan.

The LCLE VOCA Program Managers and STOP Program Manager work closely together in the Federal Programs Section of the LCLE. The agencies funded by VOCA and STOP are continually monitored to ensure there is no duplication in services and operating costs, provide technical assistance as needed, and help the agencies better coordinate their community responses to victims. Both the VOCA Program Manager and the STOP Program Manager are and will continue to be a part of the STOP Implementation Plan's planning process.

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

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

The state currently has no plans to implement the "Crystal Judson" purpose area. The STOP Program Manager will continue to engage law enforcement agencies within the state to pursue training in this purpose area.

## **VI. CONCLUSION**

The Plan will give priority to areas varying in geographic and population size showing the greatest need based on the identified needs of victims served and the availability of new and existing domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking programs while ensuring no area goes without service. The intended use of grant funds will be for new or continuation projects that build upon the resources of previous applications, expanding existing services and/or enhancing existing projects. Programs are usually funded for a one-year project period.

The LCLE is the federal cognizant agency for allocating the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program funds throughout the state. For the purposes of the STOP funds that the Commission administers, the state is divided into nine districts. There are eight law enforcement-planning districts and one district reserved for two statewide coalitions and state-level projects. The districts serve as the local point of contact for assessing local needs and soliciting projects throughout the state. This is in accordance with the guidelines established by the Victim Services Advisory Board and the Commission policies. Legal notices are run in local and regional newspapers announcing the availability of these monies each year.

Potential applicant agencies and/or programs are provided with appropriate application instructions, meeting dates, and times. The District Program Directors help local agencies in preparing applications and applicable documentation to submit to the LCLE via the web-based Egrants System. The STOP staff reviews the applications before presenting them to the Victim Services Advisory Board and Commission. The Commission membership either approves or denies the applications.

The success of grant-funded activities will be evaluated by using quarterly program reports that effectively track goals, objectives and outcomes of each recipient agency. An on-site monitoring visit will be conducted and a written report will be used to provide a thorough overview of grant-funded activities. The STOP Violence Against Women Annual Progress Report will provide a comprehensive and accurate measure of data collection.