



State of New Hampshire

STOP Violence Against Women Act Formula Grant Program FFY 2022 - 2026 Implementation Plan

**New Hampshire Department of Justice
Grants Management Unit
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I. INTRODUCTION

This implementation plan was developed by the New Hampshire Department of Justice (NH DOJ) and collaborative partners. The plan was approved by the NH DOJ on June 10, 2022 and submitted to the Office on Violence Against Women at the United States Department of Justice for final review, as required. This implementation plan extends from calendar year 2022 through 2026.

II. NEEDS AND CONTEXT

Demographic Information

According to the 2020 US Census, the State of New Hampshire experienced an approximate 3.3% increase in population and is now estimated to have a total population of 1,359,711. New Hampshire was documented as having a population of 1,316,462 ten years prior.¹

New Hampshire's population is 89.8% white. During the past decade, the state is moving in the direction of becoming more diverse. For example, the part of the state's population categorized as being "white alone, not Hispanic or Latino," decreased by approximately 13,820 people. Those that have identified as being Black and African American, Native American, Asian, Hispanic and Latino, and two or more races now accounts for 10.9% of the state's population.¹

Covering 1800 sq. miles, Coös County is the state's largest of the ten counties by area, with a population of 31,289 people. In comparison, Hillsborough County has a population of 424,079 residing in just 876 sq. miles, which includes Manchester, New Hampshire's largest

urban city, with 115,644 residents.¹

According to the NH Department of Health and Human Services, rates in particular demographics were found to have disparities in regard to the particular matters, such subjects would include, but not limited to: above average rates of those without health insurance of those from 18 years of age and older, high school diploma rates, overcrowding housing, those living below the poverty line, dating violence, and limited English Proficiency of those 5 years of age and older, in comparison to national averages.²

In 2020, the median age in the state was 42, 50.4% of the population was female, 8.9% were under the age of 65 and identified as disabled. In comparison to the national average, there does not appear to be any significant differences.³ According to the US Census, 7% of the state's population are persons in poverty. The World Population Review reported New Hampshire as being the state with the lowest percentage of its population in poverty and for having the seventh highest in medium income.^{1, 29}

From a different perspective, the University of New Hampshire Institute on Disability's 2019 Facts and Figures on disabilities in the state indicated that 12.6% of the state's population reported having a hearing disability. This accounts for 32.4% of the state's disability population. These rates indicate that in comparison to the national averages, New Hampshire's disability rate is approximately 4% higher than the national average.⁴

This evidence suggests that people with disabilities are three times more likely to be a victim of crime and are more likely to suffer from abuse for longer durations in comparison to

¹ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/cooscountynh,nashuacitynh,manchestercitynh,hillsboroughcountynh,NH/PST045221>

² <https://wisdom.dhhs.nh.gov/wisdom/>

³ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US,NH/PST045221>

⁴ <https://iod.unh.edu/facts-and-figures/>

²⁹ <https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/poverty-rate-by-state>

other victims.⁵ Reasons may include that they are easier to isolate, especially if the disability is communication related, like being deaf. Very few people with disabilities will seek help from police after they have been victimized, and when they do, they can be often mislabeled and believed to be drunk or mentally ill. Moreover, a deaf person's body language can be misread by police officers and perceived to be aggressive, increasing the probability that incidences involving people with hearing disabilities to be misinterpreted and mismanaged.⁶

Description of methods used to identify underserved population within the State and results

Methods used to identify underserved populations included information gathered from collaborative partners, direct service staff, first responders, sub-grantee applications, annual reports, news media, government databases, and 2020 census information.

The NH DOJ and its collaborative partners are consistently making outreach efforts to underserved communities. Efforts include meeting with culturally specific organizations, members of religious organizations, attending public forums, and the use of a statewide victim and stakeholder survey.² The cumulative information gathered assisted in the development of this implementation plan.

III. Description of Planning Process

Planning Process

New Hampshire's 2022-2026 State Implementation Plan was developed with input from the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office Crime Victims Fund Steering Committee (Steering

⁵ <https://iod.unh.edu/facts-and-figures/>

⁶ <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/jr000257.pdf>

Committee) with the goal of enhancing New Hampshire's response to crime victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. Since 2019, the Steering Committee met quarterly in-person, telephonically, or through video conferencing.

The mission of the Steering Committee is to optimize New Hampshire's response to crime victims by coordinating funding directed to victim services and system responses. The Steering Committee accomplishes this through collaboration with state agency fund administrators, public officials, victim service providers, and representatives of underserved populations. While the Steering Committee's primary goal is not the Implementation Plan, the group is made up of the same stakeholders that would be best suited to provide input to the Implementation Plan. This makes the Steering Committee the logical starting point to discuss and build New Hampshire's plan.

The objective of the Steering Committee is to align victims' needs with identified funding streams, including but are not limited to, the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP), the Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA), the Rape Prevention and Education Act (RPE), the Children's Justice Act (CJA), and state funding.

The STOP VAWA Implementation Plan development process started with a review of the prior approved implementation plan. Steering Committee meetings included discussions on:

- New Hampshire Crime Victim and Stakeholder Needs Assessment;⁷
- Requirements, goals, and objectives of the STOP VAWA Implementation Plan;
- Context on variety of sources of federal funds with the objective to support victims of crime (Examples, VOCA, RPE & FVPSA);

⁷ <https://www.doj.nh.gov/grants-management/index.htm>

- Dynamics of the LGBTQ+ community;
- Dynamics of victimization;
- Underserved populations;
- Culturally Specific populations; and
- Institutional and societal barriers affecting the state's outreach and response efforts to victims of crime.

The Steering Committee completed a review of the STOP VAWA Implementation Plan's goals and objectives, and upon conclusion of the fact-finding stage, confirmed their recommendations.

A preliminary draft of the STOP VAWA Implementation Plan was presented to the Steering Committee for provide feedback on June 2, 2022 at the quarterly meeting. The members discussed the overall strategy of the Implementation Plan and made suggestions on how to make the Implementation Plan more representative of New Hampshire's priorities. Many of the suggestions were incorporated into the final plan.

Participants of the STOP VAWA Planning Committee

Partners that contributed in the STOP VAWA Implementation Planning process included executives or members of the following:

- State Sexual Assault Coalition (N/A)
- State Domestic Violence Coalition (N/A)
- Dual Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalition
 - *New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (NHCADSV)*
- Law Enforcement

- *Strafford County Attorney's Office (Chief Investigator)*
 - *New Hampshire State Police*
- Prosecution Entity
 - *Manchester City Solicitor's Office*
 - *Strafford County Attorney's Office*
- A court or the State Administrative Office of the Courts
 - *New Hampshire Judicial Branch Administrative Office*
- Representatives from tribes, tribal organizations, or tribal coalitions (N/A)
 - *The state of New Hampshire does not have state or federally recognized tribes. However, an affiliate member of the New Hampshire Commission of Native American Affairs has been included as a member of the Steering Committee.*
- Population Specific organizations representing the most significant underserved populations and culturally specific populations in the state
 - *Seacoast Outright*
- Victim Service Providers
 - *Granite State Children's Alliance*
 - *New Hampshire Legal Assistance*
 - *Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)*
 - *New Hampshire Department of Justice's Office of Victim Witness Assistance*
- Other
 - *American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)*
 - *Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Administrators*
 - *Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) Grant Administrator*
 - *Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA) Grant Administrator*
 - *Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) Grant Administrator*

Consultations with other collaborative partners not included in the planning committee:

Culturally Specific

Starting in the fall of 2021, New Hampshire identified and awarded grant funding to two

culturally specific organizations that provide victim services. Due to the timing of these awards, neither of these Culturally Specific organizations were able to participate as members of the Steering Committee. However, one organization (Victory Women of Vision) was able to present to the Steering Committee as part of the STOP VAWA Implementation Plan. A future objective is to invite culturally specific organizations to be a participant of the Steering Committee in the fall of 2022.

Victim of Stalking

In December of 2019, a victim of stalking shared her experiences navigating the criminal justice system to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee received a list of recommendations from the victim's perspective on how to enhance the response to stalking incidents by the criminal justice system. Those recommendations included increasing the availability of resources and training for prosecutors and judges on the dynamics of stalking, amending the state statute to increase offender accountability for stalking crimes, the need for swifter dispositions of stalking cases, more utilization of electronic monitoring devices, and meaningful collaboration with stalking victims throughout the criminal justice system.

Deaf and Culturally Deaf

In March of 2021, the Steering Committee heard from an attorney that is a legal advocate, who specializes in representing the deaf and the culturally deaf. He highlighted the complications that the deaf and culturally deaf have in the criminal justice system.

It was found that deaf victims have additional unique experiences of victimization, that in many aspects, are different from those of the hearing population. From accessibility and awareness of victim related services, levels of isolation, extended periods of time of abuse, and complications in effectively and accurately communicating with our partnering institutions, to include victims

witness coordinators, legal advocacy, law enforcement, prosecutorial entities, and within the judicial branch. This can pose formidable challenges in the processes of serving this underserved population on every level of the criminal justice system, to include victim supports services programs in the state's communities.

For example, in the State of New Hampshire, courts are required, in some circumstances, to attain a minimum of three deaf interpreters to be able to proceed with criminal proceedings if the victim, defendant, and or witnesses of the case are identified to having a hearing impairment. However, it was found that at the time of consultation from a legal advocate for the deaf in early 2021, there were only two legal certified interpreters residing in the state. For judicial proceedings to move forward in criminal cases, the State of New Hampshire was reliant on the support from legal deaf interpreters from surrounding states. This can cause delay in criminal proceedings for months, which can jeopardize a victim's safety.

In addition, the NH Department of Justice's Grants Management Unit ensures that all of their subrecipients have written LEP procedures and reviews them during monitorings to ensure they are accessible to employees, that instructions are clear and easy to follow, and are consistent with LEP special conditions.

Recommendations from the legal advocate for the deaf included allocating funding for training and increasing the number of legally certified interpreters; add ASL (American Sign Language) videos to all websites focused on providing services to victims; Videophone or other non-verbal or written access to victim hotlines; and provide education for all those who encounter deaf and culturally deaf victims.

As a result, with VOCA and VAWA training funding, the NH DOJ was able to train over a dozen deaf interpreters to improve the state's efficiency and effectiveness in supporting deaf victims of crime, to include increasing the knowledge of how to interpret terminology and

processes only seen in the criminal justice system. In addition, The NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence have also included initiatives to improve accessibility of vital information to deaf victims both internally and through collaborative community partners' statewide.

A Summary of Major Concerns Raised During the Planning Process:

The following concerns will be addressed in the state's goals and objectives and for future planning and initiatives.

In 2019, the NH DOJ conducted two needs assessment surveys (Victims & Stakeholders) that were distributed by the NH DOJ and its partnering agencies. Respondents to the survey included representatives from the Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services, law enforcement, prosecution, victim service agencies, the Division of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), educators, private sector attorneys, and victims of crime. Responses from the surveys mirrored the major concerns addressed by the Steering Committee and are addressed in this plan.

A.) The top three priorities identified in the New Hampshire Crime Victim and Stakeholder Needs Assessment:⁸

- *Housing*
- *Mental Health Services*
- *Accessibility to Legal Services*

B.) Other identified concerns from Steering Committee meetings included:

- *Victim transportation to services and/or judicial proceedings.*
- *Translation services for victims that are deaf in legal settings.*

⁸ <https://www.doj.nh.gov/grants-management/index.htm>

- *Outreach to underserved/unserved populations.*
- *Retention of victim services providers statewide.*
- *More comprehensive training for prosecutors and judges on stalking technology.*
- *Law enforcement's capacity to investigate complaints of stalking that include the use of technology as a component of the crime.*
- *The negative implications from COVID-19.*
- *The need for a comprehensive assessment of the state's proficiency in serving child/youth victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.*

A description of how the state coordinated this plan with the State plan for the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act and the programs under the Victims of Crime Act.

The NH DOJ, including the administrator of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), met with representatives of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), and Rape Prevention Education Act (RPE). Areas of concern discussed during meetings included violence prevention, public awareness, gun safety, trauma centered services, and human trafficking. The administrators of each of these grants also serve as members of the Steering Committee and had significant input into the plan.

-DOCUMENTATION FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS AS TO THEIR PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING PROCESS (See Appendix A.)

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

-ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION HAS BEEN OBTAINED AND IS INCLUDED AS APPENDIX B.

V. **PLAN FOR THE FOUR-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD**

The 2022-2026 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan's goals and objectives remains committed to continuing support for current core providers. Agencies currently providing services include law enforcement, prosecution, courts, legal services, and direct victim service providers. Each work together to ensure victims receive necessary support and resources.

Over the last three years, New Hampshire has increased outreach to underserved victims, to include those who are financially disadvantaged, elderly, mentally and physically ill, and socially and geographically isolated.

New Hampshire has increased partner collaborations to identify growing trends in domestic and sexual violence. As a result, additional training needs have been identified, Sexual Assault Resource Teams (SART) have been established across the state, and the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program has continued to stay current with best-practices, current technology, and treatments.

The NH DOJ upgraded its sexual assault forensic examination kits and updated *A Model Protocol for Response to Adult Sexual Assault Cases* to reflect current best practice in regards to evidence collection and patient treatment.⁹ In addition, in partnership with collaborating agencies. New Hampshire has increased sensitivity awareness for media around sexual assault victimization.

The primary focus of the STOP Formula Grant Program is to support communities in their efforts to develop and strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to reduce violent crimes against women and to develop and strengthen victim services in cases involving sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. All funded projects adhere to the

⁹ <https://www.doj.nh.gov/criminal/victim-assistance/protocols.htm>

most recent Code of Federal Regulations 28 CFR 90: The Conforming STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program Regulation to Statutory Change; Definitions and Confidentiality Requirements Applicable to All OVW Grant Programs.¹⁰

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The STOP VAWA Implementation Plan process provides collaboration and appreciation for the important work being accomplished, while facing the task of meeting victim needs with limited resources. Based on the planning process, the following goals and objectives listed below will be supported with STOP VAWA funding;

GOAL: Continue to support domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence subgrantee programs that are successfully established in the state.

OBJECTIVE: Provide support and services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence through continued funding of successful subgrantee programs.

GOAL: Increase awareness and training on victim centered and trauma informed best practices for professionals working with victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

OBJECTIVE: Increase awareness of, and access to, language translation services by building the capacity of collaborating partners.

OBJECTIVE: Provide training to judges on issues related to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

¹⁰ <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/11/29/2016-28437/conforming-stop-violence-against-women-formula-grant-program-regulations-to-statutory-change>

OBJECTIVE: Provide multidisciplinary trainings to collaborative partners through conferences, webinars, and other platforms.

OBJECTIVE: Develop, distribute, and create an awareness regarding statewide best practice protocols for the handling of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

OBJECTIVE: Enhance offender accountability by exploring and assessing available resources.

GOAL: Develop an understanding of how the state identifies and provides services for child and youth victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

OBJECTIVE: Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the state's ability to serve child and youth victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

GOAL: Increase professionals' awareness of those working with LGBTQ+ victims who experience sexual and domestic violence to respond in a culturally sensitive and trauma informed manner.

OBJECTIVE: Partner and collaborate with organizations that provide specialized resources to the LGBTQ+ community to identify resources, training opportunities, and best practices to share with professionals serving LGBTQ+ victims.

GOAL: Expand capacity and increase access for civil legal services for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

OBJECTIVE: Working with collaborating agencies, to include New Hampshire Legal Assistance and 603 Legal Aid, by identifying needs and resources.

GOAL: Improve collaborations with Culturally Specific organizations in the STOP VAWA Program.

OBJECTIVE: Continue to support Culturally Specific Organization providing services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence.

OBJECTIVE: Continue funding Culturally Specific Organizations that provide services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence.

Description of how STOP VAWA funding will be used to meet the state's Goals

As the State Administrating Agency (SAA) for the STOP VAWA, VOCA Victim Assistance and SASP Formula awards, the NH DOJ adheres to the federal purposes areas, guidelines and/or regulations for these federal awards. The NH DOJ is confident that the state's STOP VAWA programming is consistent with the Office of Violence Against Women's priority areas in support of victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Efforts include working towards advancing racial equity, increase access to justice for survivors, prevention, economic justice, outreach, victim services, and the underserved communities of the LGBTQ+ and BIPOC communities.

STOP VAWA is a crucial component of New Hampshire's overall victim services strategy and funds only a portion of New Hampshire's victim-centered, trauma informed programs. STOP VAWA funding is essential to the success of nineteen subrecipient agencies and three NH DOJ initiatives comprised of law enforcement, prosecution, courts, legal services, and direct service providers.

STOP VAWA funding is essential to the NH DOJ efforts to the training, coordination, and sustainability of statewide resources for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. The emphasis of New Hampshire's 2022-2026 Implementation Plan is to maintain essential core programs with demonstrated success of meeting victim needs in the state.

New Hampshire will continue to administer STOP VAWA along with other grant programs to support services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds enable victim service providers with a broader ability to

serve not only victims of domestic and sexual violence but is inclusive of all victims of crime.

Byrne JAG provides assistance to law enforcement and prosecution. The Rape Prevention Education (RPE) Program provides education and prevention funding, while the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) assists New Hampshire with funding domestic violence collaboration within DCYF between NHCADSV.

Working together, the above-mentioned grants ensure funding is leveraged to enhance programs and maximize services. These programs are a significant part of New Hampshire's overall efforts to serve victims, including expanding services to underserved and culturally diverse populations.

The State of New Hampshire will use VAWA STOP funds to meet the state's goals by maintaining subgrant funding to its core providers. The core providers meet the needs of victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking throughout New Hampshire. New Hampshire is a small state in both population and area, which means that there are a limited number of organizations that meet the resource needs for victims. The subrecipients of VAWA STOP funds have long records of successful initiatives that help all victims. New Hampshire's VAWA STOP allocations have remained very consistent over the last several years, the State has decided to maintain these core providers to ensure continuity of services across all disciplines that work with victims.

Law Enforcement (25%):

VAWA STOP funding supports the Nashua, Manchester, Franklin and Portsmouth Police Departments. This funding is used by these departments to employ victim witness advocates and specialized investigators. These investigators focus on domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence crimes. These positions work closely with local crisis centers and prosecutors.

The VAWA STOP funding allows the investigators and advocates to focus on providing support for victims throughout the entire investigative process; from the initial report to the final disposition of the case. Police departments acknowledge the value of continued contact with victims. This continued contact and support can result in greater victim participation in the criminal justice process, which leads to an increase in prosecution and offender accountability.

Prosecution (25%):

VAWA STOP funding supports the counties of Grafton, Merrimack, Strafford, Coös, and Cheshire, as well as the City of Manchester, Salem Police Department and the NH DOJ Office of Victim/Witness Assistance. VAWA STOP funds victim advocates and prosecution positions, as well as providing technical support and training for stakeholders statewide. Advocates provide direct support victims, prepare witnesses for trial, and train law enforcement in best practices. VAWA STOP funds a NH DOJ Program Specialist, who coordinates the development and implementation of policies, protocols, and training programs involving domestic and sexual violence. Additionally, funding from VAWA STOP supports the Office of Victim/Witness Assistance by using funds to print protocols such as *A Model Protocol for Law Enforcement Responses to Domestic Violence Cases*, the implementation of LAP, and covering contractual services costs for the annual NH DOJ Attorney General's *Partnering for a Future Without Violence* conference.^{11,12}

Victim Services (30%):

VAWA STOP supports various direct victim service providers, including the NHCADSV, Bridges Inc. crisis center, YWCA New Hampshire crisis center, New Hampshire Legal Assistance, 603 Legal Aid, culturally specific victim services with Victory Women of Vision and the

¹¹ <https://www.doj.nh.gov/criminal/victim-assistance/protocols.htm>

¹² <https://www.doj.nh.gov/criminal/victim-assistance/events.htm>

Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Services (ORIS), and the NH DOJ Victim Compensation Unit.

Services supported with STOP VAWA funds include victim advocates, culturally specific advocacy, outreach, education, training, legal aid for financially disadvantaged victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, and forensic sexual assault examinations. These victim service providers have a proven record of accomplishment and provide quality, compassionate care to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking across the state. New Hampshire's core service providers have a history of strong collaboration with law enforcement, prosecution, and the courts. This has resulted in increasing awareness of the programs and services offered by providers throughout the state. This awareness has increased the number of victims seeking assistance. Victim service providers strive to empower victims to break the cycle of violence and educate the public to prevent domestic and sexual assault so that they can begin their healing process.

Legal Services (Victim Services):

According to a report from the *Washington Law Review* in 2019, *Access to Safety and Justice: Service of Process in Domestic Violence Cases*, it was found that approximately 40% of all petitioners for civil protection orders against their abusers are successful in obtaining such protection in the United States. This is concerning due to the fact that civil protection orders are the most utilized remedy used by abuse survivors and are the most effective legal remedy available to decrease or eliminate domestic violence. Moreover, protection orders “appear to be one of the few widely available interventions for victims of intimate partner violence that has demonstrated effectiveness.” Although incidences of domestic violence can be experienced by anyone, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, economic, sexual, or gender identity; financially disadvantaged women of color and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals experience

the highest rates of severe domestic violence.¹³

With legal counsel being recognized as being a central importance to achieving safety and justice, and with those that are of low-income status often being presented with the challenge to afford counsel for legal matters, such as petitioning for protection orders, the State of New Hampshire has included, and will continue to, support legal services programming with the support of STOP VAWA funding. STOP VAWA funds currently supports two legal services programs, New Hampshire Legal Assistance and 603 Legal Aid.

New Hampshire Legal Assistance's "Domestic Violence Advocacy Project ("DVAP") provides accessible, comprehensive civil legal services for financially disadvantaged victims throughout New Hampshire. NHLA attorneys use STOP grant funds to represent victims/survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in high-lethality, intimate partner violence protective order cases. High lethality refers to the increased likelihood that the victim will be killed or seriously harmed by their partner. NHLA also represents elder abuse victims in their non-intimate partner violence protective order cases.

The NHLA has been a recipient of STOP VAWA funding since 1998 and have been essential to obtaining numerous successful protection orders and other legal services for their clients that have experienced sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. New Hampshire Legal Assistance offices are located in the cities of Berlin, Claremont, Concord, Manchester, and Portsmouth. The DVAP program has been able to expand their services statewide. The DVAP program regularly supports victims of domestic violence by training and being a source of technical support for victim advocates with other partnering stakeholders

¹³ Stoever, J. K. (2019) Access to Safety and Justice: Service of Process in Domestic Violence Cases. *Washington Law Review*. Pg. 335-357

dedicated to protecting victims.¹⁴

603 Legal Aid has recruited and trained volunteer attorneys to represent financially disadvantaged victims of domestic violence for the last four decades through the DOVE Project. The services provided by the DOVE Project are similar to the NH Legal Assistance's DVAP program, however, the use of STOP VAWA funds are utilized differently.

NH Legal Assistance uses STOP VAWA funding to supplement with other sources of funding to assist victims. 603 Legal Aid uses their STOP VAWA funds to effectively train volunteer attorneys to be properly prepared to represent victims of domestic violence and to include connecting and coordinating available volunteer attorneys with eligible financially disadvantaged victims of domestic violence referred to their organization by community partners.¹⁵

Culturally Specific (10% of 30% Victim Services):

In 2021, the NH Department of Justice recently entered into grant agreements with two culturally specific organizations as defined in Title 42 U.S.C. 300u-6(g).¹⁶ The Victory Women of Vision and the Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Services ("ORIS") are both located in the City of Manchester and their programs are both designed to support New Americans.

The ORIS program is designed to respond to New Americans of domestic violence and sexual assault and their families with culturally and linguistically specific services. Objectives include connecting with approximately 40 clients/victims and their families with culturally and linguistically specific services, while creating a supportive environment to reach clients who may have been afraid of contacting traditional domestic and sexual violence support services because

¹⁴ <https://www.nhla.org/>

¹⁵ <https://www.603legalaid.org/>

¹⁶ [https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=\(title:42%20section:300u-6%20edition:prelim\)](https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=(title:42%20section:300u-6%20edition:prelim))

of their cultural differences. The program is comprised of a program manager and victim advocates to properly deliver such services.¹⁷

The Victory Women of Vision organization is located in Manchester, NH, which has the largest diverse population in the state. It is designed to support New Americans who have experienced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Their current clients include those from Central and Northern African countries of Burundi, Congo (“DRC”), Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan. They have recently acquired a bilingual victim advocate to support immigrants and refugees from Central American countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic. Victory Women of Vision has identified a lack of culturally specific victim services due to linguistic and cultural barriers among their community and the institutions that traditionally provide such services.

Victory Women of Vision’s STOP VAWA funding will be used to support their “Building New Lives” project to support direct services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. Moreover, Victory Women of Vision will include case management, including long-term management to assist victims become financially independent and secure. They will collaborate with YWCA New Hampshire to supplement their outreach efforts and will make referrals for their services to ensure the clients are being offered opportunities for shelter, healthcare, mental health, financial support, and other practical needs, to name a few.¹⁸

Courts (5%):

VAWA STOP funding partially supports the Domestic Violence Program Manager position (DVPM). The DVPM has many roles and responsibilities concerning domestic violence, dating

¹⁷ <https://www.refugeesuccess.org/who-we-are/our-mission-history/>

¹⁸ <https://manchesterinklink.com/victory-women-of-vision-bridging-educational-social-gaps-for-immigrant-and-refugees-in-manchester/>

violence and stalking matters within the court system. This includes supervising the Protection Order Registry, serving as an internal expert in domestic violence and stalking related practices and procedures, facilitating and leading domestic violence and stalking related training, and liaising with external stakeholders on related issues.

The DVPM manages all aspects of the New Hampshire Protection Order Registry.¹⁹ The goal of the New Hampshire protection order system is to enhance the safety of the individuals protected by court issued protection orders. Protection Order Registry staff are responsible for entering protection order data for qualifying orders into the national database, the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), and staff are responsible for storing the orders into a special server called Right Fax which allows law enforcement to gain access to the actual protection order documents around the clock. This work is critically important for the protection of survivors. In 2021, VAWA STOP funds were used to purchase a new server to maintain this important service.

The New Hampshire Judicial Branch places a high value on training staff and judges in all matters pertaining to domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking including both the law and the dynamics involved in these serious cases. To this end, the DVPM coordinates educational training for both new and experienced judges and staff. This includes identifying national training opportunities and educational resources. STOP funds are regularly used to purchase memberships to the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) for Circuit Court judges; these memberships are intended to expand the capacity of judicial officers to make consistent, trauma-informed decisions in cases involving domestic violence, dating violence and stalking and allow them access to current best practices. Finally, the DVPM serves as a resource for judges on these matters.

¹⁹ <https://www.courts.nh.gov/self-help/restraining-orders#Domestic-Violence-Order-of-Protection>

Discretionary (5%)

Discretionary funding is not an allocation that the NH Department of Justice utilizes for this purpose regularly. In most grant cycles, the 5% discretionary is often distributed throughout the other required allocation categories. With that said, when the NH Department of Justice was presented with the context and issues surrounding the lack of available justice/legal ASL interpreters statewide, a portion of VAWA grant's discretionary funds were used to supplement VOCA Training funding to improve the accessibility of properly trained ASL interpreters on the subject of victim services, investigations, and prosecution of cases of sexual assaults, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

Information on how the State plans to meet the sexual assault set asideSexual Assault Set-aside (20% of Total Project):

The allocation of VAWA STOP funding provided by the State of New Hampshire matches the mandated allocation percentages set forth by OVW. NH DOJ reviews the sexual assault set aside each year to ensure that the state is meeting the required percentage from two or more purpose areas. The allocation of the sexual assault set aside is budgeted accordingly during the subgranting process to include the appropriate set aside percentage and is monitored to ensure that distribution requirements are being met. The following paragraphs describe the programs that allow New Hampshire to meet the sexual assault set-aside:

NH Department of Justice's Victim Compensation Program.²⁰

The NH DOJ Victim Compensation Program uses 100% of the STOP VAWA funds

²⁰ <https://www.doj.nh.gov/grants-management/victims-compensation-program/index.htm>

obligated for victims of sexual assault. STOP VAWA funds have enabled the Victim Compensation Program to assist in sexual assault examinations, treatment, evidence, collection, medications, and lab work.

Sexual Assault Resource Team Coordinator²¹

SART teams have been established across 9 out of 10 counties in the state. The NH DOJ updated the sexual assault forensic examination kits and the *A Model Protocol for Response to Adult Sexual Assault Cases* to reflect current best practice in regards to evidence collection and patient treatment. Moreover, in partnership with collaborating partners New Hampshire has increased sensitivity awareness for media around sexual assault victimization.

STOP VAWA funding is essential to the state's efforts to responding to incidences of sexual assault. Due to STOP VAWA funding, the SART Coordinator is able to participate in numerous meetings to consult and provide technical assistance for agencies and community organizations statewide. The SART Coordinator meets regularly with the 12 county-based SARTs and plays an integral part in their sustainability and effectiveness. The SARTs continue to address local challenges by responding to cases of sexual violence as they improve their response to victims. Due to the SART Coordinator's efforts, SARTs statewide remain important resources and continue to improve. 100% of STOP VAWA funding that support the SART Coordinator contributes to the state's required sexual assault allocation.

College Consortium Coordinator²²

The release of the Title IX regulations and NH Statute RSA 188-H, created an increased

²¹ <https://www.doj.nh.gov/criminal/victim-assistance/sart.htm>

²² <https://www.doj.nh.gov/criminal/victim-assistance/consortium.htm>

need for technical assistance that continued through 2021 as campuses and community organizations worked through the implementation process required by these laws.²³

This resulted in the College Consortium Coordinator convening, facilitating, or participating in numerous collaboration meetings. The majority of the College Consortium Coordinator's meetings are held in relation to the RSA 188-H Task Force, its working groups, and select members.

The College Consortium Coordinator has frequent consultations with higher education and advocacy professionals on topics related to Title IX, RSA 188-H, campus response to sexual assault, and how campuses can increase collaboration with off-campus partners. 100% of STOP VAWA funding that supports the College Consortium Coordinator contributes to the state's required sexual assault allocation.

NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence²⁴

The NHCADSV is the largest recipient of STOP VAWA programming and the only recognized state coalition for both domestic and sexual violence within the state. The NHCADSV estimates that over 50% of the time spent by the organization on STOP VAWA is devoted to supporting victims. Utilizing training and consulting with partnering agencies and communities, the organization focuses on enhancing responses of sexual assault statewide.

Funding from VAWA-STOP has enabled the NHCADSV to effectively respond to the rapid and fluctuating needs of its member programs and survivors. For example, upon the introduction of COVID-19, the NHCADSV was central to finding solutions to the lack of access to medical facilities and other services for victims across the state. The functions and activities from the

²³ <https://law.justia.com/codes/new-hampshire/2021/title-xv/title-188-h/section-188-h-8/>

²⁴ <https://www.nhcadsv.org/>

NHCADSV for supporting victims of sexual assault are extensive.

Goals and objectives for reducing domestic violence related homicides

New Hampshire's rate of domestic violence related homicide mirrors that of the national average. Data gathered by the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office and presented in the New Hampshire Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee Biennial Report (2018-2019), reports that between 2009-2019 there were 170 homicides of which 87 (51%) were attributed to domestic violence. More detailed data for the reporting period (2018-2019) showed that 21 people in New Hampshire were victims of domestic violence homicides, representing 45% of all the homicides in the state. Of the ten New Hampshire counties, Hillsborough County had the highest number of domestic violence homicides with six total. 86% of domestic homicide victims in New Hampshire were women and 95% of the perpetrators were male. All of the homicide victims who were killed by their partner were female. In domestic violence homicide cases where the murder was committed by a family member and not an intimate partner, 33% of those victims were male.²⁵ New Hampshire utilizes two initiatives to focus on reducing domestic violence homicides, the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee (DVFRC) and the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP). Goals and objectives identified for reducing domestic violence related homicides in New Hampshire are as follows:

GOAL: Reduce domestic violence-related fatalities through the creation and implementation of recommendations that impact policy, training, and public awareness of domestic violence issues.

OBJECTIVE: The DVFRC reviews specific domestic violence homicides to obtain a better understanding of risk factors that were present and the effectiveness of interventions

²⁵ <https://www.doj.nh.gov/criminal/victim-assistance/documents/domestic-violence-report-2019.pdf>

provided in these incidents. Equipped with this knowledge, the committee is then able to identify gaps in the systems' response to domestic violence and make recommendations to address those gaps. It is the intent that the recommendations will improve responses to domestic violence incidents and therefore, prevent future domestic violence homicides.

The recommendations are provided to the appropriate stakeholder for consideration and implementation. The DVFRC will continue to regularly review cases, generate recommendations and monitor the implementation of previous recommendations. The committee will issue its findings and responses provided by stakeholders. The committee will provide statistical information from various entities to improve the understanding of the context of these homicides and to promote the optimal allocation of resources to help prevent homicides.

GOAL: Decrease domestic violence-related fatalities by connecting more victims with crisis center support services including shelters, counseling services, and advocacy services; which has been shown to prevent domestic violence related homicides.

OBJECTIVE: The Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) is an innovative, multi-pronged strategy to prevent domestic violence homicides and is recognized as an evidence-based intimate partner homicide prevention model honored as a promising practice by the US Department of Justice.²⁶ The LAP includes a short screening tool designed to identify domestic violence victims who may be at the greatest risk of homicide or serious injury and to immediately connect them with crisis center interventions. Additionally, the results of the LAP screening can be utilized in criminal proceedings, including bail hearings, which can increase offender accountability. In 2009, the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office adopted LAP as a best practice response to domestic violence. A LAP Steering Committee was established in 2014. The LAP Steering Committee will continue to meet and discuss the barriers and challenges to the implementation

²⁶ <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/247456.pdf>

and use of LAP throughout the state. The LAP Steering Committee will collaborate with law enforcement and crisis centers to develop strategies, provide training, and technical assistance to address those barriers.

Addressing the Needs of Underserved Victims

LGBTQ+ Community

According to the Movement Advancement Project (MAP), New Hampshire's LGBTQ+ community comprises approximately 4.4% of the state's population.²⁷ It is known that the LGBTQ+ community have a dramatically higher rate of victimization than other demographics. In addition, intersections of sexual orientation, gender identity, and race may amplify these risks. Studies in the past decade have indicated that people in the LGBTQ+ community that identify as lesbian, male-to-female transgender, and African American have been found to be at the highest risk of victimization in comparison to other identities within the LGBTQ+ Community.^{28,29}

The state's efforts to support members of the LGBTQ+ community included the addition of the Executive Director of the Seacoast Outright as a member of the Steering Committee, which included the STOP VAWA Implementation Plan process.

Seacoast Outright was established in 1993 and is based out of Portsmouth, NH. The organization specializes in supporting LGBTQ+ youth and their families in a variety of matters. The organization offers diversity, equity, and inclusion training for community organizations, schools, and businesses. Seacoast Outright's involvement in the STOP VAWA Implementation Plan has been remarkable and essential in efforts to addressing victimization of the LGBTQ+

²⁷ https://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/profile_state/NH

²⁸ Langenderfer-Magruder, L., Walls, N. E., Whitfield, D. L., Brown, S. M. & Barrett, C. M (2016) Partner Violence Victimization Among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Youth: Associations Among Risk Factors. *Child Adolescence Social Work Journal*.

²⁹ Dank, M., Lachman, P., Zweig, J. M., Yahner, J. (2014) Dating Violence Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*.

community.³⁰

The Executive Director of Seacoast Outright presented to the Steering Committee about recognizing the complexities of the LGBTQ+ community. This information guided discussions in the group and contributed additional content for the Implementation Plan.

Culturally Specific Organizations

Obtaining two culturally specific organizations for victim services for the state's STOP VAWA Program was a notable achievement. There is still extensive work to be done to establish a secure foundation for newly funded culturally specific subgrantees. The lack of known culturally specific organizations in the state, and the limited potential to connect with victims of underserved populations, the NH DOJ is prepared to provide a substantial degree of technical support to ensure success in providing effective direct victim services.

It is estimated, that of all of the STOP VAWA grants awarded by NH DOJ, which is done annually, distribution of funding to contracted culturally specific organizations will account for 35% of all the funding allocated to community-based victim services, which is an approximate 10% of any STOP VAWA grant awarded by OVW. Given the location of the current culturally specific organizations programs, Manchester, which has been found to have the highest minority population in the state, it would be ideal to retain the programs as core services and for purposes of equitable distribution. Meaning, STOP VAWA funding will be continued, contingent that funding remains available and if populations of underserved continue to remain higher in Manchester in comparison to other locations.

³⁰ <https://www.seacoastoutright.org/>

Grant-making Strategy**Timeline*****September/October***

- Receive and accept the 2022 STOP VAWA award from OVW.
- Conduct desk and site monitoring with current subgrantee programs.
- Quarterly New Hampshire Attorney General's Office Victims of Crime Fund Steering Committee Meeting.

November/December

- Release of the STOP VAWA application on the NH DOJ website.
- All applications received and reviewed; programs to receive awards determined.
- Programs recommended for funding are forwarded to the NH Attorney General for final approval.
- Approved programs are sent to the Governor and Executive Council for authorization and approval of grant agreements.
- Quarterly New Hampshire Attorney General's Office Victims of Crime Fund Steering Committee Meeting.

January/March

- Awards are made to selected programs for a period of one year from January 1 through December 31.
- Technical assistance and training are provided to new and existing subgrantees.
- Complete and submit applications for the next fiscal year's federal program funding including formula and discretionary applications.
- Complete and submit annual progress reports, close out reports if necessary.
- Review STOP VAWA subgrantees' progress in achieving goals and objectives.
- Complete annual risk assessments and develop a financial/programmatic monitoring schedule.

- Quarterly New Hampshire Attorney General's Office Victims of Crime Fund Steering Committee Meeting.

April/August

- Continue to conduct desk and site monitorings for awarded programs.
- Assist subgrantees with technical training or assistance requested.
- Seek out additional funding sources for program and/or service expansions.
- Quarterly New Hampshire Attorney General's Office Victims of Crime Fund Steering Committee Meeting.

STOP VAWA subgrants are awarded annually, based on the calendar year. New Hampshire requires each subgrantee to provide a *Certificate of Collaboration* as part of the application process. The *Certificate of Collaboration* must contain a description of who the agency will consult with, as well as how the collaboration between each agency will be supportive of their grant application. The form must be signed by both the applying agency and their collaborating partner. As a result, many subgrantees have formed strong alliances with each other. This ensures that the proposed services and activities are designed to promote the safety, confidentiality, and economic independence of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

During the course of business, the NH DOJ will reach out to new providers or agencies to introduce the unit and discuss the potential for new partnerships and collaborations in an effort to stay up to date to the changing needs of the community.

New Hampshire has a high level of cooperation and collaboration throughout the state, providing the opportunity to create quality programs with state and federal funding sources. Some examples of multidisciplinary collaboration that the state has helped to fund include:

- New Hampshire’s Sexual Assault Resource Teams (SART). Currently, SARTs are in 9 of the 10 New Hampshire Counties. The NH DOJ SART Coordinator will continue to work with stakeholders in each county to ensure that teams are current with relevant evidence-based practices.
- SANE training will focus on the when, where, and how county attorneys should utilize expert medical testimony during the prosecution of a sexual assault case to increase offender accountability. The NH DOJ leverages STOP VAWA funding to sustain and enhance the SANE program statewide.
- The New Hampshire Attorney General’s *Partnering For a Future Without Violence* annual conference, which offers training to various agencies, professionals, and systems involved in the handling of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking cases.
- The New Hampshire Attorney General’s Office issues statewide protocols for the handling of domestic violence and sexual assault cases by law enforcement.
- As a dual coalition, NHCADSV has worked to develop domestic and sexual violence outreach, awareness and educational programs. NHCADSV participates in community activities promoting outreach through various multi-media and social media platforms that relate to domestic and sexual violence. NHCADSV promotes the “NO More” campaign (www.nhcadsv.org) designed to bring attention to domestic violence and sexual assault issues.

New Hampshire’s Implementation Plan continues to include ongoing support for agencies that focus on increasing reporting with the goal of bringing more cases forward for prosecution to hold offenders accountable. The funding streams allow law enforcement, prosecution, crisis centers, and the NH DOJ to work together on programs that focus on best practices that are victim

centered and trauma informed.

New Hampshire is a small state with multiple core providers that have established locations throughout the state. This allows New Hampshire to concentrate on funding services in strategic locations that would receive the most benefit from these programs. The cities of Nashua and Manchester are both located in Hillsborough County and have the highest percentage of ethnic minorities in the state. Manchester was designated New Hampshire's only Weed and Seed site, meaning Manchester is home to a high level of poverty and a high rate of violent crimes that are often associated with larger urban centers. Overall, the NH DOJ balances STOP VAWA funding with statewide planning, priorities, and various other grant programs determined through input from a variety of sources throughout the state.

When determining which subgrantees should receive STOP VAWA funds, core agencies are given priority. Much focus of the NH DOJ is on improving and maintaining identified core service providers. The NH DOJ oversees the grant application and review process on the federal and state level for each subgrantee program. The NH DOJ recognized the need to enhance the request for proposal system and has begun to implement more competitive and modern application process. This will encourage new providers to apply and allow for the expansion of new programs within the state.

During the request for proposal process, notification of upcoming funding opportunities are announced on both the NH DOJ website, on the statewide procurement website, and the by word-to-mouth. Funding opportunities posted on the NH DOJ website can be found under the "*grant funding available*" link.³¹ Applicants will be directed to a web-based link to a grant management system referred to as Amplifund. Grant RFPs and applications will be posted and

³¹ <https://www.doj.nh.gov/grants-management/funding-availability.htm>

submitted for scoring through this site. Once applications are submitted to the Amplifund system, NH DOJ and, if required, a third-party reviewer, scores applications based on the applicants' ability to meet program criteria. The type of services being proposed and the geographic area the agency will be covering is reviewed. Once compatible programs are selected, the New Hampshire Attorney General approves the selections and the contract is submitted to Governor and Council for final approval. STOP VAWA awards are made on a year-to-year basis from January to December.

The State of New Hampshire is much smaller than others. For perspective, there are counties and cities in other states with much higher populations in comparison. Due to this measure, when needs are identified, they are less likely to be isolated to particularly just rural or urban locations. Meaning identified needs are more often found to be evenly distributed statewide or in specific locations. Nevertheless, New Hampshire's culturally specific dynamics are consistent to most other states, to include distribution of STOP VAWA funding to its urban areas in regard to allocations.

When competitive RFPs for STOP VAWA funds are initiated, which are likely to be specific to particular allocations (Victim services, prosecution, law enforcement, or culturally specific), announcements are statewide and consistent with the State of New Hampshire's procurement regulations. Nevertheless, due to lack of funding and the number of received eligible applicants, which have historically been found to be minimal, determining eligibility and allowability is often the driving factors to NH DOJ's decision-making in the process.

Whenever RFPs do become truly competitive, with the receipt of a number of applications that total funds requested beyond what is accessible by the RFP, and after eligibility is determined, factors such as potential effectiveness, populations, geographical needs, and whether the proposed projects goals and objectives mirror the state's, become more relevant in the scoring process.

Meaning the application scores, following relevant instructions, become the driving factor into determining who to subgrant and how much these subgrants will be awarded.

The State of New Hampshire does not receive enough funds to allow for a process to systematically allocate by county or region based on their populations to distribute through their own procurement processes. The State of New Hampshire also does not have state or federally recognized tribes or reservations, which is another factor that does not need to be considered in the allocation process.

Addressing Crystal Judson

New Hampshire does not plan to use funds in support of *The Crystal Judson Domestic Violence Protocol Program*. New Hampshire recognizes that family violence committed by law enforcement personnel is an issue. *The Office of Attorney General Sexual Assault: An Acute Care Protocol for Medical/Forensic Evaluation*, updated in 2020, was created to address this issue.³²

All law enforcement departments are encouraged to have a policy in place regarding responding to domestic violence involving law enforcement officers. New Hampshire law, unlike federal law, has no exception for law enforcement or military personnel to carry or possess firearms and ammunition while on duty or otherwise after being served with a protective order that specifically prohibits possession of firearms and ammunition. Anyone found to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition contrary to a court order must be arrested as outlined in NH RSA 173-B:9.³³

³² <https://www.doj.nh.gov/criminal/victim-assistance/protocols.htm>

³³ <https://www.courts.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt471/files/documents/2021-06/c10.pdf#:~:text=RSA%20173-B%3A%209%20provides%20two%20distinct%20responses%20to,to%20enforce%20protective%20orders%20through%20its%20contempt%20powers.>

VI. Conclusion

The NH DOJ has guidelines, policies and procedures in place to ensure the compliance and integrity of the administration of all grant funding streams managed by the NH DOJ. Scheduled on-site and off-site reviews of subgrantees are completed annually. The NH DOJ works with subgrantees' to address any issues to ensure compliance. This has enabled the NH DOJ to build strong cohesive working relationships with subgrantees, resulting in a solid foundation with which New Hampshire can create and implement an effective statewide strategic plan.

This 2022-2026 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan outlines how the State of New Hampshire will continue to fund core service providers that have a proven history of providing quality services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking in the state. New Hampshire is able to institute policy, protocol, and procedures that ensure victim needs are met with compassion, quality, and commitment. STOP VAWA funding is crucial to funding services to victims, trainings for prosecution, law enforcement, advocates, and the courts. Without STOP VAWA funding, many of New Hampshire's services would be diminished or eliminated.

APPENDIX A

DOCUMENTATION FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS AS TO
THEIR PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING PROCESS

Appendix A

**2022-2026 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan
Crime Victim Fund Steering Committee**

Name: Emily G. Rice

Date: 6/15/2022

Title: City Solicitor

Name of Organization/Agency/Branch/Tribe:

Office of the City Solicitor, The City of Manchester, NH

Type of Organization (Check all that apply): ☐ Underserved ☐ Dual Coalition

☐ Law Enforcement ☒ Prosecution ☐ Victim Services ☐ Courts ☐ Culturally Specific

☒ Government ☐ Nonprofit ☐ Tribal ☐ Other:

- 1) *Throughout the 2022 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan, were you informed about meetings? Yes / No* Yes
- 2) *Did you attend the Steering meetings (In-person/telephonic/Online)? Yes / No* Yes
- 3) *Did you receive the STOP VAWA Implementation Plan draft? Yes / No* Yes
- 4) *Did you submit comments about the draft? Yes / No* Yes
- 5) *Did you receive a copy of the final STOP VAWA Implementation Plan and the summary of major concerns (See page 9 of plan)? Yes / No* Yes
- 6) *Do you have significant concerns with the final plan? Yes / No* No
If you answered yes to # 6, please share your concerns below:

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**2022-2026 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan
Crime Victim Fund Steering Committee**

Name: Robert Frechette

Date: 6/15/2022

Title: Chief Investigator

Name of Organization/Agency/Branch/Tribe:

Strafford County Attorney's Office

Type of Organization (Check all that apply): ☐ Underserved ☐ Dual Coalition

☒ Law Enforcement ☒ Prosecution ☐ Victim Services ☐ Courts ☐ Culturally Specific

☐ Government ☐ Nonprofit ☐ Tribal ☐ Other:

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**2022-2026 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan
Crime Victim Fund Steering Committee**

Name: Sarah Mattson Dustin

Date: 6/11/2022

Title: Executive Director

Name of Organization/Agency/Branch/Tribe:

New Hampshire Legal Assistance

Type of Organization (Check all that apply): ☐ Underserved ☐ Dual Coalition

☐ Law Enforcement ☐ Prosecution ☒ Victim Services ☐ Courts ☐ Culturally Specific

☐ Government ☐ Nonprofit ☐ Tribal ☐ Other:

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**2022-2026 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan
Crime Victim Fund Steering Committee**

Name: Joy Barrett

Date: 6-15-22

Title: CEO

Name of Organization/Agency/Branch/Tribe:

Granite State Children's Alliance

Type of Organization (Check all that apply): ☐ Underserved ☐ Dual Coalition

☐ Law Enforcement ☐ Prosecution ☒ Victim Services ☐ Courts ☐ Culturally Specific

☐ Government ☒ Nonprofit ☐ Tribal ☐ Other:

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**2022-2026 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan
Crime Victim Fund Steering Committee**

Name: Jean M. Kilham

Date: 6/15/22

Title: Domestic Violence Program Manager

Name of Organization/Agency/Branch/Tribe:

NH Judicial Branch

Type of Organization (Check all that apply): ☐ Underserved ☐ Dual Coalition

☐ Law Enforcement ☐ Prosecution ☐ Victim Services ☒ Courts ☐ Culturally Specific

☐ Government ☐ Nonprofit ☐ Tribal ☐ Other:

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**2022-2026 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan
Crime Victim Fund Steering Committee**

Name: Hershey Hirschkop

Date: JUNE 13, 2022

Title: Executive Director

Name of Organization/Agency/Branch/Tribe:

Seacoast Outright

Type of Organization (Check all that apply): ☒ Underserved ☐ Dual Coalition

☐ Law Enforcement ☐ Prosecution ☐ Victim Services ☐ Courts ☐ Culturally Specific

☐ Government ☒ Nonprofit ☐ Tribal ☐ Other:

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**2022-2026 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan
Crime Victim Fund Steering Committee**

Name: Lyn M. Schollett

Date: 6.15.2022

Title: Executive Director

Name of Organization/Agency/Branch/Tribe:

New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Type of Organization (Check all that apply): ☐ Underserved ☒ Dual Coalition

☐ Law Enforcement ☐ Prosecution ☒ Victim Services ☐ Courts ☐ Culturally Specific

☐ Government ☒ Nonprofit ☐ Tribal ☐ Other:

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**2022-2026 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan
Crime Victim Fund Steering Committee**

Name: Katja S. Fox

Date: 06/10/2022

Title: Director

Name of Organization/Agency/Branch/Tribe:

NH Department of Health and Human Services-Division for Behavioral Health

Type of Organization (Check all that apply): ☐ Underserved ☐ Dual Coalition

☐ Law Enforcement ☐ Prosecution ☐ Victim Services ☐ Courts ☐ Culturally Specific

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**2022-2026 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan
Crime Victim Fund Steering Committee**

Name: JoAnne Miles-Holmes

Date: 6/13/2022

Title: Injury Prevention Program Manager, RPE Grant PI

Name of Organization/Agency/Branch/Tribe:

NH DHHS, Div of Public Health Services, Maternal and Child Health Section

Type of Organization (Check all that apply): ☐ Underserved ☐ Dual Coalition

☐ Law Enforcement ☐ Prosecution ☐ Victim Services ☐ Courts ☐ Culturally Specific

☒ Government ☐ Nonprofit ☐ Tribal ☐ Other:

- 1) *Throughout the 2022 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan, were you informed about meetings? Yes / No* Yes
- 2) *Did you attend the Steering meetings (In-person/telephonic/Online)? Yes / No* Yes
- 3) *Did you receive the STOP VAWA Implementation Plan draft? Yes / No* Yes
- 4) *Did you submit comments about the draft? Yes / No* Yes
- 5) *Did you receive a copy of the final STOP VAWA Implementation Plan and the summary of major concerns (See page 9 of plan)? Yes / No* Yes
- 6) *Do you have significant concerns with the final plan? Yes / No* No
If you answered yes to # 6, please share your concerns below:

Appendix A

**2022-2026 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan
Crime Victim Fund Steering Committee**

Name: Kaylynn Trombley

Date: 06/15/22

Title: FVPSA Admin

Name of Organization/Agency/Branch/Tribe:

Health and Human Services: DCYF

Type of Organization (Check all that apply): ☐ Underserved ☐ Dual Coalition

☐ Law Enforcement ☐ Prosecution ☐ Victim Services ☐ Courts ☐ Culturally Specific

☒ Government ☐ Nonprofit ☐ Tribal ☐ Other:

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If you answered yes to # 6, please share your concerns below:

Appendix A

**2022-2026 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan
Crime Victim Fund Steering Committee**

Name: Denise Pouliot

Date: June 15, 2022

Title: Sagmoskwa - Head Female Speaker

Name of Organization/Agency/Branch/Tribe:

Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook Abenaki People/NH Commission of Native American Affairs

Type of Organization (Check all that apply): ☐ Underserved ☐ Dual Coalition

☐ Law Enforcement ☐ Prosecution ☐ Victim Services ☐ Courts ☐ Culturally Specific

☐ Government ☐ Nonprofit ☒ Tribal ☐ Other:

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- 6) *Do you have significant concerns with the final plan? Yes / No* No
If you answered yes to # 6, please share your concerns below:

Appendix A

**2022-2026 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan
Crime Victim Fund Steering Committee**

Name: Marcia Sink

Date: 6-15-2022

Title: CEO CASA of NH

Name of Organization/Agency/Branch/Tribe:

CASA of NH

Type of Organization (Check all that apply): ☐ Underserved ☐ Dual Coalition

☐ Law Enforcement ☐ Prosecution ☐ Victim Services ☐ Courts ☐ Culturally Specific

☐ Government ☒ Nonprofit ☐ Tribal ☐ Other:

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- 6) *Do you have significant concerns with the final plan? Yes / No* no
If you answered yes to # 6, please share your concerns below:

Appendix A

2022-2026 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan
Crime Victim Fund Steering Committee

Name: Lynda Ruel

Date: 6/15/22

Title: Director

Name of Organization/Agency/Branch/Tribe: Office of Victim/Witness
Assistance New Hampshire Attorney General's office

Type of Organization (Check all that apply): ☐ Underserved ☐ Dual Coalition

☐ Law Enforcement ☐ Prosecution ☒ Victim Services ☐ Courts ☐ Culturally Specific

☒ Government ☐ Nonprofit ☐ Tribal ☐ Other:

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- 6) Do you have significant concerns with the final plan? Yes / No
If you answered yes to # 6, please share your concerns below:

Appendix A

**2022-2026 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan
Crime Victim Fund Steering Committee**

Name: Danielle Snook

Date: 6/15/22

Title: Program Administrator

Name of Organization/Agency/Branch/Tribe: New Hampshire Department
of Justice, Office of Victim/Witness Assistance

Type of Organization (Check all that apply): ☐ Underserved ☐ Dual Coalition

☐ Law Enforcement ☒ Prosecution ☐ Victim Services ☐ Courts ☐ Culturally Specific

☒ Government ☐ Nonprofit ☐ Tribal ☐ Other:

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- 6) Do you have significant concerns with the final plan? Yes / No
If you answered yes to # 6, please share your concerns below:

Appendix A

**2022-2026 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan
Crime Victim Fund Steering Committee**

Name: Tanya Pitman

Date: 6/10/22

Title: Grant Coordinator

Name of Organization/Agency/Branch/Tribe:

NH Dept of Justice

Type of Organization (Check all that apply): ☐ Underserved ☐ Dual Coalition

☐ Law Enforcement ☐ Prosecution ☐ Victim Services ☐ Courts ☐ Culturally Specific

☒ Government ☐ Nonprofit ☐ Tribal ☐ Other:

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- 6) *Do you have significant concerns with the final plan? Yes / No* no
If you answered yes to # 6, please share your concerns below:

APPENDIX B

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

The State of New Hampshire

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Dianne Martin
Director

1 Granite Place, Suite N400
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-2521
Fax: (603) 513-5454
eMail: aoc@courts.state.nh.us
TTY/TDD Relay: (800) 735-2964

June 6, 2022

Ms. Allison Randall, Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N. Street, NE Suite 10 W
Washington, DC 20531

Re: VAWA S.T.O.P. Subgrantee letter

Dear Ms. Randall:

The New Hampshire Judicial Branch ("NHJB") has a substantial and continuing need for VAWA S.T.O.P. grant funds. The funds are used in a variety of ways.

Partial funding is used to support the Domestic Violence Program Manager position (DVPM). The DVPM has many roles and responsibilities concerning domestic violence, dating violence and stalking matters within the court system. This includes supervising the Protection Order Registry; serving as an internal expert in domestic violence and stalking related practices and procedures; facilitating and leading domestic violence and stalking related training; and liaising with external stakeholders on related issues.

The DVPM manages the operations of the New Hampshire Protection Order Registry. The goal of the New Hampshire protection order system is to enhance the safety of the individuals protected by court issued protection orders. Registry staff are responsible for entering protection order data for qualifying orders into the national database, National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and staff are responsible for storing the orders into a special server which allows law enforcement to gain access to the actual protection order documents around the clock. This work is critically important for the protection of survivors. In 2021, S.T.O.P. funds were used to purchase a new server to maintain this important service.

The NHJB places a high value on training staff and judges in all matters pertaining to domestic violence, dating violence and stalking including both the law and the dynamics involved in these serious cases. To this end, the DVPM coordinates educational training for both new and experienced judges and staff. Funds are used for national training opportunities and educational resources with the goal of expanding the capacity of judicial officers to make consistent, trauma-informed decisions in cases involving domestic violence, dating violence and stalking and granting them access to current best practices.

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S.T.O.P. funds have consistently been used to reduce barriers to accessing justice for domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking survivors within the court system. This has included translating educational materials into several languages and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Of note, as a result of the pandemic, and what appeared to be a concerning decrease in domestic violence petitions, the DVPM led efforts to swiftly implement a pilot project permitting survivors working with crisis center advocates to submit emailed domestic violence and stalking petitions to Circuit Courts. The DVPM sought feedback from stakeholders including frontline crisis center advocates. The collaborative effort allowed the Circuit Court to execute a safe option for survivors to seek protection from their abusers, particularly during a dangerous time where isolation was a factor. The program will be monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis.

The NHJB serves the people who live, work and travel to the State of New Hampshire including those with disabilities and regardless of their actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation or language background. In furtherance of our commitment to ensure that everyone has meaningful access to justice, the NHJB has developed a Language Access Plan that details how limited English proficiency (“LEP”), deaf and hard of hearing persons, including survivors, are being assisted with interpretive services within our state courts. The Language Access Plan and the most recent data concerning the state’s LEP population may be found at:

<https://www.courts.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt471/files/documents/2021-08/2020-language-access-plan.pdf>.

VAWA S.T.O.P. grant funding is necessary to continue to improve upon our practices pertaining to domestic violence, dating violence and stalking matters in the New Hampshire court system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dianne Martin".

Dianne Martin

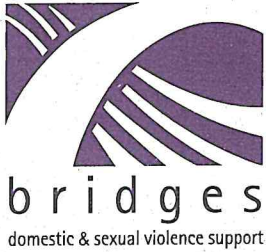
Director

Administrative Office of the Courts

APPENDIX B

*Building nonviolent
communities since 1977*

May 24, 2022



Allison Randall
Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N. Street, NE Suite 10 W.
Washington, DC 20531

Dear Ms. Randall,

Please accept this letter regarding the current and proposed use of Bridges STOP VAWA grant funds. This grant funding is critical for Bridges in providing outreach and services to underserved populations. The ethnic diversity of Greater Nashua has changed significantly over the past 20 years. Advocates identify an increase in immigrant and new American populations in our community and recognize that cultural awareness and sensitivity in the provision of domestic and sexual violence services, education, and outreach is necessary to meet the needs of the changing demographics in our catchment area. The VAWA grant provides the funding to assist Bridges in reaching these populations.

Bridges utilizes VAWA grant funds to employ a Cultural Outreach Advocate. The goal of the Cultural Outreach Advocate at Bridges is to outreach to underserved and underrepresented communities in the Greater Nashua area and increase the number of individuals from these populations seeking services. They do this by way of mostly in-person outreach to social service organizations, local groups assisting underserved populations and connecting with stakeholders. This outreach is done to reach immigrants, refugees, LEP (low English proficient) community, people of color, LGBTQ community and people with disabilities.

Nashua Office
28 Concord Street
PO Box 217
Nashua, NH 03061
603.889.0858
Fax 603.402.4974

Milford Office
16 Elm St., Suite 2
Milford, NH 03055
603.672.9833
Fax 603.554.1214

www.bridgesnh.org

24 hour support line.
603.883.3044



APPENDIX B

Bridges expected results of this grant funding include increased participation with groups representing or working with underserved populations; increased number of underserved populations seeking our services; and continued work to make Bridges a culturally sensitive, trauma-informed organization on all levels.

When looking at the demographic characteristics of the population to be served, it is important to look at community numbers. Greater Nashua has seen an increase in immigrant populations each year, in addition to being a refugee resettlement community. In fact, 20% of residents speak a language other than English at Home with 15% of residents being foreign-born. The Nashua School District reports that students in the district speak more than 60 different languages. Nashua has the largest number of persons of Hispanic origin in New Hampshire.

Last year Bridges provided services to 2,334 unduplicated individuals. Of this number, we know that 58 of these individuals were immigrants and 104 have limited English proficiency. In addition, Bridges provided specialized transitional housing support to 54 individuals, of these individuals 35 were refugee victims of domestic violence.

Bridges is grateful to the Violence Against Women Act, and the opportunity to receive this funding in our critical work to eliminate barriers to services for those most underserved and vulnerable people in our community.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Dawn L. Reams, M.Ed.
Executive Director



June 6, 2022

Allison Randall, Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N. Street, NE Suite 10 W.
Washington, DC 20531

RE: Letter of Support for NH-DOJ's VAWA Application

Dear Director Randall,

Cheshire County has received VAWA funding from New Hampshire's Department of Justice for many years. It has used it to partially fund a domestic violence prosecutor position in our County Attorney's Office. This is our intended use of grant funds in future years as well.

Given the significant caseload and impact of domestic violence issues in Cheshire County, the need for a domestic violence prosecutor is essential. Domestic violence prosecution is time intensive and complicated; it requires collaboration with other agencies, specialized knowledge, and community involvement through board memberships. The award of VAWA funds has been a vital resource for the County Attorney's Office. Without STOP VAWA grant funds to support this position, it is possible the County would need to limit the scope of work or reduce its capacity, particularly with community collaboration or education projects. The sustainability of the Cheshire County domestic violence prosecutor position is stronger with federal resources partially funding this important work.

The expected result of the grant funds is greater quality and quantity of cases served. The domestic violence prosecutor devotes between 35% and 60% time on domestic violence, sexual assault, protective order violation, stalking and dating violence cases. Further, STOP VAWA funds make it possible for this position to devote some time to community education and participation in community initiative, such as serving as a member of the multi-disciplinary Sexual Assault Resource Team and the Strangulation Team.

Data is not available regarding demographic characteristics of the population that the domestic violence prosecutor serves. However, according U.S. Census Bureau population estimates, July 1, 202, the demographics of Cheshire County—the community in which this program serves—are 77,329 total population, of which 51% are female, 20.7% are over the age of 65, 17.8% are under the age of 18, 9.3% are under age 65 and live with a disability, 7.5% are uninsured, and 6.6% did not graduate high school. The primary language of the County is English and 2.8% of the population speaks a language other than English at home; 95.4% of the population is white, 2% Hispanic, 1.7% Asian, and 0.9% black.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Bansley, MBA, GPC
Grants Manager
sbansley@co.cheshire.nh.us

APPENDIX B

Office of the Coös County Attorney

55 SCHOOL STREET, SUITE 141, LANCASTER, NH 03584

John G. McCormick

County Attorney

Scott J. Whitaker

Assistant County Attorney

Scott B. Clark

Assistant County Attorney

Angela M. Callahan

Victim/Witness Coordinator



County Attorney

TEL 603-788-5559

Victim / Witness Coordinator

TEL 603-788-3812

FAX 603-788-5560

May 26, 2022

Allison Randall
Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N. Street, NE
Suite 10 W
Washington, DC 20531

Re: Grantee Letter per Implementation Plan

Dear Ms. Randall:

I am writing to stress the importance of the STOP/VAWA funding used to support domestic violence prosecutions initiated by the Office of the Coös County Attorney.

The Office of the Coös County Attorney, as a small prosecutor's office in an economically challenged and rural region of northern New Hampshire, strives to secure funding sources other than the sometimes limited county resources available. The STOP/VAWA funds provided are instrumental in allowing the office to assign a single prosecutor to the misdemeanor and felony domestic violence crimes that are within the office's jurisdiction to prosecute. As the chief law enforcement officials at the county level, County Attorneys in New Hampshire are responsible for prosecuting felony-level offenses that occur within their respective counties, any accompanying misdemeanor offenses, and misdemeanor appeals to the Superior Court within the respective office's county.

The STOP/VAWA funds allow the assigned domestic violence prosecutor to focus his or her attention on these serious felony and misdemeanor cases, and to receive specific training

APPENDIX B

on how to manage the complexities associated with intimate partner and family violence prosecutions.

If the STOP/VAWA funding continues, the office will have a single domestic violence prosecutor within the office who is specialized in handling domestic violence prosecutions. This will result in the continued focus on victim-centered prosecution that aims to strengthen cases by working closely with law enforcement agencies within Coös County and beyond to gather and present evidence in support of prosecution. Through the VAWA funding, the office's prosecutor will further have the ability to obtain specific, advanced training in the prosecution of domestic violence cases.

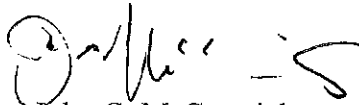
Although racially homogenous, with 96 percent of the population being White, economic challenges endemic to Coös County have resulted in a substantial number of low income families. Economic stressors have contributed to the significant number of domestic violence cases prosecuted by the Office of the Coös County Attorney.

Because neither the prevalence of domestic violence nor the economic challenges seem to be abating, the continued support through VAWA funding will allow the Office of the Coös County Attorney to continue to partially fund a specialized domestic violence prosecutor.

With the support that this funding provides, the Office of the Coös County Attorney will continue to vigorously prosecute cases involving intimate partner violence.

Should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at (603) 788-5559.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John G. McCormick", with a stylized flourish at the end.

John G. McCormick
Coös County Attorney

FRANKLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

APPENDIX B

5 Hancock Terrace, Franklin, N.H. 03235

(603) 934-2535 • fax (603) 934-6123

David B. Goldstein • Chief of Police

Committed to People

Committed to Excellence

Committed to Service

June 6, 2022

Allison Randall
Director
Office of Violence Against Women
145 N. Street, NE Suite 10W.
Washington, DC 20531

Dear Ms. Randall:

Please accept this letter in response to the request for information from the Franklin, NH Police Department concerning our VAWA grant. Please be assured that the Franklin Police Department is very grateful for this funding and that it has helped an untold number of victims and individuals embroiled in domestic violence and related experiences.

1. The Need for Grant Funds

There can be no doubt that there is a definite and defined need for such funds. The City of Franklin has long experienced a very high level of domestic violence related issues.

Domestic violence is a crime that plagues every community in the nation. The City of Franklin is no exception. Even with statutory requirements, communities often handle the processing and prosecution of domestic violence cases differently.

Police departments, including the Franklin Police Department, have traditionally concentrated their concerns strictly on the investigation of the crime, arrest of the perpetrator(s) and the prosecution of the crime. The service and support of the victim from a police perspective is minimal at best, but most often absent in the overall practice of law enforcement. In addition, a high percentage of domestic violence cases are never prosecuted because they are never reported.

The City of Franklin Police Department has studied this alarming matter and has determined through research of existing data and confidential interviews with victims and victim advocacy specialists, that isolation, fear, intimidation, and economic dependence are some of the key reasons that victims refuse to testify against their abuser.

As in the past, the City of Franklin, has conducted meetings to discuss this problem and seek a solution. Present at the time (and now with renewed efforts) at many of these meetings, were representatives of the Crisis Center of Central New Hampshire (CCCNH).

The number of Franklin residents served by the CCCNH averages approximately 75 per year. However, it is recognized that COVID-19 has been responsible for a notable decrease in the number of individuals served.

As a tax-cap city and one of the poorest communities in NH, the Franklin Police Department relies

APPENDIX B

heavily on funding assistance. The present VAWA funding has made it possible to serve the residents as well as visitors to the city who find themselves involved in domestic violence-related situations.

2. The Intended Use of the Grant Funds

These funds are used to augment the services available to victims of domestic violence. Individuals are able to avail themselves of a safe haven while discussing their issues as well as waiting to appear in court. Victims do not find themselves confronting their abusers while awaiting various hearings. In addition, one detective has been able to specialize in the arena of domestic violence.

3. The Expected Result of the Grant Funds

These funds allow members of the Franklin Police Department to provide needed services to all victims of domestic violence. In addition, these services extend to companion and domestic animals belonging to the victim(s). In fact, the Franklin Police Department was responsible for amending existing statutes vis-à-vis temporary and permanent orders of protection in this area.

4. The Demographic Characteristics of the Population to be Served

It is important to keep in mind the very real fact that domestic violence is not limited to any one group of individuals. The Franklin Police Department has found this to be true and correct.

The City of Franklin, located in Merrimack County, has a population of approximately 10,000 residents, based on the most recent census figures. Franklin is one of the 13 cities in the State of New Hampshire. The median age of Franklin residents is 37.3 years. Approximately 21.1% of the population finds itself below the poverty level. 16.6% of families are below the poverty line as well. Unemployment is approximately 6.85%.


Demographically, Franklin is racially comprised of 96.2% white, 0.5% AFRICAN American, 0.5% Native American, 0.8% Asian, 0.02% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 0.3% identify as some other race. 1.6% of the population has been identified as Hispanic or Latino.

Of course, it is recognized that there are additional demographic considerations such as sexism, women of color, those who identify as LGBTQ, etc.

It is here that these funds will assist the Franklin Police Department in identifying additional victims and, in turn, providing needed services.

Thank you for this opportunity and we remain available to discuss any and all of these issues at any time.

Sincerely,



David B. Goldstein, PhD
Chief of Police

APPENDIX B



Emily Gray Rice
City Solicitor

Peter R. Chiesa
Deputy City Solicitor

Gregory T. Muller, Esq.
John G. Blanchard, Esq.
Jeremy A. Harmon, Esq.
Kathleen A Broderick, Esq.
Jessica L. Cain, Esq.
Amy Manchester, Esq.
Donald F. Shedd, Paralegal

CITY OF MANCHESTER
Office of the City Solicitor

June 6, 2022

Ms. Allison Randall
Acting Director
Office on Violence Against Women
United States Department of Justice
145 N Street, NE
Suite 10 W
Washington DC 20531

Re: New Hampshire Department of Justice 2022 VAWA Grant

Dear Ms. Randall:

I am writing in support of the 2022 STOP VAWA application by the State of New Hampshire, as both a sub-grantee and a former United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire. In each of these roles, I can attest to the critical need for this financial support in our state, and in our city.

The Need for STOP VAWA Grant Funds

The Manchester City Solicitor's Office prosecutes all criminal complaints brought by the Manchester Police Department in the 9th Circuit Court, District Division. For prosecutions involving domestic violence, dating violence and stalking offenses the City Solicitor's Office has two, full-time prosecutors dedicated to prosecuting those offense as part of a Domestic Violence Prosecution Unit operating out of an office located in the court house. The unit includes several victim advocates in addition to the prosecutors. We have approximately 1,000 open cases during the year. Our sub-grant pays a portion of the salary and benefits for one of our domestic violence prosecutors.

The Intended Use of the Grant Funds

The grant funds, along with the City's match, will be used to fund the salary and benefits of a specialized prosecutor dedicated to domestic violence, dating violence and stalking cases.

One City Hall Plaza · Manchester, New Hampshire 03101 · (603) 624-6523 · Fax: (603) 624-6528
TTY: 1-800-735-2964

E-Mail: solicitor@manchesternh.gov · Website: www.manchesternh.gov

APPENDIX B

The Expected Result of the Grant Funds

The grant funds enable the City Solicitor's Office to prosecute more domestic violence cases than would otherwise be possible. This is central to the City's team approach to the prosecution of domestic violence, dating violence and stalking cases, in conjunction with the Manchester Police Department and our community partners.

The Demographic Characteristics of the Population to be Served

As the grant-funded domestic violence prosecutor prosecutes the cases referred for prosecution by the Manchester Police Department, the prosecutor does not have a specific demographic focus. However, as the COVID-19 pandemic has brought into sharp relief, victims experiencing poverty, discrimination and deprivation are especially vulnerable. Manchester is New Hampshire's largest city, with a population of over 115,000. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, nearly 6% of the population is Black or African-American alone; 10.7% is Latino or Hispanic; and 5.3 percent is Asian alone. The Census also reports that 13.1% of Manchester residents live in poverty; 11.1% of persons under 65 lack health insurance; 11% of persons under 65 have a disability; and 14% of persons are foreign-born. Manchester is also a significant refugee-resettlement site. These demographic characteristics mean that the needs of victims and their families are intense and wide-ranging.

The City Solicitor's Office is among several VAWA STOP sub-grantees serving our City. Their services afford victims a critical safety net, and the hope of a better life, free from violence. I urge the OVW to continue providing this essential financial support to the State and to our City.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily Gray Rice".

Emily Gray Rice, Esq.
City Solicitor

EGR/hms

Chief of Police
Allen D. Aldenberg
Assistant Chief
Steven A. Mangone



Commission
John G. Cronin, *Chairman*
Charlie Sherman
Manny Content
Eva Castillo
John Mercier

CITY OF MANCHESTER

Police Department

May 22, 2022

Director Allison Randall
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N. Street, NE Suite 10W.
Washington, DC 20531

The Manchester NH Police Department is committed to providing assistance and support to all victims of domestic and sexual violence in our community. We realize that advocacy is vital in the area of victim support as well as the investigatory and prosecutorial process. Manchester, NH has been identified as a community that deals with high poverty, many violent crimes, and the challenges associated with larger urban communities. The Manchester Police Department responds to over 3500 domestic and sexual violence calls for service on average per year. This results in over 1100 DV arrests annually. The Domestic and Sexual Violence Unit will have completed over 600 follow-up investigations; resulting in over 800 prosecutions brought forward in court.

The City of Manchester is the largest city in the state and largest city north of Boston, Massachusetts. The population of Manchester is 115,644 (2020). Manchester's racial makeup is approximately 82% White, 10% Hispanic, 6% black and 5% Asian. Manchester is federal resettlement area with more than 14% of the population being foreign born and nearly 21% of the population speaking a language other than English in the home. Additionally, Manchester has identified over 17,000 residents between the ages of 18-65 who are disabled, making them vulnerable to exploitation, domestic violence and sexual abuse.

The S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Act Grant allows the Manchester Police to staff a fulltime Victim Advocate and fulltime Court Administrative Assistant within the Domestic Violence Prosecution Unit. These two positions have proven to be absolutely essential in assisting victims through the prosecution process and holding offenders accountable through a victim-centered approach. This funding will allow our agency to continue to support victims through the entire criminal justice process; from initial police contact to final case disposition. During this process, our victims are contacted by the Police Advocate within one business day of an event (most contact is made within 12-18 hours). This advocate provides information regarding available services, safety planning, and discussing the arraignment process. Following offender arraignment, the Court Administrative Assistant will assign the case to a Victim/Witness Advocate who maintains contact with the victim until the case is brought to a final disposition. The Court Advocate will continue to provide the victim with information

Michael L. Briggs Public Safety Building
405 Valley Street • Manchester, New Hampshire 03103 • (603) 668-8711 • FAX: (603) 668-8941
E-mail: ManchesterPD@manchesternh.gov • Website: www.manchesterpd.com

A NATIONALLY ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY



regarding available services and will prepare them for the prosecutorial process by setting reasonable expectations for offender accountability while providing the prosecutor with information regarding the victim's wishes in the accountability process.

The grant directly funds the positions of Court Administrative Assistant and Court Victim/Witness Advocate which allows the Domestic Violence Prosecution Unit to be efficient and accomplish the mission. The role of Administrative Assistant is responsible for assigning cases, informing victims, providing defense discovery requests and coordinating trial scheduling. This unit and specifically the Administrative Assistant is responsible for managing over 1500 cases annually which allows the Victim/Witness Advocate to focus on assisting the victims of these cases by providing referral services to include safety planning, housing and financial assistance.

The Domestic Sexual Violence Unit and the Domestic Violence Prosecution Unit's success is dependent on the STOP VAWA Grant funds to maintain the court positions outlined. These funds allow the unit to provide direct support to victims while maintaining an efficient court process holding offenders accountable. This unit, with the support of the STOP Grant, was responsible for providing services to over 600 victims in the over 800 cases adjudicated at Manchester District Court in 2019. Without the presence of these two positions there would be a direct impact on the high level of service that our victims deserve.

The Manchester Police Department is committed to combating Domestic and Sexual Violence in our community. This organization has displayed the ability to sustain a model program. The Manchester Police Department will continue to complete thorough investigations and a multi-disciplinary approach to victim advocacy.

Respectfully,

Sergeant Nick Georgoulis



COUNTY OF MERRIMACK

333 DANIEL WEBSTER HIGHWAY, SUITE 2
BOSCAWEN, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03303-2415
(603) 796-6800 FAX: (603) 796-6840
www.merrimackcounty.net

COMMISSIONERS

TARA REARDON, Chairman, Concord
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STUART D. TRACHY, Clerk, Franklin

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
ROSS L. CUNNINGHAM

Allison Randall
Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N. Street, NE Suite 10 W.
Washington, DC 20531

RE: VAWA – STOP Subrecipient Letter of Need

The Merrimack County Attorney's Office relies on the VAWA-STOP subaward each year in order to serve the victims and witnesses of domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault in our jurisdiction. The award provides a percentage of one of the victim witness coordinator's salaries.

The office of the Merrimack County Attorney prosecutes all domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault cases from 19 towns in Merrimack County as well as all felony domestic violence cases for 27 cities and towns countywide. In 2021 our coordinator served 76 new domestic violence victims, 3 sexual assault victims and 14 stalking victims. She maintained an average caseload of 150 primary and secondary victims during 2021.

When a victim is identified, the victim witness coordinator reaches out to the victim as well as his/her family to offer whatever services may be needed. Services include assistance with all aspects of the legal system, referrals to the victim compensation program, mental health counseling, medical treatment, and other services as needed. In the event the case goes to trial, our coordinator gives the victim and family a tour of the courthouse and a step-by-step walkthrough of each phase of the court proceedings. As the nature of the crimes is violent, it is traumatizing for the victim to face the defendant in the courtroom, so our coordinator provides critical support before, during and after the process, sometimes years after the case is resolved.

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Due to COVID, our Superior Court was closed for the majority of the last 2 ½ years. Only the most severe cases were prosecuted and those were done remotely. Now that the courts are opening back up and holding in-person trials, the backlog for all of our victim coordinators is labor intensive. The domestic violence/stalking/sexual assault caseload encompasses about 70% of our victim coordinators' time. Without this critical assistance from the VAWA STOP grant, the caseload would be unsustainable at its current level.

The collaborative agreement is with the County Advocacy Center, which provides case management and counseling services as well as referrals to community programming for adults in Merrimack County.

Please let me know if you need additional information.

Sincerely,



Johanna S. Houman
Merrimack County Grant Administrator
603-796-6874
jhouman@merrimackcounty.net

APPENDIX B
NASHUA POLICE DEPARTMENT



Chief of Police Kevin Rourke
Main Phone: (603) 594-3500
Website: www.nashuapd.com

28 Officer James Roche Drive
Mailing Address: PO Box 785
Nashua, NH 03061-0785

May 31, 2022

Allison Randall
Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N. Street, NE Suite 10 W.
Washington, DC 20531

A. The need for grant funds:

Since 1997, the Nashua Police Department has had a specialized unit dedicated to serving victims of domestic violence and stalking. The Domestic Violence Unit was created because the department recognized that there was a need to give these cases special attention. This was, in part, due to the complex nature of domestic violence.

Since the creation of the Domestic Violence Unit, the Nashua Police Department has witnessed positive changes in the handling of domestic violence case prosecutions. Positive changes have been noted in the number of victims appearing for court and their willingness to cooperate in the prosecution of the case. There have also been positive changes noted in the decreased number of repeat domestic violence cases involving the same abuser and victim. Due to the intervention of the Domestic Violence Unit, many victims have been able to rebuild their lives after the criminal process has been completed. Since the formation of the Domestic Violence Unit, there have been a number of victims who have expressed their gratitude to the unit for the attention and assistance they received during the entire process. Due to the high volume of cases and demand for the advocate's support in these complex cases, the department made the decision to add a second advocate to the Domestic Violence Unit to our fiscal budget going forward. This addition wouldn't be possible without the grant funds for the existing advocate position.

B. The intended use of the grant funds:

Currently the Domestic Violence is staffed with two Domestic Violence, Stalking and Sexual Assault Advocates and two Domestic Violence Specialists (specialized trained in domestic violence police officers). These employees have a sergeant who oversees the unit. The funds would be used to fund one of the Domestic Violence, Stalking and Sexual Assault Advocate positions and part of the Domestic Violence Specialist position. Without this grant the department would be in jeopardy of

APPENDIX B

losing its critical and essential Domestic Violence, Stalking and Sexual Assault Advocate as well as one of the Domestic Violence Specialists.

C. The expected result of the grant funds:

The Nashua Police Department realizes that in order to have a successful Division which assists victims of Domestic Violence, Stalking and Sexual Assault, as well as reduce recidivism, it is necessary to have concrete goals and objectives. These goals and objectives must be clearly set to assist the investigators and the victim/witness advocates. These goals and objectives must have performance measures to ensure that the goals and objectives are being met.

We intend to operate a fully staffed and trained Domestic Violence Unit by maintaining the current staffing levels. Provide department training to patrol officers and victim/witness advocates and other service providers and provide intergraded victim services to enable effective prosecution of domestic violence offenders including victim notifications of upcoming judicial proceedings, bail conditions on the offenders, and provide legal advice, advocacy support and referrals of services to victims of domestic violence. Review and present to the court the best possible case for prosecution to ensure the offender is held accountable. The Domestic Violence Unit Specialists will review all cases as a quality control component to insure the appropriate charges are prosecuted. In the end, we hope to hold as many offenders accountable as possible. The goal of the Domestic Violence Unit is to stop the abuse and ensure the victim's safety.

D. The demographic characteristic of the population to be served, including age, disability, race, ethnicity, and language background.

Domestic Violence is a prevalent problem in the city of Nashua. The Nashua Police Department handled 2032 domestic violence related calls in 2021. This was a nearly consistent with the 2020 statistics, where 2033 domestic violence related calls were reported.

The highest statistical concentration for victims is white females between ages 25 and 59 that are in a current or former intimate relationships. Our statistics show that approximately 75% of victims are female and approximately 25% of victims are male. The majority of victims within this period, approximately 88%, are white. The second largest victim demographic are African Americans at 5%. 74% of victims were between the ages of 25 and 59 and 14% were between ages 18 and 24. These statistics are relatively consistent from 2020 into 2021. Stalking arrests increased significantly from 98 in 2020 to 131 in 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Boutwell
Detective Sergeant, Special Investigations Division

June 3, 2022

Allison Randall
Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N. Street, NE Suite 10 W.
Washington, DC 20531

Dear Ms. Randall:

Domestic violence is a persistent concern. To reduce domestic violence, sometimes called intimate partner violence, requires acknowledgment that it exists, language that defines it, education to identify the behaviors, tools to address the violence, and measures to hold perpetrators of this violence accountable. In short, we need communities to take stock in the personal tragedies and tangible costs borne by individuals and society to reverse the damage. STOP VAWA grant funding provides 603 Legal Aid with the funding it needs to support the Domestic Violence Emergency (DOVE) Project, a uniquely New Hampshire delivery model devised nearly three decades ago to address these concerns. Since 1993, the DOVE Project has delivered life-saving social and legal services to victims/survivors seeking civil protective orders in domestic violence, and more recently stalking, cases, uniting the forces of crisis service advocates and volunteer lawyers.

DOVE staff recruit and train attorneys in private practice to provide pro bono direct representation to victims in domestic violence protection from abuse matters as well as stalking protection from abuse orders. Each community crisis center has a list of attorneys qualified to provide representation in these matters, and each crisis center connects the eligible client with a volunteer – where one is available. Since the first DOVE training session in July of 1993, more than 400 DOVE attorneys have accepted 4000 referrals for permanent protective order hearings; providing legal services valued at over \$5 million.¹

In June 2021, 603 Legal Aid implemented a centralized state-wide intake process, thus all advocate-facilitated online and phone intakes for potential DOVE cases come directly through 603 Legal Aid. This centralized intake process allows for expedited and consistent review of potential DOVE referrals, thus improving the opportunity for a survivor to obtain services. It is expected that this intake process will continue to evolve and be refined to connect more applicants with attorneys, courtesy in part to STOP funding.

Despite the ongoing commitment by project partners, NH continues to experience high rates of domestic violence. Throughout DOVE's decades-long mission to level the playing field in courtrooms, there has been a focus on the economic empowerment as the key to survivors'

¹. Estimate based on average of 110 cases a year, 8 hours a case, and \$200 billed per hour.

93 North State Street, Suite 200, Concord, NH 03301
Phone: 603-224-3333 | Fax: 603-224-6067

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achieving safety and financial independence. A study released in January 2021 found that “housing and domestic relations matters (including divorce, parenting rights, child support and domestic violence), which are core service areas for the civil legal aid network, remain acute challenges for low-income people in New Hampshire.”² Victims/plaintiffs linked with DOVE volunteer lawyers for representation at civil protective order hearings are more likely to obtain the additional comprehensive relief afforded under NH RSA 173-B, such as use/possession of the home and vehicle, child support, and compensation for lost wages or damages to property related to the domestic violence, in addition to the protective orders that help keep them and their children safe. Unfortunately, because of the emergent nature of protective order hearings and the sheer number that occur each year, there are still clients for whom DOVE and 603 Legal Aid are unable to place for direct representation.

NH Courts report that of the 3,279 domestic violence petitions filed in 2020, 87% of litigants were unrepresented.³ Unrepresented petitioners are at a disadvantage in Court, a point the Task Force on Domestic Violence noted in its March 2022 report.⁴ STOP VAWA funding has been, and will continue to be used by, the DOVE Protect to continue to expand services to these individuals, thus improving outcomes for them and their families.

DOVE continues to review current practices and is always looking for opportunities to improve delivery of services while preserving the collaborative aspect of the Project. To facilitate this collaboration in an effective and efficient way STOP funds support the DOVE Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator positions. These staff members are responsible for coordinating and managing DOVE cases by which the victims’ legal needs are served by volunteer lawyers in private practice. The Coordinator’s and Assistant Coordinator’s roles are administrative, with much of their time dedicated to the recruitment, training and retention of volunteer attorneys who provide legal representation to victims of domestic violence at final restraining order hearings under NH RSA 173-B.

The DOVE staff, under the supervision and with the support of the Pro Bono Manager, promotes awareness of the DOVE Project to current and prospective members of the NH Bar as an opportunity to offer their service to the public in a meaningful way. DOVE’s library of legal education programming is readily available to prospective volunteers. The DOVE Project continues to strengthen its relationship with University of New Hampshire (UNH) School of Law, providing a training program in concert with the director for second year law students enrolled in the Daniel Webster Scholar (DWS) Program. The DOVE Project provides mentorship opportunities linking students with seasoned panel members for shadowing experience adhering to the DWS model for “client ready” graduates with each year. We anticipate maintaining a panel of 120-150 volunteer lawyers through outreach and training opportunities.

². NH Access to Justice Comm’n, Equal Access to Justice: An Assessment of Civil Legal Needs in NH 2 (2021).

³. NH Access to Justice Comm’n, Equal Access to Justice: An Assessment of Civil Legal Needs in NH 2 (2021).

⁴. Task Force on Domestic Violence Cases in the New Hampshire Judicial Branch, Mar. 2022.

US Census Demographic Characteristics 2020 ⁵					DOVE Project Client Demographic Characteristics served in 2021	
	U S Population		NH Population		DOVE Project Clients	
Total Population	331.4 million		1,377,529		172	
Age	Under 5 years	6.0%	Under 5 years	4.7%	0	~
	Under 18 years	22.3	Under 18 years	18.8%	1 client	.006%
	65 years +	16.5	65 years +	18.7%	1 Client	.006%
					170 Clients (19-64 years)	99%
Race & Hispanic Origin	White alone	76.3%	White alone	93.1%	White alone- 129	75%
	Black or African American alone	13.4%	Black or African American alone	1.8%	Black or African American alone -7	4%
	American Indian and Alaska Native alone	1.3%	American Indian and Alaska Native alone	0.3%	American Indian and Alaska Native alone -2	.1%
	Asian alone	5.9%	Asian alone	3.0%	Asian alone - 6	3.5%
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander alone	.02%	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander alone		Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander alone	
	Two or More Races	2.8%	Two or More Races	1.8%	Two or More Races - Not tracked	7.5%
	Hispanic or Latino	18.5%	Hispanic or Latino	4.0%	Other - 13	
					Hispanic or Latino - 15	8.7%
Disability	With a disability, under 65 years	10.2%	With a disability, under 65 years	8.9%	With a disability, under 65 years - 46	27%

⁵. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045221>

93 North State Street, Suite 200, Concord, NH 03301
Phone: 603-224-3333 | Fax: 603-224-6067

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Language	Language spoken in home other than English	21.5%	Language spoken in home other than English	8.1%		Language spoken in home other than English - 8	4.7%

Thank you for the privilege of utilizing STOP VAWA funds. We appreciate VAWA STOP funding that allows the DOVE Project to serve some of the most vulnerable people in New Hampshire.

Sincerely,



Sonya Bellafant
Executive Director
603 Legal Aid



June 3, 2022

Allison Randall
Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N. Street, NE Suite 10W
Washington, DC 20531

RE: NHCADSV STOP Application Documentation

Dear Director Randall,

In response to your request, below please find information regarding the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence's planned implementation of STOP funds.

The Need For The Grant Funds

These funds are needed to enhance the much-needed services to respond to the pervasive problems of sexual and domestic violence in New Hampshire. The NH Violence Against Women Survey found that 33.4% of women in New Hampshire have been physically assaulted by an intimate partner. The same survey found that 22.4% of women in the state had been sexually assaulted. Sexual assault can include several kinds of crimes: rape, incest, sexual harassment, child molestation, marital rape, exposure, and voyeurism.

Advocates for victims of domestic and sexual violence and stalking have an increasing need for training, technical assistance, and support, particularly as they manage the added complexities of the pandemic. Changes in service provision requirements, increasing complexity of victim issues, and the growing diversity of New Hampshire's population require that advocates are provided with ongoing training opportunities. Victims' healing is dependent upon the systems they engage with - medical, criminal justice, child welfare, and others - being responsive to their needs.

The Intended Use of the Funds

The funds will be used in three areas:

A) Training and Programs Coordination

The Coalition continues its commitment to both statewide collaboration and training efforts with the goal of insuring that member program staff have the skills to support survivors engaging with various systems. Coalition staff will assess training needs, identify trainers, and facilitate training on a wide range of issues needed by the member crisis centers, including substance abuse, the impact of trauma, working with underserved populations and other topics. Coalition staff also will provide leadership and coordination for the Family Violence Prevention Specialist (FVPS) program to serve families experiencing both domestic violence and child abuse. Staff will provide technical assistance and training to the Coalition's member programs in their efforts to collaborate with local college campuses around their response to sexual violence; and participate in statewide committees and collaborations that advance the development of training and resources for Coalition programs, including the committee planning the Partnering for a Future without Violence Conference in fall 2022, the statewide Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) steering committee, and the statewide Crime Victim Fund Steering Committee.

B) Sexual Violence Outreach

The NHCADSV is proactive in its sexual violence outreach and the delivery of community education to address issues of victimization and services available for those impacted by sexual violence.

Staff coordinate comprehensive community relations through 1) media monitoring and outreach, 2) communications to constituents, 3) website and social media outreach, 4) outreach and awareness materials, 5) statewide awareness campaigns and 6) relationship development with survivors, volunteers, and community members. We also monitor national and statewide media coverage related to sexual violence and distribute it to applicable audiences, write a quarterly newsletter, and research and write fact sheets and brochures. Staff also respond to print, television and online media requests related to sexual assault, and the availability of services through Coalition member programs.

The Coalition also disseminates outreach materials and information by updating the Coalition's Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest accounts daily, and managing and updating the NHCADSV website.

C) Advancing Systems Collaborations

Coalition staff play key leadership roles in multidisciplinary collaborations throughout New Hampshire designed to improve the criminal legal system and other systems' responses to victims of sexual violence, domestic violence, and stalking. The

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Executive Director, the Program Director, and the Training and Resources Coordinator serve on numerous statewide collaborative projects, with the primary goal of insuring that the needs and interests of victims are considered and incorporated when developing and implementing policies and practices. Those projects include but are not limited to: the Domestic Violence Advisory Council, designed to improve victims' capacity to access civil legal counsel and effectively seek protective orders; the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee; the Child Fatality Review Committee; the Incapacitated and Vulnerable Adult Fatality Review Committee; the Attorney General's Child Abuse and Neglect Task Force; the Wellness and Primary Prevention Council; the Lethality Assessment Program Steering Committee; the Core Team for the NH Human Trafficking Collaborative Task Force; the Campus Consortium's Response and Best Practice Committee; the Interbranch Criminal and Juvenile Justice Commission, and others.

The Expected Result of the Grant Funds

The expected results of the implementation of these grant funds are twofold: first that advocates will have increased skills, tools, and resources to respond to ever more complex consequences of sexual and domestic violence. We anticipate that those services will be trauma informed, resulting in victims' advancing their own healing.

Second, we anticipate that as a result of our expanded outreach, communities will have greater exposure to issues related to domestic and sexual violence, and that victims will have increased awareness of services available to them. We expect that through increased awareness of victims' needs and rights, that victims' experiences in the medical, criminal justice, child welfare and other systems will be improved. Moreover, we intend for increased public dialogue to impact public policy in a way that provides improved protections for victims.

The Characteristics of the Population to be Served

NHCADSV, as a statewide advocacy group, does not provide direct services to victims. Our use of STOP funds will be focused on bolstering the skill set of those at crisis centers who do the hard work of serving victims every day, increasing awareness of those services, and improving the response of systems that serve victims. That being said, we anticipate, based on recent years, that the member programs will serve approximately 15,000 victims this year and that at least 1,600 of them will be under the age of 18. Although it is difficult to anticipate, in recent past years, the racial and ethnic breakdown of individuals served has been as follows:

African American	3%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1%
Caucasian	89%
Hispanic/Latino	5%
Native American	2%
Multi-Racial	0%
Other	0%

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The Coalition ensures that services at crisis centers are available to individuals with limited English proficiency; the most common languages for which we have supported translation services in recent years are Spanish, Bosnian, Mandarin, Portuguese, and Punjabi. The needs of non-English speaking populations shift routinely based on changes in immigrant and refugee populations in New Hampshire. In 2020, the member programs served 1,867 victims identifying as having a disability.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lyn M. Schollett".

Lyn M. Schollett
Executive Director

APPENDIX B

NEW HAMPSHIRE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Working for Equal Justice Since 1971



www.nhla.org

June 6, 2022

Allison Randall, Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N. Street, NE Suite 10 W.
Washington, DC 20531

Toll-Free (all offices):

1-800-562-3174

Fax (all offices):

1-833-722-0271

TTY:

1-800-735-2964

Re: Current and Proposed Use of S*T*O*P VAWA Funding

Dear Director Randall:

Berlin

38 Glen Avenue
Berlin, NH 03570
603-752-1102

I am writing in response to your request to explain how New Hampshire Legal Assistance (NHLA) is using the funding it receives from the S*T*O*P* Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program.

Claremont

24 Opera House Square
Suite 206
Claremont, NH 03743
603-542-8795

For the last 23 years, NHLA has been fortunate to receive funding from the S*T*O*P* Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program to support its Domestic Violence Advocacy Project (DVAP). The goal of the DVAP is to provide high quality civil legal services for low-income victims of domestic violence throughout the State of New Hampshire. DVAP services are provided in collaboration with the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (Coalition), the thirteen individual crisis centers around the state, and our civil legal aid partner 603 Legal Aid (603LA), which operates our state's Pro Bono Program and Domestic Violence Emergency Project (DOVE).

Concord

117 North State Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-223-9750

Access to legal representation is critical for victims of domestic violence. Without legal representation, victims often receive less extensive relief than they are entitled to under New Hampshire's domestic violence statute, RSA 173-B. When pro se litigants are unaware of their legal rights, they fail to ask the court for the relief available to them. Consequently, many victims end up with court orders lacking provisions for child support or a parenting schedule, failing to address who will pay the mortgage, rent, car payments or other necessary monthly expenses, and failing to order the abuser to pay damages to the victim for the results of abuse. Legal representation ensures that victims get the critical relief they need to protect themselves and their children.

Manchester

1850 Elm Street
Suite 7
Manchester, NH 03104
603-668-2900

Portsmouth

154 High Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801
603-431-7411

Administration

117 North State Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-224-4107

Unfortunately, there is very high need for legal assistance for victims in New Hampshire. In 2019, the state's community crisis centers served 14,500 primary and secondary victims, including victims of domestic violence, victims of sexual assault and stalking victims.¹ According to the New Hampshire Judicial Branch 3,497

¹ 2019 Statewide Statistics, New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence.

APPENDIX B

domestic violence petitions and 2,264 stalking petitions were filed in New Hampshire courts in 2021.¹

Court data from 2019 shows that only 12% of the plaintiffs who filed domestic violence petitions were represented by counsel and only 5% of the plaintiffs who filed stalking petitions were represented by counsel.² This translates into approximately 5,200 victims of domestic violence and stalking per year being confronted with the daunting experience of self-representation in court proceedings where most did not understand the laws or standards required to prevail.

While significant efforts have been made toward meeting the legal needs of domestic violence victims in New Hampshire, the needs continue to significantly exceed available resources. A 2021 civil legal needs assessment by the New Hampshire Access to Justice Commission found that low-income people in New Hampshire frequently experience civil legal problems related to family law, housing, and economic insecurity issues such as debt collection.³ These issues have heightened impact for victims, who need to resolve them to protect their long-term safety. The civil legal needs assessment also found that the demand for low and no cost legal services of all types exceeds the available resources.⁴

With the funding we have received from the S*T*O*P* Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program, the DVAP has been able to maintain its ability to provide much-needed emergency legal services for domestic violence victims and provide training and legal support for the community crisis center advocates. The DVAP assists domestic violence victims by providing legal representation: (1) at final restraining order hearings pursuant to RSA 173-B; (2) in civil stalking cases pursuant to RSA 633-3-a; and (3) in custody and visitation matters only within the context of the RSA 173-B final restraining order proceedings. This representation has included gaining child support payments for clients. DVAP attorneys work with crisis center staff about specific client issues or more generally about the legal system and legal procedures. Combining the skills of the crisis center advocates and the DVAP attorneys promotes the safety and self-sufficiency of domestic violence victims through support and legal advocacy.

Due to the great unmet need for legal representation, the DVAP focuses on assisting the most vulnerable and at-risk victims. The project focuses its work in those areas of the state where access to volunteer attorneys is limited, either by number or geography, as well as those areas where crisis center staff tell us that considerable help is needed.

DVAP intakes are done in partnership with local crisis centers and our legal aid partner 603LA. Crisis center advocates complete an online application for services with the victim available on 603LA's website. The application is then reviewed by 603LA staff. If the case meets DVAP's pre-determined priorities, it will be sent to the DVAP for review and possible placement. 603LA conflicts will be sent to the DVAP automatically. The same applies to intakes

¹ Domestic Violence/Stalking Petitions Filed, 1/1/2021-12/31/2021, NH Judicial Branch.

² NH Circuit & Superior Court VAWA Data – 2019 Summary, NH Judicial Branch. This data is representative of the percentage of victims receiving legal assistance historically.

³ *Equal Access to Justice: An Assessment of Civil Legal Needs in New Hampshire*, New Hampshire Access to Justice Commission (January 2021) at 3,

https://www.nhla.org/assets/customContent/NH_Supreme_Court_Access_to_Justice_Civil_Needs_Assessment.pdf/

⁴ Id. at 12.

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from certain geographic regions of the state with limited or no volunteer attorney resources (generally due to very small numbers of attorneys in those regions). If the DVAP is unable to place the case (mostly due to unavailable resources), the case may be referred back to 603LA for possible placement with a volunteer attorney or may be scheduled for counsel and advice with 603LA staff. Due to limited resources, the DVAP is able to accommodate many, but not all, crisis center requests for assistance. S*T*O*P* Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program is essential to the continuation of this work.

In 2021, the DVAP served 23 primary victims of abuse and 45 secondary victims of abuse. Of the 23 primary victims of abuse served, one (4%) were victims of sexual assault, 17 (74%) victims of domestic violence and 5 (22%) victims of stalking. Nineteen (83%) of these victims were abused by a current or former spouse or intimate partner, and four (17%) were abused by a person they were dating. Twenty-two (22) of the primary victims assisted were female, and the gender of one of the victims was unknown. Nineteen (83%) of the victims were between 25-59 years of age and four (17%) of the victims were between 18-24 years of age. Eighteen (78%) of the victims were white, four (17%) were Hispanic or Latino, one (4%) was of unknown origin. Twenty-one (91%) of the primary victims spoke English and two (9%) were limited English proficient. Six (26%) primary victims reported disabilities, two (9%) reported being LGBTQ, one (4%) was an immigrant or refugee and nine (39%) lived in rural parts of New Hampshire, areas typically underserved by volunteer lawyers.

Current and future funding from the S*T*O*P* Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program will enable the DVAP to continue providing critical legal assistance to victims seeking protective orders and continue its collaboration with local crisis centers. In 2022, the DVAP anticipates serving 20-25 victims needing help in obtaining permanent domestic violence restraining orders with our S*T*O*P* grant funding. We expect to assist at least 80% of those victims in actually obtaining that relief.⁵

We are extremely grateful to Office on Violence Against Women and the New Hampshire Department of Justice for their ongoing support of our program. Without funding from the S*T*O*P* Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program, many vulnerable victims of domestic violence would have nowhere to turn for legal help in New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Erin Jasina

Erin Jasina (Jun 6, 2022 13:26 EDT)

Erin Jasina

Domestic Violence Advocacy Project Director

⁵ In 2021, of the 14 protective orders requested, 93% were granted.

APPENDIX B



June 3, 2022

Allison Randall
Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N. Street, NE Suite 10 W.
Washington, DC 20531

Ms Randall,

In response to your request, please accept the following documentation of ORIS's current and proposed use of VAWA STOP grant funds. ORIS is grateful for the VAWA funding that allows our organization to do important work for New American communities.

During the past ten years, more than 3,000 refugees have resettled in Southern New Hampshire; most in Manchester, Concord, and Nashua. Refugees and immigrants arriving in New Hampshire face numerous barriers to accessing resources and services necessary for wellbeing, such as limited English proficiency, cultural differences, unfamiliarity with US social systems, limited financial resources, emotional stress from the trauma of immigration, and health conditions resulting from overseas refugee environments. These factors also make refugees and immigrants particularly vulnerable to domestic violence and sexual assault. Until 2018, when ORIS launched the Healthy Families program, New Hampshire offered no dedicated, culturally-specific services for refugee and immigrant survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. ORIS is the longest-standing Ethnic Community Based Organization in New Hampshire, and remains the only organization that offers exclusively culturally-specific survivor support and case management services for refugee and immigrant survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in the state.

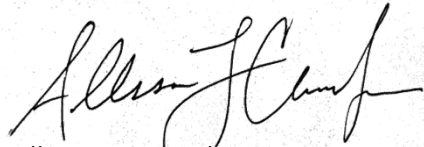
ORIS's Healthy Families Program utilizes VAWA STOP grant funds to provide a broad range of survivor support services to refugees and immigrants New Hampshire. ORIS's specifically trained and experienced Advocates have served more than 150 survivors over the past 3.5 years. Healthy Families Advocates receive cases through self-referral and referral from other agencies. Through the support of VAWA STOP grant funding, ORIS's two Healthy Families Advocates (1 FTE) currently serve 30 active clients, and 76 secondary victims. These clients primarily live in Manchester, Concord, and Nashua, and most are African refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and Burundi. Of these 30 clients, 14 identify as Black, 9 as White (including North African and Middle Eastern populations), 5 as Hispanic, and 2 as Asian. Seven clients experience disabilities. Currently, 12 clients speak Arabic, 9 speak Kiswahili, 5 speak Spanish, 2 speak Kirundi, 1 speaks Dari, and 1 speaks Nepali. Healthy Families Advocates share the cultural and linguistic backgrounds of many of ORIS's clients. When serving clients with whom the Advocate does not share language and culture, Advocates use interpretation, and operate with a deep understanding of the client's historical, political, and cultural background to provide a comfortable and accepting environment for addressing sensitive, family-oriented topics. In this way, Advocates ensure that clients receive the most culturally appropriate and humble support possible. Advocates provide comprehensive case management services surrounding clients' presenting concerns, and work with clients to develop, and work toward achieving their personal goals.

Through VAWA STOP grant funding, the ORIS is on track to accomplish its 2022 programmatic goals. By the end of the year, the Healthy Families program aims to increase its capacity to respond to domestic violence and sexual assault survivors' needs with culturally and linguistically-specific services. The Healthy Families Program is well on its way to serving its goal of 40 clients and their

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families in 2022. Finally, the Healthy Families Program is continuously working to create a supportive environment to reach clients who may have been hesitant to access mainstream domestic violence and sexual assault support services due to cultural differences. ORIS appreciates the critical role that VAWA STOP grant funding has played in enhancing service provision to better impact clients. ORIS looks forward to continued support to further advance efforts to provide culturally-specific services for New Americans facing domestic violence and sexual assault.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allison Cunningham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Allison" and last name "Cunningham" clearly distinguishable.

Allison Cunningham
Associate Director
Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success
acunningham@refugeesuccess.org
603-218-3863

APPENDIX B



City of Portsmouth, N.H.

Police Department

Mark D. Newport
CHIEF OF POLICE



June 6, 2022

Ms. Allison Randall
Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N. Street, NE Suite 10 W
Washington, DC 20531

Dear Ms. Randall:

In 1998 the Portsmouth Police Department hired and assigned their first Victim/Witness Advocate to the Prosecutor's Office through funding from AmeriCorps. Subsequently, in 1999 the Police Department applied for, and received, VAWA grant funding for the Victim/Witness Advocate position.

At this time, the grant funds a portion of the advocate position and the police department funding the balance. Over time, the department funded an increasing percentage of the position as the grant funding leveled off. When the economic downturn hit the country, police departments nationwide shed staffing to cope with the financial crisis and burden to their taxpayers. Portsmouth was no different. At that time, the police department lost 10 officer positions and several civilian staff. This included the department funded portion of the victim advocate.

The grant manager at the time was able to work things out for the short run to fully fund this full-time position. As the grant funding returned to prior normal levels, the victim advocate position at the department was reduced to a part-time, 100% grant funded position. The department's primary focus had to be focused on requesting funding for the officers needed to patrol the city.

As the economy has improved, the city has slowly restored the positions lost city-wide. In addition, with the award of another grant geared to victim services, the VOCA grant, the police department was able to restore the Victim Witness Advocate to full time status, splitting time between VAWA and VOCA services to include the corresponding match for each grant.

The intended use of the grant funds:

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The court office within the Portsmouth Police Department is made up of one full time prosecutor, one part-time prosecutor, one full time paralegal, and one full time Victim/Witness Advocate. The office is responsible for the criminal prosecution of all misdemeanor and violation level offenses that occur within the City of Portsmouth, to include instances of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. VAWA funding would directly support the services of our Victim/Witness Advocate assigned to these cases. Currently, VAWA funding provides for 45% of the Victim Advocacy program, so without it, the program would be cut to part-time, to the detriment of our service area.

Historically, it is accepted that VAWA-supported categories of crimes, specifically Domestic Violence-related offenses, are particularly difficult to prosecute effectively due to the intricacies of power and control dynamics that exist within intimate relationships. Often, offenders make their victims dependent upon them, so in the event of an arrest, victims can be left vulnerable for basic needs. For this reason, it is extremely important that a Victim Advocate contact victims as soon as possible after an arrest is made, to begin to fill gaps and provide resources and services.

More often than not, the Victim/Witness Advocate at the Portsmouth PD is the only person involved with the case that a victim keeps in contact with until a trial date. Without the Advocate, the majority of victims would not have a contact person to speak with about their concerns, wants, questions, or services are available to them. Without the support and ongoing contact of an advocate, many victims decide against cooperating with the criminal justice process.

While the Victim Advocate's primary responsibility is assisting victims through the court process, grant funds are also used to complete the following:

- Participate as a member of the Sexual Assault Response Team
- Serve as a support person during interviews
- Establish a relationship between the victim and the Police Department
- Establish a relationship between the Police Department and local and state crisis organizations
- Identify and connect victims to resources
- Inform victims of scheduled court dates and accompany them
- Prepare victims for Court hearings and testifying
- Assist with Victim Impact Statements
- Provide on-scene safety planning and assistance

Our current Victim/Witness Advocate has been with the Portsmouth Police Department since January 2019. During her tenure, she has worked with over 1000 victims of Domestic Violence, Stalking, Sexual Assault, and Dating Violence. In the coming grant years, it is expected that these services will continue to be provided, and victims will get the assistance they are entitled to. With the provided funding, we expect successful prosecution of criminal cases, and greater positive outcomes for those we serve.

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Expected results and demographics

In 2021:

Caseload comprised of: 8% Sexual Assault victims
 45% Stalking Victims
 47% Domestic Violence Victims.

Demographic Characteristics: 76% Female
 24% Male

91% White
6% Black
0% Asian
3% Hispanic or Latino

2.5% ages of 11 and 17 years old
15.5% ages of 18 and 24 years old
79% ages 25 and 59 years old
3% ages of 60 years of age and older

80% of the victim/survivors had a current or former relationship with the offender.
13% were related to the offender
5% only knew the offender as an acquaintance
None were strangers with the offender

2 had Limited English proficiency, and 1 had another disability.

The Portsmouth Police Department appreciates the continued partnership with the NH Department of Justice and The S*T*O*P Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program (referred to as the VAWA Program), because it allows us to continue ensuring victims/survivors are supported in our community and are helped through the court process.

Sincerely,



Michael Maloney, Acting Chief of Police



APPENDIX B Salem Police Department

9 Veterans Memorial Parkway, Salem New Hampshire 03079

Phone: (603) 893-1911 Fax: (603) 685-6475

www.townofsalemnh.org/police-department

Joel P. Dolan, Chief of Police

To: Allison Randall
Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N. Street, NE Suite 10W.
Washington, DC 20531

6/3/2022

Ms. Randall:

This letter is intended to highlight the need, intended use, expected results, and the demographic characteristics of the population to be served of the Salem Police Department's use of VAWA funding.

NEED & INTENDED USE:

In September of 2021, the Salem Police Department brought on its first Victim Witness Advocate through the use of a VAWA grant. Prior to hiring a VWA, victims of domestic and sexual violence were only contacted intermittently by a Prosecutor prior to their trial while victims were given a card to available services. The grant funds along with the Town's match will be used to fund the salary and training of the Victim Witness Advocate.

The grant-funded victim advocate will establish relationships with victims of sexual and domestic violence. This will include educating the victim about community resources, the court process, their rights, and the services the VWA can provide to them. This position will keep in contact with the victim throughout the court process and keep the victim up to date as to the status of the case and any hearings. Working with the prosecutor(s), the VWA will help prepare the victim in court procedures and testifying, answer any questions, and potentially be an advocate for the victim in court – even reading a statement at their request.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The expected results of this position are to attempt contact with every victim of domestic and sexual violence, where an offense occurred within the Town of Salem to offer the services listed above. Additionally, the department intends to seek additional funding from the Town of Salem, through the budgeting process, to make this position a full-time

APPENDIX B

position with benefits which will allow the VWA more time to concentrate on victims of sexual and domestic violence

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

According to most recent data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Town of Salem New Hampshire has the following residential racial demographics:

White	90%
Black / African American	.7%
Hispanic or Latino	8.6%
American Indian / All Other	.7%

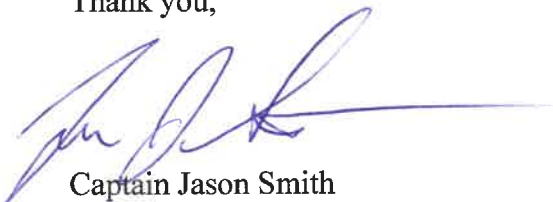
However, Salem is a destination for many people from bordering towns and cities from our neighboring state Massachusetts, as well as other locations within New England and New York. The large retail community, coupled with no sales taxes, numerous job opportunities, and entertainment venues creates a daily demographic that is inconsistent with U.S. Census data of the Town's residents alone. The demographic data of victims of domestic and sexual violence serviced by our Victim Witness Advocate since her start in September of 2021 attest to this fact:

White	83%
Black / African American	3%
Hispanic or Latino	10.5%
American Indian / All Other	3%

The services provided by the Victim Witness Advocate would be for all victims of domestic or sexual abuse, regardless of gender, age, disability, orientation, or identity. In addition, many of the victims utilize English as a second language, where the primary language spoken is Spanish. Our victim witness advocate is able to provide services to a victim who speaks any language through the use of interpreter services provided by the Language Line.

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact me at 603-890-2014 or email me at jsmith@salemnh.gov.

Thank you,



Captain Jason Smith
Operations Support Commander

APPENDIX B

OFFICE OF THE
STRAFFORD COUNTY ATTORNEY

COUNTY ATTORNEY
Thomas P. Velardi

Justice & Administration Building
259 County Farm Road, Suite 201
Dover, New Hampshire 03820

VICTIM ASSISTANCE
Nancy Harris



May 27, 2022

Allison Randall
Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N. Street, NE Suite 10 W.
Washington, DC 20531

Dear Ms. Randall:

I am writing to express my support and our office's continued reliance on STOP VAWA funds from the Office on Violence Against Women. For many years this office has relied on these funds in order to implement trauma informed best practices in trying cases of domestic violence and related crimes.

Currently, these funds are allocated for the position of one of the three attorneys who cover the Strafford County Domestic Violence Unit. This attorney's position is based out of the Rochester District Court, and they, with another attorney, split the prosecution of all crimes that are domestic violence in nature in the catchment area. This involves offenses such as assaults, crimes against property, threats, violations of court orders, and other miscellaneous charges where the victim in the case is a family or household member, or intimate partner. The tasks performed in the commission of this job include representing the State's interests at numerous hearings, such as bail reviews, arraignments, and trial, as well as working with local police departments to help direct investigations and assist in training new officers in the dynamics of domestic violence, and victim services organizations to support victims as they navigate the criminal justice system. The attorney also works closely with a team of Victim Witness Coordinators to prepare the victim to testify in any court hearings, as well as to answer any questions they have about the court process. Finally, this position also has a small amount of juvenile court cases per year, generally sexual assault in nature. For that part of the role, they work closely with the juvenile probation officers to ensure the juvenile perpetrator is being offered services and support to be rehabilitated as intended by the juvenile justice system.

Importantly, if this position did not exist within this office, all duties outlined here would be the responsibility of each individual police department in our catchment area. This would result in a breakdown of the seamless systems outlined above, and would make it difficult to access victim witness coordinators or other information involved in their case. Having a dedicated, county wide position based out of the County Attorney's Office to do this important work ensures that victims feel supported, that offenders are held accountable, and expedites these cases in the circuit court system.

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Strafford County's unique population makeup and position in the state also impact the need for targeted services for victims of domestic violence. Located in the Seacoast region, Strafford County is the fourth largest county in population size, with approximately 132,416 citizens (Census, 2020). The county is comprised of both urban and rural areas, creating a challenging dynamic for addressing abuse through the various communities. In terms of demographics for Strafford County, 8.2% of families live below the poverty line. The current challenging climate of the combined effects of the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with a challenging economic situation and inflation has resulted in many more victims in need of assistance. Due to these factors, they also simultaneously face greater barriers breaking away to start a new life. Additionally, the 2020 U.S. Census shows that Strafford County remains 92.5% white and only 7.5% minority, and that approximately 6% of households do not speak English as their first language. This requires the County Attorney's Office and law enforcement to provide translators on occasion, and remains a significant barrier for these victims when reaching out for help.

While these STOP VAWA funds do not encompass the entirety of our strategy and work force dedicated to prosecuting crimes of domestic violence, they are an important piece to our on-going funding puzzle. We appreciate and rely on the availability of these funds annually to ensure that survivors of these and other crimes are met with professional and specialized services in their time of need. We know from research that victims and survivors who feel supported throughout the criminal justice process are more likely to follow through with prosecution, which not only supports survivors but assist in keeping the community at large safe. Thank you for your consideration of this letter and our application.

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas P. Velardi
Strafford County Attorney
Strafford County Attorney's Office, Dover NH



June 1, 2022

Allison Randall
Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N. Street, NE Suite 10 W.
Washington, DC 20531

via email: Travis.N.Teeboom@doj.nh.gov

Dear Mrs. Randall

This letter is for documentation of addressing the need and use of STOP VAWA grant funding. The Victory Women of Vision has received their first DOJ awards in the amount of \$66,656 for the year 2021-2022 of which we are very grateful.

1. **The need for the STOP VAWA grants funds.** Victory Women of Vision (VWV) has been actively supporting the immigrant and refugee (New American) community in Manchester since 2013 and has been painfully aware of the scourge of intimate partner violence and abuse as well as rape in the New American community. Unfortunately, victims often do not feel comfortable reporting abuse due to cultural taboos and strictures as well as fear of the criminal justice system. Having a victim advocate who is also a New American and speaks their native language is hugely helpful in moving these victims to become long term survivors. The STOP VAWA funds have been critical to funding our culturally appropriate victim advocates who work with the local crisis centers.
2. **The intended use of the grant funds.** STOP VAWA funds are used to fund our culturally appropriate victim advocates who serve both the Latina and African American community. It also is used to partially fund our Executive Director who is critical in our outreach to the New American community as well overseeing the work of advocates.
3. **The expected result of the grant funds.** VWV anticipates increased numbers of New American victims successfully becoming long term survivors of violence and abuse. Besides close advocacy and mentorship of individual clients, outreach and referral to acute crisis centers, we have successfully started a Latina support group for survivors and are in the process of forming one for African survivors. Advocacy takes multiple forms including assisting victims with housing, emotional support, financial counseling, job search and applications among other services.

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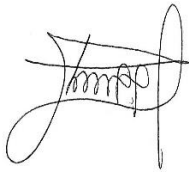
4. **The demographic characteristics of the population to be served, including disability, race, ethnicity, and language background.** Manchester's population is 12.2% foreign born and 13.9% nonwhite, approximately 10% Hispanic, 6% Black and 5% Asian. 19% of households primarily speak a language other than English. VWV victims all are foreign born and most speak very limited or no English. VWV clients are currently 52% Hispanic and 47% African.

VWV remains extremely grateful for the STOP VAWA funds which allow us to continue this important work.

Sincerely,

Mary Georges
Victory Women of Vision President/Founder

P.O. Box 38
25 Lowell St. Suite 307
Manchester, NH 03013
Office: 603-623-8968
Cell: 603-264-7083
victorywomenofvision.org

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Georges', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the bottom left.

APPENDIX B

Allison Randall
Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N. Street, NE Suite 10 W.
Washington, DC 20531



YWCA New Hampshire

72 Concord Street
Manchester, NH, 03101

P 603.625.5785

F 603.627.8900

ywcanh.org

May 20, 2022

Ms. Randall,

I am writing this letter in support of the need and appreciation of STOP VAWA grant funds. Our organization, YWCA New Hampshire, receives STOP VAWA grant funds in support of our work providing critical support services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Specifically, STOP VAWA grant funds allow us to provide culturally responsive services to our diverse community members, including those who are non-English speaking, immigrants and/or refugees, or otherwise are in need of a culturally responsive approach to providing support services.

The demographic characteristics of these survivors served primarily under these grant funds generally are Latinx, Black/African American, or Middle Eastern in terms of racial and ethnic background. Being non-English speaking or having low English proficiency is also very typical of the survivors served primarily by this grant.

By having grant funds available to us to specifically target this underserved population and provide services from a best practices perspective based on the unique needs of this population, we are able to effect real change for the survivors of violence we serve. Without these funds, we would not be nearly as well equipped to provide services to this underserved population and survivors from that population would not be served or would not be served to the same degree of efficacy, potentially leaving survivors unserved or underserved which would be a threat to their safety and the safety of the greater community.

We expect that with the use of these grant funds, we can continue to expand our impact on this underserved population and provide increased and more effective services to these survivors. This will increase our overall number of survivors served, create safety for these underserved survivors, and contribute to a safer community overall. YWCA

APPENDIX B

New Hampshire supports continued funding of STOP VAWA grants and appreciates continued access to this grant program to best serve the community around us and the survivors that are often at the most risk. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katie Parent". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Katie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Parent".

Katie Parent
Director of Programs and Community Outreach
YWCA New Hampshire
72 Concord Street
Manchester, NH 03101

APPENDIX B
OFFICE OF THE GRAFTON COUNTY ATTORNEY

DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY
Paul V. Fitzgerald
Tara J. Heater

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
Alison Z. Evans

VICTIM/WITNESS PROGRAM
Carin E. Sillars
Sabra K. Stephens
Stacey D. Cass
Ashley L. Belyea



Martha Ann Hornick
COUNTY ATTORNEY

3785 Dartmouth College Highway, Box 7
North Haverhill, NH 03774
603-787-6968 • Fax 603-787-2026
email: countyattorney@gcao.us

Victim/Witness Program • 603-787-2040 • victimwitness@gcao.us

ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEYS
Mariana C. Pastore
Viktoriya A. Kovalenko
Antonia J. Barry
Amanda K. Jacobson
Julia N. Butner
Garrett S. Bartlett
Amanda L. Kniveton

June 8, 2022

Allison Randall, Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N. Street, NE Suite 10 W.
Washington, DC 20531

Director Randall,

I am writing in my capacity as the Grafton County Attorney. STOP VAWA grant funds are essential in helping our office continue to pursue justice for victims in cases of violence against women in domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, elder abuse and human trafficking as well.

This need remains paramount: these funds help partially fund a prosecutor to further his or her training in prosecuting those types of cases in a county where the case loads are already high. Without this funding, there would be an immediate and stinging reduction in time that prosecutors can spend on these types of cases which should obviously never be shortchanged. Being able to get that prosecutor advanced training, and thus increase his or her understanding of the dynamics and nuances of these complicated cases is a necessary component of any effective prosecution - and is part of what these funds allow.

The funding ensures effective prosecution, using effective strategies. The prosecutor also shares his or her expertise with other prosecutors, conducts training of law enforcement and works with initiatives such as Sexual Assault Resource Teams and the Sexual Assault Justice Initiative.

Grafton County is a large county geographically, with 38 towns and one city. Thus, the demographic characteristic of the population to be served includes residents of Grafton County of all ages. Over thirty different entities are responsible for investigating cases that would qualify as VAWA cases. Some Grafton agencies may assistance from an adult sexual assault investigator, but they are still responsible for and focused on each of their cases within their jurisdictions.

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Allison Randall, Director

Page 2

Grafton County has assisted and will continue to assist victims of different races and ethnicities and we have responded to the needs of victims with learning disabilities, physical and cognitive disabilities (or otherwise infirmed) such that they lack the capacity to "consent." When language barriers arise, we access the resources throughout the state to ensure an ability to communicate in order to try and allow the victim to feel finally heard. And, because of its geography and population bases and the fact that there is no public transportation to the court house from across the 1700 square mile county, we travel to victims, a very time consuming but necessary part of our jobs.

The bottom line is the VAWA prosecutor is a point person to ensure that these cases are handled properly. This funding greatly assists in that goal.

In the end, the expected result is that all victims of these types of crimes feel properly supported, that the cases are properly investigated and prosecuted, and that the best result possible is achieved.

Thank you and please let me know if this answers all of your questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Martha Ann Hornick', with a stylized, flowing script.

Martha Ann Hornick
Grafton County Attorney

MAH/tlkm

APPENDIX B
ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

33 CAPITOL STREET
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301-6397

JOHN M. FORMELLA
ATTORNEY GENERAL



JAMES T. BOFFETTI
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

June 15, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

The Office of Victim/Witness Assistance (OVWA) at the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office was legislatively created in 1987. OVWA's mission, in part, is to standardize services to victims of crime throughout the state. Training is a critical component to ensuring that victims of crime are treated with consistency throughout the process. OVWA promotes best practice policies through trauma informed and victim centered procedures that help inform professionals on the handling of cases of domestic and sexual violence.

The OVWA addresses this need through:

- 1.) The Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee (DVFRC) which conducts systemic review of domestic violence related homicides and makes recommendations for systemic change with the goal of preventing future deaths and the better handling of domestic violence related homicides that do occur.
- 2.) The development of numerous multidisciplinary protocols on the handling of domestic and sexual violence and stalking cases statewide.
- 3.) The New Hampshire Lethality Assessment Project (LAP) which is an easy to use screening tool and accompanying referral protocol to connect victims that are in-high danger situations, with service providers.
- 4.) The *Annual Partnering for a Future Without Violence Conference*. This multidisciplinary training brings together criminal justice systems and other collaborative partners.
- 5.) The Sexual Assault Resource Team (SART) initiative.
- 6.) The New Hampshire Campus Consortium Against Sexual and Interpersonal Violence (Consortium).

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These initiatives are coordinated by the Administrator I and two part-time Program Specialists. The grant will be used to pay a portion of their salaries and benefits within the Office of Victim/Witness Assistance.

The ability to provide leadership to these multidisciplinary initiatives promotes a continuity and ensures a coordinated response. By providing guidance and training to the criminal justice community and our collaborative partners on best practices, it is anticipated that OVWA's efforts will trickle down from the criminal justice professionals to the victims that they serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynda W. Ruel', with a large, stylized initial 'L' and 'R'.

Lynda W. Ruel
Director, Office of
Victim/Witness Assistance