

**Violence Against Women Act
STOP Formula Grant Program**



STOP Implementation Plan

FY 2017-2020

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I. Introduction

The Wyoming Division of Victim Services (DVS), in the Office of the Attorney General, is charged with administering funding, technical assistance, training and support to victim services providers throughout the state. The mission of DVS is, “To cultivate social change and access to victim services through the provision of resources, education, and program support and development.” DVS manages all state and federal funds for services to victims of crime, including the Wyoming Crime Victim’s Compensation Program.

DVS funds twenty-three domestic violence/sexual assault shelter service providers, twenty-five victim/witness programs located in law enforcement agencies and prosecutor’s offices, as well as five Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) programs, three Child Advocacy Centers (CACs), three Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) programs, and the Board of Parole.

With over 97,000 square miles and only slightly more than half of one million people, providing services to victims of crime in Wyoming presents unique challenges. Some agencies receiving funding are single-person offices and many have no more than two employees. Due to this, DVS feels it is important to be thoughtful, resourceful, and creative in determining how best to utilize the available resources for victims of crime.

It is the goal of DVS to work with local communities to address the needs of victims of crime from a community approach. DVS believes that all community stakeholders can and should come to the table, learn what each agency can provide, and determine what each of them can do to ensure victims of crime receive quality services in their community.

The following is the Wyoming STOP Implementation Plan for FY 2017-2020. This plan was approved on February 10, 2017. DVS will continue to include diverse groups as we implement this plan and update it as needed through input from key stakeholders, members of non-profit organizations, faith-based programs, tribal programs, governmental programs, and others on committees whose mission is to address sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence in Wyoming. This will ensure that DVS will gain input from a cross section of service providers and interested persons to determine the action steps needed to address these issues within our state.

II. Description of Planning Process

A. Description of the Planning Process

DVS has been committed to developing an implementation plan that addresses the needs of all victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. To that end DVS committed the time necessary to develop a comprehensive plan. The planning process for the 2017 implementation plan began in January, 2016 with the selection of the planning committee. It was important for DVS to develop a planning committee that was inclusive of subgrantees, stakeholders, tribal government, and underserved populations. Committee members were recruited from the Wyoming Supreme Court, a domestic violence and sexual assault program, the Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police, the Prosecuting Attorney's Association and the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes. In addition representatives in the following programs were recruited to represent underserved population; Adult Protective Services to represent the elderly population, Victim Witness Program to represent the Hispanic/Latino Population and Wyoming Equality to represent the LGBTQ population. DVS was able to secure a participant from each of these organizations and for each of the identified underserved populations with the exception of a representative of the Wyoming Supreme Court. The Implementation Planning Committee (committee) began meeting in February, 2016 and scheduled monthly telephone calls until the final submission of the plan. The committee communicated by e-mail between monthly calls in order to maintain open communication and to keep committee members apprised of plan development.

The committee felt the planning process would be more meaningful if stakeholders and the community had the opportunity to participate in the development of the plan. To this end the planning committee developed four opportunities for input. First, the committee developed a survey to be sent to subgrantees and other stakeholders. The survey was designed to obtain input on key questions the committee had regarding the content of the new plan. The survey was sent electronically using SurveyMonkey. Second, the committee developed a series of community meetings. The meetings which were scheduled in five towns across the state were designed to gain input from both community members and stakeholders on the issues they felt were most important. The meetings were advertised to stakeholders by e-mail and to community members through print newspapers. Third, the committee held two additional webinars in order to provide an opportunity for those who wanted to participate in the community meetings but could not travel. Lastly, the committee sent an electronic copy of the draft plan to all stakeholders for input. During each stage of stakeholder/community input the committee used the information provided to guide the

development of the implementation plan, especially the goals and priority areas.

B. Documentation from the Planning Committee

Documentation of collaboration from each member of the planning committee can be found in appendix 1.

C. Coordination with FVPSA and VOCA

DVS is the statewide grantor for funds coming from both the Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA) and the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). Coordination of this plan with FVPSA and VOCA expectations is a continual, forward-moving progression. It should be noted that DVS does not play a role in funding from section 393A of the Public Health Service Act.

III. Needs and Context

A. State Population and Demographic Data

Wyoming is the 10th largest state in square miles in the union, but has the lowest population (586,107 according to US Census population estimates for 2015), making the population density the second lowest in the nation. Wyoming is a federally-designated “Rural” state. According to the 2010 U.S. Census Survey, there are only 5.8 people per square mile in Wyoming.

Of the State’s population 84% is “white alone, not Hispanic or Latino.” Hispanic or Latino persons make up 10% of the population, and “American Indian and Alaska Native alone” make up 3%. African-American, Pacific Islander and Asian populations comprise the remaining 2%. The percentage of persons who speak a language other than English at home is 6.9%. Since the 2010 census, the percentage of persons over the age of 65 has increased from 2% to 14.5%. The population of persons under the age of 18 has remained relatively steady at 23.7%. According to Wyoming Equality, LGBT persons make up 2.9% of the population. Persons with a disability under the age of 65 comprise 8.5% of the population.

Wyoming is divided into 23 counties and contains 99 incorporated municipalities; 68.3% of the State’s population reside in incorporated municipalities. The most populous county in the State is Laramie County which contains the Capital of the State and most populous city, Cheyenne. The population of Laramie County is 97,121 with a population density of 34.2. The least populous county is Niobrara with a population of 2,542 and a population density of 0.9. There are an estimated 269,448 households in the State with an average of 2.49 persons per household. The median household income is \$58,252 with 11.1% of the population living in poverty. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, over the past six months the unemployment rate has ranged from 5.3 to 5.7.

Affordable transportation is a major barrier for victims seeking services in Wyoming. There are 23 domestic violence and sexual assault programs in the State, one in each county. These programs serve all 99 incorporated municipalities and unincorporated rural areas. Many communities are fifty miles or more apart making transportation critical for victims seeking services. Despite the need for reliable transportation there are only 40 local transit organizations in the state, only five are operated by local or county governments, or coalitions providing route based services. The remaining transportation services are door to door services offered by private agencies such as senior centers or child development centers.

Other barriers that impact access to services for victims of sexual assault residing in rural areas include the realities of “small town” living. Victims of sexual assault residing in outlying communities and remote areas are more likely to be acquainted with their offenders. According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Council, the closer the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, the less likely the victim is to report an incident of sexual assault. Additionally, victims residing in rural areas are less likely to maintain confidentiality and service providers tend to be part of the victim’s social network, further reducing the victim’s likelihood of reporting such crimes.

B. Distribution of Underserved Populations

The Division of Victim Services has identified the following underserved populations, elderly, Hispanic/Latino, Limited English Proficiency (LEP), Native American, rural, and LGBTQ. The distribution of underserved populations across the state has been difficult to capture. The following information has been obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Wyoming Economic Analysis Division. The elder population in the state is consistent with the population of each county. The largest populations of elder persons are in Laramie County with 17% of the elder population and Natrona County with 13%. The smallest populations of elder persons are in Hot Springs County and Niobrara County with less than 1% each. The largest population of Hispanic/Latino persons is in Carbon County; 17% of the county population is Hispanic/Latino. Carbon County is followed closely by both Sweetwater and Teton counties, both with 16%. The lowest population of Hispanic/Latino persons are in Niobrara and Crook Counties, both with 3% of the county population. The Native American population is primarily located in Fremont County. The Wind River Reservation borders Fremont County which has the largest population of any county neighboring the Wind River Reservation. Fremont County is home to 55% of the Native American Population. The next largest population of Native American people is in Laramie County with 8%. While Laramie County is the largest county by population in the state it is over 280 miles from the Wind River Reservation. This indicates the majority of the population lives on or in the immediate vicinity of the Wind River Reservation. It is difficult to determine the distribution of LEP persons within the state. To do this we utilized U.S. Census data on the number of persons living in each county who are not U.S. citizens. The use of this data for the purpose of identifying the distribution of LEP victims will not be accurate as many persons living in Wyoming who are not U.S. citizens do speak English. The total estimated population of non-U.S. citizens in Wyoming is 12,273. The largest population of non-U.S. citizens is in Teton County; 8% (1,861 persons) of the population of Teton County are not U.S. Citizens, this represents 15% of the total

non-U.S. citizen population in Wyoming. Teton County's population of non-U.S. citizens is 4% higher than the 2nd ranked county. The lowest population of non-U.S. citizens is in Niobrara County with .1% (4 persons) of the county's population; this represents .03% of the total population of non-U.S. citizens in the state. Rural populations can be found in every county in Wyoming. The State has only two urbanized areas, and seventeen urban clusters; four counties do not contain either an urbanized area or urban cluster and thus 100% of the population in these counties are classified as rural. Statewide, rural persons account for 35.2% of the population. Sweetwater County is considered the least rural county in the state with only 10.9% of the population living outside of urban clusters. Of the seventeen urban clusters in the state five have less than 5,000 people and nine have less than 10,000 people. With this information we see that thirteen of the twenty-three counties in the state do not have anything larger than an urban cluster with less than 10,000 people. As stated previously, 35.2% (198,633 persons) of the State's population is considered rural, meaning they do not reside in an urbanized area or an urban cluster. Of the 35.2% of the population that reside in rural areas, 43% (85,222 persons) reside "in place." According to the U.S. Census Bureau, "in place" is any city, town, or census designated place. This means 57% (113,411) of the rural population reside "not in place," this equates to 20% of the State's population.

C. Criminal Justice and Court Data

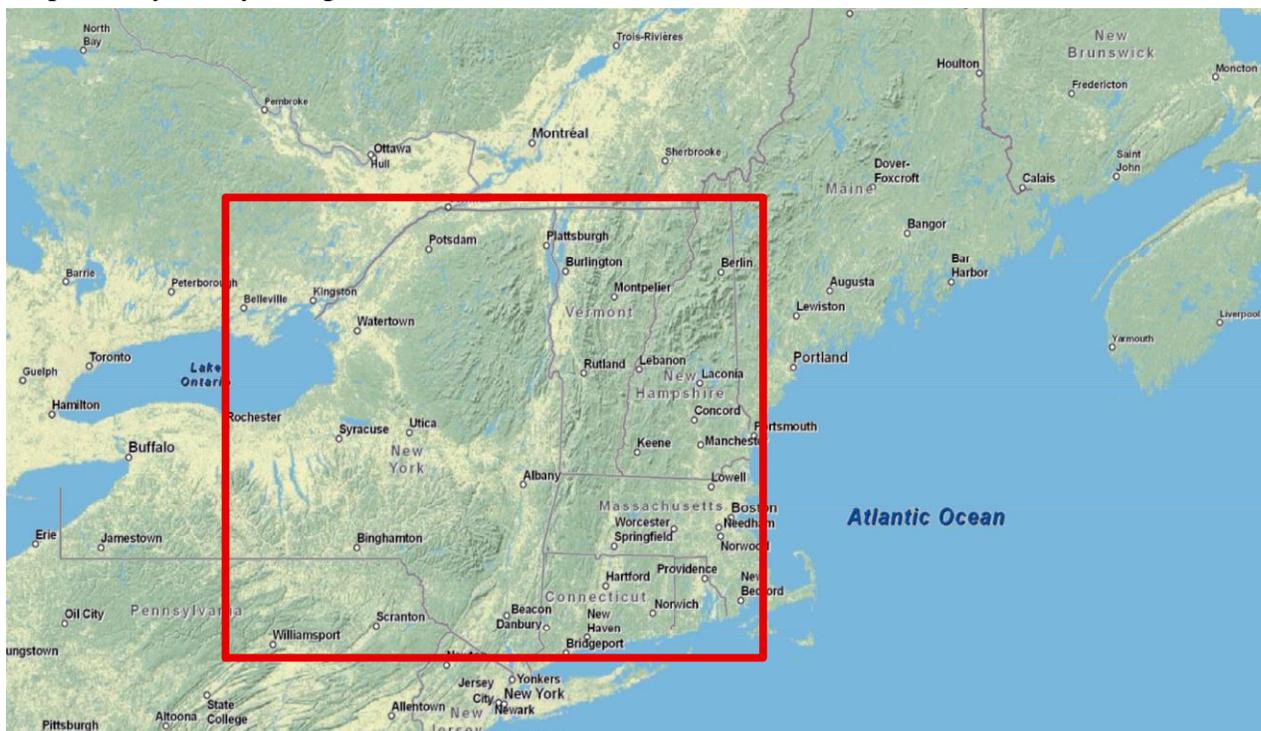
The Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) collects data from 56 law enforcement agencies in Wyoming and provides annual as well as quarterly reports on crime in Wyoming. When more than one type of violence occurs, or multiple dispositions are reported for a single incident, only the most serious and/or consequential action is counted for DCI's reporting purposes. DCI reports 2,513 incidents of domestic and dating violence in calendar year 2015. Of the 2,513 incidents, 24% were committed by a spouse, 21% occurred in a dating relationship, 21% were committed by a household member other than a spouse, parent, child, sibling, or dating partner, 9% were committed by the victim's child. Two counties did not report any incidents of domestic violence, Niobrara and Big Horn. Campbell County reported a disproportionately high rate of domestic violence. Campbell County represents 8% of the State's population yet reported 16% of domestic violence incidents. In comparison, Laramie County, home to the State Capital and the largest county by population represents 17% of the State's population yet only reported 14% of domestic violence incidents. Natrona County represents 14% of the State's population and reported 15% of domestic violence incidents. DCI reported 198 protection order violations which resulted in 56 arrests for an arrest rate of 28.3%. Two domestic violence homicides were reported in 2015, one by a boyfriend/girlfriend, and one by another household member.

DCI reported 143 forcible rapes in calendar year 2015 and 15 attempted rapes. The majority (19.4%) of perpetrators were between the age of 30 and 34, followed by offenders who were 19 (11.1%) and between the ages of 25 and 29 (11.1%). This does not include statutory rape without force and other sex offenses.

The Wyoming Judicial Branch (JB) maintains all court statistics for the State. The JB tracks family violence and stalking cases together, by county as well as protection orders for family violence, stalking, and sexual assault. The sexual assault protection order is new to Wyoming, going into effect July 1, 2015. The JB tracks data for the State Fiscal Year (SFY), July 1 through June 30. In SFY 2016 1,677 family violence and stalking cases were filed in Wyoming courts.

Table 1

Map overlay of Wyoming over the north east United States.



IV. Plan Priorities and Approaches

A. Identified Goals

As the state administering agency for VAWA STOP, SASP, FVPSA, VOCA and various state grants to victim services organizations the Division of Victim Services in conjunction with the VAWA Implementation Planning Committee worked to develop goals that support existing services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, while working to address various needs across the state. The VAWA Implementation Planning committee used input from stakeholders and community members from various forums which included a survey, in-person meetings, and webinars to develop the following goals and their corresponding objectives and activities.

Goal: Enhance the ability of service providers and criminal justice professionals to meet the needs of victims through training and educational opportunities.

Objective 1. Establish and provide quality education and training to service providers and those in the criminal justice system.

Activity 1. Continue annual training events already established by the Division of Victim Services as well as events in which the Division partners with other agencies. These events include the Wyoming's Joint Symposium on Children and Youth, Wyoming Conference on Violence Prevention and Response, Critical Analysis of Victim Services, and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Training.

Activity 2. Provide and/or make available new training opportunities to service providers in the areas of housing, illegal/undocumented victims and victims with LEP, LGBTQ, stalking, human trafficking, and victims with mental health/substance abuse disorders.

Activity 3. Provide and/or make available new training opportunities for criminal justice professionals in the areas of LGBTQ, stalking, and human trafficking.

Objective 2. Bring Awareness to web-based and national training opportunities for service providers and law enforcement.

Activity 1. Develop a training brief that is distributed to the field on a regular schedule.

Goal: Through an anti-oppression framework, enhance services provided to underserved populations.

Objective 1. Increase the awareness and knowledge of service providers around twelve

common cultures in Wyoming during the first year of the implementation plan.

Activity 1. Provide web-based educational opportunities for services providers focusing on twelve common cultures in Wyoming.

Activity 2. Partner with organizations, cultural groups, and individuals to provide information on specific cultures.

Objective 2. Work with services providers to hold outreach and education events for the LGBTQ community.

Activity 1. Work with OVW TA providers for assistance.

Activity 2. Utilize the training brief to provide awareness of available training opportunities and identify trainings as a state priority.

Objective 3. Work with service providers to enhance services, education, and outreach to the Wind River Reservation

Activity 1. Work with OVW TA providers for assistance.

Activity 2. Utilize the training brief to provide awareness of available training opportunities and identify training as a state priority.

i. goals and objectives for reducing domestic violence-related homicides

Goal: Reduce domestic violence-related homicide in Wyoming.

Objective 1. Apply for training and technical assistance from the Maryland network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) Lethality Assessment Program (LAP)

Activity 1. If approved, work with the MNADV to implement the LAP in pilot communities.

Activity 2. If not approved for the LAP, establish an awareness campaign focused on community readiness.

B. Priority Areas

1. Maintaining core victim services and criminal justice initiatives, while supporting complementary new initiatives and emergency services for victims and their families;
 - The victim services percentage of the STOP award is divided among the twenty-three domestic violence/sexual assault programs throughout the state based on a formula. These funds, along with the state general funds allocated by the Wyoming State Legislature, are used primarily to support basic victim services. It is the belief of DVS that every victim in our state should have access to basic services. Subgrantees must demonstrate that they are providing optimal basic services before

additional resources are provided for other services.

2. Supporting formal and informal statewide, multidisciplinary efforts, to the extent not supported by state funds, to coordinate the response of state law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts, victim services agencies, and other state agencies and departments, for violence against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence.
3. Training of sexual assault forensic medical examiners in the collection and preservation of evidence, analysis, providing expert testimony and treatment of trauma related to sexual assault;
 - DVS supports Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) training for interested and qualified nurses. DVS funds SANE Adolescent/Adult Training as well as SANE Pediatric Training. Funding and space are also provided for SANE simulation labs. Support is also provided for Wyoming nurses to become certified by the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN). Continuing education credits are provided through the annual Sexual Assault Summit mentioned previously.
4. Develop, enhance, or strengthen programs to assist law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and others to address the needs and circumstances persons who are elderly or have a disability who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault. This may include recognizing and supporting the investigation and prosecution in instances of violence or assault and targeting outreach, support, counseling and other victim services to such individuals who are elderly and/or have a disability.
 - According to the 2015 U.S. Census estimates, 14.5% of Wyoming's population is 65 years and over (1.5% are 85 years and over). In SFY 2016, victim service programs in Wyoming reported serving 1,751 elder victims. DVS is committed to assisting communities in strengthening their response to vulnerable adults. DVS supports local programs' participation in community teams that specifically support populations who have a disability and/or support other underserved populations. In an effort to reach this historically underserved population, DVS has partnered with the Division of Family Services- Adult Protection Unit to conduct training on elder abuse. Through this partnership, programs are trained to detect the signs of elder abuse and trained on Wyoming's mandatory reporting laws for elderly/vulnerable adults (Wyo. Stat. 35-20-103).

5. Develop, enhance, or strengthen programs addressing the needs and circumstances of Native American tribes in dealing with violent crimes, including the crimes of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking and domestic violence;
 - In Wyoming there is only one reservation, the Wind River Indian Reservation (WRIR). The WRIR is home to both Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone tribes.
6. Develop, enhance, or strengthen programs addressing the needs and circumstances of undocumented victims or victims with LEP who are victims of violent crimes, including the crimes of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and domestic violence.
7. Develop, enhance, or strengthen programs addressing the needs and circumstances of Hispanic/Latino victim who are victims of violent crimes, including the crimes of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and domestic violence;
 - In Wyoming the Hispanic/Latino ethnic group only accounts for 9.7% of the total population; however, it is a growing population, and is the largest “minority” in Wyoming. Yet, despite increasing numbers in population, the number of victims accessing services has dropped from years past according to DVS’ WyoSAFE data.
8. Develop, enhance, or strengthen programs addressing the needs and circumstances of LGBTQ persons who are victims of violent crimes, including the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

The State of Wyoming does not plan to use the Crystal Judson purpose area.

Victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking should have access to services at any time of the day or night. In Wyoming, there are twenty-three domestic violence/sexual assault shelter service providers throughout the state; one in each county. Their primary goal is to provide social, medical, and legal advocacy to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Many of these programs also have satellite offices in other communities within their county. Of the twenty-three domestic violence/sexual assault shelter service providers, six provide services to victims of all crime. The six programs operate in counties that do not have prosecution, or law enforcement based victim service providers. The State provides funds to these programs in order to fill the gap in services to victims of crime. These six programs provide all of the services of a domestic violence/sexual assault shelter service provider but also include services traditionally seen in victim/witness programs housed in

prosecution or law enforcement agencies. Victims are also served through twenty-five victim/witness programs located in governmental entities including law enforcement, district, county, and prosecuting attorney's offices across the State. Victim/witness programs in law enforcement agencies serve victims of all crime through immediate, on-scene crisis response and follow-up. Follow-up includes assessment of client needs and coordination of services for victims of crime. Victim/witness providers in prosecuting attorney's offices are tasked with providing for the needs of the client during the prosecution of the case, assisting their client in navigating the court process, and working with the client to develop and present their victim impact statement to the court.

The State of Wyoming utilizes both formula and competitive strategies to distribute funds to victim service providers. Formula funds are awarded based on a combination of the population of the county within which the subgrantee operates (80%) and the geographic size of that county (20%). The set-asides of law enforcement, prosecution, victim services, and discretionary are distributed based on the percentages required. The law enforcement set-aside is distributed to law enforcement agencies across the state on a competitive basis; 25% of the State's total award is distributed to qualifying agencies. The prosecution set aside is distributed to county and district attorney's offices on a competitive basis; 25% of the State's total award is distributed to qualifying agencies. The victim services set aside is calculated at 30% of the states total award, then 10% is removed and reserved for culturally specific projects. The victim services set-aside is then awarded to eligible domestic violence and sexual assault service providers on a formula basis. To be eligible programs must be non-profit, non-governmental programs serving victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Currently all programs in Wyoming are dual, domestic violence and sexual assault programs. The 10% culturally specific set-aside is then awarded to eligible domestic violence and sexual assault shelter (DV/SA) programs on a competitive basis. The discretionary set aside is awarded to eligible programs on a competitive basis; 15% of the State's total award is distributed to qualifying agencies. In Wyoming there are three levels of trial courts, Municipal, handles all violations of municipal ordinances and traffic citations occurring within the municipality, Circuit, conducts all arraignments and handles all misdemeanor criminal cases and violations of traffic laws on state highways and interstates. District, handles all felony criminal offenses. All crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking are classified as either a misdemeanor or felony according to State law. Both the Circuit and District Courts are administratively housed under the Wyoming Judicial Branch, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). The AOC declines the courts set-aside each year. Historically these funds were awarded to DV/SA programs on a formula basis for the purpose of serving victims during the court process. Following the 2013 VAWA Reauthorization,

Wyoming was required to modify this strategy. Currently Wyoming seeks approval from OVW to roll the funds into the victim services set-aside where it is awarded on a formula basis to eligible DV/SA programs.

Documentation from prosecution, law enforcement, court, and victim service programs can be found in appendix 2.

The State of Wyoming plans to meet the sexual assault set-aside by requiring all subgrantees to dedicate 20% of their award to serving victims of sexual assault. The State of Wyoming does not have any sexual assault specific organizations or programs. All of the non-profit, non-governmental victim service organizations are dual, domestic violence, sexual assault programs. The State expects all dual DV/SA programs to meet the needs of sexual assault victims in their communities and to conduct outreach and education around sexual assault. The State further believes all victim witness programs in both law enforcement and prosecutors' offices have sufficient opportunities to address the needs of victim of sexual assault. The State, therefore believes sufficient opportunity exists for programs to utilize 20% of their STOP award to serve victims of sexual assault and to conduct outreach and education on sexual assault issues. Prior to contracting with an organization the State requires the subgrantee to provide information on how it plans to meet the sexual assault requirement, which must include estimated costs for the activities proposed. The plans must be reviewed and approved by the State prior to contracting with the subgrantee. By requiring each subgrantee to dedicate 20% of their STOP award to sexual assault the State insures the set-aside is allocated for projects in two or more categories as required.

C. Grant-making Strategy

The State of Wyoming is fortunate in that our small population and relatively few counties has limited the number of victim services organizations needed to effectively meet the needs of victims. For many years the State Legislature has been working to address the needs of victims and has funded programs generously. The combination of eligible programs and available funding has allowed individual programs, with guidance from the State, to set appropriate funding levels. The State has not had to turn applicants away due to lack of funding, however, the State may choose not to fund certain elements found in a program's application in order to maintain appropriate funding levels. Furthermore, the funding structure currently in place, which utilizes a combination of formula and competitive funds, provides programs a base level of funding based on the population and geographic size of their service area. Programs can then elect to pursue competitive funds in order to expand their programs and the services they provide.

DVS solicits applications for funding biannually (see table 2). In February, prior to the beginning of the State biennium, DVS releases an RFP. Access to funding applications is made available via the DVS grants management system. Victim service providers receiving funding from DVS are also notified of the solicitation for applications. Additionally, the RFP is published in the Casper Star Tribune newspaper, which has statewide distribution. The application deadline is set in March.

Once received, funding proposals are reviewed by DVS staff to determine whether the documentation is complete and if the applicant is eligible for funding. DVS then assembles a multidisciplinary grant review team to review the applications and meet as a group to determine funding levels. Reviewers of the funding requests are given all applications from a specific county to determine gaps or overlaps in service, which can then be addressed with the applicants to ensure the greatest number of victims receive the most the community can offer.

DVS begins each funding cycle by determining how much money is available in each of the funding streams and further, what is available by specific category. It is a priority of DVS to provide funding to the applicants who have proven records of effective services and who have shown the ability to work well within their communities. Awards are made in May, with contracts beginning July 1. Although award amounts cover the biennium, subgrantees are contracted with and required to submit budgets on an annual basis; the term of the contract is July 1st through June 30th of each year which corresponds to the State Fiscal Year. Programs awarded funding during the RFP process and application phase will receive one contract for each year of the biennium. Subgrantees will be awarded funds out of one STOP award for each state fiscal year of the biennium. Subgrantees are not permitted to continue obligating funds from the first STOP award during the second state fiscal year of the biennium, rather, they will be awarded funds from a new STOP award.

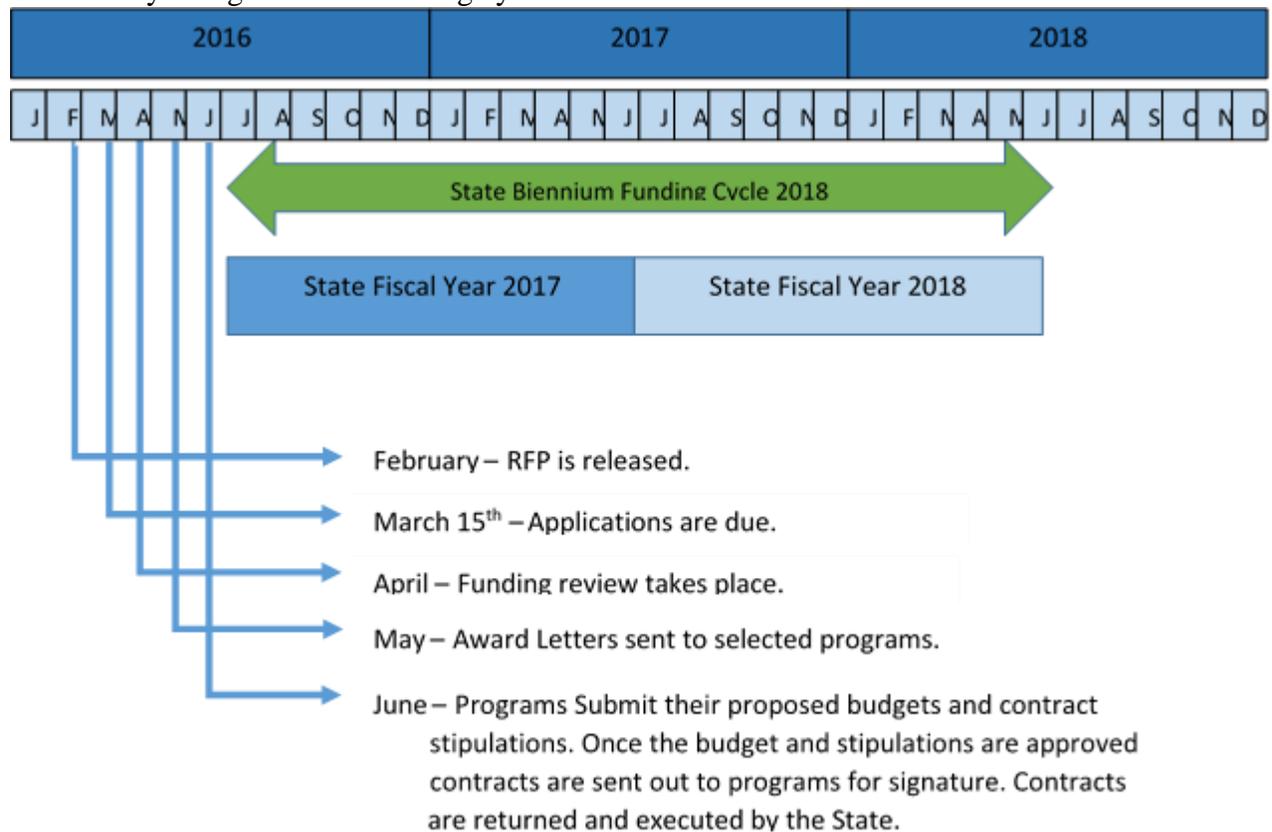
Communities must be able to clearly identify and articulate their needs for victim services. Wyoming's sparse population and large geographic area make the state unique in that each county is designated as "Rural" under federal funding guidelines. Both the grant review members and subgrantees have a clear understanding of the unique challenges that service providers face in Wyoming.

The State sets eligibility criteria for subgrantees; the eligibility criteria must be met by programs in order to be considered for funding. The eligibility criteria set by the state is

determined by state statute and the Division of Victim Services rules, as maintained by the Secretary of State. The RFP directs interested organizations to the DVS Subgrantee Administrators Guidebook for detailed information on eligibility requirements, funding priorities, and the RFP process. The State eligibility criteria clearly state all eligible agencies must “demonstrate a capacity to provide effective direct services to victims of crime,” and must “promote, within the community, coordinated public and private efforts to aid crime victims.” The application for funding asks applicants to “demonstrate how community agencies and programs work together to best serve victims of crime.” Finally, the State mandates “all staff and volunteers providing direct services to victim of crime shall complete a minimum of 40 hours of training prior to providing unsupervised direct services to victims.” Specific training requirements are outlined in the DVS Subgrantee Administrators Guidebook.

Table 2

State of Wyoming Biannual funding cycle.



D. Addressing the Needs of Underserved Victims

The underserved population within Wyoming primarily consists of the rural frontier population, Native American, elderly, Hispanic, LGBTQ, and LEP populations.

Wyoming, in its entirety, is considered rural. In fact, most of the counties in Wyoming have been deemed "Frontier" counties, defined as "sparsely populated rural areas that are isolated from population centers and services" (Rural Assistance Center). Due to these geographic challenges, there are areas of the state where the nearest services are many miles away; where victims are isolated in profoundly rural settings such as ranches or small communities nestled in mountains where roads are not maintained. In these areas, DVS will work in collaboration with the Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (WCADVSA) and other community and statewide partners on outreach materials and their distribution to reach victims in the outlying areas. Victim service providers will also be encouraged to develop access alternatives through the use of technology.

DVS will have staff members participate on statewide teams and committees that support underserved populations, specifically rural frontier, Native American, elderly, Hispanic, migrant/undocumented, LGBTQ, and LEP populations as we become aware of these committees.

DVS will work with national and state experts to provide training that will address domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence and child victimization especially as it relates to the rural frontier, Native American, elderly, Hispanic, migrant/undocumented, LGBTQ, and LEP populations.

Additional technical assistance and training opportunities will be provided as requested to improve local community's responses to underserved populations. Training and/or technical assistance will include opportunities for enhancing the response of law enforcement, courts, and prosecution.

DVS will continue to work with community providers that focus on the underserved populations to develop a statewide awareness component for victim service providers as well as the general public. DVS aims to create an educational component for service providers to help them determine what additional specific services are needed in their area to better support identified underserved populations. Current subgrantees are asked to identify their underserved populations during annual monitoring site visits and desk reviews. The result of these

identifications will be used to determine the priority areas for future STOP funds.

DVS will set aside the required 10% amount for culturally-specific, community-based organizations. Funding for SFY 2017 was awarded to Women Restored, the dual domestic violence and sexual assault program on the Wind River Reservation. Funds from the culturally specific set aside were awarded to Women Restored in order to provide direct services to victims from both the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshoni tribes. Wyoming's RFP is released once every two years, during the application phase eligible agencies and programs have the option to pursue funding from the Culturally-Specific set-aside; funds are awarded on a competitive basis. In addition to the program's merits the funding review committee considers the needs of the populations for which services are proposed, and the geographic area the services will be provided in across all applicants seeking Culturally-Specific funding. Only through a careful examination of each of these factors is the funding review committee able to ensure funds are distributed equitably among the underserved populations.

In order for a subgrantee to be considered for Culturally-Specific funding they must meet the following requirements adopted from the Office on Violence Against Women.

- Focus primarily on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking;
- Established a specialized culturally specific program that addresses domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking;
- Have a primary focus on underserved populations (and includes representatives of these populations) and domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking;
- Obtain expertise, or demonstrate capacity to work effectively, on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking through collaboration;
- Is primarily directed toward racial and ethnic minority groups;
- Provide tailored services to the unique needs of that population.

There are few organizations in the State of Wyoming that 1. Have a primary focus on underserved populations, and 2. Provide services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. When such an organization applies for culturally specific funding they are given priority over programs that do not meet all of the above criteria. In the event that such an organization does not apply for Culturally-Specific funding the State awards funding to programs that have established a specialized culturally specific program that addresses domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking even if the organization does not have a "primary

focus” on underserved populations.

E. Subgrantee Management, Monitoring, and Assessment

The State has established monitoring requirements for all subgrantees. Monitoring begins with the request for proposal (RFP) process. Potential subgrantees must submit proof of compliance with unemployment insurance, workers compensation, and registration with the Secretary of State (non-profit only). Once the State makes the decision to fund a program, that subgrantee must submit a detailed budget, a copy of their Equal Employment Opportunity Plan, or exemption, and any other stipulations outlined by the funding review committee. Programs must then sign a contract outlining their requirements under the grant as well a series of certified assurances. Subgrantees are also required to submit a copy of their most recent financial audit in accordance with Circular A-133 when applicable. Once the contract is fully executed active monitoring of the subgrantee begins.

The State distributes grant funds on a reimbursement basis. In order to receive grant funds, subgrantees must submit monthly reimbursement requests in the electronic grant management system. The subgrantee must provide supporting documentation for all funds requested which may include receipts, invoices, paystubs, etc. The State reviews all requests for compliance with grant requirements and the approved budget before remitting payment. The State also conducts both on-site monitoring visits and desk reviews. On-sites are completed once every two years with the desk review taking place in the opposite year. Both are completed using a standardized on-site or desk review monitoring checklist.

Following completion of the term of the contract subgrantees must complete final grant reports. First the subgrantee must submit their final reimbursement request, if the program is in compliance with their contract and the final reimbursement is accurate, the reimbursement will constitute their fiscal report. If further information is needed or the subgrantee has not been in compliance a separate fiscal report will be required. All subgrantees must also submit a performance report; the performance report outlines the achievements of the subgrantee over the course of the fiscal year and requests key performance data.

V. Conclusion

The Wyoming Division of Victim Services will continue to address the issues pertinent to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence through the implementation of comprehensive strategies that are sensitive to the immediate and long-term needs and safety of victims, while holding offenders accountable for their crimes.

Moving forward, DVS maintains our commitment to strengthening existing collaborations as well as seeking out and cultivating new partnerships that will lead Wyoming service providers, law enforcement, and criminal justice personnel to continual improvement of systemic and cohesive support systems for victims of crime. DVS' continued funding and monitoring of victim services programs committed to providing quality services ensures dynamic, statewide response to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking crimes. Finally, the dedication of DVS and partnering agencies to the provision of first-class educational opportunities, guarantees that for service providers and others will have access to information on best practices, innovative concepts, and emerging opportunities and further reinforcement of the foundation of quality victim services.

Appendix 1

Documentation of collaboration from each member of the planning committee.

Appendix 2

Documentation from prosecution, law enforcement, courts, and victim service programs.