

**Commonwealth of Kentucky**  
*STOP Violence against Women Formula Grant*  
*Program*

*FFY 2017-2020 Implementation Plan*

Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet  
Grants Management Branch  
125 Holmes Street  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601



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## I. Introduction

- A. This plan was approved by the Commonwealth of Kentucky on June 21, 2017
- B. The plan covers the period October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2020.
- C. The general goals of the attached Implementation Plan are as follows:
  - 1) increasing engagement with the principles and ideas of meaningful access (MA),
  - 2) ensuring that MA approaches are valued and rewarded throughout the grant process,
  - 3) building alliances,
  - 4) improving infrastructure and resource sharing.
- D. The VAWA STOP Implementation Plan is organized into three major sections as follows: *Description of the Planning Process, Needs and Context*, and *Plan Priorities and Approaches*. The *Description of the Planning Process* will provide an overview of the Implementation Planning Committee members and how the Commonwealth of Kentucky coordinated the VAWA Stop Implementation Plan with the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, as well as similar formula grants. It will also discuss how needs have been identified and prioritized throughout the Commonwealth and provide a description of continuous efforts to update the plan throughout the timeline of this plan. The *Needs and Context* section provides a brief description of the state's population, demographics, geographical information, and identified underserved populations within our state. The *Plan Priorities and Approaches* discuss the goals and objectives identified during the planning process as well as the Priority Areas the state has set regarding how victim service grant funds will be used. This section also outlines the Kentucky's grant making strategy. Finally, it provides specifics on the way(s) in which the Commonwealth will ensure that the needs of underserved victims will be met.
- E. Generally the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet's Grants Management Branch (KJPSC GMB) has awarded, and intends to continue awarding, projects that:
  - a. Provide victim services **through designated domestic violence or rape crisis programs and regional legal aid providers;**
  - b. **Fund specialized units of law enforcement and prosecution** to address violence against women through appropriate criminal prosecution or civil prosecution orders; and
  - c. **Provide training and technical assistance** for law enforcement, prosecution courts, and victim service providers to ensure responses to violence against women statewide are informed by known best or promising practices, sensitive to the needs of victims, and hold perpetrators accountable.

Kentucky aims to provide funding to a diverse array of multi-disciplinary agencies vested to provide both direct and indirect services to victims of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, human trafficking, stalking, and dating violence. Typical agencies funded through VAWA STOP dollars include legal aid offices, shelters for victims of intimate partner violence, sexual assault programs, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) organizations, prosecutor's offices, law enforcement agencies, and administrative offices with missions to end violence.

## II. Description of Planning Process

- A. The Implementation Planning Committee (IPC) for the Kentucky Violence against Women Act (VAWA) STOP grant program is a multi-disciplinary advisory body. Information was gathered from members of the IPC that aided in the development of the plan and identification of funding priorities

(see the Grant Making Strategy section for information about Kentucky's Grant Making strategies). Stakeholders from across the Commonwealth of Kentucky volunteer to participate, and steps were taken to ensure that a diverse group of experts and stakeholders were invited to participate in the 2017-2020 Implementation Planning (IP) process. Non-profit service providers and government agencies were very involved in the process, and careful consideration was taken to ensure that all focus areas of the VAWA STOP grant were represented on the IPC.

Committee members were invited to an initial, in-person overview meeting in December 2016. Five additional in-person meetings were conducted during which committee members worked to identify gaps, needs, priorities, and strategies of how to best use VAWA STOP funds within the Commonwealth.

Further information about statewide needs was gathered for this plan in a variety of ways. For example, the KJPSC GMB have been actively involved in several multi-disciplinary planning groups which work on issues related to VAWA funding and priorities. These include planning and co-sponsoring the *Ending Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Conference*, hosted annually by the Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence (KCADV) and the Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs (KASAP), as well as partnerships with the Kentucky Crime Victim Compensation Board (CVCB), and oversight and planning of the State Victim Assistance Academy (SVAA), including participation in the SVAA Steering Committee. Likewise, JPSC GMB staff regularly attend and provide technical assistance to the Sexual Assault Response Team Advisory Committee (SART-AC) meetings. This entity, which is co-chaired by the Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs and the Kentucky State Police, is made up of a diverse array of professionals. During the past year, the SART-AC has worked to develop local protocols for storage and tracking of collected Kentucky State Police Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence (SAFE) collection kits and to draft policies and procedures for sexual assault investigations that will be made available to Kentucky's law enforcement entities. Likewise, the SART-AC has put together a variety of resources regarding sexual assault including brochures, posters, and social media campaigns. They also oversee training for medical professionals and others in the community, and have developed a generic template of competencies for pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) practicing in Kentucky's hospitals.

- B. Documentation from all members of the planning committee is included in the Attachments section. Likewise, this section also contains a map of the state's 15 Area Development Districts (ADD). Created by Executive Order 71-1267 (1971), the ADDs are the official regional planning and development agencies for the state, and each contains several counties. The formal membership of the IPC includes several victim service providers who are asked to represent the needs of victims throughout the Commonwealth. Although Kentucky does not have any Federally or State recognized Native American tribes, efforts were made to contact the Southern Cherokee Nation of Kentucky via phone and e-mail prior to the beginning of the Implementation Planning process. Despite several attempts, no responses were received. Table One outlines the various participants of the formal Implementation Planning process. Other professionals and experts may be consulted on an ad hoc basis as needed.

**TABLE ONE: Kentucky’s VAWA Implementation Planning Committee Membership**

<i>REPRESENTATION</i>	<i>PARTICIPANT</i>	<i>AGENCY</i>	<i>DATE(S) OF ATTENDANCE</i>
State Sexual Assault Coalition	Eileen Rechtenwald	Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Providers (KASAP)	December 31, 2016, January 31, 2017, February 28, 2017, March 20, 2017, April 25, 2017
	Clorissa Novak	Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Providers (KASAP)	January 31, 2017, February 28, 2017, March 20, 2017, April 25, 2017, May 11, 2017
	Michelle Kuiper	Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Providers (KASAP)	January 31, 2017, March 20, 2017
	Laela Kashan	Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Providers (KASAP)	January 31, 2017, March 20, 2017, April 25, 2017
State Domestic Violence Coalition	Sherry Currens	Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence (KCADV)	January 31, 2017
	Isela Arras	Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence (KCADV)	January 31, 2017, February 28, 2017, March 20, 2017, April 25, 2017, May 11, 2017
	Lisa Gabbard	Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence (KCADV)	January 31, 2017
	Vickie Johnson	Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence (KCADV)	January 31, 2017, February 28, 2017, March 20, 2017, April 25, 2017
	Meg Savage	Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence (KCADV)	February 28, 2017, March 20, 2017

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<i>REPRESENTATION</i>	<i>PARTICIPANT</i>	<i>AGENCY</i>	<i>DATE(S) OF ATTENDANCE</i>
Law Enforcement Entity	C.A. Wilkerson	Kentucky Department of Corrections	January 31, 2017
	Alexis Williams-Hall	Kentucky Department of Corrections	February 28, 2017, March 20, 2017, April 25, 2017
	Niki Barnes	Kentucky Department of Corrections	March 20, 2017
	Tammy Lou Wright	Kentucky Department of Corrections	February 28, 2017, March 20, 2017
Prosecution Entity	Gretchen Hunt	Kentucky Office of the Attorney General	December 6, 2016, January 31, 2017, March 20, 2017, May 11, 2017
	Lana Grandon	Kentucky Office of the Attorney General	December 6, 2016, January 31, 2017, February 28, 2017, March 20, 2017, May 11, 2017
	Ericka Conley	Kentucky Office of the Attorney General	January 31, 2017, February 28, 2017
Administrative Office of the Courts	Sara Early	Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts	December 6, 2016, January 31, 2017
Family Violence and Prevention Services Act	Jeanne Keen	Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services- Department of Community-Based Services	December 6, 2016, January 31, 2017, May 11, 2017
Population Specific Organizations- Military	Charles Lay	Kentucky National Guard Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office	January 31, 2017, February 28, 2017, April 25, 2017, May 11, 2017

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<i>REPRESENTATION</i>	<i>PARTICIPANT</i>	<i>AGENCY</i>	<i>DATE(S) OF ATTENDANCE</i>
Population Specific Organizations- Hispanic/Latino victims and those with Limited English Proficiency	Karina Barillas	La Casita	January 31, 2017
Population Specific Organizations- Rural and geographically isolated Victims/persons with one or more disabilities	Linda Spurlock	Mountain Comprehensive Care- The Healing Place	February 28, 2017, April 25, 2017, May 11, 2017
Population Specific Organizations- Rural and geographically isolated Victims/persons with one or more disabilities	Courtney Caudill	Mountain Comprehensive Care- The Healing Place	February 28, 2017, April 25, 2017, May 11, 2017
Population Specific Organizations- Rural and geographically isolated Victims/ Persons with one or more disabilities	Erin Marissa Spears	Mountain Comprehensive Care- The Healing Place	February 28, 2017, April 25, 2017, May 11, 2017
Other - Research Analyst	Marjorie L. Stanek	Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center- Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet	December 6, 2016, January 31, 2017, February 28, 2017, April 25, 2017, May 11, 2017
Other- Grants Management Branch Staff	Mark Hertweck	Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet- VAWA Financial Analyst	December 6, 2016, January 31, 2017, March 20, 2017, April 25, 2017, May 11, 2017

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<i>REPRESENTATION</i>	<i>PARTICIPANT</i>	<i>AGENCY</i>	<i>DATE(S) OF ATTENDANCE</i>
Other- Grants Management Branch Staff	Susan Lemay	Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet- VOCA Internal Policy Analyst	December 6, 2016, January 31, 2017, February 28, 2017, March 20, 2017, May 11, 2017
Other- Grants Management Branch Staff	Donna Jones	Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet- Internal Policy Analyst	December 6, 2016, January 31, 2017, March 20, 2017, April 25, 2017, May 11, 2017
Other- Grants Management Branch Staff	Natalie Burikhanov	Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet- VOCA Internal Policy Analyst	December 6, 2016, February 28, 2017, March 20, 2017
Other- Grants Management Branch Staff	Kyle Wade	Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet- Financial Analyst	April 25, 2017

- *Please note: Although there are some programs that combine domestic violence and sexual assault services, there are no dual Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions in Kentucky. Likewise, there are no state or federally recognized tribes within the Commonwealth of Kentucky.*

- C. During the initial implementation planning committee meetings, concerns and feedback from the group highlighted the following:
- a. The desire for meaningful access to be further articulated and demonstrated to the current and future VAWA recipients
  - b. The planning committee was desirous and insistent on creating a range of templates and tools to assist current and future VAWA recipients. To inform their work as direct service providers and practitioners in meaningful access and practical skills to developing protocols reflecting an intersectional framework. It also gives the organizations agency to develop their organization in a way that reflects their needs and wants.
  - c. Thus, the need for a meaningful access toolkit to be developed to address the needs of how to weave in intersectional best practices and address access concerns current VAWA and potential recipients experience.
- D. Prior to the beginning of the planning process for this Implementation Plan, Kentucky engaged in an electronic needs assessment survey, which was conducted in partnership with DATAQuEST, a statistical consulting center located in the Department of Statistics at the University of Kentucky. Over 2,250 stakeholders were e-mailed the link to an online survey that could also be passed along to other potential participants. They survey was open to all residents within the Commonwealth of



Kentucky, and 596 surveys were completed in full. Respondents, which included victim service providers, government employees, law enforcement personnel, concerned citizens, legislators and policy makers, and those that classified themselves as “other”, were asked a variety of demographic and funding related questions. It is expected that the resulting information will allow the KJPSC to strategically allocate available victim service resources. For example, stakeholders were asked to classify the various types of service barriers currently existing within Kentucky, to identify the types of victims whom they felt would benefit most from additional funding, and to outline major barriers to effective service delivery in the state. This information gained from this instrument was taken into account by members of the JPSC GMB staff before and during the 2017-2020 Implementation Planning process.

- E. The Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet is committed to coordinating the VAWA STOP programming with other Kentucky grant programs, including the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), and section 393A of the Public Health Service Act. The Commonwealth of Kentucky receives two FVPSA formula grants. The first of these directly funds the Kentucky Coalition against Domestic Violence’s (KCADV) coalition efforts, and the second, which is received through the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, is sub awarded to the KCADV-affiliated domestic violence shelters located throughout the state’s 15 area development districts. The objective of the FVPSA is “to assist states in its efforts to provide immediate shelter and supportive services for victims of family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence, and their dependents.”

Efforts to coordinate with FVPSA representatives and administrators include the domestic violence state coalition’s representation and participation on the VAWA STOP Implementation Planning Committee (IPC), and corresponding participation of the VAWA STOP administrator at the FVPSA meetings when possible. Likewise, the FVPSA administrator at the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services often serves as a subject matter expert (SME) during the reviews of victim service grant applications received by the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet’s Grants Management Branch (JPSC GMB). Similarly, the JPSC GMB receives support from research staff located within the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet’s Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center as well as various public and private colleges and universities. These individuals, in partnership with the Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs (KASAP), provide key research and information regarding the Rape Prevention Education section of the Public Health Services Act. Program staff from the JPSC GMB also participate in the Sexual Assault Response Team Advisory Committee (SART-AC) meetings.

Kentucky’s JPSC receives the VAWA STOP formula grant and the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) formula grant, and many sub-grantees submit proposals during the Grants Management Branch’s competitive application process. During the current grant year, 20 programs received both VAWA STOP and VOCA funds. These programs are monitored by the VAWA STOP and VOCA program administrators to ensure collaboration and coordination of efforts. Table Two outlines the designated sexual assault and intimate partner violence service providers for each Kentucky ADD.

**TABLE TWO: Designated Service Providers by Area Development District**

Area Development District	Sexual Assault Program	Intimate Partner Violence Program
Barren River	Hope Harbor	Barren River Area Safe Space
Big Sandy	Mountain Comprehensive Care/The Healing Place	Turning Point
Bluegrass	Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center	Greenhouse 17
Buffalo Trace	Women’s Crisis Center	Women’s Crisis Center
Cumberland Valley	Cumberland River Comprehensive Care	Cumberland Valley Domestic Violence Services
FIVCO	Pathways Rape Victims Services Program	Safe Harbor
Gateway	Pathways Rape Victims Services Program	DOVES of Gateway
Green River	New Beginnings Sexual Assault Support Services	OASIS
KIPDA	The Center for Women and Families	The Center for Women and Families
Kentucky River	The Rising Center	LKLP Safehouse
Lake Cumberland	ADANTA Sexual Assault Resource Center	Bethany House
Lincoln Trail	Silverleaf Sexual Trauma Recovery Services	SpringHaven
Northern Kentucky	Women’s Crisis Center	Women’s Crisis Center
Pennyrile	Sanctuary, Inc.	Sanctuary, Inc.
Purchase	Purchase Area Sexual Assault	Merryman House

**III. Needs and Context**

A. According to the 2015 estimates created by the United States Census Bureau, the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s population was 4,425,092. Of these individuals, 3,767,688 (85%) identified as White, 356,885 (8%) as Black/African American, 62,421 (1%) as Asian, and 85,874 (2%) as Other. 152,224, or 3%, of Kentucky’s residents identified as Hispanic or Latino/Latina individuals, this is a significant increase. Given that the 2010 U.S. Census reported only 132,836 Hispanic or Latino/Latina 49%, or 2,179,094, of Kentucky’s residents identified as male, and the remaining 2,245,998, or 51%, as female. Please see Attachment Three for a further breakdown of Kentucky’s population by age, gender, and race/ethnicity.

As of December 2015, the United States Social Security Administration found that 183,103 individuals, or about 4% of the population in Kentucky, received Old Age, Survivor, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) payments. 26,772 were <18, 125,447 were between 18 and 64, and 31,884 were age 65 or older. Of these residents, 174,734 were classified as Blind and/or Disabled, 9,369 as aged, and 62,453 were also recipients of Supplemental Security Income. Based on information

from the 2015 American Communities Survey, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that 16.8% of Kentucky's non-institutionalized population reported a disability and 7% of the population was living without health insurance. 2015 data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Communities Survey suggested that the median household income in 2015 dollars was equal to \$43,740, and that 18.5% of Kentucky's population was living in poverty. In other words, nearly one in five Kentucky residents had an income of less than \$24,250 for a family of four. This number is significantly higher than is found among the entire U.S. population, and it is also one that has held relatively stable since the 2010 U.S. Census, which found that 18.9% of Kentuckians were living in poverty. Other available sources of information paint a similarly bleak picture. For example, in 2015, 19.8% of working aged women and 15.3% of working aged men within the Commonwealth had incomes below the poverty line, and 25.6% of Kentucky's children lived in families that reported incomes below that threshold (TalkPoverty.org, 2016). Please see Map One, which outlines the percentage of families and people whose income over the past 12 months is below the federal poverty level. You may also explore the 2015 American Communities Survey's selected economic characteristics for each of Kentucky's 120 counties at the following link, [https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_15\\_5YR\\_DP03&src=pt](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_5YR_DP03&src=pt).

The most recently available data from the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy, which covers the period from 2000 through 2012, suggests that Kentucky's Immigrant population rose by 70% during that period, which was equivalent to a rise of more than 55,000 persons, and the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that 3.4% of Kentucky's population was foreign born in 2015. Likewise, the Migration Policy Institute reported that in 2011, 85,700 Kentucky residents experienced limited English proficiency (LEP), and the 2015 American Communities Survey (U.S. Census Bureau) found that 5.1% of those persons >5 years spoke a language other than English in their homes. Given the continued increases in Kentucky's Immigrant population, this number is likely to be significantly higher during the period covered by this Implementation Plan.

- B. Based on the information gathered from the VAWA STOP State administrator's support network, as well as members of the IPC and other multi-disciplinary and/or collaborative partnerships, existing information from the U.S. Census and other government entities, and responses to the needs assessment survey, 15 areas of unserved, underserved, and inadequately served populations were identified. These include the following:
- a. Persons with one or more disabilities
  - b. Documented and undocumented immigrants and refugees
  - c. Victims of sex/labor trafficking
  - d. Victims of sexual assault in a campus setting (including junior colleges, community colleges, technical schools, historically black colleges and universities (HBCU), and other higher education settings including colleges and universities
  - e. LGBTQI victims
  - f. Victimized elders
  - g. Native American victims
  - h. People who are deaf/hard of hearing
  - i. Geographically isolated individuals

- j. Those who are affected by rural/urban poverty
- k. People of color
- l. Those who have been victimized prior to reaching adulthood
- m. Individuals who are incarcerated or under the supervision of federal, state, or local corrections or juvenile justice entities
- n. Spouses and children of combat veterans
- o. Individuals from traditionally marginalized religious groups.

Given Kentucky's desire to ensure meaningful access to all victims of intimate partner abuse and other types of violent crime, it is important to understand that individuals may occupy one or more identities concurrently, and that, based upon the interaction(s) and intersectionality of a variety of individual-level, societal, cultural, and other factors, these identities may be viewed as more or less important within the course of contact. It is, however, difficult to gain accurate data regarding the number and distribution of underserved/unserved victims within the Commonwealth, but the KJPSC continues to work towards this end in a variety of ways. For example, 47 sub-recipients of federal victim service funding throughout the Commonwealth were asked by GMB to report their provision of services to underserved victims during a three-month period in 2017. Of the 47, 18 organizations had contact with one or more victims identifying as LGBTQI, 10 reported serving victims that were combat veterans, and 1 agency served a victim of a hate crime. Twenty sub-recipients provided services to a victim or victims who reported being homeless or unstably housed, 26 organizations assisted a victim with one or more disabilities, and 9 served those who were deaf or hard of hearing. Only 7 organizations of the 47 reported having no contact with underserved victims.

Based on information gathered from these 47 providers, the experience of interpersonal violence and other types of crime can be documented throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky and across the lifespan. For example, 9 organizations reported contact with one or more victims of sex trafficking and 22 providers aided victims of stalking and/or harassment. Four organizations served victims who had experienced bullying prior to reaching adulthood, and 9 sub-recipients assisted other victims of teen dating violence. Thirty-three of the selected organizations had one or more clients aged 60 and older, with 10 organizations reporting services to at least one victim of elder abuse during that time-period.

Within Kentucky, there is also a tremendous need for services among immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, with 9 of the 47 organizations reporting contact with victims from Mexico, Syria, Palestine, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Guam, Colombia, Sudan, Ghana, Nepal, China, Vietnam, Ukraine, and Iraq. Four of these organizations reported the provision of immigration services and twelve offered interpretation using an array of in person and technology-based sources. 17 organizations served individuals with Limited English Proficiency during the period. Of these, 13 organizations assisted those who spoke Spanish as their primary language, 4 provided services for Arabic speakers, and 3 aided French speaking individuals. Other languages encountered by service providers during this period included: Russian (2 organizations), Vietnamese (2 organizations), Nepali (2 organizations), Urdu (2 organizations), Swahili (2 organizations), Somali (1 organization), Sorani (1 organization), Karin (1 organization), Hausa (1 organization), and German (1 organization).

The KJPSC also asked participants in the recently completed needs assessment (Stromberg, Lambert, & Lambert, 2017) to document their contact with underserved victims as well as their opinions regarding the

need for services among underserved populations. These results, which were tremendously consistent across the state's 15 area development districts, suggested that stakeholders had most commonly been in contact with the following five types of victims: those that had been victimized prior to reaching adulthood, those who reside in rural areas, those who have disabilities, those who are non-white, and those who are elderly. Respondents were then asked to identify the types of victims most in need of additional funding. Results, which were again extremely consistent, included: those who have been victimized prior to reaching adulthood, those who reside in rural areas, those who are elderly, those who have disabilities, and those who have been trafficked. Participants suggested that the most common barriers to service delivery included: insufficient salaries to professionals, insufficient amounts of staff, a lack of awareness about available resources for victims, a lack of outreach services, and a problem getting to the provider's location, thus this information, along with other sources of data, can help with the planning and provision of services for those underserved groups identified above.

- C. In calendar year 2015, The Kentucky State Police's *Crime in Kentucky* publication suggested that there were 41,531 reported assaults. Of these, 20,876 were cleared, representing 50% of reported cases. 5,953 of these were aggravated assaults, and 53%, or 3,161 were cleared. Similarly, 21,716 were simple assaults, with 50%, or being 10,842 cleared. The remaining 13,862 involved intimidation, with 6,873, or 50%, cleared. Although we know that not all reported assaults involved intimate partners, it is likely that a large proportion of these crimes represented altercations between current or former intimate partners, and that there are a tremendous number of unreported assaults. Among those 5,953 reported aggravated assaults, 1,321 involved firearms (22%), 794 involved knives (13%), 2,054, or 34%, used personal weapons. Likewise, 1,913 utilized other weapons, which represents 31%. During the same 12 month period from January through December, 2015, there were 56 "argument related" homicides and 17 others that were classified by police as a "lover's quarrel".

Similarly, 4,709 forcible sex offenses occurred in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, with 2,215 of these (47%) being cleared. Of these, 1,226 were classified as forcible rape, 896 as forcible sodomy, and 2,587 as forcible fondling. 466 of the rapes, or 38%, were cleared, as were 470 of the sodomy offenses, which represented 52%, and 1,279 (49%) of the fondling cases. Non-forcible sex offenses, which include incest and statutory rape in Kentucky, occurred 625 times, with 410 of these cleared. This represents 66% of these cases. 291 involved incest, with 78%, or 227 of these being cleared. The remaining 334 cases were statutory rape with 183, or 55%, of them cleared.

During the most recently completed fiscal year (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016). the 15 programs which are part of the Kentucky Coalition against Domestic Violence (KCADV) provided shelter for 3,770 victims for a total of 143,657 bed nights. 2,515 residential victims received legal advocacy services, and 388 residential victims received language advocacy during that time. 19,770 transportation services were provided to those in shelter, 429 accessed language services, and an additional 1,425 were provided with economic stability services. Similarly, shelter staff provided residential victims with 74,675 individual counseling service contacts as well as a further 8,379 group counseling sessions that represented 28,924 group service contacts.

At least 60 residential adult clients spoke languages other than English, including, among others, Spanish, Bosnian/Serbian, Chinese, Lao, German, and Hmong. Likewise, 492 adults receiving overnight shelter and services reported mental health issues, 288 had substance abuse related disabilities, 250 adults experienced physical disabilities, 24 reported sensory disabilities including

deafness or hearing impairments, blindness, and others, and an additional 89 reported a disability of an unknown type.

These same programs provided 18,693 non-residential clients with an array of services including 17,152 instances of legal advocacy, 572 of language advocacy, and 1,822 of transportation advocacy. Non-residential clients also received 302 instances of language services. As above, a significant number of KCADV's non-residential clients reported one or more types of disabilities including the following: 103 sensory, 567 physical, 932 mental illness, 909 substance abuse related, and a remaining 1,534 reported a disability of an unknown type.

Using the information available in Rennison (2002), we can estimate that ~ 3,791 actual rapes occurred within the Commonwealth of Kentucky in CY 2014. During January -December 2014, 1,403 forcible rapes were submitted to Kentucky's Incident Based Reporting System (KIBRS) maintained by the Kentucky State Police. Of the reported rapes that year, 419, or 29%, were cleared, typically through arrest. If the estimates completed above are correct, this means that an arrest was made in 11% of all rapes. During CY 2014, 773 cases with rape-related UOR codes<sup>1</sup>, were filed in Kentucky's court system. This equates to about 55% of reported rapes and 20% of the estimated rapes that occurred that year. 149, or 19% of those cases filed resulted in a guilty verdict, which represents 3% of all rapes.

During Fiscal Year 2014, programs affiliated with Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Services (KASAP) provided services to 3,681 primary victims. KASAP Programs answered 3,464 crisis-related calls. KASAP staff provided 521 instances of legal accompaniment and 1,575 legal contacts made on behalf of a client, for a total of 2,096 criminal justice advocacy services. KASAP staff also provided medical advocacy 1,229 times during the 12-month period. This included accompaniment for 706 medical exams and 523 instances in which medical contact was made on behalf of a victim. KASAP staff also conducted 14,145 counseling sessions during FY 2014.

#### IV. Plan Priorities and Approaches

##### A. Identified Goals

Over the past several years, the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet (KJPSC) as well as the other agencies and programs that provide services to victims of violent crime have increasingly recognized that individuals often encounter a variety of barriers as they seek to access services. When taken as a whole, these barriers may serve to deter victims, increase trauma and the potential for harm, and/or generally reduce the likelihood of a positive outcome. In order to address this problem, victim service providers, funders, and other allied professionals throughout the Commonwealth have attempted to create a system that encourages the adoption of trauma-informed; evidence based, and integrated services and practices throughout the funding process and during all facets of service delivery. In order to better ensure this likelihood, an understanding of, and integration with, the principles of meaningful access is necessary. As such, the 2017-2020 VAWA STOP Implementation Plan Action Plan was designed to increase Meaningful Access (MA) to VAWA STOP-funded services across grantees and needs throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Likewise, the adoption of these policies and practices will be prioritized in other victim service funding streams administered by the KY JPSC GMB as well. Given that this is a new approach for most, if not all, of the funded programs as well as the VAWA STOP program staff and the JPSC itself, the 2017-2020 VAWA STOP Implementation Plan will focus on four main areas. These include increasing engagement with the

principles and ideas of meaningful access (MA), ensuring that MA approaches are valued and rewarded throughout the grant process, building alliances, and improving infrastructure and resource sharing.

Meaningful access includes the following five elements to ensure non-discrimination in the provision of services: Notice, Policy/Procedure, Periodic Training and Monitoring, Ensuring the availability of relevant materials, and Competent Staff/Organizational Capacity. These are outlined in further detail below.

**Notice:** It is important for the agency to let underserved and culturally specific populations know that the services and accommodations provided by the grantee are available and free of charge. Examples of notification can include things like:

- posting signs in intake areas and at other entry points,
- stating the availability of information accommodations and services in intake documents and outreach documents (brochures, booklets, recruitment information),
- working with community-based organizations and other stakeholders to inform underserved and culturally specific populations of the services the grantee provides,
- including notices in local and/or regional publications detailing the availability of services,
- utilizing PSAs and other media (radio, video, television) outlets to detail the availability and accessibility of services to specific populations,
- carrying out public awareness and educational events.

**Policy/Procedure:** This element will likely include that:

- 1) all staff are aware of the policies and procedures,
- 2) there is an expectation to work effectively to provide non-discriminatory services,
- 3) management staff, even if they do not work with underserved and/or culturally specific populations, should be fully aware of and understand the plan.

This is vital so that they are able to:

- a) reinforce that it is important,
- b) ensure its implementation by staff,
- c) monitor adherence and compliance,
- d) inform training and guidance activities.

**Periodic Training and Monitoring:** Staff should know their obligations to provide meaningful access to non-discriminatory information and services. Individuals and organizations should also develop a process for determining, on an ongoing basis, whether new documents, programs, services and activities need to be made accessible. \*In situations where the new documents, programs, activities, and services need to be made accessible, the process should begin again at Notice.

**Ensuring the availability of relevant materials:** Examples of such written materials could include:

- Consent and complaint forms
- Intake forms which readily outline the potential for important consequences
- Written notices (e.g. rights, denial, loss, or decreases in benefits or services, hearings such as parole,

child custody, etc.).

- Notices of disciplinary action
- Notices advising persons of assistance/accommodations
- Rules and regulations
- Applications to participate in a recipient's program or activity or to receive recipient benefits or services.
- Trauma informed signage and representation

***Competent Staff/Organizational capacity:*** Staff must have sufficient training in order to do the following:

- 1) Avoid considering culturally specific populations and members of underserved communities as the source of the problem (innocence). Staff must instead be able to understand the context of a client's life and must be willing to understand and apply the concepts of intersectionality.
- 2) Recognize that all persons are capable in participating in their own human experience and making their own decisions. In short, all persons are competent regardless of their background, demographics, etc.
- 3) Remain sufficiently empowered by the organization to determine the representatives of underserved and culturally specific populations are worthy. This means, in short, that underserved individuals should receive staff time, energy (e.g. commitment to seeing services through, utilization of trauma informed practice principles), resources (e.g. programmatic benefits: interpreters, vouchers, participation, etc.), and investment (e.g. commitment to clients, trauma informed practices) at the same levels as those of the dominant group.

Data Collection is vital and will help to document efforts at the organizational and individual level. As such, there must be an administrative commitment to ensuring meaningful access. Some common forms include:

- *Engaging in systems advocacy*- e.g. holding meetings with stakeholders, community organizations, etc.
- *Performing Technical Assistance*- e.g. making site visits or having consultations with professionals that service Underserved Populations or culturally specific populations
- *Conducting Training*- In this situation be sure to include information regarding the specific people you train. This will help to capture diversity and ensure adequate representation.
- *Creating and Distributing Products*- e.g. development and distribution of relevant materials, evaluating how intentionally you distribute it to each diverse element of the community.
- *Collecting Demographic Information*- This will help to better direct efforts, identify unmet needs, engage in strategic planning, etc.

One of the major priorities of the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet (JPSC) is to increase accessibility to federally and state funded victim services for all individuals residing in the Commonwealth. In order to do so, the KJPSC Grants Management Branch, the State Administering Agency (SAA), plans to assess compliance and confirm adherence during annual grant monitoring. Similarly, the KJPSC GMB will also request that grantees address components in the quarterly and annual grant reporting process as well.



Another major priority of the VAWA STOP Program and the Kentucky JPSC is to reduce domestic violence related homicides within the Commonwealth. The priorities outlined above as well as the goals and strategies captured in Table Three will aid in this effort by incorporating the principles of MA throughout service delivery. By increasing collaboration among the various agencies that provide victim services, efforts can be made to more fully address the needs of individual clients through the provision of appropriate referrals and establishment of safety plans. Likewise, by ensuring that program materials and other resources are accessible, culturally competent, and appropriately scaled to client's needs and situations, clients will be more fully supported and empowered. A major strategy for many of these efforts involve mechanisms which allow participants to share resources, innovative strategies, and other information, which will include efforts and mechanisms for reducing domestic violence related homicides. Given that several locations throughout Kentucky have established interagency collaborations and multi-disciplinary efforts to review fatalities and near-fatalities, the information captured through these can be disseminated to others throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Likewise, by funding training efforts that specifically list the reduction of domestic violence related homicides as a goal, the JPSC can further support this effort with VAWA STOP funding

**Table Three: Identified Priorities, Goals, and Strategies 2017-2020 VAWA STOP Implementation Plan**

As documented in the narrative portion of the 2017-2020 VAWA STOP Implementation Plan, Meaningful access includes the following five elements to ensure non-discrimination in the provision of services: Notice, Policy/Procedure, Periodic Training and Monitoring, Ensuring the availability of relevant materials, and Competent Staff/Organizational Capacity.

*Please Note-* During the initial meetings of the Implementation Planning Work Group appropriate timelines will be established for each Strategy. These will be revisited on a regular basis and changes will be made as necessary.

Priorities	Goal	Strategy	Responsible Party
Building Alliances	Expand statewide capacity to oversee Implementation Planning efforts within the Commonwealth of Kentucky during the project period	Establish an Implementation Planning Work Group	Various agencies
	Expand opportunities for resource sharing/collaboration among Kentucky's victim service agencies and other service providers during the project period	Prioritize collaboration when planning training events	Implementation Planning Work Group
		Identify an appropriate and accessible mechanism for resource sharing among victim service agencies and other service providers within Kentucky	Implementation Planning Work Group
		Convene a meeting of experts throughout the state to allow programs a chance to share innovative practices	State Administering Agency, Implementation Planning Work Group
	Increase the number of VAWA funded agencies that participate in collaborative interagency meetings by 10% over the project period	Provide accessible resources RE forging community partnerships and interagency collaborations for victim service agencies and other service providers	Implementation Planning Work Group

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Priorities	Goal	Strategy	Responsible Party
Increase Engagement	Increase the number of VAWA funded victim service agencies and other service providers with staff that report knowledge about meaningful access by 10% during the planning period.	Conduct a survey among VAWA funded agencies and service providers to establish a baseline RE the number of agencies that report knowledge of meaningful access principles.	State Administering Agency
		Conduct a follow-up survey among VAWA funded agencies and service providers near the end of the project period to identify the number of agencies that report knowledge of meaningful access principles	State Administering Agency
		Create a meaningful access training plan	Implementation Planning Work Group
		Create a toolkit for program self-evaluation	Implementation Planning Work Group
		Provide guidance documents for victim service providers and other agencies that include explanations of meaningful access and examples for unique sectors and types of providers	Various Agencies
		Plan, document, and conduct evaluation(s) using appropriate techniques throughout the project period.	Various Agencies
Ensure meaningful access approaches are valued and rewarded in the grant process	Increase the number of programs/agencies that document meaningful access approaches during the funding request process by 5% over the project period	Identify changes to the victim service funding process which will reward those applicants that utilize the principles of meaningful access in their programs and service delivery	State Administering Agency and Implementation Planning Work Group
	Increase knowledge of/awareness of potential project partners among programs and community service agencies during the project period	Create a report of funded sub grantees that includes project abstracts and agency contact information that will be made publicly available	State Administering Agency
	Ensure that individuals have access to accessible training opportunities that include information RE meaningful access and fulfill the tenets of the Implementation Plan during the project period	By Year Two: Document that all VAWA funded staff attend at least one training which includes appropriate information about meaningful access as part of the 12 hours of required annual training	VAWA Project and Agency Staff
		Conduct training and technical assistance that is accessible to individuals throughout the state	Various agencies

Priorities	Goal	Strategy	Responsible Party
Improving Infrastructure and Resource Sharing	Expand the capacity of victim service agencies and other service providers to provide culturally competent services for underserved victims during the project period	Create an accessible toolkit for program self-evaluation RE meaningful access, cultural competency, and underserved victims	Various Agencies
		Provide victim service agencies and other service providers with resources and information RE topics including meaningful access, cultural competency, and underserved victims in a variety of formats (e.g. web-based, face-to-face trainings, mentorship opportunities, conference calls, meetings, etc.)	State Administering Agency, Implementation Planning Work Group
		Collect service statistics from funded sub-grantees that can be used to identify and document the needs and programming provided to underserved populations	State Administering Agency
		Carry out a needs assessment and corresponding report RE funding priorities, program needs, unserved/underserved victims, and other topics	State Administering Agency
		Engage with new agencies to increase their capacity for meaningful access	State Administering Agency, Implementation Planning Work Group, Others
		Increase the capacity of victim service agencies and other service providers to establish Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for collaborative services that enhance meaningful access during the project period	Provide victim service providers with resources RE the creation of MOUs
	Establish the number of agencies with MOUs in place on an annual basis		State Administering Agency, Implementation Planning Work Group
	Conduct a mandatory web-based training RE MOUs		State Administering Agency, Implementation Planning Work Group
	Build the capacity of victim service agencies and other service providers to deliver services to those with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) during the project period	Provide support to victim service providers and other agencies RE LEP using a variety of techniques (e.g. establishing partnerships, conducting trainings, etc.)	Various Agencies
		Provide applicants with a toolkit and resources for drafting a complete and appropriate Limited English Proficiency Plan during the application process	State Administering Agency, Implementation Planning Work Group
		Collect information from victim service agencies and other service providers RE barriers to MA for victims with LEP which will be reviewed by the Implementation Planning Work Group	State Administering Agency, Implementation Planning Work Group
		Enhance the monitoring of LEP plans by conducting a review using Subject Matter Experts (SME's) during the application process	State Administering Agency

## B. Priority Funding Areas

As stated in Section I of this document, Kentucky's JPSC GMB will continue to award those projects that:

- provide non-discriminatory victim services **through state-designated domestic violence or rape crisis programs and regional legal aid providers;**
- **fund specialized units of law enforcement and prosecution** to address violence against victims through non-discriminatory, appropriate criminal prosecution or civil protection orders; and
- **provide training and technical assistance** for law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and victim service providers to ensure responses to violence against women statewide are informed by known best and/or promising practices, specifically address victims' needs, and hold perpetrators accountable.

Funds will be distributed across law enforcement, prosecution, courts, victim services, and discretionary allocation categories as follows:

- Law enforcement: at least 25%
- Prosecution: at least 25%
- Victim Services: at least 30%
- Courts: at least 5%

Discretionary funds, which constitute 15% of the total allocation, will be used for multi-disciplinary projects that do not fit into another category. They will also be used to supplement other project categories in situations where allocated funds are not sufficient to both ensure continuity of services and to ensure an increasingly equitable distribution of funds throughout the Commonwealth. Likewise, the KJPSC application process allows for the prioritization of those projects that address more than one of the federal funding priorities, and resources are allocated in a way that meets the sexual assault set-aside as well as the broader needs within the Commonwealth. A full discussion of how sub-grant amounts will be based on the populations and geographic areas to be served can be found below (e.g. Geographically Equitable Distribution, etc.).

The Commonwealth of Kentucky does not plan to address the Crystal Judson purpose area during the period covered by this Implementation Plan. Letters of support from prosecution, law enforcement, court, and victim services are provided in the Attachments section. In 2016, the JPSC received \$2,205,123 in STOP funds to combat sexual violence. These funds were distributed to 31 programs. Of the total amount, \$688,762, or 31%, has been sub-awarded to 11 sexual assault programs and projects. The KJPSC continues to ensure that at least 20% of STOP funds are set aside for sexual assault specific projects.

## C. Grant Making Strategies

### ***GENERAL PROCESS***

**Application.** Applications may be obtained from the *Intelligents* electronic grants management system (eGMS), available through the JPSC Grants Management Branch's website, [www.justice.ky.gov/departments/gmb](http://www.justice.ky.gov/departments/gmb). The eGMS system provides access to an application form, program and financial guidelines and other pertinent information needed to prepare the application. Applicants are

typically made aware that the KJPSC GMB is accepting applications using a variety of formats, including a press release, advertising the available funding on the KJPSC website, and an e-mail blast to previous applicants and those registered in the eGMS system.

**Application Procedure.** Applications for each program must be submitted via Grants Management Branch's electronic grants management system within the required timeframe. VAWA STOP applications are generally available from September through mid-October, for a 6-week period.

**Application Content.** In order for an application to be accepted by the Grants Management Branch as complete, the following material/information must be included:

- Completed agency and program overview information;
- Statement of the problem, goals and objectives, project narrative, performance indicators and prior project outcomes;
- Copy of the last completed audit of the applicant agency consistent with OMB Uniform Guidance on Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements;
- Detailed project and budget narratives;
- Equal Employment Opportunity Certification;
- Debarment and Suspension Certification - (Sub-recipients are not allowed to sub-contract with any party which is debarred or suspended from participation in state or federal assistance programs);
- Lobbying Certification;
- Letters of support demonstrating collaboration with other service providers in implementing proposed project;
- Drug-Free Workplace Certification - (Sub-recipients are not required to submit a drug-free workplace certification; however, the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet highly recommends that all applicants have a drug-free workplace plan in place.); and
- Limited English Proficiency service provision plan (LEP Plan) - (Applicants are required to submit certification that services will be provided to Limited English Proficient individuals, with necessary accommodations (e.g. interpretation services, translation), and a plan for ensuring compliance.
- Full description of strategies for ensuring meaningful access

**Application Review Process.** When a completed application has been submitted, it undergoes programmatic and financial review. Applications are reviewed by appropriate GMB staff and also by an independent review committee of subject matter experts using a rubric with review criteria and assigned point values specific to the program.

Programmatic review of each application also considers the following:

- Eligibility of applicant;
- Eligibility of the project design;
- Eligibility of the program area;
- Conformity to program strategy;

- Extent of need for the project/program;
- Measurable goals and objectives;
- The plan of operation;
- Qualifications of key personnel;
- Willingness to coordinate with community agencies;
- Prior-year funding;
- Evaluation plan; and
- Assessment of previous project results.

Financial review of each application considers the following:

- For federal grants, allowability in accordance with the current Financial Guide, Office of Justice Programs (<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/financialguide>), Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities (<http://ed.gov/policy/fund/reg/edgarReg/edgar.html>) Post Award Requirements, and others as applicable;
- Allowability under the program area;
- Allowability in accordance with Kentucky statutes and regulations;
- Sufficiency and allowability of match;
- Budget and cost effectiveness;
- Adequacy of resources;
- Evidence of financial stability;
- Past performance regarding timely submission and accuracy of reports;
- Deobligation of funds in previous funding years; and
- Whether the agency has met the OMB Uniform Guidance on Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit requirements when required, as well as the consideration of other factors including, but not limited to those outlined in 28 CFR Part 66, where applicable.

Following the initial review and scoring of the application, GMB may request additional information or explanation from the applicant in order to complete the review of the application. Notification may be in the form of a system-generated message, written letter, email, or telephone call. Failure to respond within the specified timeframe may result in the application being eliminated from further consideration for funding during that application period. Responses to requests for follow-up information will be used to determine whether the application meets the minimum scoring threshold.

A mean is calculated based upon the scores allocated by each reviewer. Applications receiving an initial score of less than 75 (on a 100 point scale) will not be contacted for follow-up information; applications receiving a final score of less than 70 (on 100 point scale) will not be funded. Upon conclusion of the application process, applicants may request copies of their scores and summarized reviewer comments. Such requests must be sent, in writing, to GMB.

Upon final review of the application, GMB shall recommend one of the following actions:

- Rejection of the application;
- Approval of the application; or
- Approval of the application with modifications or additional special conditions.

Recommendation by GMB shall be made to the Secretary of the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet. Final approval of all grant applications rests with the Secretary and/or the Governor of the Commonwealth, who will provide GMB with approval to proceed with final funding decisions and actions. Applicants are then notified in writing.

**Application Approval.** The application is considered an approved grant upon the signing of an Award Letter and Statement of Action Grant Award by the Secretary of the Cabinet or his/her designee, and return receipt of the Statement of Action Grant Award by the grantee's Authorized Representative (e.g.; Chief Executive Officer).

The standard award period for VAWA STOP grants is one year, from January 1-December 31.

***Timeline for the 2017 STOP Grant Cycle:***

**August 2017-** Applications will be made available in the Intelligrants system (eGMS)

**September 2017-** Applications close. Review of submitted applications by KJPSC GMB staff and Subject Matter Experts

**October 2017-** A list of applications that are suggested for funding will be provided to the KJPSC Secretary and Kentucky's Governor for approval.

**January 2018-** Projects begin. Quarter 4 progress reports are due from 2017 awardees. Sub-recipients annual Muskie reports are due

**March 2018-** Quarter One ends on 3/31

**April 2018-** Quarter 1 reports are due via eGMS.

**June 2018-** Quarter 2 ends on 6/30

**July 2018-** Semi-Annual Reports are due via eGMS

**August 2018-** VAWA STOP applications for 2018 are opened

**September 2018-** VAWA STOP applications close and will be scored by KJPSC GMB staff and various subject matter experts (SME). Quarter 3 ends on 9/30.

**October 2018-** Quarter 3 reports are due via eGMS. Suggestions for funding will be provided to the KJPSC staff and Kentucky's Governor.

**December 2018-** Quarter 4 ends on 12/31

**January 2018-** Annual reports are due via eGMS.



PLEASE NOTE- Meetings of the Implementation Planning Committee and Implementation Planning Work Group will be ongoing during the entire project. These will include semi-annual reviews of the Implementation Plan Goals and performance as well as ad hoc meetings of the Implementation Planning Workgroup. Likewise, monitoring visits, which are planned in advance with sub-recipients, and desk reviews, will take place throughout the year.

#### *GEOGRAPHICALLY EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION*

The Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, Grants Management Branch (JPSC GMB) runs a competitive application process during which an applicant defines the problem to be addressed, including the size and scope of the problem in their area using the most current population and crime data available. Applicants are asked to describe what other services are available to victims in their area or jurisdiction, and why those services are inadequate to meet the needs of victims. This information is used to help make a determination if, or what level of, funding should be awarded to an applicant.

The GMB retains discretion to approve, adjust, or deny an award based on a number of factors, including helping promote federal funding priorities, such as ensuring geographically equitable distribution of VAWA funds.

#### *TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE*

Technical assistance is provided to sub-grantees and potential applicants in a variety of ways. Potential applicants may request technical assistance on development of their problem statement, goals objectives and performance measures, project activities, budget, or use of the online application before a press release is issued announcing the availability of applications. Applicants may also obtain a summary of grant reviewer comments after award decisions are made as a strategy to improve future applications.

GMB seeks ways to provide ongoing training to sub-grantees on topics including proper grants management, performance measurement, and others. GMB staff continues to be available for various conference presentations, awardee meetings to address specific grant management issues, and training/workshop/conference partners, as needed.

#### *Probable Recipients of VAWA STOP Funding:*

Probably recipients of 2017 VAWA STOP funds are not yet known. The VAWA Stop application is expected to be open in the eGMS system for a six-week period beginning in August 2017, and proceeding through September 2017. Applicants will typically be funded for the period from January 2018 through December 2018.

#### *UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS*

Kentucky has approached its responsibility to ensure the accessibility of services to underserved populations in variety of ways. As defined by the latest 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) criteria, underserved populations are those that “face barriers in accessing and using victim services, and includes populations underserved because of geographic location, religion, sexual orientation, general identity, underserved racial and ethnic populations, populations underserved because of special needs such as language barriers, disabilities, alienage status, or age. The list below identifies the top underserved and unserved populations in Kentucky, although this is not an all-inclusive list.

In 2017, participants identified the following populations as being unserved and/or underserved in Kentucky by VAWA STOP funds:

- Persons with one or more disabilities;
- Documented and undocumented immigrants and refugees;
- Victims of sex/labor trafficking;
- Victims of sexual assault in a campus setting (including junior colleges, community colleges, technical schools, HBCUs, and other colleges and universities);
- LGBTQI victims;
- Victimized elders;
- Native American victims;
- People who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing;
- Geographically isolated individuals;
- Those affected by rural/urban poverty;
- People of color;
- Those who have been victimized prior to reaching adulthood
- Individuals who are incarcerated or under the supervision of federal, state, or local corrections of juvenile justice;
- Spouses and children of combat veterans
- Individuals from traditionally marginalized religious groups

At the most basic level, each electronic application “packet” for VAWA grant funds contains a set of Guidelines and Instructions, updated yearly, that include an overview of federal and state VAWA STOP priorities, program and financial guidelines, and application instructions. These guidelines contain the standard list of federal priorities, which include providing culturally specific services and services benefiting underserved populations. Each application must also include a Limited English Proficiency (LEP) plan, which should outline the applicant agency’s commitment to and plan for provision of services to all victims, in their primary language. Given these provisions in place, the Commonwealth will have to be intentional and strongly encourage current VAWA recipients to collaborate with culturally specific agencies and or groups, when there is a need. As well, as examine their role in the community in providing culturally specific services. Currently, there are not any formal organizations that are culturally specific in the state, that receive VAWA funding. KJPSC does fund culturally specific services within an organization such as immigration legal services to domestic violence victims, or bilingual victim advocates. However, KJPSC wants to build on the infrastructure of organizations that provide culturally specific services. In order to do that, the agency will have to take the steps to enhance the current and future recipient’s knowledge. The committee sculpted that is in a form of a toolkit.

A meaningful access toolkit for applicants will be designed to guide and improve project design as well as implementation. Although this is not an exhaustive list, the kit is planned to include:

- a sample “meaningful access” policy,
- project planning kits (e.g. population sheets that will list activities in each of the meaningful access categories),
- sample products (meaningful access brochure, posters, and/or notices that can be adapted),

- a list of training topics designed to increase staff competency (e.g. “undoing racism”),
- a list of other individuals that will be equipped to provide support and technical assistance.

Initiation of a meaningful access lens through which applicants will be evaluated and programs delivered, as well as the implementation of a subcommittee that regularly revisits Kentucky’s need for and state of linguistic and culturally specific services, will help to ensure that the provision of services is equitably distributed and remains an area of focus. The parameters in which the agency will use but not limited to, to ensure equitable distribution of monies for linguistic and culturally specific services will be depending on the number of eligible applicants that apply for the grant. The number of applications received each application season average around 35-45 each year. The agency will take into consideration the needs of the community and service area that the organization is located. It is essential the organization is providing evidence based, and trauma informed care. It will mean making sure that services will not duplicated for the same population. As well as the program and financial requirements of the VAWA application, including letters of support, and the scoring metrics. Those will all be considered and ensure equitable distribution. Likewise, increasing awareness of meaningful access among all funded agencies will encourage the development of local networks and will allow all recipients to more fully serve the needs of traditionally marginalized and underserved groups. Although certain projects are identified as meeting the culturally specific set-aside (see 2016 VAWA Recipients in the Attachments section), the adoption of a meaningful access subcommittee and regular reviews of victim services throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky will increase the emphasis and expertise of community based agencies as they encounter clients with a diverse array of needs. As the state administering agency for a variety of victim service related grant programs, the KJPSC Grants Management Branch continues to identify and support agencies whose mission and programming impacts all victims within the Commonwealth. Program staff continue to seek out community based organizations and build relationships that ensure adequate delivery of services.

#### *BARRIERS TO IMPLEMENTATION*

Meaningful access has not been the guiding structure by which victim services have been provided and monitored throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This lack of a specific guiding structure has promoted the belief that “separate” resources and investments are necessary for compliance. It is expected that a meaningful access structure will expand the existing scope of activities and goals to include the entirety of a community. As victim service providers gain confidence and knowledge regarding meaningful access and adopt it as a guiding structure, it is expected that the complex needs of service recipients will be better documented/identified and activities will more adequately meet their stated needs.

Under existing policies, procedures, and practices, new projects are often not possible unless significant increases in federal awards occur in a given year. The shift towards meaningful access, which Kentucky sees as necessary, will better guide projects, strategies and activities to be as broadly inclusive as possible from the onset. Improved documentation of this shift will 1) reflect compliance and 2) recognize diversity more clearly. The KJPSC GMB is committed to ensuring the continuity of services available throughout the Commonwealth while remaining committed to VAWA STOP’s priority of innovation and geographically equitable distribution of funds.

Documentation may be a barrier to implementation, because, while most funds are distributed to direct service organizations, some of the activities required to improve meaningful access are distinctly administrative. This change will require more intensive training and technical assistance to recipients as they struggle to undertake and re-categorize activities that may staff may have seen only as having broad applications into a more astute understanding of the identities reflected in their service areas.

Processes for this targeted data collection will be a challenge for most grantees at the beginning of implementation, but should become easier as time moves on. Access to other states' implementation plans may assist us in generating ideas for how other states best utilize allocated resources, while progressively achieving federal funding priorities.

It should be noted that a concerted effort to ensure meaningful access to underserved and culturally specific populations does not have to mean a detraction of services for, attention to, nor a redirection of the investment from mainstream populations. Instead, a meaningful access approach ensures that the activities undertaken by a program serve all in the community equally.

### *MONITORING AND EVALUATION*

Monitoring of VAWA STOP recipients takes two main forms:

- 1) **Desk Monitoring:** This includes a review of the financial and program reports submitted by the recipient/sub-recipient on a quarterly and/or monthly basis. Questions and concerns identified by GMB staff may result in requests for additional information, corrections on program or financial reports, or the exclusion of items not reflected in the approved budget. Additional back-up documentation may be requested to support program and financial reports at GMB's discretion. It is the responsibility of the recipient/sub-recipient to provide requested information and corrections on a timely basis, or risk delayed payments or other consequences. Every recipient/sub-recipient will receive at a minimum one comprehensive financial desk monitoring per annual grant award (encompassing at least two months, if submitting monthly financial reports). At GMB's discretion, additional desk monitoring may be conducted if circumstances warrant. A full financial desk monitoring will include submission of all supporting financial documentation (e.g., timesheets, receipts, inventory reports) corresponding to all expenses claimed for the period.
- 1) **On-Site Monitoring:** Grants Management Branch conducts financial and program on-site monitoring no less than every two years or on an as needed basis. This can be for technical assistance as well as accounting review. Every sub-recipient will receive an on-site visit at least every two years, although different grant programs may maintain different schedules. Certain sub-recipients may receive visits more frequently if circumstances warrant or considered high risk. Financial monitoring will include, but not be limited to, review of chart of accounts, policy and procedures manuals, comparison of sub-recipient financial reports with original accounting entries and source documentation to determine that claimed expenses have been charged to the proper accounts and are allowable. Additionally, recommendations for corrective action are made when necessary regarding the agency's overall financial internal controls and policies and procedures. A follow up visit insures corrective actions have been implemented.

Program monitoring will include, but not be limited to, discussion concerning the program operation, any problems or concerns associated with the program, and verification of information reported on the program monthly/quarterly reports. Programs providing direct client services are subject to client file review, and should maintain appropriate releases of information to allow same. A written report is completed for all formal site visits, and a copy is placed in the sub-recipient's GMB file. Additionally, results of the monitoring visit are shared with the sub-recipient, with deficiencies and recommendations. Follow-up is required and provided as necessary.

#### EVALUATION POLICY

It is the goal of Kentucky's Justice and Public Safety Cabinet to ensure all grant monies disbursed to state and local agencies and not-for profits have been allocated and spent properly, based on guidelines set forth by the KJPSC and the funding source. Any program that has received funding from the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet may be subject to a performance review by GMB staff. Program evaluation may include, but not be limited to: discussion concerning the program operation; discussion of set measurable outcome goals implemented along with the grant; and quantifiable results showing justification for receiving future grant monies. All grant programs in the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet will incorporate program evaluation components into their application guidelines.

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**ATTACHMENTS**