

**State of Louisiana**

**Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement**  
**and Administration of Criminal Justice**

**Fiscal Years 2017–2020**



**STOP Violence Against Women**

**Formula Grant Program**

**Implementation Plan Update**

**2018–X1352–LA–WF**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

A. INTRODUCTION .....	3
B. PLAN ELEMENTS .....	4
1. Approval Date .....	4
2. Plan Time Period .....	4
3. Planning Process .....	4
4. Goals and Objectives .....	5
5. Use of STOP Funds .....	7
6. STOP-Funded Programs and Projects .....	9
7. Distribution of STOP Funds .....	10
8. STOP Grant Cycle .....	12
9. Subgrant Project Periods .....	15
10. Proposals and Selection Methods .....	16
11. Sexual Assault Set-A-Side .....	17
12. Planning Committee .....	19
13. Planning Process Concerns .....	22
14. Other Collaboration Partners .....	22
15. Subrecipient Documentation .....	23
16. Consultation and Collaboration .....	23
17. Demographic Information .....	24
18. Identifying Underserved Populations .....	26
19. Funding Availability Announcements .....	26
20. Planned Projects .....	27
21. Culturally-Specific Outreach .....	33
22. Culturally-Specific Set-A-Side .....	35
23. Allocation Strategies .....	39
24. Addressing Domestic Violence-Related Homicides .....	41
25. Family Violence Prevention and Services Act .....	47
C. CONCLUSION .....	49

## INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

The Board is responsible for overseeing the funding of subrecipient projects under the STOP Formula Grant Program. Board members work with LCLE to provide funding recommendations to the Commission regarding all decisions concerning the best course of action to take when allocating and awarding STOP funds. The Commission makes the final decisions on all STOP funding matters.

Currently, there are twelve members serving on the Victim Services Advisory Board and its members include the executive directors of domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions, and representatives from law enforcement and prosecution agencies, the judiciary sector, and nonprofit victim services programs. All members of the Board are involved in the development and implementation of the Plan.

The LCLE STOP Program Manager is the State Administrator who works closely with OVW, the Commission, the Victim Services Advisory Board, the eight local law enforcement planning districts, the two statewide coalitions, and other interested entities in order to successfully accomplish this endeavor.

## **A. PLAN ELEMENTS**

### **1. Approval Date**

The STOP Administrator presented the 2017–2020 STOP Implementation Plan Update to the Victim Services Advisory Board for its review and consideration before being presented to the Commission. After its review, the Victim Services Advisory Board met Wednesday, March 14, 2018, and unanimously agreed to recommend to the Commission its approval for the Plan Update. The Board Chair presented the Plan Update to the Commission Wednesday, March 14, 2018. After considering the Board’s recommendation, the Commission unanimously agreed to approve the Plan Update so it may be submitted to the Office on Violence Against Women when LCLE applies for the Fiscal Year 2018 STOP Formula Grant Program funds.

### **2. Plan Time Period**

The original 2017–2020 STOP Implementation Plan, as well as any subsequent Plan Updates, will be used as a guide for LCLE and all STOP subrecipients during the federal project periods of this Plan beginning July 1, 2017, until the end of the federal FY 2020 funding period. The Plan will support the state in its efforts to revise, update, and strengthen existing law enforcement and prosecution strategies, as well as, enhance partnerships between victim service providers and the criminal justice system. As future planning activities develop, LCLE will update this Plan.

### **3. Planning Process**

Planning included a series of face-to-face meetings with the District Directors of the state’s law enforcement planning districts/councils, the Executive Directors of the domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions, and the Victim Services Advisory Board members. Additional in-person meetings were held with representatives from various state, governmental agencies, nonprofit victim service agencies, as well as meetings with representatives from Native American Tribes.

Scheduled meetings with the District Directors, Coalition Executive Directors, and the Advisory Board are held quarterly as part of the LCLE’s legislative mandate. The objective is to gather their expertise, input, and vision on existing services; consider the creation of new projects for new initiatives when gaps for needed victim services are discovered; seek advice on how to provide services to underserved, diverse, or culturally specific populations, collaboration efforts among the different agencies; and, collecting ideas and conducting needs assessments or surveys when necessary to prioritize STOP program objectives.

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

Additional guidance comes from the members of the Victim Services Advisory Board and the Commission who provide input into the plan, give strategy guidance, protocol and policy direction relative to preventing, identifying, and responding to the needs of women who have been victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and other violent crimes.

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

#### **4. Goals and Objectives**

Using the priorities identified by the internet survey, the listening sessions, the review of applicable national reports, data on domestic violence, dating, violence, sexual assault, and stalking, the information provided by the subgrantees through the semi-annual program, and the Muskie data, the following are goals and objectives for use of the STOP Program funds:

Goal 1: To streamline and coordinate the delivery of subgrant funding.

Objective 1: Provide assistance in the use of the user-friendly web-based Egrants system made available to all agencies receiving subgrant awards from the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program.

Activity 1: Provide one-on-one technical assistance when requested.

Activity 2: Provide trainings to various committees, advisory groups, coalitions, or any participating agency requesting training.

Timeline: Projects are normally funded on a 12-month basis. Most projects receiving STOP funds are being funded on a 12-

month basis with a proposed project period of January 1 through December 31 each year.

Goal 2: To improve collaboration and coordination of services provided by the criminal justice system; improve the delivery of services to victims; increase officer understanding of and compliance with state and local laws statewide and departmental policies and procedures related to the enforcement of domestic violence laws and protection orders.

Objective 1: Provide individualized technical assistance to criminal justice agencies to locate and acquire needed trainings.

Activity 1: Law enforcement, prosecution, and court applicant agencies are required to consult with victim service programs during the course of developing their STOP program application.

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

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

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

Activity 1: Provide trainings based on the Department of Justice's Cultural Competency Standards.

Activity 2: Represent the STOP Program at Coalition and District meetings.

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

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

Objective 1: Schedule meetings with Program Managers of criminal justice programs (law enforcement, prosecution, and court agencies).

Objective 2: Schedule meetings with the Directors of the battered women shelters and the sexual assault centers.

Objective 3: Schedule meetings with American Indian Tribes.

Objective 4: Schedule meetings with culturally-specific groups or their representative.

Objective 5: Schedule meetings with underserved groups or their representative.

Objective 6: Schedule meetings with the Victim Services Advisory Board members.

Objective 7: Schedule meetings with the state Coalitions.

Objective 8: Schedule meetings with District Directors.

Objective 9: Schedule meetings with any participating agency or group requesting representation.

Objective 10: Continue to meet with Program Managers of the LA DCFS.

Activity 1: Allow STOP recipients from all agencies representing all disciplines to have an opportunity to discuss their concerns and/or issues impacting their areas of expertise and the populations they represent directly with the LCLE STOP Program Manager.

Activity 2: Include the LCLE VOCA Program Manager, the LCLE Crime Victims Reparations Program Manager, and the LCLE Louisiana Victims Notification Program Manager.

Activity 3: Meet with all who request to participate in the planning of the STOP Implementation Plan as committees, advisory groups, at coalition meetings and district meetings.

Activity 4: Document and collate all information received to be used for the continued development of the STOP Implementation Plan.

Timeline: At least four meetings (in person or conference calls) or more, when coordinated, will be held each year.

## 5. Use of STOP Funds

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

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

Advocates and volunteers are utilized to accompany victims to the Clerk of Court's Office and/or to assist them in filing a petition for the Court's protection, as well as assisting in all other matters resulting from services provided. More than 90,000 shelter nights and 33,000 crisis calls were handled within the last year. To adequately assist women and their children seeking services, the programs are striving to provide physical points of access to services in all sixty-four parishes.

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

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



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

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

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

## **6. STOP-Funded Programs and Projects**

Eligible agencies or organizations include, but are not limited to:

- State Offices and Agencies
- Public or Private Non-Profit Organizations
- Non-Profit, Non-Governmental Victim Services Programs
- Faith-Based and Community Organizations
- Courts
- Units of Local Government (Units of local government mean any city, town, township, borough, parish, village or other general- purpose political subdivision of a state. For the State of Louisiana, Sheriffs and District Attorneys are considered units of local government.)
- Indian Tribal Governments (Native American Tribes that perform law enforcement functions as determined by the Secretary of the Interior).

Examples of programs and projects by discipline:

- Courts  
Training for Judicial  
Domestic Violence Network
- Culturally Specific  
Native American Domestic Violence Program  
Cafa Oglá – One People to STOP Violence  
Immigration Assistance Program
- Discretionary  
Domestic Violence Training Program  
Human Trafficking Training Program  
Sexual Assault Training
- Law Enforcement  
Combination Investigation  
Domestic Violence Investigation  
Domestic Violence Program  
Domestic Violence Unit  
Law Enforcement Policy Development  
Sexual Assault Investigation  
Stalking Program  
Violence Tracking
- Prosecution  
Combination Prosecution  
Domestic Violence Program  
Domestic Violence Prosecution  
Domestic Violence Unit  
Sexual Assault Network  
Sexual Assault Program  
Sexual Assault Prosecution  
Stalking Program  
Vertical Prosecution
- Victim Services  
Domestic Violence Counseling  
Domestic Violence Legal Assistance  
Domestic Violence Outreach  
Domestic Violence Program  
Domestic Violence Program–Shelter–Adults  
Rape Counseling Program  
Sexual Assault Counseling Program  
Sexual Assault Outreach  
Sexual Assault Program

## 7. Distribution of STOP Funds

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

Law enforcement and prosecution applicant agencies apply for funding through one of the eight (8) local Law Enforcement Planning Districts or Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils. Nonprofit, non-governmental victim service providers apply for funding through their respective coalitions, which are the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) and the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LaFASA). All other statewide programs focused on one or more of the twenty (20) STOP purpose areas apply directly to the LCLE for their funding.

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

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

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

**Law Enforcement Planning Districts/Councils**

District 1	Northwest Law Enforcement Planning District, Inc.	11.07%
District 2	North Delta Law Enforcement Planning District, Inc.	10.77%
District 3	Red River Delta Law Enforcement Planning Council, Inc.	9.74%
District 4	Evangeline Law Enforcement Planning Council, Inc.	10.66%
District 5	Capital District Law Enforcement Planning Council, Inc.	15.95%
District 6	Southwest District Law Enforcement Planning Council, Inc.	10.44%
District 7	Jefferson Parish Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and Metropolitan District Law Enforcement Planning and Action Commission, Inc.	15.48%
District 9	New Orleans, City of/Office of Criminal Justice Coordination	15.89%

**NOTE: The formula was revised upon release of the 2010 U.S. Census Report.**

Ninety percent (90%) of the thirty percent (30%), which is the nonprofit victim services portion of the total allocation, is distributed to nonprofit, non-governmental victim services agencies through the state’s two coalitions:

- the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV), and
- the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LaFASA).

The remaining ten percent (10%) of the victim services allocation designated to fund a culturally-specific project to an eligible culturally-specific nonprofit, non-governmental victim service agency or a tribal government agency is determined by the STOP Administrator. In addition, STOP funds designated for statewide discretionary projects totaling fifteen percent (15%) and local courts totaling five percent (5%) are also distributed and managed by the STOP Administrator.

**8. STOP Grant Cycle**

The District Directors at the Law Enforcement Planning Districts or Councils and LCLE staff provide direct assistance to the subgrant agencies and work diligently to ensure that

these agencies utilize the funds to meet intended goals and objectives, maintain statistics and fiscal records, have a full understanding of reporting requirements, and submit the required reports to LCLE as scheduled.

LCLE requires that all subrecipient agencies must comply with the applicable provisions of the current Office on Violence Against Women Final Rule, DOJ Grants Financial Guide, the Louisiana State Travel Guide, the Victim Services Advisory Board Guidelines, and the Commission Operating Policies.

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

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

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

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

Applicants who have a continuation application requesting funding to continue an existing project, and/or requesting an increase of funding to an existing project, regardless of the amount of funding, is required to attend only the Victim Services Advisory Board meeting. Potential applicants should be knowledgeable about the proposed project and be able to answer any questions that may arise. An application can be deferred, tabled, or denied if there is no representative of the applicant agency present at these meetings. The Victim Services Advisory Board and the Commission can place special conditions upon the application that the applicant agency must adhere to as required.

If approved by the Commission, LCLE staff then issues the Award Letter. The Subgrant Award packet is forwarded directly to the applicant agency for acceptance with the respective districts copied. When the original award letter has been returned to LCLE with the original signatures of the LCLE Executive Director and the agency's Signatory

(Authorized Official), the subgrant in the Egrants system is then marked Open-Awarded and becomes active for processing required reporting documentation and other activities during the course of the program's project period.

Reporting requirements include maintaining appropriate programmatic and financial records that fully disclose the amount and disposition of STOP funds received by the applicant agency to ensure proper management, fiscal control and efficient disbursement of the STOP funds. Written procedures regarding the reporting requirements of a project are provided in the Egrants Applying for a Grant Guide. The procedures inform the applicant of specific reporting requirements before and after receiving a subgrant award; those requirements are to be followed during the project periods for each fiscal funding year during the approved period of this Plan.

STOP-funded activities are evaluated through quarterly Program Reports that are used as tools to report each project's activities and its programmatic progress during a particular reporting period. These reports are due on a calendar basis (i.e., January 1 – March 31, April 1 – June 30, July 1 – September 30, and October 1 – December 31) within fifteen (15) days following the end of each quarter throughout the project period. These requirements are provided in the Egrants Program Reporting Guide.

All subgrantees submit quarterly program reports directly to LCLE on the Egrants system. The LCLE STOP Program Manager receives notifications from the Egrants system when a subgrantee submits a program report. After the Program Manager reviews the report, the Manager contacts the subgrantee directly if additional information is needed, if the report is incomplete, or if corrective action is necessary.

After the Manager receives the corrected program report, the report can then be processed and saved as "Completed and Approved." If program reports are delinquent, the subgrantee agency is sent a delinquency notice daily until the required report is created and submitted in the Egrants system. Program reports are due within fifteen (15) days of the end of the quarter period. Failure to comply with reporting requirements may result in administrative action such as, withholding of payments, suspension of funding, cancellation of the project, loss of awarded funds, or non-certification of new grant awards.

If the purchase of equipment is planned in the budget, an Inventory Report is to be completed and submitted with the Fiscal Report when requesting reimbursement. This report is a working document until all requested equipment has been purchased. Fiscal Reports are also due within fifteen (15) days of the end of a quarter period or the recipient can submit and request monthly (interim) reimbursements.

Subgrantees are responsible for compiling and submitting the STOP Annual Progress Report that reflects all grant-funded activities for the period of January 1 to December 31 each year. The form is submitted electronically to the STOP Program Manager within thirty days (30) of the end of the annual reporting period. If a subgrantee fails to

submit this annual report, STOP funds will be withheld until the STOP Annual Progress Report is submitted to LCLE. The STOP Manager checks each report for accuracy before submitting the reports to the Office on Violence Against Women on or before March 30 each year.

On-site monitoring visits conducted by local planning District Directors are for those STOP-funded programs distributed through their district. The LCLE Federal Program Monitor conducts on-site monitorings for all other funded programs receiving funding through the Coalitions or directly through the LCLE. LCLE program staff and District Directors have developed a tracking mechanism to ensure projects are monitored timely.

Monitoring visits are conducted between 150 – 210 days after the start date of the project period. The completed Monitoring Report is due to LCLE by the 15th day after the 210-day mark and can be mailed directly to LCLE Egrants Section or scanned and emailed to the appropriate Fiscal (Grants) staff assigned to the federal STOP program. If the documents are scanned and submitted via email, the signature page must be scanned in color.

The Monitoring Report consists of three parts:

1. Documents Needed During the Program Monitoring Visit – This is a check list form that is forwarded to the subgrantee prior to the visit and advises what documents to have available for the visit.
2. Questionnaire for Program Monitoring Report – This form is forwarded to the subgrantee prior to the visit. The subgrantee completes the form and returns the form to the Evaluator for review.
3. Signature Page and Program Monitoring Report – The Evaluator completes this form during the monitoring visit. The agency's individuals participating in the visit and the Evaluator signs the Signature Page in blue.

The Program Staff or District Office needs to submit the completed reports along with requested documentation to the LCLE Federal/State Program Fiscal Staff by the 15th day from the date of the monitoring visit. Once LCLE receives the Program Monitoring Report, the Special Condition withholding 10% of the federal funds will be released even if there are issues that need further clarification.

The monitoring reports and backup documentation, if in hard copy, is submitted to the Fiscal Staff. If not, the report needs to be emailed as a pdf to the Fiscal Staff. The Fiscal Staff will upload the documents to the project. The Fiscal Staff will print the Signature Page (in color) submitted by the District / LCLE Evaluator.

The Fiscal Staff will review the supporting fiscal documents submitted with the Program Monitoring Report, signs the Signature Page in blue, and releases the Special Condition. The Fiscal Staff can request additional information via an email or letter from the

subgrantee if needed. The email or letter is uploaded to the Monitoring Section. The Signature Page and subgrant folder are then given to Accounting Section.

The Accounting Section will review the agency's latest audit and signs the Signature Page in blue. The Accounting Section can request additional information via email or letter from the subgrantee if needed. The email or letter is uploaded and placed in the Monitoring Section. The Signature Page and subgrant folder are then given to the Program Staff.

The Program Staff will review the Program Monitoring Report, signs the Signature Page in blue, scans and uploads the Signature Page to the appropriate subgrant. If the Program Monitoring Report was submitted by the District office, the Program Staff can request additional information via email or letter from the subgrantee if needed. The email or letter is uploaded and placed in the Monitoring Section. The Program Staff then clicks on the "Submit" button. The Signature Page and subgrant folder are given to the Program Manager.

The Program Manager reviews the Monitoring Report and makes their recommendation in Egrants as "Return", "Approve", "Delete", "Request Audit" and/or "Hold Payment". The Program Manager initials and dates the Signature Page, which is filed in the subgrant folder.

The review provides direct assistance to subgrant agencies and ensures that these agencies utilize the funds to meet the intended goals and objectives, have a full understanding of subgrant reporting requirements, maintain statistics and fiscal records and submit the mandatory reports to LCLE according to schedule.

Subgrant agencies that fail to comply with certified assurances, special conditions, or reporting requirements of the subgrant award are subject to the withdrawal of the subgrant award.

In conclusion, the success of grant-funded activities is evaluated by using quarterly progress reports that effectively track goals, objectives and outcomes of each recipient agency. A STOP Annual Progress Report (completed by each subgrantee agency, as well as the STOP Administrator) provides a comprehensive and accurate measure of data collection.

## **9. Subgrant Project Periods**

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



## 10. Proposals and Selection Methods

Units of local government (law enforcement and prosecution agencies) are advised by Law Enforcement Planning District/Council staff of the availability of grant funding and guidelines for funding through public advertising of funding available. The Coalitions notify their member victim services organizations of the availability of grant funding and guidelines.

Notices of Funding Opportunity are run in local and regional newspapers statewide to announce the availability of the STOP Program funds each funding year as well as posting the notice of availability on Internet websites. Potential applicant agencies are provided with appropriate information on requesting and applying for the funds, meeting dates and times.

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

Afterward, Requests for Allocation and Program Plan Worksheet forms are completed by District Program Directors and Coalition Directors, as well as those collected by the LCLE STOP Program Manager listing all eligible applicant agencies' programs. The allocation listings are based on the results of the Notice of Intent and Risk Assessment forms, which are designed to help determine if the risk level of a program and if its project meets the requirements of one or more of the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program's twenty (20) statutory purpose areas.

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

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

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

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

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

Applicants who have a continuation application requesting funding to continue an existing project, and/or requesting an increase of funding to an existing project, regardless of the amount of funding, is required to attend only the Victim Services Advisory Board meeting. Potential applicants should be knowledgeable about the proposed project and be able to answer any questions that may arise. An application can be deferred, tabled, or denied if there is no representative of the applicant agency present at these meetings. The Victim Services Advisory Board and the Commission can place additional special conditions upon the application that the applicant agency must adhere to as required.

If approved by the Commission, LCLE staff then issues the Award Letter. The Subgrant Award packet is forwarded directly to the applicant agency for acceptance with the respective districts copied.

## **11. Sexual Assault Set-Aside**

Louisiana is currently meeting and slightly exceeding the STOP twenty percent (20%) Sexual Assault Set-Aside Requirement in accordance with the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 through the victim services provided by STOP-funded victim service providers, law enforcement, and prosecution agencies. In a review of the FY 2014 through FY 2016 STOP funds issued to the sub-recipient agencies, each subrecipient reported to LCLE the percentages of their awards that are devoted to the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The percentages used in the calculations according to the total federal amount awarded are compared to the total amount of the federal award allocated to Louisiana to get a monetary total for sexual assault services provided in each award.

The State of Louisiana does not provide state or local funding designated for direct services to sexual assault victims. However, the LCLE awards federal monies to the Sexual Assault Centers (SACs) from the OVW STOP Formula Grant Program and

Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program (SASP). In addition, the Sexual Assault Centers receive funding from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), Crime Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program (CVA).

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

In early February 2017, with the assistance of STOP funding, the LCLE in coordination with the Louisiana Department of Justice's Office of the Attorney General and the Louisiana District Attorneys Association hosted a three-day Criminal Justice Conference on Sexual Assault in New Orleans, Louisiana. The tag line for the conference was "Finding the Missing Pieces" denoting the need for collaboration among systems in an effort to understand and respond to victims of sexual assault. Geared to the law enforcement community, advocates from the criminal justice system, non-profit agencies and private practices along with attorneys and judges and medical personnel, it was well attended by over four hundred twenty-five (425) professionals working within the field of sexual assault expertise; not including staff and facilitators.

The conference featured both national and international subject matter experts in both plenary and breakout sessions highlighting topics such as the Neurobiology of Trauma, stranger verses non-stranger sexual assault, alcohol facilitated sexual assault, informed consent, interviewing victims and perpetrators, evidence collection and the introduction of the new Pediatric Sexual Assault Protocol as it relates to Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners. Human Sex Trafficking with a case study was also addressed. Participation by the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault, the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Louisiana State Forensic Nurse Examiners was essential to the success of the conference by providing handouts, brochures and guidance to participants.

Evaluations for the conference produced results that were beyond expectations with over a ninety-five (95%) overall satisfaction rating by attendees. Conversations with staff members throughout the conference included comments such as, "This is the best conference that I have ever attended"; "I hope we have a conference like this every year"; and "Can you all host a conference like this on domestic violence and child abuse?"

The Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LaFASA) was awarded the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) allocation funds after discovering access to community resources/advocacy services for incarcerated individuals differs drastically from that of

a member of the general public due mainly to offenders living in guarded detention, communications restrictions, and stigmas attached to dealing with incarcerated people. This lack of access needlessly leaves incarcerated survivors behind.

LaFASA then identified the need for sexual assault advocacy and victims' services to reach offenders in Louisiana adult correctional facilities in more frequent and meaningful ways. The 2012 Standards of the Prison Rape Elimination Act ("PREA Standards") provided guidelines for facilities to protect the interests of incarcerated individuals who had been sexually assaulted. While progress is being made, facilities have yet to attain full compliance with PREA Standards. LaFASA is utilizing these PREA funds to coordinate with its member sexual assault centers, the Louisiana Department of Corrections, and facilities. The goal is to achieve one hundred percent (100%) compliance with PREA Standards and provide meaningful direct services to make sexual assault survival a reality for incarcerated individuals. LaFASA learned that incarcerated survivors are not comfortable filing formal reports, as a result, they are not accessing necessary services to heal. All survivors deserve justice and an opportunity to heal, regardless of whether or not they are incarcerated.

To achieve more impactful direct services to adult incarcerated survivors, the LaFASA PREA Liaison designed proper protocol and/or policies (similar to those currently used by sexual assault centers) for correctional facility staff across the state to improve the response to sexual assault and to prevent sexual assault by fostering a healthier climate and culture within the facilities. The PREA Liaison also developed and produced educational materials for inmates on sexual abuse with the assistance of the Department of Corrections.

The PREA Liaison is available to facilities and member sexual assault centers to provide technical assistance to align each participant's respective policies and procedures with national best practices to ensure sustainable PREA Standard compliance and improve adult incarcerated survivors' outcomes. The Liaison also provides direct advocacy services in the form of crisis intervention, support, information, and referrals to incarcerated survivors both in person and through mail.

It is expected the LaFASA Program Liaison will produce and disseminate at least three (3) written or digital resources over the subgrant project period, so, when shared, it will be beneficial to allied professionals, member sexual assault centers, and/or adult correctional facilities regarding industry best practices regarding response to and prevention of sexual assault in incarcerated facilities.

## **12. Planning Committee**

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) requires that the state plan follow the STOP Formula Program Implementation Plan Checklist. The LCLE 2017–2020 Implementation Plan Committee is inclusive and coordinates across multiple areas and populations. The Implementation Planning Committee is made up of subject matter experts from numerous fields and meets the OVW

requirements.

The Planning Committee includes:

- State sexual assault coalition (1 Member)
- State domestic violence coalition (1 Member)
- Dual domestic violence and sexual assault coalition (Not Applicable)
- Law enforcement entities (1 Member)
- Prosecution entities (2 Members)
- State and local courts (1 Member)
- Tribal governments (2 Members)
- Representatives from underserved populations, including culturally specific populations (1 Member)
- Victim service providers (5 Members)
- Population specific organizations (3 Members)

<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Member Expertise</b>	<b>Agency Name</b>
Tracy Dahmer Farris	Director of Special Programs	Louisiana Department of Justice
Ramona M. Harris	Louisiana Protective Order Registry Director	Louisiana Supreme Court
Valerie Martinez	Police Lieutenant	Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office
Mark A. Dumaine	Chief of Administration	19th Judicial District Attorney's Office
Darlene Santana	Executive Director	Metro Centers for Community Advocacy
Gail P. Gowland	Executive Director	St. Bernard Battered Women's Program
Cathy Ayo	Executive Director	D.A.R.T. – Domestic Abuse Resistance Team
Lanor Curole	STOP Coordinator	United Houma Nation, Inc.
Mona Maxwell	Social Services Director	Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
Laura Balthazar	Executive Director	St. Landry-Evangeline Sexual Assault Center
Cherrise Picard	Executive Director	Chez Hope, Inc.
Mariah Wineski	Executive Director	Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Rafael de Castro	Executive Director	Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault
Audrey Thibodeaux	Retired Law Enforcement Officer	Elderly Crime Victim Assistance Program

Our purpose is to gather their expertise, input, and vision. Their thoughts on existing services, identifying gaps in communities' resources, creating new services for unmet needs, sharing advice on how to effectively provide services to the underserved, diverse, or culturally specific populations, and sharing positive collaboration efforts among the different types of agencies, were critical to this Committee's success.

Initial preparations for the 2017–2020 STOP Formula Grant Implementation Plan included a meeting between the LCLE STOP Administrator and Federal Grants Section Manager that took place September 23, 2016. The meeting outlined the short term plans and timelines; the formation of the Planning Committee, the topics and questions to be included in surveys to be created for law enforcement, prosecution, and victim services, and, ultimately a date agreed upon to set a deadline for a completed implementation plan.

By October 5, 2016, the following had been approved:

- Letters and emails of invitation to join the implementation planning committee,
- Law Enforcement and Prosecution surveys, and
- Meeting dates for law enforcement, prosecution, and victim services groups scheduled.

Contributing factors for this Implementation Plan include:

- A subgrantee internet survey,
- Subgrantee listening meetings,
- Local, state, and federal reports on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and
- Information provided by the subgrantees through the quarterly progress reports, as well as the annual progress reports.

Internet surveys were used to help identify needs and successes. The surveys were sent to STOP subrecipients in three major areas:

- Law Enforcement
- Prosecution
- Victim Services

On average, there was a sixty percent response rate. Face-to-face meetings followed up these surveys:

- 22 Law Enforcement agencies received the survey.
- 14 Prosecution agencies received the survey.
- 25 Victim Service agencies received the survey.

The subgrantee listening meetings were conducted in November and early December 2016. Prosecution and Victim Services provided crucial information that directly influences this Plan. In addition to these meetings, on-site meetings with the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians and the United Houma Nation, are held on a regular basis. Some of the dates of these meetings were June 27, 2016, August 25, 2016, February 23, 2017, and April 11, 2017. Other modes of communication occur quite often as emails, letters, and phone calls. Representatives from both Tribes are also on the LCLE Implementation Planning Committee.

### **13. Planning Process Concerns**

In the meeting attended by Prosecutors held November 1, 2016, attendees unanimously agreed the major obstacle to successful prosecution of perpetrators was the lack of cooperation from victims. They have found the causes for this are numerous: the lack of hope, lack of money, lack of transportation, no child support received for dependent children, financial prospects are hard to attain, and safe housing was, in their opinion, one of the most difficult obstacles victims face. The lack of these necessities arises from the fact that most domestic violence perpetrators are the head of household. The group also indicated that the development of a standard protocol outlining a “best practices” approach to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking would be tremendously helpful. The discussion led to an appeal that LCLE would assist with the formation of a data driven best practices.

The nonprofit victim service providers who attended the December 6, 2016, meeting were extremely concerned with receiving continued funding, as well as the amount of future funding received as awards. The nonprofit victim service providers receive their funding through either the LCADV or LaFASA Coalitions. Everyone present agreed the most urgent need victims faced statewide is the need for easy access to transportation. The group explained that victims often require assistance in obtaining transportation to and from appointments that are necessary to help them recover and become self-sufficient members of society.

Another concern expressed was staffing problems. Victim service providers are experiencing several major issues as it relates to staffing. One is the availability of training opportunities on state and national levels. Another is the lack of staffing for their programs due to high turnover numbers. High turnover, continues to be an issue because of the lack of funding allowed to the nonprofits to pay adequate salaries, which currently occurs as high as eighty percent (80%) statewide.

### **14. Other Collaboration Partners**

The LCLE Federal Programs Section Manager attended in-person meetings with members of the Chitimacha Tribe, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, the Grand Caillou/Dulac Band, the Choctaw-Apache Tribe, and the Clifton Choctaw Tribes at their Inter-Tribal Council (ITC) and The Institute for Indian Development meetings when invited.

At these meetings, a packet of several OVW documents, including those specific to Tribal governments, was provided to each person. Brief explanations were provided to describe what each grant program represents and how the programs are designed to develop the nation's capacity to reduce domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by strengthening services to victims and holding offenders accountable. After discussing and answering questions asked about the OVW programs, the Section Manager invited all present at the meeting to participate in the state's STOP program planning sessions.

A few of the latest in-person meeting dates attended by the STOP Federal Section Manager are:

- May 23, 2016,
- June 27, 2016,
- August 25, 2016,
- February 23, 2017, and
- April 11, 2017.

The last meeting attended that was held May 23, 2016, in Houma, Louisiana, provided an opportunity for the Section Manager to speak to those present about the twenty-five grant programs authorized by the Violence Against Women Act and subsequent legislation. The group is made up of representatives from the four federally-recognized tribes, members of Chitimacha, Coushatta, Tunica-Biloxi and the Jena Band of Choctaw tribal communities, as well as one of the state recognized tribes, United Houma Nation.

There have been other means of contact conducted through emails, letters, and phone calls made quite often. Most notable, representatives from both Tribes receiving STOP funds are members of the STOP Implementation Planning Committee.

## **15. Subrecipient Documentation**

Documentation in the form of letters and attachments will be collected from prosecution, law enforcement, court, and victim services programs to be submitted with the Plan Update. Each document will provide information to explain the need for the grant funds, the intended use of the grant funds, the expected result of the grant funds, and, the demographic characteristics of the populations to be served, including age, disability, race, ethnicity, and language background.

## **16. Consultation and Collaboration**

All subgrant recipients are required to submit documentation with their applications verifying they have or will consult with tribal, state, or local victim service programs during the course of developing their grant applications in order to ensure that proposed services, activities, and equipment acquisitions were designed to promote the safety,



confidentiality, and economic independence of victims of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking when applicable.

Each applicant agency is also required to provide at least three (3) letters of support, as well as Memorandums of Understanding, Cooperative Agreements, contracts, and other letters of support from collaborating agencies working in partnership in providing services to victims in their service areas, as applicable to their individual proposed program.

Additionally, each applicant agency receiving STOP funding is required to document their compliance with the OVW Confidentiality Requirements. When completing their applications, they must complete and attach the "Acknowledgement of Notice of Statutory Requirement to Comply with the Confidentiality and Privacy Provisions of the Violence Against Women Act, as Amended" form. This form must be signed by the agency's Authorized Official in blue ink and attached to their application as one of the requirements necessary to receive an award.

## **17. Demographic Information**

The State of Louisiana is located in the southern region of the United States of America and is the only state in the United States with sixty-four (64) political subdivisions termed as "parishes," which are equivalent to "counties" in all other states. Louisiana's total population was reported in the 2010 Census report as totaling 4,533,372, which resulted in a ranking order of Louisiana as twenty-two in the United States.

Louisiana encompasses a total of 43,203.90 square miles. When comparing the number of persons per square mile in Louisiana to that of other states, Louisiana has 104.9 persons per square mile versus the national average of 87.4 per square mile. There were major shifts in populated areas during the past ten years after the devastations resulting from the two hurricanes in 2005 (Katrina and Rita), two hurricanes in 2008 (Gustav and Ike), the 2010 British Petroleum oil spill, and the floods of 2016 all of which caused substantial damage to southeast Louisiana.

Recently, statistics revealed that Louisiana's population total increased approximately 3.3% from 4,533,372 to 4,684,333 during the period of April 1, 2010, to July 1, 2017. The state's population is largely white alone reported at 59%; other race origins were identified as 32.6% Black or African American, 0.8% Native American, 1.8% Asian, 5% Hispanic or Latino, and 1.6% two or more races. 51.1% of the population was identified as female. Of persons under the age of 65, 11% were identified as having a disability. Persons without health insurance under the age of 65 years of age were reported at 11.9%. 14.4% of the population are 65 years of age and older while 23.8% of the population are persons under the age of 18.

Louisiana's median income reported for the period of 2012–2016 is \$45,652 for the 1,731,298 households recorded; 20.2% of the population live in poverty; approximately 40.6% of female householders (no husband present) live below the poverty level. Of those households, 49.4% have children under the age of 18; 60.7% with children under

the age of 5. Only 23% of persons aged 25 years and older hold a Bachelor's Degree or higher.

The largest parish by population is East Baton Rouge Parish with a population of 440,178 or an average of 966.6 people per square mile throughout the parish. Baton Rouge is the capitol city of Louisiana with a population of 229,493 or 2,982.5 people per square mile. The largest parish by land area in square miles (169.42) is Cameron Parish, which has a population of 5.3 people per square mile.

The City of New Orleans is the largest city in the state, which is a major United States port and the state's largest metropolitan area. Its population totals 343,829, classifying it as the largest city according to the 2010 U.S. Census. The New Orleans-Kenner-Metairie Metropolitan Statistical Area encompassing eight parishes with a combined population of 1,235,650 in 2010, makes it the forty-fifth largest Metropolitan Statistical Area in the United States. The New Orleans- Metairie-Hammond combined statistical area, which is a larger trading area than the New Orleans Metropolitan area encompasses ten parishes and boasts a population of 1,453,502.

Each parish is listed below by population per square mile – largest to smallest populations in each parish throughout the state as reported in the 2010 Census report. Breakdowns of population demographics by parish with population totals are as follows:

- Major metropolitan areas in Louisiana in order of population density are located in the Parishes of East Baton Rouge (440,178), Jefferson (432,552), Orleans (343,829), Caddo (254,969), St. Tammany (233,740) and Lafayette (221,578). These six parishes consist of approximately 9.4% of the sixty-four parishes but have a total population of 1,926,846 people, or 42.5% of Louisiana's total state population.
- The parishes listed in order of population density of 100,000 people or more are Calcasieu (192,768), Ouachita (153,720), Rapides (131,613), Livingston (128,026), Tangipahoa (121,097), Bossier (116,979), Terrebonne (111,860), and Ascension (107,215). These eight parishes are 12.5% of the sixty-four parishes with a total population of 1,063,278 or 23.4% of the total state population.
- Lafourche (96,318), St. Landry (83,384), Iberia (73,240), Acadia (61,773), Vermilion (57,999), St. Mary (54,650), Vernon (52,334), St. Martin (52,160), St. Charles (52,780), Washington (47,168), Lincoln (46,735), St. John the Baptist (45,924), Webster (41,207) are thirteen parishes with population densities ranging from 41,207 to just under 100,000. These parishes make up 20.3% of the sixty-four parishes listing a total population of 765,672 or 16.9% of the total state population.

- The next group of eighteen parishes in ranking order have populations of 40,000 or less people in each Parish totaling 28.1% of the sixty-four parishes. The Parishes are Natchitoches (39,566), St. Bernard (35,897), Beauregard (35,654), Iberville (33,387), Jefferson Davis (31,594), Morehouse (27,979), DeSoto (26,656), West Baton Rouge (23,788), Assumption (23,421), Plaquemines (23,042), Pointe Coupee (22,802), Union (22,721), Grant (22,309), East Feliciana (20,267), Jackson (16,274), West Feliciana (15,625), St. Helena (11,203), and Cameron (6,839). These eighteen parishes list populations totaling 439,024 or 9.7% of the total state population.

## **18. Identifying Underserved Populations**

The last eighteen parishes make up 28.1% of the 64 parishes and are considered rural or underserved parishes. Each parish list population totals of 5,252 to 42,073 people living in these parishes totaling 338,559 or 7.5% of the total state population. These parishes are Avoyelles (42,073), Evangeline (33,984), Allen (25,764), Sabine (24,233), St. James (22,102), Franklin (20,767), Richland (20,725), Concordia (20,822), Claiborne (17,195), Winn (15,313), LaSalle (14,890), Bienville (14,353), Madison (12,093), West Carroll (11,604), Catahoula (10,407), Caldwell (10,132), Red River (9,091), East Carroll (7,759), and Tensas (5,252) Parishes. Of the total population of 338,559 living in these rural parishes, approximately 166,386 (49.14%) residents are women.

LACLE continues to reach out to diverse populations statewide in all discipline areas, especially the historically underserved. The LCADV reports they meet with several caucuses to discuss the needs of underserved or marginalized persons throughout their decision-making processes at the domestic violence coalition. Membership in the LCADV caucuses is open to any program employee who identifies with and/or serves those type populations. Meetings are facilitated by caucus members and Coalition staff who focus on discussing best practices in serving their particular population as it relates to education and increased access to services.

Barriers faced in trying to reach traditionally underserved groups are being addressed through community-level task forces coordinated by the sexual assault centers and LaFASA's Board of Directors. The sexual assault centers and the coalition encourage ongoing dialogue and use the information received to make necessary adjustments on a continuing basis to ensure that sexual assault services remain relevant, appropriate, and accessible to underserved populations.

## **19. Funding Availability Announcements**

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

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

A Notice of Intent Worksheet, which has been posted on the LCLE website along with a Program Plan Worksheet and its instructions detailing how to submit the completed form(s) to their respective Districts and/or the LCLE, is completed by applicant agencies interested in applying for a STOP award. When collected by the Districts and/or LCLE, a Risk Assessment is then created based on the information in the Notice of Intent. Requests for Allocation and Program Plan Worksheet forms are submitted by District Program Directors and Coalition Directors, as well as those collected by the LCLE STOP Program Manager listing all eligible applicant agencies' programs. The results of the Notice of Intent and Risk Assessment forms will help determine if a project meets the requirements of one or more of the twenty STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program statutory purpose areas.

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

## **20. Planned Projects**

Funding priority is given to law enforcement, prosecution, court agencies, tribal governments, and nonprofit victim service providers all of which strive to reduce violence against women by developing and strengthening effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies created to combat crimes committed against women. Law enforcement and prosecution applicant agencies apply for STOP funding through one of the eight Local Law Enforcement Planning Districts or Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils. Non-profit, non- governmental victim service agencies apply through their respective coalitions, the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault. Other programs such as courts, tribal governments, and discretionary statewide programs apply directly to the LCLE.

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

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

The LCADV is a statewide network of fifteen (15) battered women’s programs and shelters operated by the organizations and individuals who share the goal of ending domestic violence and other related crimes committed against women in Louisiana. The fifteen (15) facilities are located in St. Bernard, Baton Rouge, DeRidder, Franklin, Hammond, Houma, Jefferson, Jennings, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Mandeville, Many, Monroe, New Orleans, and Ruston.

LaFASA is a statewide network of eleven (11) sexual assault centers operated by the organizations and individuals who share the goal of providing services to women who have become victims of sexual abuse and sexual assault. These programs are working to provide safe housing and needed services to domestic and dating violence victims throughout the entire state.

Louisiana Domestic Violence Service Centers - LCADV

New Orleans Family Justice Center Parish Served: Orleans Crisis Line: (504) 866-9554	Beauregard Community Concerns, Inc. Parishes Served: Beauregard, Vernon Crisis Line: (337) 462-6504	Jefferson Davis Communities Against Domestic Abuse Parish Served: Jefferson Davis Crisis Hotline: (337) 616-8418
Chez Hope, Inc. Parishes Served: Assumption, St. Mary, Iberia, St. Martin Crisis Line: (800) 331-5303	Metro Centers for Community Advocacy Parishes Served: Jefferson, St. Charles, St. James, St. John Crisis Line: (504) 837.5400	St. Bernard Battered Women’s Program Parishes Served: Plaquemines, St. Bernard Crisis Line: (504) 277-3177
D.A.R.T. - Domestic Abuse Resistance Team Parishes Served: Bienville, Claiborne, Grant, Jackson, Lincoln, Union, Winn Crisis Line: (318) 251-2255	Oasis A Safe Haven for Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence Parishes Served: Allen, Calcasieu, Cameron Crisis Line: (337) 436-4552	Project Celebration, Inc. Parishes Served: Desoto, Natchitoches, Sabine, Caddo, Bossier, Red River, Webster Crisis Line: (318) 256-3403
Faith House, Inc. Parishes Served: Acadia, Avoyelles, Evangeline, Lafayette, Rapides, St. Landry, Vermilion Crisis Line: (337) 232.8954	Safe Harbor Parishes Served: St. Tammany, Washington Crisis Line: (985) 626-5740	The Haven, Inc. Parishes Served: Terrebonne, Lafourche Crisis Line: (985) 853-0045

Southeast Spouse Abuse Program (SAFE) Parishes Served: Livingston, St. Helena, Tangipahoa, Washington Crisis Line: (985) 542-8384 www.SAFELouisiana.org	Capital Area Family Violence Intervention Center Parishes Served: East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, West Feliciana, Pointe Coupee, Iberville, Ascension Crisis Line: (800) 541-9706	The Wellspring Alliance for Families, Inc. Parishes Served: Caldwell, Catahoula, Concordia, East Carroll, Franklin, LaSalle, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, West Carroll Crisis Line: (318) 323-1505
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Additional information regarding the membership agencies of the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence can be accessed at <http://lcadv.org/>.

Currently, there are eleven (11) Sexual Assault Centers (also known as Rape Crisis Centers) located throughout the state. These Centers work to provide direct intervention and critically related assistance to women and men of all ages, as well as children, who are victims of sexual assault. Six of the Sexual Assault Centers are dual programs providing services to both sexual assault and domestic violence victims. The “dual” Centers are the Metropolitan Center for Women & Children, the New Orleans Family Justice Center, Oasis, Project Celebration, Inc., The Haven and The Wellspring Alliance for Families. A few Sexual Assault Centers have satellite or branch offices, in addition to their main office, which are staffed on a full-time basis, in an effort to ensure sexual assault victims, are served in those parishes in which there is no Sexual Assault Center.

The Sexual Assault Centers operate under the guidance of the state’s sexual assault coalition, the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LaFASA). The LAFASA Sexual Assault Center Accreditation Standards were originally developed in 1993 and recently revised in January 2016.

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

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

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

Services provided to sexual assault victims include 24-hour crisis hotlines, in person on-site crisis intervention, information and referral, 24-hour emergency medical advocacy, 24-hour criminal justice system advocacy, criminal justice system advocacy/accompaniment, individual support, specialized support groups, individual and group therapy.

Regrettably, some Sexual Assault Centers sometimes have to limit the number of counseling sessions they can provide due to the high demand for their services. Some Centers, at times, must create waiting lists for victims waiting for counseling services, and, if so, Center staffs take steps to ensure that any victim placed on a waiting list is in stable condition and their situation is frequently assessed to ensure their safety. Victims who live in rural parishes are served from a Sexual Assault Center in the closest city to their location. Often, these Centers find ways to provide access to services and facilities, including transportation options for victims.

According to the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault, not every parish is served by an accredited Sexual Assault Center. Three parishes are currently without service providers; and these parishes are LaSalle, Catahoula, and Concordia. The website also advises that if a victim of sexual assault lives in one of these parishes and needs assistance or support to please contact LaFASA (888-995-7273) or the National Assault Hotline (800-656- 4673).

Louisiana Sexual Assault Centers Service Areas – LaFASA

<p>Sexual Trauma Awareness &amp; Response (STAR) Center          Parishes Served: East Baton Rouge, Ascension, East Feliciana, West Feliciana, Iberville, Orleans, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, West Baton Rouge          Phone: (225) 615-7093          Crisis Line: (225) 383-7273</p>	<p>The Wellspring Alliance for Families, Inc.          Parishes Served: Ouachita, Morehouse, Caldwell, East Carroll, West Carroll, Madison, Tensas, Richland, Franklin          Phone: (318) 323-1505          Crisis Line: (800) 716- SAFE</p>
<p>Washington Parish Rape Crisis Center (ADAPT)          Parishes Served: Washington          Phone: (985) 735-0160          Crisis Line: (985) 732-4961</p>	<p>New Orleans Family Justice Center          Parishes Served: New Orleans          Phone: (504) 592-4005          Crisis Line: (504) 866-9554</p>

<p>Oasis A Safe Haven for Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence  Parishes Served: Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis, Beauregard, Allen, Cameron  Phone: (337) 494-7273  Crisis Line: (866) 570-7273</p>	<p>Metro Centers for Community Advocacy  Parishes Served: Orleans, Jefferson, St. Tammany, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, St. John, St. Charles, St. James  Phone: (504) 837-5400  Crisis Line: (504) 837-5400</p>
<p>The Haven, Inc.  Parishes Served: Terrebonne, Lafourche, Assumption  Phone: (985) 872-0757  Crisis Line: (800) 777-8868</p>	<p>St. Landry-Evangeline Sexual Assault Center  Parishes Served: Avoyelles, St. Landry, Evangeline  Phone: (337) 585-4673  Crisis Line: (800) 656-4673</p>
<p>Hearts of Hope  Parishes Served: Lafayette, Iberia, Acadia, St. Martin, Vermilion, St. Mary  Phone: (337) 269-1557  Crisis Line: (337) 233-7273</p>	<p>Pine Hills Sexual Assault Center  Parishes Served: Lincoln, Union, Bienville, Claiborne, Jackson, Grant, Winn  Phone: (318) 255-7273  Crisis Line: (318) 255-7273</p>
<p>Project Celebration, Inc.  Parishes Served: Sabine, DeSoto, Red River, Natchitoches  Phone: (318) 256-6242  Crisis Line: (318) 227-7900</p>	

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

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

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



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

LPOR provided training programs in which five hundred and sixty-six (566) persons were served in 2016:

- In 2016, the registry facilitated four (4) multidisciplinary legal seminars throughout the state. This training program is approved for 4.25 continuing legal education credits. Two hundred and ninety-two (292) persons attended the trainings.
- In prior years of a multi-year project, LPOR developed a 12.5 hour Judicial Education Training curriculum for the state's judiciary on the topic of domestic abuse and dating violence. The curriculum was presented to seventy-five (75) judges at the 2016 Louisiana State Bar Association/Judges Summer School.
- Court faculty was trained on facilitation skills at an annual faculty meeting by a national speaker.
- LPOR also provided presentations and workshops at the request of other agencies and organizations. Two (2) presentations and workshops were held in 2016, and one hundred and sixty-five (165) people were in attendance.

In 2016, the registry received and entered 26,766 Orders of Protection from courts across the state. Of these, 17,531 (65 %) were civil orders and 9,235 (35%) were criminal orders. From the pilot phase of the project through the close of 2016, the registry received and entered a total of 372,731 orders. Of these 273,327 (73%) were civil and 99,404 (27%) were criminal orders. A breakdown of order type appears below:

- 273,327 civil orders, including:
  - Temporary restraining orders
  - Protection orders
  - Preliminary injunctions
  - Permanent injunctions
- 99,404 criminal orders, including:
  - Bail restrictions
  - Peace bonds
  - Combined bail restrictions/peace bond
  - Combined sentencing orders/probation conditions

- Certain qualifying records from the registry are transmitted to the FBI's national Crime Information Center (NCIC) and the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). As of year's end, 255,410 Louisiana orders had been transmitted to NCIC since the startup of the program. This included 23,222 qualifying orders transmitted during 2016.
- Also during 2016, the registry's on-call staff responded to 231 requests for order verification submitted by examiners with the FBI's national Instant Background Check System (NICS). This federal program is designed to prevent the sale of firearms, ammunition and explosives to those who are prohibited, including individuals who are the subject of a qualifying domestic violence restraining order.
- During the year 2016, the registry responded to a total of 1,608 calls from local, state, other state, and federal law enforcement calls with requests for verification of orders of protection.

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

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

## **21. Culturally-Specific Outreach**

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

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

- A description of the culturally-specific population to be served;
- A description detailing how the victim services to be provided are appropriately tailored to meet the unique needs of the culturally- specific community;

- Specifics demonstrating the agency’s ability to work effectively in providing victim services unique to the culturally-specific community being served; and
- Evidence of the ability to acquire the needed expertise through collaboration, cooperative agreements, or memorandums of understanding with other entities in the community.

Women account for approximately 51% (2,314,080) of Louisiana’s population, of which 1,860,286 (41%) are women 16 years of age and older.

The below figures show an increase for each culturally- specific group previously reported before the 2010 Census:

- 1,162,839 (+ 9.95%) White
- 595,482 (+ 11.54%) Black or African American
- 578,950 (+ 31.06%) Hispanic or Latino
- 28,754 (+ 16.76%) Asian
- 12,537 (+28.01%) American Indian/Alaskan Native
- 805 (+ 50.56%) Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
- 29,882 (+ 24.95%) Unknown

Louisiana has the third largest American Indian population in the south behind the states of North Carolina and Florida. The Louisiana parish that has the highest percentage of American Indian population is Sabine Parish, while Terrebonne Parish has the largest population. The State of Louisiana has four (4) Federally Recognized Tribes:

- Chitimacha Tribe
- Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
- Jena Band of Choctaws
- Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana

The Chitimacha Tribe resides on a reservation in Charenton, the Coushatta Tribe in Elton, the Jena Band of Choctaws in Jena and the Tunica-Biloxi in Marksville. Of the four (4) federally recognized tribes, three (3) (Chitimacha Tribe, the Coushatta Tribe, and the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe) have their own police force and have law enforcement authority. The Coushatta and Chitimacha tribes’ Police Chief are members of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police (LACP). The LACP is one of the agencies that works with LCLE and continues to notify the Police Chiefs in each municipality of STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program funding opportunities.

The State of Louisiana has ten (10) State Recognized Tribes:

- Adai Caddo Tribe
- Biloxi-Chitimacha Confederation of Muskogee
- Choctaw-Apache Tribe
- Clifton Choctaw
- Four Winds Tribe
- Grand Caillou/Dulac Band
- Isle de Jean Charles Band
- Louisiana Choctaw Tribe
- Point-Au-Chien Tribe
- United Houma Nation

Louisiana has seven Tribes listed below that are not State Recognized Tribes or Federally Recognized Tribes:

- Avogel Tribe of Louisiana
- Avoyel-Taensa Tribe
- Atakapa-Ishak Nation
- Chahta Tribe
- Lacombe Choctaws
- Louisiana Choctaw Turtle Tribe
- Talimali Band Apalachee of Louisiana

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

The nonprofit victim service providers listed below are currently working to assist Native American Tribes under the STOP guidelines. Some of these member programs include:

- Faith House, Lafayette
- Chez Hope, Inc., Franklin
- Oasis A Safe Haven for Survivors, Lake Charles
- Metro Centers for Community Advocacy, Jefferson Parish

## 22. Culturally-Specific Set-Aside

Prior to the FY 2012 STOP funding, there were two nonprofit battered women's programs that received the ten percent (10%) set-aside portion of the STOP award to operate a culturally specific project in their service areas. The services met the needs of immigrant women and their families identified as victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and/or stalking in Louisiana.

Beginning with the FY 2012 STOP funding, it was determined that an improved use of the ten percent (10%) portion of the award meant to be allocated to a culturally-specific project was to allocate it to a culturally-specific nonprofit victim service agency, a tribal government agency, or a tribal victim service agency. Louisiana's demographic portrait is changing and funding is needed to improve culturally specific community-based projects designed to meet the needs of diverse populations, especially the American Indian, Hispanic, and/or Asian populations. As of FY 2015 and later, the ten percent (10%) set-aside has been allocated to two Tribal governmental agencies.

The Jena Band of Choctaw Indians:

- The earliest recorded notice of the Choctaw Indians is believed to be about 1540, in the area of southern Mississippi and in the early 1700s, near present-day Mobile, Alabama, Biloxi, Mississippi, and New Orleans, Louisiana. Inland from these settlements there was a large tribe of Muskogean speaking people occupying about 60 towns on the streams that formed the headwaters of the Pascagoula and Pearl Rivers.
- By the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in September of 1830 the main body of the Choctaw ceded all their land east of the Mississippi River. One band settled in a sizable village near present-day Enterprise, Louisiana and other groups migrated to the pine covered hills of what was then Catahoula Parish in Louisiana.
- The year after the end of World War II, Indian children were allowed to attend public schools. The last traditional Chief died in 1968 and in 1974 the first tribal election of Tribal Chief was held. Subsequently the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians was officially recognized by the state of Louisiana as an Indian Tribe. The Jena Band of Choctaw Indians received federal recognition through the federal acknowledgment process in 1995. Tribal membership now totals 327. The Tribe as a sovereign government strives to improve the wellbeing of its tribal members and those of future generations.

The Jena Band of Choctaw Indians (JBC) received federal recognition through the federal acknowledgment process in 1995. Tribal membership now totals 320. There are 192 tribal members currently residing in LaSalle, Grant, and Rapides Parishes. The Tribe is a sovereign government striving to improve the well-being of its tribal

members and those of future generations. Overall, violence against Native American Indian women has risen to epidemic levels throughout the country and the women are twice as likely to experience physical or sexual violence as do all other races according to a 2004 study conducted by the Department of Justice.

Approximately 165 tribal members of the JBC are under the age of twenty, which is one-half of the population. Targeting this age group will give the Tribe an opportunity to build knowledge, advocacy, resources and education to the young women in their tribe. The crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking have had a tremendous negative effect on the Choctaw tribal members. Tribal Chief, B. Cheryl Smith, is certain these violent crimes committed against the members of the Tribe has oppressed the JBC tribal people and feels now is the time to reclaim their proud culture and begin providing much needed services to the Tribe.

The JBC conducted two focus groups during the late summer and early fall of 2013 with fourteen tribal members participating. Out of the fourteen represented, twelve had reported knowing or having been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking. The results of the group study clearly indicated there is a great need for assistance for these problems in the community and the information compiled showed the members recognized this as a tribal problem. The group study also revealed a need to gain insight on what services tribal members will need in reporting the crimes, obtaining and accessing services, and provide for their specific needs of safety and shelter. The tribal members concluded the services and resources provided for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking are non-existent throughout the Tribe.

The JBC Social Services Department also discovered through their Domestic Violence Focus groups that the Tribe has many gaps in understanding and identifying the fluid nature of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking crimes. Due to the lack of resources, access to services and transportation were nonexistent. Medical health services are funded through Indian Health Services; however, mental health services and advocacy are limited due to a lack of funds and resources in this rural area.

With STOP funds available, the victims and their families are now able to participate in individual and family counseling. A need for legal assistance has always been an issue due to a victim's lack of financial resources for court costs, obtaining child support, and other legal issues. Emergency and transitional housing has been provided, however, the need to secure a "safe" and "unknown" location for a victim is still needed. The need for food and other basic needs have been reasons for victims to remain in the abusive situation due to lack of financial resources. An essential gap to be filled is the collaboration with local community agencies, such as the judicial system and law enforcement agencies.

Resources are provided for victims/survivors through the newly developed STOP Native American Domestic Violence Program. The tribal members' needs can be solved by understanding domestic violence through educating the tribal members and providing

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

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

The United Houma Nation:

- The Houma Nation, three hundred or more years ago, was located in Central Louisiana where the boundary marker between the Houmas and the Bayou goulas was the namesake of the capitol city of Baton Rouge meaning "red stick." With the encroachment of French settlers, the Houmas began migrating south until they reached the lower reaches of coastal Louisiana. Tribal members were traditionally farmers, fishermen and trappers. With the discovery of oil and gas in the 1930s, Houmas became vulnerable once again. Unable to read, write and speaking only a modified French interspersed with their own language, Houmas were easy prey for land developers and oil and gas companies who recognized the value of their property.
- It was not until 1940 that Houma children could attend school, and even then a quality education was still unavailable. Indian schools or "settlement schools" as they were referred to, offered up to a 7th grade education and were staffed by uncertified instructors.
- In an effort to provide education for their children, several families moved to the outskirts of New Orleans in the lower areas of Jefferson, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes. Here Houma students could attend school and were able to graduate. Even though equal educational pursuits were granted in 1965, few Houmas actually graduated. Many, in fear of the discrimination they experienced at public schools, chose to continue to work in traditional tribal employment as fishermen where they thrived. Consequently, this educational segregation is still felt by the Tribe today which accounts for the huge emphasis of education with our youth. Graduation was not achievable until the 1960s integration movement.

The second Native American Tribal STOP-funded program is the United Houma Nation located in Lafourche Parish. Their program is Cafa Ogla – One People to STOP Violence program. The Tribe believes cultural competency has been a significant barrier and gap that prevents many tribal citizens from speaking out against the violence that exists within their tribal communities. The United Houma Nation has experienced success in many programs by providing services at the community level by fellow tribal members who share similar experiences and understanding of trust issues of non-natives. The need created by this gap is for culturally competent case management and advocacy services specifically for United Houma Nation tribal members who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. The Cafa Ogla – One People to STOP Violence Program will provide the necessary services to meet this need and fill this gap that allows many crimes to go unpunished.

The United Houma Nation has recognized the elevated rates of violence within our communities for many years; however, without tribal specific data available either at a state or national level it has been increasingly difficult to advocate for those needs. The United Houma Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Program provides comprehensive employment services to tribal members with disabilities. In the fifteen (15) years of the program's operations a consistent finding is the high prevalence (average of 15% annually) of clients with prior history of being victims of domestic violence or sexual assault. Primarily identified among women, these individuals also consistently experience high rates of mental illness including post-traumatic stress disorder, major depressive disorder, etc. In nearly ninety percent (90%) of those cases, legal protections were never sought by the victims allowing the perpetrators to go on and victimize others.

In the 2015 United Houma Nation Community Needs Assessment, the United Houma Nation made an effort to better understand the presence of violent actions against tribal citizens occurring within the community. Adult tribal members were asked if they have been pressured or forced to engage in unwanted sexual behavior.

Female responses were:

- 4.23% were victimized by a partner
- 4.93% were victimized by a stranger
- 19.72% were victimized by a family member
- 13.38% were victimized by an acquaintance

Male responses were:

- 2.2% were victimized by a stranger
- 5.49% were victimized by a family member
- 2.2% were victimized by an acquaintance



Additionally in the survey, more than fifty-two percent (52.75%) of respondents reported seeing a parent be pushed, grabbed, beaten, and hit or threatened with or without a weapon. When working with victims of these horrific crimes, the United Houma Nation staff reports that the vast majority of victims reported feeling distrustful of law enforcement. In addition, victims reported lacking an understanding that the abusive behavior is a crime. They were also not aware that victim services exist for their protection. The primary purpose of this project is to help connect tribal citizens in these circumstances with law enforcement and the criminal justice system if they choose to and provide the necessary support and advocacy needed to aid them in ending that cycle.

### **23. Allocation Strategies**

A portion of the administrative funds will be budgeted from each allocated disciplinary area listed and used to support a full-time program manager in administering and implementing the STOP Formula Grant Program. The program manager will be responsible for reviewing all quarterly and annual reports received from subgrantees, conduct on-site monitoring visits, and attend all required OVW trainings.

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

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

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

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

- How each program will address the STOP purpose areas and other OVW requirements;

- The general population demographics to be served;
- The victim services to be provided;
- Other funding and resources available to the programs;
- The financial and programmatic administration integrity of each agency; and
- A subjective evaluation of each member agency's situation.

Victim services agencies that belong to the Coalition membership are highly encouraged to use STOP funds to develop and improve their domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking programs. These programs assist battered women by providing counseling, advocacy, legal assistance, care management, job placement, and shelter. They also provide other critical care needs, support services, and advocacy to victims navigating through the judicial system.

Louisiana's efforts to target the underserved populations are to utilize statewide collaboration to identify the underserved and provide services to them. The identified underserved populations found were urban and rural victims of all types with special needs, such as ethnic or cultural differences or physical and mental disabilities. Services are being expanded for immigrant populations and single women. Another area of need involves women with children who are also identified as underserved because of the effects of domestic violence on children are known to be profound.

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

In the variety of care offered by various agencies, trainings are helpful to emphasize sensitivity and awareness to ensure that the safety of those served is an essential function.

Law enforcement, the judicial system, prosecutors, healthcare providers and other victim service providers are focusing on who the underserved victims are, identifying their needs by consulting with each other and working collaboratively to provide protection and promote awareness of the existence of domestic and dating violence in the community. Agencies are working diligently to provide safety measures and support to the victims through a variety of services. The judicial system provides advocacy and review hearings to enhance victims' safety. Various agencies work to provide 24-hour toll-free crisis or hotlines, emergency safe haven placements, crisis intervention, transportation, individual and group empowerment-based counseling, transitional housing, non-residential programs, children's programs, and a host of other services provided for the safety and healing of battered women and their children.

Trained volunteers assist victims by providing transportation, accompanying women to court, assisting victims in their search for housing, and helping with any general duty

necessary in their respective agencies. These trained volunteers assisted personnel in providing information to communities about domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking awareness, about the effects of domestic and dating violence on the family, and the services available through victim services agencies.

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

## **24. Addressing Domestic Violence-Related Homicides**

As reported by Violence Policy Center, Louisiana ranked the second highest in domestic violence homicides in the United States (When Men Murder Women An Analysis of 2014 Homicide Data). The following is an excerpt of that report:

- Fifty-one (51) females were murdered by males in Louisiana in 2014.
- The homicide rate among females murdered by males in Louisiana was 2.15 per 100,000 in 2014 which ranked second in the United States
- The age of the victim was reported in forty-nine (49) homicides; two (2) victim ages were not reported. Of the reported forty-nine (49) victims:
  - Two (2) victims, four percent (4%) were less than 18 years old
  - Three (3) victims six percent (6%) were 65 years of age or older
  - The average age was 34 years old
- Out of the fifty-one (51) female homicide victims, twenty-nine (29) were black, twenty-one (21) were white, and one (1) was Asian or Pacific Islander.
- The most common weapon for homicides in which the weapon used could be identified:
  - Sixty-three percent (63%) of female victims (31 out of 49) were shot and killed with firearms
  - Twenty-seven percent (27%) of female victims (13 out of 49) were killed with knives or other cutting instruments
  - Six percent (6%) of female victims (3 out of 49) were killed by a blunt object
  - Six percent (6%) of female victims (3 out of 49) the object is unknown
  - Two percent (2%) of female victims (1 out of 49) were killed by bodily force

- For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified:
  - Ninety-four percent (94%) of female victims (45 out of 48) were murdered by someone they knew; three (3) were killed by strangers.
  - Of the victims who knew their offenders, seventy-three percent (73%) (33 victims) were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders
  -
- For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified:
  - Sixty-nine percent (69%) (25 out of 36) were not related to the commission of any other felony
  - Sixty-eight percent (68%) (17 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender

LCLE goals for reducing domestic violence-related homicides:

Goal 1: To reduce domestic violence-related homicides within the state.

Objective 1: Provide improved safety net for victims.

Objective 2: Increase the number of satellite offices or establish a domestic violence shelter to provide access to victims where no physical domestic violence shelters currently exist.

Objective 3: Support recent legislation limiting abusers' access to firearms and remain available to subgrantees for technical assistance.

Activity 1: Increase the number of beds in the shelters from 380 to 700 for the women and their children seeking shelter services.

Activity 2: Seek ways to encourage the implementation of Act 440 statewide which prohibits certain persons subject to a permanent injunction or protective order, issued pursuant to a court-approved consent agreement or certain provisions of law, from possessing a firearm for the duration of the injunction or order.

The Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office (LPSO) under the leadership of Sheriff Craig Webre developed and implemented Louisiana's first true firearms relinquishment program fully funded through the Sheriff's Office. This program is leading the fight in keeping victims of abuse from becoming victims of murder through the effective enforcement and education of current Louisiana statutes. The goal of the program is to remove firearms from those individuals who are prohibited possessors through a qualifying protective order for domestic violence or a qualifying conviction for domestic abuse battery (and 2nd conviction of battery of a dating partner). The

Lafourche Firearms Divestiture Protocol was planned during the last months of 2009 and implemented January of 2010. It is important to note that since the program's inception there have not been any domestic violence homicides in Lafourche Parish by a prohibited possessor.

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

The Sheriff's Office takes the lead as the "hands-on" component for the successful execution of the program's goals. Once the Sheriff's Office becomes aware of the probation, through contact with the District Attorney's Office or the Clerk's Office, the relinquishment process begins.

The foundation of the plan lies with the notification to the prohibited possessor of their prohibited status. Many times the prohibited possessor is unaware that they are in violation of the law. The prohibited possessor then acknowledges that they possess / do not possess firearms. If a prohibited possessor has a firearm, the Sheriff's Office assists the prohibited possessor in safely and securely removing any firearms. Without the close working relationship with the other stakeholders, the Sheriff's Office would not become aware of a firearm possessor's change of status. Due to many domestic violence incidents being a misdemeanor crime, some cases are still held in municipal courts. Their role mimics the district court's role with convictions and the notifications are being submitted to the sheriff's office so cases files can be created and alerts placed in LPSO's case management system.

The Louisiana Domestic Violence Prevention Commission members are appointed by the Governor, John Bel Edwards, who are assigned to meet publicly quarterly except as otherwise provided by order of the chairman or vote of the commission for the purpose of:

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

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

The agencies that make up the Domestic Violence Prevention Commission are:

- Louisiana Department of Children & Family Services
- Office of Women’s Services
- Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement
- Louisiana Sheriff’s Association
- Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- New Orleans Family Justice Center
- Louisiana Legislative Women’s Caucus
- House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice
- Senate Committee on Judiciary B
- Louisiana District Court Judges Association
- Louisiana Clerks of Court Association
- Louisiana Department of Justice
- Department of Health and Hospitals
- Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
- Louisiana Supreme Court
- Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police
- An Attorney licensed to practice law in this state who has at least five years’ experience in representing victims of domestic violence who seek protective orders
- The executive director of a shelter-based or direct service program provider for victims of domestic violence.

The Law Enforcement Subcommittee of the Louisiana Domestic Violence Prevention Commission recently completed a “Prohibited Possessor Firearm Relinquishment Report.” Firearm relinquishment, in this context, is the process of transferring weapons from individuals who are prohibited from possessing firearms as a result of a specific conviction of a domestic violence-related offense or as a result of a condition of a

qualifying protective order to a third party or a safe environment for storage until the expiration of the prohibition.

The members of the Law Enforcement Subcommittee are:

- Constance Hester, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
- Kimberly Resetar, Chair, Louisiana Domestic Violence Prevention Commission; Chairman of House Committee on Criminal Justice
- Chief Tommy Clark, Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police
- Tracy Dahmer Farris, Chair, Law Enforcement Subcommittee, Louisiana Domestic Violence Prevention Commission; Louisiana Attorney General's Office
- Mariah S. Wineski, Secretary, Louisiana Domestic Violence Prevention Commission, Executive Director of the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Rutha Chatwood, Co-Chair, Law Enforcement Subcommittee, and Nakia Harris, Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement
- Jane Herwehe, Louisiana Department of Health
- Valerie Martinez, Louisiana Sheriff's Association
- Ramona Harris, Louisiana Supreme Court, Protective Order Registry
- Scott Garner, District Court Judge
- Commission Member, Lila Hogan
- Ayn Stehr, National Association of Social Workers, Louisiana
- Leigh Anne Wall, Louisiana District Attorneys Association

The Domestic Violence Prevention Commission and the Law Enforcement Subcommittee were assisted by the hard working deputies of the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office and Sheriff Craig Webre for developing and implementing the first successful prohibited possessor firearm relinquishment program geared to domestic violence offenders used in a Louisiana parish. Their contribution and professional expertise to this project was invaluable.

The Subcommittee's report details the results of its research developed in response to the growing and unacceptable number of homicides committed in Louisiana by domestic abusers who are prohibited by law from possessing weapons and who continue to pose a threat to our community. It is hoped that the report will have an impact on the Louisiana Legislature and urge them to study and develop "best practices and procedures" to be used in Louisiana based on successful national and local protocols of how best to promote the safety of domestic violence victims as it relates to those prohibited from possessing firearms.

Louisiana continues to experience some of the highest rates of women killed by men in the United States, most often in domestic-related homicides. In addition, the cost of life to responding officers and those in the immediate vicinity of a domestic murderer are huge. The secondary victims – children of lost parents and parents of lost children – suffer the consequences of loss for a lifetime. The communities in which these homicides occur become riddled with safety concerns, and overall apathy toward our criminal

justice system rises by our citizens. Domestic homicides are preventable and without a path toward prevention, existing laws against violence are compromised.

Current Louisiana laws regarding issues of domestic and dating violence are progressive and should be considered as a clear path in the right direction of homicide prevention; however without clear methods of enforcing those laws, victims continue to be at the mercy of their perpetrators. Four national programs and one local program dedicated to the relinquishment of firearms by domestic perpetrators have been highlighted in this document as successful and meaningful efforts to keep victims safe and hold those offenders accountable for their actions. With the climate heating in Louisiana toward victim safety, officer safety, legislative reform, rights of underserved, and women's rights, now is the time to make a difference in Louisiana's unacceptable statistics on homicides by domestic perpetrators. The authors of this document urge those in the fight against violence to move forward with a plan of action.

After completing its report, the Domestic Violence Prevention Commission has recommended the creation of a Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention and Relinquishment of Firearms Taskforce. The taskforce will study and make recommendations regarding laws and policies addressing firearm relinquishment from prohibited possessors in domestic violence offenses. This will help to improve the safety and lives of survivors of domestic violence, and provide for safer communities. The Taskforce's principal objective should be creating a process that bridges the gap from prohibited possession to a safe and secure method for those weapons to be removed from the hands of those legally unable to have them.

The Taskforce should develop Best Practices and/or Model Policies for relinquishment that follow research based programs that are currently working in other jurisdictions in an effort to create their relinquishment programs; offer recommendations of legislative changes that are well researched and developed that would assist in the relinquishment process; and develop an outline of a state relinquishment protocol.

The Subcommittee recommends that the Taskforce, at a minimum, should consult with the Louisiana Sheriff's Association, the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, the Louisiana District Court Judges Association, the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association, the Louisiana Department of Corrections, the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Governor's Office on Women's Policy and the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus in an effort to devise a plan of action as well as a workable solution to the relinquishment issue.

A plan of action resulting from the collaborative work completed by this Taskforce would hopefully spearhead the creation of a statewide Firearm Relinquishment Program and identify funding sources to help defray any cost to initiate three (3) pilot initiatives in north, central and south Louisiana. Pilot site agencies should be responsible for working



directly with the Taskforce, training and educating participants in the criminal justice system, and data collection and evaluation.

It was also noted that while the creation of model policies and best practices are forefront to this report, it is not intended to mandate the implementation of specific actions by criminal justice entities. This report should be viewed as an avenue to begin discussions on how best to uphold existing laws designed to better serve victims of domestic abuse and to further safety efforts.

The Victim Services and Prevention Subcommittee of the Domestic Violence Prevention Commission focused its work in 2017 on Purpose Area 4: Develop a state needs assessment and a comprehensive and integrated service delivery approach that meets the needs of all domestic violence victims.

The subcommittee worked in partnership with the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence to publish the findings of a comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment. Its purpose was to provide information about the current needs of domestic violence victims and the state of the service delivery and criminal justice systems, and develop the beginnings of a comprehensive understanding of unmet needs and service gaps.

Key findings of this Needs Assessment include:

- The quantity of emergency shelter beds in Louisiana is insufficient to meet the existing need for immediate shelter.
- Survivor listening sessions showed a severe need for long-term housing options after a stay in emergency shelter ends. Many survivors indicated a desire for affordable housing of their own immediately, while others indicated a preference for a transitional housing format with additional support and case management services.
- Domestic violence survivors expressed a need for additional supervised visitation centers, judicial education on batterers as parents, and additional training for K-12 school staff on domestic violence.
- Lack of affordable childcare remains a significant barrier for survivors seeking to gain employment or pursue formal education. This in turn affects survivors' ability to secure stable long-term housing and economic stability.
- There is a need for ongoing facilitation of coordinated community responses to domestic violence. Many communities have strong, well-functioning partnerships among advocacy and criminal justice systems.

However, data provided indicate that some partnerships remain in early stages or would benefit from additional formalization.

The full Needs Assessment report, including all appendices, can be located online at [www.lcadv.org/statewide-needs-assessment](http://www.lcadv.org/statewide-needs-assessment).

The Legal Issues Subcommittee's work addressed purpose area 3: *Make recommendations with respect to domestic violence prevention and intervention*. Upon recommendation of the full Commission, the subcommittee partnered with the Louisiana State Law Institute to initiate a comprehensive review of existing laws affecting domestic violence survivors as they seek relief through civil legal avenues.

This review was warranted after lengthy discussion of practical issues arising from recent changes to Louisiana law. The Marriage and Persons Committee of the Louisiana Law Institute began addressing domestic violence-related laws in the fall of 2017, with members of the Domestic Violence Prevention Commission present to provide expertise to the committee in the areas of domestic violence dynamics and family law. Issues to be addressed by the Law Institute include, but are not limited to:

1. grounds for immediate divorce,
2. spousal support, and
3. the creation of comprehensive and consistent definitions of domestic abuse throughout the civil code.

The Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure Committee of the Louisiana State Law Institute will also be addressing domestic violence related laws in the criminal code, beginning in 2018.

This subcommittee's work with the Louisiana State Law Institute will continue throughout 2018, with recommended changes to Louisiana law as a result of this review being initiated via the Law Institute in the 2018 legislative session, as well as subsequent sessions.

## **25. Family Violence Prevention and Services Act**

The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, the Public Health Service Act (Rape Prevention Education), Emergency Preparedness Shelter Grant Program, Family Services, Disability Determination Services, Training and Development and, Office of Women's Services are implemented by the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

In the past, the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE) coordinated efforts with the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) for the purpose of effectively and efficiently coordinating initiatives in funding shelters, sexual assault centers, advocates, monitors, and partners to end domestic violence in Louisiana and ensure survivors and their loved ones lead safe, independent, and quality living. Due to the recent changes with the election of a new Governor and a newly appointed Secretary

of the Department of Children and Family Services, the coordinated efforts are currently “on hold”.

In order to encourage contact with the new administration at the DCFS, the LCLE Federal Program Section Manager met with the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, Marketa Walters, March 2, 2017. Also attending the meeting was Rhenda Hodnett and Kathleen Stewart Richey. Future meetings regarding coordination between the LCLE and DCFS were requested at this meeting to coordinate efforts regarding the Rape Prevention Education program, Families Violence Prevention & Services, as well as other family services and domestic violence initiatives. On April 18, 2017, the Section Manager met Alfreda Tillman Bester, Assistant Secretary for DCFS, when attending a meeting with Dr. Shanta Proctor, Office of Women’s Services (DCFS). At that time, another request for collaborative meetings was requested.

The primary purpose of VOCA funding received from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is to support the provision of direct services to victims of crime. Funding priority is given to public or private (or a combination of both) agencies that provide direct services to victims of sexual assault, spouse and child abuse, and underserved populations. The staff at each of the Districts or Councils and the LCLE VOCA Program Manager provide direct assistance to subgrant agencies and work diligently to ensure that these agencies utilize the funds to meet the intended goals and objectives of the VOCA Formula Grant Program. In addition, the staff at each of the District or Councils and LCLE VOCA Program Manager ensures that subgrant agencies have a full understanding of reporting requirements, maintain statistics and fiscal records, and submit the required reports to LCLE as scheduled.

The State of Louisiana does not provide state or local funding to criminal justice agencies and victims services programs designated solely to provide services to victims. However, the LCLE does award federal monies from the Office for Victims of Crime, Crime Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program to many of the agencies currently receiving STOP Formula Grant Program funding. Additional services are available to all victims of crime provided through the LCLE, such as the Crime Victim Reparations Board(CVR) and the Louisiana Automated Victim Notification System (LAVNS). The LCLE coordinates with each subgrant agency asking for the name and contact information of the individual of the applicant agency who is charged with the responsibility of assisting victims in regard to accessing and using the LAVNS system as well as responsible for assisting victims in applying for services available through the CVR Program.

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

The LAVNS Program is an on-line resource that allows victims to search for information regarding an offender's current custody and case status. Victims may also register to be

notified automatically when an offender is released, transferred, or escapes from a Parish facility or has a change in case status. The LAVNS service is provided to victims in an effort to help keep them safe and informed; however, victims are also advised to not depend solely on LAVNS for their protection. Victims are also advised if they feel they may be at risk, to take precautions as if the offender has already been released, which is encouraged to be part of a victim's safety plan.

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

## **CONCLUSION**

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

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

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

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