

**STOP Violence  
Against Women  
Formula Grant Program  
FFY 2017 - FFY 2020  
Implementation Plan**



**OHIO DEPARTMENT  
OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
SAFETY • SERVICE • PROTECTION



Office of Criminal Justice Services

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## I. Introduction

A. Approved Plan Date: May 3, 2017

B. The time period covered by the plan: Federal Fiscal Years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

### Overview

Formerly an independent cabinet-level agency, the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) became a part of the Ohio Department of Public Safety in 2005. By statute, OCJS is the lead criminal justice planning and assistance office for the state and is authorized with administering over \$20 million in state and federal criminal justice funding annually.<sup>1</sup> OCJS also evaluates programs and develops technology, training materials, and products for criminal justice professionals and communities statewide. OCJS has been designated by the Governor of Ohio to administer Ohio's federal Services\*Training\*Officers\* Prosecutors\* (STOP) Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funding.

The state's efforts in administering STOP VAWA funding includes working with Regional Planning Units (RPU), which oversee Ohio's major metropolitan counties including Cuyahoga (Cleveland), Franklin (Columbus), and Lucas (Toledo). Agencies within these counties receive STOP VAWA funding through the respective RPU. RPUs promote and foster cooperation and coordination amongst governmental units and agencies, and improve the justice system through planning, analysis, technical assistance, and information management. RPUs conduct criminal justice assessments, including violence against women and family violence issues to determine the best use of justice funds at the local level. Information gleaned from these assessments is used to project spending trends for current and future grant cycles.

The goal of the of the 2017 Implementation Plan is to identify and fund programs that increase the awareness of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence, and to facilitate and enhance collaborative efforts amongst courts, law enforcement, prosecution, and victim service agencies to foster a stronger coordinated response toward the elimination of violence against women.

The 2017 Implementation Plan is organized as follows:

- Description of the planning process;
- Summary of the needs of victims and providers as identified through three structured collaborative processes: planning conference calls; a statewide survey; and regional focus groups.
- An outline of Ohio's STOP VAWA program priorities and strategies to address them.

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 5502.62

## II. Description of Planning Process

As the state-designated agency to administer Ohio's STOP VAWA funding, OCJS assumed the lead role to prepare the Federal Fiscal Year 2017 through 2020 Implementation Plan for Ohio. Within OCJS is the Family Violence Prevention Center which serves as an information clearinghouse for public and private organizations that provide assistance to victims. The center also includes a multi-disciplinary advisory body, the Ohio Family Violence Prevention Advisory Council, comprised of state experts and community leaders on domestic, sexual and family violence prevention and intervention. The Family Violence Prevention Advisory Council conducts much of its work through committees, one of which is the STOP VAWA Implementation Planning Committee. Committee membership was expanded beyond the Advisory Council membership to ensure broad-based representation in the planning process and promote improved services for underserved, unserved and inadequately served populations in the state.

The Ohio STOP VAWA Implementation Planning Committee is a multidisciplinary group of stakeholders<sup>2</sup>, whose purpose is to assist with strategic planning related to the STOP VAWA criminal justice projects, policies, and practices throughout the state. Stakeholders in the planning process represented the following key program areas:

- State sexual assault coalition
- State domestic violence coalition
- Law enforcement entities
- Prosecution entities
- Courts
- Civil legal assistance attorneys
- Representatives from underserved populations, including culturally specific populations
- Victim service providers
- Population specific agencies

The Implementation Plan was developed during several planning meetings via in-person and conference calls that began in October 2015. Preliminary discussions called for the implementation of a comprehensive statewide needs assessment. The needs assessment was implemented as a two-phased process to better determine the services and resources that are lacking in Ohio. The first phase of the needs assessment was developed as an online survey that was used to gather baseline information from direct service providers across the state. The survey results were subsequently used to guide focus group questions that would be implemented as part-two of the process. The findings of the assessment is discussed in detail in Section II of the Implementation Plan.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Appendix A-VAWA Implementation Planning Committee member list and documentation of collaboration.

<sup>3</sup> State planning requires a description of consultation with other collaboration partners not included in the planning committee-See focus group participant description.

### **Coordination with Related Federal Funding Programs<sup>4</sup>**

The STOP VAWA Implementation Plan was developed in coordination with the state plan for the Family Violence Prevention Services Act and the programs under the Victims of Crime Act and section 393A of the Public Health Service Act (Rape Prevention Education). This occurs primarily through OCJS' committee membership on the Interagency Victims Assistance Coordinating Committee (IVACC). This committee is composed of key Ohio agencies that administer victim assistance funding. The committee was established to increase collaboration among state agencies with the ultimate goal of improving services for victims of violence. This interagency collaboration has been an important element for informing the state planning process. For this reason, these agencies are also members of the STOP VAWA Implementation Planning Committee.

- Office of Criminal Justice Services:<sup>5</sup>
  - STOP VAWA
  - Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA)
- Ohio Department of Health
  - Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Prevention Program (SADVPP),
  - Rape Prevention Education (RPE) Program
  - Sexual Assault Service Program (SASP)
- Ohio Attorney General's Office
  - Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)
  - State Victims Assistance Act (SVAA)
  - Ohio Victims of Crime Compensation Program

### **III. Needs and Context**

#### **Ohio's Geographic Characteristics**

Home to approximately 11,614,373 individuals, Ohio has the 7<sup>th</sup> largest population out of all other states in the United States.<sup>6</sup> Ohio's land area covers just over 40,952 square miles and is divided into 88 counties with the ten largest counties accounting for nearly 53% of the state's total population (Figure 1).<sup>7</sup> Eighty percent of Ohioans live in metropolitan areas; and three of the largest metropolitan areas are Cincinnati, Cleveland and Columbus. Thirty-two of Ohio's 88 counties are designated as Appalachian which accounts for more than one-third of all Ohio counties, and nearly 17% of Ohio residents live in the Appalachian regions which are located along the Ohio River and southeastern hill counties.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> VAWA 2013 reauthorization requires implementation planning to occur in coordination with the state plan for the Family Violence Prevention Services Act and the programs under the Victims of Crime Act and section 393A of the Public Health Service Act (Rape Prevention Education).

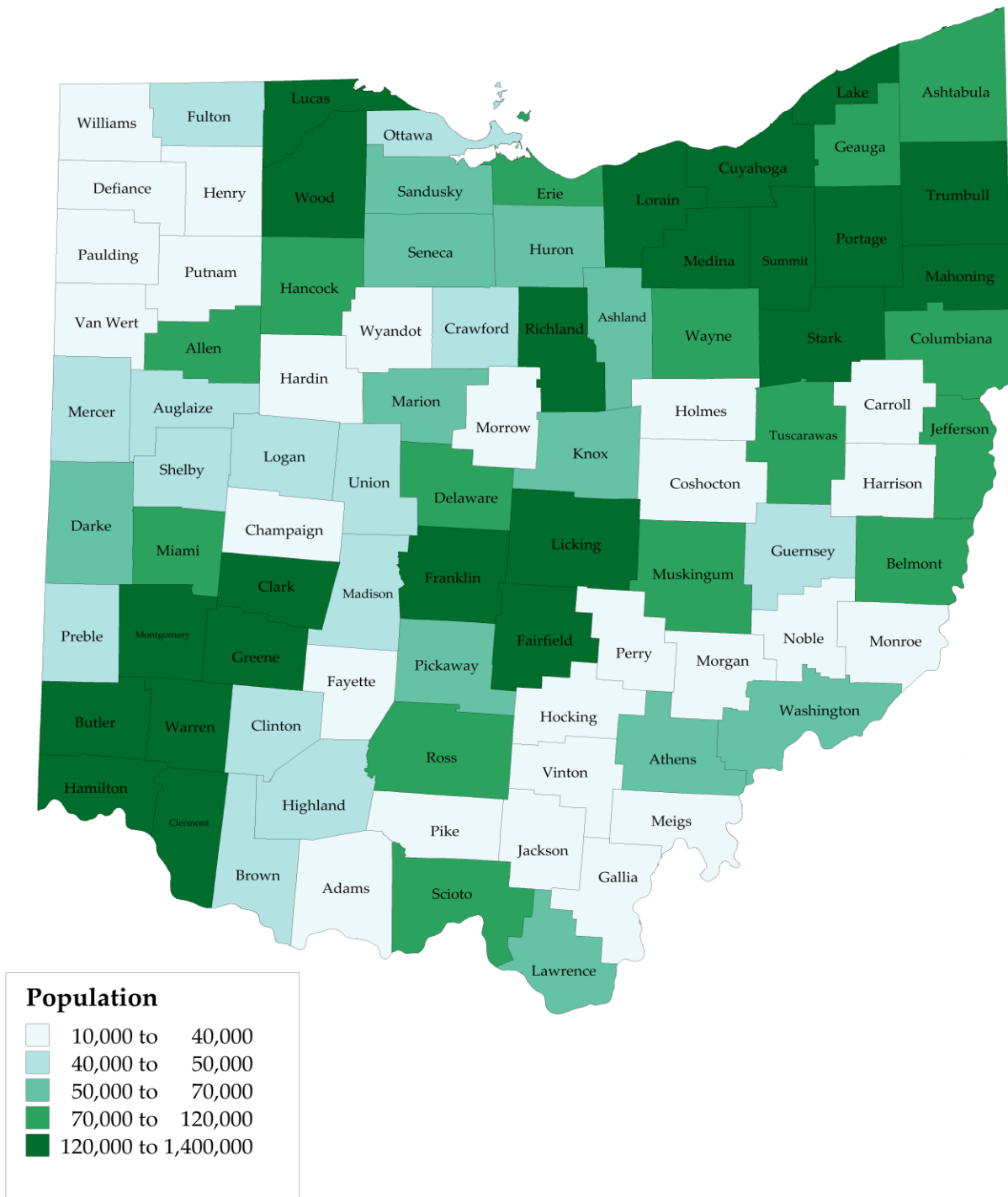
<sup>5</sup> OCJS also administers the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG) which includes a victim service program category.

<sup>6</sup> Data retrieved from the United States Census Bureau, 2016 Population Estimates. Accessed at <https://www.census.gov/search-results.html?q=state+population+ranking&page=1&stateGeo=none&searchtype=web&cssp=SERP&search.x=0&search.y=0>.

<sup>7</sup> Ohio County Profiles prepared by the Office of Research within the Development Services Agency. Ohio Profile, Accessed at: <https://development.ohio.gov/files/research/C1001.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> Ohio County Profiles prepared by the Office of Research within the Development Services Agency. Regional-Appalachia, Accessed at: <https://development.ohio.gov/files/research/C1001.pdf>

Figure 1 Population Density of Ohio Counties based on 2010 Census<sup>9</sup>



<sup>9</sup> Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Map prepared by Office of Criminal Justice Services.

## Ohio's Residents-Demographic Information

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 51% of Ohio's population is female. Additionally, more than 15.9% of the population is older than 65-years; 82.7% of the population is White; 12.7% of the population is Black or African American; 3.6% is Hispanic or Latino; 2.1% of the population is Asian, and 0.3% is estimated to be American Indian or Alaskan Native.<sup>10</sup>

Figure 2

### Race/Ethnicity

- Minorities comprise 20% of Ohio's population.
- The minority population increased 30% since 2000 while the white, non-Hispanic population decreased 3%.
- The Hispanic population grew by 89% since 2000. The Asian population grew by 74%.
- For the nation, minorities comprise 39% of the population and grew 43% since 2000.

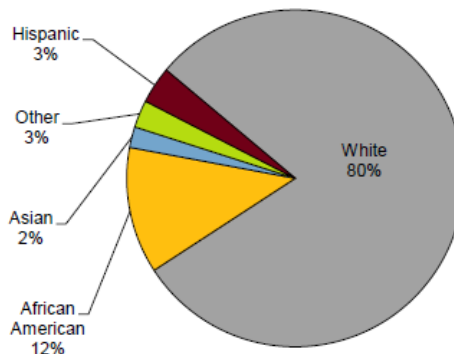


Figure 2 Source: Ohio Population Overview, prepared by Ohio Development Services Agency, Retrieved from [https://development.ohio.gov/reports/reports\\_pop\\_proj\\_map.htm](https://development.ohio.gov/reports/reports_pop_proj_map.htm)

Figure 3

African American Population by County: 2015			
Total African American Population		Percent of County Population	
Cuyahoga	398,494	Cuyahoga	31.7%
Franklin	307,194	Hamilton	27.8%
Hamilton	224,379	Franklin	24.5%
Montgomery	121,344	Montgomery	22.8%
Lucas	94,913	Lucas	21.9%
Summit	88,687	Mahoning	17.3%
Mahoning	40,171	Summit	16.4%
Butler	36,661	Allen	14.7%
Stark	35,953	Clark	11.6%
Lorain	33,133	Erie	11.6%
Trumbull	20,102	Richland	10.9%
Allen	15,326	Lorain	10.9%

The majority of African Americans in Ohio live in urban areas. Four out of every ten African Americans in the state live in the cities of Cincinnati, Cleveland, or Columbus. In Columbus there are 257,000 African American residents; in Cleveland there are 205,000; and in Cincinnati there are 133,000 African American residents. The Cleveland metropolitan area alone is home to more than one-quarter of Ohio's African American population.

Figure 3 Source: Ohio's African American Population, prepared by Ohio Development Services Agency, Retrieved from [https://development.ohio.gov/reports/reports\\_pop\\_proj\\_map.htm](https://development.ohio.gov/reports/reports_pop_proj_map.htm)

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Census Bureau: Ohio QuickFacts, Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045216/39/quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/39000.html>

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Figure 4

Asian American Population by County: 2015			
Total Asian American Population		Percent of County Population	
Franklin	69,356	Delaware	6.5%
Cuyahoga	45,628	Warren	5.7%
Hamilton	24,340	Franklin	5.5%
Summit	19,145	Greene	4.1%
Montgomery	14,856	Athens	4.1%
Butler	13,279	Union	3.8%
Warren	12,706	Cuyahoga	3.6%
Delaware	12,507	Summit	3.5%
Lucas	9,785	Butler	3.5%
Greene	6,716	Hamilton	3.0%
Lorain	5,078	Montgomery	2.8%
Stark	4,613	Portage	2.5%

A majority of Asian American Ohioans live in the state's metropolitan areas. Generally, Asian Americans in Ohio are more likely to live in the suburbs than the central city but Columbus is an exception with more Asian Americans living in the city because of the influence of The Ohio State University. Nearly 49,000, or 17 percent, of Ohio's Asian population live in Columbus. There are another 39,000 Asian American Ohioans living in the Columbus metropolitan area. The combination of the Cleveland/Akron metropolitan areas has nearly 79,000 Asian Americans.

Figure 4 Source: Ohio's Asian Population, prepared by Ohio Development Services Agency, Retrieved from [https://development.ohio.gov/reports/reports\\_pop\\_proj\\_map.htm](https://development.ohio.gov/reports/reports_pop_proj_map.htm)

Figure 5

Hispanic Population by County: 2015			
Total Hispanic Population		Percent of County Population	
Cuyahoga	69,794	Defiance	9.8%
Franklin	65,018	Sandusky	9.8%
Lucas	29,536	Lorain	9.5%
Lorain	29,011	Fulton	8.4%
Hamilton	24,218	Henry	7.6%
Butler	16,856	Lucas	6.8%
Montgomery	14,171	Huron	6.3%
Mahoning	12,703	Putnam	5.9%
Summit	10,603	Cuyahoga	5.6%
Lake	9,411	Mahoning	5.5%
Stark	7,296	Wood	5.4%
Wood	6,980	Hancock	5.3%

The majority of Hispanic Ohioans live in urban areas of the state. One out of every three Hispanic Ohioans live in one of the four cities of Cleveland, Columbus, Lorain and Toledo. In Columbus there are 47,000 Hispanic residents, in Cleveland there are 41,000, in Toledo there are 24,000 and in Lorain there are 19,000 Hispanic residents. Note the Hispanic population makes up a higher proportion of county populations in the north and northwest sections of Ohio, many of which are rural in nature.

Figure 5 Source: Ohio's Hispanic/Latino Population prepared by Ohio Development Services Agency, Retrieved from [https://development.ohio.gov/reports/reports\\_pop\\_proj\\_map.htm](https://development.ohio.gov/reports/reports_pop_proj_map.htm)



Nearly four percent of Ohio's population are foreign born.

Figure 6

#### Foreign Born

- Nearly 504,000 foreign-born persons live in Ohio accounting for 4% of the total population.
- The number of immigrants in Ohio increased 49% since 2000.
- Over 42% of Ohio's foreign-born residents are from Asia. India accounted for 56,000 and China accounted for 44,000.
- Over 45,000 persons have immigrated from Mexico with another 19,000 persons coming from other Central American countries.

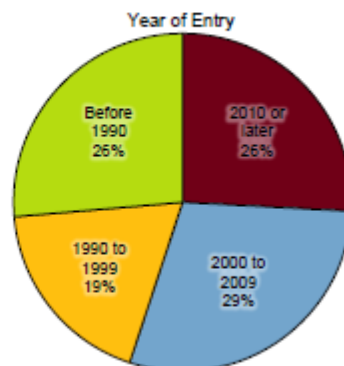


Figure 6 Source: Ohio Population Overview, prepared by Ohio Development Services Agency, Retrieved from [https://development.ohio.gov/reports/reports\\_pop\\_proj\\_map.htm](https://development.ohio.gov/reports/reports_pop_proj_map.htm)

Approximately 89% of Ohioans aged 25 and older have at least a high school degree or higher; and of that approximately 26% have obtained a Bachelor's degree. The median household income in 2015 was \$49,429.00 and per capita \$26,953.00.<sup>11</sup>

The average poverty rates for Ohio are approximately 15.8%; however, the highest rates of poverty occur in Ohio's Appalachian counties. The 32-Appalachian counties had a rate of 17.8% overall, and the six counties with the highest rates of poverty in Ohio were Appalachian<sup>12</sup>.

#### Ohio's Crime

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention nearly one in five women (19.3%) and one in seventy-one men (1.7%) have been raped in their lifetime. One in four women has been the victim of severe physical violence by an intimate partner while one in seven men has experienced the same. One in six women (15.2%) has been stalked during their lifetime, compared to one in 19 men (5.7%)<sup>13</sup>

#### Sexual Assault in Ohio

2014 data collected through the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System<sup>14</sup> reported 7,441 incidents of sexual assault and 8,053 victims. These incidents were reported at a rate of 84.6 per 100,000 population with Franklin County having the highest reported incidents.

<sup>11</sup> U.S. Census Bureau: Ohio QuickFacts, Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045216/39/quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/39000.html>

<sup>12</sup> Ohio Development Services, (February 2016), *The Ohio Poverty Report*, Retrieved from <https://www.development.ohio.gov/files/research/p7005.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs-fact-sheet-2014.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System at the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services OIBRS is a voluntary crime reporting program in which Ohio law enforcement agencies can submit crime statistics directly to the state and federal government in an automated format.

Sixty-nine percent of sexual assault victims were White and 30% were Black. White females made up 70% of all female sexual assault victims and White males made up 68% of all male sexual assault victims.<sup>15</sup>

Figure 7

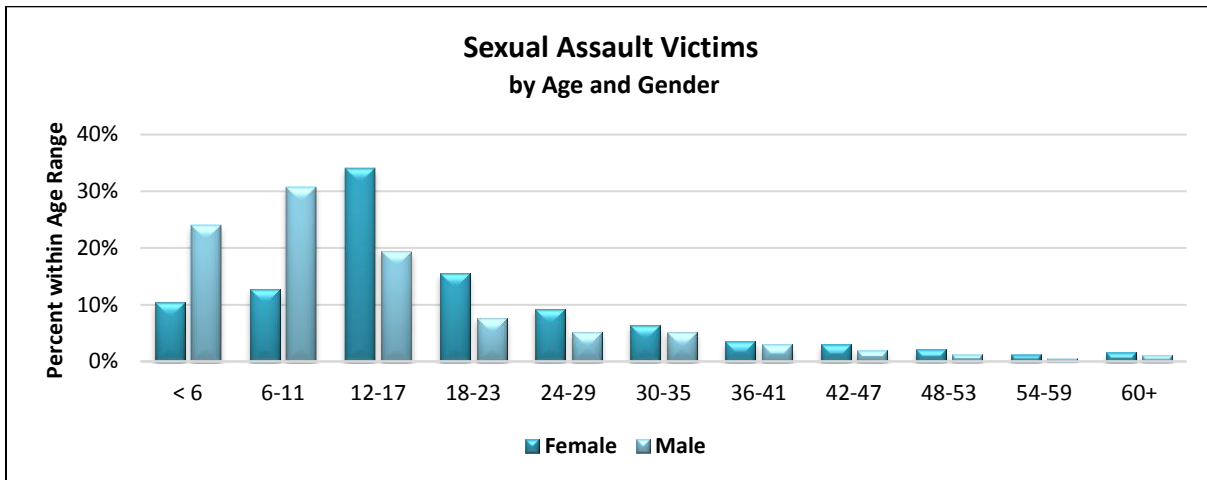


Figure 7 Source: Sexual Assault in Ohio-2014

### Domestic Violence in Ohio

The Ohio Attorney General reported that for 2015 law enforcement received 72,899 calls concerning domestic violence incidents. Fifty-three percent of these calls resulted in the filing of domestic violence charges or violations of protection orders or consent agreements. Approximately 5% resulted in the filing of other charges, but not domestic violence or protection order or consent agreement. There were 69,368 reported victims; more than 40% were victims of spousal or live-in partner abuse. 2015 Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System data reported at least 13.7% of homicides in Ohio were domestic violence related. This figure increases to 27% in cases where the relationship between the offender and decedent are known. Since 2011 the rate of domestic violence has increased by 5.1%. However, data at the county level indicates that 70.1% of the counties rate of domestic violence is less than the statewide average.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Ohio Department of Public Safety, Office of Criminal Justice Services, Sexual Assault in Ohio-2014, Retrieved from [http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/ocjs\\_Sexual\\_Assault\\_2014.pdf](http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/ocjs_Sexual_Assault_2014.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> Statewide domestic violence rates are indicative of large counties with high levels of domestic violence. Ohio Department of Public Safety, Office of Criminal Justice Services, *Domestic Violence in Ohio, 2015* Retrieved from [http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/crime\\_stats\\_reports.stm](http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/crime_stats_reports.stm)

**Characteristics of Victims of Domestic Violence<sup>17</sup>**

Relationship		Reported Victims	
Wife		14%	
Husband		4%	
Parent		13%	
Non Spousal with Child		15%	
Child/Children		7%	
Other Family Member		15%	
Former Spouse		2%	
Live-In Partner		19%	
Other		6%	
Race/Ethnicity			
Asian		>1%	
African American		29%	
Caucasian		67%	
Native American		>1%	
Hispanic		2%	
Other		>1%	
Age			
0-17		7%	
18-40		63%	
41-59		25%	
60-84		5%	
85 and Older		>1%	
Gender			
Male		27%	
Female		73%	

<sup>17</sup> Ohio Attorney General 2015 Domestic Violence Reports assessed at <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Law-Enforcement/Services-for-Law-Enforcement/Domestic-Violence-Reports/Domestic-Violence-Reports-2015>

### Stalking in Ohio

2014 data collected through the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System reported 1,356 incidents of stalking.<sup>18</sup> Eighty-one percent of victims were female. About 74 percent of victims were White, 25 percent were Black and less than one percent fell within the 'Other' category. White females made up 75 percent of all female stalking victims and White males made up 69 percent of all male stalking victims.

Figure 8

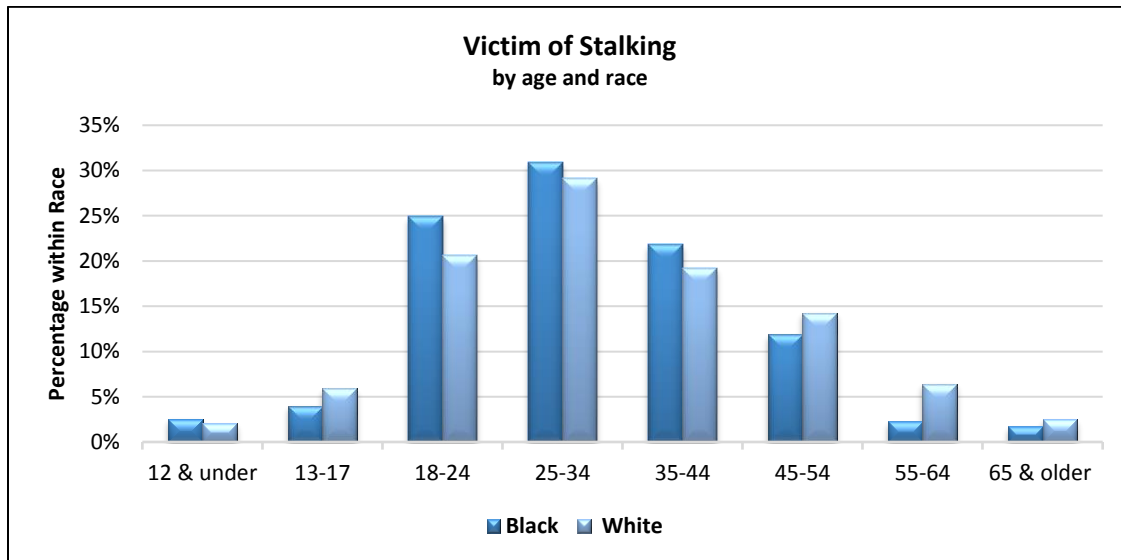


Figure 8 Source: Stalking in Ohio-2014

### Assessment of Ohio's Needs – 2016 Ohio Family Violence Needs Assessment

In 2016, OCJS collaborated with the Ohio Family Violence Prevention Center Advisory Council to update and implement a statewide needs assessment to identify challenges and gaps in serving victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.<sup>19</sup> This needs assessment was implemented using the following two methodologies:

- 1) An online survey utilizing updated questions from the 2013 Ohio Family Violence Needs Assessment<sup>20</sup> administered to service providers throughout the state; and
- 2) Six regional focus groups with participants from various disciplines and organizations that captured first-hand accounts of the challenges experienced throughout the state.

<sup>18</sup> Ohio Department of Public Safety, Office of Criminal Justice Services, Stalking in Ohio-2014 Retrieved from [http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/crime\\_stats\\_reports.stm](http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/crime_stats_reports.stm)

<sup>19</sup> The full 2016 Ohio Family Violence Needs Assessment Report can be found online at [http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/resources\\_reports.stm](http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/resources_reports.stm).

<sup>20</sup> Ellis, M. (2013) Ohio Family Violence Needs Assessment (Revised). Ohio Department of Public Safety, Office of Criminal Justice Services. Retrieved from: [http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/2013\\_VAWA\\_Needs\\_Assessment.pdf](http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/2013_VAWA_Needs_Assessment.pdf)

## Part I: Online Survey

The online assessment of Ohio's needs around domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking services was developed to gather quantitative data on gaps and strengths in victim services within the service provider community, and to gain baseline information from direct service providers prior to conducting the regional focus groups. The survey was available online in early 2016. Participants were recruited via email by the Family Violence Prevention Center Advisory Council's STOP VAWA Implementation Planning committee members who volunteered to send the survey out to their listservs and contacts. Survey items consisted of questions related specifically to the field of services provided by the participant (i.e. law enforcement, prosecution, courts, non-profit, and other) as well as general questions on services, training, funding, and culturally specific and underserved communities. Surveys were voluntary, with no monetary incentive provided, and participation was anonymous. Two hundred and sixty-six individuals participated in the survey, with 72.9% (194 individuals) completing the survey.<sup>21</sup>

## Results

In general, respondents identified the following as "very serious" issues facing victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking:

- ❖ Difficulty obtaining affordable housing (53.6%);
- ❖ Inadequate legal representation for victims (41.1%);
- ❖ Inconsistent enforcement of current laws (41.0%);
- ❖ Child custody cases involving reports of child sexual abuse (38.1%); and
- ❖ Difficulty obtaining child care (35.8%).

The following groups were identified by at least half of the respondents as having a "*high need for training*" in serving victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking:

- ❖ Law enforcement (61.5%);
- ❖ Judges (55.8%);
- ❖ Correctional staff (55.6%);
- ❖ Prosecutors (54.4%); and
- ❖ Probation officers (52.3%).

Other major findings include:

- ❖ Thirty-two percent (32.6%) of reporting agencies stated that they have made specific efforts to address economic justice. Examples include referring survivors to the financial management trainings, provision of transitional housing, and ordering child support and spousal support in civil protection orders.
- ❖ Specialized Units and Dockets:

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<sup>21</sup> Survey participation was not restricted to one individual per agency. As such, it is possible that multiple respondents from the same agency/organization participated in the online survey.

- Fifty-six percent (56%) of court respondents stated that specialized dockets were unavailable in their communities.
- A majority of law enforcement respondents stated that specialized units for domestic violence (84.2%), sexual assault (60.5%), or stalking (84.2%) were not available within their agencies.
- Prosecution respondents reported that a majority (54.2%) had specialized units for domestic violence, however only 31.8% and 47.8% reported having specialized units for sexual assault and stalking, respectively.
- ❖ Training:
  - Since 2013, less than half of law enforcement respondents had received training on serving victims with limited-English proficiency (23.7%), serving individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (21.1%), or training on serving culturally-specific groups (39.5%).
  - Since 2013 most prosecution respondents had received training on assessing and trying stalking cases, sexual assault cases, and domestic violence cases as well as training on trauma informed practice, sexual violence evidentiary issues, and competently serving clients from diverse populations relative to cultural differences.
- ❖ Interpretation Services
  - In general, a majority of court respondents (60%) reported that court-certified interpreters are available and sufficient to meet their needs. However, some respondents reported that it is difficult and time consuming to use the Supreme Court Language Line throughout the hearing process.
  - On average, respondents reported being least equipped to serve:
    - Refugees;
    - American Indians (including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleauts); and
    - Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.
- ❖ Co-occurring issues
  - Direct service/Non-profit respondents identified adequate, trauma-informed services for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, and sexual assault who have substance use issues and/or mental health concerns as a significant issue.
- ❖ As reported by non-profit/direct victim service providers, resources least likely to be available for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking are:
  - Specialized prosecutors;
  - Supervised visitation;<sup>22</sup> and
  - Transitional housing.
- ❖ The following resources were identified as being “available but insufficient to meet the needs of the community” by a majority of direct service/non-profit respondents.

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<sup>22</sup> Questions pertaining to supervised visitation were only presented in reference to cases of domestic and dating violence.

- Civil attorneys/Legal aid for domestic and dating violence for victims of (69.2%), sexual assault (62.3%), and stalking (62.3%);
  - Substance abuse and treatment services for victims of domestic and dating violence (64.0%), sexual assault (50.7%), and stalking (50.7%);
  - Financial assistance for victims of domestic and dating violence (53.3%);
  - Child care for victims of domestic and dating violence (52%);
  - Trauma trained counselors for victims of sexual assault (49.3%) and stalking (49.3%); and
  - Individual counseling for victims of stalking (51.5%).
- ❖ Very few respondents were categorized as a culturally-specific agency. Of those that primarily serve racial and ethnic minority groups, none reported serving American Indians, and less than 5% reported primarily serving individuals from Asian American or Native Hawaiian communities, whereas 38.7% and 22.6% reported primarily serving individuals from Black/African American or Hispanic/Latino Communities, respectively.

## Part II: Regional Focus Groups

In addition to the online survey, regional focus groups were conducted throughout Ohio to assess gaps in services for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. Questions were primarily taken from the 2013 *Ohio Family Violence Needs Assessment*, with additional questions constructed to capture information related to specific actions that have been taken to address gaps identified in the 2013 assessment.<sup>23</sup>

A total of six focus groups were conducted throughout Ohio during the month of June 2016. Each focus group ran 90 minutes long and included 52 total participants representing direct service providers, sexual assault nurse examiners, law enforcement, courts, prosecutor's offices, and agencies that serve culturally-specific and traditionally underserved communities. Five of the focus groups were regionally based, including: Northwest Ohio, Northeast Ohio, Central Ohio, Southwest Ohio, and Southeast Ohio. Each of these focus groups offered a combination of service providers from urban and rural communities to obtain various perspectives of the Ohio communities served. A sixth group represented various agencies whose primary purpose is to provide services to culturally-specific and underserved populations. While many barriers were discussed, a synopsis of those topics commonly discussed throughout each of the groups is discussed below.<sup>24</sup>

## Gaps in Resources

During the focus groups direct service providers discussed that much of the responsibility of pursuing justice is placed on those who have been victimized (e.g. victims need to be physically present for cases to move forward, they are required to share their experience multiple times in the justice system, etc.), and when resources such as easily accessible child care or

<sup>23</sup> The full list of questions can be viewed in the 2016 *Ohio Family Violence Needs Assessment Report* available online at [http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/resources\\_reports.stm](http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/resources_reports.stm)

<sup>24</sup> A complete review of the focus group discussions is available in Part II of the 2016 *Ohio Family Needs Assessment Report*.

transportation are unavailable, this increases the burden placed on the victim. Considering the compounding responsibilities of victims once cases are filed, it was common to hear some of the largest hurdles faced by victims are those that occur before reaching courtrooms and the challenges that impact the likelihood of victims coming forward to report abuse (e.g. financial considerations, facing the perpetrator in courts, etc.).

### **Increased Training and Education for Justice Systems and the General Public**

In general, training and education needs were heavily emphasized throughout each of the focus groups. Training needs varied based on discipline-specific responsibilities (e.g. training of the neurobiology of trauma for law enforcement, training on current laws for law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges, etc.) and extending to general awareness efforts for the public. Participants emphasized that the cultural mindset of what constitutes as sexual assault or domestic/dating violence impacts a victim's willingness to report the crime that has been committed against them (e.g. fear of not being believed, or blamed for the crime occurring), as such more public awareness and primary prevention efforts need to be increased. Likewise, emphasis was put on prevention education at an earlier age.

### **Interpreter Services**

Results of the focus groups indicated a significant gap in interpreter services. Issues that arose included the availability of interpreter services particularly for specific dialects, confidentiality of interpreters, reliability of the information that is communicated between the interpreter, victims/survivor, and the case worker/law enforcement officer/court personnel, etc., and the impact that accessibility of interpreters has on case outcomes.

### **Multicultural Considerations**

In addition to interpreter services, cultural considerations also were voiced as a gap in services for underserved populations. Without taking into account specific cultural considerations and access to resources, focus group participants discussed that underserved and specific racial and ethnic communities are less likely to be educated on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, are less willing to report abuse, and have decreased feelings of safety and trust when interacting with criminal justice agencies and case workers.



## IV. Plan Priorities and Approaches

### A. Identified Goals

Based on results from the 2013 Family Violence Needs Assessment and identification of the at-risk and target populations outlined in Section III, the STOP Implementation Planning Committee identified the following goals and objectives for the FY 2014-2016 implementation plan. The current planning process validates the importance of continuing to focus on the same long-term goals and objectives for the FY 2017-2020 implementation plan to sustain the progress that has been made on the objectives since 2014.

<b>Goal 1:</b> Multidisciplinary and program specific projects will meaningfully address and ensure coordinated community responses for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.			
<b>Objective 1</b> Provide training for multidisciplinary and program specific agencies to ensure a coordinated community response.	<b>Objective 2</b> Coordinate resources, address barriers, and advocate for increased access to economic justice needs. <sup>25</sup>	<b>Objective 3</b> Increase access to resources for underserved populations and limited English proficient victims.	
<b>Goal 2:</b> Domestic violence homicides will be reduced throughout the state.			
<b>Objective 1</b> Provide training to multidisciplinary and program specific agencies to ensure a coordinated community response.	<b>Objective 2</b> Provide technical assistance for the provision of countywide fatality reviews.	<b>Objective 3</b> Coordinate resources, address barriers, and advocate for increased access to economic justice needs.	<b>Objective 4</b> Increase access to resources for underserved populations and limited English proficient victims.
<b>Goal 3:</b> Meaningfully address services for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.			
<b>Objective 1</b> Provide training to multidisciplinary and program specific agencies to ensure a coordinated community response.	<b>Objective 2</b> Coordinate resources, address barriers, and advocate for increased access to economic justice needs.	<b>Objective 3</b> Increase access to resources for underserved populations and limited English proficient victims.	

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<sup>25</sup> "Research indicates that financial abuse is experienced in 98% of abusive relationships and surveys of survivors reflect that concerns over their ability to provide financially for themselves and their children was one of the top reason for staying in or returning to a battering relationship." National Network to End Domestic Violence, *Economic Justice Project*, Retrieved from <http://nnedv.org/resources/ejresources/about-financial-abuse.html>

## B. Priority Areas

The FY 2017-FY 2020 implementation plan identifies the following program priorities (The State does not plan to use the “Crystal Judson” purpose area)<sup>26</sup>:

### **COURT**

#### ➤ **Judicial Education**

#### ➤ **Judicial Resources and Protocols that Promote Innovative Practices:**

- Hold offenders accountable through effective and consistent judicial responses.
- Respond to the needs of victims with co-occurring disorders related to mental health and/or substance abuse.
- Promote access to childcare for victims through partnerships with local providers or re-assessing court resources.
- Utilize the services of the Domestic Violence Program of the Supreme Court of Ohio.

#### ➤ **Language Access:**

- Use certified court interpreters, who have received training in domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
  - ❖ In-person
  - ❖ Remote (audio and/or video).
- Make quality translated material readily available.
- Promote access to the courthouse through signage in other languages.
- Consult the Supreme Court of Ohio Rules of Superintendence related to language access.
  - ❖ Contact the Language Services Program of the Supreme Court of Ohio.

#### ➤ **Specialized Dockets for Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking:**

- Promote intensive supervision of offenders.
- Hold regular status review of offenders.
- Order appropriate interventions for offenders.
- Adopt practices and protocols that ensure victim safety.
- Contact the Specialized Docket Section of the Supreme Court of Ohio.

### **PROSECUTION**

- #### ➤ **Specialized Units-**To support consistency of services and prosecution; increased and improved victim involvement and decreased recantation; and increased community and law enforcement collaboration.

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<sup>26</sup> Refer to **Types of Programs and Projects**, page 23, statutory purpose area 13.

- Enhance and/or create specialized units for sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking.
- Provide prosecutor-based legal advocacy.
- Collaborate with community based victim advocates.

➤ **Training:**

- Trauma Informed Practice/Training - for prosecution to improve service to and interviews with victims.
- Evidence - specifically to determine what is admissible; the use of experts, DNA and toxicology; and how to build an effective evidence-based prosecution for domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking cases.
- Culturally and competently serve clients from diverse populations - including what to expect from and how to use interpreters.
- Increase charging that recognizes the multi-victimization victims experience and may include domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking; it is not an either/or incident.
- Childcare - options for victims presenting for court to have safe care for their children while they are conducting court business.
- Firearms disability and protection orders - train law enforcement and prosecution to understand the relationship and specific laws surrounding these issues.
- Child Sex Abuse cases/Training - how to identify and prosecute the cases; and to better understand victim behavior.
  - ❖ Coordinated Community Response (CCR) training regarding healthcare's role in the prosecution of these cases.
    - Increased collaboration with content experts (i.e. rape crisis providers, domestic violence providers and SANE Nurses).

➤ **Cross training and collaboration** with other agencies to expand and enhance capacity of all collaboration team members for the benefits of victims needing services whether or not they are working with prosecution.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

➤ **Training-***To foster improved policies and practices for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.*

- Review/revise and develop department policies.
- Investigation, interviewing and evidence gathering.
- Social media- developing and implementing protocols and practices (i.e. protection order violations).
- Accountability relative to the obligations required under statute.
- Culturally specific and underserved populations and victim sensitivity.

- Neurobiology of trauma training – to strengthen law enforcement’s understanding of the impact of trauma.
  - ❖ To promote trauma informed interview and investigative practices.
- **Specialized Units**
  - Expand/co-location of units for domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
- **Develop and/or increase collaboration**
  - Develop and increase collaboration with sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE), forensic nurses, victim service, prosecutors, probation, and children protective service agencies.
  - Increase partnerships with culturally specific service providers to ensure all populations are referred to culturally-appropriate services.
- **Interpreter services**
  - Providing effective interpretation services for limited English proficient and deaf victims.
  - Co-advocacy<sup>27</sup>, training and technical assistance with local and community-based, state and national professionals.

#### **VICTIM SERVICE**

- **Emergency shelter support services**-Increase access to resources in small rural communities.
- **Transitional supportive housing services** (to transition to permanent housing.)
- **Trauma informed care approach:**
  - Counseling
    - ❖ Trauma specific counseling
  - Group support services
  - Responding to the needs of victims with co-occurring disorders related to mental health and/or substance abuse.
- **Training:**
  - Evidence-based practices (i.e. Trauma-informed care).
- **Increase training and partnerships with medical advocacy.**
- **Interpretation Services**
- **Transportation:** Lack of accessible transportation perpetuates isolation and prevents accessible economic justice related to the aforementioned needs.

#### **SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINER (SANE)/HEALTHCARE PROGRAM; AND OTHER**

- **Increase number of SANEs available in small rural communities.**

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<sup>27</sup> “Co-advocacy is a collaborative process of improving how organizations work together to ensure that they are providing appropriate resources and services to all participants they served. Co-advocacy services require on-going communication and sharing information, resources and tools between the organizations, as well as working together with the participants to ensure their needs are met.” *Battered Women’s Justice Project*, Retrieved from <http://www.bwjp.org/resource-center/resource-results/co-advocacy.html>

- Increase access to sexual assault nurse examiners versus relying solely on contract nurses in rural communities.
  - ❖ Decrease long exam wait times as a result of minimal qualified SANE staffs covering large portions of the state.
- **Enforce existing laws and regulations:**
  - Provide interpreters for limited English proficient survivors.
  - Address sexual assault kit testing, storage, and protocol.
  - Ensure compliance regarding unallowable billing for sexual assault exams.
- **Ensure confidentiality and anonymous reporting**
  - Avoid stigmatization that can impact work and personal relationships.
- **Increase collaboration with hospitals and advocates (call advocates to hospitals):**
  - Hospitals to follow state protocol.
  - Collaborate with CCRs and SARTs.
- **Training:**
  - Trauma-informed response
    - ❖ First responder training for sexual assault and evidence collection.
  - Increase and outreach and awareness efforts.
    - ❖ To reduce victim blaming and hold offenders accountable.

### **CULTURALLY SPECIFIC, UNDERSERVED AND OVERLOOKED POPULATIONS**

Increase and enhance services for culturally specific, underserved and overlooked populations through culturally competent practices.

#### **Cultural Competence Definition:**

Cultural Competence is defined by the state of Ohio as a continuous learning process that builds knowledge, awareness, skills and capacity to identify, understand and respect the unique beliefs, values, customs, languages, abilities and traditions of all Ohioans in order to develop policies to promote effective programs and services.<sup>28</sup>

- **Implement cultural and community audits to assess internal capacity and community capacity to serve marginalized populations.**
  - Address the service philosophy of “Why don’t they come to us?” versus “us going to them/outreach and self-assessment”.
- **Increase training, and technical assistance** towards culturally competent service provision.
- **Increase partnerships with culturally specific service providers.**
  - Co-advocacy, training and technical assistance with local and community based, state, and national professionals.

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<sup>28</sup> Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addictions Services, Retrieved from <http://mha.ohio.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=173>

- Support culturally specific providers to become domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking experts.
- **Increase partnerships with underserved and overlooked population service providers.**
  - Co-advocacy, training and technical assistance with local and community based, state, and national professionals.
  - Ensure extensive bridging between Developmental Disabilities (DD) system providers and victim service providers.
- **Develop and increase culturally competent practices in the legal system.**
  - Ensure multi-lingual quality access to court/legal materials.
  - Establish interpreter contracts in advance.
  - Establish legal competence to provide legal consent.
    - ❖ Ensure victims and survivors understand their rights in medical and legal settings.
- **Establish partner relationships with culturally specific, underserved and overlooked population service providers.**
  - Co-advocacy, training and technical assistance with local and community based, state, and national professionals.

### **Types of Programs and Projects**

Applicants for STOP VAWA funding must specify the purpose area(s) that will be addressed within the proposed project and how the project will impact the goals and objectives of the 2017 Implementation Plan.

### **STOP VAWA funding requests must meet one or more of the following applicable federal statutory purpose areas:**

1. Training law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence, including the use of nonimmigrant status under subparagraphs (U) and (T) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a));
2. Developing, training, or expanding units of law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors specifically targeting violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and domestic violence;
3. Developing and implementing more effective police, court, and prosecution policies, protocols, orders, and services specifically devoted to preventing, identifying, and responding to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and domestic violence, as well as the appropriate treatment of victims;

4. Developing, installing, or expanding data collection and communication systems, including computerized systems, linking police, prosecutors, and courts or for the purpose of identifying, classifying, and tracking arrests, protection orders, violations of protection orders, prosecutions, and convictions for violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking and domestic violence;
5. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening victim services and legal assistance programs, including sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence programs, developing or improving delivery of victim services to underserved populations, providing specialized domestic violence court advocates in courts where a significant number of protection orders are granted, and increasing reporting and reducing attrition rates for cases involving violent crimes against women, including crimes of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and domestic violence;
6. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing the needs and circumstances of Indian tribes in dealing with violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and domestic violence;
7. Supporting formal and informal statewide, multidisciplinary efforts, to the extent not supported by state funds, to coordinate the response of state law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts, victim services agencies, and other state agencies and departments, to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence;
8. Training of sexual assault forensic medical personnel examiners in the collection and preservation of evidence, analysis, prevention, and providing expert testimony and treatment of trauma related to sexual assault;
9. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs to assist law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and others to address the needs and circumstances of older and disabled women who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking or sexual assault, including recognizing, investigating, and prosecuting instances of such violence or assault and targeting outreach and support, counseling, and other victim services to such older and disabled individuals;
10. Providing assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in immigration matters;
11. Maintaining core victim services and criminal justice initiatives, while supporting complementary new initiatives and emergency services for victims and their families;
12. Supporting the placement of special victim assistants (to be known as “Jessica Gonzales Victim Assistants”) in local law enforcement agencies to serve as liaisons between

victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and personnel in local law enforcement agencies in order to improve the enforcement of protection orders. Jessica Gonzales Victim Assistants shall have expertise in domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and may undertake the following activities:

- developing, in collaboration with prosecutors, courts, and victim service providers, standardized response policies for local law enforcement agencies, including the use of evidence-based indicators to assess the risk of domestic and dating violence homicide and prioritize dangerous or potentially lethal cases;
- notifying persons seeking enforcement of protection orders as to what responses will be provided by the relevant law enforcement agency;
- referring persons seeking enforcement of protection orders to supplementary services (such as emergency shelter programs, hotlines, or legal assistance services); and;
- taking other appropriate action to assist or secure the safety of the person seeking enforcement of a protection order.

13. Providing funding to law enforcement agencies, nonprofit nongovernmental victim services providers, and State, Tribal, Territorial, and local governments (which funding stream shall be known as the Crystal Judson Domestic Violence Protocol Program) to promote—

- the development and implementation of training for local victim domestic violence service providers, and to fund victim services personnel, to be known as “Crystal Judson Victim Advocates,” to provide supportive services and advocacy for victims of domestic violence committed by law enforcement personnel;
  - the implementation of protocols within law enforcement agencies to ensure consistent and effective responses to the commission of domestic violence by personnel within such agencies such as the model policy promulgated by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (“Domestic Violence by Police Officers: A Policy of the IACP, Police Response to Violence Against Women Project” July 2003); and
  - the development of such protocols in collaboration with State, Tribal, Territorial and local victim services providers and domestic violence coalitions.
- **Note:** Any law enforcement, State, Tribal, Territorial, or local government agency receiving funding under the Crystal Judson Domestic Violence Protocol Program shall, on an annual basis, receive additional training on the topic of incidents of domestic violence committed by law enforcement personnel from domestic violence and sexual assault nonprofit organizations and, after a period of two years, provide a report of the adopted protocol to the Department, including a summary of progress in implementing such protocol. As such, States and Territories are responsible for ensuring that each subgrantee receiving funds under this purpose area will receive the required annual training. States are also responsible for ensuring that subgrantees submit their two-year report to the Department. States and Territories **must** notify and provide OVW with a



list of subgrantee recipients awarded STOP funds under the Crystal Judson Domestic Violence Protocol Program.

14. Developing and promoting State, local, or tribal legislation and policies that enhance best practices for responding to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking;
15. Developing, implementing, or enhancing Sexual Assault Response Teams, or other similar coordinated community responses to sexual assault.
16. Developing and strengthening policies, protocols, best practices, and training for law enforcement agencies and prosecutors relating to the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases and the appropriate treatment of victims;
17. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing sexual assault against men, women, and youth in correctional and detention settings;
18. Identifying and conducting inventories of backlogs of sexual assault evidence collection kits and developing protocols and policies for responding to and addressing such backlogs, including protocols and policies for notifying and involving victims;
19. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs and projects to provide services and responses targeting male and female victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, whose ability to access traditional services and responses is affected by their sexual orientation or gender identity, as defined in section 249(c) of title 18, United States Code; and
20. Developing, enhancing, or strengthening prevention and educational programming to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, with not more than 5 percent of the amount allocated to a State to be used for this purpose.

The 2017 Implementation Plan will also continue to require that applicants who request funding in support of visitation centers clearly demonstrate the following eligibility criteria to be considered for funding:

- A secured and adequate space for the location; and hours of operation
- Type of supervision
- Frequency and type of domestic violence training project staff receive
- Demonstration of need/uniqueness of the service area
- Procedures to address liability issues
- Letters of participation from the court and Jobs and Family Services
- Means of referrals
- Target population

### **Distribution of Funds for Core Categories**

Federal requirements mandate the VAWA funding distribution within Ohio's justice system. OCJS determines funding categories for projects based on the agency implementing the project and the services most directly supported by the project. All of the allocation categories mentioned below are disbursed based on the type of organization that benefits from the VAWA program and the type of services supported by the program. Discretionary funding may be used for any of the categories as deemed appropriate by OCJS.

- Law Enforcement 25%
- Prosecution 25%
- Victim Services 30%<sup>29</sup>
- Court 5%
- Discretionary 15%

Pursuant to the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (H.R. 3402), STOP VAWA funding decisions must take into consideration that 10% of the 30% that is allocated to victim services must be distributed to community-based organizations that provide culturally specific services.

### **Court Allocation Category**

**\*\*Funds awarded from the court allocation are required to be awarded "to" courts rather than "for" courts.**

### **Need and Use for Grant Funds:**

Each state is required to provide information from each of the disciplines (prosecution, law enforcement, court and victim services programs) that describes the following:

- The need for grant funds;
- The intended use of the grant funds;
- The expected result of the grant funds; and
- The demographic characteristics of the population to be served including age, disability, race, ethnicity, and language background.<sup>30</sup>

### **State Planning to Meet Sexual Assault Set-Aside**

Under VAWA 2013, 20 percent of funds granted to a state shall be allocated for programs or projects in two or more allocations (victim services, courts, law enforcement, and prosecution) that meaningfully address sexual assault, including stranger rape, acquaintance rape, alcohol or drug-facilitated rape, and rape within the context of an intimate partner relationship. Ohio plans to meet the set-aside requirement through the following:

### **Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (OAESV)-State Sexual Assault Coalition**

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<sup>29</sup> *10% of funds directed toward Victim Services must go to culturally specific community-based organizations*

<sup>30</sup> Refer to Appendix B—Letters of support

OAESV is a critical element to ensure funding is allocated to support programming that meaningfully addresses sexual assault. As a STOP VAWA implementation planning committee member OAESV will continue to serve an important role in the following processes:

- Peer Grant Review-As a peer grant review team member, OAESV will continue to provide valued insight and identification of applicants requesting funding for programs that are demonstrating the ability to implement best practices in their community.
- Provider of Resources-OAESV continues to be instrumental to assisting with the identification of training resources for programs across the federal allocation categories.
- Statewide Needs Assessments-OAESV's role is important to the development and implementation of the STOP VAWA implementation planning needs assessment process, as well as other relevant data gathering processes throughout the state.

Additionally OAESV will continue to be an important resource for Sexual Assault Response Team Development.

### **The Sexual Assault Advisory Board of Ohio (SAABO)**

SAABO, is co-convened by the Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, and Ohio Attorney General's Office. SAABO's mission is to ensure all victims (patients/individuals/survivors) of sexual assault or sexual abuse have consistent access to quality medical care in the collection of evidence that meet the standards set forth in the Ohio Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical and Forensic Examination". In February 2016, SAABO distributed a statewide law enforcement survey for the purpose of identifying protocols, practices and training needs. Survey results will assist to identify programming and funding needs that will meaningfully address sexual assault.<sup>31</sup>

### **C. Grant making Strategy**

Prospective applicants are required to describe how their projects align with the state's implementation plan priorities. OCJS' overall grant making strategy is to distribute funding to projects that demonstrate how they will address the needs of sexual assault victims, domestic violence victims, dating violence victims, and stalking victims; and hold offenders who commit each of these crimes accountable.

### **Distribution of Funds Based on Population and Geographic Areas**

OCJS is committed to the equitable distribution of funding throughout the state. For grant administration purposes, all of Ohio's counties are served directly by OCJS, with the exception of three large metropolitan counties served by Regional Planning Units (RPU): Cuyahoga, Franklin, and Lucas. A formula, consisting of 1-part crime to 1-part population, is used to determine the amount of funds each RPU receives each year. The RPUs are responsible for planning and distributing funds to their communities based on local needs and conditions. Additionally, the RPUs administer and evaluate VAWA-funded initiatives consistent with this Implementation Plan.

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<sup>31</sup> Ohio Department of Public Safety, Office of Criminal Justice Services, Sexual Assault Advisory Board of Ohio Law Enforcement Survey Results, 2016, Retrieved from [http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/resources\\_reports.stm](http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/resources_reports.stm)

OCJS is also a member of the Interagency Victims Assistance Coordinating Committee (IVACC)<sup>32</sup>. The interagency committee has been an important element for informing the state planning process. The committee's purpose includes ensuring the equitable distribution of grants and grant funds occurs between urban and rural areas.

The Family Violence Prevention Center at OCJS and its Advisory Council also play a pivotal role in providing leadership for coordinated state and local efforts to reduce and prevent family violence in Ohio and to ensure equitable distribution of grant funds.

To maximize the number of projects that may be funded, OCJS caps all STOP VAWA proposals at \$60,000.

### **Proposal Solicitation/Review and Subrecipient Selection**

#### **Methods Used to Release the Solicitation**

OCJS provides subrecipients and other interested constituents information about the availability of grant funds in several manners. Information about funding streams, including a grants calendar and the actual solicitation, are available online at [www.ocjs.ohio.gov](http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov). Notice of funding availability also is provided via the OCJS *Criminal Justice Bulletin*, an electronic newsletter distributed to a broad range of constituents that include criminal justice organizations and service providers.

OCJS does not implement a consolidated RFP process. Historically a single STOP VAWA RFP has been developed to solicit applicants from all the eligible funding allocation categories. In FY 2017 OCJS will release an additional RFP tailored specifically for culturally specific victim service applicants.

#### **Technical Assistance**

OCJS hosts a Bidder's Conference following the release of the VAWA Request for Proposal. This conference serves a dual purpose as it provides an overview of the STOP VAWA application requirements and provides a forum for prospective grantees to ask questions about the grant writing process. OCJS also provides grant writing workshops several times a year. Applicants are encouraged to contact OCJS staff for assistance with any part of the proposals and solicitation process.

#### **Application Review Process**

OCJS implements a 3-tiered grant application review process:

- The initial OCJS grant review is conducted by the OCJS Grant Coordinators as an internal review to ensure fiscal and programmatic compliance with state and federal guidelines.

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<sup>32</sup> Refer to Section 11 **Coordination with Related Federal Funding Programs**. Interagency Victims Assistance Coordinating Committee Membership consists of Office of Criminal Justice Services, Ohio Department of Health, and Ohio Attorney General's Office.

- The second tier is the peer review process. A peer review team of state and local professionals, comprised of law enforcement, prosecution, victim services, and court personnel participate in a review of the submitted applications.
  - ❖ A two-part training process is provided via an online training campus and conference call.
  - ❖ All peer reviewers are required to submit conflict of interest disclosure forms.
  - ❖ Reviews are completed in the online grants system ([www.ocjsgrants.com](http://www.ocjsgrants.com)) using a grant review matrix to score applications and to provide narrative.
- Finally, grant applications are reviewed with the OCJS Director, the STOP VAWA program planner, the OCJS Family Violence Prevention Director and management staff to make final funding recommendations. While projects are not given preference based on their geographical area, final funding decisions are reviewed to foster an even distribution of funds throughout Ohio. Organized by discipline, all recommendations and scores are included in the funding plan for the OCJS Director's review. Once the review is completed, the funding plan and the Director's recommendations are forwarded to the Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety for final recommendations and approval.

### **STOP Grant Cycle Timeline**

Earlier this year, OCJS released a Grants Calendar that provided constituents with Request for Proposal release dates; due dates; notification dates, and project start dates for *all* OCJS federal grants. The FY 2016 STOP VAWA request for proposal was released on May 2, 2016. Applications were due on June 1, 2016. Projects are funded for one year typically beginning January 1 of the calendar year. OCJS is in the process of determining the timeline for the 2017 grant cycle.

### **Consultation with Victim Service Providers**

OCJS requires a collaboration board component with all applications. This component must include a list of the collaboration board members, the goals of the collaboration board and a description of how the agencies/organizations work together to achieve the goals of the collaboration board. OCJS also requires all non-victim service provider applicants to submit letters of participation that detail both the involvement and role of the victim service providers during the development of applications. The purpose is to promote safety, confidentiality, and economic independence for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

### **D. Addressing the Needs of Underserved Victims**

Federal guidelines identify VAWA underserved populations to include geographic location (rural isolation), underserved racial and ethnic populations, special needs populations (language barriers, disabilities, alienage or age) or any other population identified in consultation with the U.S. Attorney General. All OCJS applicants that request funding through the STOP VAWA solicitation must also identify at least one underserved population. Applicants must also demonstrate how the project will increase and enhance services for culturally specific,

underserved and overlooked populations through culturally competent practices as described in the “Priorities and Approaches” section. Each applicant’s statement of the problem in their community should include a detailed response to the following questions:

*“What are the underserved populations your project will serve?”*

- *Avoid identifying “all” victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking as underserved.*

*“Why are the populations currently underserved?”*

- *What are the barriers to services for the populations?*
- *Are the underserved populations attempting to access services? If not, then why not?*

*“How will the project meet the needs of the underserved populations?”*

- *What efforts will or are occurring to promote eliminating barriers to accessing services, and help increase the utilization of services for underserved populations?*

Applicants **MUST** clearly describe whether the underserved community falls into one of the following three-tier populations:

- ***Unserved:*** *populations that have no services available to them.*
- ***Underserved:*** *populations that have minimal access and are in need of more outreach and support.*
- ***Inadequately served:*** *Historically marginalized populations that may be overrepresented, but remain inadequately served with specific reference to the quality of service and a “one-size-fits-all” approach.<sup>33</sup>*

#### State Planning to Meet Culturally Specific Set-Aside

Utilizing the three tier matrix in the review process will assist OCJS in determining culturally specific programs and projects to be funded from the required 10 percent victim service set aside.

Additional criteria will be evaluated to determine if the applicant is eligible to receive funding from the culturally specific set aside such as whether the primary role of the applicant is to provide services to racial and ethnic populations, or whether it has demonstrated competency to provide services to culturally specific targeted populations. Further consideration will include assessing whether the representatives from the targeted communities have been included with the planning and development of outreach and services to be provided.

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<sup>33</sup> Women of Color Network, 2013

The FY 2017 – 2020 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan will enhance the current grant making strategy through the release of a separate solicitation intended for culturally specific community based organizations whose purpose is to provide culturally specific services for racial and ethnic communities.

### Culturally Specific Set-Aside Subrecipients

Pursuant to the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (H.R. 3402), STOP VAWA funding decisions must take into consideration that 10% of the 30% that is allocated to victim services must be distributed to community-based organizations that provide culturally specific services.

*The term ‘culturally specific’ means primarily directed toward racial and ethnic minority groups (as defined in section 1707(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u–6(g)). “(7) CULTURALLY SPECIFIC SERVICES.—The term ‘culturally specific services’ means community-based services that include culturally relevant and linguistically specific services and resources to culturally specific communities.*

It is not known which subrecipients meeting the culturally specific set-aside definition will receive funding. OCJS will announce the funding solicitation via traditional resources and through venues specifically focused on providing services for culturally specific populations. In FY 2017 OCJS will release an additional RFP tailored specifically for culturally specific victim service applicants.

### **E. Subrecipient Management, Monitoring, and Assessment**

OCJS has based its approach to program monitoring and assessment on the guidelines for evaluating drug control projects developed for the National Institute of Justice by Abt Associates.<sup>34</sup> Instead of process and outcome monitoring and evaluation, the guidelines support components of activities, results, and outcomes of the programs. Each of these components is described below, as well as a description of how OCJS implements monitoring and assessment for a program’s activities and results.

Activities address the way that the models and evidence guiding the program are being implemented. For example, how is a women’s shelter serving its clients, and are the activities informed by best practices? The methods used by OCJS to monitor funded projects include desk reviews and site visits by OCJS representatives. Desk reviews are conducted on STOP VAWA funded programs to ensure that the programs are fiscally and programmatically compliant. Site visits are also conducted by OCJS Field Representatives to assess whether project implementation is consistent with the approved activities and funding plan.

Results are the immediate outcomes of program activities. For example, how many women and

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<sup>34</sup> National Institute of Justice and Bureau of Justice Assistance, Evaluating Drug Control and System Improvement Projects: Guidelines for Projects, reprint 1992; accessible at <https://www.bja.gov/evaluation/guide/documents/nijguide.html>.

children were served by the women's shelter? Or, how many clients received safety planning provided by shelter personnel? The primary method for collecting Results information at OCJS is through quarterly performance reports. In addition, OCJS subrecipients are required to submit the annual federal STOP VAWA progress report, known as the MUSKIE report. These reports are reviewed and discussed during on-site programmatic monitoring visits.

Outcomes refer to the ultimate goals of the program and often refer to longer term consequences following immediate results. While each of the programs funded through OCJS receive regular monitoring with regard to their activities and results, outcome evaluations are usually conducted outside the scope of monitoring. In some instances, programs may be referred to sources for research and evaluation by the program's in-house researchers and/or Ohio universities to determine the overall effectiveness of the program.

The goal of this multi-tiered monitoring approach is to generate information for decision makers as they develop Ohio's crime control and prevention strategy and allocate subsequent funding. It has also been a long-term goal of OCJS that its monitoring information be useful to practitioners as they design and implement initiatives at the local level, particularly when those initiatives involve reliably maintaining fidelity to evidence-based practices or best practices within the field.

## **H. Barriers to Implementation**

While OCJS does not anticipate atypical barriers arising from the implementation of its VAWA Implementation Plan, one possible concern for future projects is the burden of the match requirement being shifted from the local projects to the State. Requiring State government to assume mandatory financial responsibility for match in the event that the projects are not able to do so creates a significant challenge in a time when shrinking budgets have become commonplace.

## **I. CONCLUSION**

Ohio's 2017 STOP Implementation Plan represents a solid and ongoing collaborative effort to identify and address violence against women. OCJS will continue to work with its STOP VAWA Committee, IVACC, and the Family Violence Prevention Center Advisory Council to monitor and implement this broad-based strategy.

Priorities established for the FY 2017 - 2020 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan represents strive to meet the immediate needs for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking while holding offenders accountable. With the support of a wide range of stakeholders throughout the state, Ohio's STOP Implementation Plan will ultimately enhance the effectiveness of system-wide initiatives for truly effective, long-term change.



## **Appendix A**

### **Ohio STOP VAWA Implementation Planning Committee**

Katie Hanna	Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (OAESV)
Rosa Beltre	Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (OAESV)
Nancy Neylon	Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN)
Tonia Moultry	Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN)
Michael Smalz	Ohio Poverty Law Center
Alexandria Ruden	Cleveland Legal Aid Society
Diana Ramos-Reardon	Supreme Court of Ohio
Anne Murray	Columbus City Attorney's Office
Beth Malchus	Ohio Department of Health (ODH)
Lauren MacDade	Buckeye Regional Anti Violence Agency (BRAVO)
Vicki Jenkins	Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
Phyllis Carlson-Riehm	ACTION Ohio Coalition for Battered Women
Molly Burchfield	Athens Police Department
Robin Bozian	Southeastern Ohio Legal Services
Chrystal Pounds-Alexander	Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (ODRC)
Debra Seltzer	Ohio Department of Health (ODH)
Coriana Klies	Ohio Department of Health (ODH)
David Voth	Crime Victim Services
Ryn Farmer	Crime Victim Services
Josue Vicente	Ohio Hispanic Coalition
Julia Arbini-Carbonell	Ohio Hispanic Coalition
Michael Sheline	Ohio Attorney General's Office (OAG)
Brian Sass	Ohio Attorney General's Office (OAG)
Stefanie Day	Deaf World Against Violence (DWAVE)

## **Appendix B**

### **Letters by Use of Grant Funds**



The comprehensive resource on domestic violence

1855 E. Dublin-Granville Road • Suite 301 • Columbus, Ohio 43229

April 28, 2017

Nadine M. Neufville, Acting Director  
Office on Violence Against Women  
145 N Street, NE, Suite 10 .121  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Neufville,

The Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) is pleased to provide this letter of support to the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) in support of the application for STOP funding through the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women and submission of the VAWA State plan. The VAWA STOP formula grant is the core component of effective coordinated community response and a critical resource for domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence and stalking services in Ohio. As Ohio provides no state funding for domestic violence, dating violence or stalking and very limited funding for sexual assault services, this funding is essential for sustained services for victims throughout Ohio.

The grant funds are used for specialized units in law enforcement and prosecutor's offices and justice systems advocacy to effectively reach survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. Grant funds also are used to enhance outreach and services to underserved populations and expand SANE services to unserved areas of the state. The anticipated outcomes of VAWA STOP funds are to enhance safety and access to services for victims.

The total population of Ohio is estimated at 11,536,721 individuals according to the 2010 census. The race/ethnicity is as follows: Caucasian, 82.7%; African American, 12.7%; American Indian/Alaskan Native, .3%; Asian, 2.1% Latino, 3.1%. Individuals with a disability under the age of 65 total 9.9% and Limited English Proficient individuals total 2.4%. Persons living in poverty total 14.8%.

Funding is competitive thus the characteristics of the precise populations served may change from year to year. However, the grant making process strives to ensure geographic diversity and the provision of services to underserved populations throughout the state.

Office 614•781•9651

Fax 614•781•9652

Information Line 800•934•9840

Web site [odvn.org](http://odvn.org)

email [info@odvn.org](mailto:info@odvn.org)

ODVN works closely with OCJS in the development of the VAWA state implementation plan. An on-going committee which includes representatives from law enforcement, prosecutors, the judiciary, underserved populations, ODVN and the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence guide the process in collaboration with OCJS. The committee analyzes collected information and strategizes on the implementation plan. Surveys and focus groups are conducted to bring current information from the field to the planning process.

If I can answer any questions, please contact me at [nancyn@odvn.org](mailto:nancyn@odvn.org) or 614-781-9651, Ext. 227.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Nancy Neylon', written in a cursive style.

Nancy Neylon  
Executive Director



May 1, 2017

Nadine M. Neufville  
Acting Director  
Office on Violence Against Women  
145 N St., NE, Suite 10 W. 121  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Ms. Neufville:

On behalf of the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence, I am pleased to submit a letter in support of the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services' (OCJS) FY 2017- FY 2020 STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Federal Grant Application. Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence is a non-profit victim service organization dedicated to advocating for comprehensive responses and rape crisis services for survivors and empowering communities to prevent sexual violence..

VAWA funds support the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence's regional SANE program, increasing accessibility to SANE services for underserved survivors in southeast and west Ohio, a rural, Appalachian region of the state, provide trauma informed services for law enforcement, trainings to prosecutors and court, as well as monolinguals and underserved, underrepresented survivors, minorities, people of color. Additionally, past funds have helped establish Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) statewide. As the statewide sexual assault coalition, we see the impact of this funding stream across Ohio, supporting survivors who access services at rape crisis centers and dual agencies.

VAWA funding is a critical need for both our program and the state. On behalf of the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence we are pleased to work with OCJS and support its efforts to provide these much needed services to victims. Thank you for careful consideration.

If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me at [rbeltre@oaesv.org](mailto:rbeltre@oaesv.org) or 216-658-1381.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rosa Beltré". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rosa Beltré  
Executive Director



# The Supreme Court of Ohio

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

65 SOUTH FRONT STREET, COLUMBUS, OH 43215-3431

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TELEPHONE 614.387.9500  
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May 3, 2017

Ms. Nadine M. Neufville  
Acting Director  
Office on Violence Against Women  
145 N Street, NE  
Suite 10 W. 121  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Acting Director Neufville:

On behalf of the Supreme Court of Ohio, please accept this letter in support of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Office of Criminal Justice Service (OCJS) application for the 2017 S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women (VAWA) Formula Grant Program. As a member of Ohio's S.T.O.P. VAWA Implementation Committee, the Court believes in the purpose of this grant program and is committed to participate in all relevant activities to advance the fair administration of justice, hold offenders accountable, and improve victims' safety.

The Court's Domestic Violence Program works with Ohio's judiciary to encourage proven practices in domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking cases, and it is tasked with enhancing effective judicial response in these cases. Given the nature of these offenses, cases may be heard in a common pleas court (domestic relations division or general division) or municipal and county court. Ohio has 133 judges serving courts with domestic relations jurisdiction, 244 judges presiding over matters in general division, and 251 judges in municipal and county courts. Collectively, they touch the lives of more than 11.5 million Ohioans.

Ohio courts with jurisdiction over domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking cases have also been impacted by the globalization of the state's changing population. The most current census reveals that nearly seven percent of Ohio's population 5 years old and older speak a language other than English at home. This measure is relevant to the operation of and services provided by courts, such as interpreter services. A recent study regarding the use of interpreters in Ohio courts concluded that the demand for court interpreting services continues to grow, with 57 languages, other than English, requiring court interpretation.

This study found Spanish was the most interpreted language in Ohio courts followed by American Signed Language, Arabic, Chinese, and Russian.

Although great strides have been made to educate public and private systems about the breadth and impact of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, these crimes remain misunderstood societal ills and underreported crimes. The scant data available underscores the need for their continued attention.

Ohio courts with domestic relations jurisdiction report an estimated 20,260 domestic violence civil protection order petitions filed in 2015. A closer look at this data reveals that Ohio's ten most populous counties contributed nearly 56 percent of the filings. Comparable court data for civil protection order relief in sexual assaults and stalking cases is not collected statewide. While we recognize the domestic violence civil protection order petition filings only tell part of the story, it is revealing, particularly when put in context as there are approximately 500,000 Ohio protection orders records in the FBI's National Crime Information Center protection order file. In terms of criminal acts, the Ohio Attorney General's Office *2015 Domestic Violence Incidence Report* indicates law enforcement arrested or charged offenders in nearly 58% percent (42,036) of the domestic abuse calls to which officers responded. Additionally, the Office of Criminal Justice Services analysis of the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System data indicated law enforcement agencies reported 7,815 incidents of sexual assault and 1,380 incidents of stalking in 2015. Lastly, efforts in Ohio to improve data collection around intimate partner violence may appear to ignore dating violence. Legislation has been introduced to codify the federal definition of dating violence, which may allow future opportunities to collect data on this particular act. Notwithstanding, it is important to note that Ohio's case law may already extend protection to people in dating.

S.T.O.P. VAWA funds continue to be needed in Ohio to advance effective judicial response in domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking cases. This funding stream supports high caliber, relevant courses on domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking for Ohio's judiciary. The Supreme Court of Ohio Judicial College is the primary provider for continuing education for Ohio's judiciary. An informed judiciary remains a critical component of holding offenders accountable and increasing victim safety. In recent years, S.T.O.P. VAWA funds have supported numerous courses and other educational opportunities that have enhanced the effectiveness of courts and their justice partners in domestic violence cases.

Additionally, S.T.O.P. VAWA monies may support the following similarly important initiatives:

- Improve access to justice by promoting civil and criminal domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking dockets

Ms. Nadine Neufville  
May 3, 2017  
Page three

- Expand use of specialized or dedicated dockets for domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking cases
- Develop and implement an innovative statewide protection order network to increase timely and accurate information on protection orders that respects local courts' autonomy
- Deepen the judiciary's understanding of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking through court-specific resources and protocol, e.g., children exposed to domestic violence, elder abuse, firearms disability, cyber-stalking, and procedural justice
- Promote the fair administration of justice, increase victim safety, and offender accountability by supporting evidence-based batterers intervention standards and programs, and
- Improve domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking victim's experience in courts by promoting protocol and policies, including case coordinators, which assist victims who are not represented by counsel to better understand the court proceeding.

The Supreme Court of Ohio supports OCJS' efforts to enhance victims' safety and hold offenders accountable and commits to purposefully participate in the prioritization of initiatives in accordance to the state's application for funding assistance and implementation plan. Thank you for your careful consideration of Ohio's request for S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program funding.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Buenger  
Administrative Director



April 17, 2017

Ms. Nadine M. Neufville, Acting Director  
United States Department of Justice  
Office on Violence Against Women  
145 N St., NE, Suite 10W.121  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Director Neufville:

I write this letter in support of the effort of the State of Ohio's Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) to be awarded a 2017 STOP VAWA grant.

My office's Domestic Violence/Stalking Unit works closely with OCJS to protect victims of domestic violence while also holding the victims' assailants accountable. The relationship between my office and OCJS has been excellent. Last year we assisted over 5,000 victims, 84% of who were women, with 42% being Caucasian, 46% African American, and 5% Hispanic. STOP VAWA funding will be most helpful in assuring that we can continue to provide such assistance. Should your office grant this year's request of OCJS, we can continue to offer victims the services they need.

Thank you for giving every reasonable consideration to OCJS application for a 2017 VAWA grant.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.  
614-645-6902  
[rcpfeiffer@columbus.gov](mailto:rcpfeiffer@columbus.gov)

cc: Jacquetta Al-Mubaslat, Grants Planner  
Office of Criminal Justice Services  
Ohio Department of Public Safety  
JAL-Mubaslat@dps.oh.gov  
1970 West Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43223



# CITY OF ATHENS POLICE DEPARTMENT

THOMAS D. PYLE II, CLEE, CHIEF OF POLICE

Nadine M. Neufville  
OVW Acting Director  
Office on Violence Against Women  
145 N. St., NE, Suite 10 W. 121  
Washington, D.C. 20530

April 26, 2017

Dear Ms. Neufville;

The Athens City Police Department and the Athens VAWA Unit are pleased to assist the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services in submitting their FY 2017 – FY 2020 VAWA Implementation Plan. OCJS is diligent in their efforts to allocate funding to Ohio's law enforcement, prosecution, victim service, and court programs.

This funding has been instrumental in assisting counties throughout Ohio to better serve victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking in their communities. It has allowed programs to maintain and develop new services as needed. Many counties have developed specialized cultural services for victims and other counties now have their own local program/advocate to assist victims.

The target populations for programs are youth (11 – 24) and adult victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other relationship based crimes. All victims receive services regardless of age, marital status, disability, race, ethnicity, or language background.

The Athens VAWA Unit is a specialized investigative unit consisting of an investigator and a Licensed Social Worker. Services provided are criminal investigations/arrests, court accompaniment, protection orders, victim advocacy, crisis intervention, judicial liaison, etc.

If you need any further information, please contact me at 740-592-3315.

Sincerely,

Molly Burchfield, LSW  
Athens City Police Dept./VAWA Unit  
11 N. College St.  
Athens, Ohio 45701  
mburchfield@ci.athens.oh.us