



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**

**OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT**

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY AND PLANNING DIVISION**

450 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

**STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN GRANT  
PROGRAM**

**Implementation Plan FFY 2017 - 2020**

**Date Plan Approved by the State Administrative Agency: June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Period Covered by the Plan: October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2020**

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## Definitions

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
CCADV	Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence
CT Alliance	Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence
DSS	Department of Social Services
DPH	Department of Public Health
DCJ	Division of Criminal Justice
FVPSA	Family Violence Prevention Services Act
OPM	Office of Policy and Management
OVS	Office of Victim Services
OVW	Office on Violence Against Women
PHSA	Public Health Services Act
SASP	Sexual Assault Services Program
STOP	Services*Training*Police*Prosecutors Formula Grant
SMU	Sex Offender Management Unit
WOCN	Women of Color Network

## I. Introduction

The [Violence Against Women Act, 42 U.S.C. § 13925](#) requires the state to develop an Implementation Plan for the STOP Formula Grant Program (STOP Grant). The [U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women](#) must approve the plan, for the state to allocate funds to specific projects and sub-recipients. By statute, the STOP Formula Grant Program supports communities in their efforts to develop and strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat violent crimes against women and to improve and enhance victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women. The **STOP** Grant provides:

Services for Victims

Training for the Criminal Justice System

Offender Accountability

Police and Prosecution

The *State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM)* serves as the primary recipient for the STOP funds and is the State Administrative Agency (SAA) responsible for the management, allocation, and oversight of the STOP federal funds at the sub-recipient level. OVW requires the SAA to develop an Implementation Plan in collaboration with criminal justice agencies, non-governmental victim advocacy organizations, and organizations representing underserved communities and culturally specific populations.

Connecticut's *FFY 2017 – 2020 STOP Grant Implementation Plan* identifies goals, objectives, and priorities for federal funds awarded to the State from the Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 STOP Formula Grant Program. The Implementation Plan is active from the inception of the FFY 2017 federal award, October 1,

2017 through September 30, 2020. The FFY 2017 (estimated) federal STOP Grant award is \$1.8 million.

#### Guiding Principles for STOP Grant Program

Perwith VAWA 2013, the STOP Grant Program promotes a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to enhancing advocacy and improving the criminal justice system's response to violent crimes against women. It encourages the development and improvement of effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to address violent crimes against women and the development and improvement of advocacy and services in cases involving violent crimes against women.

#### Use of Funds

STOP grant funds must address domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The STOP grant may provide personnel, training, technical assistance, data collection, and other resources for apprehension, prosecution, and adjudication of persons committing violent crimes against women and protection and safety of victims. (VAWA 2013)

The STOP grant funds must address one or more of twenty federally defined purpose areas. In general, the purpose areas pertain to victim support and advocacy services and core criminal justice system functions of law enforcement, prosecution, adjudication, sanctions, and accountability. A full and detailed description of the federally defined purpose areas are available at the following link:

<https://www.justice.gov/ovw/closed-solicitations>

## II. Description of Planning Process

### A) Planning Process

The **State Administrative Agency (SAA)** developed the 2017 – 2020 Implementation Plan in collaboration with non-governmental victim advocacy organizations and criminal justice agencies. Non-profit organizations, community members, and government agencies provided perspectives, opinions, and information by way of participation in the following multi-disciplinary meetings, focus groups, commission meetings, or planning sessions.

The SAA expanded the planning process for the 2017 – 2020 Connecticut Implementation Plan beyond the traditional use of a planning team, to include more interaction with the collaborating partners. The SAA held meetings, phone calls, focus groups, attended events, and participated in agency-wide initiatives to integrate new ideas and expand the reach of STOP funding. The SAA along with planning meetings completed the following:

- Reviewed existing projects and conducted face-to-face meetings and phone calls to discuss challenges and collect ideas for the implementation plan.
- Reviewed participant feedback from STOP funded training for future improvements.
- Attended pertinent statewide Commission meetings to identify pending issues and opportunities to increase interagency collaboration.
- Compiled and reviewed vital statewide reports, evaluations, and advisory board findings that addressed violence against women issues.
- Held focus groups and meetings with culturally specific and underserved population service providers.
- Attended additional OVW events and webinars to gain new ideas, goals, and objectives for the implementation plan.

- Collaborated with OVW technical assistance provider to expand implementation plan discussions.

### Planning Meetings

The SAA drafted portions of the 2017 – 2020 Implementation Plan and held face-to-face meetings with the core implementation workgroup to review the components of the plan. The meetings allowed the ability for open dialogue and feedback on the goals and objectives. At the end of each meeting participants submitted to OPM a Meeting Plan Comments Form where participants could submit pending questions and comments/feedback. The SAA reviewed the comment forms, and the input is available within **Appendix B**. Additional follow-up with core implementation workgroup staff was conducted electronically and by telephone. Planning meeting participants also completed collaboration forms that are available in **Appendix A**.

The following agencies participated in the face to face planning meetings. Additionally, section B contains descriptions of the entities function within Connecticut:

- State Sexual Assault Coalition: CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence
- State Domestic Violence Coalition: CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Dual Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalition: N/A
- Prosecution Entity: The Office of the Chief States Attorney
- A Court or State Admin. of the Courts: Judicial Court Support Services Division
- Population Specific Organization: Hispanic Health Council

The following implementation workgroup entities participated electronically:

- Law Enforcement Entity: New Haven Police Department

- Representatives from Tribes: Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Court

The SAA also disseminated the goals and objectives portion of the implementation plan for comments and feedback electronically to several non-profit entities and state agency, and tribal partners that were unable to attend face-to-face meetings. The STOP Plan Participation Workbook includes a detailed list of individuals that received a copy of the plan and provided feedback.

The SAA incorporated comments and feedback into a Draft Implementation Plan and circulated the plan via e-mail to the planning team for review. Once approved by OVW, the final plan will be distributed to all collaborating partners via e-mail. The approved plan will be available online to the public and disseminated to all planning participants.

#### Listening Sessions and Work-groups

The SAA collaborated with Connecticut's federally recognized state coalitions, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) and Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence (CT Alliance), to host various listening sessions. The focus of the listening sessions was to identify barriers and challenges to victim advocacy for underserved populations. The listening sessions included hearing from community organizations and culturally specific providers that are providing services within the community.

The listening sessions helped to inform the goals and priorities within this plan. The listening sessions also assisted the Coalitions in identifying next steps for projects moving forward. Listening sessions included Asian American service providers, Black and African American community groups, deaf and hard of hearing providers, Hispanic / Latino organizations, and LGBTQ organizations. A list of participants is available within the consultation and collaboration section of the implementation plan.

## Commission Reports and Work Products

The SAA compiled multiple reports, work products, and findings generated from interagency and multi-disciplinary commissions, advisory councils, and work-groups. The commissions, advisory committees, and workgroups also include representation from non-governmental victim advocacy organizations.

- **Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission (CJPAC):** an interagency executive branch policy planning body responsible for leading state government in building a more effective and cost-efficient criminal justice system. CCADV introduced to CJPAC issues with Connecticut’s dual arrest rate. CT Alliance introduced to CJPAC issues with backlogged rape kits and evidence collection policies.
- **Connecticut Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee:** a multi disciplinary committee of non-governmental providers and government agencies that conducts an examination of domestic violence fatalities to identify systemic gaps and barriers to services. CCADV released a report on 2015 and 2016 fatality review findings and recommendations.
- **Dual Arrest Advisory Committee:** a multi-disciplinary committee of non-governmental providers and government agencies that met to discuss Connecticut’s dual arrest rate. Chaired by CCADV the committee reviewed existing statutes and policies, data, literature, and recommendations to reduce dual arrest within the state.
- **Connecticut Sentencing Commission: Subcommittee on Community and Victim Needs:** a multi-disciplinary committee of non-governmental providers and government agencies that study: victim and survivor needs, services, and community education; the registration requirements of the sex offender registry; information available to the public and law enforcement regarding sex offenders.

- **Commission on Standardization of Collection of Evidence in Sexual Assault Investigations:** Composed of representatives from prosecutors, courts, police, victim advocates and healthcare facilities. The Commission established a model for health care system response to sexual assault including standard protocols for collection of evidence as well as outlined training components for agencies and providers involved in the response.
- **Domestic Violence Offender Program Standards Advisory Council:** A multi disciplinary legislative advisory council under CJPAC tasked with reviewing, updating, and amending domestic violence offender program standards. The commission co-chaired by CCADV and the Judicial Branch released a report with recommendations in January 2018.

### Technical Assistance

The SAA hosted the Women of Color Network (WOCN) for a multi-day site visit. The SAA reviewed existing projects and developed new goals and objectives. WOCN conducted an interactive full-day training session with current underserved program staff to identify underserved or inadequately served populations. The findings are available within the underserved section of the implementation plan.

The SAA attended the Association of VAWA Administrators (AVA) sponsored a peer-to-peer meeting to identify national best practices and additional resources for the implementation plan. The SAA also participated in multiple OVW sponsored webinars and conference calls to incorporate new funding ideas and best practices into the implementation plan.

### **B. Documentation from Planning Committee**

Each participant in the planning committee completed a Documentation of Collaboration form. The form contains the following: collaborating agency name, agency type, meeting dates, and questions about the draft plan, and final draft. **Appendix A** includes the planning committee forms.

- State Sexual Assault Coalition:** CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence

CT Alliance is the State of Connecticut’s federally recognized sexual assault coalition that provides sexual assault victim advocacy services statewide.
- State Domestic Violence Coalition:** CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence

CCADV is the state of Connecticut’s federally recognized domestic violence coalition that provides domestic violence victim advocacy services statewide.
- Dual Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalition:** N/A

Connecticut does not have dual domestic violence and sexual assault coalition.
- Prosecution Entity:** The Office of the Chief States Attorney

Connecticut has a centralized state-run prosecution model. The Office of the Chief States Attorney is responsible for statewide prosecution in thirteen judicial districts across the state. Please note that Connecticut does not have local county prosecutors.
- A Court or State Admin. of the Courts:** Judicial Branch - Court Support Services Division

The Judicial Branch - Court Support Services Division oversees pretrial services, family services, divorce, domestic violence interventions, and probation supervision within Connecticut’s state courts.
- Population Specific Organization:** Hispanic Health Council

The Hispanic Health Council is one of the state’s largest Latino community – based organizations that provides a scope of social and family services.

The following implementation workgroup entities participated electronically:

- Law Enforcement Entity:** New Haven Police Department

The New Haven Police Department is a larger city department that is active within several domestic violence and sexual assault strategies.

- **Representatives from Tribes:** Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Court

The Mashantucket Pequot Court and pre-trial services manage a tribal court that handles misdemeanor tribal cases.

### **C. Major Concerns**

**Appendix B** contains a chart that summarizes the main issues and challenges discussed in planning meetings, commission meetings, and focus groups. The issues and concerns chart documents a summary of participant's questions and concerns along with the ultimate resolution.

### **D. Consultation and Collaboration**

To expand the reach of consultation and collaboration, the SAA conducted phone calls, e-mails, and face-to-face meetings to meet with new potential STOP partners. The SAA integrated feedback from the underserved community partners, tribal court, and member programs within the plan. The SAA also documented the potential barriers for underserved community organizations, and the findings are present in **Appendix B**.

With assistance from both federally recognized coalition's the SAA was able to meet with local community partners that are working to support the expansion of underserved victim services. The focus groups encompassed local community providers actively working to serve the following underserved groups; racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQ, deaf and hard of hearing, and immigrant populations. Underserved community providers that were unable to attend in person meetings or focus groups were able to provide feedback through surveys, e-mail, and phone calls.

<b>Consultation and Collaboration List</b>	
Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern CT	State of Connecticut Office of Victim Services
Women and Families Center	State of Connecticut Department of Social Services
Rape Crisis Center of Milford	State of Connecticut Department of Public Health
The Center for Family Justice	State of Connecticut Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division
Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury	State of Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice
The Center for Sexual Assault Crisis Counseling and Education	University of Connecticut Health Center
Chrysalis Domestic Violence Services	Rachel Posner LLC
Susan B. Anthony Project	Community Renewal Team
Domestic Violence Crisis Center Stamford	National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) - Connecticut Chapter
The Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services Ansonia	SNEHA – Network for Women of South Asian Origin
Prudence Crandall Center	YWCA New Britain
Interval House	Wheeler Clinic
Women’s Support Services	Capital Community College
Women’s Center of Greater Danbury	Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF)
Domestic Abuse Services Greenwich YWCA	Hispanic Health Council
Domestic Violence Crisis Center Norwalk	Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence
The Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services North Haven	Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence
Domestic Violence Program United Services Inc. Willimantic	Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council
New Horizons Community Health Center	New Haven Police Department
Safe Futures New London	Interval House
Domestic Violence Program United Services Inc. Dayville	The Network Enfield

## Tribal Consultation

### *Federally Recognized Tribes*

<b>Federally Recognized Tribes</b>
<a href="#"><u>Mashantucket Pequot Tribe</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Mohegan Tribe of Indians Connecticut</u></a>

Historically the SAA has worked with both the Mohegan Tribal Police and the Mashantucket Pequot Police. Both tribal law enforcement departments participate in the state's Domestic Violence Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) program. CCADV used STOP law enforcement funds to train both tribal law enforcement departments.

As part of the consultation process, the SAA meet with both the head judge, prosecutor, and pre-trial staff at the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Court. There is an interest from the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Court to partner in a future legal advocacy program for tribal victims. The SAA will continue to meet with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Court and federally recognized domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions to explore a potential pilot program during FFY 2017 – 2020. The Federally recognized tribes received the following; a copy of the Draft Plan via e-mail, a comment form to submit feedback, and site visits when possible.

### *State Recognized Tribes*

<b>State Recognized Tribes</b>
<a href="#"><u>Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>The Golden Hill Paugussett</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Schaghticoke Tribal Nation</u></a>

Historically the SAA has only consulted or collaborated with the federally recognized tribes. To expand consultation, the SAA has taken the following steps to engage with the state recognized tribes: a Letter to the Chief via mail requesting a review of the plan, comment form to submit feedback, and follow-up correspondence via e-mail.

### **E. Coordination of Federal Funding**

The SAA is responsible for the distribution of both OVW STOP grant funds and OVW Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) funds. The SAA set up face-to-face meetings to review the implementation plan goals and objectives with other state agencies that are responsible for the distribution of Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA), Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), and Public Health Service Act (PHSA) federal funds. The face-to-face meetings provided the opportunity for the SAA to meet fellow program managers and learn more about the distribution of funds, increase communication and information sharing, discuss potential overlap in funding and make appropriate revisions to the plan, and review opportunities for future collaboration between the funding streams.

#### STOP Funds Coordination

##### *Domestic Violence Services*

In regards to domestic violence funding, **STOP** grant funds awarded to the CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) enhance and expand policy development initiatives, training projects, and outreach campaigns in coordination with other federal funding sources. CCADV retains a portion of STOP grant funds to support personnel that manages multi-level projects focused on the expansion of communications, policy, technical assistance, legal policy, and data collection for the eighteen domestic violence member programs statewide. The **STOP** grant funds also provide CCADV with funding for collaborative law enforcement related initiatives, cultural diversity initiatives, and accessibility projects. Both **VOCA** and **FVPSA** funds do not financially support any existing law enforcement projects.

### *Sexual Assault Services*

In regards to sexual assault funding, **STOP** grant funds awarded to the CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence (CT Alliance) provides additional funding to support bi lingual and bi-cultural victim advocates in local rape crisis centers statewide. The bi lingual and bi-cultural victim advocates increase access to linguistically and culturally appropriate victim advocacy services. CT Alliance also received **STOP** grant funds for specialized victim advocates within Connecticut’s Parole Sex Offender Management Units (SMU). **STOP** law enforcement funds support the development of law enforcement training to help improve sexual assault: investigations, evidence collection, and prosecution of cases. CT Alliance also uses **STOP** grant underserved funds to support more in-depth collaborations between the rape crisis centers and local underserved community providers. CT Alliance does not receive **FVPSA** funding. No **VOCA** funding supports law enforcement projects.

### **Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Funds**

- In CT, the Office of Victim Services (OVS) is responsible for the administration of **VOCA** grant funds.
- CCADV received approx. \$4 million in **VOCA** funds over the past state fiscal year. Utilizing a pass-through model at least \$3.9 million in **VOCA** funds support local domestic violence victim advocacy services statewide. The “pass-through” **VOCA** funds support victim advocate positions in courts to help victims navigate through the court process.
- The **VOCA** funds provided to CCADV are coordinated with \$172,500.00 **STOP** funds that offer specialized domestic violence victim advocate law enforcement liaisons in courts with higher DV caseloads. The **STOP** grant funded advocates serve as a liaison between the courts and local police departments to increase communication and victim safety.

- CT Alliance received approx. \$2.2 million in **VOCA** funds over the past state fiscal year. Utilizing a pass-through model, approximately ninety percent of the **VOCA** funds supported sexual assault victim advocacy services at local rape crisis centers statewide.
- The **VOCA** funds support advocate positions at nine local centers to provide advocacy services to child and adult victims as well as non-offending family and friends. Additionally, **VOCA** funds continue to support advocates that offer specialized services working with campus communities and LGBT communities.
- **VOCA** funds are coordinated with \$205,500.00 **STOP** grant funds that provide Bi-lingual / Bi-cultural victim advocates within all member centers.

#### **Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA) Funds**

- In CT, the Department of Social Services (DSS) is responsible for the administration of **FVPSA** grant funds.
- CCADV received approximately \$ 1.3 million in **FVPSA** funds to provide safe and supportive shelter services, promote and enhance the health care systems response to domestic violence, support communications, public awareness, training, prevention, technical assistance and legal advocacy.
- **FVPSA** funds are coordinated with \$205,500.00 **STOP** grant funds that support shelter-based child victim advocates that provide services to both the domestic violence victim and their children.

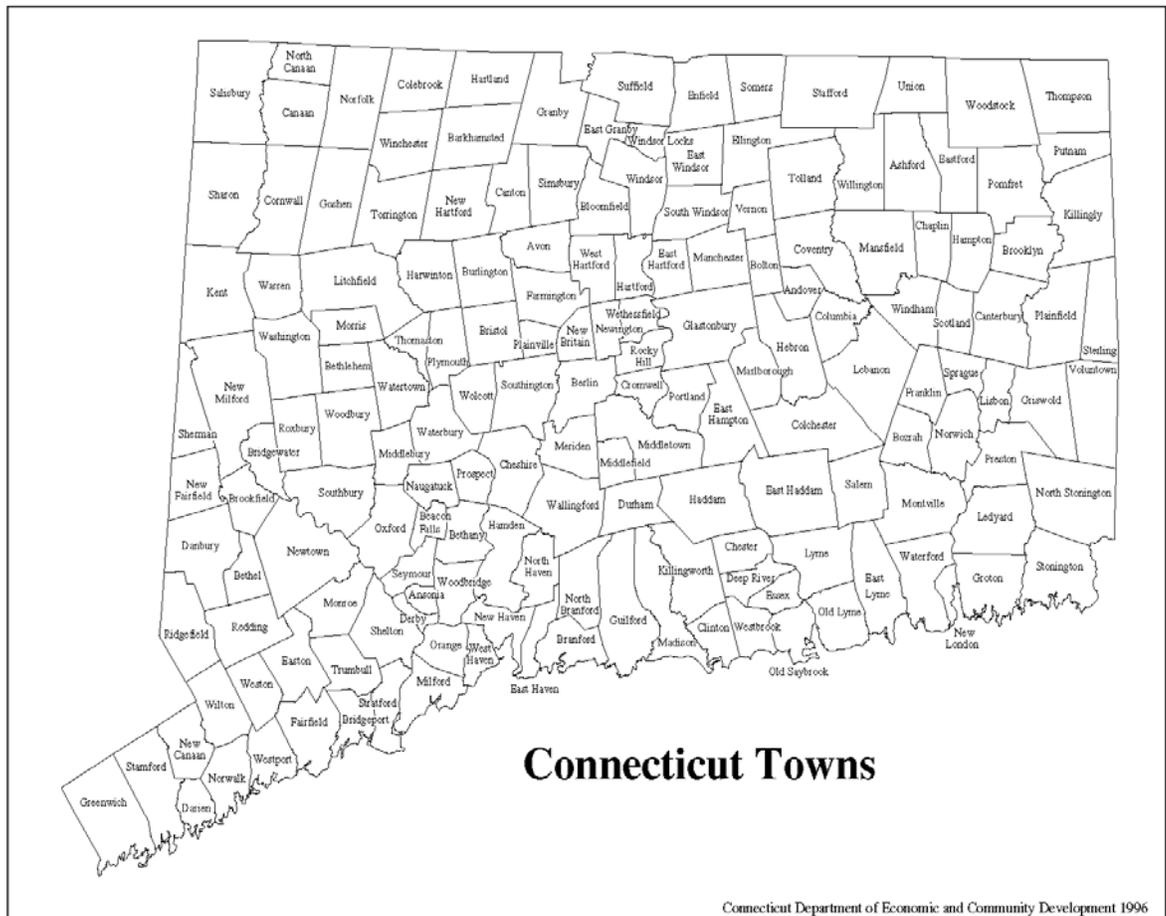
## **Public Health Service Act (PHSA) Funds**

- In CT, the Department of Public Health is responsible for the administration of **PHSA** grant funds.
- CT Alliance received approximately \$79,000.00 in **PHSA** funds in the past state fiscal year to support statewide rape crisis center prevention activities. Funds support education, training and technical assistance, and awareness on victim-centered response programs.
- At this time the SAA has not allocated prevention funding from the **STOP** Grant. There is currently no **STOP** grant-funded projects that conflict with existing **PHSA** funded prevention activities.

# III. Needs and Context

## A. Demographic Data

The SAA allocates Connecticut’s STOP funds to statewide projects across various geographic areas. Connecticut has an approximate population of 3.5 million residents and is a small state geographically, 5,543m square miles.



<http://www.ct.gov/ecd/cwp/view.asp?a=1106&Q=250996>

## Connecticut Statewide Demographic Information

According to the [University of Connecticut Data Center](#), Connecticut is not balanced in socioeconomics and demographics. A 1999-2010 analysis determined that Connecticut has five distinct population density groups:

<b>Connecticut Population Density Groups</b>		
<b>Group</b>	<b>Population Percentage</b>	<b>Description</b>
Wealthy CT	5.4 %	Exceptionally high income, low poverty, and moderate population density
Suburban CT	26.3 %	Above Average income, low poverty, and moderate population density
Rural CT	13.4 %	Average income, below average poverty, and the lowest population density
Urban Periphery of CT	36 %	Below average income, average poverty, and high population density
Urban Core of CT	18.8 %	Lowest income, highest poverty, and the highest population density

[https://ctsdc.uconn.edu/ctsdc\\_reports/](https://ctsdc.uconn.edu/ctsdc_reports/)

Due to the unique characteristics of Connecticut's population density, socioeconomic, and poverty data, the SAA continues to utilize sole source and pass-through administration models to distribute funds equally across the state. Additional geographic details are available within the Grantmaking strategy of this plan.

### *Connecticut's Age Distribution*

The [U.S. Census Bureau](#) American FactFinder provides the 2010 CT census data. The table below provides the age distribution within Connecticut.

<b>Age</b>	<b>2010 CT Census Data</b>
5 to 19 years	915,776
20 to 39 years	870,676
40 to 59 years	1,077,791
60 to 79 years	547,491
80 to 85 years and over	162,363

### *Disability*

The [Cornell University 2016 Disability Status Report](#) provides the prevalence of disability among non-institutionalized people in Connecticut. The report finds that 391,200 or 11.1% of Connecticut residents report one or more disabilities (Erickson et al., 2018). The following chart provides details about the disability type.

<b>Disability</b>	<b>Percentage of Population</b>
Any Disability	11.1%
Visual	1.7%
Hearing	3.1%
Ambulatory	5.8%
Cognitive	4.4%
Self-Care	2.3%
Independent Living	5.0%

### *Limited English Proficiency*

The [American Community Service Report](#) captured language use in 2011. In Connecticut, 21.4% of individuals spoke a language other than English at home. The following is a breakdown of individual's English speaking ability.

<b>Limited English Proficiency</b>	<b>Percentage of Population</b>
Spoke English “very well”	61.5%
Spoke English “well”	19.2%
Spoke English “not well”	14.4%
Spoke English “ not at all”	5.0%

Additionally, a review of the [State of Connecticut’s Judicial Branch Limited English Proficiency Report](#) provides statistics on interpreter and translation services. Below are the top five translation services requested.

<b>LEP Languages</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Files</b>
Spanish	88%
Portuguese	3%
Polish	2%
Chinese Mandarin / Chinese	1%
French / Haitian Creole	1%

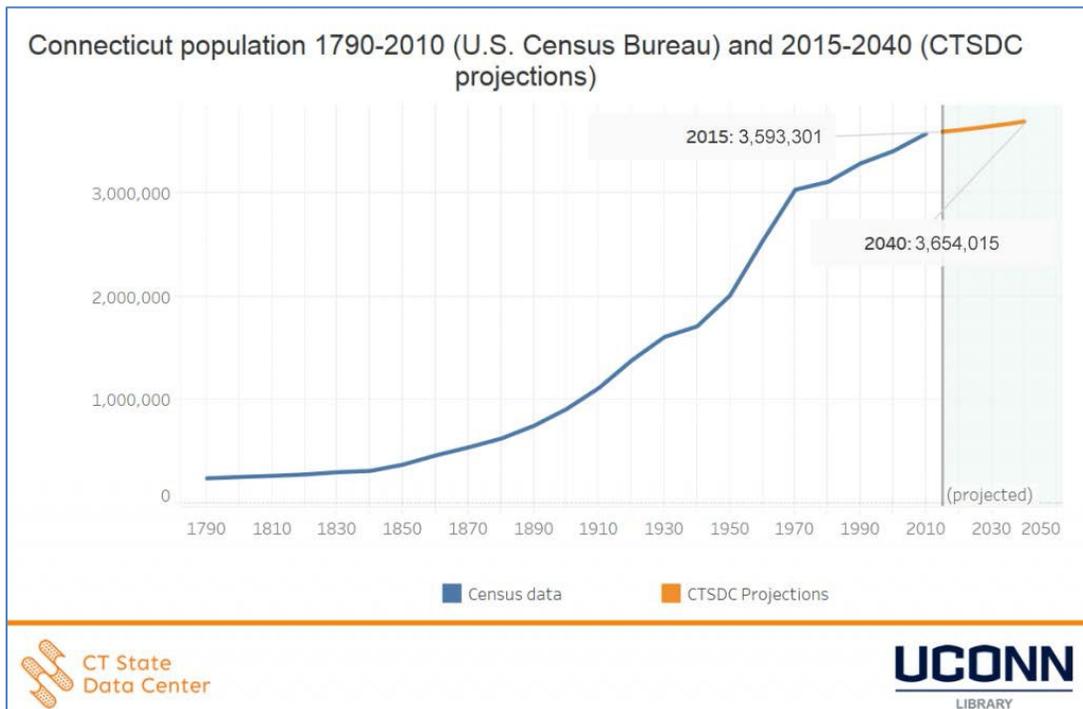
## Projected Forecasts

The SAA relies on state projection data that is publicly available from the [University of Connecticut State Data Center](http://www.ctstate.gov/ctscdc). The center provides population projection data based on age and gender for 2015 – 2040.

Projected Connecticut population growth 2015-2040		Connecticut's total population is projected to increase by about <b>60,714</b> between 2015-2040, a growth rate of <b>1.7%</b> over the 25-year period.
2015	3,593,301	
2020	3,604,603	
2025	3,618,763	
2030	3,633,994	
2035	3,645,370	
2040	3,654,015	

 **CT State Data Center** 

<https://ctsdc.uconn.edu/2015-to-2040-population-projections-state-level/#summary>



<https://ctsdc.uconn.edu/2015-to-2040-population-projections-state-level/#summa>

## Culturally-Specific Populations

The [U.S. Census provides the 2010 Census](#) findings along with population estimates as of July 1, 2017. The chart below contains the 2010 Race and Hispanic origin data along with the 2016 estimates. The table below provides details on the estimated growth of racial and ethnic populations within Connecticut. A review of the U.S. Census estimates includes an increase in the African American (1%) and Asian (.02%) population from 2010-2016. The most substantial estimated increase from 2010- 2016 is the Hispanic or Latino population (2.4%).

<b>Race</b>	<b>2010 CT Census Data</b>	<b>2016 CT Census Estimate</b>
White	80.7 %	79.5 %
Black or African American	10.9 %	11.9 %
American Indian / Alaska Native	0.8 %	1.0 %
Asian	4.1 %	5.0 %
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	0.1 %	0.1 %
Hispanic or Latino	12.6 %	15.0 %

<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmk>

*Tribal*

The [2013 American Indian Population and Labor Force Report](#) by the U.S. Department of the Secretary Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs reports that 5,829 Native Americans reside in federally recognized Connecticut tribes. The chart below contains additional demographic details:

Percent Distribution Native American Population in CT								
Under 16			16 - 64			65 and older		
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
12.6	13.9	26.5	33.2	33	66.2	2.6	4.7	7.2

<https://www.bia.gov/knowledge-base/american-indian-population-labor-force-reports>

*LGBT*

The [Williams Institute UCLA School of Law](#) provides statewide LGBT data and Demographics. The data highlights that 3.9% of the population in Connecticut identifies as LGBT. Below are additional details form the study.

LGBT	Percentage of Population
<b>Gender</b>	
Male	52%
Female	48%
<b>Age</b>	
Ages 18 to 44	27%
Ages 25 - 39	19%
Ages 40 – 59	41%
Ages 65+	13%

<https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/visualization/lgbt-stats/?topic=LGBT&area=9#demographic>

*Muskie VAWA Data*

Each year STOP sub-grantees provide annual reports to the Muskie School of Public Service, University of Maine. Muskie analyzes the STOP grant reports and provides SAA’s with yearly summary reports. For the 2016 calendar year, 4,693 victims received services funded through the STOP grant. Below is the demographic data for 2016:

<b>2016 CT STOP Grant Victims Served Demographics</b>	
<b>(Victims Served: 4,693)</b>	
<b>Race / Ethnicity</b>	<b>Percent</b>
White	42.7 %
Black or African American	24.3 %
American Indian / Alaska Native	0.4 %
Asian	1.0 %
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	0.2 %
Hispanic or Latino	31.4 %

<b>2016 CT STOP Grant Victims Served Demographics</b>	
<b>(Victims Served: 4,693)</b>	
<b>Other Demographics</b>	<b>Percent</b>
People with Disabilities	8.1 %
People with Limited English Proficiency	5.9 %
People who are immigrants/ refugees/asylum seekers	2.8 %
People who live in rural areas	1.0 %

## IV. Plan Priorities and Approaches

### A. Identified Goals

Listed below are the primary goals for STOP funding for 2017 – 2020. Additional information about the corresponding category, potential project descriptions, and objectives is available within the Goals and Objectives section of the plan.

- Enhance and strengthen the specialized prosecution response to domestic violence; develop and implement more effective prosecution policies and protocols for domestic violence cases.
- Enhance and strengthen the specialized prosecution response to sexual assault violence; develop and implement more effective prosecution policies and protocols for sexual assault cases.
- Strengthen specialized response to domestic violence within the criminal court system, and promote the availability and use of specialized sanctions for domestic violence offenders.
- Strengthen efforts of law enforcement, probation, and parole agencies to monitor and supervise offenders of sexual violence.
- Enhance and strengthen collaborations supporting enforcement, investigation, evidence collection and apprehension of domestic violence and sexual assault offenders to ensure greater victim safety and offender accountability.
- Increase reporting, arrest, and successful prosecution of sexual assault crimes.
- Reduce risk of domestic violence-related homicide.
- Retain core victim advocacy and support services for domestic violence and sexual assault victims.
- Increase access to sexual assault interventions and victims advocacy services.

- Review policies and procedures for supporting victim advocates as they continue to provide domestic violence and sexual assault core services. Increase support for vicarious trauma and help increase retention of non-governmental advocates.
- Engage new organizations representing culturally specific and underserved populations in planning, assessment, and implementation of STOP Grant-funded initiatives.
- Develop the capacity of community-based organizations representing culturally specific and underserved populations to provide outreach, prevention, and intervention initiatives.

### Domestic Violence Fatality

Led by CCADV the **Connecticut Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee** works to prevent future deaths by conducting multi-disciplinary, systemic examinations of intimate partner fatalities.

- The Committee comprehensively analyzes the strengths and challenges of the community's response to domestic violence and prepares a review of existing gaps in services, policies, training, and resources that may have played a role in the fatality, with the goal of eliminating those gaps to prevent future deaths.
- The Committee includes vital stakeholders: domestic violence providers, victim family members, law enforcement, prosecutors, public defenders, victim service providers, batterer intervention providers, advocates, and CT Departments of Children & Families, Correction, Public Health, and Social Services.
- According to the Connecticut Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee, Connecticut has averaged fourteen (14) deaths resulting from intimate partner violence between calendar years 2000-2015. Recent data below indicates a decline in intimate partner homicides in Connecticut within the past three years:

- CY 2013 12 Intimate Partner Homicides
- CY 2014 13 Intimate Partner Homicides
- CY 2015 8 Intimate Partner Homicides

### Initiatives to Reduce Domestic Violence Homicides

To address domestic violence lethality, Connecticut utilizes the **Lethality Assessment Program (LAP)**, a nationally recognized intimate partner violence risk-assessment tool. LAP requires an innovative partnership between law enforcement and victim advocacy providers.

- Piloted under the STOP 2014-2016 Implementation Plan, LAP is a result of a collaboration between CCADV and the Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC).
- LAP contains several vital components; lethality assessment instrument, accompanying protocol, and train the trainer model curriculum.
- LAP Trained police on the scene of a domestic violence call assess a victim's risk for severe injury or death and can immediately link those at most significant risk to their local domestic violence advocate for support and safety information.
- In November of 2017 Connecticut became the first state in the country to achieve statewide utilization of the LAP assessment.
- Under this current 2017 – 2020 Implementation Plan, the SAA will continue to support efforts to continue to train additional law enforcement officers and support program evaluations to identify areas of program improvement.

## Domestic Violence Fatality Reduction Goals

Connecticut has set forth the following goals and objectives to address and reduce the risk of domestic violence-related homicide:

- Expand statewide use of evidence-based lethality assessment tools developed and implemented through collaborative workgroups involving police, prosecutors, and advocates.
- Build upon existing pilot High-Risk EXPLORE program to develop best practices for high-risk domestic violence offender management.
- Improve advocacy and crisis intervention services for victims in the circumstances involving offenders recently released from Department of Correction custody, probation, or parole.
- Expand outreach to victims in high-risk situations and increase awareness of available services for victims and their families.

## **B. Priority Areas**

The State of Connecticut proposes the following eight priorities for FFY 2017 – 2020.

- Retain core services to victims, including advocacy, support, and outreach services for the general population as well as specialized strategies for under-served populations and culturally specific communities.
- Increase support for organizations representing culturally specific communities, with a particular emphasis on Native American population and those ethnic and racial groups experiencing significant population growth in Connecticut per US Census - African American, Hispanic and Asian communities.
- Strengthen and enhance coordinated multi-disciplinary response to domestic violence and sexual assault as well as develop new strategies focused on victim safety and offender accountability within under-served populations.

- Strengthen and revitalize coordinated community response and multi-disciplinary teams, prioritizing those that meaningfully involve organizations and programs that focus on marginalized communities. Actively increase participation in local roundtables and events.
- Increase reporting, arrest and successful prosecution of sexual assault crimes while expanding access to sexual assault victim advocacy and support services.
- Reduce risk of domestic violence-related homicide; expand utilization of evidence-based risk/danger assessments tools and increase outreach and support services to victims in high-risk situations.
- Establish a *STOP Sub-Grantee Work Group* that meets quarterly to increase collaboration amongst STOP sub-grantee funded organizations and agencies.
- Develop an innovative training and technical assistance fund that centralizes STOP training and technical assistance grant funds. Establish guidelines to support the multi-disciplinary use of training funds and reduce overlap in STOP funded training. The STOP Sub-grantee Work Group will strategically plan multidisciplinary training events throughout FFY 2017 – FFY 2020.

### **Crystal Judson Purpose Area**

The Crystal Judson Domestic Violence Protocol Program promotes training to support services and advocacy for victims of domestic violence committed by law enforcement. At this time little data and analysis are available on the frequency and occurrence of this issue in Connecticut. The State of Connecticut will not allocate funding to the “Crystal Judson” purpose area in this implementation plan. Over the next four years, the State of Connecticut will discuss and evaluate whether there is a need to address this purpose area.

## **Goals and Objectives**

The following section outlines a list of the projects supported by STOP grant funds. The goals and objectives for the projects are categorized by the federally mandated allocation categories, prosecution, court, law enforcement, victim advocacy, and discretionary.

### **PROSECUTION CATEGORY**

**Goal:** Enhance and strengthen the specialized prosecution response to domestic violence; develop and implement more effective prosecution policies and protocols for domestic violence cases.

1. **Objective:** Continue to use STOP grant funding for existing specialized domestic violence prosecutor positions in specialized units statewide.
2. **Objective:** Promote and expand a team-based approach to handling domestic violence cases and implement practice and procedures that intensify oversight and monitoring of offenders.
3. **Objective:** Train specialized units of prosecutors are specifically targeting violent crimes against women, including but not limited to the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Build upon existing prosecutor training on strangulation and campus sexual assault.

**Goal:** Enhance and strengthen the specialized prosecution response to sexual assault violence; develop and implement more effective prosecution policies and protocols for sexual assault cases.

4. **Objective:** Train prosecutors statewide on trauma and victimization responses.

5. **Objective:** Increase the frequency of prosecutor training on sexual assault, stalking, and strangulation cases.
6. **Objective:** Expand collaboration between prosecutors and sexual assault coalition to address victim notification of backlogged rape kit results and the prosecution of offenders.

### **COURT CATEGORY**

**Goal:** Strengthen specialized response to domestic violence within the criminal court system, and promote the availability and use of specialized sanctions for domestic violence offenders.

7. **Objective:** Continue to use STOP grant funding to support nationally recognized model for court-ordered batterer intervention program EXPLORE; the model provides the Hartford court with a comprehensive range of graduated sanctions to intervene in criminal behavior and protect victims.
8. **Objective:** Build upon existing pilot High-Risk EXPLORE program to develop best practices for high-risk domestic violence offender management.
9. **Objective:** Continue to integrate findings from the CT Domestic Violence Offender Program Standards Advisory Council a subcommittee of the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission (CJPAC).
10. **Objective:** Increase collaboration between Probation and Parole to develop a seamless continuum of care for domestic violence offenders that are enrolled in a Batterer's Intervention Program and transitioning from the Parole Division to the Probation Division.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT CATEGORY

**Goal:** Strengthen efforts of law enforcement, probation, and parole agencies to monitor and supervise offenders of sexual violence.

11. **Objective:** Support victim advocate positions in Parole Sex Offender Management Units to ensure victim's safety and reduce the risk of repeat victimization. The Parole Victim Advocates represent the interests of victims and their families as well as participate in cross-training with offender service providers.
12. **Objective:** Maintain existing law enforcement training of officers, probation, and parole on victim-centered approach to offender monitoring and oversight.

**Goal:** Enhance and strengthen collaborations supporting enforcement, investigation, evidence collection and apprehension of domestic violence and sexual assault offenders to ensure greater victim safety and offender accountability.

13. **Objective:** Convene multi-disciplinary workgroups to revise law enforcement policies and procedures for responding to domestic violence and sexual assault incidents. Develop collaborative training sessions for law enforcement, advocates, prosecutors and other criminal justice partners on law enforcement protocol and procedure.
14. **Objective:** Revise and update existing curriculum and develop web-based training tools and resources for law enforcement as well as for advocates and victims.
15. **Objective:** Build capacity and expertise within victim advocacy organizations to sustain participation in multidisciplinary initiatives that improve policies, practices, and procedures for law enforcement response to domestic violence and sexual assault.

**Goal:** Increase reporting, arrest, and successful prosecution of sexual assault crimes.

16. **Objective:** Improve policies, procedures, and protocols for police, prosecutors, probation and parole response to sexual assault crimes through specialized units and training initiatives involving collaborations between governmental and non-governmental advocacy providers.
17. **Objective:** Provide training and technical assistance to police departments to improve evidence collection and drafting reports. Partner with an OVW Technical Assistant Providers to increase trauma-informed responses and investigation of sexual assault incidents.

**Goal:** Reduce risk of domestic violence-related homicide.

18. **Objective:** Expand statewide use of evidence-based lethality assessment tools developed and implemented through collaborative workgroups involving police, prosecutors, and advocates.
19. **Objective:** Expand outreach to victims in high-risk situations and increase awareness of available services for victims and their families.
20. **Objective:** Improve advocacy and crisis intervention services for victims in the circumstances involving offenders recently released from Department of Correction custody, probation, or parole.
21. **Objective:** Increase the utilization of OVW approved Technical Assistance Providers to expand training and technical assistance for criminal justice agencies, victim service providers, and partner organizations.
22. **Objective:** Continue to expand partnerships with healthcare entities for intimate partner violence screening. Identify existing national healthcare screening models and best practices. Seek technical assistance in developing a statewide pilot/model.

## VICTIM SERVICES CATEGORY

**Goal:** Retain core victim advocacy and support services for domestic violence and sexual assault victims.

23. **Objective:** Provide outreach and support services for sexual assault and domestic violence victims; including public outreach campaigns, informational materials, and other media to inform victims of available services and interventions.
24. **Objective:** Continue to develop and implement training initiatives for health providers, social service practitioners, criminal justice professionals and other community partners.
25. **Objective:** Provide services to families and children residing in domestic violence shelters and in the community to ensure access to crisis counseling and assistance in navigating the legal system, safety planning, and other services to address parenting issues and trauma.
26. **Objective:** Build capacity and expertise in non-governmental victim advocacy organizations to enable participation in formal and informal multi disciplinary policy development task force, committees, workgroups, and other statewide planning forums to improve policies, practices, and procedures for law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts, victim services and other agencies.
27. **Objective:** Provide court-based services for domestic violence victims through non-governmental advocate positions to assist victims with cases in criminal and civil courts. Provide safety-planning services to victims whose offender is in a sanctions program; help victims with access to restraining orders and protection orders, and serve as liaisons to police departments to present safety concerns to police.

**Goal:** Increase access to sexual assault interventions and victims advocacy services.

28. **Objective:** Expand advocacy and support services for sexual assault victims, particularly culturally competent services for specific ethnic populations and underserved communities.
29. **Objective:** Continue STOP Grant funding for a 24 hour, toll-free, statewide Spanish speaking hotline to provide crisis interventions for sexual assault victims.
30. **Objective:** Allocate at least 25% of the federal award for sexual assault response projects within the Law Enforcement, Victim Services, Underserved, and Discretionary categories.

**Goal:** Review policies and procedures for supporting victim advocates as they continue to provide domestic violence and sexual assault core services. Use administrative funding to support efforts to address vicarious trauma and help increase retention of non-governmental advocates.

31. **Objective:** Review internal Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence coalition policies to analyze victim advocate roles, schedules, wages, personal leave, and benefit packages to help understand areas of need to increase retention.
32. **Objective:** Increase access to administrative funds to support training of victim advocates on vicarious trauma and self-care.

#### **UNDERSERVED CATEGORY**

**Goal:** Engage new organizations representing culturally specific and underserved populations in planning, assessment, and implementation of STOP Grant-funded initiatives.

33. **Objective:** Recruit and train community leaders, volunteers, and community members regarding domestic violence and sexual assault victimology, victim rights, services, and interventions.
34. **Objective:** Continue to support Spanish Bilingual and Bicultural services for sexual assault victims and domestic violence victims at access points familiar to the community.
35. **Objective:** Develop linguistically appropriate and culturally competent intervention and outreach models for culturally specific and underserved populations to help victims rebuild their lives and protect against repeat victimization. Increase collaboration with State Agency partners.
36. **Objective:** Increase communication and collaboration between statewide domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions and Connecticut's tribal nations. Explore additional partnership opportunities for law enforcement training.
37. **Objective:** Continue to support Spanish Bilingual and Bicultural services for sexual assault victims and domestic violence victims at access points familiar to the community.
38. **Objective:** Develop linguistically appropriate and culturally competent intervention and outreach models for culturally specific and underserved populations to help victims rebuild their lives and protect against repeat victimization. Increase collaboration with State Agency partners.
39. **Objective:** Increase communication and collaboration between statewide domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions and Connecticut's tribal nations. Explore additional partnership opportunities for law enforcement training.

**Goal:** Develop the capacity of community-based organizations representing culturally specific and underserved populations to compete for STOP grant underserved funds competitively.

40. **Objective:** Utilize administrative funds to provide technical assistance to underserved organizations to build their capacity to compete for underserved STOP federal funds competitively. Offering workshops on SAA's application process, federal fund requirements, and reporting requirements.
41. **Objective:** Provide training to community members and organization staff regarding policies and procedures in criminal justice agencies; police protocol and procedures, court process, probation and parole process.
42. **Objective:** Develop partnerships between culturally –specific organizations, faith-based organizations, local immigrant advocacy / legal services providers, and other providers at the grassroots and neighborhood levels.
43. **Objective:** Develop natural and culturally appropriate places for culturally specific community members to seek assistance and information.

### **Goals and Objectives Documentation**

**Appendix C** contains letters of documentation that speak to the need to STOP grant funds, intended use, and expected results. The following organizations provided documentation letters.

- **Prosecution:** State of CT Division of Criminal Justice
- **Law Enforcement:** New Haven Department of Police Service
- **Court:** State of CT Judicial Branch Court Support Services
- **Sexual Assault Victim Services Coalition:** CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence
- **Domestic Violence Coalition:** CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence

## **Sexual Assault Set-Aside**

According to OVW allocation requirements, no less than twenty percent of the total STOP grant funds must support projects and initiatives that meaningfully address sexual assault. The funds must also originate from two or more funding allocation categories (prosecution, law enforcement, victim services, and court). Historically, the SAA maintains at minimum approximate twenty-five percent of funding to meaningfully address sexual assault. Below are examples of existing sexual assault projects.

### *Sexual Assault Parole Victim Advocates*

STOP funding from the law enforcement category supports sexual assault Parole Victim Advocates that serve sexual assault victims that have an offender that is released to Parole. The victim advocates work alongside the Connecticut Parole Services Special Management Unit to assist victims of sex offenders that are on parole. Victim advocates provide victim input throughout the post-conviction process to help in preventing future harm.

### *Dedicated Sexual Assault Victim Advocates*

STOP funds from the victim services and discretionary category provide funding to support dedicated sexual assault victim advocate services within six-member programs statewide. The bi-lingual and bi-cultural victim advocates solely work with sexual assault victims. Comprehensive victim services include but are not limited to, 24-hour hotlines, crisis intervention, support groups, short-term counseling, and advocacy and accompaniment through the police, hospital and court process.

Moving forward the SAA will continue to provide STOP funding to support sexual assault investigation police initiatives, the expansion of services for underserved sexual assault survivors, and continue to increase sexual assault training for prosecution. Additionally, the SAA will continue to collaborate with the federally recognized sexual assault coalition to collect and update state sexual assault data. The SAA will fund the Sexual Assault Set Aside for FFY 2017-2020 from the law enforcement, victim services, and discretionary categories.

### **C. Grant Making Strategy**

Per VAWA 2013, the STOP grant program promotes a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to enhancing victim advocacy services and improving the criminal justice response to violent crimes against women. The STOP grant program encourages the development and improvement of law enforcement and prosecution strategies, policies, and procedures to increase offender accountability and prosecution. The STOP Program also supports the development of multi-disciplinary action teams, pilot projects, and innovative best practices to enhance victim's access to services.

#### **Geographic Distribution of Funds (STOP Checklist Items 1-5)**

Connecticut's governmental structure dramatically simplifies the task of distributing funds and implementing "systems-change" reform projects. Connecticut has several unique characteristics that enable agencies to successfully plan and execute projects on a statewide basis across various geographic areas:

- Connecticut has an estimated population of 3.5 million people, and the state's borders encompass a relatively small geographical area.
- There is *no county government* in Connecticut.
- Connecticut has a centralized and unified criminal justice system. The state government is responsible for funding and management of the primary criminal justice functions: prosecutors, prisons, probation, parole, community-based corrections, governmental victim services, victim compensation services, and mental health and addiction services.
- Local municipal police agencies as well as state police provide law enforcement functions statewide.
- The Judicial Branch operates a single tier, unified court system with an intermediate appellate court and a supreme court.

There are three methods of administration used to distribute funds; sole source, pass-through, and a combination of both. The following sections provide additional details about the administration process, equitable distribution of funds, and solicitation methods.

#### Priority Areas Based on Needs

As part of the application process each applicant must provide a project justification that includes the following:

- A Statement of Needs
- Details and data about the location/site of the project
- Information and data about the target population of the project
- Any relevant data or statistics to justify the need for expanded services

The SAA uses the statement of needs along with the corresponding data to determine eligibility for STOP funding. The SAA reviews all projects to identify the location and target population aligns with the states priority goals.

#### Amount of Sub-grants Based on Population or Geographic Area Served

The SAA distributes sub-grants based on the Allocation Chart located in **Appendix D**. Since Connecticut utilizes a pass-through model for victim services funding the sub-grants are divided equally between all local member programs. In the case of sole source, the sub-grants are based on the geographic area served and the need for expanded services. The SAA relies on court volume data to distribute both Prosecution and Court funds. The SAA determines the amount of both the Law Enforcement Funds and Underserved Funds based on the scope of the applicant's project which includes the project location and number of persons served.

### Equitable Distribution of funds for Rural – Non –Rural Areas

In the needs and context section of the implementation plan, there is a discussion about the unique characteristics of Connecticut’s population density, socioeconomic, and poverty data. To equitably distribute funds to both rural and non-rural areas the SAA utilizes a pass-through administration model. In the initial application, the pass-through entity is required to provide the same level of funding to each local program regardless of geographic location. The local programs have the opportunity to propose the number of victim advocates needed to provide services adequately. Based on geographic area and victims’ transportation access, local programs analyze service volume and allocate funds appropriately.

### Description of Methods to be used by Allocation Category

#### ***Sole Source Administration***

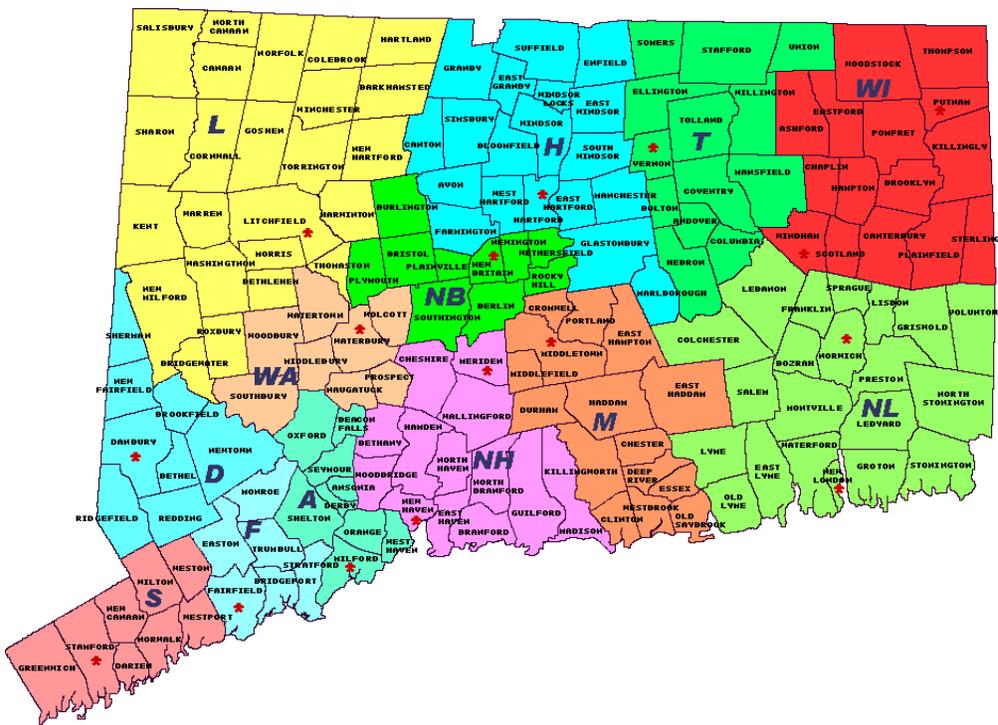
The SAA utilizes the sole source administration method to distribute STOP dollars from the prosecution and court categories. The SAA requires the primary state agency to apply for funding on behalf of their judicial court districts. Prosecution funds (25%) are granted to the Office of the Chief States Attorney Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) that can distribute the STOP prosecution funds based on case volume and areas of need.

Court funds (10%) are provided to the Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division which is responsible for the statewide pre-trial management, diversionary programming, and family court services. Since the Court STOP funding is small, the Judicial Branch can keep administrative costs low to provide the most funding to support domestic violence court programming.

*Prosecution Allocation*

The SAA provides sole source funding to the Office of the Chief States Attorney Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ), a state agency that is solely responsible for the investigation and prosecution of all criminal matters in the State of Connecticut. DCJ has thirteen State’s Attorneys within Connecticut’s thirteen judicial districts:

Ansonia / Milford Judicial District, Danbury Judicial District, Fairfield Judicial District, Hartford Judicial District, Litchfield Judicial District, Middlesex Judicial District, New Britain Judicial District, New Haven Judicial District, New London Judicial District, Stamford/ Norwalk Judicial District, Tolland Judicial District, Waterbury Judicial District, Windham Judicial District. Below is a map of Connecticut’s judicial districts. Below is a diagram of Connecticut's judicial districts.



<http://www.jud.ct.gov/directory/Maps/JD/Default.htm>

Each year DCJ evaluates the domestic violence case dockets to identify courts with the highest volume of domestic violence cases and provides the 25% STOP prosecution funding to support specialized domestic violence prosecutors throughout the state. Since STOP prosecution funds are limited, this ensures that courts with the highest volume of domestic violence cases receive additional STOP funds. Additionally, STOP prosecution training funds are geographically distributed to support DCJ's statewide training on domestic violence and sexual assault. Prosecution training funds are equitably available to all thirteen judicial districts.

#### *Court Allocation*

The SAA provides sole source funding to Connecticut's Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (JB-CSSD), a state agency responsible for all court administration and probation services. The Judicial Branch has a family intervention unit which funds diversionary programs and services for domestic violence defendant's and victims statewide. Each year JB-CSSD reviews existing case docket volumes in all judicial districts statewide to determine which location has the highest need for diversionary services.

#### ***Pass-Through Administration***

##### *Victim Services Allocation*

Connecticut has effectively utilized a pass-through administration model to disburse the (20%) victim services STOP funds. The State of Connecticut has two federally recognized statewide non-governmental victim advocacy coalitions that collaborate with the SAA. Both federally recognized statewide coalitions evenly distribute funds to their local member programs statewide. This distribution method ensures that all regions within the state regardless of their geographical size, urban, rural, and suburban receive STOP funding. The use of a pass-through administration also helps to reduce the administrative costs which provide more funding to support victim advocacy positions.

The SAA every year electronically notifies both Coalition's the total amount of victim services funding available. The Sexual Assault Coalition receives (10%) of victim services funds, and the domestic violence coalition receives (10%). The Coalition's meet with their member center Executive Directors to develop the project application and submit one cohesive application to the SAA for review. The SAA reviews the application and once approved one sub-grant is provided to each coalition.

The Coalitions' pass-through the STOP victim services funds through MOU/ Contracts with each local member program. Each local member program has the opportunity to distribute the funding based on their population needs and geographic size. The Coalition reviews all applications from the local member programs and provides feedback. All of the terms and conditions of the project are contained in MOU / Contracts that include projected service numbers.

The Coalition is responsible for oversight and management of the member programs grant activities. Each quarter the coalitions submit financial and programmatic reports that contain an update from each member program including service numbers. The following provides a list of the member programs that receive funds along with a map of their service area.

## Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence

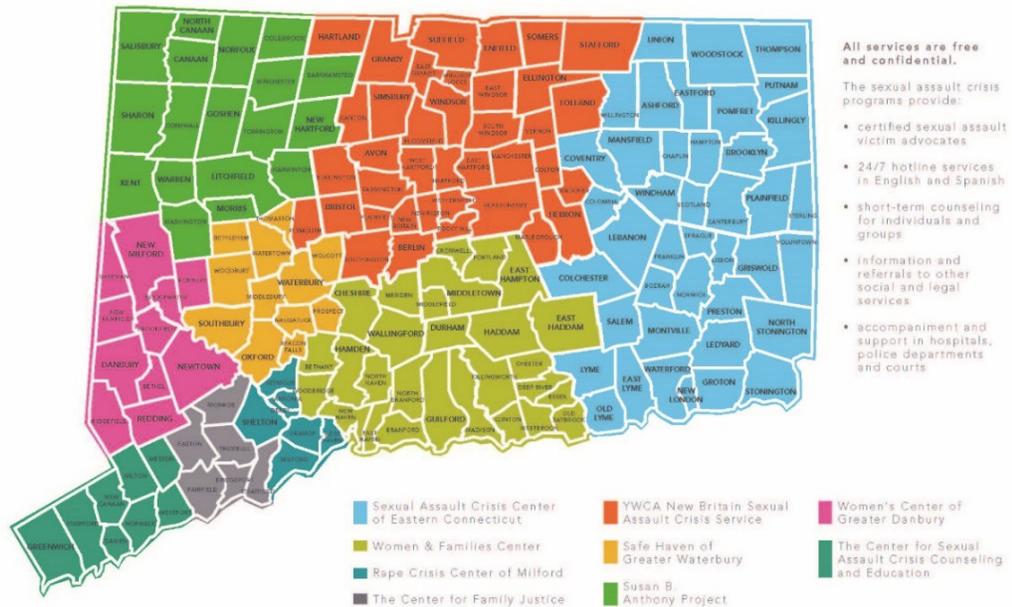
The Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence (CT Alliance) is a federally recognized statewide sexual assault services coalition comprised of 9 rape crisis centers;

- ❖ Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern Connecticut
- ❖ Women & Families Center
- ❖ Rape Crisis Center of Milford
- ❖ The Center for Family Justice
- ❖ YWCA New Britain Sexual Assault Crisis Service
- ❖ Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury
- ❖ Susan B Anthony Project
- ❖ Women’s Center of Greater Danbury
- ❖ The Center for Sexual Assault Crisis Counseling and Education



24-Hour, Toll-Free Hotlines:  
1-888-999-5545 (English) | 1-888-568-8332 (Español)

Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence is a statewide coalition of individual sexual assault crisis programs whose mission is to end sexual violence and to ensure high-quality, comprehensive, culturally competent sexual assault victim services.

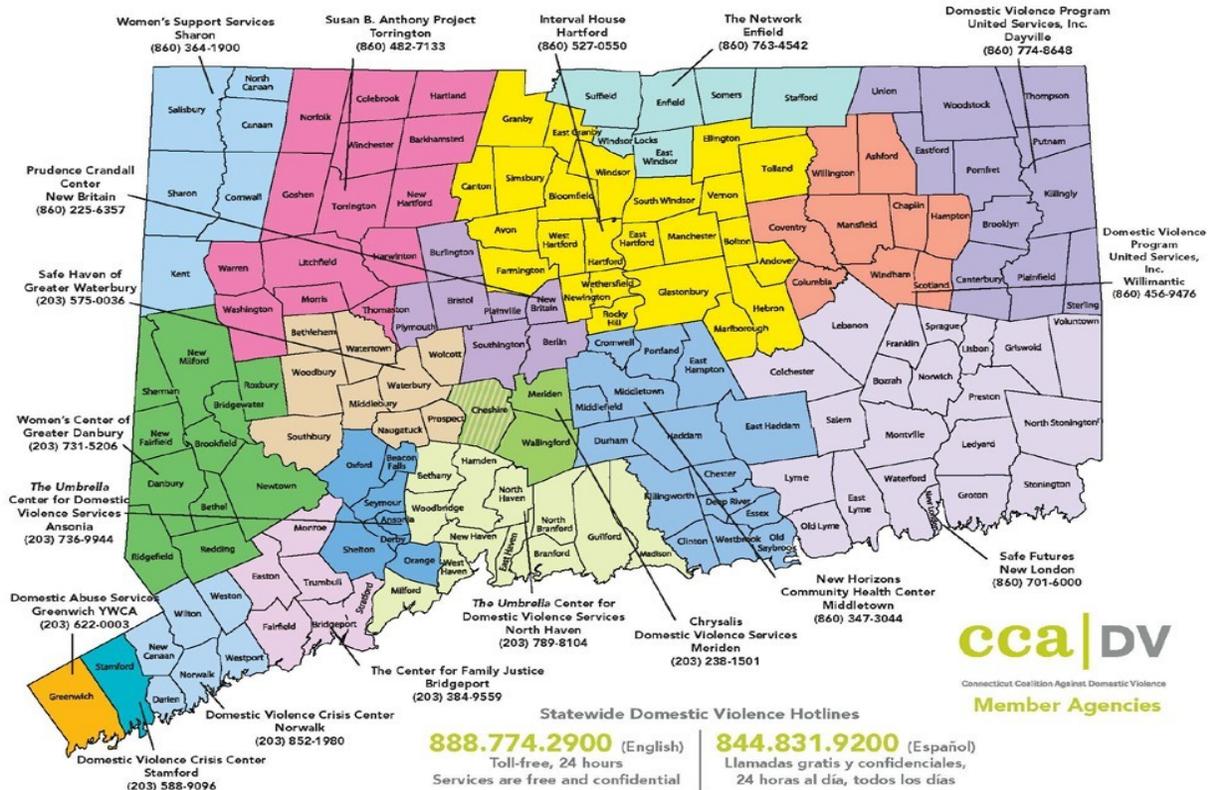


<http://endsexualviolencect.org/who-we-are/our-members/>

## Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) is a statewide domestic violence coalition comprised of 18 member program centers;

- ❖ Interval House
- ❖ The Network Enfield
- ❖ Domestic Violence Program United Services Inc. Dayville
- ❖ Domestic Violence Program United Services Inc. Willimantic
- ❖ Safe Futures New London
- ❖ New Horizons Community Health Center
- ❖ Chrysalis Domestic Violence Services
- ❖ The Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services North Haven
- ❖ Susan B. Anthony Project
- ❖ The Center for Family Justice
- ❖ Domestic Violence Crisis Center Norwalk
- ❖ Domestic Violence Crisis Center Stamford
- ❖ Domestic Abuse Services Greenwich YWCA
- ❖ The Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services Ansonia
- ❖ Women’s Center of Greater Danbury
- ❖ Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury
- ❖ Prudence Crandall Center
- ❖ Women’s Support Services



<http://www.ctcadv.org/index.php/find-help/find-a-ct-provider/search>

Effective with the distribution of the STOP 2017 grant, the SAA will comply with updated pass-through administration regulations found within *81 FR 85897*. Any subgrants utilizing a pass-through model will receive a portion of administrative funding from the subgrants respective allocation category. The SAA will collaborate with both statewide coalitions to update existing pass-through policies, procedures, and reporting requirements.

### ***Combination of Sole Source Administration and Pass-Through Administration***

For the Law Enforcement, Underserved, and Discretionary funding the SAA uses a combination method to distribute funding based on the goals and objectives of the project. The SAA requires one lead agency or entity to apply for funding and requires letters of support and MOU's from pertinent project partners. Below is an example of the combination method for each allocation:

#### *Law Enforcement*

Law Enforcement funds have been used to support both training initiatives and collaborations between both law enforcement departments and non-profit victim services providers. The following describes law enforcement administration of funds.

#### Sole Source with Collaborative Partners

- The Police Officers and Standards Training Council (POST-C) is responsible for providing standardized training to all Connecticut Police Officers. POST-C will collaborate with the federally-recognized state coalitions to develop domestic violence and sexual assault training. Funds are sole-sourced to the Coalition's to provide the STOP-funded training.

- Funds are sole-sourced to support victim advocate positions that collaborate with both local law enforcement officers and parole officers. In both instances, the primary applicant is required to submit data to support the needs for services, and provide documentation of collaboration from their project partners.

#### *Underserved and Discretionary Allocation*

Historically, the SAA has earmarked discretionary funds to expand services and projects for underserved domestic violence and sexual assault victims. The SAA utilizes a combination of both sole source and pass-through administrative methods to disburse underserved and discretionary funds.

#### Sole- Source Underserved Funding Methods

- The SAA sole sources to a non-profit underserved community provider for both sexual assault and domestic violence community awareness.
- Additionally, the SAA provides discretionary funds to support the expansion of culturally specific services within both coalition’s member programs.

#### Pass-through Underserved Funding Methods

- The coalitions develop underserved project applications and are required to partner with local underserved community providers.
- The Coalitions are required to provide the SAA with proof of collaboration by submitting MOU’s, Contracts, or Letters of Support.
- Additionally, the Coalitions are also required to reimburse underserved community providers for their assistance with the development of materials, focus groups, or training.

## Underserved Funding Sources

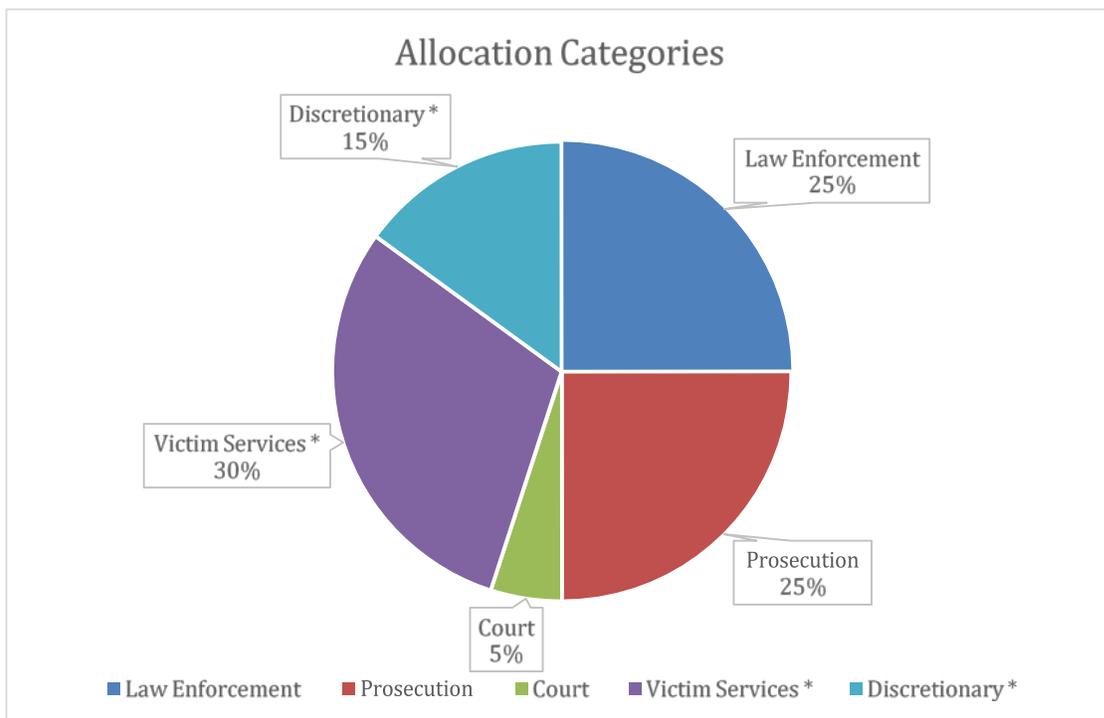
Moving forward the SAA's goal for 2017 – 2020 will be to work with an OVW Technical Assistance provider to develop a **Competitive RFP method** to distribute the following funding grant funds:

- 10% Culturally- Specific Set-Aside
- 15% Prevention Funding Set-Aside
- A portion of Discretionary Fund's

## **Sub-grant Award Process and Timeline** (STOP Checklist Items 6-10)

### State Allocation Process

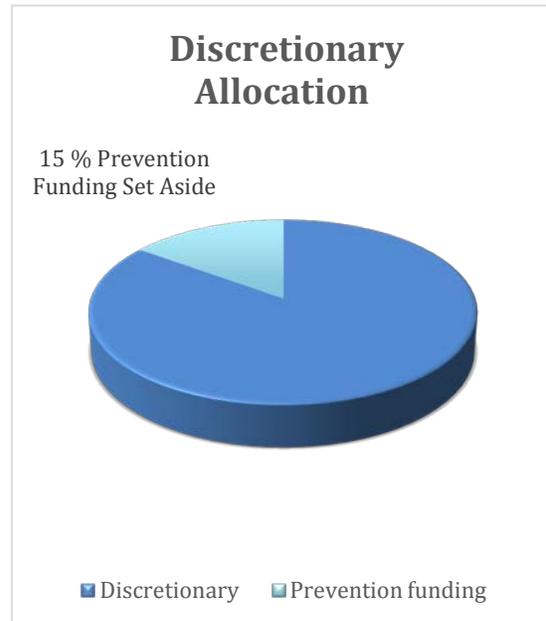
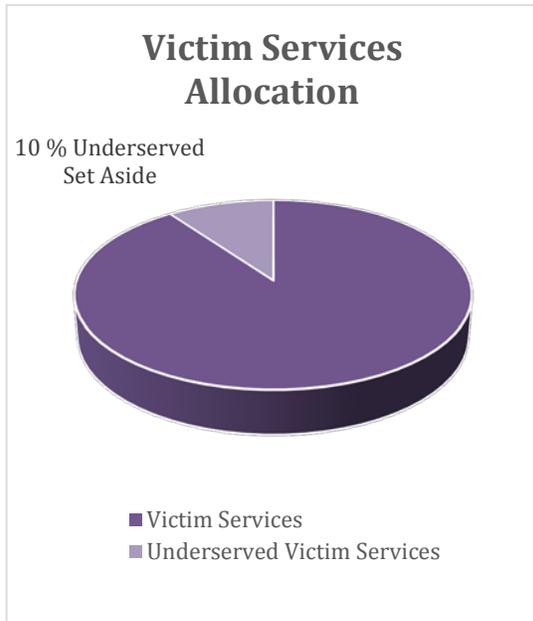
The SAA allocates funding in compliance with the statutory formula developed by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). The State of Connecticut is required to make sub-awards per the OVW federal formula depicted in the pie chart below. *Appendix D* also contains a detailed STOP State Allocation Chart.



\*The discretionary and victim services category has additional requirements

Allocation Categories	Percentage of Grant
Law Enforcement	25%
Prosecutors	25%
Courts	5%
Victim Services	20%
Underserved	10%
Discretionary	15%

OVW also requires the following additional sub-allocations within the Victim Services and Discretionary Categories:



Solicitation and Application Process

Once a notification of funding is posted the SAA requires the following application documents to STOP funding:

**STOP Application Coversheet:** The coversheet requests the following from the applicant; contact details for the project director and a financial officer assigned to the grant, EIN and duns number, financial audit information, and a project summary abstract.

**Project Narrative:** The project narrative requires applicants to provide the following: project justification, list of project partners, details on any trainings or consultants, list of project deliverables, anticipated outcomes, and a project timeline.

**Budget Detail Worksheet:** The budget detail worksheet requires applicants to provide a detailed plan for expending STOP funding including a narrative that explains the budget line items. The following budget categories are available within the worksheet: personnel, travel and training, equipment, supplies, consulting and contractual, facilities, and other.

**Documentation of Collaboration:** For discretionary, underserved, and law enforcement projects applicants must submit documentation of collaboration from law enforcement agencies, victim advocacy entities, and our underserved community providers. Documentation of collaboration includes but is not limited to letters of support, MOUs, or proof of contract.

#### *Federal Requirement for Match Funds*

Additionally, as part of the application process, the SAA collaborates with the sub-grantee to review the federal requirement for state match funds. Per the Office on Violence Against Women, The STOP Grant may support up to 75% of the costs of all projects receiving sub grants, including the cost of administering subgrants; nonfederal match sources must cover 25% of costs.

- Historically, the State of Connecticut has provided the mandatory “match” funds through a state appropriation to the Office of Policy and Management through CORE Account SID# 12251.

- OPM subgrants the state matching funds and corresponding federal funds to eligible agencies and organizations.
- However, if the State Match appropriation is reduced, OPM collaborates with sub-grantees to seek alternative methods of nonfederal match sources:
  - ❖ Agency or Organization Cash Match
  - ❖ State Agency General Funds
  - ❖ In-Kind Match

*OPM Post – Award Quarterly Progress Reporting Requirements*

After a sub-grant is issued the SAA has several monitoring requirements, sub-recipients must submit within fifteen days of the end of each quarter the following reports and documentation to the SAA:

**Programmatic Progress Reports:** the progress reports provide a status of project deliverables including accomplishments and challenges. The progress report also provides the opportunity for the subgrantee to document if any revisions in scope, project extensions, or budget revisions are necessary.

**Financial Reports:** the subgrantee is required to provide a quarterly expenditure report that contains the projects expenditures, obligations, and balances.

**Supporting Project Documentation:** subgrantees are required to submit any pertinent supporting project documentation including but not limited to personnel time and activity reports, contract invoices, and training agenda and materials.

*OPM Annual Reporting Requirements*

As part of the US DOJ OVW federal requirements, subgrantees are required to submit within forty-five days of the end of the calendar year a Federal Annual Report on the Muskie VAWA approved form. The Office of Policy and Management reviews all annual reports before their submission to Muskie VAWA.

### *Site Visits*

The SAA conducts site visits as part of the compliance monitoring procedure to review the program and financial operations for a sub-set of sub-grantees. Site Visits includes all aspects of program operations and financial management systems, including personnel, payroll, procurement, property management, and budget procedures as well as compliance with federal regulations.

### Federal Grant Award Timeline

The SAA staggers the administration of multiple STOP Federal Awards. The following Federal STOP awards fall within the FFY 2017 – 2020 implementation plan.

- 2014-WF-AX-0028
- 2015-WF-AX-0006
- 2016-WF-AX-0004
- 2017-WF-AX-0032

### Sub Grant Award Cycle

The SAA contacts the sole source and pass-through entities electronically to request applications. The SAA traditionally sub-grants funds on a single year basis. Depending on the project subgrantees are eligible to receive one year of funding based on the state fiscal year, July through June, or calendar year. For law enforcement projects, prosecutor training, and underserved pilot projects, grants are available in 3-month, 6 month, or 12-month periods depending on the scope of the project.

### Collaboration with Non-governmental Victim Service Providers

As part of the federal grant application process, the SAA forwards to the federal agency letters from state agencies describing how they collaborate with nongovernmental advocacy organizations. Also, the SAA requires state agencies to submit a “joint” letter with non-government organizations describing the collaborative process for the development of their grant application. Both the state agency and one or more non-governmental victim advocacy organization are required to co-sign and submit a joint letter with their grant application.

### Notice of Funding Opportunities

The SAA provides notice of funding opportunities via e-mail to all eligible applicants. The SAA at this time does not use a competitive bidding process. All allocated funds utilize a pass-through or sole source model. The STOP 2017-2020 Implementation Plan proposes the use of a competitive bidding process for the 5% prevention-funding category effective with the disbursement of the FFY 2017 STOP grant.

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

As part of the VAWA 2013 re-authorization, SAA’s are required to dedicate 10% of funding to culturally specific or underserved organizations. 42 U.S.C. § 13925, defines the term “culturally specific” as primarily directed toward racial and ethnic minority groups. Additionally, “culturally specific services” means community-based services that include culturally relevant and linguistically specific services and resources to culturally specific communities. Underserved also contains victims with disabilities, limited English proficiency, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

### *Underserved Planning Process*

In November of 2015, the SAA sought technical assistance from the Women of Color Network (WOCN), to assist with shaping future goals and objectives for 2017 – 2020. WOCN conducted a two-day site visit to Connecticut. Additionally, WOCN provided three-tier training to both domestic violence and sexual assault victim advocates.

### *WOCN Site Visit*

- The first day consisted of a site review of the SAA's existing underserved grant projects. WOCN reviewed past and existing projects and discussed possible goals and objectives are moving forward.
- The second day consisted of a full day training with program and project managers from the following organizations that receive underserved funding, CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence (CT Alliance), CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV), Hispanic Health Council (HHC).
- The Program and Project Manager session included applying the Three-Tier process to identify underserved populations, building community relationships, becoming a stronger ally, naming and identifying barriers to services, goal setting, and action steps.
- With the assistance of WOCN, the organizations were able to identify the populations that are un-served, underserved, or inadequately served and their findings helped to shape their new applications for underserved STOP grant funds.
- After the initial site visit, WOCN conducted two follow-up trips in June 2016 to lead the Three-Tier training model with victim Advocates from CT Alliance and CCADV.

### *Findings*

Based on a review of existing underserved projects with WOCN's assistance the SAA identified that additional focus is necessary to address the needs of the state's African American population and Asian American population.

- The SAA continues to work with STOP grant-funded project and program staff to identify potential barriers to increasing services to African American and Asian American Population.
- Both CCADV and CT Alliance continue to identify and collaborate with underserved organizations that work with both populations.
- The priority of the SAA for the 2017-2020 STOP Implementation Plan is to develop a comprehensive list of culturally specific and underserved community partners and build their capacity to bid for prevention funding competitively.

### *Meeting the Underserved Set-Aside*

In prior years, the SAA sub-granted the "10 percent culturally specific set-aside funds" to CCADV and CT Alliance to create training, assessment and outreach initiatives in collaboration with culturally specific and underserved organizations and community providers.

With the increased Hispanic and Latino population over the last two years, the SAA has sub-granted the (10%) set-aside to the Hispanic Health Council (HHC), a culturally specific community-based organization. HHC leverages their existing Hispanic/Latino community connections to expand domestic violence and sexual assault training to other culturally specific providers. Additionally, HHC provides victim advocacy referrals directly to local domestic violence and sexual assault program centers.

### *Connecticut's New Underserved Goal*

Effective with the FFY 2017 STOP funding the SAA will competitively bid the **“5% prevention STOP funds”** to community organizations representing underserved and culturally specific populations as defined in VAWA 2103. The SAA will also allocate the **“10% culturally-specific STOP funds set-aside”** to continue support for the direct capacity building of culturally specific community providers. Building capacity includes but is not limited to; access to domestic violence and sexual assault training for staff, development of new pathways for referrals, access to training for grant writing and federal grant management, and opportunities for collaboration on STOP funded pilot project.

### *Underserved Funding Sources*

The SAA will use funds from the following STOP categories to support future underserved efforts:

- 5% Prevention Funds
- 10 % culturally-specific set-aside
- A portion of Discretionary funds

### *Future Methods*

The SAA will work with the new *STOP Sub-Grantee Work Group* to develop the competitive bidding process for FFY 2017 underserved prevention funding. The SAA will complete the following:

- Create an inventory of all underserved community providers that have collaborated with the Coalitions on STOP-funded projects.
- Meet with the following Commission on Equity and Opportunity to identify new underserved community partners.

- Meet with fellow **VOCA** and **FPSVA** program managers to review their existing underserved partners.
- Utilize administrative funds to host opportunities for capacity building events.
- Host roundtables with underserved community providers to identify any challenges and barriers to managing Federal funds.
- Collaborate with OVW sponsored Technical assistance providers to draft **Request for Proposal** and new application documents.

#### *Underserved Notification of Funds*

The SAA will use the following methods to notify underserved community providers:

- Develop a comprehensive list serve and send an announcement e-mail
- Post the RFP and application information on [OPM CJPPD's Website](#)
- Post the RFP on the State of Connecticut's [Contracting and Solicitation Portal](#)
- Provide VOCA and FPSVA program managers with the RFP to distribute to their underserved program partners

