

**Implementation Plan FFY 2014 - 2016
STOP Violence Against Women Grant Program
2014-X0940-CT-WF**

**April 21, 2014
DRAFT**

**State of Connecticut
Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division
Office of Policy and Management
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Hartford, CT 06106**

We are requesting public comment on the Implementation Plan.

Please email comments to: OPM.VAWPlan2014@ct.gov

Please submit comments by May 9, 2014

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Connecticut's FFY 2014 – 2016 STOP Grant Implementation Plan identifies goals, objectives and priorities for federal funds awarded to the State from the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014, 2015 and 2016 STOP Formula Grant Program.

The Implementation Plan is active from inception of the FFY 2014 federal award, October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2017. The FFY 2014 (estimated) federal STOP Grant award is \$1.7 million.

Introduction

[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 plan must be approved by the [U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women](#) in order for the state to allocate funds to specific projects and sub-recipients.

STOP VAW Grant

Services for victims
Training for CJ system
Offender accountability
Police and Prosecution

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 develop and strengthen victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women.

The **State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM)** serves as the primary recipient for the federal funds and the **State Administrative Agency (SAA)** responsible for management, allocation and oversight of the federal funds at the sub-recipient level. The federal program 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.

The **Implementation Plan** is a tool to support coordination and integration of law enforcement, prosecution, courts, probation, parole and victim services to stop sexual assault and domestic violence crime. Distribution of funds at the sub-recipient level is based on goals, objectives and priorities identified in the Implementation Plan.

Since the inception of the federal STOP Grant program in 1996, Connecticut put into place one of the nation's most comprehensive and coordinated criminal justice system responses to violence against women. The STOP Grant has enabled criminal justice agencies and victim advocacy organizations to create nationally recognized models of innovative policies and practices to ensure offender accountability and victim safety. Recognizing the value and impact of the STOP grant, government leaders and policy-makers appropriated state funds to sustain and expand STOP grant projects.

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Victim advocates, courts and criminal justice agencies collaborated via the STOP Grant Planning committee to conceptualize the core components of “specialized domestic violence dockets”. The specialized docket concept evolved into dedicated teams of prosecutors, advocates and court personnel to manage domestic violence cases through a “victim centered” approach. The specialized docket practices and procedures have been replicated across the country.

STOP Grant funds supported development of a “best practice” model for monitoring sex offenders who are in the custody of probation and parole agencies. The Intensive Sex Offender Management Unit model provides a “team management” approach that includes an advocate to represent victim’s interests as well as a “law enforcement” function to ensure offender accountability.

Connecticut's STOP grant program provided resources that enabled nonprofit victim advocacy organizations to take a leadership role in developing policies and practices for law enforcement response to domestic violence and sexual assault. With support of STOP funds, two statewide coalitions, CCADV and CONNSACS, collaborated with state and local police on major initiatives to revise police training curriculum and create modern web-based training resources for criminal justice professionals and victim advocates. The collaborative workgroups also improved the process and procedure for collecting sexual assault forensic evidence to support successful prosecution of offenders.

STOP grant program played a critical role in launching the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) program. The SAFE program created a centralized dispatch system to ensure that certified forensic examiners were readily available to respond to victims at area hospitals. The STOP grant supported the project during the initial planning and development phase and provided resources for training, forensic technology and personnel to staff the project. Within two years of operation, state funds were appropriated to sustain the SAFE project.

Priorities for FFY 2014 – FFY 2016 STOP Grant

Although Connecticut’s STOP grant program established important policies and practices to strengthen the criminal justice system response to violent crime, the program must be updated to address new federal requirements and develop initiatives based on the needs of culturally specific populations and underserved communities.

Going forward, the FFY 2014 - 2016 Implementation Plan **maintains existing goals for core** criminal justice functions and non-governmental victim advocacy services and introduces **new goals** to address the federal priority areas identified in VAWA 2013:

<http://www.ovv.usdoj.gov/docs/stop-2014-solicitation.pdf>

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Priorities:

- 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 special emphasis on those ethnic and racial groups experiencing significant population growth in Connecticut per US Census - African American, Hispanic and Asian communities. In the upcoming three years, new community-based organizations will join the planning process and access the federal funds as “grant recipients” and “pass-through sub-recipients”.

- 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.

- 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 as well as increase outreach and support services to victims in high-risk situations.

Guiding Principles for STOP Grant Program

In accordance with 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 **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. Full and detailed description of the federally defined purpose areas may be viewed at the following link: <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/docs/stop-2014-solicitation.pdf>

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Prevention Programming

Federal program regulations strictly limit the scope and extent to which the STOP grant may address “**prevention**” strategies. The STOP Grant funds must address improvements in the **criminal justice system response** to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. However, **starting with the FFY 2014 STOP award**, federal law allows the state to allocate **no more than 5% of the formula grant award** for “developing, enhancing, or strengthening prevention and educational programming”.

Federal Allocation Process

The U.S. Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) allocates the STOP Grant appropriations according to a statutory formula. Funds are distributed to the states according to the following formula: a base award of \$600,000 is made to each state, and remaining funds [are awarded] to each state based on population as per US Census Data (42 U.S.C. section 3796gg–1(b)(5) and (6)).

The states, then sub-grant the funds to eligible agencies and programs, including state offices and agencies, state and local courts, units of local government, tribal governments, and nonprofit, nongovernmental victim services programs. Each state determines the process by which it awards the sub-grants.

Federal Requirement for Match Funds

The STOP Grant may support up to 75% of the costs of all projects receiving sub-grants, including the cost of administering sub- grants; **nonfederal match sources must cover 25% of costs. Connecticut provides the mandatory “match” funds through a state appropriation to the Office of Policy and Management through CORE Account SID# 12251.** OPM sub-grants the state matching funds and corresponding federal funds to eligible agencies and organizations in accordance with the federally mandated allocation categories listed below.

Mandatory Allocation Categories

The State is required to make awards in accordance with the following federal formula:

- At least 25% must be allocated for **law enforcement**;
- At least 25% must be allocated for **prosecutors**;
- At least 30% must be allocated for **victim services**. Of this amount, 10% must be distributed to **culturally specific** community-based organizations; and
- At least 5% must be allocated to State and local **courts** (including juvenile courts).

Connecticut’s STOP Grant allocations comply with the statutory allocation percentages for law enforcement, prosecution, victim services, courts, and discretionary programs. (The State Administrative Agency (SAA) retains 10% of fed award for “grant administration”.)

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Mandatory 20% Allocation to Address Sexual Assault

According to federal law, not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of VAWA 2013, **no less than 20% of the total award** amount to a State must be allocated for programs or projects that **meaningfully address sexual assault**. The 20% must be taken from 2 or more funding allocation categories (i.e., law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and victim services).

Approximately 25% of Connecticut’s STOP grant funds from previous federal awards were allocated to services for sexual assault victims, multi-disciplinary law enforcement training, sex offender management units and services for underserved populations.

Going forward, **more than 25% of Connecticut’s FFY 2014 – 2016 funds shall allocate** to sexual assault response projects from “Victim Service”, “Law Enforcement” and “Discretionary” categories.

Culturally Specific Community-based Organizations

Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA 2013) requires the state to allocate at least 10 percent of the “Victim Service” funds for culturally specific community-based organizations. According to Violence Against Women Act, 42 U.S.C. § 13925, **“culturally specific” means “racial and ethnic minorities” as defined in section 1707(g) of the Public Health Service Act**, specifically: “American Indians (including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts); Asian Americans; Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders; Blacks; and Hispanics.”

Organizations Representing Underserved Populations

VAWA 2013 requires that the state’s STOP Grant Plan recognize and meaningfully respond to the needs of underserved populations, which may include Deaf, LGBT, and other victim populations. **“Underserved populations”** is defined as “populations who face barriers in accessing and using victim services, and includes populations underserved because of geographic location, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, underserved racial and ethnic populations, populations underserved because of special needs (such as language barriers, disabilities, alienage status, or age), and any other population determined to be underserved by the Attorney General.” <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/docs/consolidated-stop-faqs-bla.pdf>

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Planning Process

The **State Administrative Agency (SAA)** developed the **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 groups:

- **September 2013:** The **STOP VAW Grant Advisory Committee, a multi-disciplinary planning group**, reviewed the past use of funds and identified priorities and objectives for future funds. The Advisory committee is comprised of representatives from the Judicial Branch, Office of the Chief States Attorney, Police Training Academy, Police Chief Association, Department of Correction, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV), Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS), and community-based service providers.

- **September 2013 – April 2014:** The statewide coalitions, CCADV and CONNSACS coordinated multiple assessment and planning activities in collaboration with non-traditional organizations representative of culturally specific and underserved communities. Planning and assessment efforts included consultations with federal “technical assistance providers”, Women of Color Network (WOCN), Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW), Arte Sana and other nationally known consultants with expertise in underserved community outreach. The TA providers helped CCADV, CONNSACS and underserved community organizations identify best practices for specific communities, barriers to services, and critical areas of need. In addition, CCADV and CONNSACS conducted series of focus groups and regional meetings with non-traditional organizations and underserved grass-roots type organizations to find new and culturally competent ways to reach community members. CONNSACS and CCADV’s collaborative planning efforts included the following underserved communities: Latino, Asian, Portuguese, Polish, Arabic, non-English speaking immigrants, limited English proficiency (LEP) populations, persons with disabilities, persons with mental health issues, persons with hearing disabilities, LGBT, and elderly persons. Additionally, CONNSACS and CCADV collaborated with state and local criminal justice agencies on a regular basis and actively participated in criminal justice policy and planning forums on law enforcement and court response to domestic violence and sexual assault.

- **November 2013:** The SAA conducted “listening” sessions to gather insights and perspectives on the needs of underserved populations and culturally specific communities. Representatives from culturally specific and underserved communities were provided an opportunity to voice their concerns and discuss the challenges confronting their communities as well as barriers to engaging communities in outreach efforts. Participants emphasized the need to pursue non-traditional strategies for “outreach, support and advocacy” given that in many communities, such as non-English speaking immigrants, there is significant apprehension and reluctance to approach government agencies and other organizations unfamiliar to the community. The

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community members also talked about the need to engage community leaders and other trusted community members. The participants recommended strategies and approaches for reaching teens, elderly, persons with mental and physical disabilities and other underserved populations. Listening session participants included representatives from: Asian Family Services, Hispanic Health Council, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Deaf and Hard of Hearing service provider, MILA project representing Arabic and Persian community, local social service providers, community-based victim advocacy organizations, service providers for elderly, campus police department, offender intervention specialists and survivors.

- **July 2013 – March 2014:** The planning process integrated work products and findings generated from governmental work groups and committees which included non-governmental victim advocates:
 - **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.
 - **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.
 - **SAFE Advisory Committee:** a multi-disciplinary committee of non-governmental advocacy organization, medical providers, and law enforcement agencies to develop a sexual assault forensic examiner pilot project.
 - **Commission on Standardization of Collection of Evidence in Sexual Assault Investigations:** Composed of representatives from prosecutors, courts, police, victim advocates and health care facilities. The Commission established a model for health care system response to sexual assault and standard protocol for collection of evidence as well as outlined training components for agencies and providers involved in the response.

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Census Data

Given that most of Connecticut's STOP funds are allocated to state-wide projects across various geographic areas, U.S.D.O.J. has allowed Connecticut, in prior program years, to use the U.S. Census Data as documentation of the population served. The [University of Connecticut State Data Center](#) developed the following analysis of Connecticut's Census Data from 1990-2010: **Connecticut is not balanced in terms of socioeconomics and demographics.** According to a methodology developed by the State Data Center, "the state has too much concentrated disparity to be viewed in average terms." (pg. 30) Individual towns can be categorized into one of five distinct and separate groups. Group membership was determined by combining towns with similar population density. The groups are:

- **Wealthy Connecticut** (5.4% of population) has exceptionally high income, low poverty, and moderate population density.
- **Suburban Connecticut** (26.3% of population) has above average income, low poverty, and moderate population density.
- **Rural Connecticut** (13.4% of population) has average income, below average poverty, and the lowest population density.
- The **Urban Periphery of Connecticut** (36% of population) has below average income, average poverty, and high population density.
- The **Urban Core of Connecticut** (18.8% of population, but 48% of population living in poverty) has the lowest income, highest poverty, and the highest population density.

Demographic Data on Culturally-Specific Populations

With regard to "race" demographics, US Census 2010, indicates that racial and ethnic diversity is increasing in Connecticut. From 2000-2010:

- the state's Asian population increased by 61.1%;
- those reporting two or more races by 59.1%;
- the Hispanic or Latino population by 48.8%;
- and Black or African American population by 11.8%.
- In contrast, the White, non-Hispanic population decreased by 3.8%.

In 2010, the Hispanic or Latino population comprised 13.5% of the Connecticut population, Black or African Americans, 9.5%; Asians, 3.8%, those reporting two or more races, 1.5%; American Indian or Alaska Natives, 0.2%; and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders, 0.03%. White, non-Hispanics comprised 71.4% of the Connecticut population.

Forecasts indicate that Connecticut's population will change significantly within the next 15 years.

- The state's white population will continue to shrink while the black population will grow and the number of Hispanics and Asians will nearly double.
- The Hispanic population is expected to account for the largest increase in Connecticut's child, youth and teen population.
- Currently, approx. 37% of the Connecticut's Hispanic population is less than 19 years of age; within the next 5 years, the age group will increase to 41%.

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Goals and Objectives

Goals and objectives correspond to one or more of the federal STOP Grant Purpose Areas:

<http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/docs/stop-2014-solicitation.pdf>

The FFY 2014- 2016 Implementation Plan **maintains “core service” goals**, which were established under prior federal awards, while incorporating new goals to address federal priority areas and mandatory allocations. The **“new goals”** provide opportunities for organizations representing culturally-specific and underserved communities to access the federal funds and participate in STOP Grant planning process.

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 STOP grant funding for existing domestic violence prosecutor positions in specialized units focused on “victim centered prosecution”; promote a team based approach to handling domestic violence cases and implement practice and procedures that intensify oversight and monitoring of offenders.
2. **Objective:** Train units of prosecutors specifically targeting violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and domestic violence.

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.

3. **Objective:** Continue STOP grant funding for two nationally recognized models for court-ordered batterer intervention programs EVOLVE and EXPLORE; the models provide the courts with a comprehensive range of graduated sanctions to intervene in criminal behavior and protect victims.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT CATEGORY

Goal: Strengthen efforts of police, probation and parole agencies to monitor and control perpetrators of sexual violence.

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.

4. **Objective:** Support victim advocate positions in Parole Sex Offender Management Units to ensure victim's safety and reduce the risk of repeat victimization. The Victim Advocates represent the interests of victims and their families as well as participate in cross training with offender service providers.
5. **Objective:** Train law enforcement officers, probation and parole on victim-centered approach to offender monitoring and oversight.
6. **Objective:** Convene multi-disciplinary workgroups to revise law enforcement policies and procedures for response to domestic violence and sexual assault incidents. Develop collaborative training sessions for police, advocates, prosecutors and other criminal justice partners on law enforcement protocol and procedure. Revise and update existing curriculum and develop web-based training tools and resources for police as well as for advocates and victims.
7. **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 DV and SA.

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

8. **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.
9. **Objective:** Provide training and technical assistance to police departments to improve evidence collection, drafting reports, investigation and response to sexual assault incidents.

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Initiatives to Reduce Domestic Violence Homicides

CCADV provided leadership for three major multi-disciplinary initiatives to reduce and prevent domestic violence homicide:

- ◆ [Connecticut Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee](#)
- ◆ [The Lethality Assessment Program \(LAP\)](#)
- ◆ [Offender Re-Entry and Victim Safety](#)

According to the **Connecticut Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee**, Connecticut has averaged fifteen (15) deaths resulting from intimate partner violence each year over the past decade. **Recent data indicates a decline in intimate partner homicides** in Connecticut within the past three years:

- ◆ CY 2011 14 Intimate Partner Homicides
- ◆ CY 2012 12 Intimate Partner Homicides
- ◆ CY 2013 9 Intimate Partner Homicides

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 so that future deaths may be prevented. The Committee includes key 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.

The Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) is an innovative partnership with law enforcement to implement nationally recognized risk assessment strategies to better serve domestic violence victims in the greatest danger. The program, which is a result of collaboration between CCADV and the Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC), was piloted through 8 CCADV member domestic violence service agencies with 14 municipal law enforcement agencies. As of January 2014 the program has been expanded to include 12 CCADV member programs and 29 police departments. This program is a two-pronged intervention process that makes use of a specialized lethality assessment instrument and an accompanying protocol. Trained police on the scene of a domestic violence call assess a victim's risk for serious injury or death and can then immediately link those at greatest risk to their local domestic violence advocate for support and safety information.

CCADV established **Offender Re-entry and Victim Safety** program to connect with survivors whose offenders are recently released from prison; which may pose as a high-risk situation for some survivors. While many victims may have contact with the courts or police before a fatal incident, most victims who died in situations of intimate partner violence had not reached out to community services. The program assists survivors through partnerships of services across the criminal justice, corrections, and victim advocacy systems.

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Goal: Reduce risk of domestic violence related homicide.

10. **Objective:** Improve criminal justice professionals' skills in identifying and assessing lethality in high-risk offenders. Promote state-wide use of evidence-based lethality assessment tools developed and implemented through collaborative workgroups involving police, prosecutors and advocates.
11. **Objective:** Expand outreach to victims in high-risk situations and increase awareness of available services for victims and their families.
12. **Objective:** Improve advocacy and crisis intervention services for victims in circumstances involving offenders recently released from prison, probation and parole.
13. **Objective:** Improve policies, procedures and protocols for monitoring and supervising high-risk offenders.
14. **Objective:** Provide training and technical assistance for criminal justice agencies and victim service providers and partner organizations.

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VICTIM SERVICES CATEGORY

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

15. **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; develop training initiatives for health providers, social service practitioners, criminal justice professionals and other community partners.
16. **Objective:** Provide services to mothers and children residing in domestic violence shelters to ensure access to crisis counseling and assistance in navigating the legal system, safety planning and other services to address parenting issues and trauma.
17. **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 so as to improve policies, practices and procedures for law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts, victim services and other agencies.
18. **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; assist victims access restraining orders and protection orders and serve as liaisons to police departments and present safety concerns to police. Provide civil court advocates to help victims seeking civil court remedies such as restraining orders as well as referrals to community-based services.

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

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

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CULTURALLY SPECIFIC POPULATIONS AND UNDER-SERVED POPULATIONS

The FFY 2014 - 2016 Implementation Plan sets out additional goals addressing the needs of culturally-specific and underserved populations while maintaining existing collaboration-based goals for traditional advocacy organizations and other community organizations. The **“new goals”** will enable organizations representing culturally specific and underserved communities to access the federal funds and participate in STOP Grant planning process.

In prior years, the “10 percent culturally specific set-aside funds” were sub-granted to CCADV and CONNSAC to create training, assessment and outreach initiatives in collaboration with culturally specific and underserved organizations. Many “grass-roots” type of organizations lacked capacity and infrastructure to develop specialized DV and SA service components and unable to assume administrative burden of federal grant management. Non-traditional grass-roots organizations are limited as far the type of services they may deliver. Connecticut confidentiality statutes apply to only those organizations that are members of CCADV and CONNSAC. Non-member organizations may provide services other than direct victim services.

Given these challenges, future STOP Grants will continue to assist CCADV and CONNSACS in building partnerships with non-traditional and non-member organizations around “direct victim services”. The **“10% set-aside funds”** will be sub-granted to **culturally -specific organizations** to support activities (assessment, outreach, training, awareness, education, policy development, etc.) where there are no confidentiality issues.

10% Set-Aside Funds for Culturally- Specific Populations

Effective with the FFY 2014 award, the “10% set-aside” funds are allocated to organizations representing three ethnic/racial groups with the most significant population growth in Connecticut per US Census:

- ◆ African- American
- ◆ Hispanic / Latino
- ◆ Asian

Grants shall be awarded via a competitive process in Calendar Year 2015 to create culturally specific outreach, training and capacity building projects.

“Prevention” Funds for Underserved and Culturally Specific Populations

Starting with the FFY 2014 STOP award, federal law allows the state to allocate no more than 5% of the formula grant award for “prevention” programs. The provision offers an opportunity for additional organizations to participate in the STOP grant program.

- ◆ A portion of “Discretionary Category of funds” shall be sub-granted to eligible organizations representing **underserved and culturally-specific populations** as defined in VAWA 2013. Grants shall be awarded via a competitive process in Calendar Year 2015 to create outreach, training and capacity building projects.
- ◆ Examples of underserved populations involved in existing collaborations with CONNSAC and CCADV: deaf/hard of hearing community, non-English speaking immigrants, limited English proficiency (LEP) populations, elderly persons, LGBT community, persons with disabilities, persons with mental illness and other populations.

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Culturally Specific and Underserved Populations Goals

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

Goal: Develop the capacity of community-based organizations representing culturally specific and underserved populations to provide outreach and intervention initiatives.

22. **Objective:** Recruit and train community leaders, volunteers and community members regarding domestic violence and sexual assault victimology, victim rights, services and interventions.
23. **Objective:** Provide Bilingual Bicultural Services for sexual assault victims and domestic violence victims at access points familiar to the community.
24. **Objective:** Develop linguistically appropriate and culturally competent intervention and outreach models for culturally specific and underserved populations to help victims re-build their lives and protect against repeat victimization.
25. **Objective:** Provide leadership training and technical assistance to underserved organizations to build project management expertise and community-organization skills and other skills needed to plan, assess and implement DV and SA initiatives.
26. **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.

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Geographic Distribution of Funds

Connecticut has several unique characteristics that enable agencies to successfully plan and implement projects on a statewide basis across various geographic areas:

- There is ***no county government*** in Connecticut.
- Connecticut has a very centralized, unified criminal justice system.
- **State government is responsible for funding and management of the major functions of Connecticut's criminal justice system** (prosecutors, prisons, probation, parole, community-based corrections, governmental victim services, victim compensation services, mental health and addiction services and other related functions). Police functions are provided by local government police agencies as well as state police.
- The Judicial Branch operates a single tier, unified court system with an intermediate appellate court and a supreme court.
- Connecticut has an estimated population of 3.4 million people and the state's borders encompass a relatively small geographical area.

There is no overlap of systems or functions that may arise with county government or a multi-tier court system. Connecticut's governmental structure greatly simplifies the task of distributing funds and implementing "systems-change" types of projects.

Given that Connecticut's criminal justice system is state-operated through centralized systems, the STOP Grant funded interventions and remedies are addressed and delivered on a statewide basis across multiple geographic areas:

- Currently, STOP funds are allocated to two statewide non-governmental victim service organizations to support DV and SA victim advocacy services and training in **all regions** of the state.
- Sexual assault crisis services and domestic violence community based services are available **statewide** in urban, sub-urban and rural areas. The domestic violence and sexual assault service providers with wider service areas are based in urban areas or urban periphery towns and may provide services to urban, sub-urban and rural communities.
- Law enforcement agencies from all geographic areas of the state---rural, suburban and urban- have opportunities to participate in STOP funded training for police officers.
- The STOP funded domestic violence prosecutors handle cases from urban areas and surrounding suburban and rural areas.

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Coordination with Funding Under Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and Public Health Service Act (PHSA)

VOCA Funds

The Connecticut Coalition against Domestic Violence (CCADV) received approx. \$2.2 million VOCA funds in past state fiscal year. Most of the VOCA funds (\$2 million) are passed-through to local level direct victim's services providers throughout the state. The "pass-through" funds support victim advocate positions in courts to help victims navigate the court process. The VOCA funds are supplemented by \$113,281.00 STOP federal funds to provide specialized DV victim advocates in courts with higher DV caseloads; the advocates provide oversight and supervision of services and serve as liaison to police departments.

The Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSAC) received approx. \$1 million in VOCA funds in past state fiscal year; 90% of the funds were passed-through to member centers at the local level. 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 support advocates to provide specialized services working with campus communities and LGBT communities. CONNSAC's VOCA funds are supplemented and enhanced with \$162,000 STOP federal funds for direct victim services at local level through Bi-lingual / Bi-cultural advocates.

FVPSA

The Connecticut Coalition against Domestic Violence (CCADV) received approx. \$216,474 FVPSA funds to support communications, public awareness, training, prevention, technical assistance and legal advocacy.

PHSA

The Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSAC) received approx. \$79,900 in PHSA funds in past state fiscal year. These funds are retained by CONNSACS in order to provide member programs and community partners with education, training and technical assistance, and awareness and victim centered response programs. These PHSA funds are the only funds that may be used towards prevention activities aside from RPE dollars.

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Coordination with STOP Funds

STOP grant funds enhance and expand CCADV's policy development initiatives, training projects and outreach campaign in coordination with other federal funding sources.

CCADV retains a portion of STOP grant funds for personnel to manage projects focused on communications, policy, technical assistance and legal policy as well as overhead costs including data systems to track outcomes.

The STOP grant serves as the sole source of funding for collaborative law enforcement related initiatives, cultural diversity initiatives and accessibility projects. The STOP grant funds are coordinated with GTEA funds to develop specialized risk-reduction services for victims involved with offenders recently released from prison. VOCA and FVPSA do not financially support law enforcement projects.

STOP Funds allows CONNSACS to provide not only additional advocacy and services to additional victims of sexual violence but also to organize projects to improve systems response to victims. STOP dollars are used to fund CONNSACS specialized victim advocates within Connecticut's Parole Sex Offender Management Units (SMU). STOP Law Enforcement monies are also used by CONNSACS in developing trainings and training materials to improve the effectiveness of individuals conducting sexual assault investigations. The STOP Underserved dollars are used at the state level to build deeper collaborations within the Latin@ community in order improve services to those individuals including the Latina Advisory Committee, Spanish language materials, and workshops for effective collaboration between Latinas and advocates.

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Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Certification Requirement

A State that is not in full compliance with the USDOJ National Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape ([the national PREA standards](#)), 28 C.F.R. Part 115, will be subject to a 4.75% reallocation or reduction in STOP funds .

- ◆ **If Connecticut is not in full compliance with PREA standards, the “4.75% PREA Penalty funds” shall address deficiencies in compliance with the PREA victim services standards and training for DOC and law enforcement personnel.**
- ◆ The penalty funds shall be taken from from the FFY2014 STOP Grant victim service, law enforcement and discretionary categories.
- ◆ If the 4.75% penalty is repealed, then the funds will re- allocate to other “categories” (law enforcement, courts, prosecution, victim services and discretionary) in accordance with the federal allocation formula.

Sub-grant Award Process and Timeline

Given the governmental structure described in previous paragraph, most of the STOP Grant funds are “sole-sourced” to state agencies and two state-wide nongovernmental victim services organizations which distribute a portion of the funds at the local level.

Prosecution: STOP grant funds are sole sourced to the Office of the Chief States Attorney, the state agency responsible for administration of funding for all of the State’s prosecutors. **(There are no county or local government prosecutors in Connecticut.)**

Courts: STOP grant funds are sole-sourced to the Judicial Branch, which administers funding for all criminal courts. The Judicial Branch funds and manages alternative sanctions programs and court-ordered batterer intervention programs. The Judicial Branch is the administrative agency for the probation function of the criminal justice system. **(There are no county or local government courts in Connecticut.) Funds are allocated to the Judicial Branch for a batterer intervention program.**

Law Enforcement: STOP grant funds are allocated to POST, a state agency responsible for statewide training for state and municipal police officers. POST waives its funds to CCADV and CONNSACS to administer on their behalf for multi-disciplinary training projects. Funds are allocated to CONNSACS for the victim advocate component of the statewide Parole Sex Offender Management Units. Funds are allocated to CCADV for court-based advocates to serve as liaisons to police departments and initiatives to reduce domestic violence homicides.

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Victim Services: Currently, STOP grant funds are sole sourced to CCADV and CONNSAC to support state-wide projects and services at the local level.

Discretionary: Currently the “discretionary” funds support law enforcement and victim services projects through grants to state agencies and victim service providers.

Matching funds: Match funds are state appropriated. OPM distributes state matching funds to all sub-grantees including the non-governmental victim services sub-grantees in an effort to increase the total amount of funding available for enhancing Connecticut’s response to violence against women.

Currently, the State Match appropriation is sufficient to provide match for existing grant projects. However, in the event that the appropriation is reduced, OPM will seek a waiver from USDOJ to allow non-matching of STOP grant projects.

Award Cycle: Most of the current sub-grants are awarded for a single year with a project period consistent with either the state fiscal year, July through June, or calendar year. It is anticipated that this contracting cycle will continue except in circumstances requiring changes in contracting procedures or reduction of state matching funds.

Monitoring and Assessment

USDOJ OCFO reviewed OPM’s monitoring and assessment procedures (2012-2013) and found the procedures to meet or exceed federal standards. Sub-grant projects are monitored in accordance with the Office of Policy and Management’s standard compliance monitoring procedures for federal criminal justice sub-grants. The overall purpose of OPM’s grant monitoring is to determine whether the sub-grantees are effectively managing grant funds and provide guidance and assistance to the sub-grantee. The monitoring process is ongoing, implemented during all phases of the sub-grantee’s activities, and includes programmatic as well as financial management oversight.

Quarterly Sub-grantee Financial and Progress Reports: As part of the monitoring requirements, sub-recipients must submit:

- Programmatic progress reports on a quarterly basis describing the status of their project, challenges, barriers, achievements, changes in scope of project and update on budget items.
- Financial reports on a quarterly basis to identify expenditures, obligations and balances.

OPM conducts a site visit as part of the compliance monitoring procedure to review the program and financial operations for a sub-set of sub-grantees. This 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.

STOP VAW Formula Grant Allocation Plan FFY 2014 through FFY 2016

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10% of the federal award is allocated to SAA for administrative costs.

90% of the federal award is allocated to "categories" based on a mandatory formula

CATEGORY	FFY2014 FUNDS		FFY2015 FUNDS		FFY2016 FUNDS	
	Domestic Violence	Sexual Assault	Domestic Violence	Sexual Assault	Domestic Violence	Sexual Assault
Prosecution (25%) Specialized DV prosecutors Training for prosecutors	90%	10%	90%	10%	90%	10%
Court (5%) Court-ordered batterer intervention program	100%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
Law Enforcement (25%) Apprehend, monitor, supervise and manage sex offenders Apprehend, monitor, supervise and manage DV offenders Victim advocate liaisons to law enforcement agencies Law enforcement response and investigation DV and SA cases Develop and/or expand risk assessment tool, policies and procedures Multi-disciplinary training on law enforcement policies and procedures	65%	35%	60%	40%	55%	45%
Victim Services (30%) Core Services: Outreach, advocacy, crisis intervention, counseling, court-based and community-based services; shelter-based services; policy development; partnership development, project planning, management and administration. Culturally Specific (10% Set Aside Grants for Organizations Representing Ethnic / Racial Populations) (10% of 30% victim service allocation) Outreach, training, technical assistance, capacity building for African American, Hispanic and Asian communities.	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%
Discretionary (15%) (Includes "prevention" funding) 75% of "Discretionary" funds are allocated to "Prevention, education, outreach, training and capacity-building" for Under-Served & Culturally Specific populations via grants to organizations representing of those populations. 25% of "Discretionary" funds are allocated to Law enforcement, probation, parole , court, prosecutor response to DV and SA	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%
PREA Penalty (4.75% of fed award) (Latest information indicates possible repeal of penalty in FFY2015. If no penalty, then funds shall re-allocate to other categories in accordance with the federal formula)						