

## ***I. Introduction***

- ❖ FFY2017-2020 Implementation Plan
- ❖ Approved March 2, 2017

The Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 2013, resulted in the continuation of federal assistance to states through the Services-Training-Officers-Prosecution (STOP) Formula Grant Program. By statute, the STOP 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. Per federal grant requirement, the State must submit a comprehensive four year plan outlining how the State will use STOP funds in its' approach to addressing crimes against women.

The Criminal Justice Council (hereinafter the "CJC"), was created by statute in 1984 to implement policies for improving the criminal justice system in the State (*Title 11, Chapter 87, § 8700-8709 of the Delaware State Code*). The mission statement of the CJC is to act as “an independent body committed to leading the criminal justice system through a collaborative approach that calls upon the experience and creativity of the Council, all components of the system and community. We continually strive for an effective system that is fair, efficient, and accountable.” The composition of the Council includes a total of 29 appointed members representing the criminal justice community and members of the public (*Appendix A*).

The CJC also serves as a liaison between the federal government and State criminal justice agencies. The CJC operates through the use of specialized committees; subcommittees and workgroups, which focus on those issues that affect the administration of justice in Delaware. Although the membership is governed by the enabling legislation, the Council strives to maintain a committee membership structure that represents the criminal justice community, victim advocates, and the general public. As stated above, the CJC is the state agency responsible for the administration of federal dollars received through the State under several grants through the U.S. Department of Justice, including the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program, which is guided by the VAWA Implementation Committee.

In 1995, then Governor Thomas Carper established the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Implementation Committee through Executive Order Number 29. The purpose of creating this committee is to “ensure the appropriate use of federal funds received under the Violence Against Women Act.” The purpose and efforts of the VAWA Implementation Committee continues to be supported under the newly elected Governor John Carney.

Through the STOP VAWA Program, Delaware has been able to draw on the collective experience of individuals and agencies (both private/non-profit and governmental) to strengthen the multi-disciplinary, coordinated approach to address the problem of violence against women. The following Plan will describe Delaware's unique demographics; statistical data concerning domestic violence and sexual assault in our state; the programs, laws, and policies Delaware has

established to protect female victims violent crimes; identify and prioritize the needs and gaps in services to victims, and Delaware's goals and objectives for the STOP VAWA Grant Program.

While the proposed FFY2017-FFY2020 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan relies on the success of previous plans and STOP funded programs; other factors were considered in the approach. Those factors include: expanded purpose areas under the STOP Program as of VAWA2013, changes in the State's demographics, newly passed legislation in Delaware, the reduction of federal and State funding, and the impact those factors have on the State.

The Criminal Justice Council utilized the guidance outlined in the "*STOP Formula Grant Program Implementation Plan Template*," which was released by the ALSO STAAR Project in March 2017.

In fulfillment of the federal regulations, the following is the State of Delaware's Implementation Plan submitted to the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) for consideration under the "*OVW Fiscal Year 2017 STOP Formula Grant Program Solicitation*." Demonstrated throughout this plan is Delaware's commitment to focus resources and attention to strengthen the criminal justice system's response to women who have been victimized by violence and to ensure the safety of all women.

## ***II. Description of Planning Process***

As stated previously, Governor Carney continues to support the efforts of the VAWA Implementation Committee. The VAWA Implementation Committee consists of five individuals, appointed by the Governor, and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The following individuals presently serve on the VAWA Implementation Committee: Honorable Vincent J. Poppiti (Chair; retired Chief Judge of Family Court), Stephanie Hamilton (Chair of Victims Right Task Force, Wilmington Police Department Victims' Unit), Maria Knoll, Esq. (Deputy Attorney General), and Josephine MacLaine (Delaware Resident).

The VAWA Implementation Committee is charged with the following responsibilities:

- ❖ Identifying needs and gaps in services for female victims of crime based on public input and input solicited from the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council and the Criminal Justice Council
- ❖ Soliciting input from interested individuals, state and federal agencies, and private organizations, including non-profit, non-governmental victim services programs, about needs and gaps in Delaware services for female victims of violent crime.
- ❖ Preparing a comprehensive Plan to obtain and use federal funds available under the Violence Against Women Act and for compliance with the legislation and related regulations.
- ❖ Holding training sessions for individuals and groups interested in submitting funding applications, designed to assist potential applicants with the funding selection process.
- ❖ Soliciting and reviewing concept papers submitted by subgrant applicants.
- ❖ Consistent with the Plan, making recommendations on Violence Against Women Act grant recipients to the Criminal Justice Council and the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. If either the Criminal Justice Council or the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council approves the recommendations by a majority vote, the recommendations shall be forwarded the Governor for his consideration. If neither the Criminal Justice Council nor the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council approves the Committee's recommendations, they shall be returned to the Committee for modification.

In accordance with the Executive Order, the VAWA Implementation Committee holds regular meetings, open to public comment, to discuss funding decisions for subgrants, and other relevant issues pertaining to violent crimes against women.

As the State Administering Agency for federal grants such as the STOP Formula Grant, the Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program (SASP), the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) Formula Grant, and the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Assistance Formula Grant; the CJC is very active in the victims' community. As part of their job responsibilities, the Victims Coordinator and VAWA Grant Monitor of the CJC attend community meetings, task force meetings, or various subcommittee meetings as related to the grant area. In addition to participation in community meetings, the CJC is, by statute, is required to hold public hearings throughout the state (one in each county). Public hearings, presentations,

strategic planning events, training opportunities, etc. provides an opportunity for other, non-traditional criminal justice agencies, to voice the needs of their communities; and allows the CJC an opportunity to learn about new agencies who may be working within the communities that have been identified as underserved.

Since the passage of VAWA2013, the CJC has provided information about the changes to the STOP Program, and possible impact on the State to the Victims' Rights Task Force, the Domestic Violence Task Force, and the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. The information has been shared as OVW has rolled out guidance and information.

Delaware's small size and governmental infrastructure is a tremendous asset when implementing statewide initiatives. One of the benefits of our small size is that it is very manageable to coordinate statewide meetings with agencies or collaborative groups. Most strategic planning happens at a State level, rather than county or municipality. One of the benefits of being a small state is the communication, support, and willingness for collaboration and participation on various committees or task forces. Recognizing the value of Violence Against Women Act, and the funding the state receives; several agencies and groups agreed to participate in, or support, the planning process.

The VAWA Implementation Committee held a Strategic Planning Session on January 9, 2017. The goals of this planning session were as follows: identify gaps and needs in the current domestic violence and sexual assault delivery systems; examine coordinated efforts between victim services, law enforcement, prosecution, and the court to improve the delivery of services; identify training needs for those professionals serving victims; and make recommendations to the VAWA Implementation Committee for goals for the next three years.

Participants at this planning session included representatives from the VAWA Implementation Committee, the Delaware Department of Justice, Law Enforcement agencies, Family Court, the Court of Common Pleas, Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions, victim service agencies (government), non-profit/non-governmental services agencies, and tribal communities. Service agencies that specifically focus on the Hispanic/Immigrant communities were invited but unable to attend. Our goal was to have representation from each of Delaware's three counties, and to ensure each discipline is represented.

The participants received an overview of the STOP Grant Program, the history of STOP funds in Delaware, summary reports on STOP funded programs, and an overview of reported crimes of domestic violence and sexual assault in our state. The group was charged identifying the needs in the communities, needs in the focus areas, and training needs. They were asked to participate in an open discussion focusing on any concerns and issues that may be addressed under the STOP Program. They were asked to identify any collaborative approaches that are currently in place in Delaware; as well as identify areas that collaboration could be developed or strengthened. Finally, this group was charged with the task of identifying and prioritizing possible solutions or goals.

The priorities were forwarded to the VAWA Implementation Committee to utilize for the final phase in developing the goals. The VAWA Implementation Committee reviewed the needs and gaps that had been identified, the priority with which they need to be addressed, and established goals and objectives to be addressed during the next four years (FFY2017-FFY2020). The VAWA Implementation Committee's goals were made available for public comment before final approval by the Committee.

***Documentation on Planning Committee:***

Recognizing the value of Violence Against Women Act, and the funding the state receives; several agencies and groups agreed to participate in, or support, the planning process. Key stakeholders agreed to participate in the final stage of the planning process in 2017 (*Appendix C*). Summary notes from the planning process were provided to the VAWA Implementation Committee for review and discussion (*Appendix D*) The CJC had participation from the following stakeholders:

- The Family Court of Delaware
- The Court of Common Pleas
- The Delaware Department of Justice
- The Delaware State Police
- The Capitol Police of Delaware
- The Dover Police Department
- The City of Wilmington Police Department
- The Georgetown Police Department
- The Department of Correction
- CHILD Inc
- People's Place II, Inc.
- ContactLifeline, Inc.
- The YWCA of Delaware, Inc.
- The Domestic Violence Task Force
- The Victims' Rights Task Force
- The Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCADV)
- The Sexual Assault Network of Delaware (SAND)
- The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC)
- The Victims of Crime Assistance Program (VCAP)
- The Delaware State Police Victims Center
- Delaware Volunteer Legal Services (DVLS)
- Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. (CLASI)
- The Latin American Community Center (LACC)
- The Nanticoke Indian Tribe
- The Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware

By utilizing Survey Monkey, the CJC asked for input on how the STOP Program could be utilized throughout the State. The survey was distributed to various listservs and groups, as well as posting the link on the CJC's website. The input received from that survey will be incorporated into the final plan (*Appendix B*).

***Description on Coordination:***

The Criminal Justice Council is the State Administering Agency for the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) Formula Grant, and the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Assistance Formula Grant. The Delaware Department of Health & Social Services (DHSS), Office of Public Health, Office of Women's Health (OWH) is the administering agency of the Rape Prevention Education (RPE) Program.

The FVPSA and VOCA-Assistance formula grant programs fall under the guidance of the "Victims Services Advisory Committee ("VSAC") of the CJC. The VSAC membership is designed to have overlap with other federal programs. The membership of the VSAC includes the Secretary of the Department of Health & Social Services, the Chair of the VAWA Implementation Committee, the Executive Director of the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence, as well as other key stakeholders in the State's response to victims services. OVC does not require States to submit formal plans for the VOCA-Assistance Formula Grant Program. However, since the CJC is the administering agency, there is built-in coordination with the three programs. The Victims Coordinator of the CJC is the senior staff person identified to manage the STOP Program, SASP, FVPSA and VOCA-Assistance.

As previously mentioned, the Delaware Office of Women's Health (*OWH*) is the State's administrator for the Rape Prevention Education program. The CJC received a copy of the most recent plan for the RPE program. The CJC may include the Director of OWH on independent review teams for competitive solicitations by our agency. The CJC also attends several meetings with the RPE Coordinator and conducts one-on-one meetings as needed .

***Regularly Scheduled Planning Activities During FFY2017-FFY2020:***

To continue planning efforts and stay current on concerns or accomplishments regarding the issue of crimes against women, the following practices will be adhered to:

- the VAWA Implementation Committee will continue the practice of holding public meetings on a quarterly basis. The Committee may meet more frequently, as the need and topics arise.
- The Criminal Justice Council holds eight Council meetings during the course of the calendar year. These meetings are open to the public.
- the CJC holds four Public Hearings annually, as required by statute
- CJC Staff routinely offer "Grant Writing Trainings" throughout the year.
- CJC staff's participation in quarterly meetings of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC)
- Participation in various task force and community meetings. Such meetings may include, but are not limited to: the Victims Rights Task Force (*VRTF*), Domestic Violence Task Force (*DVTF*), Sexual Assault Network of Delaware (*SAND*), etc.

- The CJC STOP Administrator routinely drafts or forwards informational email blasts that are distributed to the VRTF, DVTF, SAND, DCADV, DVCC, the Delaware Police Chiefs Council and other groups.
- The CJC staffs, or participates, on several planning and working groups covering various topics (Sex Offender Management Board, Homeless Planning Council, etc.) We continually collect and share information about victims needs

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

When discussing the planning and distribution of funds, it is important to understand the size and structure of our State. Delaware has three counties; New Castle, Kent, and Sussex. New Castle County, the northernmost county in the State is the smallest geographically. The City of Wilmington, the State's largest municipality has a reported population of 71,292, is located within New Castle County. Sussex County is the southernmost, and geographically largest, county in the State. The eastern portion of Sussex County is home to most of Delaware's beaches communities. The population increases during the summer months due to tourist attractions offered by our beach towns. The western side of the county is center of Delaware's agriculture and poultry industry. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Social Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, the majority of Sussex County qualifies as a rural county (<http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/RuralAdvisor/RuralHealthAdvisor.aspx> ).

According to the 2013 Census, Delaware is the second smallest state in the United States, with a population of 925,749. This reflects a population growth of 3.1% from the 2010 Census, which reported the population to be 897,936. Fifty-nine percent of the population resides in New Castle County (546,076 people), the smallest county in Delaware; eighteen percent of the State's population resides in Kent County (167,626 people); and twenty-three percent in Sussex County (212,047 people), which is the largest county in square miles (<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/10000.html> ).

According to the 2010 Census, Delaware experienced a population growth of 14.6% from the 2000 Census. The State's growth is largely felt in Kent County, at that time experienced a 28.1% growth from 2000 Census, and Sussex County, according the 2010 Census, reflected a 25.9% growth. New Castle County's population demonstrated an increase as well, of 7.6%. Delaware's growth, especially in the two southern counties, has to be factored into the planning process. The increase in the population count could mean there is an increased need for services and appropriate response to victims of crime. We have to ensure the services can support the growth in our communities.

When factoring in planning and accessible services, we should also factor the population projections of all three counties, as provided by the Delaware Population Consortium's "*Annual Population Projection, Version 2013.0*" The very detailed report provides County breakouts and growth projections. More information about each county, including age, race and gender distributions, may be found in the full report <http://stateplanning.delaware.gov/information/dpc/DPC2013v0.pdf> .

Although small, Delaware is a diverse state with regards to race and ethnicity, available services, and county structure. As a result of this, the needs of victims and survivors differ from county to county. Over the years, the racial and ethnic diversity of Delaware has increased significantly. Delaware is becoming a progressively diverse state, mostly due to an increased growth in our population of Hispanic cultures. The Hispanic or Latino community (of any race) represents 8.6% of the State's population. The Hispanic population seems to be concentrated in two regions in Delaware: the City of Wilmington, in New Castle County; and in Sussex County.

## *Race and Ethnicity*

Over the years, the racial and ethnic diversity of Delaware has increased significantly. Delaware is becoming a progressively diverse state, mostly due to an increased growth in our population of Hispanic cultures. According to the 2010 Census (U.S. Census Bureau), since 2000 the Hispanic population had increased approximately 51% (37,277 reported in 2000 to 73,221 in 2010). The Hispanic or Latino community (of any race) represents 8.2% of the State's population. The Hispanic population seems to be concentrated in two regions in Delaware: the City of Wilmington, in New Castle County; and in Sussex County.

When considering the make-up of the State, it is important to look at the various languages represented in Delaware. According to the 2012 Census, 12.3% of Delaware residents identified a language other than English spoken in the home. The highest was reported to be in New Castle County, with 14.4% the residents reporting a language other than English spoken in the home; 9.7% in Sussex County; and 8.7% in Kent County. This can be supported further by looking at the data collected for The Delaware Department of Education's *2009 Annual Report of Delaware's English Language Learners, Staff and Program*. Through the use of home language surveys and English proficiency assessments, this report provides a study of the programs and demographics for students of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) [English Language Learners (ELLs)] in Delaware schools. According to this report, New Castle County had 6.7% of the total enrollment; the highest in the State; with Sussex County following closely at 6.4% of the total enrollment. According to this report, the highest percent of ELLs is Hispanic (76.4%), 38.1% of the enrollment in the program.

There are approximately 15 culturally specific agencies in the state that provide various services targeting the Latino community in Delaware. Of those 15, 6 provide services to victims of domestic violence or sexual assault (3 are exclusive, while the other 3 have bi-lingual staff). Many of the victims' service agencies have bi-lingual professionals on staff, or have established relationships and a referral process to the culturally specific agencies. The culturally specific agencies with established victims' services programs participated in the planning process. The CJC relies heavily on the knowledge and expertise these agencies have when providing culturally specific services to their community. These agencies consistently provide meaningful contributions to the CJC in planning areas.

## *Structure*

As stated above, Delaware has three counties; New Castle, Kent, and Sussex. New Castle County, the northernmost county in the State is the smallest geographically. The City of Wilmington, the State's largest municipality has a reported population of 71,292, is located within New Castle County.

Sussex County is the southernmost, and geographically largest, county in the State. The eastern portion of Sussex County is home to most of Delaware's beaches communities. The population increases during the summer months due to tourist attractions offered by our beach

towns. The western side of the county is center of Delaware's agriculture and poultry industry. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Social Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Sussex County qualifies as a rural county (<http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/RuralAdvisor/RuralHealthAdvisor.aspx>).

Becoming a victim of a crime is often a traumatic and difficult event. In addition to the trauma of the crime, the situation can often be compounded by geographical challenges. Victims of crime in urban areas may benefit from easier accessibility to services; in both the number of services offered, and ability to reach them. However, victims living in low-income or high-crime urban communities may have the barrier, where they may not feel safe accessing those services. Conversely, victims of violent crime, living in rural jurisdictions, face unique challenges and barriers to receiving assistance rarely encountered in urban areas. The geographic isolation, lack of accessible transportation, and/or lack of available services in rural jurisdictions can contribute to the barriers victims are faced with, and may prevent them from seeking services. Cultural or community pressures may create barriers for victims living in either urban or rural communities.

The needs in Sussex County differ from the needs in New Castle because of the rural area. Transportation needs, for example, continues to be a barrier for some victims to access services. Transportation needs can be defined as lack of funds to support ownership and/or maintenance costs of a vehicle; or limited public transportation (routes and limited scheduling), especially in Western Sussex County. While efforts have been made to address some of these issues, advocates in the field continue to identify Western Sussex County as a geographic area in need.

### **Violent Crimes Against Women**

Domestic violence and sexual assault are serious problems that impact the lives of thousands of Delawareans annually. In order to capture a snapshot of the problem, this report will draw on the data collected in the Domestic Violence Incident Reports, the Fatal Incident Report, and the data from the Sexual Assault Network of Delaware.

### **Crimes of Domestic Violence**

In 1998 the Delaware State Police Department Victim's Services' Unit in coordination with the State Bureau of Identification (SBI) and Delaware Justice Information System (DELJIS) received a grant through the Office of Justice Programs, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), to develop a system to extract data elements from the Domestic Violence Incident police report. A report can be generated at the end of every month.

The following chart represents domestic violence statistics initiated by law enforcement during 2010-2016.

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Domestic Violence Incident Reports</b><br><i>(non-criminal and criminal)</i> | <b>Domestic Violence Criminal Incidents</b> | <b>Domestic Violence Criminal Incidents Resulting in Injury</b> | <b>Intimate Partner Criminal Domestic Incidents</b> | <b>Intimate Partner Dual Arrests</b> |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| CY10        | 28,413  | 15,681                                      | 2,521   | 7,113   | 144                                  |
| CY11        | 29,632  | 15,928                                      | 2,449   | 7,336   | 135                                  |
| CY12        | 27,014  | 15,103                                      | 2,403   | 6,643   | 126                                  |
| CY13        | 23,985  | 14,470                                      | 1,974   | 5,694   | 109                                  |
| CY14        | 22,663  | 13,795                                      | 1,946   | 5,512   | 110                                  |
| FY15        | 22,678  | 14,470                                      | 1,980   | 5,607   | 107                                  |
| FY16        | 22,370  | 14,069                                      | 2,025   | 5,423   | 114                                  |

*\*Statistics were provided by DVCC annual report and shifted from calendar to state fiscal year in 2015 (7/1/14-6/30/15)\**

Criminal domestic violence incidents are those incidents where a crime is committed or alleged. Non-criminal domestic violence incidents are those where there was police contact, but no crime was committed or alleged. The term “intimate partner” includes current and former spouses, current and former dating couples with or without a child in common, and teen dating couples. Intimate partners may be the same gender.

SBI tracks intimate partner violence cases separately from all domestic violence cases. In 2016, 39% of all Criminal Domestic Violence Cases were cases of intimate partner violence. Of those intimate partner incidents, 77% of the cases involved female victims.

Dual arrests are when law enforcement officer arrests both intimate partners in criminal domestic violence incidents. Over the past several years, there has been great emphasis on training law enforcement officers to identify primary aggressors in intimate partner domestic violence incidents. In 2016, 114 dual arrests were made. This is approximately 2% of the intimate partner incidents.

Other considerable statistics to analyze, regarding the complexity of domestic violence in Delaware, is to review Family Court’s report of civil protection orders. On January 18, 1994, the State of Delaware created the Protection from Abuse (PFA) Act. The Protection from Abuse Act provides very broad relief that may provide the help needed to effectively intervene and stop or reduce the violence.

PFA Orders may last for up to one year and may be extended for an additional six months. The PFA Act was amended in 2010, expanding the protection of the no contact and no abuse provisions to last up to two years, or permanently; depending upon the facts presented to the Court and the Judge rules that aggravating circumstances exist and that the length of the

order is necessary to prevent further acts of domestic violence. An Ex-Parte Order is a temporary order issued by the Court when the Court determines that the petitioner is in immediate danger. Ex-Parte Orders may last up to ten days, until the full hearing may be held. Ex-Parte orders can be extended for up to 30 days when necessary (*DE Code: Title 10 § 1043*).

In 2016, Family Court processed a total of 3,056 Protection From Abuse (PFA) Orders. As demonstrated in the subsequent chart, Delaware has been constant in the number of PFAs filed and issued:

| <b>Year</b> | <b>PFA Filings</b> | <b>PFA's Issued</b> |     |
|-------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----|
| CY10        | 3,254              | 1,673               | 51% |
| CY11        | 3,351              | 1,752               | 52% |
| CY12        | 3,359              | 1,596               | 48% |
| CY13        | 3,073              | 1,546               | 50% |
| CY14        | 2,756              | 1,290               | 47% |
| FY15        | 2,836              | 1,529               | 54% |
| FY16        | 3,056              | 1,352               | 44% |
|             |                    |                     |     |

*\*Statistics were provided by DVCC annual report and shifted from calendar to state fiscal year in 2015 (7/1/14-6/30/15)\**

Of the 3,056 PFA Petitions that were filed in 2016, 44% orders were issued by the Family Court. Of the 1,697 petitions that were dismissed, 23% were due to petitioner failing to appear for the hearing; 17% were due to the petitioner voluntarily withdrawing the petition before hearing; and 15% were dismissed following a hearing where abuse was not found by a preponderance of evidence.

The process for seeking and obtaining protection from the Court can be a challenging, somewhat daunting process. CHILD Inc. operates the Statewide Domestic Violence Advocacy Program (DVAP) in Family Court. This program, partially funded with STOP, helps to empower victims of domestic violence by guiding them through the Family Court system as they seek protection from their abusive partners. CHILD, Inc. staff and volunteers are based in each of the Family Court buildings.

During the calendar year of 2016, the DVAP of CHILD Inc provided services to 1,387 unduplicated victims seeking protection through Family Court. Following trends in Court activity, the victims served were primarily in the New Castle County Courthouse location, with 47% of the victims (Kent County assisted 27%; Sussex County assisted 26% of the total served). The service of the DVAP program not only demonstrates the effective use of STOP funding, it is an example of a collaborative effort between this victim services program and the Court.

### **Domestic Violence Hotlines in Delaware**

Beyond the facts documented by law enforcement and Family Court, it is crucial to collect statistics provided by hotlines and emergency domestic violence shelters throughout the state. Shelter data contributes valuable information regarding victims who may never go through the criminal justice system. In Delaware there are five operating domestic violence shelters (2 New Castle County, 1 Kent County, and 2 Sussex County). In addition to providing emergency shelter services for domestic violence victims, these shelters provide crisis intervention through hotline services. During the calendar year of 2016, there were a total of 3,629 calls to the hotlines, resulting in 481 victims receiving emergency shelter services, statewide. This reflects a decrease from the 648 individuals sheltered the previous year.

CHILD, Inc. operates the two domestic violence shelters in New Castle County, “Martha’s Carriage House,” and “Sarah’s House.” During the calendar year of 2016, CHILD Inc. shelters assisted 249 individuals (135 women, 111 children and 3 men). During the same reporting period, the hotline handled 2,221 calls. CHILD Inc. has bilingual advocates on staff that can support Hispanic/Limited English Proficient victims on the hotline, at either shelter, or in the community.

People’s Place II, Inc. operates “Families in Transition” (Kent County), “Cindy’s Place” (south-western Sussex County), and “Abriendo Puertas” (meaning “Open Doors”). The Abriendo Puertas program is the only emergency shelter & hotline designated for immigrant women and their children. During the calendar year of 2016, People’s Place II, Inc.’s shelters assisted 232 individuals (103 women and 129 children). The hotline received a total of 1,408 calls during that same period.

### **Lethality Assessment Program in Delaware**

The Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) was created by the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) in 2005. This is an “innovative prevention strategy to reduce domestic violence homicides and serious injuries.” When followed, the LAP can be an effective method for law enforcement officers to identify victims of domestic violence who are at the highest potential for being seriously injured or killed by their intimate partners. The officers can immediately connect them to the local domestic violence hotline, and a victim can be connected to the shelter or various community services.

The Delaware Police Chiefs Council adopted the LAP Protocol in 2010. The Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (DELJIS) is the central state agency responsible for database which comprises the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS). When the Police Chiefs Council adopted the LAP, training was provided throughout the State; and the questions were added to the crime report, which became active on November 1, 2010.

During 2013, the CJC issued a STOP subgrant award to the Capitol Police of Delaware. Originally, this project was to explore the development of an “Early Warning Communication System”, linking the Capitol Police, prosecutors and the courts, especially the Family Court, to alert the Capitol Police of potentially high-risk cases of domestic violence entering the Court Houses. The Capitol Police initially wanted this system to pull data captured in CJIS, specifically the LAP data. This was the first review on LAP since it started in 2010. What was

discovered from this report, the LAP was not being performed consistently throughout the State. In fact, during the three years Delaware adopted the LAP, only 40% of the calls that should have been screened in for potential lethal situation, were reported (*Appendix F*). Upon seeing this, the Capitol Police launched a larger training initiative to all local police departments in 2014. Since the beginning of the training, the DV Risk Analyst (funded through STOP) has conducted 48 training sessions in 27 agencies to over 543 officers and the utilization of the LAP has dramatically increased. In 2015, the completion rate was up to 71% and in 2016, the rate was 79%.

### **Domestic Violence Fatalities in Delaware**

Despite the increased attention and protections that exist, domestic violence is a crime with devastating, sometimes lethal, consequences. According to the *2013 Fatal Incident Report*, published by the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, there have been 131 domestic violence cases, resulting in 164 deaths and 2 near deaths, over a 19 year period (1996-2015). Of those 164 deaths, 112 were homicide victims; 29 were perpetrator suicides following a homicide; 22 were suicides; and 1 case remains an “undetermined victim death.”

“Intimate Partner” is a term used to include current or former spouses, current and former dating couples with or without a common child, dating couples who are living together. Intimate partners may be of the same gender. Of the 112 homicides, 84 were the result of “Intimate Partner” homicides; 77% (64) were females and 23% (20) the victims were males. Of the 84 “Intimate Partner” homicides, 39 (47%) occurred when the victims attempted to leave or had ended the relationship with the abuser. 30 of the 112 homicides were “Non-Intimate Partner” homicides. Non-Intimate Partner is an individual not included as an intimate partner, such as parent/child, or brother/sister.

Of the 131 cases reviewed, 81% of the victims never had a Protection From Abuse (PFA) order; 11% of the victims had active PFA orders; and 8% of the victims were cases where the PFA Order had expired.

### **Crimes of Sexual Assault**

According to statistics collected by the Delaware State Police, Bureau of Identification’s (SBI), and reported in “*Crime In Delaware*” there were a total of 750 reported sexual offenses in 2014 (277 Rape by Force; 9 Attempted Rape by Force; 84 Forcible Sodomy; 35 Sexual Assault with an object; 340 Forcible Fondling; and 5 attempted Forcible Fondling). This represents an 11% decrease from those 843 offenses reported in 2013 (which includes 271 Rape by Force; 15 Attempted Rape by Force; 91 Forcible Sodomy, 44 Sexual Assault with an object; 418 Forcible Fondling; and 4 Attempted Forcible Fondling).

The Delaware Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) produces the Crime in Delaware report annually. This report provides a summary of unofficial crime reporting in the State. “Unofficial”

in that data is extracted from the complaint data that is housed in the Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (DELJIS). At the time of the report, the 2015 data was only preliminary figures. More detailed information on 2015 will be provided in the next Crime In Delaware. The stats that can be obtained through DELJIS is the most up to date information on the complaints law enforcement responded to. The official crime in Delaware information is provided by the Delaware State Police's State Bureau of Identification (SBI) and information reported to the National Incident Based Crime Reporting System (NIBRS), which involves a more lengthy process that meets the national standards for verifications.

As with domestic violence, many crimes of rape/sexual assault are not reported to law enforcement for various reasons. Many victims may seek support from the rape crisis hotline, and sexual assault advocates that are not in the justice system. When examining sexual assault statistics in Delaware, the best source of data is collected by the Sexual Assault Network of Delaware (SAND), which is operated by ContactLifeline, Inc, one of two rape crisis centers, providing services Statewide. ContactLifeline, Inc. provides comprehensive crisis hotline services. Primarily, the helpline responds to calls of stress, individuals at risk for suicide, mental health issues, substance abuse and responds to calls from victims of sexual assault. During 2016, the Crisis Helpline responded to 17,571 calls for help.

The Rape Crisis Services of ContactLifeline, Inc. include: statewide toll-free 24/7 telephone counseling; accompaniment services to hospital emergency rooms, police and courts; short-term professional counseling for victims/survivors and their families; support groups for victims; and, rape prevention education. ContactLifeline is Delaware's Rape Crisis Center, providing services in Kent and Sussex counties. The Sexual Assault Resource Center (SARC) of the YWCA provides services in New Castle and Sussex counties. According to data collected from ContactLifeline, Inc. and the SARC, the Rape Crisis Staff provided aftercare and counseling services to 103 victims of sexual assault.

In addition to maintaining a 24/7 hotline and professional counseling, ContactLifeline, Inc., provides Rape Crisis Volunteers to accompany victims to the hospitals, police, or court. In 2016, trained rape crisis volunteers and staff accompanied 110 sexual assault victims to hospitals in all parts of Delaware for Sexual Assault Nurse Examinations and/or law enforcement interviews.

In the State of Delaware there are four established Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Programs (1 in New Castle, 1 in Kent, and 2 in Sussex County); there is one children's hospital located in New Castle County, which has a newly implemented Forensic Nurse Examiner Program. Our SANE Programs, located in the emergency departments of the hospitals, lack the administrative support to provide a detailed statistics on the number of victims of sexual assault who present in the emergency departments. The Delaware Victims Compensation Program, under the Office of the Attorney General, is data source to capture the number of sexual assault forensic exams. Hospitals and health care professionals provide forensic medical examinations free of charge to the victims of sexual offenses, the hospitals bill VCAP directly for the forensic exams kits and exams. In 2016, there were at least 85 forensic exams paid for through victims' compensation.

The domestic violence and sexual assault statistics referenced above, although helpful, may only marginally reflect the true extent of the problem. The data is captured only when victims are reporting to law enforcement, or receiving services from the various programs. As we know, there still may be a number of victims not disclosing the abuse or victimization. The CJC continues to recognize and support the tremendous efforts organizations such as the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCADV), the Sexual Assault Network of Delaware (SAND), the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, the Delaware Victims' Rights Task Force, the Delaware Domestic Violence Task Force, and other organizations to raise the knowledge and awareness about crimes against women.

## ***IV. Plan Priorities and Approaches***

### **A. Goals and Objectives**

*(As previously stated, the State's final plan was not approved before OVW's deadline for the application. The CJC notified OVW of our challenges on February 26, 2014. The plan will be finalized and approved in early May 2014. The following goals and objectives are submitted as DRAFT).*

Supported by the identified needs, underserved populations, and geographic area needs the following goals and objectives are proposed for the Federal Fiscal Years FY2017-FY2020:

1. Ensure all victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and other violent crimes against women have accessible services available in their communities.
  - 1.1. (First-Fourth Years: FFY2017-2020 ) Develop a competitive solicitation for 30% of the State's Award for NPO/NGO Victims Service programs. Solicitation should target the identified priority areas and populations. New program(s) receive base amount for three years (non-competitive funding until FY2019 with option for continuation dependent on performance and available funding).
  - 1.2. (First-Fourth Years: FFY2017-FFY2020): Develop a competitive solicitation for NPO Victim Service program to meaningfully address sexually assault.
  - 1.3. (First-Fourth Years: FFY2017-2020): Explore use of discretionary funds to enhance the prevention and educational programs that address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. Target efforts in underserved communities.
  - 1.4. (Fourth Year; FFY2020) If funding permits, explore use of Discretionary Funds to support the development of a High-Risk Domestic Violence Team
  
2. Enhance and expand the response to the needs of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking in underserved communities or populations (immigrant/minority populations, disabled/elderly populations, rural communities, etc.)
  - 2.1. (First-Fourth Years: FFY2017-FFY2020) Develop competitive solicitation for culturally specific agencies for programs/services that work with non-English speaking/Limited English speaking victims of DV, SA, dating violence and stalking. Targeted services should provide in the communities identified in the plan (City of Wilmington and Western Sussex County)
  - 2.2. (First-Fourth Years; FY2017-FFY2020) Support multi-discipline/cross-training efforts to victim service advocates, law enforcement, prosecutors, Judiciary and other court personnel on cultural sensitivity and responding to underserved victims.
  
3. Support/fund law enforcement, prosecution, and court programs that promote system change and a coordinated response to crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking.

- 3.1. (First-Fourth Years; FFY2017-2020) Develop a competitive solicitation to award at least 25% of the annual STOP VAWA Award to law enforcement programs to improve the police response to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. New program(s) receive base amount for three years (non-competitive funding until FY2019 with option for continuation funding contingent on program performance and available funding). Law enforcement programs that meaningfully address sexually assault will be given priority.
  - 3.2. (First-Fourth Years; FFY2017-FFY2020) Support DOC's Probation & Parole's goal of expanding the Victims Service Assistant program to be consistent in all three counties.
  - 3.3. (First-Fourth Years; FY2017-FY2020): Continue to award at least 25% to the Department of Justice to support prosecutors assigned to specifically target violent crimes against women, including the crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.
  - 3.4. (First-Fourth Years; FY2017-FY2020): Continue to award at least 5% of the annual STOP VAWA Award to court programs that enhances the Courts response to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.
4. Ensure victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking receive appropriate assistance by knowledgeable, well trained professionals in the areas of NPO/NGO Victims Services, Law Enforcement, Prosecution, members of the Judiciary and all Court Personnel
    - 4.1. (First-Fourth Years; FY2017-FY2020): Continue to fund the Annual Law Enforcement Training Conference that is offered to law enforcement officers Statewide.
    - 4.2. (First-Fourth Years; FY2017-FY2020): Designate discretionary funds to support training initiatives for the Department of Justice
    - 4.3. (First-Fourth Years; FY2017-FY2020): Designate discretionary funds to support training initiatives for the Courts and Court Personnel
5. Support the State's efforts to reduce domestic violence-related homicides.
    - 5.1. (First-Fourth Years; FY2017-FY2020): Support training efforts to ensure police officers are utilizing the Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) consistently.
    - 5.2. (First-Fourth Years; FY2017-FY2020): Support the data collection efforts of DELJIS to provide an annual LAP report. The overall goal is to increase the 77% of LAP's being reported (target outreach to specific agencies not utilizing LAP).
    - 5.3. (First-Fourth Years; FY2017-FY2020): As indicated in the FIRT Report, 81% of domestic violence related homicides did not have PFA Orders. Support training efforts of members of the Judiciary and Court Personnel on domestic violence and lethality.
    - 5.4. (First-Fourth Years; FY2017-FY2020): Continue to support services and advocacy efforts of NPO Victim Service Agencies providing legal advocacy and assistance with filing PFA Petitions.

## **B. Priority Areas:**

The last thorough statewide assessment of domestic violence resources was conducted in 1995 on behalf of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. While an updated thorough

assessment is needed, the needs are still relevant and important for the CJC and VAWA Implementation Committee to consider when looking at a full plan. Previous years of STOP Implementation Plans provided the foundation for program development and the enhancement in many critical areas including law enforcement, prosecution, court systems, correctional system, data collection and communication, coordinated approaches, public awareness and education, legislative reform, underserved populations, and areas of geographic need.

The Committee continues to implement and maintaining core service programs supported with S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Act Formula Grant Program funds, as well supporting other agencies in successfully applying for discretionary programs through OVW or other programs under the US Department of Justice, to address the identified needs. In addition to those grants administered by OVW, in 2009 the CJC successfully received a competitive grant through the Massachusetts Building Partnerships for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities (BPI) and the Massachusetts Disabled Persons Protection Commission (DPPC) to replicate BPI, a nationally recognized model program to protect persons with disabilities. The replication was supported through funding from the Office for Victims of Crime. This project finished successfully, in that it raised the awareness of all crimes against the State's underserved vulnerable populations (the elderly and individuals with disabilities).

As stated earlier, throughout the course of the year, the CJC staff participated in several meetings of the Victims' Rights Task Force (VRTF), and the Domestic Violence Task Force (DVTF), as well as the Sexual Assault Network of Delaware (SAND). During those meetings, professionals from various agencies expressed continuing needs in the State. By building on the information accumulated throughout the year, the following items can identified as strengths and weaknesses:

#### **Underserved Communities/Populations**

- Immigrant/Minority/Limited English Proficient Victims (Hispanic, Haitian, African-American, etc)
- Those living in rural areas
- Vulnerable adults (the elderly and/or individuals with disabilities)

#### **Needs & Gaps in Services**

- More bi-lingual services for victims/survivors of domestic violence & sexual assault
- Culturally specific programs/ awareness
- More legal services for victims
  - Civil and ancillary services
- Victims of Human Trafficking or Smuggling
  - Predominantly seeing victims of sex trafficking
- Emergency Assistance
  - Financial relief and assistance (not covered under VCAP)
- Victim Advocate in Probation and Parole, statewide for victims of SA and DV
- Stronger prosecutions

- Transportation services for victims
- Services for Immigrant Victims
  - Increase in legal advocacy/assistance
- Bi-lingual Police-Based Victim Advocate in Sussex County
- Increase services for the LGBTQ communities
- Increase Prevention and education
- Improve public awareness (emphasis on schools and communities) about DV, SA, Dating Violence and Stalking
- Increase awareness to juveniles (DV, SA, dating violence and stalking)
- Increase need for Specialized Intervention Staff in schools for dating violence
- Statewide consistency in response and services

As expressed by many in the State, these programs have proven to be essential in the services they offer victims. These programs must continue to be available, not only for direct services for victims, but to sustain initiatives taken by law enforcement, prosecution and the court to ensure victims’ safety and improve the systems response to violent crimes against women. One of the priorities is to sustain services for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

The second priority is to support the increased need for legal services to victims of domestic violence. This was noted as a particular need in Kent and Sussex Counties. As previously documented, Sussex County is identified as a rural area, with a large immigrant population. Access to services due to language barriers of victims or transportation barriers may impede a victim’s attempt to seek the relief of the protection of abuse. Although efforts have been made in the past; this continues to be an area in need of services.

The third priority is to continue to support training efforts throughout the State. Victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, or other violent crimes deserve a response by knowledgeable, well trained professionals in the areas of NPO/NGO Victims Services, Law Enforcement, Prosecution, members of the Judiciary and all Court Personnel. If funding permits, the priority will be to expand the training efforts to incorporate more opportunities for cross-discipline training events. The primary training initiative will be for police officers training on the LAP.

As stated in the above mentioned goals and objectives, much consideration will be placed on these areas of priority; the level at which they can be addressed with STOP funds is contingent on the level of federal funding.

STOP Funds will continue to be distributed equitably throughout the State. Programs that have received funding in the past include:

| Agency | Project Title | Specific Objective for the project |
|--------|---------------|------------------------------------|
|--------|---------------|------------------------------------|

|  |                                     |  |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| YWCA of Delaware, Inc  | YWCA DV Program                     | Provide case management services to 50 victims of domestic violence. Enable female victims of domestic violence to maintain stable lives for themselves and their children. At least 50% of those served will accomplish their goals.  |
| CHILD Inc  | DVAP in Family Courts               | To provide court-based advocacy to domestic violence victims in New Castle, Kent and Sussex Counties. Included in the responsibility of the advocate is to provide assistance with the court process, referrals for counseling, and ensuring a victim establish a safety plan.   |
| Community Legal Aid Society  | Domestic Abuse Legal Services       | To provide legal representation regarding Protection from Abuse orders and ancillary matters to domestic violence victims in Kent and Sussex Counties.   |
| Latin American Community Center<br><br><i>*this program meets the culturally specific set aside requirements under the STOP grant.</i> | Families in Control                 | “Families in Control to Combat Domestic Violence” will provide services to 65 Latina women victims of domestic violence. 50% of those served will indicate an increased knowledge on DV issues and services available; 50% will report a decrease in feelings of isolation. In addition to the individual and group counseling; counselor will provide information regarding immigration, translation and referral services. |
| ContactLifeline, Inc.  | Counseling Support Services Program | To provide crisis intervention and group based treatment to victims of sexual assault. To provide sexual assault intervention and support services to adolescent and young adult victims. This project will do so by providing 24-hour immediate access to telephone counseling and school-based intervention via individual and/or group counseling in Kent & Sussex Counties.  |

|  |                                 |  |
|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Department of Corrections (Probation & Parole) | NCC Victim Service Agent        | To provide outreach and supportive services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault where the perpetrator is active on probation in New Castle County (court accompaniments, legal accompaniments, referrals, crisis counseling, safety planning, etc).   |
| Department of Corrections (Probation & Parole) | Kent Co Victim Service Agent    | To provide outreach and supportive services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault where the perpetrator is active on probation in Kent County (court accompaniments, legal accompaniments, referrals, crisis counseling, safety planning, etc).   |
| Delaware State Police                          | Annual Law Enforcement Training | Provide statewide training to a minimum of 200 law enforcement officers on issues related to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, and other violent crimes against women Using pre/post training surveys, of those trained, at least 75% will demonstrate improved knowledge of related topics. |
| Christian Health Care Services                 | SANE Coordinator                | Staff a SANE Coordinator position to enhance the services to victims of sexual assault by ensuring 24/7 SANE Nursing coverage to Christiana Hospital. To provide additional training resources to recruit and retain SANE nurses   |
| The Family Court of Delaware                   | Domestic Violence Coordinator   | To improve judicial monitoring of Protection From Abuse (PFA) orders; and to increase victims confidence with the Court; and to enhance the collaboration with Victim Service Providers statewide.   |
| Delaware Department of Justice                 | DOJ VAWA Grant                  | To strengthen the response to & the prosecution of all violent crimes against women in all three counties.   |

More information can be found on the “CJC Standard Form” for the FFY2016 STOP Grant (*Appendix E*).

The Criminal Justice Council will distribute STOP Grant funds according to the federal allocations required by statute. Per federal guidelines, S.T.O.P. Funds must be distributed in the following amounts:

- 30% Non-profit Victim Services

- 10% of which must go to Culturally Specific Programs
- 25% Prosecution
- 25% Law Enforcement
- 5% Courts
- 15% Discretionary
- 

The CJC will ensure 20% will be awarded for projects that meaningfully address sexual assault across in two or more categories. Historically, Delaware has support NPO Victims Services that “meaningfully address sexual assault.” This requirement will be met before the deadline of two years from enactment.

Included in this plan, are the “Letters of Intent” from the following agencies (*Appendix G*):

- ContactLifeline, Inc.
- Delaware Department of Justice
- Capitol Police
- Department of Correction
- The Family Court of Delaware
- La Esperanza, Inc
- The Latin American Community Center
- The YWCA of Delaware

We fully anticipate more responses to any competitive solicitations.

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

The State of Delaware has three-counties. New Castle County, while the smallest in size, has the largest population. Western Sussex County is considered the rural communities of the State. Priorities and needs may vary according to the location of the providers and the communities they serve. The CJC ensure services are available throughout the State.

Per funding protocol of the CJC, once the CJC receives notice of the federal award, the assigned committee is notified and may direct staff in the development of the request for concepts and solicitation (*Appendix H*).

Due to the competitiveness for STOP Formula Grant funding and the emergent need to enhance the services available for female victims of violence, the CJC will utilize a Review Team. Typically, the STOP Review Team includes colleagues from the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault Network of Delaware (Sexual Assault Coalition), the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, the Department of Public Health (Office of Women’s Health) . This team reviews all concepts submitted under the STOP Grant along with the VAWA Coordinator for the CJC, the CJC Grant Monitor assigned to the STOP area, the Director of Grants Management, and a CJC Coordinator of another funding area (alternates VOCA, JAG, JABG, etc).

The composition of this group is to ensure expertise in the area of domestic violence and sexual assault; expertise in the knowledge of monitoring and subgrant reporting; and an outside focus area is included to ensure other funding areas of the CJC are aware of current practices and existing needs in the response to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking and dating violence. The duties of this Review Team are to read all of the concept proposals, offer information/ knowledge regarding the applicant, and need of services requested; and supply funding recommendations to the VAWA Implementation Committee. The VAWA Implementation Committee will review all submitted concepts and recommendations when determining allocation of funds. The Committee's recommendations are then forwarded to the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council and the Criminal Justice Council for final approval. Once approved, the CJC notifies applicants of the approved amount and requests a CJC subgrant application be submitted to initiate the award process.

The CJC awards one year subgrants with renewal/continuation funding obligated for two years (three years of funding). Anything "4<sup>th</sup> year & beyond" is eligible to compete with new programs.

The CJC STOP Subgrant Award Periods operate on a January-December period. We adopted this timeline to make the federal reporting period for the Muskie report easier for subgrantees.

The CJC includes in the solicitations, and as a special condition in all STOP Subgrant Awards, that all law enforcement, prosecution and court programs consult with victim service providers to ensure any programs are designed to promote the safety, confidentiality, and economic independence of victims. A certification form must be signed and returned with the Subgrant Award Acceptance, before any grant funds are reimbursed.

#### **D. Addressing Underserved Victims**

As previously stated, underserved victims in our state have been identified to include Immigrant, or those with limited English Proficiency, the elderly and disabled, and those living in the rural areas of the State (i.e. western Sussex County). The CJC participates in meetings of the Department of Justice's Senior Protection Initiative; the DVCC Immigration Subcommittee; the DVCC Downstate Domestic Violence Committee (addresses issues particular to Sussex County); and the Immigration Subcommittee of the Victims' Rights Task Force. The CJC routinely relies on these committees for suggested strategies as it relates to responding to the needs of victims in these particular populations; and reaching out to "non-traditional" criminal justice organizations that work with these communities.

The CJC will publish a competitive solicitation for Culturally Specific Organizations, providing victims' services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. As indicated previously, the targeted communities will be in the City of Wilmington and in Western Sussex County.

## **E. Subgrantee Management Monitoring and Assessment**

The nature and extent of the impact of the Violence Against Women Act STOP Grants in Delaware can perhaps best be determined through individual examination of the progress of each subgrantee. The specific means through which these programs will be monitored will depend upon the nature of the programs proposed by each subgrantee. As a part of the process of applying to receive STOP Grants, all potential subgrantees are required to determine measurable goals and objectives pertaining to their particular project proposals. Upon approval of a grant application, the CJC Grant Monitor is charged with the responsibility of monitoring the grant to ensure that the subgrantee is fulfilling the goals set forth prior to approval of the funding.

In addition, subgrantees must submit quarterly fiscal and programmatic reports as well as a final report in which they summarize data that they have collected throughout the term regarding the effectiveness of their programs. These reports must evaluate achievement based upon purported objectives and performance indicators, and they also indicate the extent to which a project has made an impact on a targeted area. Grant funds are disbursed in increments and only upon satisfactory achievement of the proposed goals. If a subgrantee is negligent in submitting a quarterly report, a request for funds will not be honored until the VAWA Monitor receives the report.

CJC follows standard subgrant monitoring procedures. Standard practice dictates that once awarded, subgrantees are required to submit quarterly programmatic and fiscal reports to their Grant Monitor. Grant monitors are required to hold on-sight monitoring visits each quarter. For new programs or new subgrantees, a minimum of four on-sight visits will be held during the first year of a new program. For programs in the second or third year, this may reduce to a minimum of three on-sight visits. Grant Monitors are then required to submit reports detailing the program and financial findings and progress. Reports are submitted to the assigned Coordinator or Planner, which are then forwarded to the Director of Grants Management, and then finally to the Executive Director of the CJC (*Appendix I*).

Summaries of the STOP funded programs are forwarded to the VAWA Implementation Committee for review. This information is considered when making funding decisions.

Additionally, per OVW, all subgrantees are required to complete an Annual Progress Report as required in the STOP award notice. This information is compiled by the Muskie School, and a full report is released and forwarded to the VAWA Implementation Committee, and any interested member of the public

## **V. Conclusion**

The STOP program helps law enforcement, prosecutors, members of the Judiciary, court personnel, and victim services advocates form and maintain collaborative efforts to prevent and respond to violence against women. Without STOP funds, many services and training efforts would not be possible. The need for continued STOP Funding is further documented by the various letters of support from the State's DV and SA Coalitions and other key partners (*Appendix J*).

With continued support from the Office on Violence Against Women, and the STOP VAWA Formula Grant Program, the FFY2017-FFY2020 VAWA Implementation Plan for the State of Delaware will accomplish the following goals:

1. Ensure all victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and other violent crimes against women have accessible services available in their communities.
2. Enhance and expand the response to the needs of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking in underserved communities or populations (immigrant/minority populations, disabled/elderly populations, rural communities, etc.)
3. Support/fund law enforcement, prosecution, and court programs that promote system change and a coordinated response to crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking.
4. Ensure victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking receive appropriate assistance by knowledgeable, well trained professionals in the areas of NPO/NGO Victims Services, Law Enforcement, Prosecution, members of the Judiciary and all Court Personnel
5. Support the State's efforts to reduce domestic violence-related homicides.

The greatest barrier Delaware faces is the significant reduction of State funding. The Governor and the Office of Management and Budget just announced a hiring freeze on current vacancies, and the creation of new positions is very difficult (and discouraged).

Many non-profit/non-governmental organizations have experienced significant reductions or elimination of State funding, making the federal funding critical in the efforts to maintain core services for victims. State agencies also face the challenges they face with budget and/or staffing cuts.

The VAWA Implementation Committee is committed to recognizing the need for expanded, enhanced, or new services; however, it is crucial that existing services do not go away. The Committee continues to be burdened with the challenge of addressing the hope to incorporate new or expanding programs while continuing the support of core, essential programs.

The State of Delaware has made great strides in responding to the needs of female victims of crime. The increased safety of women has been possible largely due to the grant funds Delaware receives. As outlined in this Plan, the VAWA Implementation Committee is committed to ensuring the safety of all women. This is accomplished by focusing resources for

services, and bringing attention to areas within the criminal justice system that need to be strengthened when responding to a female victim of violence.