

2013 STOP Violence Against Women Grant New Request for Proposal

Project Duration: January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014

Electronic Submission Deadline
October 11, 2013
6:00 p.m. MST

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STOP Violence Against Women Grant (CFDA 16.588)

Program Overview

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) is a component of the United States Department of Justice (DOJ). OVW implements the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and subsequent legislation and provides national leadership on issues of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Since its inception, OVW has supported a multifaceted approach to responding to these crimes through implementation of grant programs authorized by VAWA. By forging state, local and tribal partnerships among police, prosecutors, judges, victim advocates, health care providers, faith leaders, and other, OVW grants help provide victims with the protection and services they need to pursue safe and healthy lives, while improving communities' capacity to hold offenders accountable for their crimes.

The Services*Training*Officers*Prosecutors (STOP) Violence Against Women 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.

Availability of Funds: The funding available for new STOP projects in 2013 is \$958,631. These funds are further allocated (per statutory requirement) into the following categories:

- 5% or \$47,931 for State and local courts, including juvenile courts;
- 25% or \$239,658 for law enforcement;
- 25% or \$239,658 for prosecutors; and
- 30% or \$287,590 for non-profit, non-governmental victim services.
 - 10% of the funds allocated for victim services must be distributed to culturally specific community-based organizations

These allocations may not be redistributed or transferred to another funding allocation area. The remainder of the funds (15%) may be spent at the discretion of the State through the Idaho Grant Review Council.

There is no minimum or maximum application amount; rather applicants should request adequate funding to implement the proposed project.

Important Change for 2013 STOP Applications

Due to numerous changes to STOP as a result of VAWA 2013, and in order to keep the three (3) year STOP funding cycle on track with the three (3) year STOP Implementation Plan, the 2013 STOP grants under this Request for Proposal (RFP) will be **one year grants with no continuations**. The three (3) year STOP funding cycle will resume with 2014 funds.

Deadline

Applications are due by October 11, 2013 no later than 6:00 p.m. MST.

Applicants must have an account in the Idaho State Police (ISP) Planning, Grants, and Research (PGR) Grants Management System (GMS) in order to complete an application. Electronic submission via GMS is required.

Each applicant must be able to certify, via an electronic acceptance, that they are the signing authority, or have been delegated as such by the chief executive officer of the applicant agency.

Contact and Application Information

For questions or comments regarding the RFP or application process, please contact PGR at (208) 884-7040 or e-mail pgr@isp.idaho.gov.

Instructions for completing the application are on-line at <http://www.isp.idaho.gov/pgr/index.html>, located on the left under the GMS Sign-In icon.

Note: These are general instructions that apply to **all** new applications awarded through PGR; therefore some sections may not be applicable. All required STOP components will be outlined in this RFP.

Eligibility

To apply for 2013 STOP funding, applicants must be a State agency, a unit of local government (city or county), a faith-based organization, an Indian Tribal Government, or a non-profit organization.

Non-profit organizations must demonstrate their non-profit status by attaching one of the following documents to their grant application.

1. Proof that the Internal Revenue Service recognizes the organization as being tax exempt under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
2. A statement from a state taxing body or state secretary of state certifying that the organization is a non-profit organization and that no part of the organizations' net earnings may benefit any private shareholder or individual.
3. A certified copy of certificate of incorporation or similar document establishing non-profit status.
4. Any of the above, if it applies to state or national parent organizations, with a statement by the state or national parent organization that the applicant is a local non-profit affiliate.

All applicants must obtain a Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number from the commercial company Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) and register with the System for Award Management (SAM) no later than the due date of the first quarterly reports.

Note: Applicants formerly used the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) database until the CCR system was migrated to SAM in 2012. SAM is a government wide registry for vendors doing business with the federal government which requires annual renewal. SAM centralizes information about grant recipients and also provides a central location for grant recipients to change organizational information.

Awarding of Funds

Review Process: The Idaho Grant Review Council (Council), formed by an Executive Order of the Governor, is designated as the decision making body for the distribution of STOP grant funds. Members of the Council represent various facets of the criminal justice community, victim services, and the public. Both PGR and the Council are committed to ensuring a fair and open process for awarding grants. Applications are reviewed to make sure the information presented is reasonable, understandable, allowable, measurable, and achievable, as well as consistent with the RFP.

Start Date: Projects are funded on a 12-month cycle and will have a start date no earlier than January 1, 2014, unless otherwise approved by PGR. If projects are not operational within 90 days of the start date, subgrantees must contact PGR or funds may be withdrawn and/or re-awarded.

Extensions beyond the 12-month period may be made on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of PGR and must be requested via GMS no less than 30 days prior to the project cycle end date.

STOP Purpose Areas and Idaho Priority Areas

Federal Fiscal Year 2013 STOP funds are intended for use by States; State, local, and Tribal courts (including juvenile courts); Indian Tribal governments; units of local government; and non-profit, non-governmental victim services programs, including community-based organizations. STOP projects **must** meet one or more of the following statutory purpose areas.

The Idaho Priorities identified by the STOP Implementation Planning Team for the STOP Implementation Plan covering 2010-2012 will carry forward into 2013. The STOP Purpose Areas identified as Idaho Priorities are noted below.

- training law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, and dating violence;
- developing, training, or expanding units of law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors specifically targeting violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault and domestic violence; **(Idaho Priority Area 2)**
- developing and implementing more effective police, court, and prosecution policies, protocols, orders, and services specifically devoted to preventing, identifying, and responding to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault and domestic violence; **(Idaho Priority Area 4)**

- developing, installing, or expanding data collection and communication systems, including computerized systems, linking police, prosecutors, and courts or for the purpose of identifying and tracking arrests, protection orders, violations of protection orders, prosecutions, and convictions for violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault and domestic violence; **(Idaho Priority Area 5)**
- developing, enlarging, or strengthening victim services programs, including sexual assault, domestic violence, and dating violence programs, developing or improving delivery of victim services to underserved populations, providing specialized domestic violence court advocates in courts where a significant number of protection orders are granted, and increasing reporting and reducing attrition rates for cases involving violent crimes against women, including crimes of sexual assault and domestic violence; **(Idaho Priority Area 3)**
- developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing stalking; **(Idaho Priority Area 7)**
- developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing the needs and circumstances of Indian tribes in dealing with violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault and domestic violence; **(Idaho Priority Area 8)**
- supporting formal and informal Statewide, multidisciplinary efforts, to the extent not supported by State funds, to coordinate the response of State law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts, victim services agencies, and other State agencies and departments, to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, and dating violence; **(Idaho Priority Area 1)**
- training of sexual assault forensic medical personnel examiners in the collection and preservation of evidence, analysis, prevention, and providing expert testimony and treatment of trauma related to sexual assault;
- developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs to assist law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and others to address the needs and circumstances of older and disabled women who are victims of domestic violence or sexual assault, including recognizing, investigating, and prosecuting instances of such violence or assault and targeting outreach and support, counseling, and other victim services to such older and disabled individuals;
- providing assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in immigration matters; **(Idaho Priority Area 6)**
- maintaining core victim services and criminal justice initiatives, while supporting complementary new initiatives and emergency services for victims and their families;
- supporting the placement of special victim assistants (to be known as “Jessica Gonzales Victim Assistants”) in local law enforcement agencies to serve as liaisons between victims of domestic

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

- developing, in collaboration with prosecutors, courts, and victim service providers, standardized response policies for local law enforcement agencies, including triage protocols to ensure that dangerous or potentially lethal cases are identified and prioritized;
 - notifying persons seeking enforcement of protection orders as to what responses will be provided by the relevant law enforcement agency;
 - referring persons seeking enforcement of protection orders to supplementary services (such as emergency shelter programs, hotlines, or legal assistance services); and
 - taking other appropriate action to assist or secure the safety of the person seeking enforcement of a protection order.
- providing funding to law enforcement agencies, non-profit non-governmental victim services providers, and State, Tribal, Territorial, and local governments (which funding stream shall be known as the Crystal Judson Domestic Violence Protocol Program) to promote—
 - the development and implementation of training for local victim domestic violence service providers, and to fund victim services personnel, to be known as “Crystal Judson Victim Advocates,” to provide supportive services and advocacy for victims of domestic violence committed by law enforcement personnel;
 - the implementation of protocols within law enforcement agencies to ensure consistent and effective responses to the commission of domestic violence by personnel within such agencies such as the model policy promulgated by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (“Domestic Violence by Police Officers: A Policy of the IACP, Police Response to Violence Against Women Project” July 2003); and
 - the development of such protocols in collaboration with State, Tribal, Territorial and local victim services providers and domestic violence coalitions.

Note: Any law enforcement, State, Tribal, Territorial, or local government agency receiving funding under the Crystal Judson Domestic Violence Protocol Program shall, on an annual basis, receive additional training on the topic of incidents of domestic violence committed by law enforcement personnel from domestic violence and sexual assault non-profit organizations and, after a period of two years, provide a report of the adopted protocol to OVW (through PGR), including a summary of progress in implementing such protocol. As such, PGR is responsible for ensuring that each subgrantee receiving funds under this purpose area will receive the required annual training. PGR is also responsible for ensuring that subgrantees submit their two-year report to OVW (through PGR). PGR must notify and provide OVW with a list of subgrantees awarded STOP funds under the Crystal Judson Domestic Violence Protocol Program.

OVW Priority Areas: In shaping their strategies for Fiscal Year 2013, OVW encourages States and Territories to develop and support projects that:

- Retain core services to victims;
- Increase support for sexual assault, including services, law enforcement response and prosecution;
- Increase support for underserved populations, particularly communities of color, in a culturally appropriate manner, with a special emphasis on African-American, tribal and LGBT communities;
- Increase the use of promising or evidence-building practices, where available;
- Support core services for victims of sexual and domestic violence, particularly support for rape crisis centers and domestic violence shelters;
- Provide culturally-specific services and training to underserved communities based on factors such as race, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, or gender identity;
- Provide basic and advanced training to Tribal law enforcement and Tribal courts regarding services for victims in Tribal communities;
- Provide comprehensive training to victim services, law enforcement, prosecution, and court personnel on sexual assault, to encourage increased reporting, arrest and successful prosecution of perpetrators;
- Support Full Faith and Credit training for Tribes, States and Territories; and Implement evidence-based risk/danger assessments to identify and prioritize victims who are considered to be in relationships with a high risk of lethality.

Guidelines

Supplanting: STOP funds must be used to supplement existing state and local funds for program activities and must not replace those funds that have been appropriated for the same purpose.

Activities that Compromise Victim Safety and Recovery: The following activities have been found to jeopardize victim safety, deter or prevent physical or emotional healing for victims, or allow offenders to escape responsibility for their actions:

- Procedures or policies that exclude victims from receiving safe shelter, advocacy services, counseling, and other assistance based on their actual or perceived age, immigration status, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental health condition, physical health condition, criminal record, work in the sex industry, or the age and/or gender of their children;
- Procedures or policies that compromise the confidentiality of information and privacy of persons receiving OVW-funded services;
- Offering perpetrators the option of entering pre-trial diversion programs;
- Requiring mediation or counseling for couples as a systemic response to domestic violence or sexual assault, or in situations in which child sexual abuse is alleged;
- Requiring victims to report sexual assault, stalking, or domestic violence crimes to law enforcement or forcing victims to participate in criminal proceedings;
- Relying on court-mandated batterer intervention programs that do not use the coercive power of the criminal justice system to hold batterers accountable for their behavior;

- Supporting policies that deny individuals access to services based on their relationship to the perpetrator;
- Supporting policies or engaging in practices that impose restrictive conditions to be met by the victim in order to receive services (e.g., attending counseling, seeking an order of protection);
- Sharing confidential victim information with outside organizations and/or individuals without the documented consent of the victim;
- Placing of batterers in anger management programs; or,
- Procedures that would penalize or impose sanctions on victims of domestic violence or sexual assault for failure to testify against the abuser and/or the perpetrator.

In addition, applicants should be cognizant of victim confidentiality. In accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 13925(b)(2), applicants receiving OVW funding, and their subgrantees, must protect the confidentiality and privacy of persons receiving OVW-funded services to support victims' safety. OVW grantees and their subgrantees are prohibited from disclosing personally identifying information collected in connection with services requested, utilized, or denied through the grantee and their subgrantee's programs, to any third party or third party database without informed, written, reasonably time-limited, consent of the person, unless compelled by statutory or court mandate. In this case, grantees and subgrantees must make reasonable attempts to provide notice to victims affected by the disclosure of information. They must also take necessary steps to protect the privacy and safety of the persons affected by the release of the information. Regarding unemancipated minors or persons with disabilities lacking capacity to consent, a parent or guardian may consent to the disclosure; however, if the parent or guardian is the abuser of the minor, the person with disabilities, or the minor's other parent, he or she is prohibited from giving consent to the disclosure.

Out-of-Scope Activities: OVW has determined research projects to be out of the program scope and will not be supported by STOP funding:

- Research projects (This does not include program assessments conducted only for internal improvement purposes.) Applicants may not use any STOP funds to conduct research. However, up to 3% of the budget may be allocated for the purposes of assessing the effectiveness of funded activities. For example, funds may be used to conduct pre- and post-testing of training recipients or for victim satisfaction surveys. In conducting such testing or surveys, subgrantees may not collect, analyze or disseminate any information that would disclose the identity of an individual.

Unallowable Activities: The following is a list of activities that are unallowable and cannot be supported by STOP funding.

- Lobbying
- Fundraising
- Purchase of real property
- Construction
- Physical modifications to buildings, including minor renovations (such as painting or carpeting)

Note: See Appendix A for additional information and examples of allowable and unallowable STOP costs.

Food and Beverage/Costs for Refreshments and Meals: Generally food and beverage costs are **not** allowable, and under no circumstances may STOP funding be used to supply food and/or beverages during refreshment breaks. STOP funds may be used to provide food and/or beverages for a meal at a meeting, conference, training, or other event, if one of the following applies:

- The location of the event is not in close proximity to food establishments. It should be a priority to try to secure a location near reasonably priced and accessible commercial food establishments.
- Not serving food will significantly lengthen the day or necessitate extending the meeting to achieve meeting outcomes.
- A special presentation at a conference requires a plenary address where there is no other time for food to be obtained.
- Other extenuating circumstances necessitate the provision of food.

Applicants must submit justification for an exception and receive **prior** approval from OVW through PGR.

Conference Planning and Expenditure Limitations: Applicants should be aware of all applicable laws, regulations, policies and guidance (including specific cost limits, prior approval and reporting requirements, where applicable) governing the use of Federal funds for expenses related to conferences (which is defined to include meetings, retreats, seminars, symposiums, training and other similar events), including the provision of food and/or beverages at such events, and costs of attendance at such events. Information on pertinent laws, regulations, policies and guidance is available at <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/grantees.html>. Applicants should also be aware of the following specific restrictions on conference planning and expenditure limitations:

- Cost of Logistical Conference Planning
- Cost of Programmatic Conference Planning
- Conference Space and Audio-Visual Equipment and Services
- Prohibition on Trinkets at Conferences
- Entertainment at Conferences
- Food and Beverages at Conferences

Updated DOJ and OVW guidance on conference planning, minimization of costs, and conference cost reporting is accessible on the OVW website <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/grantees.html>. For additional information regarding food and beverage regulations, please refer to the OVW Financial Grants Management Guide at <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/docs/gfmd-financial-grants-management-guide.pdf>.

Accommodations and Language Access: Applicants are encouraged to allocate grant funds to support activities that help to ensure individuals with disabilities and deaf individuals and persons with limited English proficiency have meaningful and full access to their programs. For example, grant funds can be

used to support American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter services, language interpretation and translation services, or the purchase of adaptive equipment.

Applicants proposing to use grant funds to create websites, videos and other materials must ensure that they are accessible to persons with disabilities. Grant funds must be allocated for these purposes.

Reporting Requirements

Subgrantees are required to submit quarterly expense, match, and progress reports in GMS. In lieu of goals, objectives, and performance measures, STOP subgrantees are required to attach quarterly STOP Subgrantee Annual Performance Reports (SAPR) to their progress reports. STOP subgrantees are only required to report on the sections of the SAPR that pertain to their project. A copy of the SAPR is located at http://www.isp.idaho.gov/pgr/Grant_Programs/STOP_VAWA/index.html. The due date for all reports is no later than the 15th day of the month following the end of each quarter.

Quarterly Reporting Periods	Due Dates
October – December	January 15 th
January – March	April 15 th
April – June	July 15 th
July - September	October 15 th

Required Application Components

A. Program Narrative (limited to 16,000 characters, including spaces)

When completing the Program Narrative be sure to:

- Clearly identify each numbered Program Narrative section
- Spell out all acronyms at least once
- Site data sources

The Program Narrative **must** include:

1. Statement of the Problem

- What problem are you trying to solve? Describe the problem, gaps, and needs.
- How will the proposed project solve the problem?
- Does the proposed project address underserved populations in Idaho? If so, how?
 - Underserved populations are defined by VAWA to include populations underserved because of geographic location, underserved racial and ethnic populations, populations underserved because of special needs (such as language barriers, disabilities, alienage status, or age) and other populations determined to be underserved by the Attorney General.

- Provide data to support the statement of the problem and site the sources. Data source examples include:
 - [Crime in Idaho Report](#)
 - [Crime in Idaho Database](#)
 - [United States Census Bureau](#)
 - [Idaho Statistical Analysis Center Publications](#)

2. Project Design and Implementation

- Amount of federal funds requested.
- Proposed project period.
- Which STOP Purpose Area(s) are addressed by the proposed project?
- If the proposed project addresses Idaho Priorities established by the STOP Implementation Planning Team, describe how.
- Explain how the proposed project addresses:
 - Collaboration. Who will benefit from this project and how?
 - Evidence-based or best practice. Is there any objective research or evidence to show that the proposed project will be successful? Go to [CrimeSolutions.gov](#) to find information on evidence-based programs in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services.
 - Sustainability. Is there any assurance the proposed project will continue beyond the life of the grant? If applicable, how will project personnel and/or annual maintenance and license fees be funded after the life of the grant?

3. Data Collection and Project Administration

- How will data required for the SAPRs be collected?
- How will grant funds be tracked separately from other funds in the applicant’s financial management system?

4. Disclosure of Pending Applications

- Address any pending applications for federal funds supporting the same project proposed in this application. Identify the funding agency and grant title for pending applications submitted in the last 12 months.

5. If the proposed project includes funds for assessing the effectiveness of funded activities, the applicant must address the following:

- Describe the assessment, i.e. pre- and post-testing, victim satisfaction surveys, etc.
- Provide budget categories and amounts requested for this purpose.

Note: PGR highly recommends saving the Program Narrative in Word and pasting it into GMS. There is no spell check or character count in GMS.

B. Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures: Not required – Please leave this section blank.

C. Budget and Budget Detail Worksheet: The requested budget must reflect as closely as possible the costs associated with the proposed project. The required Expense/Match Budget Detail Worksheet, which includes calculations and narratives, must be completed and contain a breakdown of costs identified and explanations of how the costs were derived. If you have questions regarding allowable costs, please contact PGR for clarification.

Match: There is a 25% match requirement for STOP funds. While tribes and victim service providers are not required to provide matching funds, any match they can provide assists the State in meeting the 25% match requirement. Matching funds can either be cash (e.g., funds contributed from private sources or State and local governments) or in-kind services (e.g., services or goods donated by the applicant organization or other entities).

- Funds from other federal sources may not be used for match.
- Funds or in-kind resources used as match must be directly related to the proposed project.
- According to the OVW Grants Financial Management Guide, subgrantees “must maintain records which clearly show the source, the amount, and the timing of all matching contributions.”
- Sources of match are restricted to the same requirements as funds allocated under STOP and must be documented in the same manner as STOP funds.
- The formula for calculating match is:
 - Award Amount ÷ 75% (federal share) = Adjusted Project Costs
 - Adjusted Project Costs x 25% (applicant share) = Required Match
- Match example for an applicant requesting \$50,000 in STOP funds:
 - \$50,000 ÷ 75% = \$66,667
 - \$66,667 x 25% = \$16,667 Required Match

D. Memorandum of Understanding: Letters of support will not be accepted; however applicants must provide a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), if applicable. MOU’s demonstrate the applicant’s coordinated efforts with other agencies.

E. Assurances and Certifications: These must be “signed” via an electronic acceptance by the executive official or designee representing the applicant agency. Each agency may designate a person to complete the application; however, this person must certify that they have the authority to sign on behalf of the executive official.

Note: A sample application is available on the [PGR website](#). The example addresses RFP requirements for both JAG and STOP, so it can be used as a tool for all applicants. **The project, data, and budget information in the sample application are FICTIONAL and not based on any JAG or STOP project that has been funded in the past.**

Additional Requirements

Applicants funded by the Idaho Grant Review Council must agree to comply with additional legal requirements upon acceptance of an award. PGR strongly encourages applicants to review the information pertaining to these additional requirements prior to submitting an application. Additional information for each can be found at <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/docs/companion-guide-10-16-12.pdf>.

- Civil Rights Compliance
- Funding to Faith-Based Organizations
- Confidentiality and Privacy Protections
- Research and the Protection of Human Subjects (if applicable)
- Anti-Lobbying Act
- Reporting Requirements
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (if applicable)
- DOJ Information Technology Standards (if applicable)
- Non-supplanting of State and Local Funds
- Criminal Penalty for False Statements
- Reporting Fraud, Waste, Error, and Abuse
- Suspension or Termination of Funding
- Non-profit Organizations
- Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA)
- Rights in Intellectual Property
- Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) of 2006
- Awards in Excess of \$5,000,000 – Federal Taxes Certification Requirement
- Active SAM Registration

NOTE: GMS WILL allow applicants to submit an application WITHOUT all required components, so please make sure you have completed all requirements, as your application may be considered non-responsive if the identified program elements are not met.

Allowable and Unallowable STOP Costs from OVW Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can STOP funds be used to support services to children?

Yes, in limited circumstances. STOP funds should be used for projects that serve or focus on adult and teen women who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. In general, victims served with STOP funds must be adults or teens. Under a new purpose area created by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) 2005, however, STOP funds may also support "complementary new initiatives and emergency services for victims and their families." For example, STOP funds may support services for secondary victims such as children who witness domestic violence.

2. Can STOP funds support services for men?

Yes. However, funding may only be directed to projects with a primary focus of combating violence against women. The STOP statute states that "[t]he purpose of this subchapter [part] is to assist States, State and local courts (including juvenile courts), Indian tribal governments, tribal courts and units of local government 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." 42 U.S.C. § 3796gg(a). However, subgrantees must provide services to a similarly situated male victim in need who requests services. Under the anti-discrimination provision of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, 42 U.S.C. § 3789d(c)(1), STOP-funded programs may not exclude any person from receiving grant-funded services on a number of prohibited grounds, including that person's sex. In addition, in VAWA 2005, Congress specifically provided that "Nothing in this title [which includes the STOP statute] shall be construed to prohibit male victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking from receiving benefits and services under this title."

3. Can STOP funds be used to defend women who assault, kill, or otherwise injure their abusers?

No. STOP funds cannot be used to fund any criminal defense work, including defending women who assault, kill, or otherwise injure their abusers.

4. Can STOP funds be used to provide services to incarcerated victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking?

Yes. The services provided, however, may only address the domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking victimization experienced by the incarcerated individual, including both such crimes experienced while incarcerated and crimes experienced at other points in their youth and adult lives. Funds should not be used to provide any other types of services, such as rehabilitative services related to the crime committed by the incarcerated individual. Finally, as is the case with the use of all STOP funds, States must use those funds to supplement State funds, and not to supplant State funds that would otherwise be available for the activities funded.

Although STOP funds may be used to provide victim services as described above, other federal funds do have restrictions on serving incarcerated victims.

5. Can STOP subgrantees provide services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking with STOP funds?

Yes. The statute does not restrict provision of services under STOP-funded projects based on sexual orientation or gender identity. In addition, consistent with the response to question 2 above, gay, bisexual, and transgender male victims who request services should not be refused such services based on their sex.

6. Can legal services be supported with STOP funds?

Yes, however, the primary purpose of legal representation must be to protect the victim's safety. Funding through the STOP Program was not intended to pay the fees charged by attorneys for divorces, legal separations, and other actions falling outside the scope of the statute. Support for legal services, such as custody or visitation, must be examined on a case-by-case basis, must be directly related to enhancing a victim's safety, and must be otherwise allowable under federal cost principles. For example, if a protection order specifies "no contact" with the children, then attorney's fees related to a visitation case could be covered if resolution of the visitation case is necessary for the continued enforcement of the protection order.

7. Can STOP funds be used to transport a woman safely out-of-state?

Yes, in limited circumstances. STOP funds may be used to cover reasonable transportation costs that would enhance a woman's safety. STOP funds may not be used to pay for moving household goods to a new location in another State or acquiring furniture or housing in a new location.

8. Can a victim services organization receive an award to help place survivors in permanent housing after shelter stay? For example, could the organization purchase furniture or pay moving costs?

No. STOP funds may not be used to pay for moving household goods to a new location in another State or acquiring furniture or housing in a new location. However, STOP funds may be used to cover reasonable transportation costs that would enhance a woman's safety. Please see question 25 for a discussion of paying rent for provision of transitional housing.

9. Under the STOP Program, can the State create a voucher program where victims are directly given vouchers for such services as housing or counseling?

No. The statutory purposes of the STOP Program do not authorize creation of a voucher program.

10. Can STOP dollars support batterers' intervention programs? If so, what allocation should they be funded under?

Yes. Batterers' intervention programs may be supported provided that the programs are part of a graduated range of sanctions that use the coercive power of the criminal justice system to hold abusers accountable for their criminal actions and for changing their behavior. However, couples counseling or

any intervention that requires participation by a victim or that is not designed to hold offenders accountable for their violent behavior cannot be supported with STOP dollars.

The specific allocation may depend on the circumstances of the program and the particular State. Batterers' intervention may be supported through the "discretionary" portion of a State's formula grant (i.e., the 15 percent that is not designated for law enforcement, prosecution, courts, or victim services) or the courts portion.

11. Can STOP funds support violence prevention programs, such as media campaigns to educate the general public about violence against women?

No. According to VAWA, the general purpose of the STOP Program is to assist jurisdictions "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." 42 U.S.C. § 3796gg(a). The enumerated statutory program purpose areas do not address prevention programs, so prevention programs, such as media campaigns, may not be supported under this program. However, States may fund outreach efforts aimed at informing victims about services available. For example, a shelter could distribute brochures listing the signs of domestic violence, describing the services available, and providing a hotline number to access the services. Moreover, the STOP statute (as amended by VAWA 2005) permits States to fund "core victim services and criminal justice initiatives, while supporting complimentary new initiatives and emergency services for victims and their families." Initiatives designed to reach victims, rather than raise awareness generally, may be supported under this purpose area.

12. Can programs in schools be supported with STOP funds?

Yes, programs in schools may be supported to the extent that they fit within one or more of the STOP program's statutory program purpose areas. For example, STOP funds could be used to provide support groups that meet at school for dating violence victims or to provide information to students about services available to help victims of dating violence. As discussed above, STOP funds may not support general prevention programs in schools.

13. Can STOP funds be used to pay for the prosecution of child sexual abuse when the victim is now an adult?

No, generally, STOP funds may not be used to pay for the prosecution of child sexual abuse when the victim is now an adult. The only rare exception would be if the abuse continued into adulthood, and the prosecution of the acts that occurred in childhood are part of the larger continuum of assaults that stretched into the victim's adult life.

14. Can STOP funds be used to pay for health care providers' time conducting forensic examinations?

Yes. Beginning with FY 2007 awards to the States, STOP funds may be used for health care providers' time conducting forensic examinations, if two requirements are met:

- the examinations are performed by specially trained examiners for victims of sexual assault (such as Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) or Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFEs)); and

- the jurisdiction does not require victims of sexual assault to seek reimbursement from their insurance carriers.

15. Can STOP funds be used to purchase equipment that will be used partially for purposes other than those outlined in the STOP program?

STOP funds may be used to partially purchase equipment that will be used for the STOP project as well as other purposes if the expenses are prorated according to the percentage of time that the equipment is used for STOP purposes. For example, a State could use STOP funds to support a portion of the digitalization of a 911 network if it can document the percentage of expenses based on the number of calls received for domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

16. Can STOP funds be used to purchase automobiles?

No, STOP funds cannot be used to purchase vehicles. Please note that this is a change from a 1998 memorandum that authorized the purchase of vehicles under certain circumstances.

17. Can STOP funds be used to purchase food?

Yes, in some instances. The provision of food and beverages at training events or conferences is governed by the OVW Grants Financial Management Guide. (See <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/docs/gfmd-financial-grants-management-guide.pdf>). Please contact PGR to determine if food provision at a particular event is acceptable. Food provision within the context of victim services (e.g., providing food in shelters) is permissible if the food is necessary or integral to providing services to women to enhance their safety.

18. Are the salaries of prosecutors, law enforcement officers or judges considered allowable costs?

Yes, if the prosecutors, law enforcement officers, or judges being paid are handling cases involving violence against women. If they are not working full time on violence against women cases, their time must be prorated.

19. Can STOP funds be used to pay for immigration fees for battered immigrant women?

No, such fees are not within the scope of the STOP Program.

20. Can STOP dollars support the operational costs of a facility, such as a shelter?

Yes, except that if the project is supported with funds from other sources as well (e.g., Victims of Crime Act or Family Violence Prevention and Services Act funds), the rent and operational expenses must be prorated among the different funding sources. In addition, the rent must be reasonable. If, however, the shelter owns its own facility, rent for use of that facility may not be charged to the grant at all; however, related expenses such as utilities and building security may be charged to the grant.

21. Can a State allow a subgrantee to charge indirect costs to the subgrant?

Yes, it is within the discretion of the State whether to allow subgrantees to charge indirect costs.

22. Can STOP funds be used for renovations or construction?

No. STOP monies cannot be used for renovations or construction. This includes even such seemingly minor renovations as painting or replacing carpet.

23. Can a subgrantee provide gift cards, such as gas cards or grocery cards, to support victims?

OVW strongly discourages the use of gift cards, because oversight of expenditures is very difficult to manage and there is a risk of misuse. Gift cards are only allowable to the extent that they are used for purposes that are otherwise an allowable use of STOP funds, such as to purchase groceries for victims as described in question 24. If the grantee or subgrantee determines that use of gift cards is necessary to provide services to victims, they must ensure that effective control and accountability is maintained over gift cards and that those cards are used solely for authorized purposes. Please contact PGR (who will contact OVW's Grants Financial Management Division) if you have specific questions about adequate fiscal controls regarding the use of gift cards, including tracking and safeguarding of cards and ensuring that all items purchased with those cards are within the scope of the STOP program and are allowable under Federal regulations.

24. Can STOP funds be used to purchase groceries?

Yes. STOP funding may be used to purchase groceries as part of victim services that subgrantees provide to victims. Grantees and subgrantees need to have a process in place to ensure that all items purchased are allowable, reasonable and necessary under applicable State and Federal statutes and regulations. Pursuant to Federal regulations, the purchase of any alcohol, tobacco, or related products is strictly prohibited with the use of grant funds.

25. Can a subgrantee pay for the first month's rent or rental deposit for a victim of domestic violence as part of the provision of transitional housing?

Yes, STOP funds can be used to pay the first month's rent. Deposits are also allowable if the subgrantee has an agreement in place with the landlord that the full/remaining deposit will be returned to the subgrantee and not the victim at the end of the lease. OVW advises that the subgrantees arrange to pay the first month's rent, rather than a security deposit, to alleviate the need to recover and account for the deposit.

2013 STOP Violence Against Women Grant (STOP) Evaluation Questions

1. Problem and Solution – Weight 30

- Were the problem and proposed solution clearly identified?
- Was data presented to support the problem?

2. Project Design, Implementation, and Data Collection – Weight 50

- Are the STOP Purpose Area(s) identified?
- Is the project collaborative and are the collaborative efforts adequately addressed?
- Is the project evidence-based or best practice?
- Does the project address sustainability?
- Is data collection for the SAPRs described?
- For projects assessing the effectiveness of funded activities ONLY
 - Does the application describe the assessment and provide the costs associated with the assessment?

3. Budget – Weight 20

- Are all costs broken down on the required Expense/Match Budget Detail Worksheet?
- Do the budget narratives provide sufficient back-up for the requested costs?
- Are costs reasonable and necessary?
- Are expenses clearly tied to the problem and solution?
- Is match included? (Non-profit organizations and Tribal governments are not required to provide match.)
- Are match calculations included along with a match narrative?