

**State of Louisiana**  
**Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement**  
**and Administration of Criminal Justice**  
**Federal Programs Section**  
**March 20, 2014**  
**Fiscal Years 2013 – 2015**



**STOP Violence Against Women**  
**Formula Grant Program**  
**State Implementation Plan**  
**2014-X0749-LA-WF**



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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice (LCLE) is the state agency named by the Governor to administer the federal STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program funded through the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), Office of Justice Programs. STOP is an acronym for Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecution. The intent of the OVW STOP program is to reduce violence against women by developing and strengthening effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies used to combat violent crimes against women. Priority shall be given to women who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This program is applied to crimes against women ages 11 and older as specified by OVW.

The LCLE is a fifty-five member body appointed by the Governor from all areas of criminal justice and law enforcement disciplines (LA R.S. 15:1202) and are subject to change with the election of each new Governor. The Commission Chair appoints the Victims Services Advisory Board and are subject to change with the Commission's election of a new chairperson. The Victims Services Advisory Board is responsible for overseeing the funding of grant applications under the STOP Program. The Advisory Board works with LCLE staff to provide recommendations to the Commission regarding all decisions concerning the best course of action to take when allocating and awarding STOP funds. The Commission makes the final decisions on all funding matters.

Currently, there are fourteen members serving on the Victims Services Advisory Board. The members include the two statewide domestic violence and sexual assault coalition executive directors, representatives from law enforcement and prosecution agencies, the judiciary sector, a member of the Crime Victims Reparations Board (the State's VOCA Crime Victim Reparations Program), victim services programs, and a representative of the Family Violence Prevention/Intervention Program of the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. All members of the Board are involved in the development of the Louisiana's STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program Implementation Plan.

The LCLE STOP Program Manager is the State Administrator of the STOP Program. The Program Manager works closely with the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), the Commission, the Victim Services Advisory Board, the eight local law enforcement planning districts, the two state coalitions, and other interested entities in order to successfully accomplish this endeavor.

### **A. Approval Date**

The LCLE STOP Program Manager provided the 2013-2015 STOP Implementation Plan to the Victims Services Advisory Board to review and provide any final recommendations. The Board unanimously agreed to recommend this Plan to the LCLE Commission on March 19, 2014. The Victims Services Advisory Chairman presented the Board's recommendation to the LCLE Commission for final approval on Thursday, March 20, 2014. The Commission unanimously approved the Plan.

## **B. Plan Period**

The 2013-2015 STOP Implementation Plan will be used as a guide for the LCLE and all STOP recipient agencies during the fiscal year's funding period of approximately July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2016, which is the FY 2014 STOP Formula Grant Program award period. This Plan will support Louisiana's statewide efforts to revise, update, and strengthen existing law enforcement and prosecution strategies developed to combat violent crimes committed against women in Louisiana according to the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 and its twenty (20) STOP Formula Grant purpose areas. As future planning activities develop, this Plan will be updated and/or revised as needed.

## **C. LCLE Mission Statement**

The LCLE intends to use STOP Program funds to fund new and continuation projects that focus on one or more of the twenty (20) program purpose areas, as set forth in the statutes of the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program, supported by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) and authorized under Title 1 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, first enacted in the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA), then under the reauthorizations in 2000 and 2005, and lastly, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA 2013). The existing and new initiatives as a result of current and future planning will hopefully reduce violent crimes against women through the use and implementation of effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies used to combat violent crimes against women who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

## **D. Organization of Implementation Plan**

The Implementation Plan Checklist provided by the Office on Violence Against Women was originally used to begin the creation of the 2013-2015 STOP Implementation Plan for Louisiana. However, after receipt of the STOP Formula Grants Program Implementation Plan Tool (IP Tool) distributed by ALSO STAAR on February 26, 2014, the Plan was transformed to incorporate the additional information in the new IP Tool Kit. This Plan, when approved by OVW, will be used as a foundation to guide key stakeholders from all disciplines in Louisiana to incorporate new methods to best serve victims, hold offenders accountable, and improve on those methods which are currently being implemented statewide.

## **E. STOP Allocation Process**

Funding priority is given to law enforcement, prosecution, and court agencies, as well as, tribal governments and victim service providers whose services strive to reduce violence by developing and strengthening effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies created to combat crimes committed against women. Law enforcement and prosecution applicant agencies apply for STOP funding through one of the eight Local Law Enforcement Planning

Districts or Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils. Non-profit, non-governmental agencies apply through their respective coalitions, the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault. Statewide programs, courts, tribal governments, and discretionary statewide programs apply directly to the LCLE.

All recipients awarded with STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program funds must address at least one or more of the twenty purpose areas required under the Violence Against Women Act. Applicant agencies are required to specify which purpose area or areas their projects address. No single purpose is given priority by the Board or the Commission; each project is evaluated on its own merit. Additional information regarding the LCLE allocation process is provided in the Grant-Making Strategy Section of this Plan.

## **II. PLANNING PROCESS**

### **A. Description**

The first method is a series of face-to-face meetings with the District Program Directors of the state's law enforcement planning districts, the Executive Directors of the state's domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions, and the Victim Services Advisory Board members in garnering support from criminal justice agencies and victim service agencies throughout the state. The plan is to gather their expertise, input, and vision on existing services, creating new projects for new initiatives when gaps have been found for needed victim services, advice on how to provide services to underserved, diverse, or culturally specific populations, collaboration efforts among the different types of agencies, as well as collecting ideas and conducting needs assessments or conducting surveys when necessary to prioritize STOP program objectives.

Under Louisiana Statutes § R.S. 15:1205 and § R.S. 15:1206 (both added by Acts 1976, No. 592, §1), these planning districts/councils serve as local points of contact for agencies wishing to access STOP funds administered by the LCLE. They also perform functions similar to those prescribed to the Commission in planning, developing, coordinating, and administering criminal justice improvement programs within their respective districts. The map provided on Page 29 shows each district and the parishes they serve. Each planning district/council has their own local advisory board that oversees the distribution of funds and recommends the approval or disapproval of the allocation of STOP funds. These District Law Enforcement Planning Districts/Councils' Boards are comprised of nonprofit victim service organizations, criminal justice, and law enforcement officials from the parishes in their respective Districts and are aware of unmet needs. Additional information regarding these Planning Districts/Councils is provided in Section IV.C.3 and 4 on Pages 28-31.

The statewide coalitions, the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) and the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LaFASA) represent most of the non-profit, non-governmental victim services programs in the state. The LCADV is a statewide network of seventeen battered women's programs and shelters operated by the organizations and individuals who share the goal of ending domestic violence and other related crimes

committed against women in Louisiana. LaFASA is a statewide network of thirteen sexual assault centers in fourteen locations operated by the organizations and individuals who share the goal of providing services to women who have become victims of sexual abuse and sexual assault.

The second method comes from the guidance of the Victim Services Advisory Board and the Commission who provides input into the plan, give strategy guidance, protocol and policy direction relative to preventing, identifying, and responding to the needs of women who have been victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and other violent crimes.

Currently, there are fourteen members serving on the Victim Services Advisory Board. The members include the two statewide coalition executive directors, representatives from law enforcement and prosecution agencies, the judiciary sector, a member of the Crime Victims Reparations Board (the State's VOCA Crime Victim Reparations Program), victim services programs, and a representative of the Family Violence Prevention/Intervention Program of the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. All members of the Board are involved in the development of the Louisiana's STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program Implementation Plan.

## **B. Planning Committee**

The planning of the LCLE 2013-2015 STOP Formula Grant Implementation Plan for Louisiana began as a small meeting between Rutha Chatwood, LCLE STOP Program Manager, Beth Meeks, Executive Director, and Kim Clement, Program Development Coordinator of the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV), and Vonnie Hawkins, Interim Executive Director of the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LaFASA) on 06/26/2013. Topics discussed were to develop a timeline for the 2014 STOP Implementation Plan and the need to develop a Needs Assessment Survey by possibly creating a sub-committee comprised of representatives from law enforcement, prosecution and court agencies, the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (LA DCFS), and the two Coalitions, and search for a person to collate, review, and analyze the survey information once it would be collected.

A second meeting was held 07/23/2013. In attendance were Rutha Chatwood, LCLE STOP Program Manager, Tracy Dahmer Farris, Louisiana Department of Justice, Office of Attorney General, Audrey Thibodeaux, Elderly Victims of Crime Director, with the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney's Office, Ramona Harris, Director of the Louisiana Protective Order Registry of the Louisiana Supreme Court, Captain Karla Beck, Director of Police Social Services at the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office, Cordelia Heaney, Executive Director of Office on Women's Policy with LA DCFS, Beth Meeks, Executive Director, and Kim Clement, Program Development Coordinator, of LCADV, and Vonnie Hawkins, Interim Executive Director, of LaFASA.

Various topics were discussed, such as which agencies could be considered as recipients of the ten percent of the thirty percent allocated for victim services programs, such as Native Americans, Laotian, African-American, Latino, Hispanic, Vietnamese, LGBTQ, and other culturally specific populations in our state. The group discussed the need to conduct a lethality assessment, underserved populations, T-Visas and U-Visas, trafficking, how to better coordinate community responses, to look at the types of trainings offered to law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and victim services staff persons providing services, and to gauge the number of programs offering services to sexual assault victims to ensure LCLE's STOP Program is meeting the new 20% Sexual Assault Set-aside STOP requirement.

## **C. Coordination Efforts**

### **1. Family Violence Prevention Services Act and Public Health Service Act (Rape Prevention Act)**

On 07/18/2013, a letter from the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (LA DCFS) was sent to various agencies, including LCLE, announcing the collaboration with stakeholders based on the two bills introduced during the 2013 Legislative Session. Senate Resolution 95 by Senator Walsworth and House Resolution 76 by Representative Schroder requested that the LA DCFS collaborate with stakeholders to study and develop a comprehensive statewide plan for the delivery of domestic violence services and to report its recommendations to the House and Senate Committees on Health and Welfare on or before 01/15/2014.

In constructing a comprehensive statewide plan for the delivery of domestic violence services, the study group was charged with including four of the following directives:

- Development of a state needs assessment and a comprehensive and integrated service delivery approach that meets the needs of all domestic violence victims.
- Establishment of a method to transition domestic violence service providers towards evidence-based national best practices focusing on outreach and prevention.
- Development of a plan that ensures that Louisiana laws on domestic violence are being properly implemented and provides for training on domestic violence and its many dimensions to law enforcement and the judiciary.
- Development of a framework to collect and integrate data and measure program outcomes.

The participants in the Domestic Violence Study Group Project were: Judy Bell, Domestic Violence Program Director; Judge Pamela J. Baker, Louisiana Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges; Gwendolyn Brooks, Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services; Rutha Chatwood, Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement; Tommy Clark, Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police; Tracy Dahmer Farris, Louisiana Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General; Melanie Fields,

Louisiana District Attorneys Association; Ramona Harris, Louisiana Supreme Court, Judicial Administrator's Office; Vonnie Hawkins, Interim Executive Director, Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault; Cordelia Heaney, Louisiana Women's Policy & Research Commission and Study Group Facilitator; Judge Patricia Koch, Louisiana District Judges Association; Kim Matherne, Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services; Beth Meeks, Executive Director, Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Richard Pittman, Louisiana Public Defender Board; Sheriff James Pohlmann, Louisiana Sheriffs Association; Trashica Robinson, Domestic Violence Survivor; Ebony Tucker, Executive Director, Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault; Karen Webb, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals; Carmen Weisner, Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers; and Judge Paul Young, Louisiana Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges.

The study group formed work groups to examine different components of the study group directives: a Needs Assessment & Data Collection Work Group, a Law Enforcement/Judicial Training and Law Implementation Work Group, and an Evaluation System work group. These work groups conducted seven telephone conference calls and five meetings, including two day-long meetings, where the work groups' findings were reviewed, presentations on national best practices currently being implemented in parts of Louisiana and the differences between various regional plans and regional funding were discussed, and five different states' implementation plans were reviewed, before initial recommendations were drafted. The general findings of the study group was an excellent first step in constructing a strong statewide plan for coordination among the many agencies that provide services to domestic violence survivors and their families in Louisiana and working together would further strengthen its statewide Coordinated Community Response to domestic violence.

LA DCFS will administer about \$6.6 million in domestic violence funds in the coming year. This is a combination of both federal and state funds: \$1,371,388 in Family Violence Prevention and Services Program (FVPSA) federal funds, \$2,350,000 in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) federal funds, as well as \$2.4 million in state general funds, approximately \$425,000 annually from marriage license fees and approximately \$92,000 annually in civil fees collected by twenty-three participating parishes.

The LA DCFS funds are administered in coordination with the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV). Programs are assessed using the Committee on Quality Assurance (COQA) system. The COQA Committee is made up of five peers (Executive Directors from state domestic violence service programs), a LA DCFS staff person, and an LCADV staff person. The programs receive a score calculated through four different types of submissions: a provider self-study, provider documents submitted to COQA, a site visit, and contract performance and reporting. Site visits are conducted by a group made up of one LA DCFS staff person, one LCADV staff person, and one peer. Domestic violence service providers who receive grants from LA DCFS are required to secure matching funds of twenty percent of the grantees' contract amount. Such matching funds may be in the form of cash, certified expenditures or in-kind

contributions. Matching funds must be derived from unduplicated sources other than the program or other federal funding and be provided after the date of the grant award to the recipient. Funds used to match a previous LA DCFS, federal or other grant award may not be used to match a subsequent grant.

The LCLE will administer about \$1,371,363 in Fiscal Year 2013 for domestic violence programs. These funds are federal derived from two funding streams: \$1,086,957 in Victims of Crime Act, Victim Assistance Program under the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Program (OJP) funds and \$284,406 in Violence Against Women Act's STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program under the Violence Against Women Program Office, Office of Justice Program (OJP) funds. VOCA funds' primary purpose is to support the provision of services to victims of crime, and requires programs to provide direct services to victims, while VAWA STOP funds' primary purpose is the reduction of violence by developing and strengthening effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat crimes against women.

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LA DHH) Office of Public Health will administer \$682,519 in sexual assault-focused funds in the coming year. They fund fourteen sexual assault centers, five of which are dual sexual assault/domestic violence programs. They administer two federal funds: \$109,436 in Preventive Health Block (PHB) funds (\$25,055 of which goes to dual domestic violence/sexual assault service providers), and \$493,083 in Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) funds (\$97,568 of which goes to dual domestic violence/sexual assault service providers). In addition, they manage \$80,000 in state supplemental funds, which are used to cover state administrative expenses. PHB funds are evenly distributed among the state's fourteen sexual assault centers. RPE funds are administered by LaFASA, using a new SAC Score points system. Five factors are designated to determine points, and include compliance with standards, size of population served, size of geographic area, number of direct service contacts (victim services) and number of contacts in prevention work.

The majority of domestic violence funds administered in the state are federal funds, and federal grants require that state administrators provide an assurance that there will be an equitable distribution of grants and grant funds within the state and between urban and rural areas within such state. Funding issues identified by the domestic violence study group include that funding amounts have not been calculated based on a universal scoring system used by the three main funding agencies; programs are held to different assessment standards by each funder; and some funders provide funds to domestic violence programs that other funders have elected not to, perhaps missing an opportunity to best leverage all available funds. Additional work can be done to collectively create funding synergies between the funds administered by LA DCFS, LCLE and LA DHH, as well as to help identify additional funding sources (e.g., grants, public-private partnerships) for domestic violence service providers in our state, in order to better serve survivors in all areas of Louisiana.

The last meeting of the Study Group was held 01/03/2014, in which all in attendance agreed the Domestic Violence Study Group Report was ready to be

submitted to the Legislature by the due date of 01/15/2014. Collaborative meetings are currently ongoing between the TANF Unit Program Manager and the Domestic Violence Program Coordinator of the LA DCFS and the LCLE STOP and VOCA Program Managers. It is hoped during the next planning year, our collaboration efforts will ensure the victim services agencies funded by both LA DCFS and LCLE (STOP and VOCA) are not duplicating services and operating costs; consider new approaches victim service agencies can use to streamline the services they provide to victims in each of their respective areas.

## **2. Victims of Crime Act**

The primary purpose of VOCA funding is to support the provision of direct services to victims of crime. Funding priority is given to public or private (or a combination of both) agencies that provide direct services to victims of sexual assault, spouse and child abuse, and underserved populations. The staff at each of the Districts or Councils and the LCLE VOCA Program Manager provide direct assistance to subgrant agencies and work diligently to ensure that these agencies utilize the funds to meet the intended goals and objectives of the VOCA Formula Grant Program, have a full understanding of reporting requirements, maintain statistics and fiscal records, and submit the required reports to LCLE as scheduled.

The State of Louisiana does not provide state or local funding to criminal justice agencies and victims services programs designated solely to provide services to victims. However, the LCLE does award federal monies from the Office for Victims of Crime, Crime Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program to many of the agencies currently receiving STOP Formula Grant Program funding. Additional services are available to all victims of crime provided through the LCLE, such as the Crime Victim Reparations (CVR) and the Louisiana Automated Victim Notification System (LAVNS). The LCLE coordinates with each subgrant agency asking for the name and contact information of the individual of the applicant agency who is charged with the responsibility of assisting victims in regard to accessing and using the LAVNS system as well as responsible for assisting victims in applying for services available through the CVR Program.

Awards available directly to sexual assault victims through the Office for Victims of Crime, Crime Victim Reparations (CVR) helps innocent victims and their families when they have no other means of paying for the financial cost of crime outside the services provided by the sexual assault centers. The fund is administered by the Crime Victims Reparations Board under the jurisdiction of the LCLE.

The LAVNS Program is an on-line resource that allows victims to search for information regarding an offender's current custody and case status. Victims may also register to be notified automatically when an offender is released, transferred, or escapes from a Parish facility or has a change in case status. The LAVNS service is provided to victims in an effort to help keep them safe and informed; however, victims are also advised to not depend solely on LAVNS for their protection. Victims are also advised if

they feel they may be at risk, to take precautions as if the offender has already been released, which is encouraged to be part of a victim's safety plan

The LCLE VOCA Program Manager and STOP Program Manager work closely together in the Federal Programs Section of the LCLE. The agencies funded by VOCA and STOP are continually monitored to ensure there is no duplication in services and operating costs, provide technical assistance as needed, and help the agencies better coordinate their community responses to victims. Both the VOCA Program Manager and the STOP Program Manager are and will continue to be a part of the STOP Implementation Plan's planning process.

#### **D. Planning Activities**

During the next year, the LCLE STOP Program Manager will continue to meet with the LCLE VOCA Program Manager, LA DCFS, the Coalitions, District Directors, the members of the Victim Services Advisory Board, and all subgrant recipients (law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and victim service providers) currently receiving STOP funds to allow each and every person to have an opportunity to discuss their concerns and/or issues impacting their areas of expertise and the populations they represent. The future schedule for these meetings is not known at the time of the writing of this Plan.

### **III. NEEDS AND CONTEXT**

#### **A. Demographics and Geographical Information**

Louisiana is located in the southern region of the United States of America and is the only state in the United States with sixty-four political subdivisions termed as "parishes," which are equivalent to "counties" in all other states. Louisiana's total population was reported in the 2010 Census report as totaling 4,533,372, which resulted in a ranking order of Louisiana as twenty-two in the United States.

Louisiana encompasses a total of 43,203.90 square miles. When comparing the number of persons per square mile in Louisiana to that of other states, Louisiana has 104.9 persons per square mile versus the national average of 87.4 per square mile. There were major shifts in populated areas during the past ten years after the devastations resulting from the two hurricanes in 2005 (Katrina and Rita), two hurricanes in 2008 (Gustav and Ike), and the 2010 British Petroleum oil spill that nearly devastated the entire Louisiana coastline.

The largest parish by population is East Baton Rouge Parish with a population of 440,178 or an average of 966.6 people per square mile throughout the parish. Baton Rouge is the capitol of Louisiana with a population of 229,493 or 2,982.5 people per square mile. The largest parish by land area in square miles (169.42) is Cameron Parish, which has a population of 5.3 people per square mile.

The largest city in the state is the City of New Orleans, which is a major United States port and the state's largest metropolitan area. Its population totals 343,829, classifying it as the largest city according to the 2010 U.S. Census. The New Orleans-Kenner-Metairie Metropolitan Statistical Area encompassing eight parishes with a combined population of 1,235,650 in 2010, makes it the forty-fifth largest Metropolitan Statistical Area in the United States. The New Orleans-Metairie-Hammond combined statistical area, which is larger trading area than the New Orleans Metropolitan area encompasses ten parishes and boasts a population of 1,453,502.

Each parish is listed below by population per square mile ó largest to smallest populations in each parish throughout the state as reported in the 2010 Census report. Breakdowns of population demographics by parish with population totals are as follows:

- Major metropolitan areas in Louisiana in order of population density are located in the Parishes of East Baton Rouge (440,178), Jefferson (432,552), Orleans (343,829), Caddo (254,969), St. Tammany (233,740) and Lafayette (221,578). These six parishes consist of approximately 9.4% of the sixty-four parishes but have a total population of 1,926,846 people, or 42.5% of Louisiana's total state population.
- The parishes listed in order of population density of 100,000 people or more are Calcasieu (192,768), Ouachita (153,720), Rapides (131,613), Livingston (128,026), Tangipahoa (121,097), Bossier (116,979), Terrebonne (111,860), and Ascension (107,215). These eight parishes are 12.5% of the sixty-four parishes with a total population of 1,063,278 or 23.4% of the total state population.
- Lafourche (96,318), St. Landry (83,384), Iberia (73,240), Acadia (61,773), Vermilion (57,999), St. Mary (54,650), Vernon (52,334), St. Martin (52,160), St. Charles (52,780), Washington (47,168), Lincoln (46,735), St. John the Baptist (45,924), Webster (41,207) are thirteen parishes with population densities ranging from 41,207 to just under 100,000. These parishes make up 20.3% of the sixty-four parishes listing a total population of 765,672 or 16.9% of the total state population.
- The next group of eighteen parishes in ranking order has populations of 40,000 or less people in each Parish totaling 28.1% of the sixty-four parishes. The Parishes are Natchitoches (39,566), St. Bernard (35,897), Beauregard (35,654), Iberville (33,387), Jefferson Davis (31,594), Morehouse (27,979), DeSoto (26,656), West Baton Rouge (23,788), Assumption (23,421), Plaquemines (23,042), Pointe Coupee (22,802), Union (22,721), Grant (22,309), East Feliciana (20,267), Jackson (16,274), West Feliciana (15,625), St. Helena (11,203), and Cameron (6,839). These eighteen parishes list populations totaling 439,024 or 9.7% of the total state population.

## **B. Underserved Populations**

The last nineteen parishes make up 29.7% of the 64 parishes and are considered rural or underserved parishes. Each parish list population totals of 5,252 to 42,073 people living in

these parishes totaling 338,559 or 7.5% of the total state population. These parishes are Avoyelles (42,073), Evangeline (33,984), Allen (25,764), Sabine (24,233), St. James (22,102), Franklin (20,767), Richland (20,725), Concordia (20,822), Claiborne (17,195), Winn (15,313), LaSalle (14,890), Bienville (14,353), Madison (12,093), West Carroll (11,604), Catahoula (10,407), Caldwell (10,132), Red River (9,091), East Carroll (7,759), and Tensas (5,252) Parishes. Of the total population of 338,559 living in these rural parishes, an average of approximately 166,386 or 49.14% is women.

Future planning for the State's Implementation Plan will attempt to help identify and anticipate the needs of victims in the underserved, rural areas to ensure no victim goes without access to needed services. Many victims/survivors living in these areas are in need of legal services, counseling, medical services, advocacy/support, empowerment, education and safety planning and many other services to enable them to begin to lead lives without fear of abuse or further assault. Many victims would go unserved without the help of the domestic violence programs, sexual assault centers, and law enforcement agencies. One major problem victims/survivors face in these rural parishes is obtaining transportation to and from service providers and community resources because there is no public or commercial transportation. Victim service providers are often tasked with either providing transportation for the victim in their personal vehicles or the victim services provider must pay an agency, such as the Council on Aging or a taxi service, to provide transportation for the victim.

The Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) works with member programs to ensure underserved populations have access to program services. Louisiana has a higher rate of African Americans reporting domestic violence. The LCADV member programs offer technical assistance and training to culturally specific organizations that target African American victims of domestic violence. The LCADV and member programs also provide training and technical assistance to the LGPTQ, Hispanic and Vietnamese communities.

Louisiana has a very large Native American population that occasionally present for services. The coalition is currently working with member programs to assist Native American Tribes to secure STOP funding. Some of these member programs include:

1. Faith House in Lafayette
2. Chez Hope, Inc. in Franklin
3. Oasis A Safe Haven for Survivors in Lake Charles
4. Metropolitan Center for Women & Children in Jefferson

The extent of serving the underserved communities throughout the state is being done through each sexual assault center under the guidance of the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LaFASA). The sexual assault centers meet with local multi-jurisdictional task forces of individuals from traditionally underserved groups in their respective service areas to ensure that each center's services, including outreach services, are relevant, appropriate, and accessible to all victims. Feedback from these meetings is communicated to the LaFASA staff on a quarterly basis. In addition, LaFASA is involved in several projects

specifically addressing services for underserved groups, including D/deaf sexual assault survivors, victims with disabilities, and people who are homeless.

LaFASA's Board of Directors includes both Sexual Assault Center representatives and other members of the statewide community, for both their expertise in agency governance as well as their input into sexual assault services in the state from their personal and professional perspectives. LaFASA's Board of Directors now includes or has included people with disabilities, bilingual/bicultural sexual assault survivors, women and men of color, male survivors of childhood sexual assault, members of the LGBTQ community, leaders of faith communities, staff of programs serving people with HIV/AIDS, and sexual assault survivors in recovery from substance abuse. Through the ongoing input of these individuals to LaFASA, this application was informed by the needs of and barriers in reaching traditionally underserved groups. Similarly, through the community-level task forces coordinated by the sexual assault centers and LaFASA's Board of Directors, the sexual assault centers and the coalition receive input and make necessary adjustments on a continuing basis to ensure that sexual assault services remain relevant, appropriate, and accessible to underserved populations, as specified above.

LCLE had communications via telephone calls and emails on a daily basis; twenty conference calls from June 13, 2013, through February 6, 2014; forty-four face-to-face meetings with many people throughout the state involved in Louisiana's efforts to improve services provided to sexual assault victims, including the prior Interim Director and the newly appointed Executive Director at LaFASA, the Executive Director of the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV), the LCLE Victim Services Advisory Board members, the Directors of the sexual assault centers and some of their staff members, staff personnel and representatives from various state offices and other organizations involved in the provision of services to victims statewide (i.e., Louisiana Women's Policy and Research Commission, Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, Louisiana District Attorneys' Association, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, Louisiana Protective Order Registry Director of the Supreme Court Judicial Administrator's Office, Louisiana Department of Justice, Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals, Louisiana Public Defender Board, District Judges Association, Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, etc.), the Association of VAWA Administrators (AVA) staff, and the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) staff. Telephone calls, conference calls, emails, letters, and meetings were a useful means to discuss, develop, and provide feedback for this Implementation Plan.

### **C. Criminal Justice and Court Data**

One example representing Louisiana's prosecution agencies is the 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney's Office serving the Parish of Calcasieu. There are seven law enforcement agencies reporting to this District Attorney's Office for the prosecution of cases. The 14<sup>th</sup> JDA currently employ twenty-four prosecutors to handle all cases presented to them. Cases are disbursed to various Assistant District Attorneys within the agency to handle all cases. The need for this project exists to provide staff to handle domestic violence cases, enabling their office to have a centralized unit to handle all domestic violence cases referred to them within

a Specialized Unit which will hold an experienced Prosecutor on these types of cases, assisted by an Investigator and clerical support.

Due to large number of victims requesting services from this office for domestic violent offenses, the STOP funding has enabled them to provide better services. A total of 964 victims contacted the office for service from 06/01/2012 to 12/31/2012, and a total of 1,392 victims contacted the office for domestic violence services from 06/02/2011 through 03/31/2012. As of 12/31/2012, their data revealed that there have been 16,608 rejections (due mostly to victims signing a waiver or lack of participation of victims), 608 placements into violence intervention programs, 38 convictions and 28 non-convictions. Prior to initiation of this program, domestic violence cases were distributed to various Assistant District Attorneys throughout the office. As domestic violence cases increased in volume, caseloads became heavily burdened. With the increased number of domestic violence cases, it became apparent the office needed to provide a unit to focus solely on these types of cases. The program provides for improved case investigation, enhanced services to victims, improved conviction rates, and expedites cases through the judicial system.

The court system in Louisiana is divided into four levels: 1) Supreme Court of Louisiana, 2) Courts of Appeal, 3) District Courts (general jurisdiction), and 4) Courts of limited jurisdiction. The District Court is the court of original felony jurisdiction. All felonious domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, stalking cases originate in District Courts. These courts also have misdemeanor jurisdiction which is exercised when a defendant is charged with a state misdemeanor (a crime under state law which is not punishable at hard labor or death). Misdemeanor jurisdiction is shared with city and parish courts, whose geographic jurisdiction is always shared with a District Court. In various locations across the state most state misdemeanors are reflected in city or parish ordinance, so that for misdemeanants, the court of jurisdiction is often determined by the identity of the agency making the arrest.

After the attendance of the National Center for State Courts' National Leadership Summit on State Court Responses to Domestic Violence that was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 11/30/2010 and 12/01/2010, LCLE decided to use the Court allocation to partner with the Louisiana Supreme Court to initiate a multi-year plan to develop and implement a judicial education program on domestic abuse, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The LCLE's and the Louisiana Supreme Court's goal of this new project is to develop an effective judicial education program. While making this educational program mandatory for all judges in the state is ideal, it is more likely that the project could succeed in having the program endorsed by the Louisiana Supreme Court and offered through the Judicial College.

In the initial project, the first phase of a multi-year plan was to create a domestic violence curriculum for the judiciary in our state. The over-arching goal was to bring together national and local experts to identify specific training needs, then develop and implement a standardized curriculum that incorporates current knowledge in the field, relevant to Louisiana and federal laws and best practices designed to aid courts in protecting victims and holding offenders accountable. This project began 05/01/2011 and ended 04/30/2012.

During second phase of this multi-year initiative, the project created and implemented a standardized domestic abuse and dating violence training curriculum for our state's judiciary. This specialized training project arose out of our state team's plan, developed jointly by the representatives from the LCLE and the Judicial Administrator's Office of the Louisiana Supreme Court. The over-arching goal of this project was to bring together national, state, and local experts to develop and implement a standardized curriculum that incorporated current knowledge in the field, relevant Louisiana and federal laws, and best practices designed to aid courts in protecting victims and holding offenders accountable. This project began 05/01/2012, and ended 04/30/2013. The curriculum was finalized and presented in part by national experts at several statewide Judicial College conferences.

The third phase of this multi-year initiative began 05/01/2013, and will end 04/30/2014. During this phase, the plan calls for national experts to present the entire two-day judicial education curriculum for Louisiana at the January 2014 Judicial College conference and to follow with a two-day "Train the Trainers" conference in Baton Rouge in March 2014. Twenty prospective Louisiana faculty members have been identified and confirmed to attend both trainings in preparation for presenting the new curriculum across the state beginning in April 2014. The faculty includes attorneys, hearing officers, and judges. The project's Advisory Committee and the Judicial College will collaborate in identifying training opportunities for the newly trained faculty. The project during this grant cycle also includes the establishment of a web-based home for online judicial training modules that have been created by the curriculum's authors and are based on the Louisiana curriculum. The project would be coordinated by the Louisiana Protective Order Registry, a program of the Judicial Administrator's Office of the Louisiana Supreme Court, but would involve the participation of the LCADV and the LaFASA.

The second program through the Louisiana Supreme Court is the Domestic Violence Network Program. The Louisiana Protective Order Registry (LPOR) is a statewide database of court orders issued to protect victims of domestic abuse, dating violence, and stalking. The registry, a program of the Judicial Administrator's Office of the Louisiana Supreme Court, serves as a vital tool and single point of contact for courts, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and others within the justice system working to ensure the enforcement of protection orders within and across jurisdictional lines. From the pilot phase of the program in 1997, through 09/30/2013, the registry received and entered 291,566 protection order records from courts across the state. The LPOR also responds to requests from authorized users, who need to verify the existence and terms of a specific protection order. These users include local, state, and federal law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and members of the judiciary. In 2012, registry staff responded to 955 such calls. From 01/01/2013 through 09/30/2013, registry staff responded to 700 such calls.

In addition to the primary mission of the program outlined above, a second and equally important part of the registry is training and technical assistance. Each year, the registry develops and delivers educational seminars about state and federal laws related to the issuance and enforcement of protection orders, use of the mandatory standardized order forms, and strategies for collaborating across agencies and jurisdictions to support the swift and effective enforcement of protection orders. In 2013, the registry provided seven

presentations and/or workshops on LPOR, reaching an estimated 217 individuals, and eight (8) Legal Seminars, reaching 256 individuals, including judges, hearing officers, advocates, criminal justice system personnel, and other professionals working in the field of domestic abuse and sexual assault.

LPOR receives regular requests from individuals and entities throughout the state to provide education and training. The demand for training from LPOR indicates the level of need for ongoing specialized training on the use of the Registry and its legislatively mandated legal order forms to protect victims of domestic and dating violence. Training workers new to the field and updating existing workers is essential to maintaining an accurate and functioning registry. The regular occurrence of legislative change to the laws and statutes that provide protection to victims of dating and domestic violence also fuels the need for recurring training opportunities so that all stakeholders remain engaged in the process, and that stakeholders' knowledge and skills regarding domestic violence legal recourse are current. As a result of the program's extensive training efforts, the registry's director, administrative staff, and consultants frequently receive requests for additional training from community and state agencies. These same training efforts also lead to numerous requests for information and technical assistance from judges, hearing officers and prosecutors, as well as those who assist victims of domestic abuse, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

The requests for specialized training seminars, court and agency training and/or strategizing visits, along with the individual, group, and agency requests for information and technical assistance have exceeded the ability of staff to respond in a timely and effective manner. Other collaborative projects requiring LPOR staff involvement also increase the need for additional assistance. Therefore, grant funds will be used to continue to contract with a consultant/trainer who will also function as a court/community liaison. The contractor assists the registry's director, administrative staff, and training team in meeting the demand for educational seminars, in responding to the variety of requests for information and technical assistance, as well as assisting with the Louisiana Supreme Court's Judicial Training project.

The Louisiana Attorney General's Office continues with their Domestic Violence in the Workplace Initiative designed to educate employers statewide on how to respond to domestic violence in the workplace. Policy and procedure guidelines have been created for employers to follow in addressing domestic violence in the workplace. Trainings are designed to educate employers to understand why perpetrators commit these crimes, how to predict when the violence will escalate, and assist employers in designing security and human resource responses. Trainings also focus on preparing communities to respond to domestic violence from a security perspective and how to work with local law enforcement.

The program also provides trainings each calendar year to approximately 1,650 individuals including law enforcement, faith-based community, social service personnel and employees. Participants are advocacy organization staff, educators, faith-based organization staff, government agency staff, law enforcement officers, mental health officials, social service organization staff, victim advocates, and prosecutors. Training content areas consist

of advocate response, child witnesses, confidentiality, and dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking overview, dynamics, and services.

As related to recommendations from the Governor's Office Task Force on Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Training, The Attorney General's Office has spearheaded and has been successful in creating Louisiana first POST (Peace Officers Standards & Training) certified law enforcement training initiative. This initiative is a two-day comprehensive course at no cost to local agencies facilitated by a three-person team of subject matter experts representing an advocate arm, law enforcement arm and a civil/criminal arm. To date, the Attorney General's training team has trained over three thousand local law enforcement officers on response to domestic violence and dating violence.

In addition, the Attorney General's Office with the collaboration of the LCLE POST Council has created Louisiana's first on-line training initiative addressing first response to domestic and dating violence. The Attorney General's Office continues to collaborate with POST on developing additional courses for first responding officers including but not limited to trainings on interviewing child witnesses of domestic violence, elder abuse in later life, the Louisiana Protective Order Registry, human trafficking and law enforcement officers as offenders. The Louisiana Attorney General's Office has assisted the LCLE POST to use the same curriculum developed as a standardized and uniform training tool, in developing their academy training initiative relating to domestic and dating violence.

The Louisiana Attorney General's Office continues to work closely with the Louisiana Protective Order Registry, Louisiana District Attorneys' Association, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, The Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, the Tulane Domestic Violence Law Clinic, the Louisiana State University Domestic Law Clinic and various victim advocates to continue to provide the most up-to-date and successful trainings to the law enforcement community in response to domestic and dating violence.

Moreover, the need to have comprehensive, structured and uniform training throughout the state on the issue of response to domestic violence, dating violence, and trafficking is paramount to move ahead in the struggle for proper victim identification and perpetrator accountability. These particular trainings provide that structure. In addition, the gap in training in Louisiana is highlighted by the fact that agencies are strapped with financial concerns and the ability to allow for officers and prosecutors to be out of the office, therefore stressing the need for free and on-going training opportunities regionally, which our training programs provide.

## IV. PLAN PRIORITIES AND APPROACHES

### A. Identified Goals

- Goal 1: To streamline and coordinate the delivery of subgrant funding.
- Objective 1: Provide assistance in the use of the user-friendly web-based Egrants system made available to all agencies receiving subgrant awards from the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program.
- Activity 1: Provide one-on-one technical assistance when requested.
- Activity 2: Provide access to trainings to various committees, advisory groups, coalitions, or any participating agency requesting training.
- Timeline: Projects are normally funded on a 12-month basis. Beginning with the FY 2013 award, all project periods were adjusted to end December 31, 2014. This will allow our subrecipients' progress reports to coincide with the OVW Annual Progress Report's timeline. Therefore, all projects that would receive FY 2014 funds will be funded on a 12-month basis.
- 
- Goal 2: To improve collaboration and coordination of services provided by the criminal justice system; improve the delivery of services to victims; increase officer understanding of and compliance with state and local laws statewide and departmental policies and procedures related to the enforcement of domestic violence laws and protection orders.
- Objective 1: Provide individualized technical assistance to criminal justice agencies to locate and acquire needed trainings.
- Activity 1: Law enforcement, prosecution, and court applicant agencies are required to consult with victim service programs during the course of developing their STOP program application.
- Timeline: Projects are funded on a 12-month basis, which all funds will be expended prior to the end of each Federal award.
- 
- Goal 3: To improve and enhance cultural competency in the delivery of victim services to underserved and culturally-specific areas in the state.
- Objective 1: STOP program funds will be used to support victim service providers and criminal justice agencies to identify and address the needs of communities of color, the underserved and culturally specific populations.
- Activity 1: Provide trainings on the DOJ Cultural Competency Standards.
- Activity 2: Represent the STOP Program at Coalition and District meetings.
- Timeline: Projects are funded on a 12-month basis, which all funds will be expended prior to the end of each Federal award.
- 
- Goal 4: To continue with the planning process of the STOP Implementation Plan.
- Objective 1: Schedule meetings with Program Managers of criminal justice programs (law enforcement, prosecution, and court agencies).
- Objective 2: Schedule meetings with the Directors of the battered women shelters and the sexual assault centers.
- Objective 3: Schedule meetings with American Indian Tribes.

- Objective 4: Schedule meetings with culturally-specific groups or their representative.
- Objective 5: Schedule meetings with underserved groups or their representative.
- Objective 6: Schedule meetings with the Victim Services Advisory Board members.
- Objective 7: Schedule meetings with the state Coalitions.
- Objective 8: Schedule meetings with District Directors.
- Objective 9: Schedule meetings with any participating agency or group requesting representation.
- Objective 10: Continue to meet with Program Managers of the LA DCFS.
- Activity 1: Allow STOP recipients from all agencies representing all disciplines to have an opportunity to discuss their concerns and/or issues impacting their areas of expertise and the populations they represent directly with the LCLE STOP Program Manager.
- Activity 2: Include the LCLE VOCA Program Manager.
- Activity 3: Meet with all who request to participate in the planning of the STOP Implementation Plan as committees, advisory groups, at coalition meetings and district meetings.
- Activity 4: Document and collate all information received to be used for the continued development of the STOP Implementation Plan.
- Timeline: At least four meetings (in person or conference calls) or more, if needed, will be held each year.

- Goal 5: To reduce domestic violence-related homicides within the state.
- Objective 1: Provide improved safety net for victims.
- Objective 2: Increase number of satellite offices to provide better access to victims in the rural parishes.
- Objective 3: Develop draft legislation concerning abusers' access to firearms.
- Activity 1: Seek ways to secure state-level legislation to prohibit domestic violence offenders from possessing weapons.
- Timeline: At least two in-person meetings with coalitions and district directors will be held each year.

- Goal 6: Ensure that all first responders utilize a jurisdiction-specific risk assessment tool when responding to domestic violence and sexual assault incidents and follow all corresponding protocols.
- Objective 1: All law enforcement agencies will utilize risk assessments for domestic violence incidents and respond accordingly.
- Objective 2: All advocates will utilize risk assessments for domestic violence and sexual violence survivors and respond accordingly.
- Objective 3: All subgrantees will have trained Coordinated Community Response Teams on the use of the jurisdiction-specific risk assessment tool and corresponding protocols.
- Activity 1: The STOP Program Manager will obtain and make the jurisdiction-specific risk assessment tool available to all STOP-funded subrecipients.

- Activity 2: Provide Louisiana P.O.S.T. certified training information to first responders and others in criminal justice agencies designed to respond appropriately when responding to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Timeline: Make the risk assessment tool available to subrecipients within the first six months of the federal award period and provide all training schedules to subrecipients as the schedules become available.

## **B. Priority Areas**

### **1. Use of STOP Funds**

Funding priority will be given to law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and victim service providers whose services strive to reduce violence by developing and strengthening effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies created to combat crimes committed against women. Law enforcement and prosecution applicant agencies apply for funding through one of the eight Local Law Enforcement Planning Districts or Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils. Non-profit, non-governmental agencies apply through their respective coalitions, the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault. Statewide programs apply directly to the LCLE.

All recipients awarded with STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program funds must address at least one or more of the twenty purpose areas required under the Violence Against Women Act. Applicant agencies are required to specify which purpose area or areas their projects address. No single purpose is given priority by the Board or the Commission; each project is evaluated on its own merit.

### **2. Types of Programs and Projects**

Eligible agencies or organizations include, but not limited to:

- State Offices and Agencies
- Public or Private Non-Profit Organizations
- Non-Profit, Non-Governmental Victim Services Programs
- Faith-Based and Community Organizations
- Courts
- Units of Local Government (Units of local government mean any city, county, town, township, borough, parish, village or other general-purpose political subdivision of a state. For the State of Louisiana, Sheriffs and District Attorneys are considered units of local government.)
- Indian Tribal Governments (Native American Tribes that perform law enforcement functions as determined by the Secretary of the Interior).

Examples of programs and projects by discipline:

<b><u>DISCIPLINE</u></b>	<b><u>PROJECT TITLE</u></b>
Administrative Funds	Administrative Funds
Court	Training for Judicial
Courts	Domestic Violence Network
Culturally Specific	Native American Domestic Violence Program
Culturally Specific	Immigration Assistance Program
Discretionary	Domestic Violence Prosecutor Training Program
Discretionary	Domestic Violence Training Program
Discretionary	Human Trafficking Training Program
Law Enforcement	Combination Investigation
Law Enforcement	Domestic Violence Investigation
Law Enforcement	Domestic Violence Network
Law Enforcement	Domestic Violence Program
Law Enforcement	Domestic Violence Unit
Law Enforcement	Law Enforcement Policy Development
Law Enforcement	Sexual Assault Investigation
Law Enforcement	Sexual Assault Program
Law Enforcement	Stalking Program
Law Enforcement	Violence Tracking
Prosecution	Combination Prosecution
Prosecution	Domestic Violence Program
Prosecution	Domestic Violence Prosecution
Prosecution	Domestic Violence Unit
Prosecution	Sexual Assault Network
Prosecution	Sexual Assault Program
Prosecution	Sexual Assault Prosecution
Prosecution	Stalking Program
Prosecution	Vertical Prosecution
Prosecution	Violence Tracking
Victim Services	Domestic Violence Counseling
Victim Services	Domestic Violence Legal Assistance
Victim Services	Domestic Violence Outreach
Victim Services	Domestic Violence Program
Victim Services	Domestic Violence Program ó Shelter ó Adults
Victim Services	Domestic Violence Services
Victim Services	Rape Counseling
Victim Services	Sexual Assault Counseling Program ó Adults
Victim Services	Sexual Assault Counselor

**DISCIPLINE**

**PROJECT TITLE**

Victim Services

Sexual Assault Outreach

Victim Services

Sexual Assault Program

Victim Services

Sexual Assault Services

**3. Distribution of STOP Funds**

The LCLE distributes STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program funds to new and continuation projects focused on one or more of the twenty STOP program purpose areas. These projects are designed to develop and strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies in collaboration with victim services agencies to combat violent crimes against women. The method of distribution provides an equitable distribution of STOP funds allowing for the placement of funds to meet victims' needs on a local or regional basis. The total award amount will be allocated on the following basis:

The Louisiana STOP award will be allocated as follows:

- At least 7% for Courts; of this amount up to 10% will be used for administration
- At least 30% for Law Enforcement; of this amount up to 10% will be used for administration
- At least 30% for Prosecution; of this amount up to 10% will be used for administration
- At least 30% for Victim Services; of this amount up to 10% will be used for administration
  - Of which 50% will be allocated to Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking projects through the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence
  - Of which 40% will be allocated to Sexual Assault Victim Services projects through the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault Coalition
  - Of which 10% will be allocated to Culturally-Specific Victim Services projects
- At least 3% will be allocated to projects at LCLE's discretion; of this amount up to 10% will be used for administration

**4. Supporting Documentation**

Documentation in the form of letters and attachments has been received from prosecution, law enforcement, court, and victim services programs to be assisted. Each has described the need for the grant funds, the intended use of the grant funds, the expected result of the grant funds, and the demographic characteristics of the populations to be served including age, disability, race, ethnicity, and language background. This documentation will be included with this Implementation Plan.

## 5. Sexual Assault Set-A-Side

The State of Louisiana does not provide state or local funding designated for direct services to sexual assault victims. However, the LCLE awards federal monies to the sexual assault centers from the Office on Violence Against Women, STOP Formula Grant Program and the Sexual Assault Services Program, and the Office for Victims of Crime, Crime Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program. The sexual assault centers are also familiar with additional services to victims of crime provided through the LCLE, such as the CVR program and the LAVNS system. The LCLE coordinates with each Center requesting the name and contact information of the individual charged with the responsibility of assisting victims in regard to accessing and using the LAVNS system as well as responsible for assisting victims in applying for services available through the CVR Program.

Awards available directly to sexual assault victims through the Office for Victims of Crime, CVR helps innocent victims and their families when they have no other means of paying for the financial cost of crime outside the services provided by the sexual assault centers. The fund is administered by the Crime Victims Reparations Board under the jurisdiction of the LCLE.

The LAVNS is an on-line resource that allows victims to search for information regarding an offender's current custody and case status. Victims may also register to be notified automatically when an offender is released, transferred, or escapes from a Parish facility or has a change in case status. The LAVNS service is provided to victims in an effort to help keep them safe and informed; however, victims are also advised to not depend solely on LAVNS for their protection. Victims are also advised if they feel they may be at risk, to take precautions as if the offender has already been released, which is encouraged to be part of a victim's safety plan.

Louisiana is currently meeting the newly implemented STOP twenty percent sexual assault set-aside requirement in accordance with the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 through the victims services provided by STOP-funded victim service providers, law enforcement, and prosecution agencies. In a review of the FY 2011 and FY 2012 STOP funds issued to the subrecipient agencies, each recipient agency reported to LCLE the percentages of their awards that are devoted to the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The percentages they provided were calculated according to the total amount of each of their awards compared to the total amount of the federal award allocated to Louisiana.

The results of the FY 2011 STOP funding show that a total of sixty-five percent was devoted to serve victims of domestic violence and dating violence, twenty-two percent was devoted to serve victims of sexual assault, three percent devoted to serve victims of stalking, and ten percent was devoted to administrative costs. Of the twenty-two percent of the FY 2011 funding devoted to the provision of sexual assault services, eleven percent was provided by sexual assault centers, eight percent was provided by law enforcement agencies, and three percent was provided by prosecution agencies.

The results of the FY 2012 STOP funding show that a total of sixty-seven percent was devoted to serve victims of domestic violence and dating violence, twenty percent was devoted to serve victims of sexual assault, three percent devoted to serve victims of stalking, and ten percent was devoted to administrative costs. Of the twenty percent of the FY 2012 funding devoted to the provision of sexual assault services, ten percent was provided by sexual assault centers, eight percent provided by law enforcement agencies, and two percent provided by prosecution agencies.

## **6. Subgrant Listing**

A current listing of all subgrant recipients will be submitted as an attachment. The spreadsheet will include subgrant numbers, award dates, award amounts by allocation category, agency names including project title and contact information, subgrant periods (start and end dates), and the agency labeled as the culturally specific community agency receiving a victim services subgrant will be clearly indicated.

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

### **1. Parishes Currently Underserved**

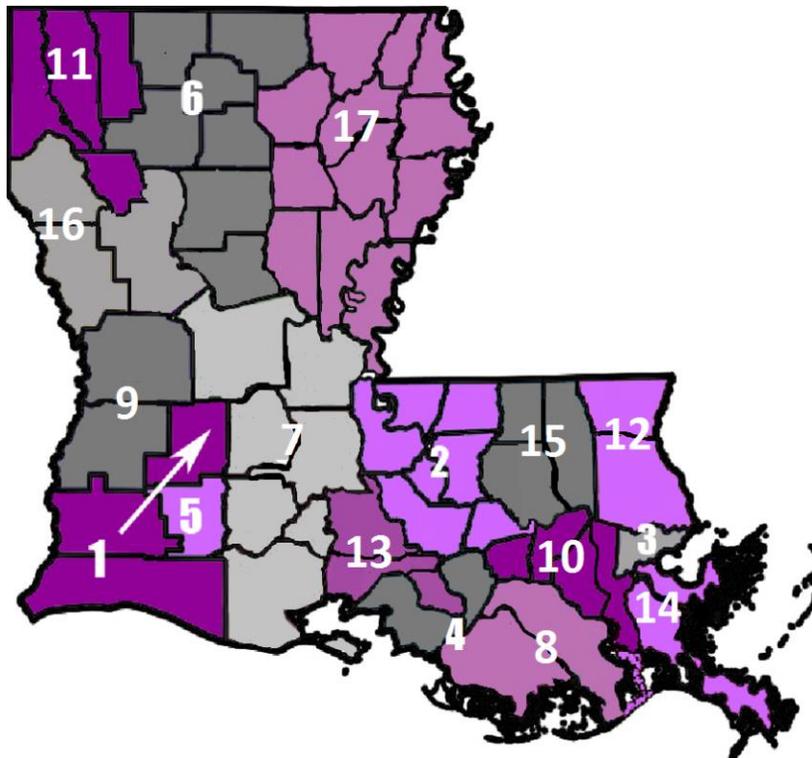
Victim service providers under the jurisdiction of their respective coalitions are highly encouraged to use the STOP funds to develop and improve their domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking programs. Victim services programs are required to have policies of non-discrimination, sensitivity to people of all cultures, interagency cooperation, confidentiality, fiscal responsibility, policy in place that ensures no victim will be denied services due to an inability to pay, and victims will not be denied services because they have not reported the crime to law enforcement.

The agency or organization must also demonstrate a sound structure, an effective program design, and a primary purpose to provide services to victims of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, or operates a program with one of these types of crimes committed against women as its primary purpose. These programs assist battered and/or sexually assaulted women by providing counseling, advocacy, legal assistance, care management, job placement, and shelter. Other critical care needs and support services are provided by the judicial system, public and other private victim service agencies through collaborative efforts to better assist victims with needed services for developing independence and self-sufficiency.

There are seventeen battered women's programs in various regions located throughout the state. Their main facilities are located in Arabi, Baton Rouge, DeRidder, Franklin, Hammond, Houma, Jefferson, Jennings, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Mandeville, Many, Monroe, New Iberia, New Orleans, Ruston, and Shreveport. These programs are working diligently to provide safe housing and needed services to domestic and dating violence victims throughout the entire state.

Currently there are no permanent physical points of access to domestic violence services in all sixty-four parishes. This is needed to ensure access to services after leaving their abusers. During this time, victims receive a wide range of services, such as crisis counseling, case management, individual and family assistance, assistance with job placements, and completing petition and supplemental paperwork for Temporary Restraining Orders and Protective Orders. Advocates and volunteers are utilized to accompany victims to the Clerk of Court's Office and/or to assist them in filing a petition for the Court's protection, as well as assisting in all other matters resulting from services provided. More than 90,000 shelter nights and 33,000 crisis calls were handled within the last year. To adequately assist women and their children seeking services, the programs need to provide access to services in all sixty-four parishes.

### LOUISIANA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

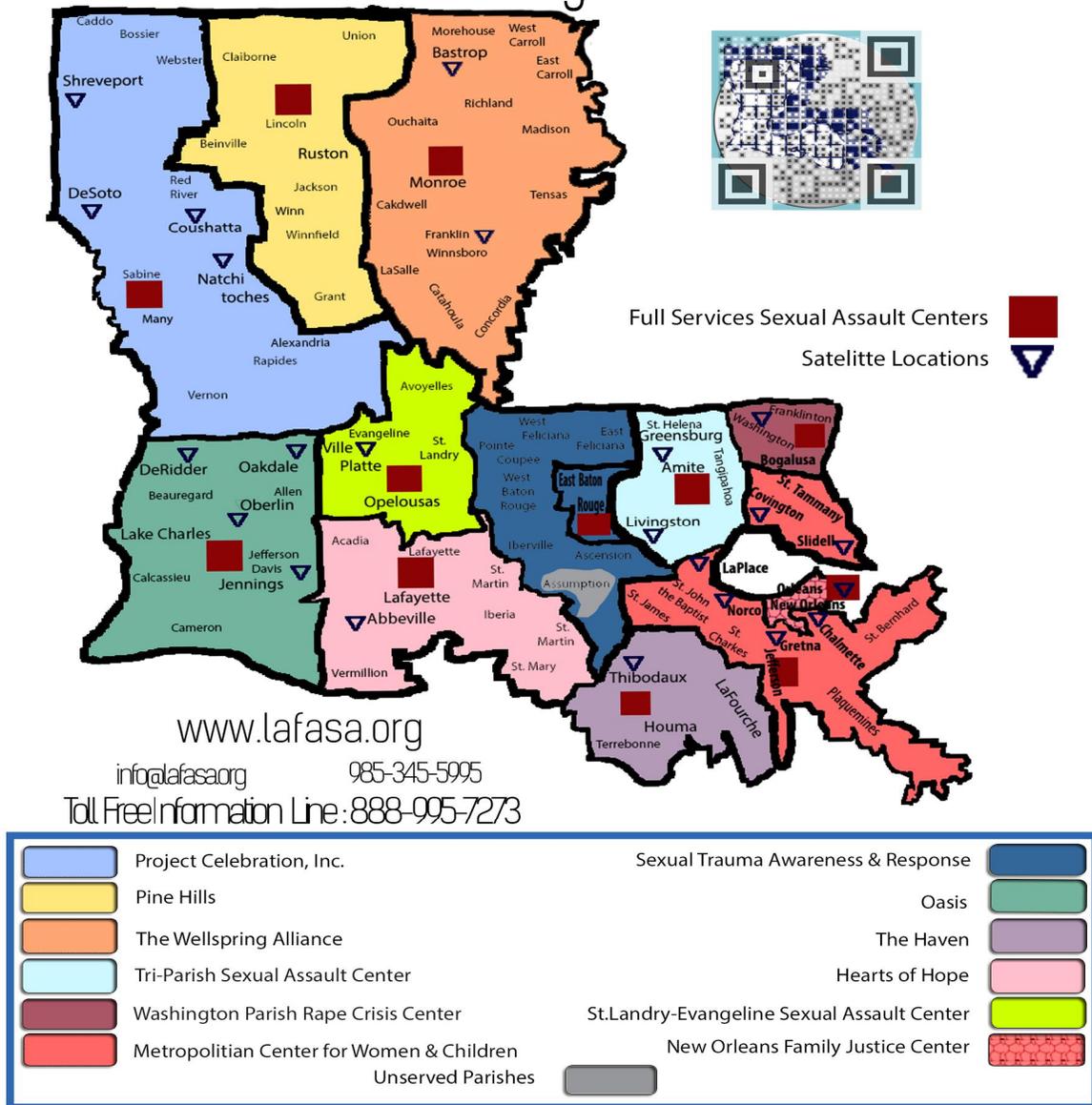


- 1. Oasis A Safe Haven
- 2. Iris Domestic Violence Center (CAFVIC)
- 3. New Orleans Family Justice Center
- 4. Chez Hope Family Violence Crisis Center
- 5. Jefferson Davis (CADA)
- 6. Domestic Abuse Resistance Team (DART)
- 7. Faith House
- 8. The Haven

- 9. June N. Jenkins Women's Shelter
- 10. Metropolitan Center for Women and Children
- 11. Providence House Domestic Violence and Safe House Program
- 12. Safe Harbor
- 13. Safety Net for Abused Persons (SNAP)
- 14. St. Bernard Battered Women's Program
- 15. SAFE Program
- 16. Taylor House, Sabine Shelter, Project Celebration
- 17. The Wellspring Alliance for Families

At present, there are twelve sexual assault centers, also known as rape crisis centers, in thirteen locations throughout the state, namely, in Amite, Baton Rouge, Bogalusa, Houma, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Many, Monroe, New Orleans, Opelousas, Ruston, and Shreveport. These Centers diligently work to provide direct intervention and critically related assistance to women who are victims of sexual assault. Six of the Sexual Assault Centers are dual programs providing services to both sexual assault and domestic violence victims. The dual Centers are located in Houma, Jefferson, Lake Charles, Many, Monroe, New Orleans, and Shreveport. Some Sexual Assault Centers have satellite or branch offices, in addition to their main office, which are staffed on a full-time basis, in an effort to ensure sexual assault victims, are served in those parishes in which there is no sexual assault center.

## Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault



## 2. Allocation Strategy

Based on the information provided in B.3 of this Plan, a portion of the administrative funds will be budgeted from each allocated disciplinary area listed and used to support a full-time program manager in administering and implementing the STOP Formula Grant Program, review all quarterly and annual reports received from subgrantees, conduct on-site monitoring visits, and attend required OVW trainings.

STOP funds are allocated to non-profit, non-governmental organizations that provide victim services to women who have become victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking crimes. These organizations include rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, faith-based and other community organizations with a documented history of effective work providing services tailored to meet the needs of these victims.

Victim services allocations are managed by the STOP Program Manager in the LCLE office and are regarded as District 8 or State-Level projects. The LCLE STOP Program Manager is responsible for advising all victim services programs of the twenty STOP statutory program purposes, funding eligibility guidelines, the OVW Grants Financial Management Division, and other pertinent State and Federal guidelines regarding crimes against women as outlined in the OVW STOP Formula Grant Program, and providing technical assistance as needed.

LCLE collaborates with the Coalition Executive Directors of the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) and the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LaFASA) when determining allocation decisions for the victim services agencies in their memberships. The LCADV has a membership of seventeen domestic violence shelter programs and battered women's programs; LaFASA has a membership of thirteen sexual assault centers in fourteen locations. The Coalition Executive Directors provide LCLE with their member programs' needs based on:

1. How each program will address the STOP purpose areas and other OVW requirements;
2. The general population demographics to be served;
3. The victim services to be provided;
4. Other funding and resources available to the programs;
5. The financial and programmatic administration integrity of each agency; and
6. A subjective evaluation of each member agency's situation.

Victim services agencies that belong to the Coalition membership are highly encouraged to use STOP funds to develop and improve their domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking programs. These programs assist battered women by providing counseling, advocacy, legal assistance, care management, job placement, and shelter. They also provide other critical care needs, support services, and advocacy to victims navigating through the judicial system. Some agencies collaborate with other public and private victim service agencies in their communities to better assist victims

with specialized services needed to assist the victims served develop independence and self-sufficiency.

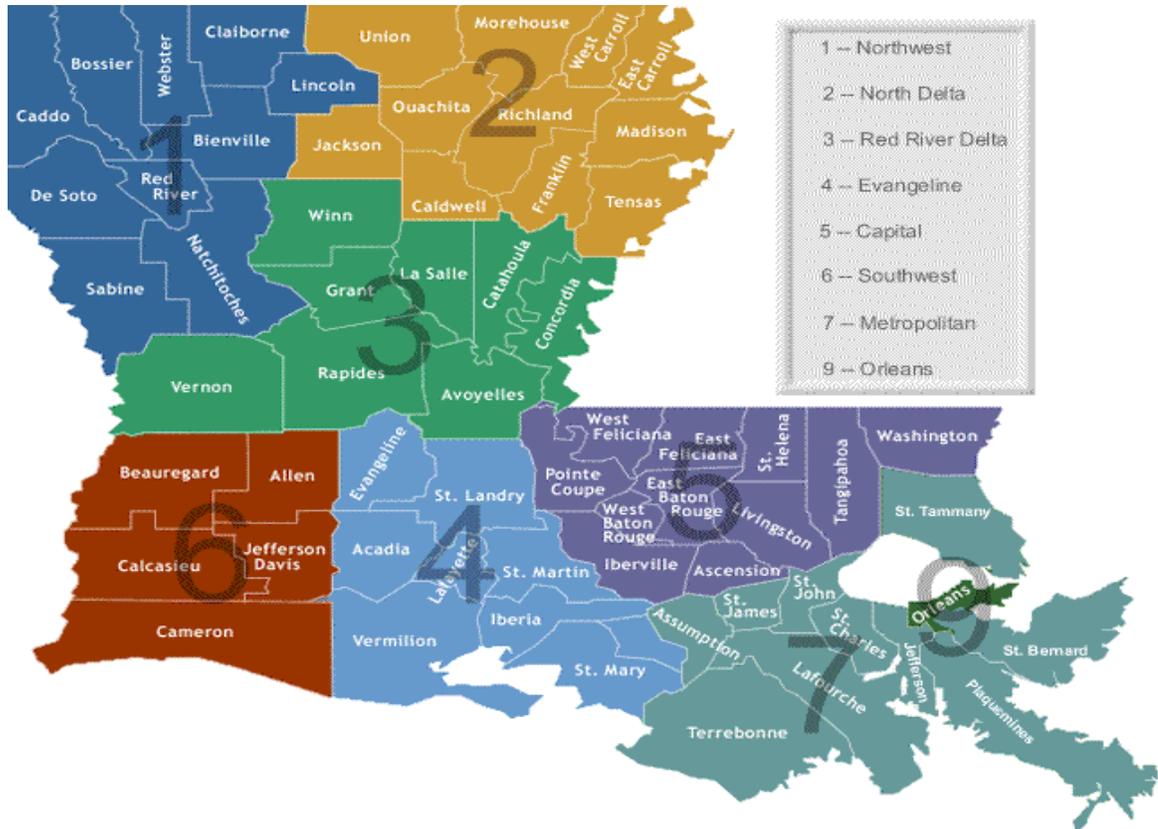
### 3. Distribution Strategy

Once the State has been awarded STOP funding from OVW, funds are passed through to the eight Law Enforcement Planning Districts/Councils listed below. Each district office is notified of their allocation, which is based on the population and crime statistics within their respective districts. These districts must distribute their allocations equally between law enforcement and prosecution agencies using a 50/50 split according to the formulas in the table below. The district map portrays the parishes for which each District is responsible for allocating the law enforcement and prosecution funding.

#### Law Enforcement Planning Districts/Councils

District 1	Northwest Law Enforcement Planning District	11.07%
District 2	North Delta Law Enforcement Planning District	10.77%
District 3	Red River Delta Law Enforcement Planning District	9.74%
District 4	Evangeline Law Enforcement Planning Council	10.66%
District 5	Capital District Law Enforcement Planning District	15.95%
District 6	Southwest District Law Enforcement Planning Council	10.44%
District 7	Metropolitan/Jefferson Criminal Justice Coordinating Council	15.48%
District 9	Orleans Office of Criminal Justice Coordination Council	15.89%

**NOTE:** The formula was revised upon release of the 2010 U.S. Census Report.



Ninety percent of the victim services allocation is distributed to non-profit, non-governmental victim services agencies through the state's two coalitions – the LCADV and the LaFASA. The LCLE STOP Program Manager allocates the remaining ten percent of the victim services allocation designated to fund a culturally-specific project to an eligible culturally-specific non-profit, non-governmental victim services agency or a tribal government agency. In addition, STOP funds designated for statewide discretionary projects (three percent) and local courts (seven percent) are distributed and managed by the LCLE STOP Program Manager.

#### **4. Request for Proposals**

Units of local government (law enforcement and prosecution agencies) are advised by Law Enforcement Planning District/Council staff of the availability of grant funding and guidelines for funding through public advertising of funding available. The Coalitions notify their member victim services organizations of the availability of grant funding and guidelines.

Notices and announcements are run in local and regional newspapers statewide to announce the availability of the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program funds each funding year. Potential applicant agencies are provided with appropriate information on requesting and applying for the funds, meeting dates and times. The District Program Directors help local agencies in their districts prepare documentation to be submitted to the LCLE STOP Program Manager via the website grants management system, called Egrants. The STOP Program Manager, along with the Fiscal Staff person and Section Supervisor, reviews the applications before presenting them to the Victim Services Advisory Board and the Commission. The Commission either approves or denies the application.

Requests for Allocation and Program Plan Worksheet forms are available from District Program Directors, Coalition Directors, as well as the LCLE STOP Program Manager. The application instructions can be downloaded from LCLE at [www.lcle.la.gov](http://www.lcle.la.gov). Potential applicant agencies must submit a Program Plan Worksheet to the District Program Manager. The Program Plan Worksheet determines if the project conforms to the twenty STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program statutory purpose areas.

The Law Enforcement Planning Districts/Law Enforcement Planning Councils, the LCLE's Priorities Committee, and the Victim Services Advisory Board review all potential requests and make their respective recommendations to the LCLE Commission. The Commission retains final approval or denial of the allocations and program plans before a full application can be submitted for final approval. The allocations can be approved or disapproved at any point in the process.

After the Request for Allocation is approved by the Commission, the applicant agency's application is prepared and is submitted on the web-based grants management system to LCLE. LCLE staff assesses the documented needs and conformity to STOP

requirements. The STOP Program Manager, Fiscal Staff, and/or Section Supervisor will advise via the Egrants system to the applicant if issues need to be addressed and/or resolved. The LCLE staff can place special conditions upon the application that the applicant agency must adhere to.

The application is submitted to the LCLE Priorities Committee for review. The application can be approved, denied, or tabled by the Priorities Committee. The Priorities Committee can place special conditions upon the application that the applicant agency must adhere to.

If the application meets the requirements as assessed by LCLE staff and receives the Priorities Committee's recommendation for approval or denial, it is submitted to the Victim Services Advisory Board for review and recommendation for approval or denial to the Commission. All applicants who have a new application, regardless of the amount of funding, must be present at both the Victim Services Advisory Board meeting and the LCLE Commission meeting. Applicants who have a continuation application requesting funding to continue an existing project, and/or requesting an increase of funding to an existing project, regardless of the amount of funding, is required to attend only the Victim Services Advisory Board meeting. Potential applicants should be knowledgeable about the proposed project and be able to answer any questions that may arise. An application can be deferred, tabled, or denied if there is no representative of the applicant agency present at these meetings. The Victim Services Advisory Board and the Commission can place special conditions upon the application that the applicant agency must adhere to.

If approved by the Commission, LCLE staff then issues the Award Letter. The Subgrant Award packet is forwarded directly to the applicant agency for acceptance with the respective districts copied.

## **5. STOP Grant Cycle**

The staffs at the District or Council offices and LCLE provide direct assistance to the subgrant agencies and work diligently to ensure that these agencies utilize the funds to meet intended goals and objectives, maintain statistics and fiscal records have a full understanding of reporting requirements, and submit the required reports to LCLE as scheduled. LCLE requires that all applicant agencies receiving Federal funds through the STOP program must comply with the applicable provisions of the STOP Program Federal Register Final Rule, OVW Grants Financial Management Division (GFMD), the Louisiana State Travel Guidelines, the Advisory Board Guidelines, and the LCLE Program Guidelines. Programs use the funds for any of the twenty named purpose areas listed in the STOP Application Instructions.

Reporting requirements include maintaining appropriate programmatic and financial records that fully disclose the amount and disposition of STOP funds received by the applicant agency to ensure proper management, fiscal control and efficient disbursement of the STOP funds. Written procedures regarding the reporting requirements of a project are provided in the STOP Application Instructions. The procedures inform the applicant

of specific reporting requirements before and after receiving a subgrant award and those requirements are to be followed during the project period.

## 6. Subgrant Project Period

Projects are normally funded on a twelve-month basis. Beginning with the FY 2013 award, all project periods were adjusted to end on December 31, 2014. This will allow our subrecipients progress report to coincide with the OVW Annual Progress Reports timeline. Therefore, all projects that would receive FY 2014 funds will be funded on a twelve-month basis (i.e., January 1 through December 31) each year.

## 7. Collaboration and Coordination

All subgrant recipients submit documentation within their applications verifying they have or will consult with tribal, state, or local victim service programs during the course of developing their grant applications in order to ensure that proposed services, activities, and equipment acquisitions were designed to promote the safety, confidentiality, and economic independence of victims of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking when applicable. Each applicant agency also provides Memorandums of Understanding, Cooperative Agreements, contracts, and numerous letters of support from various agencies in their service areas, as applicable to their individual proposed program.

The screenshot displays the Egrants web application interface for the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice. The main content area shows details for Grant ID: 1112, Applicant Agency: St. Landry-Evangeline Sexual Assault Center, and Project Title: Sexual Assault Program. The status is 'Open - Awarded'. The section point value is 0, and the completion status is 'Complete'. The section title is 'LCLC COLLABORATION/CONSULTATION'. The description includes: 'Law enforcement, prosecution, the courts, probation and parole agencies, and community providers must consult with each other. 1. Describe the process used to consult, coordinate, and collaborate with each agency. The St. Landry-Evangeline Sexual Assault Center maintains a balanced approach in coordinating and collaborating with other agencies and/or entities who rely on the center for assistance and services. A scan of local communities in which SLESAC serves reflects a dire need for its continued existence. The center's consumer environment does not only consist of its survivors and their families, but health (and mental health) care facilities, law enforcement, courts, social services agencies, civic groups and organizations, churches, businesses, and schools as well. Such agencies repeatedly express the need to have an outlet to refer their clients having to address sexual assault issues. Moreover, SLESAC continues its alliance with parish district attorney offices, sheriff and police departments, and hospitals to combat sexual assault on a local level. The center receives support from area hospitals, health units, religious groups, businesses, and other non-profit agencies to accomplish its goals and objectives. SLESAC retained its membership with the St. Landry-Evangeline United Way to strengthen its service provisions and expand its network with other community-based organizations. Additionally, the center sponsors an annual "Take Back the Night" march and vigil in each parish during the months of April (Sexual Assault Awareness Month) and October (Crime Prevention and Domestic Violence Awareness Month). This community-wide event has sparked collaboration among law enforcement, governmental, and civic groups seeking to collectively take a stand against violence against women. 2. The following support documents are attached.' Below the description is a table of attachments:

Attachment Name	Description	Date	History
Support Letters & MOU.pdf	Collaboration	3/8/2013	Hide Attachment History>Show Attachment History

At the bottom of the attachment list, there are buttons for 'Submit Issue/Comment', 'View History', 'Add Attachment', 'Save', and 'Cancel'. The footer of the page contains the text: 'Please send technical comments and problems to: LCLC.ORG@LCLC.Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice. All rights reserved. Unauthorized Access Prohibited.' The system time is 2:23 PM on 3/12/2014.

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

### **1. Underserved Populations**

Louisiana's efforts to target the underserved populations are to utilize statewide collaboration to identify the underserved and provide services to them. The identified underserved populations found were urban and rural victims of all types with special needs, such as ethnic or cultural differences or physical and mental disabilities. Services are being expanded for immigrant populations and single women. Another area of need involves women with children who are also identified as underserved because of the effects of domestic violence on children are known to be profound.

Within the field of victim services, there is always a need to continue training to increase sensitivity and awareness of the dynamics of domestic violence, particularly in rural, underserved populations. While it is evident that there has been substantial progress to increase victim services, there is always the risk of forgetting why the victim needs the services provided. In the variety of care offered by various agencies, trainings are helpful to emphasize sensitivity and awareness to ensure that the safety of those served is an essential function.

Law enforcement, the judicial system, prosecutors, healthcare providers and other victim service providers are focusing on who the underserved victims are, identifying their needs by consulting with each other and working collaboratively to provide protection and promote awareness of the existence of domestic and dating violence in the community. Agencies are working diligently to provide safety measures and support to the victims through a variety of services. The judicial system provides advocacy and review hearings to enhance victims' safety. Various agencies work to provide 24-hour toll-free crisis or hotlines, emergency safe haven placements, crisis intervention, transportation, individual and group empowerment-based counseling, transitional housing, non-residential programs, children's programs, and a host of other services provided for the safety and healing of battered women and their children.

Trained volunteers assist victims by providing transportation, accompanying women to court, assisting victims in their search for housing, and helping with any general duty necessary in their respective agencies. These trained volunteers assisted personnel in providing information to communities about domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking awareness, about the effects of domestic and dating violence on the family, and the services available through victim services agencies.

Shelters provide safe housing to domestic violence victims for periods of up to a year's time in supervised, guarded environments. This is done to ensure improvement in the victims' emotional and financial stability after leaving their abusers. During this time, the victims receive a wide range of services, such as crisis counseling, case management, individual and family assistance, assistance with job placements, and completing paperwork for Temporary Restraining Orders, Restraining Orders, and Protective Orders. Advocates and volunteers are utilized to accompany victims to the Clerk of Court's

Office and/or to courts help file these orders against their offenders, as well as assisting in all other matters resulting from services provided.

## 2. Culturally Specific Community Based Organizations

The culturally specific project must provide victim services explicitly tailored meet the needs of the domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking victims being served. LCLE not only considers the ethnicity of the victims that are to be served but also how the services will be provided and if these services are culturally appropriate to the ethnicity of the victims to be served. Other decisions include whether the agency encourages the community's involvement in the delivery of the services provided and whether outreach services are made available to victims who live outside the community served. Applicant agencies are required to provide:

- How the project will address the STOP purpose area or areas as well as other VAWA requirements;
- A description of the culturally-specific population to be served;
- A description detailing how the victim services to be provided are appropriately tailored to meet the unique needs of the culturally-specific community;
- Specifics demonstrating the agency's ability to work effectively in providing victim services unique to the culturally-specific community being served; and
- Evidence of the ability to acquire the needed expertise through collaboration, cooperative agreements, or memorandums of understanding with other entities in the community.

Of the total population reported for women who reside in Louisiana approximately 2,314,080 (51%), of which 1,860,286 (41%) are women 16 years of age and older. These figures show an increase for each culturally-specific group previously reported before the 2010 Census:

1,162,839	(+ 9.95%)	White
595,482	(+ 11.54%)	Black or African American
578,950	(+ 31.06%)	Hispanic or Latino
28,754	(+ 16.76%)	Asian
12,537	(+28.01%)	American Indian/Alaskan Native
805	(+ 50.56%)	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
29,882	(+ 24.95)	Unknown

In the past, to meet the needs of immigrant women and their families living in our state that were identified as victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and/or stalking, there were two nonprofit victim service agencies that received the STOP FY 2009, the FY 2010 and the FY 2011 ten percent set aside portion of the funding for a culturally specific project. The STOP FY 2012, the FY 2013, and the FY 2014 ten percent set aside portion for a culturally specific project will now be allocated to a culturally specific nonprofit victim service agency, a tribal government agency, or a tribal victim service agency to provide improved culturally specific community-based project

designed to meet the needs of diverse populations, especially the American Indian, Hispanic, and/or Asian populations, which are currently changing the demographic portrait of Louisiana.

Louisiana has the third largest American Indian population in the south behind the states of North Carolina and Florida. The Louisiana parish that has the highest percentage of American Indian population is Sabine Parish, while Terrebonne Parish has the largest population. The State of Louisiana has four Federally Recognized Tribes:

1. Chitimacha Tribe (1925)
2. Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana (1971)
3. Jena Band of Choctaws (1999)
4. Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana (1981)

The Chitimacha Tribe has a reservation in Charenton, the Coushatta Tribe in Elton, the Jena Band of Choctaws in Jena and the Tunica-Biloxi in Marksville. Of the four federally recognized tribes, only the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana has law enforcement authority. The tribe's Police Chief is a member of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police (LAACP). The LAACP is one of the agencies that work with LCLE and continues to notify the Police Chiefs in each municipality of STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program funding opportunities.

The State of Louisiana has ten State Recognized Tribes:

1. Adai Caddo Tribe (1993)
2. Biloxi-Chitimacha Confederation of Muskogee (2004)
3. Choctaw-Apache Tribe (1978)
4. Clifton Choctaw (1978)
5. Four Winds Tribe (1997)
6. Grand Caillou/Dulac Band (1972)
7. Isle de Jean Charles Band (1972)
8. Louisiana Choctaw Tribe (1972)
9. Point-Au-Chien Tribe (1972)
10. United Houma Nation (1972)

Louisiana has seven Tribes listed below are not State Recognized Tribes or Federally Recognized Tribes:

1. Avogel Tribe of Louisiana
2. Avoyel-Taensa Tribe
3. Atakapa-Ishak Nation
4. Chahta Tribe
5. Lacombe Choctaws
6. Louisiana Choctaw Turtle Tribe
7. Talimali Band Apalachee of Louisiana

### **3. Culturally Specific Services**

Our state continues to see an influx of undocumented non-English speaking immigrants and their families, particularly Hispanic and Asian populations. The needs of these families are great and require significant support and time. While we continue to work with the legal remedies available for victims of crime, we also recognize the need for culturally and linguistically specific victim services and are addressing these needs of the underserved victim populations.

Non-English speaking communities throughout Louisiana, especially Hispanic and Asian communities are isolated by language and other cultural barriers. These barriers make it difficult to address and reduce crimes of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in these communities. Community outreach is one tool that is needed to reach those who are underserved, isolated and in need of services that are linguistically and culturally specific to them. The LCLE is utilizing STOP Program funds to provide funding to victim services programs to fund specialized services to address the Non-English speaking victims' legal status and provide them with culturally specific community outreach services. Efforts are being expanded statewide to provide translators, bi-lingual and multi-lingual advocates and attorneys, temporary housing and literature in Spanish and Asian languages designed to inform victims of services available in their communities.

Programs are partnering directly with organizations already established in these non-English speaking communities that know how best to serve victims using culturally appropriate methods, with culturally-specific outreach strategies and services. This training enables the staff of STOP-funded programs to better communicate to non-English speaking victims that they serve how to recognize the signs and effects of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Agencies are required to provide the non-English speaking communities with literature in the appropriate languages, i.e., Spanish, Vietnamese, English, etc., in the form of brochures, pamphlets, DVDs, and books so these victims may gain knowledge of what domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking entails and where services can be obtained. The recipient agency cannot exclude victims of other ethnicities or cultures from participating in its programs and activities based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability or age when found. The use of this funding has also enabled the hiring of linguists who are able to target Spanish, Asian, and other non-English immigrant populations in Louisiana.

### **4. Underserved Populations Activities**

LCLE continues to reach out to diverse populations statewide in all discipline areas, especially the historically underserved. The LCADV reports they meet with several caucuses to discuss the needs of underserved or marginalized persons throughout their decision-making processes at the domestic violence coalition. Currently, the only caucuses involved in these discussions are a Children's Caucus, a Rural Caucus, a

Women of Color Caucus, and a Formerly Battered Women's Caucus. Membership at the LCADV is open to any program employee who identifies with and/or serves those populations. Caucus meetings are facilitated by the Coalition staff and focus on discussing best practices in serving their particular population and projects related to education and increased access to services.

Law enforcement, prosecution, court agencies, and non-profit, non-governmental, faith-based victim services providers are all encouraged to include all victims considered a member of a diverse populations as well as the underserved residing in their jurisdictions. Many agencies work collaboratively in their local jurisdictions to provide coordinated services through collaborative agreements, memorandum of understandings, and information and referral, as needed, to ensure the victims receive the services needed. Additionally, several law enforcement officers and staff members from courts or district attorneys' offices volunteer to serve on boards or multi-jurisdictional task forces to assist private, non-profit agencies in the development of providing specialized services and/or procedures to improve services provided to women who are victims of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking crimes.

All law enforcement, prosecution, and victim services agencies are striving to meet the needs of victims/survivors of all ages, disabilities, race ethnicity, and language backgrounds. There are many ethnic populations located throughout the state, such as African American, Asian, Hispanic, Latino, Laotian, Native Hawaiian, Vietnamese, and Pacific Islanders. The subgrant agencies are utilizing their STOP funds to provide outreach, advocacy, victim services, referrals, victim notifications through the Louisiana Victim Notification System (LAVNS), Crime Victim Reparations (VOCA), shelter, transportation, as well as a myriad of other services to make every effort to provide optimum services to the victims they serve.

The Louisiana Protective Order Registry (LPOR) is a statewide repository of protection orders issued to prohibit domestic abuse and dating violence. LPOR receives both civil and criminal orders of protection from courts across the state. Protection orders are entered into a database used as a resource by law enforcement agencies, courts, and other authorized users. Information from the database concerning orders of protection is also transmitted to the National Crime Information Center's (NCIC) Protection Order File (POF). The Registry serves as the single point of contact regarding orders of protection issued in Louisiana and responds on a "24/7/365" basis to inquiries from examiners with the National Instant Background Check System (NICS), as well as law enforcement agencies within and outside the state.

In addition, the Louisiana Protective Order Registry develops and delivers specialized training programs for those with a need-to-know about the state and federal laws that govern the issuance and enforcement of protection orders, the appropriate use of the mandatory "Louisiana Uniform Abuse Prevention Order" forms developed and disseminated by LPOR for use by all courts within the state, and the various resources and types of technical assistance offered by the Registry to those across the state who help victims of domestic abuse and dating violence obtain the protections they seek.

The Louisiana Attorney General's Office and the Louisiana Protective Order Registry have in the past and continue in the present to develop and deliver Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) certified training programs for law enforcement, which are intended to diminish the obstacles to victim safety and offender accountability within our state. In addition to providing general information about the nature and scope of domestic abuse and dating violence, these collaborative training programs also address specific strategies for law enforcement response to a variety of crimes of violence against women, as well as provide detailed instruction regarding effective enforcement of protection orders which may include but does not mandate arrest for a violation of the order.

An important initiative used as a resource is the LAVNS system. This program is proving to be instrumental to the collaborative efforts of the criminal justice system and service providers. LAVNS is an automated victim notification system that monitors the custody status of offenders in parish jails, state prisons and current court cases. Two important features provided by LAVNS to victims are information and notification. The information is available to callers (victims) 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. LAVNS is available in English, Spanish, French and Vietnamese. The collaborative efforts of the criminal justice system and service providers focus on the dissemination of LAVNS information to the victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

## **5. Culturally Specific 10% Allocation**

After three years of working with the assistance of Billi Lacombe, Director, and Henrietta Lewis with Faith House in Lafayette, and Beth Meeks and Kim Clement with the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the ten percent culturally specific allocation is now being awarded to the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians for the first time this year in October 2013 with the FY 2012 funds.

The Jena Band of Choctaw Indians (JBC) received federal recognition through the federal acknowledgment process in 1995. Tribal membership now totals 320. There are 192 tribal members currently residing in LaSalle, Grant, and Rapides Parishes. The Tribe is a sovereign government striving to improve the well-being of its tribal members and those of future generations. Overall, violence against Native American Indian women has risen to epidemic levels throughout the country and are twice as likely to experience physical or sexual violence as do all other races according to a 2004 study conducted by the Department of Justice.

The JBC has approximately 165 tribal members under the age of twenty, which is one-half of the population. Targeting this age group will give the Tribe ample opportunity to build knowledge, advocacy, resources and education to the young women in their tribe. The crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking have had a tremendous negative effect on the Choctaw tribal members. Tribal Chief, B. Cheryl Smith, is certain these violence crimes committed against the members of the Tribe has

oppressed the JBC tribal people and feels now is the time to reclaim their proud culture and begin providing much needed services to the Tribe.

The JBC conducted two focus groups during the late summer and early fall of 2013 with fourteen tribal members participating. Out of the fourteen represented, twelve had reported knowing or having been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking. The results of the group study clearly indicated there is a great need for assistance for these problems in the community and the information compiled showed the members recognized this is a tribal problem. The group study also revealed a need to gain insight on what services tribal members will need in reporting the crimes, obtaining and accessing services, and provide for their specific needs of safety and shelter. The tribal members concluded the services and resources provided for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking are non-existent throughout the Tribe.

The JBC Social Services Department also discovered through the Domestic Violence Focus groups that the Tribe has many gaps in understanding and identifying the fluid nature of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking crimes. Due to the lack of resources, access to services and transportation are nonexistent. Medical health services are funded through Indian Health Services; however, mental health services and advocacy are limited due to a lack funds and resources in this rural area. With STOP funds available, the victims and their families will be able to participate in individual and family counseling. A need for legal assistance has always been an issue due to a victim's lack of financial resources for court costs, obtaining child support, and other legal issues. Emergency and transitional housing has been provided, however, the need to secure a "safe" and "unknown" location for a victim is needed. The need for food and other basic needs have been reasons for victims to remain in the abusive situation due to lack of financial resources. An essential gap to be filled is the collaboration with local community agencies, such as the judicial system and law enforcement agencies.

The need for these resources will be provided for victims/survivors through the newly developed STOP Native American Domestic Violence Program. The tribal members' needs can be solved by understanding domestic violence through educating the tribal members and providing resources to empower the victims, create safety plans, provide access to services, and have shelters available to victims and their families.

The needs are justified for the STOP program to bring awareness and knowledge into the tribal community that help is available to provide support, shelter, education and advocacy. Also, to build a knowledgeable core system for tribal members to be encouraged to report these crimes without fear of the abuser, recognize their own denials about the severity of the situation, their economic limitations, and to know there will be services available to them through the JBC's Social Services Department. The STOP culturally specific funding will allow the Tribe to implement Louisiana's first Native American Domestic Violence Program and will be managed through the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians' Social Services Department where tribal members will have immediate access to the new services.

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

Reporting requirements include maintaining appropriate programmatic and financial records that fully disclose the amount and disposition of STOP funds received by the applicant agency to ensure proper management, fiscal control and efficient disbursement of the STOP funds. Written procedures regarding the reporting requirements of a project are provided in the STOP Application Instructions. The procedures inform the applicant of specific reporting requirements before and after receiving a subgrant award and those requirements are to be followed during the project period.

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program funded activities in the State are evaluated through Quarterly Program Reports that are used as tools to report each project's activities and its programmatic progress during a particular reporting period. These reports are due on a calendar basis (i.e., Jan 1 - March 31, Apr 1 - June 30, July 1 - September 30, and October 1 - December 31) within fifteen days following the end of each quarter throughout the project period. These requirements are provided in the STOP Application Instructions.

All subgrant agencies submit quarterly program reports directly to LCLE on the Egrants system. The LCLE STOP Program Manager is notified by the Egrants system when a program report is submitted. After the review by the STOP Program Manager, if additional information is needed, the report is incomplete, or corrective action is necessary, the subgrant agency is contacted directly. When this occurs, the Fiscal section is notified and any Fiscal Report/Requests for Funds are withheld until LCLE receives a corrected program report and marks the report as "Completed and Approved." Once the program report is approved, any requested funding is released. Program reports are due within fifteen days of the end of the quarter period.

Other reporting requirements are in place to aid in the success of the STOP-funded projects in Louisiana. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in administrative action such as, withholding of payments, suspension of funding, cancellation of the project, loss of awarded funds, or non-certification of new grant awards. An Equipment Inventory Listing and Assurance Form must be completed for any equipment purchased with STOP funds. These forms are submitted with the Fiscal Report when requesting reimbursement. This report is a working document until all requested equipment is purchased. Fiscal Reports are due within fifteen days of the end of a quarter period or the recipient can submit and request monthly reimbursement.

Subgrantees are responsible for compiling and submitting the STOP Annual Progress Report that reflects all grant funded activities for the period of January 1 to December 31 each year. The form is submitted electronically to the STOP Program Manager within thirty days of the end of the reporting period. If a subgrantee fails to submit this annual report, future STOP funds will not be awarded until the STOP Annual Progress Report is submitted to LCLE.

The STOP Program Manager either conducts or oversees on-site monitoring visits of all STOP subgrantee agencies. The eight Local Law Enforcement Planning Districts or Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils conduct their own on-site monitoring visits to the law enforcement and prosecution-based agencies receiving STOP funds in their respective districts. After the on-site monitoring visits are conducted, the Local Law Enforcement Planning Districts or Criminal Justice Coordinating councils submit the results to the STOP Program Manager for review and approval. Additionally, the STOP Program Manager conducts on-site monitoring visits to all other agencies that receive funds through the two state coalitions, as well as other state-level agencies receiving the court and other discretionary funding through the LCLE office.

The On-Site Monitoring form is a two-part module. One section is a questionnaire completed by the subgrantee and the second part is completed by either the District representative or the STOP Program Manager on-site as part of the review, which covers the grant award, its assurances, the project budget, any subgrant adjustment requests, reporting information, special conditions relevant to the agency's subgrant award. This process also gives the District representative or STOP Program Manager an opportunity to respond and assist with any questions or problems the subgrantee may have in the course of completing their STOP project.

Once completion of the on-site monitoring review, the report and backup documentation are reviewed by the LCLE fiscal staff for verification of any expenses previously reimbursed; the Accounting section for any issues on the agency's latest audit report, the STOP Program Manager for verification of the meeting the goals and objectives, proper grant management and overall evaluation of the project. Once the three reviewers complete their review, the report is given to the section supervisor for final approval. The agency is given a specific timeframe to respond if any issues or concerns are found.

The review provides direct assistance to subgrant agencies and ensures that these agencies utilize the funds to meet the intended goals and objectives, have a full understanding of subgrant reporting requirements, maintain statistics and fiscal records and submit the mandatory reports to LCLE according to schedule. Subgrant agencies that fail to comply with certified assurances, special conditions, or reporting requirements of the subgrant award are subject to the withdrawal of the subgrant award.

In conclusion, the success of grant-funded activities is evaluated by using quarterly progress reports that effectively track goals, objectives and outcomes of each recipient agency. An on-site monitoring visit that is conducted and a written report used to provide a thorough overview of grant-funded activities. A STOP Annual Progress Report (completed by each subgrantee agency, as well as the STOP Administrator) provides a comprehensive and accurate measure of data collection.

## V. CONCLUSION

The Plan will give priority to areas varying in geographic and population size showing the greatest need based on the identified needs of victims served and the availability of new and existing domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking programs while ensuring no area goes without service. The intended use of grant funds will be for new or continuation projects that build upon the resources of previous applications, expanding existing services and/or enhancing existing projects. Programs are usually funded for a one-year project period.

The LCLE is the federal cognizant agency for the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program funds the state. For the purposes of the STOP funds that the Commission administers, the state is divided into nine districts. There are eight law enforcement-planning districts and one district reserved for two statewide coalitions and state-level projects. The districts serve as the local point of contact for assessing local needs and soliciting projects throughout the state. This is in accordance with the guidelines established by the Victim Services Advisory Board and the Commission policies. Legal notices are run in local and regional newspapers announcing the availability of these monies each year.

Potential applicant agencies and/or programs are provided with appropriate application instructions, meeting dates, and times. The District Program Directors help local agencies in preparing applications and applicable documentation to submit to the LCLE via the web-based Egrants System. The STOP staff reviews the applications before presenting them to the Victim Services Advisory Board and the Commission. The Commission membership either approves or denies the applications.

The success of grant-funded activities will be evaluated by using quarterly program reports that effectively track goals, objectives and outcomes of each recipient agency. An on-site monitoring visit will be conducted and a written report will be used to provide a thorough overview of grant-funded activities. The STOP Violence Against Women Annual Progress Report will provide a comprehensive and accurate measure of data collection.