



State of Louisiana  
STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant  
Program  
FFY 2017-2020 Implementation Plan

Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement  
and Administration of Criminal Justice

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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. 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 (Louisiana Revised Statutes 15:1202) and is subject to change with the election of each new Governor. The Commission Chair appoints the Victims Services Advisory Board and is 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 twelve members serving on the Victims Services Advisory Board. The members include the executive directors of domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions, representatives from law enforcement and prosecution agencies, the judiciary sector, representatives from victim services programs, and a representative of the Office of Women’s Services, and the 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 “2017-2020 STOP Implementation Plan” to the Victim Services Advisory Board for review and to provide any final recommendations. The Victim Services Advisory Board unanimously agreed to recommend this Plan to the LCLE Commission on Wednesday, June 14, 2017. The Victims Services Advisory Chairman presented the Board’s recommendation to the LCLE Commission for final approval on Thursday, June 15, 2017. The Commission unanimously approved the Plan.

## **b. Plan Period**

The “2017-2020 STOP Implementation Plan” will be used as a guide for the LCLE and all STOP recipient agencies during each fiscal year’s funding period, 2017 through 2020. 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 mission of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement is to improve the operations of the criminal justice and juvenile justice system and to promote public safety by providing progressive leadership and coordination within the criminal justice community. LCLE intends to use STOP Program funds to fund new and continuation projects that focus on one or more of the twenty 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). The results of this plan is intended to reduce violent crimes against women.

## **d. Organization of the Implementation Plan**

The Implementation Plan Checklist provided by the Office on Violence Against

Women was originally used to begin the creation of the “2017-2020 STOP Implementation Plan” for Louisiana. The updated ‘Guide to the Implementation Plan Template, STOP Planning Committee Participation Log, and Tribal Consultation Worksheet’ from June 2015 distributed by Alliance of Local Service Organizations STOP Technical Assistance to Administrators Resource forms the structural format used in this plan. This Plan, when approved by the State and 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, court agencies, tribal governments, and victim service providers all of which strive to reduce violence against women. By developing and strengthening effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies, agencies can more effectively 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 STOP 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 project addresses. No single purpose area is given priority by the Victims Services Advisory Board. Each project is evaluated on its own merits. Additional information regarding the LCLE allocation process is provided in the Grant-Making Strategy Section of this Plan, page 49.

## II. Planning Process

### a. Description

Planning began with 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, the Victim Services Advisory Board members, and victim service agencies throughout the state. These meetings are held quarterly as part of the LCLE's legislative mandate. The objective is to gather their expertise, input, and vision on existing services: creating new projects for new initiatives when gaps for needed victim services are found, 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 Revised Statutes 15:1205 and 15:1206, 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, page 43, 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 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. Additional information regarding these Planning Districts/Councils is provided in Appendix A.

The two statewide coalitions, the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) and the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LaFASA) represent most of the nonprofit, non-governmental victim services programs in the state.

The LCADV is a statewide network of fifteen 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 eleven sexual assault centers

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.

Additional guidance comes from 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.

Input for the “2017-2020 Implementation Plan”, included:

- 1) A subgrantee internet survey;
- 2) Subgrantee listening meetings;
- 3) Local, state, and federal reports on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking;
- 4) Information provided by the subgrantees through the quarterly progress reports.

The internet surveys were used to help identify needs and successes. The surveys were send to recipients of STOP FY2015 funding in three major areas; Law Enforcement, Prosecution, and Victim Services. On average there was a 60% response rate. These surveys were followed up by face-to-face meetings. (see Appendix B)

- 22 Law Enforcement agencies received the survey.
- 14 Prosecution agencies received the survey.
- 25 Victim Service agencies received the survey.

The subgrantee listening meetings were conducted through November and early December 2016. Prosecution and Victim Services provided information that has directly impacted this implementation plan.

- The prosecution meeting was held on 11/1/2016. Prosecution's unanimous obstacle to successful prosecution of perpetrators was the lack of victim cooperation. The causes for this were numerous: lack of hope, lack of money, lack of transportation, lack of child support for dependent children, lack of financial prospect, and a lack of safe housing. These arise from the fact that most domestic violence perpetrators are the head of household.
  - Prosecution also indicated that a "Best Practices" approach to Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Stalking, and human trafficking would be tremendously helpful. It was agreed that LCLE should head up the formation of the data driven "Best Practices."
- The Victim Services meeting was held on 12/6/2016. Victim Services were extremely concerned with the continuation and amount of future funding. Each of the Victim Service providers go through, either LCADV or LaFASA for funding.

- A trend across all Victim Services was a need for transportation. STOP funds cannot be used for vehicles. The Victims Services explained that victims often required transportation to and from hospitals, district attorney's offices, law enforcement offices, shelters, and search for employment.
- A concern about staffing was high on the list of topics of discussions. Victim Service providers find that there are several major issues: lack of staff, lack of training opportunities on the National level, and staff turnover (as high as 80%).

## b. Planning Committee

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) requires that the state plan follow the STOP Formula Program Implementation Plan Checklist. The LCLE "2017-2020 Implementation Plan" Committee is inclusive and coordinates across multiple areas and populations.

1. State sexual assault coalition (1 member)
2. State domestic violence coalition (1 member)
3. Dual domestic violence and sexual assault coalition (*Not Applicable*)
4. Law enforcement entities (1 member)
5. Prosecution entities (2 members)
6. State and local courts (1 member)
7. Tribal governments (2 members)

8. Representatives from underserved populations, including culturally specific populations (1 member)
9. Victim service providers (5 members)
10. Population specific organizations (3 members)

The “2017-2020 STOP Implementation Planning” Committee (IPC) is made up of subject matter experts from numerous fields and meets the above requirements:

Tracy D. Farris	Director of Special Programs	Louisiana Department of Justice
Ramona M. Harris	Deputy Judicial Administrator	Louisiana Supreme Court
Valerie Martinez	Police Lieutenant	Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office
Mark A. Dumaine	Chief of Administration	19th Judicial District Attorney's Office
Darlene Santana	Executive Director	Metropolitan Center for Women and Children
Gail P. Gowland	Executive Director	St. Bernard Battered Women's Program
Cathy Ayo	Executive Director	DART - Domestic Abuse Resistance Team
Katya Schoenberg	STOP Coordinator	United Houma Nation
Mona Maxwell	Social Services Director	Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
Laura Balthazar	Executive Director	St. Landry-Evangeline Sexual Assault Center
Cherrise A. Picard	Executive Director	Chez Hope
Kim Clement	Director of Development	Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Rafael de Castro	Executive Director	Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault

Audrey Thibodeaux	Former Director	Elderly Crime Victim Assistance Program
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Our purpose will be to gather their expertise, input, and vision. Their thoughts on existing services, identifying gaps in communities' resources, creating new services for unmet needs, sharing advice on how to effectively provide services to the underserved, diverse, or culturally specific populations, and sharing positive collaboration efforts among the different types of agencies, were critical to this Committee's success.

The first steps for the LCLE 2017-2020 STOP Formula Grant Implementation began with a meeting between Kevin Hinote, STOP/SASP Program Manager, and Rutha Chatwood, Federal Grants Section Manager. The meeting was held on 9/23/2016. This meeting outlined the short term plans and timelines; the formation of the Planning Committee, the surveys for law enforcement, prosecution, and victim services, and ultimate deadline for a completed implementation plan. By 10/5/2016 the following had been approved; letters/emails of invitation to join the implementation planning committee, the Law enforcement and Prosecution surveys, and meeting dates for Law Enforcement, Prosecution, and Victim Services scheduled.

A summary of each committee member's participation is included in Appendix C.

### c. Documentation regarding other collaboration partners

Our collaboration partners are Victims of Crime Act, Sexual Assault Services

Program, Crime Victim's Reparation, and other state-level administrators of other federal funds, federally and state recognized First Nation/American Indian Tribes.

There are currently two Tribes in Louisiana that receive STOP Formula Grant Funds; the Jena Band of Choctaw (Federally Recognized), and the United Houma Nation (State Recognized). We have strong ongoing relationships with both tribes.

The Jena Band of Choctaw:

- The earliest recorded notice of the Choctaw Indians is believed to be about 1540, in the area of southern Mississippi and in the early 1700s near present-day Mobile, Alabama, Biloxi, Mississippi, and New Orleans, Louisiana. Inland from these settlements there was a large tribe of Muskogean speaking people occupying about 60 towns on the streams that formed the headwaters of the Pascagoula and Pearl Rivers.
- By the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in September of 1830 the main body of the Choctaw ceded all their land east of the Mississippi River. One band settled in a sizable village near present-day Enterprise, Louisiana and other groups migrated to the pine covered hills of what was then Catahoula Parish in Louisiana.
- The year after the end of World War II Indian children were allowed to attend public schools. The last traditional Chief died in 1968 and in 1974 the first tribal election of Tribal Chief was held. Subsequently the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians was officially recognized by the state of

Louisiana as an Indian Tribe. The Jena Band of Choctaw Indians received federal recognition through the federal acknowledgment process in 1995. Tribal membership now totals 327. The Tribe as a sovereign government strives to improve the wellbeing of its tribal members and those of future generations.

The United Houma Nation:

- The Houma Nation, 300+ years ago, was located in Central Louisiana where the boundary marker between the Houmas and the Bayou goulas was the namesake of the capitol city of Baton Rouge meaning “red stick.” With the encroachment of French settlers, the Houmas began migrating south until they reached the lower reaches of coastal Louisiana. Tribal members were traditionally farmers, fishermen and trappers. With the discovery of oil and gas in the 1930s, Houmas became vulnerable once again. Unable to read, write and speaking only a modified French interspersed with their own language, Houmas were easy prey for land developers and oil and gas companies who recognized the value of their property.
- It was not until the 1940s that Houma children could attend school, and even then a quality education was still unavailable. Indian schools or “settlement schools” as they were referred to, offered up to a 7th grade education and were staffed by uncertified instructors.



- In an effort to provide education for their children, several families moved to the outskirts of New Orleans in the lower areas of Jefferson, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes. Here Houma students could attend school and were able to graduate. Even though equal educational pursuits were granted in 1965, few Houmas actually graduated. Many, in fear of the discrimination they experienced at public schools, chose to continue to work in traditional tribal employment as fishermen where they thrived. Consequently, this educational segregation is still felt by the Tribe today which accounts for the huge emphasis of education with our youth. Graduation was not achievable until the 1960s integration movement.

Over the last year Chief Cheryl Smith of the Jena Band of Choctaw has assisted the LCLE STOP Program Manager on making additional contacts with the following tribes:

- Apache-Choctaw, Chitimacha, Clifton-Choctaw, Coushatta, Jena Choctaw, Tunica-Biloxi

Using our established contacts with the two tribes (Jena Band and United Houma) we hope that will facilitate the opening of opportunities for the other tribes. See Appendix D for a brief summation of our contact attempts.

The primary purpose of VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) 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 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 are 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.

The LCLE administered approximately \$10,738,677 in Fiscal Year 2015 for domestic violence programs. These funds are federal derived from several funding streams: \$9,808,502 in Victims of Crime Act, Victim Assistance Program under the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Program (OJP) funds and \$930,175 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.

Our collaboration efforts will ensure the victim services agencies funded by both LA DCFS (Department of Children and Family Services) and LCLE (STOP and VOCA) are not duplicating services and operating costs; consider new approaches that victim service agencies can use to streamline the services they provide to victims in each of their respective areas.

#### **d. Coordination with the Family Violence Prevention Services Act**

During the next four years, the LCLE STOP Program Manager will continue to meet with the LCLE VOCA Program Manager, the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, the Office on Woman's Policy, 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.

A meeting with Secretary Marketa Walters and Assistant Secretary of Child Welfare Dr. Rhenda Hodnett laid out our initial plans to renew close consultation on future collaboration. The future schedule for these meetings is not known at the time of the writing of this Plan. After completion of the initial rough draft LCLE sent a copy of the draft for input from the FVPSA state administrator, Amy Thevis-Dupuy. A copy was also given to Dr. Shanta Proctor the Director of Women's Policy in the Office of the Governor.

**e. Describe the planning activities that will occur throughout the four-year period**

A quarterly of face-to-face meetings with the District Program Directors of the state's law enforcement planning districts, and the Executive Directors of the state's domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions will serve as a check on the progress being made throughout the year. Getting the full support of our principal stakeholders will require LCLE to be receptive to our successes as well as our shortfalls.

Follow up with yearly one-on-one site visits with every STOP subgrantee to assess the current state of implementation. Using these meetings as an indicator of how the "2017-2020 Implementation Plan" is affecting subgrantees.

- Creating and distributing a yearly report card survey. This survey would serve to reinforce the Implementation Plan as well as continuing to improve services throughout the State.
- Participation in these surveys will be stressed with on-site visits and one-on-one listening sessions.
- Starting in 2018, a complete needs assessment, prepared with the help of our two Coalitions, LaFASA and LCADV, and distributed by LCLE will be conducted. The results of this needs assessment would be used to see if the “2017-2020 Implementation Plan” would need to be adjusted.

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.

### III. Needs and Context

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), the 2010 British Petroleum oil spill, and the floods of 2016 all of which caused substantial damage to southeast Louisiana.

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 city 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 a larger trading area than the New Orleans Metropolitan area encompasses ten parishes and boasts a population of 1,453,502.

## a. Demographics

Each parish is listed below by population per square mile – 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 eighteen parishes make up 28.1% 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% are women.

The Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) works with member programs to ensure these underserved populations have access to program services. 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 LGBTQ, Hispanic and Vietnamese communities.

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

- Faith House, Lafayette
- Chez Hope, Inc., Franklin
- Oasis A Safe Haven for Survivors, Lake Charles
- Metropolitan Center for Women & Children, Jefferson Parish

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 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.

### c. Criminal Justice Data

As reported by Violence Policy Center, Louisiana ranked the second highest in domestic violence homicides in the United States (*When Men Murder Women An Analysis of 2014 Homicide Data*). The following is an excerpt of that report:

- 51 females were murdered by males in Louisiana in 2014.
- The homicide rate among females murdered by males in Louisiana was 2.15 per 100,000 in 2014 which ranked 2nd in the United States
- The age of the victim was reported (49 homicides):
  - 2 victims (4 percent) were less than 18 years old
  - 3 victims (6 percent) were 65 years of age or older
  - The average age was 34 years old.
- Out of 51 female homicide victims, 29 were black, 21 were white, and 1 was Asian or Pacific Islander.
- The most common weapon for homicides in which the weapon used could be identified:
  - 63 percent of female victims (31 out of 49) were shot and killed with firearms
    - 45 percent (14 victims) were killed with handguns

- 27 percent of female victims (13 out of 49) were killed with knives or other cutting instruments
- 6 percent of female victims (3 out of 49) were killed by a blunt object
- 2 percent of female victims (1 out of 49) were killed by bodily force.
- For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified:
  - 94 percent of female victims (45 out of 48) were murdered by someone they knew
    - Of the victims who knew their offenders, 73 percent (33 victims) were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders.
  - Three female victims were killed by strangers
  - For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified:
    - 69 percent (25 out of 36) were not related to the commission of any other felony.
      - 68 percent (17 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

## d. Promising Practices

Three unique programs have been developed and implemented with the use of STOP formula grant funding.

### a. The Louisiana Protective Order Registry

In 1997, legislation was passed (La. R.S. 46:2136.2) which created the Louisiana Protective Order Registry (LPOR) and named the Judicial

Administrator's Office of the Louisiana Supreme Court as the entity responsible for the development and maintenance of this computerized database.

The Louisiana Protective Order Registry is a statewide repository for court orders issued for the purpose of preventing harassing, threatening, or violent acts against a spouse, intimate cohabitant, dating partner, family or household member. In addition to developing and maintaining the database, the Judicial Administrator's Office is responsible for creating and disseminating standardized order forms, called Uniform Abuse Prevention Order forms. All courts are mandated to use these standardized forms. Legislation that passed in 2012 added orders of protection issued in criminal stalking cases, regardless of the relationship of the stalker to the victim, to the list of orders that courts must send to the Registry. In 2014, legislation was passed that provided for victims of stalking to obtain civil orders of protection, issued on Uniform Abuse Prevention Order forms and sent to the Registry. In 2015, legislation was passed that provided the same form of civil relief for victims of sexual assault by a stranger or acquaintance.

The LPOR was officially launched in April, 1999, when the database was completed and the initial version of the standardized forms was ready for release. Since that time, the registry has provided training seminars across

the state to explain how the registry works, highlight relevant state and federal laws, and disseminate the standardized forms and interactive software. These seminars are designed for, but not limited to, judges, magistrates, commissioners, hearing officers, judicial administrators, clerks of court, other court personnel, prosecutors, probation and parole officers, law enforcement personnel, victim assistance providers, victim advocates, legal services providers, and attorneys.

### **LPOR Training Programs**

A total of 566 persons were served through our training programs in 2016.

- In 2016, the registry facilitated four (4) multidisciplinary legal seminars throughout the state. This training program is approved for 4.25 continuing legal education credits. A total of 292 persons attended the trainings.
- LPOR Judicial Education Training – in prior years of a multi-year project LPOR has developed a 12.5 hour standardized curriculum for the state’s judiciary on the topic of domestic abuse and dating violence. The curriculum was presented to seventy-five (75) judges at the 2016 Louisiana State Bar Association/Judges Summer School. Our faculty was trained on facilitation skills at our annual faculty meeting by a national speaker.

- LPOR also provided presentations and workshops at the request of other agencies and organizations. Two (2) presentations and workshops were held in 2016, and 165 people were in attendance.

### **Orders of Protection Received**

- In 2016, the registry received and entered 26,766 orders from courts across the state. Of these, 17,531 (65 %) were civil orders and 9,235 (35%) were criminal orders. From the pilot phase of the project through the close of 2016, the registry received and entered a total of 372,731 orders. Of these 273,327 (73%) were civil and 99,404 (27%) were criminal orders. A breakdown of order type appears below:

*273,327 civil orders, including:*

- Temporary restraining orders
- Protection orders
- Preliminary injunctions
- Permanent injunctions

*99,404 criminal orders, including:*

- Bail restrictions
- Peace bonds
- Combined bail restrictions/peace bond
- Combined sentencing orders/probation conditions



- Certain qualifying records from the registry are transmitted to the FBI's national Crime Information Center (NCIC) and the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). As of year's end, 255,410 Louisiana orders had been transmitted to NCIC since the startup of the program. This included 23,222 qualifying orders transmitted during 2016.
- Also during 2016, the registry's on-call staff responded to 231 requests for order verification submitted by examiners with the FBI's national Instant Background Check System (NICS). This federal program is designed to prevent the sale of firearms, ammunition and explosives to those who are prohibited, including individuals who are the subject of a qualifying domestic violence restraining order.

In addition, during 2016, the registry responded to a total of 1,608 calls from local, state, other state, and federal law enforcement calls with requests for verification of orders of protection.

**b. Louisiana Victims Notification System (LAVNS)**

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. LAVNS is focused on disseminating custody information to all victims of crime. 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 over 80 languages. 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.

**c. Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office Firearms Divestiture Program**

While laws establish the prohibition of firearm possession, the law does not specify a firearm divestiture process in Louisiana. This presents the opportunity for creativity and innovation to develop a safe, effective, and practical mechanism in which to divest. In Louisiana law there is no statute that specifies a program to remove those firearms.

Federal and State laws create prohibited possessors. Under qualifying protective orders and certain domestic violence convictions individuals are not allowed to possess or have access to firearms. The Lafourche plan uses a five-fold approach for firearm divestiture.

- Identify all defendants subject to laws
- Inform those defendants of the laws
- Offer assistance with divestiture
- Enforce the laws

- Monitor prohibited possessors

The Sheriff's Office is unable to do this program alone. It requires close collaboration with the Courts/Judges, District Attorney's Office, Clerk of Court, and other Law Enforcement Agencies.

## IV. Plan Priorities

### a. Identified Goals

The primary priority for STOP funding is the funding of direct services. The LCLE has historically used discretionary funds to enable programs that provide a statewide impact.

Using the priorities identified by: the internet survey, the listening sessions, the review of applicable national reports, data on domestic violence, dating, violence, sexual assault, and stalking, the information provided by the subgrantees through the semi-annual program, and the Muskie data, the following are goals and objectives for use of the S.T.O.P. VAWA Grant funds.

#### i. Project goals and objectives

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. Most projects receiving STOP funds are being funded on a 12-month basis with a proposed project period of January 1 through December 31 each year.

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, to allow funds to be expended prior to the end date 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 based on the Department of Justice's Cultural Competency Standards.

Activity 2: Represent the STOP Program at Coalition and District meetings.

Timeline: Projects are funded on a 12-month basis, to allow funds to be expended prior to the end date 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, the LCLE Crime Victims Reparations Program Manager, and the LCLE Louisiana Victims Notification 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, when coordinated, will be held each year.

## ii. Goals for reducing domestic violence-related homicides

Goal 1: To reduce domestic violence-related homicides within the state.

Objective 1: Provide improved safety net for victims.

Objective 2: Increase the number of satellite offices or establish a domestic violence shelter to provide access to victims where no physical domestic violence shelters currently exist.

Objective 3: Support recent legislation limiting abusers' access to firearms and remain available to subgrantees for technical assistance.

Activity 1: Increase the number of beds in the shelters from 380 to 700 for the women and their children seeking shelter services.

Activity 2: Seek ways to encourage the implementation of Act 440 statewide which prohibits certain persons subject to a permanent injunction or protective order, issued pursuant to a court-approved consent agreement or certain provisions of law, from possessing a firearm for the duration of the injunction or order.

## b. Priority Areas

### i. Goals Narrative

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.

The state has no plans to implement the “Crystal Judson” purpose area. The STOP administrator will continue to engage law enforcement agencies within the state to pursue training in this purpose area.

## ii. Projects to be Supported

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, 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>DISCIPLINE PROJECT TITLE</b>	
Courts	Training for Judicial
	Domestic Violence Network
Culturally Specific	Native American Domestic Violence Program
	Cafa Oglá – One People to STOP Violence
	Immigration Assistance Program
Discretionary	Domestic Violence Training Program
	Human Trafficking Training Program
	Sexual Assault Training
Law Enforcement	Combination Investigation
	Domestic Violence Investigation
	Domestic Violence Program
	Domestic Violence Unit
	Law Enforcement Policy Development
	Sexual Assault Investigation
	Stalking Program
	Violence Tracking
Prosecution	Combination Prosecution
	Domestic Violence Program

	Domestic Violence Prosecution
	Domestic Violence Unit
	Sexual Assault Network
	Sexual Assault Program
	Sexual Assault Prosecution
	Stalking Program
	Vertical Prosecution
	Violence Tracking
Victim Services	Domestic Violence Counseling
	Domestic Violence Legal Assistance
	Domestic Violence Outreach
	Domestic Violence Program
	Domestic Violence Program – Shelter – Adults
	Rape Counseling Program
	Sexual Assault Counseling Program
	Sexual Assault Outreach
	Sexual Assault Program

### iii. 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:

- At least 5% for Courts; of this amount up to 10% will be used for administration.

- At least 25% for Law Enforcement; of this amount up to 10% will be used for administration.
- At least 25% 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, 90% of the 30% allocated for victim services is distributed to non-profit, non-governmental victim services agencies through the state's two coalitions:
    - Of which, 50% of the 90% will be allocated to Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking projects through the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence.
    - Of which, 50% of the 90% will be allocated to Sexual Assault Victim Services projects through the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault Coalition.
  - Of which, the remaining 10% of the 30% will be allocated to Culturally-Specific Victim Services projects.
- At least 15% will be allocated to projects at LCLE's discretion; of this amount up to 10% will be used for administration

iv. Documentation (REQUIRED) from:

- ❖ prosecution,
- ❖ law enforcement,
- ❖ court, and
- ❖ victim services programs to be assisted, describing:
  - a. the need for the grant funds;
  - b. the intended use of the grant funds;
  - c. the expected result of the grant funds; and
  - d. the demographic characteristics of the population to be served including age, disability, race, ethnicity, and language background.

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 (see Appendix E).

## v. Sexual assault set-aside

Louisiana is currently meeting the STOP twenty percent (20%) Sexual Assault Set-Aside Requirement in accordance with the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 though the victims services provided by STOP-funded victim service providers, law enforcement, and

prosecution agencies. In a review of the FY 2014 through FY 2016 STOP funds issued to the sub-recipient 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.

FY 2014 STOP funding shows a total of sixty-nine percent (69%) devoted to serve victims of domestic violence and dating violence, twenty-seven percent (27%) was devoted to service victims of sexual assault, four percent (4%) was devoted to serve victims of stalking, and ten percent (10%) was devoted to administrative costs.

Of the twenty-seven percent (27%) devoted to the provision of sexual assault services, seventeen percent (17%) was provided by sexual assault centers, seven percent (7%) provided by law enforcement agencies, two percent (2%) provided by prosecution agencies, and one percent (1%) provided by a Tribal culturally specific agency.

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 (OVW), STOP Formula Grant Program and Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program, and the Office for Victims of

Crime (OVC), 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 Crime Victims Reparations (CVR) program and the Louisiana Victims Notification (LAVNS) system. The LCLE coordinates with each Sexual Assault 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.

In early February of 2017, with the assistance of STOP funding, the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice with the Louisiana Attorney General's Office and the Louisiana District Attorneys Association hosted a 3-day Criminal Justice Conference on Sexual Assault in New Orleans, Louisiana. The tag line for the conference was "Finding the Missing Pieces" denoting the need for collaboration among systems in an effort to understand and respond to victims of sexual assault. Geared to the law enforcement community, advocates from the criminal justice system, non-profit agencies and private practices along with attorneys and judges and medical personnel, it was well attended by over 425 professionals working within the field of sexual assault not including staff and facilitators. The conference featured both national and international subject matter experts in both plenary and breakout sessions highlighting topics such as the Neurobiology of Trauma, stranger verses non-stranger

sexual assault, alcohol facilitated sexual assault, informed consent, interviewing victims and perpetrators, evidence collection and the introduction of the new Pediatric Sexual Assault Protocol as it relates to Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners. Human Sex Trafficking with a case study was also addressed. Participation by the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault, the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Louisiana State Forensic Nurse Examiners was essential to the success of the conference by providing handouts, brochures and guidance to participants.

Evaluations for the conference produced results that were beyond expectations with over a 95% overall satisfaction by attendees, and conversations with staff members throughout the conference included comments such as, “This is the best conference that I have ever attended”, “I hope we have a conference like this every year”, and “Can you all host a conference like this on domestic violence and child abuse?”. It is anticipated that the Commission will be able to assist in hosting another conference of such magnitude again in the future.

## vi. 2016 Subgrantee 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. See Appendix F.

## c. Grant-making Strategy

### i. Description

Victim service providers 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 nondiscrimination, 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 organizational 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 (15) fifteen battered women's programs in various regions located throughout the state. Their main facilities are located in St. Bernard, Baton Rouge, DeRidder, Franklin, Hammond, Houma, Jefferson, Jennings, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Mandeville, Many, Monroe, New Orleans, and Ruston. These programs are working to provide safe housing and needed services to domestic and dating violence victims throughout the entire state.

Currently, there are permanent physical points of access to domestic violence services in only 35 of the 64 parishes. These points of access are 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 physical points of access to services in all sixty-four parishes.

<b>Domestic Violence Victim Service Providers</b>		
<p><b>New Orleans Family Justice Center</b>  <b>Crescent House Domestic Violence Services</b>  <i>Parish Served: Orleans</i>            Local Crisis Line: 504.866.9554  <a href="http://www.nofjc.org">www.nofjc.org</a></p>	<p><b>June N. Jenkins Women’s Shelter</b>  <b>Beauregard Community Concerns, Inc.</b>  <i>Parishes Served: Beauregard &amp; Vernon</i>            Local Crisis Line: 337.462.6504</p>	<p><b>Jeff Davis Communities Against Domestic Abuse (CADA)</b>  <i>Parish Served: Jefferson Davis</i>            Local Crisis Hotline: 337.616.8418</p>
<p><b>Chez Hope Family Violence Crisis Center</b>  <i>Parishes Served: Assumption &amp; St. Mary, Iberia, &amp; St. Martin</i>            Local Crisis Line: 800.331.5303  <a href="http://www.chezhope.org">www.chezhope.org</a></p>	<p><b>Metro Centers for Community Advocacy</b>  <i>Parishes Served: Jefferson, St. Charles, St. James &amp; St. John</i>            Local Crisis Line: 504.837.5400  <a href="http://www.mcwcgno.org">www.mcwcgno.org</a></p>	<p><b>St. Bernard Battered Women’s Program</b>  <i>Parishes Served: Plaquemines &amp; St. Bernard</i>            Local Crisis Line: 504.277.3177  <a href="http://www.stbernardbwp.org">www.stbernardbwp.org</a></p>
<p><b>Domestic Abuse Resistance Team (DART)</b>  <i>Parishes Served: Bienville, Claiborne, Grant, Jackson, Lincoln, Union &amp; Winn</i>            Local Crisis Line: 318.251.2255</p>	<p><b>Oasis: A Safe Haven for Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence</b>  <i>Parishes Served: Allen, Calcasieu &amp; Cameron</i>            Local Crisis Line: 337.436.4552  <a href="http://www.cwshelter.org">www.cwshelter.org</a></p>	<p><b>Taylor House, Sabine Shelter, Project Celebration, Inc.</b>  <i>Parishes Served: Desoto, Natchitoches, Sabine, Caddo, Bossier, Red River, &amp; Webster</i>            Local Crisis Line: 318.256.3403</p>
<p><b>Faith House, Inc.</b>  <i>Parishes Served: Acadia, Avoyelles, Evangeline, Lafayette, Rapides, St. Landry &amp; Vermilion</i>            Local Crisis Line: 337.232.8954  <a href="http://www.faithhouseacadiana.com">www.faithhouseacadiana.com</a></p>	<p><b>Safe Harbor, Inc.</b>  <i>Parishes Served: St. Tammany &amp; Washington</i>            Local Crisis Line: 985.626.5740            Website: <a href="http://www.safeharbornorthshore.org">www.safeharbornorthshore.org</a></p>	<p><b>The Haven, Inc.</b>  <i>Parishes Served: Terrebonne &amp; Lafourche</i>            Local Crisis Line: 985.853.0045  <a href="http://www.havenhelps.org">www.havenhelps.org</a></p>
<p><b>Southeast Advocates for Family Empowerment (SAFE)</b>  <i>Parishes Served: Livingston, St. Helena, Tangipahoa &amp; Washington</i>            Local Crisis Line: 985.542.8384  <a href="http://www.SAFELouisiana.org">www.SAFELouisiana.org</a></p>	<p><b>CAFVIC dba. Iris Domestic Violence Center</b>  <i>Parishes Served: East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, West Feliciana, Pointe Coupee, Iberville, &amp; Ascension</i>            Local Crisis Line: 800.541.9706</p>	<p><b>The Wellspring Alliance for Families</b>  <i>Parishes Served: Caldwell, Catahoula, Concordia, East Carroll, Franklin, LaSalle, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas &amp; West Carroll</i>            Local Crisis Line: 318.323.1505</p>

Additional information regarding the membership agencies of the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence can be accessed at <http://lcadv.org/>.

Currently, there are twelve Sexual Assault Centers (also known as Rape Crisis Centers) located throughout the state: namely, ADAPT, Inc. in Bogalusa, Livingston Youth & Family Counseling in Denham Springs, Hearts of Hope in Lafayette, Metropolitan Center for Women & Children in Jefferson, New Orleans Family Justice Center in New Orleans, Oasis in Lake Charles, Pine Hills Sexual Children's Advocacy Center in Ruston, Project Celebration, Inc. in Many, St. Landry-Evangeline Sexual Assault Center in Opelousas, Sexual Trauma Awareness & Response (STAR) Center in Baton Rouge, The Haven in Houma, and The Wellspring Alliance for Families in Monroe.

These Centers work to provide direct intervention and critically related assistance to women and men of all ages, as well as children, 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 the Metropolitan Center for Women & Children, the New Orleans Family Justice Center, Oasis, Project Celebration, Inc., The Haven and The Wellspring Alliance for Families. A few 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.

The Sexual Assault Centers operate under the guidance of the state's sexual assault coalition, the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LaFASA). The *LAFASA Sexual Assault Center Accreditation Standards* were originally developed in 1993 and recently revised January 2016.

These Standards contain key components outlining the requirements of the Centers to serve all sexual assault victims, regardless of age, gender, race, socioeconomic status, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, disability, relationship to the perpetrator, or any other factor; serve all sexual assault victims regardless of the circumstances of the crime, and restrictive conditions are never to be placed on victim clients; and provide services to sexual assault victims regardless of whether the crime was reported to law enforcement; and, maintain confidentiality within the limits of the law.

It is mandatory that confidentiality is to be strictly maintained unless the victim has provided a signed, time-limited consent form indicating her/his willingness to share specific information, or if the Sexual Assault Center employee or volunteer learns of a threat of harm to others, to the client herself/himself, or of unreported child or dependent adult abuse or neglect. These confidentiality policies are explained to victims of sexual assault at the time services are initially provided.

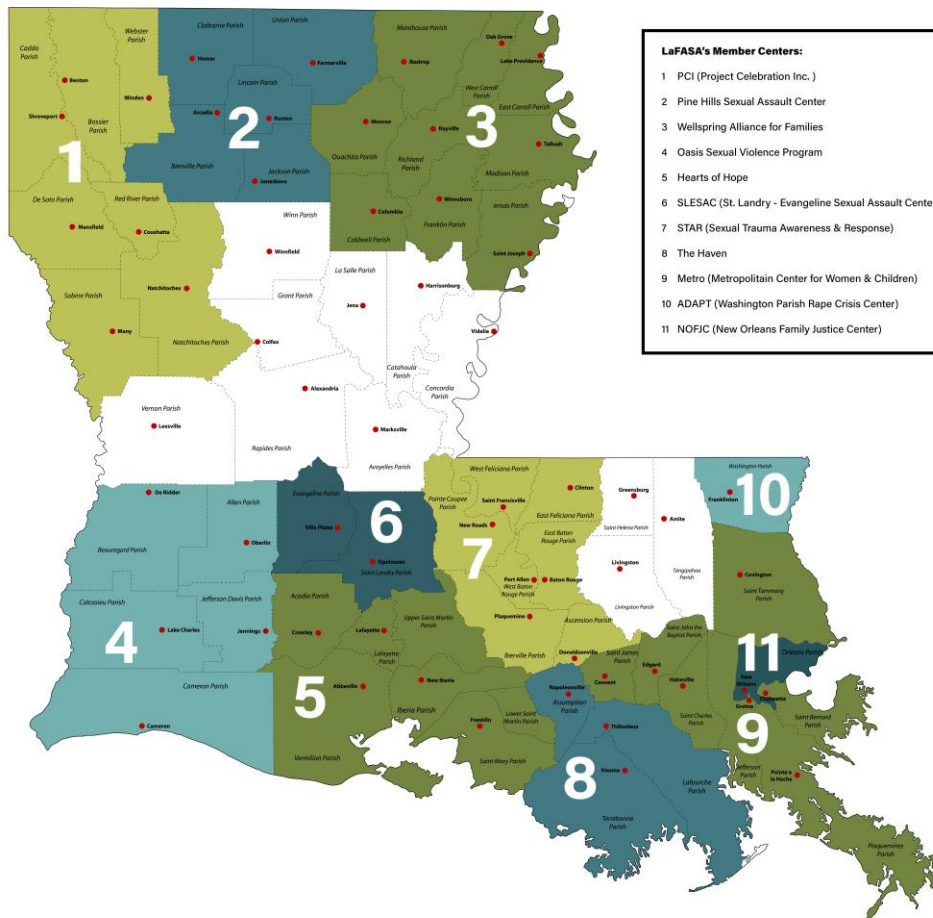
Quality services provided to sexual assault victims are based on services designed to restore a victim's empowerment and self-determination.

Sexual Assault Centers have developed specific procedures to meet the needs of potentially high-risk populations with whom communication may be challenging, including non-English speaking people, D/deaf clients or those with disabilities, elders, and children.

Services provided to sexual assault victims include 24-hour crisis hotlines, in person on-site crisis intervention, information and referral, 24-hour emergency medical advocacy, 24-hour criminal justice system advocacy, criminal justice system advocacy/accompaniment, individual support, specialized support groups, individual and group therapy. Regrettably, some Sexual Assault Centers sometimes have to limit the number of counseling sessions they can provide due to the high demand for their services. Some Centers, at times, must create waiting lists for victims waiting for counseling services, and, if so, Center staffs take steps to ensure that any victim placed on a waiting list is in stable condition and their situation is frequently assessed to ensure their safety. Victims who live in rural parishes are served from a Sexual Assault Center in the closest city to their location. Often, these Centers find ways to provide access to services and facilities, including transportation options for victims.

According to the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault’s website at <http://www.lafasa.org/main/home>, not every parish is served by an accredited Sexual Assault Center. Three parishes are currently without service providers; and these parishes are LaSalle, Catahoula, and Concordia. The website also advises that if a victim of sexual assault lives in one of these parishes and needs assistance or support to please contact LaFASA (888-995-7273) or the National Assault Hotline (800-656-4673).

Louisiana Sexual Assault Centers Service Areas – Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault.



Louisiana Sexual Assault Centers Service Areas – Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault

<b>Sexual Assault Victim Service Providers</b>	
<p><b>Baton Rouge</b>  <i>Sexual Trauma Awareness &amp; Response Center</i>  8281 Goodwood Blvd, Ste I-2  Baton Rouge, LA 70806  Phone: (225) 615-7093/<b>Crisis Line: (225) 383-7273</b>  Parishes Served: East Baton Rouge, Ascension, East Feliciana, West Feliciana, Iberville, Orleans, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, West Baton Rouge</p>	<p><b>Monroe</b>  <i>Wellspring Alliance for Families</i>  1904 Royal Ave., Monroe, LA 71201  Phone: (318) 323-1505/<b>Crisis Line: (800) 716-SAFE</b>  Parishes Served: Ouachita, Morehouse, Caldwell, East Carroll, West Carroll, Madison, Tensas, Richland, Franklin</p>
<p><b>Bogalusa</b>  <i>Washington Parish Rape Crisis Center (ADAPT)</i>  216 Memphis Street, Bogalusa, LA 70427  Phone: (985) 735-0160/<b>Crisis Line: (985) 732-4961</b>  Parishes Served: Washington</p>	<p><b>New Orleans</b>  <i>New Orleans Family Justice Center</i>  701 Loyola Ave., New Orleans, LA 70113  Phone: (504) 592-4005/<b>Crisis Line: (504) 866-9554</b>  Parishes Served: New Orleans</p>
<p><b>Lake Charles</b>  <i>Oasis Sexual Violence Program</i>  P.O. Box 276, Lake Charles, LA 70602  Phone: (337) 494-7273/<b>Crisis Line: (866) 570-7273</b>  Parishes Served: Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis, Beauregard, Allen, Cameron</p>	<p><b>Greater New Orleans</b>  <i>Metropolitan Center for Women and Children</i>  P.O. Box 10775, Jefferson, LA 70181  Phone: (504) 837-5400/<b>Crisis Line: (504) 837-5400</b>  Parishes Served: Orleans, Jefferson, St. Tammany, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, St. John, St. Charles, St. James</p>
<p><b>Houma</b>  <i>The Haven</i>  P.O. Box 4279, Houma, LA 70361  Phone: (985) 872-0757/<b>Crisis Line: (800) 777-8868</b>  Parishes Served: Terrebonne, Lafourche, Assumption</p>	<p><b>Opelousas</b>  <i>St. Landry - Evangeline Sexual Assault Center</i>  539 E. Prudhomme Street  Opelousas, LA 70570  Phone: (337) 585-4673/<b>Crisis Line: (800) 656-4673</b>  Parishes Served: Avoyelles, St. Landry, Evangeline</p>
<p><b>Lafayette</b>  <i>Hearts of Hope</i>  P.O. Box 53967, Lafayette, LA 70505-3967  Phone: (337) 269-1557/<b>Crisis Line: (337) 233-7273</b>  Parishes Served: Lafayette, Iberia, Acadia, St. Martin, Vermilion, St. Mary</p>	<p><b>Ruston</b>  <i>Pine Hills Sexual Assault Center</i>  P.O. Box 777, Ruston, LA 71273  Phone: (318) 255-7273/<b>Crisis Line: (318) 255-7273</b>  Parishes Served: Lincoln, Union, Bienville, Claiborne, Jackson, Grant, Winn</p>
<p><b>Shreveport</b>  <i>Project Celebration, Inc. Sexual Assault Center</i>  580 West Main St., Many, LA 71449  Phone: (318) 256-6242/<b>Crisis Line: (318) 227-7900</b>  Parishes Served: Sabine, DeSoto, Red River, Natchitoches</p>	

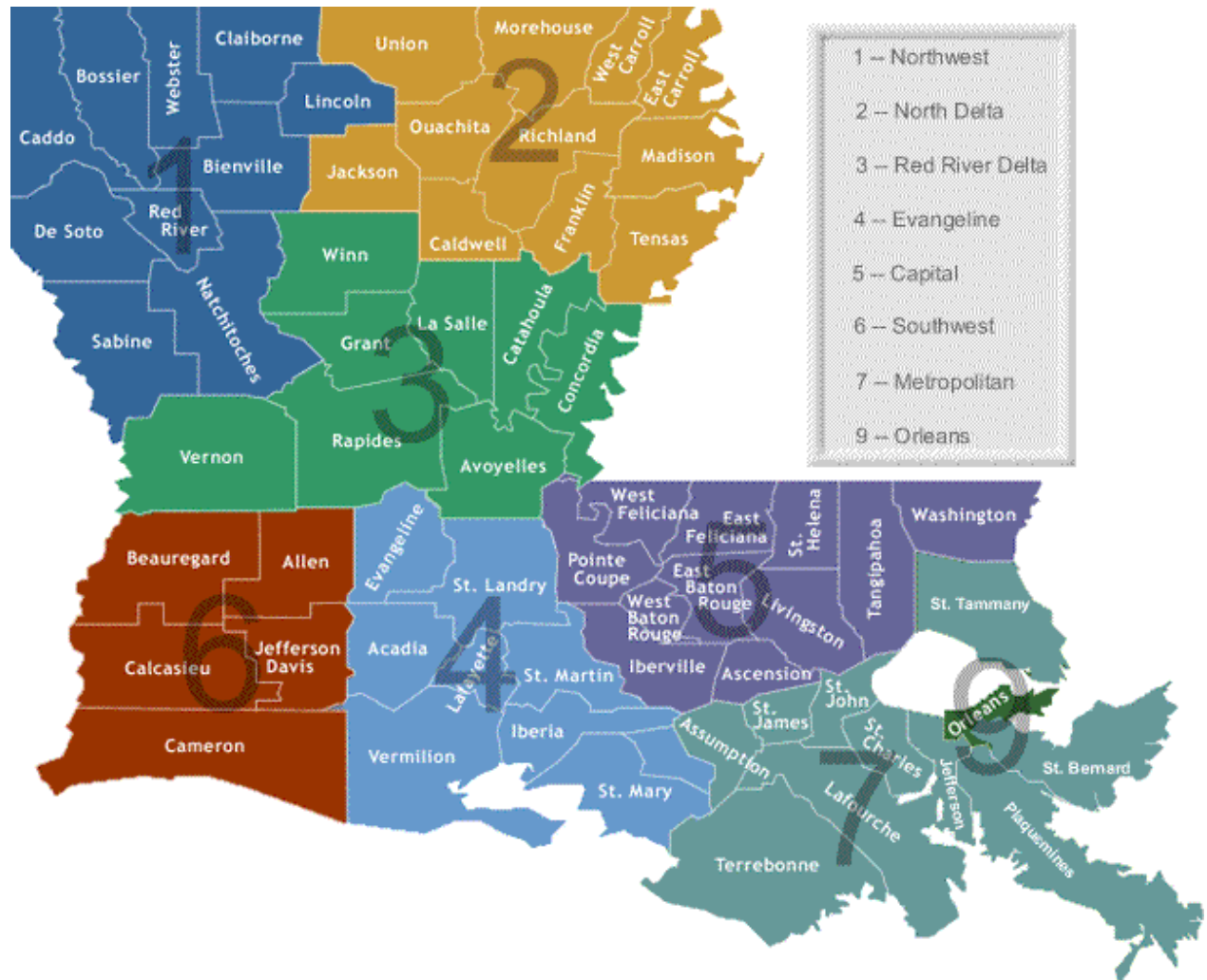


## ii. STOP Funding Distribution

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.

<b>Law Enforcement Planning Districts/Councils</b>		
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%
<b>NOTE:</b> The formula was revised upon release of the 2010 U.S. Census Report.		

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Ninety percent (90%) of the thirty percent (30%) allocated for victim services 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 nonprofit, non-governmental victim services agency or a tribal government agency. In addition, STOP funds designated for statewide discretionary projects and

local courts are distributed and managed by the LCLE STOP Program Manager.

### iii. STOP Funding Distribution based on a geographic basis

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 Coalition Executive Directors provide LCLE with their member programs' needs based on:

- How each program will address the STOP purpose areas and other OVW requirements;
- The general population demographics to be served;
- The victim services to be provided;
- Other funding and resources available to the programs;
- The financial and programmatic administration integrity of each agency; and
- 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 to develop independence and self-sufficiency.

#### **iv. Methods for solicitation/review of proposals and selection of subgrant projects**

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 of Funding Opportunity 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.

A Notice of Intent Worksheet, which has been posted on the LCLE website along with a Program Plan Worksheet and its instructions detailing how to submit the completed form(s) to their respective Districts

and/or the LCLE, is completed by applicant agencies interested in applying for a STOP award. When collected by the Districts and/or LCLE, a Risk Assessment is then created based on the information in the Notice of Intent. Requests for Allocation and Program Plan Worksheet forms are submitted by District Program Directors and Coalition Directors, as well as those collected by the LCLE STOP Program Manager listing all eligible applicant agencies' programs. The results of the Notice of Intent and Risk Assessment forms will help determine if a project meets the requirements of one or more of 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 proposed allocations are approved by the Commission, the LCLE creates Funding Announcements in Egrants in order for applicants to apply for funding. LCLE will then conduct Part II of the Risk Assessment of each applicant agency.

Applicant agencies' applications are prepared and submitted as directed in the Funding Announcements on the web-based Egrants 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 will place special conditions upon the application that the applicant agency must adhere to. Applications are prepared for submission for the LCLE Priorities Committee's review. The application can be approved, denied, or tabled by the Priorities Committee. The Priorities Committee can also place special conditions upon the application that the applicant agency must adhere to.

If the applications meet the requirements as assessed by LCLE staff and receive the Priorities Committee's recommendation for approval, the applications are submitted to the Victim Services Advisory Board for review and recommendation for a status of approval, denial, or table to the Commission. All new applicant agencies or existing applicant agencies who have submitted 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 additional 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.

## v. The 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, 2015 Department of Justice Financial Guide, the Louisiana State Travel Guidelines, the Victim Services Advisory Board Guidelines, and the Commission Guidelines.



Programs use the funds for any of the twenty named purpose areas listed in the Victim Services Advisory Board guidelines and the Egrants 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.

#### vi. STOP subgrant projects duration

Projects are normally funded on a twelve-month basis. Beginning with the FY 2013 award, most subgrant project periods were gradually adjusted to end on December 31, 2014. This will allow our subrecipients' progress report to coincide with the OVW Annual Progress Reports' timeline. Therefore, almost all projects that would receive FY 2016 funds will be funded on a twelve-month basis (i.e., January 1 through December 31) each year.

### d. Addressing the Needs of Underserved Victims

## i. Description

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.

Programs provide safe housing to domestic violence victims in supervised, secure 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.

## ii. Set-aside for culturally specific organizations

The culturally specific project must provide victim services explicitly tailored to 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 is now 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. In FY 2015 and FY 2016 the 10 percent set-aside was allocated to tribal governmental agencies.

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:

- Chitimacha Tribe
- Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
- Jena Band of Choctaws
- Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana

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, three tribes have their own police force the Chitimacha Tribe, the Coushatta Tribe, and the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana has law enforcement authority. The Coushatta and Chitimacha tribes' Police Chief are members of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police (LACP). The LACP is one of the agencies that works 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:

- Adai Caddo Tribe
- Biloxi-Chitimacha Confederation of Muskogee
- Choctaw-Apache Tribe
- Clifton Choctaw
- Four Winds Tribe
- Grand Caillou/Dulac Band
- Isle de Jean Charles Band
- Louisiana Choctaw Tribe
- Point-Au-Chien Tribe
- United Houma Nation

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

- Avogel Tribe of Louisiana
- Avoyel-Taensa Tribe
- Atakapa-Ishak Nation
- Chahta Tribe
- Lacombe Choctaws
- Louisiana Choctaw Turtle Tribe

- Talimali Band Apalachee of Louisiana

### iii. Equitably set-aside for culturally specific services

LACLE 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. Membership in the LCADV caucuses is open to any program employee who identifies with and/or serves those type populations and meetings are facilitated by caucus members and 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 population 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.

**iv. Information on subgrantees that meets the required 10% set aside for culturally specific organizations**

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 the women 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 violent 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.

In the beginning, 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 as 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 their 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 were nonexistent. Medical health services are funded through Indian Health Services; however, mental health services and advocacy are limited due to a lack of funds and resources in this rural area. With STOP funds available, the victims and their families are now 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 still 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.

Resources are now being 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 STOP program is bringing 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 allows the Tribe to implement Louisiana's first Native American Domestic Violence Program and is being managed through the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians' Social Services Department where tribal members will have immediate access to these services.

A second Native American Tribal program has recently been added to the Louisiana STOP programs. The United Houma Nation, located in Lafourche Parish, has begun their Cafa Ogla – One People to STOP

Violence program. The Tribe believes cultural competency has been a significant barrier and gap that prevents many tribal citizens from speaking out against the violence that exists within their tribal communities. The United Houma Nation has experienced success in many programs by providing services at the community level by fellow tribal members who share similar experiences and understanding of trust issues of non-natives. The need created by this gap is for culturally competent case management and advocacy services specifically for United Houma Nation tribal members who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. The Cafa Ogla – One People to STOP Violence Program will provide the necessary services to meet this need and fill this gap that allows many crimes to go unpunished.

The United Houma Nation has recognized the elevated rates of violence within our communities for many years; however, without tribal specific data available either at a state or national level it has been increasingly difficult to advocate for those needs. The United Houma Nation Vocational Rehabilitation Program provides comprehensive employment services to tribal members with disabilities. In the fifteen (15) years of the program's operations a consistent finding is the high prevalence (average of 15% annually) of clients with prior history of being victims of domestic violence or sexual assault. Primarily identified among women, these individuals also consistently experience high rates of mental illness including post-traumatic stress disorder, major depressive disorder, etc. In

nearly ninety percent (90%) of those cases, legal protections were never sought by the victims allowing the perpetrators to go on and victimize others.

In the 2015 United Houma Nation Community Needs Assessment, the United Houma Nation made an effort to better understand the presence of violent actions against tribal citizens occurring within the community. Adult tribal members were asked if they have been pressured or forced to engage in unwanted sexual behavior.

Female responses were:

- 4.23% were victimized by a partner
- 4.93% were victimized by a stranger
- 19.72% were victimized by a family member
- 13.38% were victimized by an acquaintance

Male responses were:

- 2.2% were victimized by a stranger
- 5.49% were victimized by a family member
- 2.2% were victimized by an acquaintance

Additionally in the survey, more than fifty-two percent (52.75%) of respondents reported to seeing a parent be pushed, grabbed, beaten, hit or threatened with or without a weapon. When working with victims of these

horrific crimes, the United Houma Nation staff reports that the vast majority of victims report to feeling distrustful of law enforcement or lacking an understanding that the abusive behavior is a crime and that victim services exist for their protection. This finding has been consistent with the clients who have sought services since beginning services under this program in 2015. The primary purpose of this project is to help connect tribal citizens in these circumstances with law enforcement and the criminal justice system if they choose to and provide the necessary support and advocacy needed to aid them in ending that cycle.

#### **e. Subgrantee 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 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, LCLE has a full time monitor. The monitor is responsible for conducting 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. In close coordination with the STOP Program Manager monitoring is done on a timely basis for state-wide programs.

The On-Site Monitoring 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 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. 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 “2017-2020 Implementation 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.

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 onsite 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.