

**State of Louisiana**

**Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement**

**and**

**Administration of Criminal Justice**



**Fiscal Years 2010 – 2012**

**STOP Violence Against Women**

**Formula Grant Program**

**Implementation Plan**

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## **I. Introduction**

The Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and the 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 Commission is a 55-member body appointed by the Governor from all areas of criminal justice and law enforcement disciplines (LA R.S. 15:1202). The Commission appoints the Victim Services Advisory Board to oversee 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. Both the Victim Services Advisory Board and Commission members are subject to change with the election of each new Governor.

The LCLE Victim Services 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 local law enforcement planning districts, the state coalitions, and other interested entities in order to successfully accomplish this endeavor.

The intended uses of STOP Program funds are to fund new and continuation projects that focus on one or more of the fourteen program purpose areas, as set forth in the statutes of the STOP program. This FY 2010-2012 Implementation Plan outlines Louisiana's strategies to support communities in their efforts to develop and strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat violent crimes against women, and to develop and strengthen victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women. This Plan will cover the project period for each Federal award received for FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012. Any updates to this Plan will be provided in the FY 2011 and FY 2012 applications. The Commission approved the commencement of this new Implementation Plan on Thursday, September 16, 2010.

## II. Description of Planning Process

The Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Criminal Justice (LCLE) is the federal cognizant agency designated by the Governor to administer the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program in accordance with LA R.S. 15 § 1201, *et seq.* The LCLE plans to develop and enhance the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program Implementation Plan using two methods.

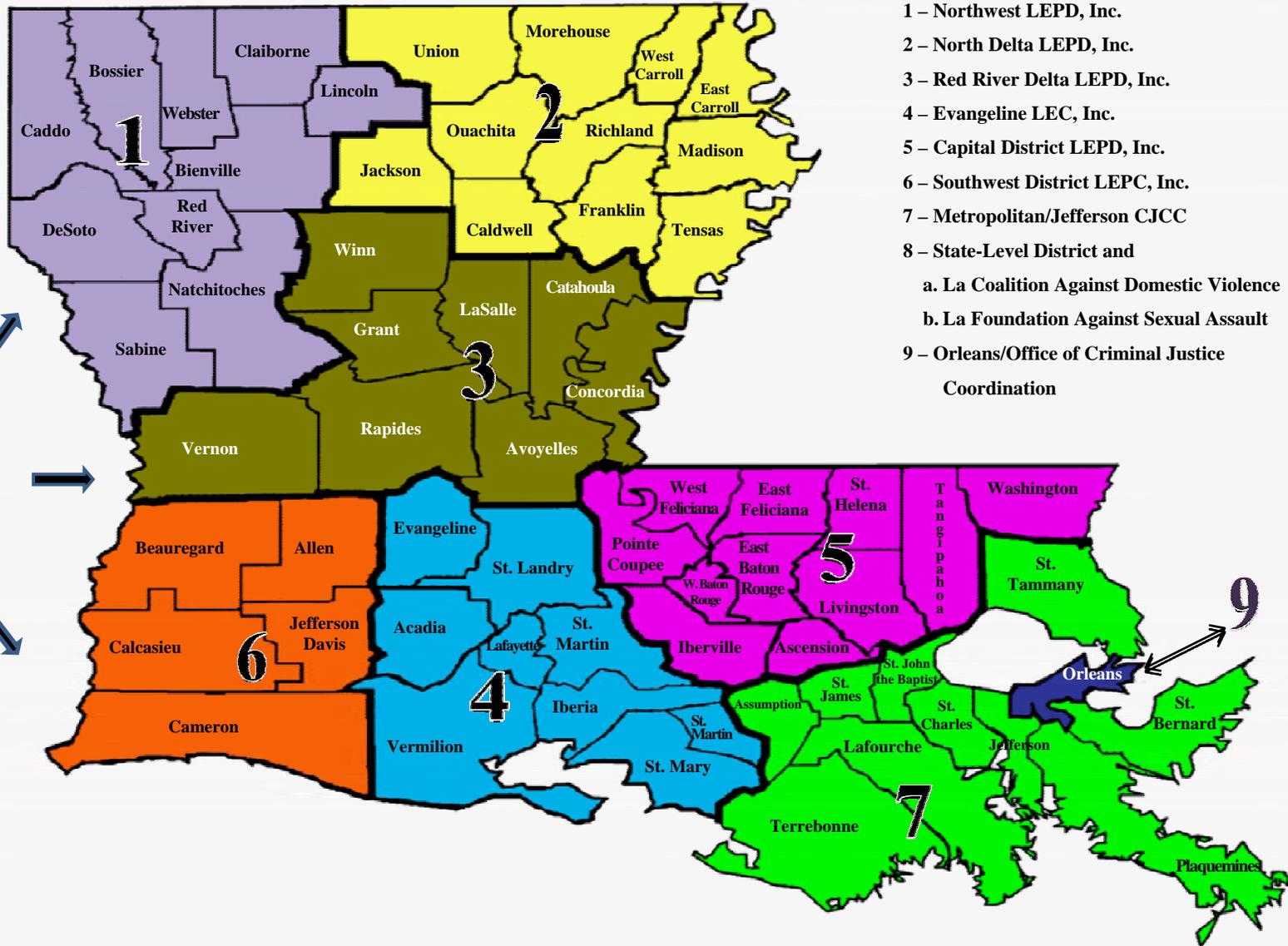
The first is a series of face-to-face meetings with the District Program Directors of the state's law enforcement planning districts and the Executive Directors of the state's two sexual assault and domestic violence coalitions who are instrumental in assisting with the plan and in garnering support from criminal justice and victim service agencies throughout the state. The plan is to gather their input and insight on existing services, creating new projects for new initiatives when gaps are found for needed services, providing services to underserved, diverse, or culturally specific populations, as well as collecting ideas and conducting needs assessment to prioritize objectives.

Under statute, the law enforcement planning district advisory councils are comprised of members including representatives from law enforcement, prosecution, the judiciary, and in some cases, service providers. These councils serve as local points of contact for agencies wishing to access STOP funds administered by the LCLE. They also perform functions similar to those prescribed to the Commission in planning, developing, coordinating and administering criminal justice improvement programs within their respective districts. The map provided on the next page shows each district and the parishes they serve.

The statewide coalitions, the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) and the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LaFASA), represent most of the non-profit, non-governmental victim services programs in the state. The LCADV is a statewide network of nineteen battered women's programs operated by the organizations and individuals who share the goals of ending violence against women in Louisiana. LaFASA provides services to women who are victims of sexual crimes and violence in Louisiana. This organization is made up of eleven sexual assault centers providing services to women who have been sexually assaulted.

The second tool comes from the guidance of the Victim Services Advisory Board and the Commission who provide input into the annual 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.

The Victim Services Advisory Board includes the two statewide victim coalition Executive Directors who are involved in the development of the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program State Implementation Plan. Also serving on this Board are representatives from law enforcement and prosecution agencies, the judiciary sector, a member of the Crime Victims Reparations Board (the State's VOCA Compensation Program), victim service programs, and a representative of the Family Violence Prevention/Intervention Program of the Department of Children and Family Services.



## **A. Non-Profit, Non-Governmental Victim Services**

The state coalitions, the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault, represent most of the non-profit, non-governmental victim services programs in the state. These non-profit, non-governmental victim service providers receive ninety percent of the thirty percent of the total STOP award dedicated for victim services. The last ten percent of the thirty percent allocated to victim services is allocated to culturally specific community-based projects. The required victim services allocations are managed on the state level (District 8).

The coalitions negotiated and agreed among themselves to divide their shared allocation amount into sixty percent for domestic violence programs and forty percent for sexual assault programs. Each coalition allocates their share among their member programs based on the coalition's determination of needs and how each project will address STOP requirements. Determination of needs include consideration of the programs' service and general population demographics, other funding and resources available to the program, financial and programmatic administration integrity and a subjective evaluation of the situation.

Each coalition advises their member programs of the statutory program purposes, funding eligibility guidelines, pertinent State and Federal guidelines, as well as the funding allocations available to the victim service agencies to combat violent crimes against women programs as outlined in the State's STOP Implementation Plan.

## **B. Tribes**

The LCLE is in receipt of documentation from the Local Law Enforcement Planning Districts or Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils, the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, the Louisiana Supreme Court, the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault, the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Metropolitan Center for Women & Children, Providence House, Safety Net for Abused Persons, and the Turning Point Battered Women's Program. These agencies located throughout the state are required to verify they have or will consult with tribal, State, or local victim service programs during the course of developing their grant applications in order to ensure that proposed services, activities, and equipment acquisitions were designed to promote the safety, confidentiality, and economic independence of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence.

Louisiana has four federally recognized Indian tribes — Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Jena Band of Choctaws, and Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana. Of the four tribes, only the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana has law enforcement authority. This tribe is also a member of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police (LAACP). The LAACP is one of the agencies that work with LCLE in notifying the Chiefs in the municipalities, which included the Chief of the Chitimacha Tribe, of the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program funding opportunities. The Chitimacha Tribe has not applied for any STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program funding through the LCLE.

## C. Diverse Populations

The two coalitions assist the LCLE in reaching out to diverse populations statewide, especially the historically underserved. The Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) has at the core of its planning process a group of caucuses, each representing specific populations and the agencies that serve those communities. The chair of each caucus is a member of the LCADV Board of Directors. The Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LAFASA) accomplishes the same end by including representatives of many diverse populations on their Board of Directors, which informs their planning process and their input to the LCLE planning process.

The caucuses and boards ensure that the voices of historically underserved or marginalized populations have a direct influence in the decision making process of both LCADV and LaFASA at all levels, including their continued participation in the LCLE planning process. The individuals involved and their affiliations include:

- **Children’s Caucus**  
Ms. Trisha Breaux  
Caucus Director  
Safety Net for Abused Persons  
(S.N.A.P.)  
PO Box 10207  
New Iberia, LA -70562-0207
- **Formerly Battered Women Caucus**  
Ms. Sami Riley  
Caucus Director  
Chez Hope  
P.O. Box 98  
Franklin, LA 70538-0098
- **Governor’s Office of Disability Affairs**  
Mr. Brandon Burris  
Caucus Director  
PO Box 94004  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004
- **Governor’s Office on Elderly Affairs**  
Mr. Jay Bulot, PhD,  
Caucus Director  
Elderly Protection Services  
PO Box 61  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0061
- **Homeless Caucus**  
Ms. Lynn Stevens  
Caucus Director  
Providence House  
814 Cotton Street  
Shreveport, LA 71101-3404
- **Immigration Caucus**  
Ms. Dale E. Standifer, LCSW  
Caucus Director  
Metropolitan Center for Women and  
Children  
PO Box 10775  
Jefferson, LA 70181-0775
- **Louisiana Coalition Against  
Domestic Violence**  
Ms. Beth Meeks  
Caucus Director  
PO Box 77308  
Baton Rouge, LA 70879-7308
- **Louisiana Foundation Against  
Sexual Assault**  
Ms. Judy Benitez, M.Ed.  
Caucus Director  
1250 SW Railroad Ave, Suite 170  
Hammond, LA 70403-5011

- **LGBTQI (Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Transsexual, Queer and Intersex) Caucus**  
Ms. Henrietta Lewis  
Caucus Director  
Turning Point  
PO Box 1908  
Alexandria, LA 71309-1908
- **National Alliance for the Mentally III**  
Ms. Jennifer N. Jantz  
Caucus Director  
NAMI Louisiana  
5534 Galeria Dr, Suite A  
Baton Rouge, LA 70816-6097
- **Rural Caucus**  
Ms. Daphne Young  
Caucus Director  
The Haven  
PO Box 4279  
Houma, LA 70361-4279
- **Women of Color Caucus**  
Ms. Shirley Stewart  
Caucus Director  
Providence House  
814 Cotton Street  
Shreveport, LA 71101-3404

As representatives of the caucus groups, the directors of LCADV and LAFASA will continue to meet with LCLE staff and bring the issues and advocate the needs of these groups in the development of the implementation plan. The eight law enforcement-planning districts and the LCLE Victim Services Program Manager as the overseer of the one district reserved for state-level projects will also continue to serve as the local point of contact for assessing local needs and soliciting projects.

#### **D. Names and Affiliations of Individuals Involved in Plan Development**

- **Mr. J. T. Gardiner**  
Director  
Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police
- **Ms. Patsy Taylor**  
LA Protective Order Registry Director  
Louisiana Supreme Court  
Office of the Judicial Administrator
- **Ms. Dale T. Standifer, LCSW**  
Executive Director  
Metropolitan Center for Women & Children
- **Ms. Lynn Stevens**  
Director of Administration  
Providence House
- **Ms. Trisha Breaux**  
Children's Caucus  
Caucus Director  
Safety Net for Abused Persons  
(S.N.A.P.)
- **Ms. Judy Benitez, M.Ed.**  
Executive Director  
Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault
- **Ms. Beth Meeks**  
Executive Director  
Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence

## E. Letters of Support Received

- **Mr. Scott M. Perrilloux**  
District Attorney  
21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Attorney's Office
- **Lt. Karla S. Beck, PhD**  
Director of Police Social Services  
LaFourche Parish Sheriff's Office
- **Mr. J. T. Gardiner**  
Director  
Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police
- **Ms. Patsy Taylor**  
LA Protective Order Registry Director  
Louisiana Supreme Court
- **Ms. Judy Benitez, M.Ed.**  
Executive Director  
Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault
- **Ms. Dale T. Standifer, LCSW**  
Executive Director  
Metropolitan Center for Women & Children
- **Ms. Lynn Stevens**  
Director of Administration  
Providence House
- **Ms. Trisha Breaux**  
Children's Caucus  
Caucus Director  
Safety Net for Abused Persons (S.N.A.P.)
- **Ms. Judy Bell**  
President and CEO  
The Wellspring Alliance for Families

## III. Needs and Context

### A. State Population Demographics

Louisiana is a state 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 local governments equivalent to counties in most other states. The largest parish by population is Jefferson Parish (1,483.6 people per square mile), and the largest by land area is Cameron Parish (7.6 people per square mile). The capital of Louisiana is Baton Rouge (2,964.8 people per square mile) and the next largest city is New Orleans (2,684.3 people per square mile).

According to the 2009 data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau, the population in Louisiana is 4,492,076 resulting in a ranking of 25 in the United States. Louisiana encompasses a total of 51,885 square miles and when comparing the number of persons per square miles in Louisiana to that of other states, Louisiana has 83.7 persons per square mile versus the national average of 86.2 per square mile. Breakdowns of population demographics by parish are as follows:

- The major metropolitan areas in Louisiana (in order of population density) are located in Jefferson, East Baton Rouge, Orleans, Caddo, St. Tammany, and Lafayette Parishes listing population totals of 210,954 to 443,342 people living in each parish.

These six parishes consist of approximately 9% of the 64 parishes but have a total population of 1,928,897 people, or 42.9% of Louisiana's total population.

- The next set of parishes in order of population density is Calcasieu, Ouachita, Rapides, Livingston, Tangipahoa, Bossier, Terrebonne, and Ascension Parishes that list population totals of 104,822 to 187,554 people living in each parish. These eight parishes are 13% of the 64 parishes with a total population of 1,040,612 or 23.2% of the total population.
- Lafourche, St. Landry, Iberia, Acadia, Vermilion, St. Martin, St. Charles, St. Mary, St. John the Baptist, Vernon, Washington, Lincoln, Avoyelles, St. Bernard, and Webster are the next fifteen parishes that list population totals of 40,544 to 93,682 people living in each parish. These parishes make up 23% of the 64 parishes with a population of 838,355 or 18.6% of the total population.
- The next group in ranking order is 28% of the state's total parishes and is comprised of Natchitoches, Beauregard, Evangeline, Iberville, Jefferson Davis, Morehouse, DeSoto, Allen, Sabine, Assumption, West Baton Rouge, Union, Pointe Coupee, St. James, East Feliciana, Plaquemines, Richland, and Grant Parishes. These eighteen parishes list population totals of 20,164 to 39,255 people living in each parish totaling 471,716 or 10.6% of the total population.
- The last seventeen parishes, Franklin, Concordia, Claiborne, Winn, Jackson, West Feliciana, Bienville, LaSalle, Madison, West Carroll, St. Helena, Catahoula, Caldwell, Red River, East Carroll, Cameron, and Tensas Parishes, make up 27% of the 64 parishes. Each parish list population totals of 5,609 to 19,807 people living in each parish totaling 212,496 or 4.7% of the total population.

Of the total population in Louisiana (4,492,076), approximately 2,308,927 (51.4%) are women, of which 1,684,010 (72.9%) are women 18 years of age and older. These figures would give a rough estimate that:

- 1,047,044 White
- 526,745 Black or African American
- 9,026 American Indian/Alaskan Native
- 23,935 Asian
- 398 Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
- 54,434 Hispanic or Latino
- 22,428 Some other race.

This 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 programs while ensuring no area goes without service. The required distribution for the law enforcement and prosecution funds are directed to the local law enforcement planning districts, which is determined by a formula based on population, criminal justice expenditures and criminal justice statistics. The expected results from the use of grant funds will include plans for judiciary education on domestic abuse, greater enforcement of laws and court orders, increase services and delivery to victims, specialized training for professionals whose work brings them into contact with victims, and the development of cooperative working relationships with law enforcement, courts, medical services, social services, and other specific professional communities.

Statewide, subgrantees provide services to women who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. As to the types of victimization, the subgrantees generally report annually that approximately seventy-seven percent of the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program funding is committed to domestic violence and dating violence projects, twenty percent committed to sexual assault projects, and three percent committed to stalking projects.

## **B. Violence Against Women Laws or Policies**

With respect to the VAWA requirement concerning costs for criminal charges and protection orders, the Louisiana Protective Order Registry (LPOR) is the program within the Louisiana Supreme Court's Judicial Administrator's Office responsible for creating the Uniform Abuse Prevention Order forms and disseminating them to all the courts in Louisiana. The civil orders of protection include the temporary restraining orders, protective order, preliminary injunction, and permanent injunction. The criminal orders of protection include the bail restriction, sentencing order, peace bond, and probation conditions.

The Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure (C.C.P.) Article 3603.1 Section C ensures that *“A complainant seeking protection from domestic abuse, stalking, or sexual assault shall not be required to prepay or be cast with court costs or cost of service of subpoena for the issuance of a temporary restraining order, preliminary or permanent injunction, or protective order pursuant to this article, and the Clerk of Court shall immediately file and process the order issued pursuant to this article regardless of the ability of the plaintiff to pay court costs.”* Women who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking are not charged for filings or issuance fees for each type of order.

The Louisiana C.C.P. Article 3603.1 Section C also ensures that *“A complainant shall not be required to prepay or be cast with court costs or cost of service of subpoena for the issuance of a temporary restraining order, preliminary or permanent injunction, or protective order pursuant to this article, and the Clerk of Court shall immediately file and process the order issued pursuant to this article regardless of the ability of the*

*plaintiff to pay court costs.*” Toward that end, women who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking are not charged service fees in connection with these orders.

With respect to the VAWA requirements concerning forensic medical examination payment for victim of sexual assault, the State of Louisiana is in compliance. It is the policy of Louisiana law in accordance with the federal law, Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005, that STOP funds can be used to pay for examinations by a specially trained examiner for victims of sexual assault if (1) victims are not required to seek reimbursement from insurance, and (2) that no “Parish, Local, State Government, District Attorney, Police Jury, local law enforcement, or other criminal justice agencies in the State of Louisiana can require a victim of sexual assault to participate in the Criminal Justice System or cooperate with law enforcement in order to be provided with a forensic medical examination, reimbursement for charges incurred on account of such examination, or both.” The failure of the government entities listed above to comply with this policy can and may result in the denial of any and all grants, subgrants, or other STOP funds provided through the LCLE.

With respect to the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program requirement concerning judicial notification, the Louisiana Protective Order Registry is responsible for creating various standardized protection order forms used in conjunction with civil proceedings that includes specific language notifying the defendant of the federal firearms statute, which may affect him or her. The relationships identified in the notice are based upon the federal definition of “intimate partner.”

*“NOTICE TO DEFENDANT*

*Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §922 [g][8], after notice and opportunity for a hearing, the defendant in a protective order that either includes a finding by the Judge or by its terms explicitly prohibits certain behavior may be prohibited from receiving, possessing, or transporting firearms or ammunition for the duration of the order if the protected person is related to the defendant as a current or former spouse, current or former cohabiting intimate partner, has a child in common with the defendant, or is the child of the defendant’s current or former intimate partner.”*

*Similarly, the standardized protection order forms used in conjunction with criminal proceedings includes specific language notifying the defendant of the federal firearms statutes, which may affect him or her. In every case in which the court issues an order of protection, state law requires that the defendant be served with an actual copy of the order. For this reason, it is possible to certify that the courts notify domestic violence offenders about the federal firearms prohibitions affecting them as the defendant of either a civil or criminal order of protection.”*

**“NOTICE TO DEFENDANT**

*Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §922 [g][8], after notice and opportunity for a hearing, a defendant who is subject to an order that either includes a finding by the Judge or by its terms explicitly prohibits certain behavior is prohibited from receiving, possessing, or transporting firearms or ammunition.*

*Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §922 [g][8], a defendant who has been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence is prohibited from receiving, possessing, or transporting firearms or ammunition.”*

With respect to the VAWA requirement prohibiting polygraph testing, House Bill 1373 by Representative Baldone, Act 816, §241 Sections A, B, and C prohibits medical, psychological, psychiatric examinations, and polygraph examinations. It reads,

*“If the defendant is charged with a violation of R.S. 14:93 or any provision of Subpart C of Part II, Subpart B of Part IV, or Subpart A(1) or A(4) of Part V of Chapter 1 of Title 14 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, and the victim was under the age of eighteen at the time of the offense, the defendant shall not be entitled to compel the victim to submit to a medical, psychological, or psychiatric examination, unless the court finds, after a contradictory hearing with the state, that such an examination is necessary and appropriate and will not cause the victim undue emotional stress and is not being sought for the purpose of harassing or intimidating the victim. At such a hearing the defendant shall not be entitled to compel the attendance of the victim.*

*No law enforcement officer, prosecutor, or other governmental official shall request or require any victim, regardless of age, of an alleged sex offense as defined in R.S. 15:541 to submit to a polygraph examination or other device used to measure the truthfulness of the victim as a condition of proceeding with the investigation of the offense.*

*The refusal of a victim of an alleged sex offense to submit to an examination described in Subsection B of this Section shall not prevent the investigation, charging, or prosecution of the offense.”*

## **C. Statewide Efforts and Resources Devoted**

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

enforcement. Technical assistance follow-up is provided to trained employers to assist them in successfully implementing their programs. The follow-up consists of mail contact, surveys, electronic e-mails, and any other specified by employers as being beneficial to them.

The program also provides trainings each calendar year to approximately 1,650 individuals including law enforcement, faith-based community, social service personnel and employees. Participants are advocacy organization staff, educators, faith-based organization staff, government agency staff, law enforcement officers, mental health officials, social service organization staff, victim advocates, and prosecutors. Training content areas consist of advocate response, child witnesses, confidentiality, and dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking overview, dynamics, and services.

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

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

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

An important initiative used as a resource is the Louisiana Victim Notification System (LAVNS). This program is proving to be instrumental to the collaborative efforts

of the criminal justice system and service providers. LAVNS is an automated victim notification system that monitors the custody status of offenders in parish jails, state prisons and current court cases. Two important features provided by LAVNS to victims are information and notification. The information is available to callers (victims) 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. LAVNS is available in English, Spanish, French and Vietnamese. The collaborative efforts of the criminal justice system and service providers focus on the dissemination of LAVNS information to the victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. A statewide public service campaign is being launched to promote awareness of this project. In addition, to encourage agencies receiving STOP funds to assist victims in regard to accessing and using the LAVNS system the following table was developed for the revised application form to be submitted to LCLE when requesting STOP funds.

F. LOUISIANA AUTOMATED VICTIM NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (LAVNS)		
		1. Name of the individual responsible for assisting victims in regard to accessing and using the LAVNS system:
NAME:		PHONE: (    )    -    EMAIL:
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	2. Does this individual also serve as agency's point of contact for LAVNS? If not, please provide name and contact information:
NAME:		PHONE: (    )    -    EMAIL:
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	3. Has this individual attended trainings provided by LCLE to learn how victims are served by LAVNS? If no, agency will request LAVNS training from LCLE within 30 days of award. NOTE: More information regarding the LAVNS program, including training information, can be found at: <a href="http://lcle.la.gov/programs/lavns.asp">http://lcle.la.gov/programs/lavns.asp</a> .
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	4. Does the agency have posters displayed for promoting LAVNS and brochures readily available to victims? If no, please go to the LCLE website to request free LAVNS materials at: <a href="http://www.lcle.la.gov/lavns">www.lcle.la.gov/lavns</a> .

The Louisiana Protective Order Registry (LPOR) is presently collaborating with LCLE to expand the LAVNS program to include notification for a registered petitioner when the Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) or criminal order of protection has been served on the defendant. This project will shift from development to a pilot phase for implementation and testing in five (5) parishes in the fall of 2010, with the objective of bringing all parishes on board by mid-2011.

Another resource being used is the utilization of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners to assist sexual assault victims in Louisiana. Currently, the primary role of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner is to collect physical evidence, DNA evidence and visual evidence (digital photography) currently enabling local law enforcement to investigate and prosecute sexual assault or other physical assault crimes in Caddo, Bossier, Webster, Desoto, Claiborne and Bienville Parishes. SANE nurses testify in criminal court cases and have been certified as experts in their field and work as part of a multidisciplinary team including: local law enforcement, advocacy programs, the District Attorneys' offices, the crime lab and other healthcare services, and working collaboratively to provide comprehensive medical/forensic care. This Implementation Plan will strive to expand these services to better serve sexual assault victims in the state.

There is a positive trend in Louisiana where some public offices such as District Attorney's Offices and Parish Sheriff's Offices now have elderly affairs departments that can quickly and efficiently provide victims services to elderly women who victims of crime, or provide resolution to their problems.

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

### **A. Identified Goals**

Goal 1: To streamline and coordinate the delivery of grant funding.

Objective: Provide a user-friendly web based resource center and make available to all agencies involved in the STOP Violence Against Women.

Activities: Provide one-on-one technical assistance when requested. Provide trainings to various Committees, Advisory Groups, Coalitions, or any participating agency requesting training.

Timeline: Projects are funded on a 12-month basis, which all funds will be expended prior to the end of each Federal award. Project periods vary throughout the calendar year due to the end of the prior project.

Goal 2: To forge lasting partnerships between non-profit, non-governmental victim service providers and the criminal justice system designed to end violence against women.

Objective: STOP funds will be awarded to support and strengthen partnerships.

Activities: Law enforcement, prosecution, and court applicant agencies are required to consult with victim service programs during the course of developing their STOP program application.

Timeline: Projects are funded on a 12-month basis, which all funds will be expended prior to the end of each Federal award. Project periods vary throughout the calendar year due to the end of the prior project.

Goal 3: To improve and enhance cultural competency in the delivery of victim services.

Objective: STOP program funds will support direct service projects and statewide efforts to identify and address the needs of communities of color, the underserved, and culturally specific populations.

Activities: Provide trainings on the DOJ Cultural Competency Standards. Represent the STOP Program at Coalition meetings.

Timeline: Projects are funded on a 12-month basis, which all funds will be expended prior to the end of each Federal award. Project periods vary throughout the calendar year due to the end of the prior project.

- Goal 4: To provide victims meaningful access to services.
- Objective: STOP funds will support the development of best practice recommendations and implement best practice recommendations.
  - Activities: Represent the STOP Program at various Committees, Advisory Groups, Coalitions, or any participating agency requesting representation.
  - Timeline: Projects are funded on a 12-month basis, which all funds will be expended prior to the end of each Federal award. Project periods vary throughout the calendar year due to the end of the prior project.
- Goal 5. To enhance and strengthen criminal justice system responses to violence against women.
- Objective: STOP program competitive funding will support training projects.
  - Activities: Fund training projects during Fiscal Years 2010 through 2012.
  - Timeline: Projects are funded on a 12-month basis, which all funds will be expended prior to the end of each Federal award. Project periods vary throughout the calendar year due to the end of the prior project.

## **B. Relation to Prior Implementation Plans**

Louisiana's FY 2010 – 2012 Implementation Plan seeks to build on the previous efforts and augment the work of earlier fiscal years. Each funding cycle brings with it the experience of the past twelve months. A main function of this plan is to draw on previous experience, and the knowledge it brings, to direct present and future activities toward meeting the needs identified in the past and to direct resources to those areas where they will do the most good. This plan also takes into account that sheer volume or numbers are not the sole criteria for allocating funds. While it is good to seek to benefit as many victims as possible, small or smaller victim segments cannot be ignored.

Thus, this plan will build on previous efforts by providing continued funding for programs that have a demonstrated need and the ability to fill that need as well as programs that will bridge gaps in service or provide service to victim segments that have recently been identified. When identified, STOP funds will be intended for new and continuation projects that build upon the resources of previous projects, the expansion and improvement of existing services and/or enhancing existing projects. All projects are funded for one year unless the funding is intended for a training project or funding is residual funds to be utilized in a short period of time. Applicants are required to identify its sustainability plan once Federal funding is no longer available.

## **C. Priority Areas**

Funding priority is 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 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 located throughout the state of Louisiana. 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 Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement.

All recipients awarded with STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program funds must address at least one of the fourteen 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.

## **1. Fourteen Purpose Areas**

- Training law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, and dating violence.
- Developing, training, or expanding units of law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors specifically targeting violent crimes against women including sexual assault and domestic violence.
- Developing and implementing more effective police, court, and prosecution policies, protocols, orders, and services devoted to preventing, identifying, and responding to violent crimes against women, including the crimes against women, including sexual assault and domestic violence.
- Developing, installing, or expanding data collection and communication systems, including computerized systems, linking police, prosecutions, and the courts or for the purpose of identifying and tracking arrests, protection orders, violations of protection orders, prosecutions, and convictions for violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault and domestic violence, including the reporting of such information to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.
- Developing, enlarging, or strengthening victim services programs, including sexual assault and domestic violence, and dating violence programs; developing or improving the delivery of victim services to underserved populations; providing specialized domestic violence court advocates in courts where a significant number of protection orders are granted; and increasing reporting and reducing attrition rates for cases involving violent crimes against women, including sexual assault and domestic violence.
- Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing stalking.

- Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing the needs and circumstances of American Indian tribes dealing with violent crimes against women including the crimes of sexual assault and domestic violence.
- Supporting formal and informal statewide, multi-disciplinary efforts, to the extent not supported by state funds, to coordinate the response of state law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts, victim services agencies, and other state agencies and departments, to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, and dating violence.
- Training of sexual assault forensic medical personnel examiners in the collection and preservation of evidence, analysis, prevention, and providing expert testimony and treatment of trauma related to sexual assault.
- Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs to assist law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and others to address the needs and circumstances of older and disabled women who are victims of domestic violence or sexual assault, including recognizing, investigating, and prosecuting instances of such violence of assault and targeting outreach and support, counseling, and other victim services to such older and disabled individuals.
- Providing assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in immigration matters.
- Maintaining core victim services and criminal justice initiatives while supporting complementary new initiatives and emergency services for victims and their families.
- Provide for special victim assistants in law enforcement agencies to serve as liaisons between victims and law enforcement in order to improve the enforcement of protection orders. (Jessica Gonzales Victim Assistants. For more information, go to [www.lcle.la.gov](http://www.lcle.la.gov).)
- Improving responses to police-perpetrated domestic violence. (Crystal Judson Domestic Violence Protocol Program. For more information, go to [www.lcle.la.gov](http://www.lcle.la.gov).)

All eligible applicants are encouraged to provide personnel, training, technical assistance, evaluation, data collection, equipment and supplies. These may be provided for the apprehension, prosecution, and adjudication of persons committing violent crimes against women. Ideas for innovative approaches under the fourteen purpose areas are also provided in the application kit instructions provided to applicant agencies. Examples include:

- Instituting comprehensive training programs to change attitudes that have traditionally prevented the criminal justice system from adequately responding to the problem.

- Forming specialized units within police departments and prosecutors' offices, or specialized multi-disciplinary units, devoted exclusively to the handling of domestic violence and sexual assault cases.
- Establishing sexual trauma units in emergency rooms where forensic examinations, victim counseling, and victim advocacy are equally available.
- Developing strategies that maximize resources by establishing regional approaches such as the registration and enforcement of protective orders across jurisdictional lines.
- Establishing protocols to achieve better coordination in the handling of cases involving violence against women between civil and criminal courts.
- Establishing and expanding victim services that address the special needs of women from minority and ethnic communities, women who are disabled, or non-English speaking women.
- Increasing the number and type of services and criminal justice programs to include judicial education and court-related projects.
- Initiating projects that address stalking.

## **2. Types of Agencies**

Eligible organizations include, but not limited to:

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

## **3. Types of Disciplines**

### **a. Law Enforcement**

Law enforcement agencies use STOP Program funds to assist women who are victims of domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault. They work diligently to respond and enforce laws that discourage harassment, threats, or violent acts against women committed by spouses or intimate partners and hold abusers accountable for their actions. Law enforcement agencies provide their officers with information and

trainings on how to safely and properly respond to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking complaints.

Trainings are designed to improve interviewing techniques, report writing, investigative techniques, and how to use reasonable means to prevent further abuse to victims of domestic violence and related incidents. The collaboration efforts of law enforcement agencies include working closely with dispatchers, jail personnel, prosecutors, the judicial system, probation and parole agencies, and clerks of court. Efforts to consult with public and private victim service agencies are increasing.

## **b. Prosecution**

Prosecution agencies are encouraged to supplement their workforces with trained prosecutors, investigators, advocates, and project coordinators to provide more aggressive prosecutions involving domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking cases. They provide advocacy and guidance to women who are victims by informing them of their rights. Brochures are provided that include the criminal "Stay Away Order" so victims better understand the Order. Prosecution agencies also provide information concerning types of civil restraining orders and safety plans. Advocates in the District Attorneys' Offices assist with relocating or referring victims to shelters and safe houses, provide referrals to private and public counselors, therapists, and other community resources and services available in their jurisdictions.

Advocates in District Attorneys' offices meet with victims to provide assistance filing police reports in stalking incidents. In some cases involving ex-boyfriends' or husbands' threats, arrests are made and Temporary or Protective Restraining Orders are immediately filed. These agencies also provide liaisons between law enforcement, courts, and the district attorneys' offices to better assist victims of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault.

## **c. Courts**

STOP funding allows the Courts to expand their services by employing additional case managers to handle the volume of domestic violence related arrests referred to the Courts. The Courts would be overwhelmed without these additional case managers and would have been unable to properly provide the protective services needed by women who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking crimes. These funds also enable the Courts to expand outreach efforts to the community to let the public know of the services offered by the Courts. Advocates provide much needed services to the victims to ensure their safety and protection.

The use of case managers trained to monitor domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking cases is on the rise throughout our state. Offenders in pre-trial status attend scheduled meetings with these case managers. The meetings are designed to provide supervision of the offenders' activities while promoting the safety

of the victims. Offenders are also ordered to appear in court on a weekly basis before a Judge who receives reports from the case managers regarding the offenders' adherence to the Court's program. The offenders are then ordered to continue to meet with the case managers and attend status hearings with the Judges until the charges reach the disposition state.

The courts are also important in participating in the disbursement of criminal protection orders in applicable cases. Requests for STOP funds to provide specialized court advocates who are trained to provide criminal justice advocacy are on the rise. These advocates send advance notices of upcoming court hearings. The advance notices are useful to victims keeping them up-to-date about the status of their cases. Trained courtroom advocates accompany victims and witnesses to the courtrooms. The courts also encourage liaisons with the District Attorneys and/or Assistant District Attorneys and the victims and their families. Court advocates also assist victims in applying for Crime Victims Reparations assistance at the local Sheriff's Office.

#### **d. Victim Services**

Public and private, non-profit, victim service providers under the jurisdiction of their respective Coalitions, are highly encouraged to use the STOP funds to develop and improve their domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking programs. 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 to better assist victims with needed services for developing independence and self-sufficiency.

Other public or private non-profit organizations, non-profit, non-governmental victim services programs and faith-based and community organizations are invited and encouraged to apply for STOP funding for eligible grant activities. Faith-based and community organizations are considered for awards on the same basis as any other eligible applicant agencies and, if they receive awards, will be treated on an equal basis with all other subgrantees in the administration of the STOP funding.

Dual programs and shelters in various regions in Louisiana provide safe housing to domestic violence victims for periods of up to a year's time in supervised, guarded environments. This is done to ensure improvement in the victims' emotional and financial stability after leaving their abusers. During this time, victims receive a wide range of services, such as crisis counseling, case management, individual and family assistance, assistance with job placements, and completing paperwork for Temporary Restraining Orders, Restraining Orders, and Protective Orders. Advocates and volunteers are utilized to accompany victims to the Clerk of Court's Office and/or to help file these orders against their offenders, as well as assisting in all other matters resulting from services provided.

## **e. Discretionary Programs**

Several statewide programs are supported through STOP Violence Against Women Formula Program Grant funds. One of these programs is the Louisiana Attorney General's Office's "Domestic Violence in the Workplace" initiative designed to educate employers statewide on how to respond to domestic violence in the workplace. Policy and procedure guidelines have been created for employers to follow in addressing domestic violence in the workplace. Trainings provided were designed to educate employers to understand why perpetrators commit these crimes, how to predict when the violence will escalate, and assist employers in designing security and human resource responses. Trainings are also focused on preparing communities to respond to domestic violence from a security perspective and how to work with local law enforcement. Technical assistance follow-up is provided to trained employers to assist them in successfully implementing their programs. The follow-up consists of mail contact, surveys, electronic e-mails, and any other specified by employers as being beneficial to them.

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

## **4. Types of Projects**

<b><u>DISCIPLINE</u></b>	<b><u>PROJECT TITLE</u></b>
Administrative Funds	Administrative Funds
Court	Court 5% Set-A-Side
Courts	Domestic Violence Network
Culturally Specific	Culturally Specific
Culturally Specific	Immigration Assistance Program
Indian Tribe	Indian Tribe Program
Law Enforcement	Combination Investigation
Law Enforcement	Domestic Violence Investigation
Law Enforcement	Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Training
Law Enforcement	Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Training
Law Enforcement	General Law Enforcement Training

<b><u>DISCIPLINE</u></b>	<b><u>PROJECT TITLE</u></b>
Law Enforcement	Law Enforcement Policy Development
Law Enforcement	Law Enforcement Training
Law Enforcement	Sex Crimes Compliance/Enforcement
Law Enforcement	Sexual Assault Investigation
Law Enforcement	Sexual Assault Law Enforcement Training
Prosecution	Anti-Stalking Program
Prosecution	Combination Advocacy
Prosecution	Combination Prosecution
Prosecution	Domestic Violence Prosecution
Prosecution	Prosecution Training
Prosecution	Protective Order Registry
Prosecution	Sexual Assault Prosecution
Prosecution	Vertical Prosecution
Prosecution	Victim Notification
Prosecution	Violence Tracking
Victim Services	Domestic Violence Legal Assistance
Victim Services	Domestic Violence Outreach
Victim Services	Domestic Violence Program
Victim Services	Rape Counseling
Victim Services	S.A.N.E. Program
Victim Services	Sexual Assault Counselor
Victim Services	Sexual Assault Outreach
Victim Services	Sexual Assault Program
Victim Services	Sexual Assault Training
Victim Services	Statewide Media Campaign

## **5. Distribution of STOP Funds**

The intended use of STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program funds will fund new and continuation projects that focus on one or more of the fourteen program purpose areas as set forth in the statutes of the STOP program in an effort to develop and strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to be used to combat violent crimes against women. The distribution mechanism for the STOP funds is meant to provide an equitable distribution of funds statewide while allowing placement of funds in a local or regional basis to meet the most pressing needs. The total award amount will be allocated on the following basis:

- 10% of the total award will be used for administrative funds
- The remaining 90% will be allocated as follows:
  - At least 5% for State and local courts including juvenile courts;
  - At least 30% for law enforcement;

- At least 30% for prosecutors; and,
- At least 30% for nonprofit, nongovernmental victim services, of which 10% is to be distributed to culturally specific community-based organizations.
- The remaining 5% will be spent at the discretion of the State to address the statutory program purposes described in the STOP statutes.

Administrative funds are used to support a full-time program manager in administering and implementing the VAWA program and attending required OVW trainings. Administrative funds also support a Federal Program Monitor/Evaluator whose job is to review all quarterly and annual reports received from subgrantees, conduct on-site monitoring visits, and attend required OVW trainings.

Specifically, Louisiana is divided into eight local planning districts. Each district has its own local advisory board that oversees the distribution of funds and recommends the approval of or disapproval of the allocation of STOP funds. Each planning district receives STOP funds based on their *pro rata* share of the state’s allocation formula developed by the Commission based on population and criminal justice statistics. The use of the formula has been in place by policy for many years, and ensures that Louisiana exceeds all pass-through requirements imposed by Federal guidelines.

The eight District Law Enforcement Planning Councils are comprised of nonprofit victim service organizations, criminal justice and law enforcement officials from the parishes who are aware of unmet needs in their respective Districts. Each planning council is advised of the fourteen statutory program purposes, funding eligibility guidelines, pertinent State and Federal guidelines, as well as funding allocations available to law enforcement (fifty percent of their allocation) and prosecution (fifty percent of their allocation) to combat violent crimes against women programs as outlined in this STOP Implementation Plan. In addition, policies of the Commission require that all local meetings be advertised and open to the public to ensure wide notification of availability of funds, further encouraging programs targeting underserved populations to apply.

**District Law Enforcement Planning Councils**

• District 1: Northwest Law Enforcement Planning District	11.11%
• District 2: North Delta Law Enforcement Planning District, Inc.	7.82%
• District 3: Red River Delta Law Enforcement Planning District, Inc.	9.54%
• District 4: Evangeline Law Enforcement Planning Council, Inc.	10.50%
• District 5: Capital District Law Enforcement Planning District, Inc.	15.60%
• District 6: Southwest District Law Enforcement Planning Council, Inc.	10.16%
• District 7: Metropolitan/Jefferson Criminal Justice Coordinating Council	15.88%
• District 9: Orleans Office of Criminal Justice Coordination	19.39%

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

The districts allocate their share of the STOP funds based on responses received from public notices, project solicitations, known and identified needs, and other relevant variables. This process assures that those who make local funding decisions are familiar with local needs and not some centralized mechanism.

The LCLE also allocates funds to the two state coalitions, who in turn, distribute STOP funds to non-profit, non-governmental victims service agencies in their memberships. These non-profit, non-governmental victim service providers receive ninety percent of the thirty percent of the total STOP award dedicated for providing victim services. The Coalitions negotiated and agreed among themselves to divide their shared allocation amount into sixty percent for domestic violence programs and forty percent for sexual assault programs. Each coalition then allocates their share among their member programs based on the Coalition's determination of needs and how each project will address STOP requirements. Determination of needs include consideration of the programs' service and general population demographics, other funding and resources available to the program, financial and programmatic administration integrity and a subjective evaluation of the situation.

State-level agencies are directly managed by LCLE. These agencies provide the culturally specific projects, the courts, and the discretionary projects. A minimum funding level is incorporated into the rural area's allocation to ensure a basic working level of funding is provided. The last ten percent of the thirty percent allocated to victim services will be awarded to culturally specific community-based projects. At least five percent will be allocated for State and local courts, and the remaining five percent will be allocated at the discretion of the State to address the statutory program purposes described in the STOP statutes.

Recognizing the need for underserved populations continues to be a major focus of the efforts of the LCLE. Funds have been used and are planned for programs that reach out to and serve known underserved populations. Priority will be given 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 violence and sexual assault programs while ensuring no area goes without service.

Using the 2009 U.S. Census Bureau data as a reference, a total population of 4,492,076 in Louisiana was reported. Approximately 2,308,927 or 51.4% of that total are women, of which 1,684,010 or 72.9% are women 18 years of age and older. The Bureau also reports that roughly 12.14% of Louisiana's population is elderly (numbering 545,338 persons), of which 92.83% (numbering 506,237 persons) are disabled. These figures also give a rough estimate that:

- 1,047,044 are White
- 526,745 are Black or African American
- 9,026 are American Indian and Alaskan Native
- 23,935 are Asian
- 398 are Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
- 54,434 are Hispanic or Latino (of any race)

- 22,428 are of other races

Agencies report annually that approximately 35,000 women are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking statewide. These victims are provided services through residential and non-residential service providers.

**Related Attachment:**

- VAWA subgrantee agencies are listed in the attached listing with contact information, brief descriptions of each project, and their allocation group/sector, and purpose areas addressed.

## **D. Grant-Making Strategy**

Once the State has been awarded funding from OVW, funds are passed through to each entity:

- The Law Enforcement Planning Districts are advised of their allocation, which are based on population and crime statistics within their district. The Law Enforcement Planning District must distribute the allocation equally between law enforcement and prosecution (50/50 split).
- The victim services' allocation is distributed on a 60/40 split – the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence receives sixty percent and the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault receives forty percent. Each Coalition then distributes the allocation amongst their non-profit, non-governmental organization memberships.
- The LCLE Victim Services Program Manager notifies those agencies eligible for the culturally specific, discretionary projects for the state-level projects and local courts.

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

Notices and announcements are run in local and regional newspapers statewide to announce the availability of the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program funds each funding year. Potential applicant agencies are provided with appropriate application forms, meeting dates and times. The District Program Directors help local agencies in their districts prepare documentation to be submitted to the LCLE Victim Services Program Manager. The Victim Services Program Manager reviews the applications before presenting them to the Victim Services Advisory Board and the Commission. The Commission either approves or denies the application.

Requests for Allocation, Program Plan Worksheet and Subgrant Application forms are available from District Program Directors, Coalition Directors, as well as the LCLE Victim Services Program Manager. The application and its instructions can be downloaded from LCLE at [www.lcle.la.gov](http://www.lcle.la.gov). Potential applicant agencies must submit a Program Plan Worksheet to the District Program Manager. The Program Plan Worksheet determines if the

project conforms to the fourteen STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program statutory purpose areas.

The LEPD Council, the LCLE Priorities Committee, and the Victim Services Advisory Board reviews all potential requests and makes their recommendations to the LCLE. The LCLE makes the final approval or denial of the allocations and program plans before a full application can be submitted. The allocations can be approved or disapproved at any point in the process. Allocations and program plans submitted by the Coalitions follow the same process with the omission of the LEPD Council.

After the Request for Allocation is approved by LCLE, the applicant's application is prepared and submitted to the District Program Director or Coalition Director. Only law enforcement and/or prosecution applications can be approved or disapproved at the District level by the LEPD Council. If approved at the district level, the applicant's application is submitted to the Victim Services Program Manager for review. LCLE staff assesses the documented needs and conformity to STOP requirements. The Victim Services Program Manager will advise, in writing, the applicant if issues need to be addressed and/or resolved. The LCLE staff can place special conditions upon the application that the applicant agency must adhere to.

The application is submitted to the LCLE Priorities Committee for review. The application can be approved or denied by the Priorities Committee. The Priorities Committee can place special conditions upon the application that the applicant agency must adhere to. Potential applicants do not appear before the Priorities Committee.

If the application meets the requirements as assessed by LCLE staff and receives the Priorities Committee's recommendation for approval or denial, it is submitted to the Victim Services Advisory Board for review and recommendation for approval or denial to the Commission. All potential applicants must be present at the Victim Services Advisory Board meeting. This includes applicants who have a new project, requesting funding to continue an existing project, and/or requesting an increase of funding to an existing project. Potential applicants should be knowledgeable of the proposed project to answer any questions that may arise. Failure to attend the meeting will result in a denial of recommendation for funding. The Victim Services Advisory Board can also place special conditions upon the application that the applicant agency must adhere.

Upon recommendation for funding approval by the Victim Services Advisory Board, the application is taken under consideration during a regular meeting of the Commission for final approval. Potential applicants who have a new project over \$10,000, a continuation project and/or increase in funding over \$20,000, must be present. Potential applicants should be knowledgeable of the proposed project to answer any questions that may arise. Failure to attend the meeting will result in a denial for funding. The Commission can also place special conditions upon the application that the applicant agency must adhere.

If approved by the Commission, LCLE staff then issues the Subgrant Award. The Subgrant Award packet is forwarded to the LEPD or the Coalition who then forwards the award packet to the applicant agency for acceptance. The Subgrant Award packet is then

forwarded directly to the applicant agency. State-level applicants receive their Subgrant Award packet directly from the LCLE.

The staff at each of the Districts or Councils, the Coalitions, 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 VAWA program must comply with the applicable provisions of the VAWA Program Federal Register Final Rule, the OJP Financial Guide, the Louisiana State Travel Guidelines, the Advisory Board Guidelines, and the LCLE Program Guidelines. Programs use the funds for any of the fourteen named purpose areas listed in the VAWA Application Instructions.

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

The timeline for STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program funded projects is twelve months unless the project is a training project or the applicant agency has accepted residual funds to be utilized in a specified time period that may be less than twelve months.

## **E. Addressing the Needs of Underserved Victims**

Louisiana's efforts are to target the underserved populations and 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 have been expanded for immigrant populations and single women. Another area of need involves women with children who are also identified as underserved. The effects of domestic violence on children are known to be profound, but programs and services needed to assist these women and their children do not exist in the numbers that are reported.

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, identify their needs by

consulting with each other and working collaboratively to provide protection and promote awareness of the existence of domestic 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, accompany women to court, assist victims search for housing, and help with any general duty necessary in their respective agencies. These trained volunteers assisted personnel in providing information to communities about domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking awareness, about the effects of domestic violence on the family, and the services available through victim services agencies. Their efforts are committed to the underserved victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking and are determined to eliminate violence that targets women in society.

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

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

Agencies working directly with established organizations that work in these non-English speaking communities are being trained how to better serve victims who seek their assistance in culturally appropriate methods, with culturally-specific outreach and services. This training enables the staff of these agencies to better communicate with non-English speaking victims they serve how to recognize the signs and effects of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

## **F. Barriers to Implementation**

Language barriers and culturally specific training for each ethnic community continue to be significant barriers for non-English speaking victims maneuvering through the criminal and civil court systems and working with law enforcement and prosecution agencies. There is considerable need for translators to assist non-English speaking victims when submitting applications and there is a need for bi-lingual or multi-lingual advocates assisting these types of victims when appearing in court. Culturally specific advocacy is a lifeline for immigrant survivors, especially those with language barriers, when connecting them to needed services.

## **G. Monitoring and Evaluation**

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program funded activities in the State are evaluated through the Quarterly Progress Report that is used as a tool used to report a 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 VAWA Application Instructions.

The District Program Directors receive progress reports from their local-level subgrant agencies and forward these reports to LCLE. State-level subgrant agencies submit progress reports directly to LCLE. The LCLE Fiscal section records the receipt of the progress reports in the LCLE grants management system and then forwards the reports to the Victim Services section.

After the review by the LCLE Federal Program Evaluator, if additional information is needed, the report is incomplete, or corrective action is necessary, the subgrant agency is contacted either through a District Program Director or directly. When this occurs, the Fiscal section is notified and any Subgrant Expenditure Report/Requests for Funds are withheld until LCLE receives a corrected progress report and marks the report as "Completed and Approved." Once the progress report is approved and the data recorded in an Access Table, any requested funding is released. The progress reports are kept in the subgrantee's file.

Other reporting requirements are in place to assist the process used 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 due with the final Expenditure/Request for Funds report. Expenditure/Requests for Funds are due within 15 days of the end of the cycle, monthly if receiving \$40,000 or more in Federal funds, or quarterly (or monthly by choice) if receiving less than \$40,000 in Federal funds.

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 LCLE 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 VAWA Annual Progress Report is submitted to LCLE for the period ending December 31.

The LCLE Federal Program Evaluator conducts on-site monitoring visits of all VAWA subgrants. An On-Site Monitoring form, a copy of the grant award, assurances, subgrant adjustments, and any special conditions relevant to the agency's subgrant award accompany the Evaluator conducting the review.

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.

## **V. Conclusion**

The FY 2010 – 2012 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 violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking programs while ensuring no area goes without service. The intended use of grant funds will be for new or continuation projects that build upon the resources of previous applications, expanding existing services and/or enhancing existing projects. Programs are usually funded for a one-year project period.

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

Potential applicant agencies and/or programs are provided with appropriate application forms, meeting dates, and times. The District Program Directors help local agencies in preparing material to submit to the LCLE State Administrator of the STOP program. 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 progress reports that effectively track goals, objectives and outcomes. An on-site monitoring visit will be conducted and a written report will be used to provide a thorough overview of grant-funded activities. The STOP Violence Against Women Annual Progress Report will provide a comprehensive and accurate measure of data collection.