

June 26, 2009

Prosecution Agencies:

RE: American Recovery & Reinvestment Act Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
Local Solicitation for Law Enforcement Agencies; \$575,692 available statewide

The Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE) is pleased to announce that it is seeking applications for funding under the Federal Recovery Act Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant Program. VAWA funds may be used for state and local initiatives, personnel, training, technical assistance, evaluation, data collection and equipment/supplies for the apprehension, prosecution, and adjudication of persons committing violent crimes against women.

As with the Byrne/JAG Stimulus funding, applicants **MUST** have a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) Number. A DUNS number is a unique nine-digit sequence recognized as the universal standard for identifying and keeping track of entities receiving Federal funds. The identifier is used for tracking purposes and to validate address and point of contact information for federal assistance applicants, recipients, and subrecipients. The DUNS number will be used throughout the grant life cycle. Obtaining a DUNS number is a free, simple, one-time activity. Obtain one by calling 1-866-705-5711 or by applying online at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/displayHomePage.do>.

Agencies **MUST** also be currently registered in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database to be eligible to participate in this program. OJP requires that all applicants (other than individuals) for federal financial assistance maintain current registrations in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database. The CCR database is the repository for standard information about federal financial assistance applicants, recipients, and subrecipients. Organizations that have previously submitted applications via Grants.gov are already registered with CCR, as it is a requirement for Grants.gov registration. Please note, however, that applicants must update or renew their CCR registration at least once per year to maintain an active status. Information about registration procedures can be accessed at www.ccr.gov.

Louisiana's portion of the Recovery Act VAWA program totals \$2,132,194, which \$1,918,975 has been dedicated for local projects. Of the \$1,918,975, VAWA requires \$575,692 be allocated to law enforcement agencies. The LCLE has set a minimum program application amount of \$5,000 and a maximum of \$50,000 in order to be considered for funding. All grants projects must have a start date of either September 1 or October 1, 2009.

Grant duration can be no more than 12 months, and all grant projects must end by September 30, 2010.

Application packets, including instructions, special reporting requirements, and performance measures, will be available July 1, 2009, from the LCLE website: www.lcle.la.gov. Application requirements include the selection of the VAWA purpose area, a determination of when the applicant can begin the project described in the application, a budget Summary and program narratives which consists of nine sections.

The recommendations as to funding and amount will be made through an evaluation process covering the following mandatory aspects of the grant application:

- Economic Stimulus
- Identification of Need
- Goals & Objectives
- Methodology
- Evaluation

Each area is evaluated on the basis of whether or not it is addressed at all, and if addressed the strength or weakness of the proposal. The recommendation resulting from the evaluation will be based on the merit of the proposal. In conjunction with the evaluation of the program narrative, a review of the budget will be made to determine whether the costs are allowable, and if allowable are they reasonable and justified. The review will result in an actual amount recommended for funding.

The VAWA stipulates four disciplines as being eligible for consideration for funding: Law Enforcement, Prosecution, Courts, and Victim Services Providers. The grants may be used for one or more of the following 14 statutory purpose areas:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing stalking.
7. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing the needs and circumstances of Indian tribes dealing with violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault and domestic violence.
8. 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.
9. 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.

10. 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.
11. Providing assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in immigration matters.
12. Maintaining core victim services and criminal justice initiatives while supporting complementary new initiatives and emergency services for victims and their families.
13. 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.state.la.us.)
14. Improving responses to police-perpetrated domestic violence. (Crystal Judson Domestic Violence Protocol Program. For more information, go to www.lcle.state.la.us.)

Please note the deadline for applications to be submitted to the LCLE is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 17, 2009. LCLE will accept hard copy applications (hand delivery or mail) or online applications.

Because of the limited amount of federal funds, there is no guarantee that all agencies that apply will receive funding or receive the amount requested.

Please check the LCLE website on a regular basis for additional information on this program.

Sincerely,

Judy Dupuy
Executive Director