

Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency

STOP Implementation Plan

FY 2017-2020



Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency

3101 N Front Street

Harrisburg, PA 17110

1/29/2018

January 29, 2018

Mr. Omar Mohammed
Grant Program Specialist
Office on Violence Against Women
U.S. Department of Justice
800 K Street N.W., Ste. 920
Washington, D.C. 20530

RE: STOP VAWA Implementation Plan for Pennsylvania, FY s 2017-2019

Dear Mr. Mohammed:

The 2017-2019 State Implementation Plan under the STOP Violence Against Women Program is being submitted by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) as the state's STOP Grant Program administrator. This document was approved by the PCCD's Victims' Services Advisory Committee (VSAC) on May 2, 2017.

Sincerely,

Kathy Buckley
Manager
Victims' Services Program

Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency

2017-2020 STOP Implementation Plan

Table of Contents

I.	Introduction	4
II.	Description of Planning Process	4
	i. Background	4
	A. Description of the Planning Process	4
	B. Documentation of Collaboration	6
	C. Other Collaboration Partners	7
	D. Coordination with Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA); Victim of Crimes Act (VOCA); and Rape Prevention Education Funding (RPE)	8
III.	Needs and Context	9
	i. Geography	9
	ii. Political Structure	11
	iii. Population	12
	A. Background	12
	B. Demographic Trends	12
	C. Language Barriers	13
	D. Aging Population	13
	E. Disabled Populations	14
	F. LGBT Populations	15
	iv. Economy	15
	v. Crime Statistics	17
IV.	Priorities and Approaches	19
	i. Priority Areas	19
	<i>Priority Areas for 2017-2020</i>	
	ii. Core Victim’ Services	20
	iii. Training	22
	iv. Underserved Populations	23
	v. Collaborative Partnerships	24
	vi. Statewide Policy Discussion on Batterer Intervention	24
	vii. Domestic Violence Homicide Reduction	25
	viii. Identified Goals	26
	ix. Grant Making Strategy	31
	x. Addressing the Needs of Underserved Victims	34
	xi. Barriers to Implementation	35
	xii. Monitoring and Evaluation	37
V.	Conclusion	38
VI.	Appendixes	40

I. INTRODUCTION

This document is the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's STOP Implementation Plan (Plan) for Federal Fiscal Years 2017 through 2020. It provides a blueprint for how Pennsylvania will use its STOP Violence Against Women Funding to promote a holistic, coordinated, and multidisciplinary response to violence against women. This plan was approved by Pennsylvania's Statewide Victims' Services Advisory Committee (VSAC) on May 2, 2017.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING PROCESS

i. Background

The Office of Victims' Services (OVS) at the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) administers the STOP Formula Grant. The work of the OVS is accomplished through careful advisement by the Statewide Victims' Services Advisory Committee (VSAC). Established in 1995 through an amendment to Pennsylvania's Crime Victims Act, the VSAC's membership consists of public officials who represent the state departments of Human Services, Aging and Corrections, the state's Office of Victim Advocate, the Pennsylvania State Police, the state's domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions as well as a judge, local prosecutors and victim service providers. The VSAC advises OVS on functions related to the review, approval and disbursement of state/federal grant funds and on victim service-related program priorities and development. VSAC must approve all STOP applications for funding. Please see the VSAC membership list – Appendix A.

A. Description of the Planning Process

To begin the FY 2017-2020 STOP implementation planning process, OVS:

- Contracted with a Planning Team consultant/facilitator on August 31, 2016.

- Disseminated a statewide needs assessment survey using Survey Monkey on September 16, 2016. The purpose of the survey was to identify recurrent themes, concerns and ideas for initiatives to “jump start” the STOP Implementation Planning Team meeting discussion.
- Received 385 survey responses. Of those responses, Law enforcement represented 31.43%. Victim Services represented 19.48%; Prosecution represented 7.79%; Courts represented 29.94% and 16.36% of the respondents were “Other” allied professionals. Please see Appendices B and C for specific demographic information and narrative responses to the survey questions.
- Convened a STOP Implementation Planning Team (Team) comprised of representatives from the domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions, victim services, state and municipal law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and representatives from underserved populations for an in person meeting on November 7, 2016. (Please see Appendix D for a roster of Team Members and Appendix E for a list of the Team’s recommendations).
- Convened two additional meetings for input from knowledge experts based upon the strong recommendation of the Team. The first meeting held via interactive web was held on January 6, 2017 and focused on underrepresented populations and included knowledge experts representing racial/ethnic, incarcerated, disabled and LGBTQ populations. The second meeting engaged, held via interactive web, was held on January 13, 2017 with knowledge experts in probation and parole. (Please see Appendix F for a roster of knowledge experts and Appendix G for a list of the of the knowledge expert recommendations).
- Maintained STOP’s 2014-2016 Implementation Plan priorities by honoring the competitive contracts with Pennsylvania’s 2016-2018 subgrantees.
- Set funding priorities for Pennsylvania’s 2019-2021 competitive STOP grant cycle based on the 2017-2020 Implementation Plan recommendations.

B. Documentation of Collaboration

As mandated under the Violence Against Women Act, the following agency representatives provided guidance in developing Pennsylvania's 2017-2020 Implementation Plan:

- ☒ State Sexual Assault Coalitions: Ms. Joyce Lukima and Ms. Karen Galbraith
- ☒ State Domestic Violence Coalition: Ms. Ellen Kramer and Ms. Rachel Pinsker.
- ☒ Dual Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalition: N/A
- ☒ Law Enforcement Entities: Chief Nicholas Zakucia, Sergeant Rodger Ollis and Captain David Relph.
- ☒ District Attorney's Office: Ms. Miranda Blazek.
- ☒ State and Local Courts: Honorable Kathy Morrow, Honorable Tonya Osman and Ms. Amy Kehner.
- ☒ Tribal Governments: N/A.
- ☒ Representatives from underserved populations, including culturally specific populations: Ms. Denise Getgen (Elders); Ms. Tiffany Chang Lawson (Asian American); Ms. Jen Dotzel (Latino); Ms. Leticia Covarrubias (Latino); and Ms. Karen Herrling (Physical/Cognitive Disability); Ms. Diana Bieber Locke (immigrant/undocumented); Ms. Margaret Ruddy (Incarcerated Population and Elders); Ms. Jessica Tomchick (LGBTQ and Asian); Ms. Sherry Hunter (LGBTQ and Asian) and Ms. Claudia Galdamez (Latino)
- ☒ State Probation and Parole: Ms. Melissa Repsher and Ms. Penny Hockenberry
- ☒ Victim service providers: Ms. Erika Brosig, Ms. Laura Masgalas and Ms. Susan Matthias representing sexual assault responses; Ms. Michelle Robinson-Ritter, Ms. Molly Callahan and Ms. Lorraine Bittner representing domestic violence responses.
- ☒ Population specific organizations: See representatives from underserved populations above.

Other: Healthcare: Ms. Debbie Nugent and Ms. Kimberly Allen.

Please see Attachment H confirming the extent of participation by the above Team members.

C. Other Collaboration Partners

At the state level, OVS attempts to model the collaborative problem solving, information sharing and planning that we expect of our grantees at the local level. In addition to the mandatory STOP Implementation Planning meeting, the OVS pursues regular opportunities for collaboration and information sharing across its grant programs as well as with its statewide partners. This occurs through bimonthly monitoring meetings during which OVS staff meet to assess emerging issues, funding strategies, and monitoring outcomes under STOP; the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA); and Pennsylvania's Rights and Services Act (RASA) and the Victims of Juvenile Offenders (VOJO) funding streams. The OVS also leverages the influence of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) as the lead criminal justice system planning agency for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by taking advantage of the many opportunities for cross agency collaboration that being an office within PCCD provides. The OVS regularly partners with the following state level agencies to work on victim-related policy issues: the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, Pennsylvania Department of Aging, Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole the Pennsylvania State Police and Pennsylvania's Office of the Victim Advocate. Over the last three years, PCCD's OVS has strengthened its collaborative relationship with the Office of Judicial Education within Pennsylvania's Administrative Office of the Courts. Additionally, the efforts under STOP would not be as successful as they are currently without the support and participation of our statewide coalitions and associations including the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association and the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association.

D. Coordination with Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA); Victim of Crimes Act (VOCA); and Rape Prevention Education funding (RPE)

Pennsylvania has always attempted to coordinate its use of victim service-related funding streams to ensure that limited resources are expended in a responsible manner. PCCD administers Pennsylvania's allocation under the federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Program. The recent lifting of the VOCA cap heightened the importance of coordinating the use of STOP Formula grant funds with our state's VOCA funding strategy. During 2015, Pennsylvania's Victims' Services Advisory Committee (VSAC) engaged in a year-long strategic planning process to ensure that Pennsylvania used a fiscally and programmatically responsible process for allocating the unprecedented infusion of VOCA funding our state received. During that planning process, VSAC assessed the current status and capacity of victim services in the state, regardless of funding source, with special emphasis on identifying the needs of victims, unserved and underserved populations, emerging issues and current demographics. As part of these planning discussions, participants were educated on the various funding programs supporting victim services in Pennsylvania, including STOP. In addition to planning for VOCA funding, OVS continued to engage in focused discussions and strategic STOP planning with the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV), which administers programs funded under the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA); and the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) which administers the Rape Prevention and Education Program (RPE).

Through strategic planning, STOP, VOCA, FVPSA and RPE funds are leveraged to (1) customize and sustain direct victim services and (2) develop a coordinated intervention/prevention outreach strategy that responds to victims and confronts attitudes and norms that perpetuate violence against women. This strategy ensures that OVS's final funding

decisions for the use of STOP and VOCA are comprehensive and based upon a sound understanding of the social, demographic, criminological and economic forces affecting the state.

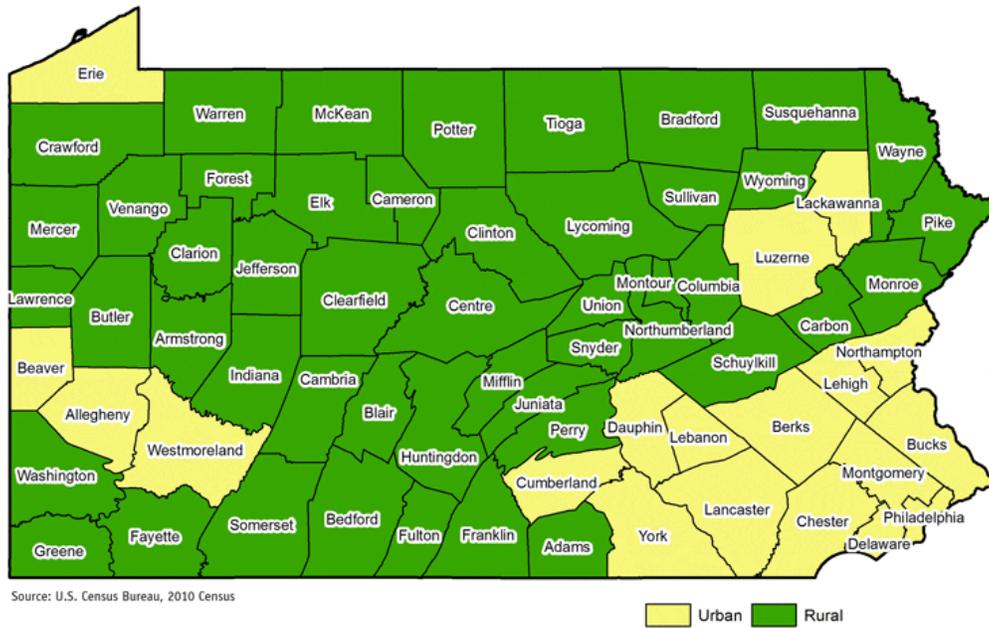
III. NEEDS AND CONTEXT

i. Geography

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania encompasses a land area of 44,742 square miles and includes mountains, river valleys, farmland and two major metropolitan areas at opposite ends of the state. The population is spread across 67 counties and ranges from the extreme of 11,379 people per square mile in the City of Philadelphia to 16 people per square mile in rural Potter County. According to the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, there are 48 rural counties and 19 urban counties within the Commonwealth.

In 2010, nearly 3.5 million residents, or 27% of the state's population lived in a rural county. As we update this plan in 2017, we find that these statistics have not appreciably changed, nor are they likely to. According to a [report](#) released in March 2014 by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, rural Pennsylvania counties are projected to have a four percent population increase and urban Pennsylvania counties are projected to have a 14 percent population increase from 2010 to 2040 (Looking Ahead: Pennsylvania Population Projections 2010-2040). It is important to note that, while 70% of Pennsylvania's counties are rural, the state's average population density of 284 persons per square mile does not qualify it as a "rural" state under the Office on Violence Against Women's guidelines. However, Pennsylvania's large rural demographic impacts the implementation of STOP because victims living in rural areas of the state face many challenges including isolation, limited economic opportunities, lack of access to public and/or private transportation, part-time or no municipal law enforcement; and, despite great progress in technology, may live in areas without reliable cell phone and/or internet service.

Rural Pennsylvania Counties



In addition to being largely rural, the commonwealth of Pennsylvania borders six states: Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and West Virginia. This poses challenges for implementation of the STOP Program. In STOP-funded counties that lie along any one of these six borders, investigations of crime often cover multiple jurisdictions when either offenders or victims flee to neighboring states. An emerging issue for Pennsylvania has been the lack of consistency in how states handle the expenses associated with forensic rape exams (FREs). Recently, an issue came to light with a bordering state in which it is customary for hospitals to write off the expenses associated with FREs as “charity care.” Pennsylvania has recently had several cases in which a victim who *lives* in Pennsylvania has been sexually assaulted in this neighboring state but has chosen to return across the border to a Pennsylvania hospital to seek medical attention. In these cases, the Pennsylvania hospital is not able to bill Pennsylvania’s Victims Compensation Assistance Program for the costs associated with the FRE; nor is it able to obtain reimbursement from the neighboring state. This payment gap is creating difficulty for

the sexual assault program assisting these victims, which coordinates the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program at the Pennsylvania hospital, as it is caught in the middle of a cross jurisdictional dispute over financial responsibility.

ii. Political Structure

Pennsylvania is one of four states designated as a “commonwealth.” As such, it has a decentralized form of government in which most policy and financial decisions are made at the county level. There are 67 counties in Pennsylvania with 60 judicial districts - each of which has its own court system, judges and magistrates and prosecutor’s office.

The same is true for law enforcement. In Pennsylvania there are over 1,180 police departments that run the gamut from small part time agencies to large metropolitan departments. When a local municipality is unable to provide police coverage 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) fills in those gaps. This fragmented system of government poses numerous challenges to the implementation and institutionalization of uniform policies and cross system communication that would ensure consistent, high-level standards and services for violence against women victims.

To counter this splintered structure, PCCD mandates that STOP projects create and maintain a formal collaboration among victim services, law enforcement and prosecution. These “STOP Coordinating Teams” work to develop unified and consistent policies and procedures for responding to, investigating, and prosecuting domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence in their service areas. A critical byproduct of this collaboration is that consultation with victim services is woven throughout the team process.

Another detail that must be mentioned is that Pennsylvania has no state law that requires a municipality to have a police force. Pennsylvania is one of a handful of states, all in the Northeast, that puts the primary responsibility for patrolling municipalities without local police

departments on the state police system (Klibanoff). The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) does not receive any additional financial support beyond the taxes that any Pennsylvania resident must pay. According to the PSP, 1,287 of the 2,561 municipalities in Pennsylvania have no local police force. This means that those 1,287 communities rely on the PSP for all criminal, traffic and public safety proceedings. This has tremendous implications for the response to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence as well as affects the ability to implement the Maryland Model of Lethality Assessment uniformly across the state.

iii. Population

a. Background

According to the [2016 population estimate by the U.S. Census Bureau](#), the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has a population of 12,784,227. Of its population, 17% are age 65 or over; 12% are Black/African American; 7% are Latino; 3% are Asian; 10% have a disability under age 65 years; 13% live in poverty. The median age of Pennsylvania residents is 40, median household income stands at \$53,599 and the poverty rate is 13.2%. When compared to similarly populous states, Pennsylvania lags far behind in terms of overall population *growth*. However, the growth in both diverse populations and the elder population has been identified as a critical issue as part of the planning process.

b. Demographic Trends

The chart below reflects Pennsylvania's population by race. According to the [United States Census Bureau's Quick Facts for 2015](#), the state's largest racial group remains as White, non Hispanic. There are two significant demographic trends that are anticipated to have far ranging effects on the Commonwealth in terms of public policy, funding and service delivery. The first trend is an increase in the Latino population and the second is an increase in Pennsylvania's elder population (aged 65 and older).

Racial Composition	2000	2010	2015
White	85.4%	81.9%	82.6%
Black	10.0%	10.8%	11.7%
Asian	1.8%	2.7%	3.4%
Native	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%
Two or More Races	1.2%	1.9%	1.9%

Pennsylvania's Latino population grew by 82.6% between 2000 and 2010 and an additional 12% between 2010 and 2015. The significant growth of the Latino population is due to immigration to the state mainly from Puerto Rico, and from countries such as the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and various Central and South American nations. Part of the growth has also been a result of Hispanics leaving New York and New Jersey for safer and more affordable living. The Asian population grew by almost 89% from 2010 to 2015, which was fueled by Indian, Vietnamese, and Chinese immigration, as well as Asians moving to Philadelphia from New York.

c. Language Barriers

Language barriers have been identified as an issue by the planning team with 8.4% of the population over the age of five speaking a language other than English as a primary language. Spanish is the largest group of non English languages spoken in Pennsylvania, representing 4.4% of the population or 525,000 people in PA (2015).

d. Aging Population

The Commonwealth is home to more than 12.8 million residents. Of these, approximately 2.9 million are adults age 60 and older, and more than 300,000 are aged 85 and older. According to [estimates](#) released by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging (PDA), by 2020, the population

of older Pennsylvanians is projected to increase by 25%, and the population of Pennsylvanians aged 80 and over is projected to increase by 20,000 individuals. As the number of Pennsylvanians over the age of 65 grows, the need for services to meet their needs increases. There has also been a growth in the need for older adult protective services. In a 2015-2016 [report](#), the PDA indicated the number of substantiated reports of the need for older protective services has grown over the last three years by 39%, from 4,365 to 6,068. Many of the domestic and sexual violence service providers in Pennsylvania find that the elderly victims with whom they work have often experienced a lifetime of abuse and trauma at the hands of intimate partners and family members. For some, the first time that someone has intervened to break this intergenerational cycle of violence is when their plight comes to the attention of Adult Protective Services. OVS, Consumer Protection Division of the PDA, the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape work together to identify opportunities to bring victim services and adult protective services together to work for the benefit of elder victims. One way that this collaboration occurs is through the encouragement of Adult Protective Service staff to participate on STOP Collaborative Teams. When this happens, elder victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking receive services that promote victim safety, preserve elders' independence and meet their needs for justice in both the criminal and civil justice systems.

e. Disabled Populations

According to 2015 census data, 10% of the Pennsylvania population under the age of 65 has a disability. This vulnerable population often experiences both physical and social isolation. The planning team identified a need for additional training for working with victims with intellectual and physical disabilities.

f. LGBT Populations

According to a Gallop poll in 2012, 2.7% of the Pennsylvania population identify themselves as Lesbian, Bi-Sexual, Gay, or Transgender. During the discussions of underserved populations, the planning group and knowledge experts identified a need to educate service providers, law enforcement and courts on the biases that occur with LGBT victims and how it affects the help seeking behaviors, safety and provision of support to LGBT individuals who are victims of violence.

iv. *Economy*

Pennsylvania was one of the states that powered the American Industrial Age. From railroads, steel mills, multitudes of factories and the coal mines that kept all of these running, the 19th and a substantial portion of the 20th Century saw Pennsylvania communities flourishing. The transition to a 21st Century economy has not been uniformly successful in communities throughout the state. While the two largest urban centers of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh have been successful in adapting to new technologies and retooling or replacing old industries, many smaller communities are finding it harder to attract substantive employment opportunities. In the decade between 2000 and 2010, several regions in Pennsylvania experienced an economic boost due to the emergence of Shale Gas Drilling. As a state, Pennsylvania struggled to maintain its fiscal viability during the national recession that began in 2007 and ended in 2009. Pennsylvania continues to struggle to emerge from the long-term impacts of the national recession. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, unemployment remains at 5.4% as of December 2016. In 2015, Pennsylvania ranked 21st in the nation with 13.2% of the population living in poverty. Pennsylvania has also been afflicted by the national opioid epidemic, with over 3,500 people dying from drug overdoses alone in 2015 (Wenner).

While the Pennsylvania state budget has increased over the last three years, there remains a \$3 Billion projected dollar gap in funding for the 2017 budget. The state is considering consolidation of several state departments, the work of which impacts services to victims. This includes the consolidation of the Department of Corrections and Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole into a new Department of Criminal Justice. Additionally, it is proposed that the state departments of Human Services, Health, Aging and Drug and Alcohol Programs be merged into a new Department of Health and Human Services to save more than \$100 Million. It is unclear at this time how this will affect support services for victims of violence against women crimes; however, consolidations will increase the need to develop collaborative services across the state.

Pennsylvania, like all states, was grateful for the increase in federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding in 2015. As mentioned earlier, the state created a plan that lays out a strategy for the prudent use of the funds. One aspect of this strategy was to provide programs with a 25% increase in funding to shore up their organizational infrastructures, which had been greatly depleted by years of continuous funding cuts at the state and federal levels. VOCA funded victim service agencies were able to restore eliminated direct service positions, fill vacant direct service positions, provide staff with wages and cost of living increases, enhance benefit packages, replace and/or update technology and send staff to training. It is telling that, even with this modest VOCA increase, many programs could only restore their capacity to about 80% of what it was five years ago.

Any discussion of the state's economic situation would be incomplete without acknowledgement of its interconnectedness with the federal budget. The 2018 Proposed Federal Budget Plan creates apprehension that the modest gains made by many non-profit and governmental agencies that serve victims of violence against women crimes could be lost. For

Pennsylvania, the areas of concern include the possible defunding of the Legal Services Corporation, cuts to the Community Block Grant Program and the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Cuts to these programs will have a disproportionate impact on the poor, many of whom are victims trying to escape domestic violence and/or sexually abusive situations. Additionally, other programs that may be beneficial to efforts under STOP, such as substance abuse treatment, mental health services and housing programs could be drastically cut if they are combined into block grants to the states. All of this is uncertain and will factor into our funding and policy decisions as more information about the federal budget becomes known.

v. *Crime Statistics*

The following section provides a discussion of crime statistics and the rate of violence against women in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania does not categorize domestic violence as a separate offense, so information about the scope and prevalence of the problem needs to be *estimated* from other sources such as newspaper reports, VOCA statistics and information kept by our collaborative partners at the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The crime of sexual assault is also under-reported, and the information in the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) only represents those sexual assaults that were reported to law enforcement. Again, we turn to secondary sources of information, such as statistical reports from VOCA grantees and to our collaborative partners at the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape to try to get additional data to understand the extent of the problem. In Pennsylvania, statistics on stalking are difficult to acquire because many of these incidents are categorized on the UCR as “other assaults-not aggravated” or “disorderly conduct.” Stalking behaviors may also be reported as harassment or other types of crime, depending on the facts of the case. The difficulty of identifying stalking cases is illustrated by the fact that out of over 17,500 victims served by Pennsylvania's STOP Grantees in 2016, only 127 were categorized as victims of stalking. Finally, there is a shortage

of reliable information on the nature and extent of dating violence across Pennsylvania. This is due to both lack of public knowledge about the issue and the absence of a statewide reporting mechanism.

An examination of the last five years of UCR data collected by the Pennsylvania State Police shows the following:

Year	Population	Violent crime total	Murder and nonnegligent Manslaughter	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated assault
2011	12,743,948	46,049	639	3,342	16,131	25,937
2012	12,764,475	45,400	706	3,369	15,732	25,593
2013	12,781,296	42,758	611	3,786	14,725	23,636
2014	12,787,209	40,135	610	3,718	13,538	22,269
2015	12,802,503	40,186	661	4,266	12,934	22,325

While overall the number of violent crimes has dropped by 12% from 2011 to 2015, it continues to be challenging to obtain accurate statistics on the incidence of violence against women crimes in Pennsylvania.

To strengthen Pennsylvania’s imprecise violence against women statistics and emphasize the short and long term service impact of intimate partner violence in the Commonwealth, Pennsylvania offers the following information. In 2015, Pennsylvania’s VOCA funded projects reported services to 103,168 victims of crimes that would fall under the umbrella of VAWA. This includes adult victims of sexual assault; adult survivors of incest or child sexual abuse; domestic violence victims and victims of stalking. The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) reported that their member programs served a total of 89,255 domestic violence victims and their children between 2014-2015. The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) reported that their member programs served a total of 30,858 victims during the same year.

Pennsylvania's UCR does not capture the number of domestic violence-related homicides. To counter this, PCADV scans Pennsylvania media reports and confers with its programs in order to identify domestic violence-related homicides. According to the latest [domestic violence fatality report](#) published by PCADV, there were 102 total fatalities related to domestic violence in Pennsylvania in 2016. Included in this number are two law enforcement officers who were killed while responding to domestic violence incidents.

In addition to the criminal justice response to domestic violence, incidents of domestic violence can also include civil legal remedies via requests for Protection From Abuse (PFA) orders. According to Pennsylvania's Administrative Office of the Courts, in 2015 there were 37,563 new Protection From Abuse requests (PFA) filed. Of those requests, 37,387 (86.5%) were granted a temporary PFA. Final orders of protection were granted in 5,817 cases.

IV. PRIORITIES AND APPROACHES

This section outlines the specific priorities of Pennsylvania's STOP Violence Against Women Grant Program for 2017-2020 and describes the approaches that the Commonwealth will take to address them as outlined in our statewide goals and objectives.

i. Priority Areas

Progress to Date

PCCD has honored the objectives outlined in its previous plan (2016-2018) in which it prioritized support of core services including dedicated units in law enforcement and prosecution; the delivery of 10 "core" direct services to victims¹, and training to improve the systemic response to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. This was accomplished through the funding of 30 projects at the county level plus four dedicated statewide

¹ Core services under STOP include: crisis intervention, supportive counseling, advocacy, legal advocacy, emergency housing, safety planning, sexual assault response teams, compensation assistance, language services and transportation.

training and technical assistance projects that provide a range of training, resources and assistance to all Pennsylvania law enforcement, victim advocates, prosecutors, judges and court personnel. Pennsylvania has met the STOP mandated percentages of 25% for law enforcement, 25% for prosecution, 30% for victim services (including 10% for culturally specific populations); 15% discretionary and the 5% judicial set aside. We are also confident that 20% or more of Pennsylvania's STOP funding is directed towards efforts that meaningfully address sexual assault across two or more purpose areas.

All of this is possible due to the strong collaborative relationships that Pennsylvania has built with its statewide partners. In particular, the relationships with the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) and the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) have propelled Pennsylvania forward in meeting requirements under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in relation to forensic rape exams and domestic violence homicide reduction. PCCD has worked with PCAR to design a statewide public awareness strategy for healthcare providers and victims to ensure that both are aware of the requirement that sexual assault victims are entitled to a forensic rape exam at no cost and that talking to law enforcement is not necessary in order for the forensic rape exam costs to be covered. PCCD has also worked with PCADV to pursue a multi-year strategy to implement the evidence-based Maryland Model of Lethality Assessment (LAP) throughout Pennsylvania.

Priority Areas for 2017-2020

ii. Core Victims' Services

The STOP Formula Grant Program's strength lies in the cross system collaboration that it creates and sustains. Pennsylvania acknowledges this and recognizes that those counties that have had access to multiple years of STOP funding have been able to institutionalize model

protocols and bring about considerable philosophical change in the response to domestic violence and sexual assault. STOP funding is a major driver of sustained collaboration, system change and continuous improvement of response to victims; it enhances the work being done through other victim-related funding streams. As such, it is vital to maintain the strength of Pennsylvania's core efforts under STOP, as they are the foundation that undergirds all the work accomplished to date. To that end, Pennsylvania reaffirms its commitment to preservation of core services under STOP to include provision of the following direct services to victims:

- Crisis Intervention;
- Supportive counseling through either individual sessions or groups;
- Victim advocacy and accompaniment within the criminal and juvenile justice systems, healthcare, immigration, financial and/or educational institutions, etc.;
- Legal advocacy;
- Emergency housing;
- Safety planning;
- Sexual Assault Response Teams;
- Crime Victims Compensation assistance;
- Language services (i.e. provision of interpretation and/or translation); and
- Transportation assistance.

Pennsylvania also reaffirms the value of specialized units in criminal justice and law enforcement as they propel communities forward in ensuring that crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence are given the attention they deserve, investigated thoroughly, prosecuted to the greatest extent possible and that systems respond to victims in a trauma-informed manner.

iii. Training

Training contributes to the provision of quality services to victims, improved investigative techniques for law enforcement and enhanced prosecutorial skills in the response to violence against women incidents. Over the last 20 years, the steady and intentional provision of training has transformed the landscape for victims of violence against women crimes in many communities across Pennsylvania.

Through input from the Implementation Planning Team, STOP-funded projects, and statewide collaborative partners, the following training topics are prioritized for STOP-funded projects during FY 2017-2020:

- Training with a particular focus on underserved/marginalized populations including:
 - Victims with Intellectual or Physical Disabilities.
 - Victims from Rural Areas
 - Elderly Victims
 - Latino and Asian Victims
 - LGBT Victims
- Training with a focus on understanding the effects of trauma on victims
- Training to increase identification of and improve response to Human Trafficking
- Training which improves responses including:
 - Continued implementation of the Maryland Model of Lethality Assessment (LAP);
 - Understanding the correlation between Victimization, Trauma and Substance Abuse
 - Trauma-informed responses including counterintuitive victim behavior, delayed reporting, and the dynamics of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence;
 - Effective Batterer Treatment Programming

iv. Underserved Populations

While we as government officials and service providers have our own ideas about the identity of Pennsylvania's underserved populations, we know that our assumptions can be flawed. That is why OVS is working with an academic researcher and an advisory workgroup that includes representatives from state level departments, coalitions, cultural advisory commissions and victim service providers to design and implement the second phase of a statewide victim services needs assessment. The purpose of this work is to obtain a deeper understanding of what populations of crime victims are going unserved as well as those populations of crime victims who are underserved. The reasons for this may be due to ethnicity, race, culture, age, ability/disability, immigration status, gender identify, sexual orientation, geographic location, type of crime, etc. The results of the needs assessment will be used to shape Pennsylvania's policies and funding strategies not only under STOP but under federal Victims of Crime Act as well. We will provide updates to the federal Office on Violence Against Women on the conclusions reached in subsequent years with our STOP Formula Grant Applications for funding.

Regardless of the results of the needs assessment, Pennsylvania will continue to support the efforts of county STOP projects to collaborate with culturally specific community based organizations in their service areas to serve underserved populations. In the currently funded grant cycle, five of the county STOP Formula Grant projects have objectives that include providing bilingual/bicultural services to Latino victims in their service area. Two additional county STOP Projects focus on outreach and provision of services to international victims --- one in a large university community and the other in a large metropolitan community that has become a refugee resettlement destination for individuals fleeing war torn countries in the Middle East, Africa and the former "Soviet Union" (For a list of current subgrantees serving

underserved populations, please see Appendix I). OVS will also leverage the work being done under Pennsylvania's VOCA Discretionary Training Grant Project and require STOP Collaborative Teams to participate in viewing online modules that will be produced regarding improving the response to victims from culturally specific and/or underserved populations.

v. **Collaborative Partnerships**

The planning team identified a need to continue developing broader levels of collaboration with a priority on the follow key areas:

- Coordination of services and sharing of information to protect first responders as well as victims of violence.
- Continuing to engage and inform service providers working with specific populations, including those who provide shelter to the transient and homeless populations.
- Identifying best practices, resources and knowledge experts across the state that can be tapped to support system development at the local level.
- Better tracking of high risk offenders.
- Evaluating and updating response protocols, particularly to address human trafficking.

At the state level, OVS has recognized that we have not routinely engaged the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole (PBPP) in our planning discussions. PCCD acknowledges the importance of our partners at the PBPP, especially in light of their role in providing supervision to offenders paroled from the Commonwealth's correctional institutions and their role in implementing the state's justice reinvestment initiative. Parole officers bear tremendous responsibility as they try to balance the interests of public safety and needs of crime victims with the effort to aid offenders in re-entering society and preventing them from recidivating.

vi. **Statewide Policy Discussion on Batterer Intervention**

For many years, there has been a lack of policy focus on batterer intervention services

(BIS) as part of the greater discussion of violence against women issues in Pennsylvania. The current network of BIS is inconsistent across the state due to the lack of updated statewide implementation standards and absence of reliable funding to support BIS programs. Our partners at the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole have noted that this issue plays into their efforts as parolees are often mandated to attend BIS as part of their re-entry plan. Probation and parole staff want to know the programs to which they can reliably refer. The lack of updated statewide standards for BIS, coupled with the absence of a dedicated funding mechanism to maintain them puts victims at risk of further abuse, and deprives the justice system of evidence-based tools to help offenders transition back into their communities. While the Team did not view STOP Formula funds as the appropriate vehicle for funding BIS, they emphasized that this is an issue that needs to be addressed at the state level because it is critical to the achievement of Pennsylvania's goals under the STOP Program.

vii. Domestic Violence Homicide Reduction

Since 2012, PCCD has been collaborating with the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence on statewide implementation of Maryland's evidence-based Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) model in Pennsylvania. Maryland's nationally lauded LAP <http://mnadv.org/lethality/what-is-lap/>, developed by the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence in conjunction with Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell, is an evidence-based, innovative approach that applies Dr. Campbell's research on lethality and danger assessment to forge critical connections between the risks that abuse victims face and the policies and procedures that ensure effective and safe responses by law enforcement and domestic violence programs.

Maryland's LAP is the direct outgrowth of years of extensive research by Dr. Campbell that produced the following three key findings:

- In 50% of domestic violence-related homicides, police officers had previously responded to a call involving the same victim;
- The re-assault rate of domestic violence victims in high danger was reduced by more than 60% if they went into shelter; and
- Only 4% of domestic violence murder victims nationwide had ever availed themselves of the services of a domestic violence program.

These key findings inform communities that, in addition to the challenge of identifying victims at high risk of being killed, there is the corollary challenge of connecting victims to the services of a domestic violence program and services that demonstrably save lives.

Currently, LAP is being implemented in 43 domestic violence programs and 223 municipal police departments in 42 counties across Pennsylvania. Of the 30 counties currently funded through STOP, 23 are implementing LAP. Data collected since the initial implementation of LAP in October 2012 demonstrates impressive results. During 2016, 3,353 high-risk screens had been completed by law enforcement. Of those, 2,318 victims were identified as at high risk of being killed by their abuser. Of those high-risk victims, 1,528 (66%) agreed to speak with a hotline advocate while the police officer was still on the scene. Of those who spoke to an advocate, 997 or 65% came to the program to receive further services.

Given the promising data coming out of the LAP implementation, the STOP planning team affirms the continuing implementation of LAP in communities across Pennsylvania and urges its extension to the Pennsylvania State Police, which is responsible for much of the law enforcement response across rural areas of Pennsylvania.

viii. Identified Goals

With the priorities outlined above, Pennsylvania establishes the following goals and accompanying objectives for its 2017-2020 Plan.

Goal One: Reducing and eventually eliminating violence against women in Pennsylvania through a vigorous and effective coordinated response among law enforcement, prosecution, probation and parole, victim services and the courts that holds offenders accountable and prioritizes victim safety.

Objective 1: To fund up to 30 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties to meaningfully address domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence through the establishment and maintenance of collaborative teams involving stakeholders from law enforcement, prosecution, victim services, and healthcare.

Objective 2: To include state agency level stakeholders from Probation and Parole in STOP Violence Against Women planning and policy discussions and outreach opportunities.

Objective 3: To promote a state level policy discussion on the implementation and adoption of updated standards for Batterer Treatment Programs and accompanying exploration of a viable state level stable funding mechanism.

Goal Two: Implement initiatives which improve the understanding of the dynamics of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking and dating violence and the value of working collectively within the criminal and juvenile justice systems, victim service providers, and allied professionals (i.e. healthcare, education and social service systems).

Objective 1: To continue support of statewide training initiatives that utilize the expertise of the state domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions, Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association and other subject matter experts to design and deliver a range of training and technical assistance for the major and minor judiciary, court personnel, law

enforcement, victim advocates, prosecutors and other allied professionals whose work brings them into contact with violence against women victims.

Objective 2: To leverage the use of STOP funding and federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Discretionary Training funding by mandating STOP Collaborative Teams to participate in webinars produced for Pennsylvania's Victim Services Training (PVST) Learning Management System, when the topics of such webinars are relate to violence against women issues.

Objective 3: To fund at least 20 STOP Projects that have a cross-system training component as a key deliverable.

Goal Three: Enhance the capacity of victim service agencies to provide services to meet the needs of Pennsylvania's culturally specific and underserved populations.

Objective 1: To foster communication at the state level, with individuals and organizations that represent the perspective and service needs of underserved populations including but not limited to: Latinos, African-Americans, Asian-Americans, immigrants, victims of human trafficking, those who identify as LGBT, senior citizens, people with mental health issues, people with addiction issues and people with cognitive and/or physical disabilities.

Objective 2: To fund up to three projects that develop replicable models that engage community-based, culturally-specific agencies as funded partners in providing services to underserved victim populations.

Objective 3: To leverage the use of STOP funding and federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Discretionary Training funding by mandating STOP Collaborative Teams to participate in webinars produced for Pennsylvania's Victim Services Training (PVST)

Learning Management System focused on working with specific culturally underserved and/or marginalized victim populations.

Objective 4: To fund up to ten STOP projects that meaningfully address services to one or more of the following underserved populations of victims: victims with mental health issues; victims with substance abuse issues; LGBT victims, senior victims, victims with disabilities, immigrant victims and victims of human trafficking.

Goal Four: Reduce and eventually eliminate domestic violence related homicides in Pennsylvania.

Objective : To continue support of statewide implementation of the Maryland Model of Lethality Assessment, including its adoption by the Pennsylvania State Police.

Purpose Areas under the STOP Formula Grant Program

Pennsylvania does not plan to use STOP Formula Grant Funds for projects that address the “Crystal Judson” Purpose Area. Pennsylvania will continue to focus on the following federal Purpose Areas:

1. Training law enforcement officers, judges and other court personnel, and prosecutors to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking 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 the crimes of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking and domestic violence;
3. Developing and implementing more effective police, court, and prosecution policies, protocols, orders and services specifically devoted to preventing, identifying, and responding to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault,

- dating violence, stalking and domestic violence as well as appropriate treatment of victims;
4. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening victim services programs and legal assistance programs, including sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking and dating violence programs, developing or improving the delivery of victims services to underserved populations, providing specialized domestic violence court advocates in courts where a significant number of protection orders are granted, and increasing reporting and reducing attrition rates for cases involving violent crimes against women, including crimes of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking and domestic violence;
 5. 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;
 6. 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, dating violence, stalking or sexual assault, including recognizing, investigating, and prosecuting instances of such violence or assault and targeting outreach and support, counseling, and other victim services to such older and disabled individuals;
 7. Providing assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in immigration matters;
 8. Developing, implementing, or enhancing Sexual Assault Response Teams, or other similar coordinated community responses to sexual assault;

9. Developing and strengthening policies, protocols, best practices, and training for law enforcement agencies and prosecutors relating to the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases and the appropriate treatment of victims;
10. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs and projects to provide services and responses targeting female and male victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence, whose ability to access traditional services and responses is affected by their sexual orientation or gender identity as defined in section 249c of Title 18, United States Code.

ix. **Grant-making Strategy**

PCCD initiated a competitive grant making process open to all 67 counties in Pennsylvania for calendar years 2016-2018 in order to prioritize areas of varying geographic size and support counties showing the greatest need. All successful applicants were required to have STOP Coordinating Teams comprised of victim services, law enforcement, prosecution and county probation/parole. Victim services organizations, as required members of STOP Teams, fully participate in the development of STOP applications before they are submitted to PCCD to ensure proposed activities promote the safety, confidentiality, and economic independence of victims. It is important to note that PCCD utilizes an electronic grants management system “EGrants” for all of its applications and does not accept paper applications. Additionally, Pennsylvania does not require a match for STOP Projects because it was granted permission from the federal Office on Violence Against Women to use the state’s budgetary allocations to domestic violence and sexual assault services to meet the match requirement at the state level.

PCCD completed the following steps for Pennsylvania’s most recent competitive award:

1. The funding announcement was released to the field on July 10, 2015 with applications due by August 17, 2015 (Attachment J).
2. A “STOP Resource Account” was established on July 9, 2015 on PCCD’s website to coincide with the release of the STOP Funding Announcement. The purpose of the resource account was to take questions from prospective grantees. The resource account was checked on a daily basis, with questions forwarded to OVS staff for research and response. Responses were posted to the PCCD website as questions were answered so that they were available for all applicants to view.
3. On July 24, 2015 PCCD, in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, facilitated a webinar for prospective applicants entitled “How to Meaningfully Address Sexual Assault Under the STOP Formula Grant Program.” The webinar was recorded and placed on PCCD’s website for all prospective applicants to view.
4. A Web Ex informational session was held on July 29, 2015 for all prospective applicants. The webinar was recorded and placed on PCCD’s website for all prospective applicants to view.
5. Staff from OVS recruited independent reviewers to read and score the applications received.

Tasks associated with this included:

- Identify potential reviewers - completed *July 2015*.
- Assess potential reviewer interest and commitment to the review process - completed *late July 2015*.
- Reviewer training - *completed August 28, 2015*
- Collection of Scores and Identification of successful applications - *completed October 20, 2015*.

- Approval of Applications by the Statewide Victims' Services Advisory Committee - *completed November 3, 2015.*
- Full approval by the Commission - *completed December 11, 2015*
- Start date of funding for successful STOP applications: *January 1, 2016 for the initial year of funding.*

OVS engaged in numerous efforts to make the field aware of the availability of STOP 2016-2018 funding. This included notices in the OVS's biweekly newsletter, which has a mailing list of over 1,000 individuals throughout Pennsylvania. An email was sent to all currently funded victim service agencies, letting them know that STOP funding was available. PCCD's website features a prominent "Funding" Tab on its landing page, and information about the availability of STOP Funding was featured there during the entire time the solicitation was open.

PCCD's EGrants System automatically generates notices of funding announcements to all subscribers; so potential applicants on the Egrants registration list were informed of the availability of STOP funding. OVS also worked with our collaborative partners such as the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association, Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association and Statewide Victims' Services Advisory Committee members to "get the word out" about the availability of the STOP funding.

Currently funded STOP projects are nearing the end of the first quarter of their second year of funding. During the first year of implementation, PCCD staff conducted a telephone review with all 30 projects to ensure that implementation was underway and assess whether technical assistance was needed. During this year and 2018, PCCD staff will be conducting in-person monitoring visits at all the STOP Projects to assess adherence to grant objectives as well as state

and federal application requirements. It is anticipated that the next competitive solicitation process will occur during the first half of 2018, with awards taking effect in January of 2019. Pennsylvania will formulate its funding announcement based upon the feedback from the victim services statewide needs assessment, recommendations from our Team and subsequent updates to this plan.

x. **Addressing the Needs of Underserved Victims**

PCCD is committed to cultural competency in the delivery of services by funding projects that improve meaningful access to services for communities of color and other underserved populations. In order to meet the set-aside for culturally specific services, STOP applicants are strongly encouraged to review current census data for their counties; form partnerships with community programs providing services to underserved populations; and have meaningful representation of the underserved population on the STOP Coordinating Team. Furthermore, competitive applicants are advised that reviewers will give priority to applications received from organizations that demonstrate a history of working effectively together to serve an underserved population or have identified and developed key partnerships with specific goals designed to improve delivery to underserved populations.

As mentioned previously, Pennsylvania is undertaking a statewide needs assessment designed to help PCCD identify the underserved populations of victims as well as those populations for whom no services exist. We anticipate that the results of this survey will greatly inform our efforts under STOP. In the meantime, our efforts towards addressing the needs of culturally specific populations, particularly Pennsylvania's growing Latino community, will continue through provision of funding to the five county STOP Projects that are engaged in improving outreach and services to that population. Additionally, PCCD has been collaborating with the Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC), the Pennsylvania Coalition

Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) and the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) to improve access to Protection From Abuse information and forms from the court system. Over the past 18 months, the AOPC has worked with PCADV and PCAR to translate Protection From Abuse Order forms and Protection from Sexual Violence and Intimidation Order forms into the 11 most commonly requested languages² in Pennsylvania and post them in a fillable format on the AOPC's website. Additionally, AOPC and the coalitions have worked together to write and film the informational video "Protection Orders Do Work" both in Spanish and in English to assist victims with understanding the protection order process in Pennsylvania. It is anticipated that in our next competitive funding cycle, that we will fund up to three STOP Projects in which community-based, culturally-specific agencies will be engaged as funded partners in providing services to underserved victim populations.

xi. Barriers to Implementation

The November 2016 STOP Implementation Planning Team Meeting resulted in a robust discussion of what was happening "in the trenches" when it came to working to combat domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence in Pennsylvania. Woven throughout this discussion were a number of concerns/issues that seemed to be present regardless what system participants represented. While some barriers have already been discussed in the plan, including the state's commonwealth system of government, large geographic size, and budget challenges, there are several others that merit discussion.

In terms of gaps in services, a few issues were repeatedly mentioned. First, Pennsylvania's elder population is growing, with the population of Pennsylvanians over the age of 65 estimated to make up 25% of Pennsylvania's population by 2040. Planning committee

² Chinese, Russian, Vietnamese, Arabic, Korean, Haitian Creole, Khmer/Cambodian, Polish, Portuguese, Italian and French

members noted the need for training for STOP Team members on how to identify violence against women incidents when elders are involved and whether there might be a need to eventually develop specialized units to investigate and prosecute violence against women just for elder victims, many of whom have special needs. Also emanating from this discussion, the planning team noted that many victims they work with/respond to have co-occurring issues with mental health, drug and alcohol dependency and physical or cognitive impairments. Planning team members voiced the need to engage additional partners from the mental health, disability and addiction services communities on STOP Planning Teams and to include some of these topics in STOP-related trainings.

Planning team members also touched on the need to improve offender accountability. As mentioned earlier, the lack of evidence-based batterer intervention programs in some communities is a real barrier to victim safety and offender accountability. Representatives of law enforcement expressed frustration with offenders' use of technology to stalk, harass and intimidate victims and highlighted the need for STOP to keep supporting training for local law enforcement to effectively investigate cases in which technology is used to perpetrate violence against women crimes. The members of the planning team also discussed the need for systems to use evidence-based risk assessment tools when evaluating offenders and when setting bail.

The planning team repeatedly touched upon the issue of misinformation and ignorance concerning the dynamics of violence against women at several points during the discussion. The need for ongoing training for first responders on the impact of trauma, the basics of domestic violence and sexual assault, why victims may choose to return to an abusive relationship and how to interact with victims was reinforced. In many courtrooms across Pennsylvania, juries cling to stereotypes about sexual assault or think that domestic violence victims should have left

sooner. There is a continuing need for public awareness and prevention education whenever possible.

Several planning team members spoke about the value of the Maryland Model of Lethality Assessment (LAP) in their jurisdictions. The group acknowledged that participation in LAP's roll-out was voluntary and could not be mandated. They also noted that many of their service areas had municipalities that were covered by the Pennsylvania State Police and that it would be crucial for the PSP, as a department, to adopt the LAP Model.

Finally, several planning team members spoke about their county's efforts to combat human trafficking. At the current time, services to human trafficking victims in Pennsylvania are not institutionalized across the state. This is partially due to the fact that Pennsylvania passed Human Trafficking legislation in 2014 but failed to attach funding for implementation. Despite this challenge, a dedicated group of victim advocates, prosecutors and community activists have been trying to implement parts of the legislation regarding public awareness, training and outreach. PCCD has funded several projects under VOCA and STOP that are working with human trafficking victims. As awareness of this crime increases and prosecutors charge traffickers under Pennsylvania's statute, we hope to see some availability of state funds to strengthen services for trafficking victims. In the meantime, Pennsylvania will urge its STOP Collaborative Teams to make human trafficking a topic of training, protocol development and service delivery.

xii. Monitoring and Evaluation

Over the next two years, the OVS staff will conduct an on-site monitoring visit to each of the counties funded through the competitive solicitation process. Monitoring consists of meeting with the team as well as meeting with each component of the project to ensure compliance with grant requirements and fidelity to the goals and objectives in the county's STOP application. In

between onsite monitoring visits, OVS staff will conduct telephone interviews with STOP Coordinating Team Leaders to assess progress, offer technical assistance or help problem solve. Annual Reports will be reviewed, as will quarterly fiscal reports. Additionally, OVS will meet on a quarterly basis with PCADV and PCAR to assess progress on implementation of STOP in Pennsylvania and identify any trends in technical assistance needs.

V. CONCLUSION

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania appreciates the resources it receives from the federal government through the STOP Violence Against Women Program. Over the past 20 years, STOP funds have made it possible for Pennsylvania to foster systemic collaboration at the state and local levels, develop policies and protocols that have institutionalized a victim-centered response to violence against women crimes in communities across the Commonwealth, and provide a variety of trainings and resources to law enforcement, prosecutors, court personnel, judges and victim service providers across the Commonwealth.

The best way to conclude this plan is to provide a few examples of the excellent work being done in the field by our county STOP Teams. It is they who take the lofty goals and objectives outlined in these plans and translate them into reality.

In Lehigh County, the STOP Collaborative Team demonstrated its problem solving ability by forming a non-traditional partnership with a local alarm company to provide a domestic violence victim with severe health issues a free monitored alarm system including GPS technology where the victim could summon emergency response not only if she felt unsafe but also if she needed medical attention.

In rural Bedford County, years of STOP funding have resulted in professional respect and credibility between victim services and law enforcement, which probably saved a victim's life. A young mother of a four year-old, two year-old, and an eight month old baby was working at a

local cookie factory. A supervisor at the cookie factory contacted the victim services agency after the mother disclosed that her husband was verbally, physically and sexually abusing her. The woman's husband went to her place of work and demanded to talk to her, causing concern for the rest of the employees at the cookie factory. The victim's husband showed up again at her workplace and the victim went out to his car to speak with her husband who had a gun in the vehicle. The victim filed a Protection From Abuse petition requesting the husband be evicted from the residence. The husband made the statement to her that if she ever tried to take his kids away, he would kill her. The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) took a statement from the victim, who was at the victim services agency and requested that the victim remain at the victim services agency office until they found her husband and made their arrest. The PSP were able to locate her husband, arrest him and the STOP-funded prosecutor was able to bring charges against her husband that resulted in incarceration. The victim and her children are now living in a safe location.

In Westmoreland County, the value of collaboration through the STOP team is evidenced by this anecdote. The Blackburn Center's hotline received a call from the police sergeant at one of Westmoreland County's local police departments. The sergeant was asking for services for a family whose 16-year-old daughter had been sexually assaulted at her bus stop. It was explained to him that Blackburn really wanted to help but that they needed the family to call the hotline directly. He said he would encourage them to do so. A few days later, Blackburn received a call from the father of the victim. He was angry, upset, and was not sure what to do. The Blackburn advocate spent time listening, providing support and talking about options. He explained that his daughter was going to A Child's Place for a forensic interview and wanted an advocate present. A Blackburn advocate was present for the forensic interview and provided support to the victim and her family. A discussion took place regarding options after the forensic interview. In an

assessment of all options, the victim and her family decided to obtain a Protection from Sexual Violence and Intimidation (PSVI) Order and requested the Blackburn advocate to be there with them. The PSVI order was granted by the judge for the maximum time period. This helped the victim feel safer. In order to create consistency for the victim and her family, the same advocate went to the preliminary hearing. Other supports at the preliminary hearing included law enforcement, the district attorney's office, and the victim/ witness office. The perpetrator was held accountable, which was not only a relief for the victim and her family but also a validation that justice was served. The child was extremely traumatized by the incident and with encouragement from her parents, decided to continue with services through Blackburn Center. The advocate also provided follow-up services to the family on a regular basis. Had the STOP Program not been available, with its emphasis on collaboration, this young girl may not have received the supports from all systems at the same time.

These three vignettes only scratch the surface of the many exceptional cross-system collaborative efforts unfolding across Pennsylvania thanks to STOP support. This plan will guide our continuing work to do the same through 2020.

VII. APPENDIXES

Works Cited

Klibanoff, Eleanor. 16 May 2016. Keystone Crossroads. 28 March 2017
<<http://crossroads.newsworks.org/index.php/local/keystone-crossroads/93369-half-of-pa-municipalities-rely-fully-on-state-police>>.
Looking Ahead: Pennsylvania Population Projections 2010-2040. Legislative Report.
Harrisburg: The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, 2014.
Wenner, David. "Penn Live." 8 August 2016. Penn Live.com. 28 March 2017
<http://www.pennlive.com/news/2016/08/heroin_pennsylvania_painkiller.html>.