

North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission
Fiscal Year 2022 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) STOP Grant

Request for Applications (RFA)

Application Period	November 1, 2021 - January 31, 2022
Application Deadline	January 31, 2022 by 11:59 PM
Grant Project Period of Performance	October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023
Frequently Asked Questions Submission Deadline	November 19, 2021

Funded through:

U.S. Department of Justice
Office on Violence Against Women
(CFDA#16.588)

State Administrative Agency:

North Carolina Department of Public Safety
Governor's Crime Commission
1201 Front Street,
Raleigh, NC 27609

<http://www.ncdps.gov/gcc>

Eligibility:

The following entities in North Carolina, which provide direct services to crime victims, are eligible to apply for funding:

- Community-based Organizations
- Indian Tribal Governments
- Legal Services Programs
- Local Government Agencies
- Local Law Enforcement Agencies
- State Agencies and Offices
- State and Local Courts
- Victim Service Providers

Applicants are required to apply for grant funding through the GCC online application process. To access GEMS and apply for a grant, go to: <https://gems.ncdps.gov>. NOTE: All applicants MUST provide proof that they have a valid federal DUNS number and are currently registered with www.SAM.gov at the time of submission.

Governor's Crime Commission Mission Statement

The mission of the Governor's Crime Commission is to improve the quality of life for the citizens of the state, to enhance public safety, and to reduce and prevent crime by improving the criminal justice system.

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in seeking funding for crime victims from the North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission (GCC). The Crime Victim Services (CVS) Committee advocates for victims by promoting the development of effective programs that improve the response of human service professionals and the criminal justice system to crime victims through grants from two Federal funding sources: the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), through the STOP (Services*Training*Officers*Prosecutors) grant program and the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance grant program.

We encourage you to read through this document in its entirety as you prepare to apply for consideration. All applicants must meet the eligibility requirements listed in section II. Complete applications, including required documents, should be submitted through our online Grant Enterprise Management System (GEMS) no later than 11:59 pm on January 31, 2022. Late applications will not be accepted. Proposals received with incomplete information may not be considered for funding.

If you have questions about the RFA, the application process or require assistance with developing your proposal, please contact a member of the CVS Planning Team:

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You may submit questions regarding this document and the application process to CVS planning staff. Responses to questions regarding the RFA and application process received by CVS staff **by November 19, 2021** will be compiled into a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document that will be made available on the Governor's Crime Commission website beginning December 3, 2021.

Crime Victim Services Committee Mission Statement

The mission of the Crime Victims' Services (CVS) Committee is to advocate for victims by promoting the development of effective programs that improve the response of human service professionals and the criminal justice system to crime victims.

The staff at the GCC is committed to providing high quality, efficient, and effective customer service through guidance, support services, collaboration, compliance and technical expertise during the life of the grant. Our success relies on the success of our grantees in providing services to communities across the state, and in complying with all Federal, State, and GCC guidelines.

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VAWA STOP Request for Applications

1. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS ANNOUNCEMENT

The North Carolina Governor’s Crime Commission (GCC) is pleased to announce the availability of grant funds from the VAWA STOP program.

Applicants are encouraged to read this entire Request for Application document thoroughly before applying. The RFA is open to all applicants meeting eligibility requirements.

A. Availability of STOP Funds

All awards are contingent upon the N.C. Governor’s Crime Commission receiving the specified grant funds from the U.S. Department of Justice at the expected level and are subject to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed. There is no guarantee that funds will be available in the future.

B. STOP Application Limitations and Funding Caps

Application Submission Limits: Agencies may only submit one application under each GCC Funding Priority Service Area for the STOP program. NOTE: A prosecutorial district is a single subrecipient. Additional applications will not be considered for funding.

Growth: As funding is limited, agencies requesting funding for continuation projects in the Victim Services and Discretionary priorities are limited to 0% growth. This means that an agency applying for a previously GCC funded project can only apply for the same amount of the previously funded project. If an agency submits an application with an increased budget, the application may not be considered for funding.

NOTE: Projects must take into consideration the Growth Limitation (above) when reviewing the Funding Caps outlined below.

Priority	Maximum Federal Share
State and Local Courts	Non Competitive, designated agency only, will be notified of the amount by GCC.
Victim Services	Up to \$200,000
Law Enforcement	Direct Services Up to \$100,000 for projects with less than 2 FTE equivalent staff member(s) Up to \$150,000 for projects with 2 or more FTE equivalent staff members. Training of Frontline Staff Up to \$55,000 for regional training grants of Sworn Officers Up to \$200,000 for statewide training grants of Sworn Officers
Prosecutors	Direct Services Up to \$100,000 for projects with less than 2 FTE equivalent staff member(s)

	<p>Up to \$150,000 for projects with 2 or more FTE equivalent staff members</p> <p>Training of Frontline Staff Up to \$55,000 for regional training grants of Prosecutors Up to \$200,000 for statewide training grants of Prosecutors</p>
Discretionary	<p>Batterer’s Intervention Programs Up to \$55,000 for <u>individual regions</u> and Up to \$100,000* for programs that propose to <u>expand and serve multiple regions</u></p> <p>Prevention Programs Up to \$55,000</p>

*Agencies requesting funding for a regional BIP project are required to submit a letter from the N.C. Council for Women supporting the justification for the expanded multi-region project. (Attachment VA-06)

C. STOP Funding Allocations and Projected Funding Availability

By statute, the GCC is federally mandated to meet minimum allocation requirements. The table below reflects the state projected funding allocations.

State Allocation	Priority	Projected 2022 Funding*	Focus Areas	
35%	Victims Services	\$1,374,403	Of the Victim Services priority, \$152,711 (projected) must support programs that provide <u>culturally specific and culturally competent services</u> designed to meet the needs of specific racial and ethnic minority groups in the victim services priority.	At least \$872,637 (projected) of the total award must be set aside for projects that solely and meaningfully address sexual assault in at least two of these funding allocation categories.
25%	Law Enforcement	\$981,716		
25%	Prosecution	\$981,716		
5%	State and Local Courts	\$196,343		
10%	Discretionary Prevention Batterer’s Intervention Programs	\$392,686	No more than \$218,159 allowed for prevention.	

*Projected 2022 funding amounts are based on level funding from OVW. This is subject to change.

D. STOP Award Period

Awards will be made for up to a twelve (12) month period of performance, from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023. The project start and end dates on your application must align with the award period.

E. STOP Application Deadline

Applications must be received via GEMS by 11:59 PM on Monday, January 31, 2022.

2. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Entities

Agencies, offices, and programs including, but not limited to, State agencies and offices; State and local courts; units of local government; public agencies; Indian tribal government; victim service providers; community-based organizations; and legal services programs.

B. Demonstrated Organizational Capacity

Agencies must demonstrate a record of effective services to the community by having a history of providing direct services in a cost-effective manner and by showing a documented history of effective work concerning domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking.

C. Compliance with Federal Rules Regulating Grants

Agencies must comply with the applicable provisions of VAWA, the Program Guidelines, and the requirements of the OJP Financial Guide. The most recent OJP Financial Guide is available online at: https://ojp.gov/financialguide/doj/pdfs/DOJ_FinancialGuide.pdf

D. Maintenance of Civil Rights Information

Agencies must maintain statutorily required civil rights statistics on victims served by race, national origin, sex, age, and disability, within the timetable established by the NC Department of Public Safety, Governor's Crime Commission; and permit reasonable access to its books, documents, papers and records to determine whether the sub-recipient is complying with the applicable civil rights laws. This requirement is waived when providing a service, such as telephone counseling, where soliciting the information may be inappropriate or offensive to the crime victim.

E. Compliance with State Criteria

Agencies must abide by any additional eligibility or service criteria as established by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Governor’s Crime Commission including submitting statistical and programmatic information on the use and impact of VAWA funds, as requested by the state.

F. Compliance with Privacy Act

Agencies must protect the information of victims who receive services. Agencies must provide individuals with a means by which to seek access to and amendment of their records. The Privacy Act sets forth various record-keeping requirements as required by federal law.

G. Compliance with Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Agencies must understand and certify that any person has the right to request access to grant records or information except to the extent the records are protected from disclosure as contained in law.

H. Maintenance of Confidentiality of Client/Victim

Agencies are required to maintain the confidentiality and privacy information of the people they serve.

I. Cost Sharing or Match Requirement

There is a 25 percent match requirement imposed on grant funds provided to state or local government agencies under this program. Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 10446(f), a grant made under this program may not cover more than 75 percent of the total costs of projects awarded to these type organizations.

The applicant must identify the source of the 25 percent match, which must be from a non-federal source, and identify how match funds will be used. Applicants may satisfy the required match with either cash or in-kind services.

Grants to non-profit victim service providers for victim services can be excluded from the match requirement. For a grant to qualify under this exclusion, the recipient must be an organization that is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a tax-exempt organization described in section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code (unless it is a tribal governmental organization or a governmental rape crisis center not in a territory).

Grants to tribes can also be excluded from the match requirement.

3. COMPLIANCE WITH THE STATUTORY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT AS AMENDED, STOP GRANT PROGRAM

A. Costs for Criminal Charges and Protection Orders

Laws, policies, and practices do not require, in connection with the prosecution of any misdemeanor or felony domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking offense, or in connection with the filing, issuance, registration, modification, enforcement, dismissal, withdrawal, or service of a protection order, or a petition for a protection order, to protect a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault, that the victim bear the costs associated with the filing of criminal charges against the offender, or the costs associated with the filing, issuance, registration, modification, dismissal, withdrawal, or service of a warrant, protection order, petition for a protection order, or witness subpoena, whether issued inside or outside the state, tribal, or local jurisdiction.

B. Forensic Medical Examination Payment for Victims of Sexual Assault

Agencies may not charge victims of sexual assault for forensic medical exams. Agencies cannot require victims of sexual assault to seek reimbursement for forensic medical examinations from their insurance carrier. Additionally, agencies shall not 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 exam.

C. Judicial Notification

Judicial administrative policies and practices include notification to domestic violence offenders of the requirements delineated in section 922(g)(8) and (g)(9) of Title 18 of the United States Code, and any applicable related federal, state, or local laws.

D. Polygraph Testing

No law enforcement officer, prosecuting officer or other government official shall ask or require an adult, youth, or child victim of an alleged sex offense as defined under federal, tribal, state, territorial, or local law to submit to a polygraph examination or other truth telling device as a condition for proceeding with the investigation of such an offense, and the refusal of a victim to submit to a polygraph examination or other truth telling device shall not prevent the investigation, charging, or prosecution of an alleged sex offense.

E. Delivery of Legal Assistance

A certification form (Attachment VA-02) must be signed and dated by the Authorizing Official and Project Director.

Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 12291(b)(12), agencies providing legal assistance with funds awarded under this program must certify the following information:

1. any person providing legal assistance with funds through this program
 - (A) has demonstrated expertise in providing legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking in the targeted population; or
 - (B)

- i. is partnered with an entity or person that has demonstrated expertise described in subparagraph (A); and
 - ii. has completed, or will complete, training in connection with domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking and related legal issues, including training on evidence-based risk factors for domestic and dating violence homicide;
2. any training program conducted in satisfaction of the requirement of paragraph (1) has been or will be developed with input from and in collaboration with a tribal, state, territorial, or local domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking victim service provider or coalition, as well as appropriate tribal, state, territorial, and local law enforcement officials;
3. any person or organization providing legal assistance with funds through this program has informed and will continue to inform state, local, or tribal domestic violence, dating violence, or sexual assault programs and coalitions, as well as, appropriate state and local law enforcement officials of their work; and
4. the grantee's organizational policies do not require mediation or counseling involving offenders and victims physically together, in cases where sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or child sexual abuse is an issue.

4. STOP PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 1994 was passed by Congress and created the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) in the United States Department of Justice. Since its inception, OVW has supported a multifaceted approach to responding to crimes against women through the implementation of grant programs authorized through VAWA. VAWA was designed to improve criminal justice system responses to adult, youth and child victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking by forming partnerships between state and local communities.

The STOP (Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program promotes a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to improving the criminal justice system's response to violent crimes against women. STOP encourages the development and strengthening of effective law enforcement, prosecution strategies and victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women.

OVW grants help provide victims with the protection and services they need to pursue safe and healthy lives, while improving communities' capacity to hold offenders accountable for their crimes.

A. STOP Funding Priorities

The Governor's Office is interested in supporting the priority areas identified below. The GCC encourages programs that involve partnerships, collaborations, and best practices to meet the needs of crime victims and others across the state.

GCC encourages the applicants to develop projects that:

1. Support victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking by ensuring that the stigma of reporting is no longer a barrier for victims.
2. Providing resources for training to help law enforcement better understand victims and ultimately reduce any stigma around reporting.
3. Utilize best practices and/or evidence-based interventions.

B. STOP Priority Service Areas

STOP funding is restricted to developing and strengthening effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to address violent crimes against women and the development and strengthening of victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women in the following areas: 1) domestic violence; 2) dating violence; 3) sexual assault; and 4) stalking. Human trafficking victims who have been sexually assaulted or battered by an intimate partner can be served with STOP funds.

The State and Local Courts allocation must be awarded “to” State and Local Courts. Choosing which priority service area should be made based on the beneficiary of the funded activities. (Ex: A victim service agency providing training to law enforcement officers would fall under the Law Enforcement Priority Service Area.)

First, you will need to identify in your application one priority service area for your proposed project.

Priority Service Areas:

- 1) **Victim Services**
- 2) **Law Enforcement**
- 3) **Prosecutors**
- 4) **State and Local Courts** – designated agencies only; if you are not contacted by GCC, you are not eligible
- 5) **Discretionary**

a. Court Sanctioned Batterer’s Intervention Programs

As per the North Carolina Administrative Code, programs must be certified by the N.C. Council for Women and Youth Involvement.

NOTE: Agencies requesting funding for Court Sanctioned Batterer’s Intervention Programs are required to submit their certification from the N.C Council for Women and Youth Involvement.

b. Primary and Secondary Prevention

Primary prevention means strategies, programming, and activities to stop both first-time perpetration and first-time victimization. Primary prevention is stopping domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking before they occur. Secondary prevention is identifying risk factors or problems that may lead to future

domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and taking the necessary actions to eliminate the risk factors and the potential problem. No more than 5% of the State's total STOP award may be used for this purpose.

C. STOP Focus Areas

Second, you will need to identify IF your proposed project plans to serve one of the two STOP Focus Areas below. (Not Mandatory)

1) Sexual Assault

Projects in the Victim Services, Law Enforcement, Prosecution and/or Courts Priority Service Area are eligible to choose this Focus Area. Discretionary projects are not eligible for this focus area. Projects must have a sole and legitimate focus on sexual assault and personnel funded under the projects must have sufficient expertise and experience in the field of sexual assault response.

2) Culturally Specific

Only projects in the Victim Services Priority Service Area are eligible to choose this Focus Area. In order to be eligible, projects must be focused on working with racial and ethnic minorities as defined in section 1707(g) of the Public Health Service Act, which means:

- American Indians (including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts);
- Asian Americans;
- Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders;
- Blacks; and
- LatinX

In order to receive the funding from the culturally specific funding allocation, the organization **must** be a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization or tribal organization that serves a specific geographic community that:

- focus primarily on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking;
- has established a specialized culturally specific program that addresses domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking;
- has a primary focus on underserved populations (and includes representatives of these populations) and domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking; or
- obtains expertise, or shows demonstrated capacity to work effectively, on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking through collaboration;
- is primarily directed toward racial and ethnic minority groups; **AND**
- is providing services tailored to the unique needs of that population.

NOTE: Agencies requesting funding from the culturally specific allocation are required to submit the GCC Culturally Specific Organization form signed by the agency's Board President in the **application (Attachment VA-01)**.

D. STOP Purpose Areas

Third, you must meet one or more of the VAWA’s statutory purpose areas. GCC has identified thirteen (13) purpose areas that align with the State of North Carolina’s VAWA Implementation Plan and that fill in funding and service gaps for the State.

You will need to identify in your application at least one purpose area with which your proposed project aligns.

<p>A. 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, dating violence, and stalking, including the appropriate use of nonimmigrant status under subparagraphs (T) and (U) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)).</p>
<p>B. 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, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.</p>
<p>C. 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 domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, as well as the appropriate treatment of victims.</p>
<p>D. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening victim services and legal assistance programs, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking programs, developing or improving 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 crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.</p>
<p>E. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing the needs and circumstances of Indian tribes in dealing with violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.</p>
<p>F. 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.</p>
<p>G. 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 sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, 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.</p>

<p>H. Supporting the placement of special victim assistants (to be known as “Jessica Gonzales Victim Assistants”) in local law enforcement agencies to serve as liaisons between victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking and personnel in local law enforcement agencies in order to improve the enforcement of protection orders. Jessica Gonzales Victim Assistants shall have expertise in sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking and may undertake the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) developing, in collaboration with prosecutors, courts, and victim service providers, standardized response policies for local law enforcement agencies, including the use of evidence-based indicators to assess the risk of domestic and dating violence homicide and prioritize dangerous or potentially lethal cases; b) notifying persons seeking enforcement of protection orders as to what responses will be provided by the relevant law enforcement agency; c) referring persons seeking enforcement of protection orders to supplementary services (such as emergency shelter programs, hotlines, or legal assistance services); and d) taking other appropriate action to assist or secure the safety of the person seeking enforcement of a protection order.
<p>I. Developing, implementing, or enhancing Sexual Assault Response Teams, or other similar coordinated community responses to sexual assault.</p>
<p>J. 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.</p>
<p>K. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing sexual assault against men, women, and youth in correctional and detention settings.</p>
<p>L. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs and projects to provide services and responses targeting male and female victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, whose ability to access traditional services and responses is affected by their sexual orientation or gender identity, as defined in section 249(c) of title 18 [of the United States Code.]</p>
<p>M. Developing, enhancing, or strengthening prevention and educational programming to address sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, with not with not more than 5 percent of the amount allocated to a state to be used for this purpose.</p>

E. STOP Allowable Activities

NOTE: This is not an exhaustive list.

- 1) Victims Services: telephonic or web-based hotlines, legal advocacy, economic advocacy, emergency and transitional shelter, accompaniment and advocacy through medical, civil

- or criminal justice, immigration, and social support systems, crisis intervention, short-term individual and group support services, information, and referrals.
- 2) Support services for secondary victims such as children who witness domestic violence.
 - 3) Support services for incarcerated individuals who have experienced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking including crimes experienced while incarcerated and crimes experienced at other points in their youth (ages 11-24) and adult lives.
 - 4) Activities that support LGBTQ+ victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, including those whose ability to access traditional services and responses is affected by their sexual orientation or gender identity.
 - 5) Legal services, such as housing, family law, public benefits, and other similar matters.
 - 6) Reasonable transportation costs that would enhance a woman's safety.
 - 7) Batterers' intervention programs that use court monitoring to hold offenders accountable for their behavior.
 - 8) Prevention Programs – both primary and secondary prevention efforts.
 - 9) Outreach initiative linked to a specific set of services with a goal to increase awareness about the services, so that victims know where to go for the services.
 - 10) Support services for sexual assault victims who are age 11 or older.
 - 11) Health care providers' time conducting forensic examinations, if two requirements are met: (1) the examinations are performed by specially trained examiners for victims of sexual assault (such as Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) or Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFEs)); and (2) the jurisdiction does not require victims of sexual assault to seek reimbursement from their insurance carriers.
 - 12) Alternative treatments for victims of abuse. Specific justification for the type of approach, such as research on the benefits of the specific type of treatment to domestic violence or sexual assault survivors. There would also need to be justification that the cost of service was reasonable.
 - 13) Supervised visitation and exchange by and between parents in cases involving domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
 - 14) Costs of prosecutors, law enforcement officers, or judges handling cases involving violence against women.
 - 15) Operational costs of a facility or shelter.
 - 16) Stipends intended to reimburse the participants for their costs in attending a focus group related to the funded purpose area, such as mileage, gas, childcare, etc. This can be done through actual reimbursement of cost, not gift cards.
 - 17) Purchase of groceries as part of victim services that the agency provides to victims.
 - 18) First month's rent. Security deposits are allowable, but systems need to be put in place for the return of funding.
 - 19) Law enforcement equipment that is specifically for the purpose of responding to or investigating domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, such as cameras to record injuries.

F. STOP Unallowable Activities

The activities listed below are unallowable, and costs for them will not be supported with grant funds. NOTE: This is not an exhaustive list.

- 1) Lobbying, except with explicit statutory authorization
- 2) Fundraising
- 3) Activities that jeopardize victim safety, deter or prevent physical or emotional healing for victims, or allow offenders to escape responsibility for their actions.
- 4) Research projects. (This does not include program assessments conducted only for internal improvement purposes.)
- 5) Purchase of real property
- 6) Physical modifications to buildings, including minor renovations (such as painting or carpeting)
- 7) Construction
- 8) Funding for any criminal defense work, including defending women who assault, kill, or otherwise injure their abusers.
- 9) Rehabilitative services related to the crime committed by incarcerated individuals who experienced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking victimization.
- 10) Moving household goods to a new location or acquiring furniture or housing in a new location.
- 11) Couples counseling or any intervention that requires participation by a victim or that is not designed to hold offenders accountable for their violent behavior.
- 12) The purchase of vehicles.
- 13) Immigration fees for immigrant victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
- 14) The purchase of standard issued law enforcement items, such as, uniforms, safety vests, shields, weapons, bullets, and armory.
- 15) Services to children when victimization occurred when they were under the age of 11.
- 16) Restorative justice
- 17) Substance abuse counseling
- 18) Sending victims to conferences
- 19) Medical costs associated with victimization
- 20) Trinkets (items such as hats, mugs, portfolios, t-shirts, coins, gift bags, etc., regardless of whether they include the conference name or DOJ/OVW/GCC logo) must not be purchased with DOJ funds as giveaways for conferences. Basic supplies that are necessary for use during the conference (e.g. folders, name tags) may be purchased.

G. Pre-Agreement Costs

GCC does not allow pre-award costs. Costs incurred prior to the start date of the award may not be charged to the project unless the recipient receives prior approval from GCC. See the DOJ Financial Guide for more information on pre-award costs.

5. STOP APPLICATION SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. DUNS Number

DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) Numbers are required for all applicants. DUNS Numbers may be obtained from the following web link: <http://www.dnb.com/us/> or call (866) 705-5711.

Please note that the GCC staff cannot assist you with DUNS issues.

B. SAM Registration

SAM (System for Award Management) registration is required for all applicants and has taken the place of registration in CCR (Central Contractor Registration). If an applicant had an active record in CCR, that applicant has an active record in SAM. Applicants not previously registered in CCR should register in SAM prior to applying for a grant through the Governor’s Crime Commission.

SAM information may be found at <https://www.sam.gov/SAM/pages/public/index.jsf> and follow the online instructions for a new SAM user. If the requestor has the necessary information on hand, the online registration takes approximately 30 minutes to complete, depending upon the size and complexity of the business or organization.

C. Grants Enterprise Management System (GEMS) and NCID

Applications must be submitted via the GCC’s web-based grant management system GEMS (Grant Enterprise Management System). Applicants must first obtain an NCID username and password to access GEMS.

To obtain your NCID username and password, you must register your organization or State/Local Government Unit at: <https://ncid.nc.gov/idmdash/>

Applicants can access GEMS at:

<https://gems.ncdps.gov/Login/?ReturnUrl=%2FLanding>

If you have issues with obtaining your NCID or utilizing an existing NCID account, contact the ITS Service Desk 24-hours a day at (919) 754-6000 via e-mail at: its.indicents@its.gov Please note that the GCC staff cannot assist you with NCID access issues.

D. Organizational Roles/Responsibilities in GEMS

Each application is required to have the following users assigned with established NCID account. Each user must review and approve the application in order to submit the application to GCC in GEMS. The application must be fully reviewed and submitted in GEMS by January 31, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. User roles are as follows:

ORGANIZATIONAL ROLE/RESPONSIBILITIES	WHO MUST HAVE THE ROLE
<p>Authorizing Official (AO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signatory to grant award • Chief point of oversight for project 	<p>Nonprofits: Board Chair ** Must not be an employee of the agency State Government: Department Secretary Local Government: Town, City or County Manager</p>

	Law Enforcement Agencies: County or City Manager
Financial Officer (FO) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides financial oversight to project Ensures compliance with both agency and Federal financial policies and procedures 	Nonprofits: Board Treasurer ** Must not be an employee of the agency State Government: Chief Financial Officer or Department Finance Officer Local Government: Finance Director Law Enforcement Agencies: Agency Finance Director
Project Director (PD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signatory to grant award Responsible for execution of project Primary point of contact with GCC 	Nonprofits: Executive Director or appointed project staff responsible for overseeing the work of the project State Government: Designee responsible for overseeing the work of the project Local Government: Designee project staff responsible for overseeing the work of the project Law Enforcement Agencies: Designee project staff responsible for overseeing the work of the project
Organizational Administrator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approves all requests for organization roles (AO, FO, PD) Approves/denies access to project applications and open projects Deactivates access/roles Submits SAM updates to GCC via GEMS 	Other agency personnel, such as an internal Grant Manager or supervisor of project activities

Step by step instructions on how to request, approve and deny requests for organizational roles can be found in the Grants Management Handbook on the GCC website.

All officials must be current; and, if the person assigned to the role is no longer in the role a new person must be assigned as quickly as possible. GCC often sends these officials important communications during the application review process.

E. GCC Policy on Late Submissions

To ensure timely award processing, applicants must submit the application by January 31, 2022, at 11:59 pm E.S.T. Late submissions will not be accepted. Please allow enough time for each application official to review and approve the application in GEMS especially as technical issues signing into GEMS will not be considered as justification for a late submission.

6. STOP APPLICATION CONTENT

A. STOP Narrative

Project Abstract: Briefly describe the project’s purpose, identify target population, and discuss program components which address the identified problem. Include local statistics to substantiate the need.

Personnel & Contractual Positions: Provide an overview as to the purpose and function of the positions listed in the personnel and contractual categories in the budget detail that contribute to the success of the project. Where applicable, budgets should reflect the overtime needs. Please note specific job duties for the positions are provided within the job description section of the application.

Travel Budget: Describe the purpose and benefit of the travel items listed in the detailed budget. Explain the types of travel to occur during the project period, such as the type of conference, training or meeting to be held for which travel is requested. Each travel item should be justified, with an explanation provided in this section. Training or conference registration costs should be included in the travel category.

Supplies/Operating Budget: Provide an explanation as to the purpose items (office supplies, field supplies, printing, postage, computer software, office rent, cell phone, utilities, etc.) listed in the supply category in the budget detail contribute to the success of the project. If your program includes a broad category line item (i.e. general office supplies), please upload a word document listing each individual item to be purchased within the line item (pens, paper, folders etc.). Individual item costs are not required on this list.

Equipment Budget: Provide an explanation about how items listed in the equipment category in the budget contribute to the success of the project. Please note that equipment is tangible, non-expendable personal property having a useful life of more than 1 year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit.

Project Collaboration: Identify the partners with whom you will collaborate and briefly describe how the collaboration will occur. Current MOUs are required for collaborative partners and should be uploaded. [\(Attachment 01\)](#)

Project Narrative Summary: Provide additional information about your project application.

Project Timeline of Activities: Provide a timeline for the implementation of the project.

Project Goals and Objectives: It is recommended that each STOP project application contain two SMART goals and two objectives for each goal.

Project Sustainability Plan: Describe your formal, working sustainability plan for the project and how it will result in permanent operational funding (not GCC funding) once this grant ends.

B. Project Budget

NOTE: The Governor's Crime Commission reserves the right to reduce budgets and request budget adjustments at its discretion.

Your budget should justify all expenses and be consistent with the program narrative. Budgets must be clear and specific. Budgets are required to reflect up to 12 months of spending.

C. Supplanting

Federal funds must be used to supplement existing state and local funds for program activities and must not replace (supplant) those funds that have been appropriated for the same purpose. See the OJP Financial Guide (Part II, Chapter 3). There are strict federal laws against the use of federal funds to supplant current funding of an existing program. Jurisdictions must provide assurances and certifications as to non-supplanting and the existence of proper administrative/financial procedures.

D. Budget Line Items

Clearly outline the amount of funding requested for each type of funding sought (e.g., amount for salaries, consultants, supplies, travel, and/or equipment). Each individual cost requested is required to have its own line item. Each staff member, consultant and/or volunteer position requires separate budget lines and fringe benefits should not be included in the salary line for agency staff but are recorded separately from wages. While “General Office Supplies” is an acceptable line item, a detailed listing of the office supplies to be purchased is required to be uploaded. (Attachment 02)

E. Indirect Cost Rates

Applicants that intend to charge indirect costs through the use of a federally negotiated indirect cost rate (NICRA) must have a current, signed, federally approved indirect cost rate agreement. Other applicants may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC), which the agency will use for all GCC applications for federal funding, indefinitely or until a federally - approved rate has been negotiated.

Documentation supporting the agency’s use of an indirect cost rate is required.

Since utilizing an indirect cost rate occurs at the organization level, the Financial Officer is responsible for the verification of an organization’s indirect cost rate (de minimis or federally-negotiated rate). If an organization is utilizing an indirect cost rate, the required support documentation must be uploaded to GEMS by the Financial Officer.

F. De Minimis Indirect Cost Rate

For agencies that plan to utilize the de minimis rate, it is strongly recommended that the following resources are reviewed:

- Non-profit Agencies: [Title 2 CFR, Part 230 \(OMB A-122\) \[PDF- 276 Kb\]](#)
- State of Local Unit of Government or Tribal Organization: [Title 2 CFR, Part 225 \(OMB A-87\) \[PDF-288 Kb\]](#)
- Educational Institutions: [Title 2 CFR, Part 220 \(OMB A-21\) \[PDF-348 Kb\]](#)

G. Consultants

The limit for individual consultant rates is \$650 per day or \$81.25 per hour. Fees in excess of the set limit will not be considered.

Actual or sample contracts for the project must be uploaded (Attachment 03) to the application and approved by the assigned Grant Manager before being enacted. Reimbursements will not be approved for consultants unless their contracts have been approved by the assigned Grant Manager.

H. Conferences and Trainings

STOP funds may be used for the project's staff to participate in trainings and conferences related to the work conducted through the project. Prior approval for each conference or training by the assigned Grants Manager is required once your project is opened and prior to expending any funds.

If requesting funds to support participation in a conference or training, the agency's travel policy is required and should include agency approved reimbursement rates for mileage, meal per diems, lodging etc. If the agency's travel policy does not include reimbursement rates, the State's travel policy and reimbursement rates will be followed.

I. Required Supporting Documents

Agencies are expected to upload the required documents to the Attachments section of their applications in GEMS. When uploading, the File Name must indicate the attachment number (ex: Attachment 01) and the Description should indicate the content (ex: MOU Governor's Crime Commission).

The documents listed below are REQUIRED at the time of submission. Failure to comply (i.e., failure to upload required attachments and budget information) could impact your application's ability to continue through the review process. .

Note that there is a new process for the upload of supporting documentation and attachments that requires uploading documents at:

- 1) the organization level by the Organization Administrator, and**
- 2) the project level by the individual completing the application for funding.**

Sample forms and templates for many of these documents can be found on the GCC website at: www.ncdps.gov/gccforms

J. Organization Documents *NEW*

Certain documents are required of all applicant organizations, some of whom have multiple applications for grant funding. The Organization Documents section in GEMS allows for upload of certain documents at the subrecipient level. These documents will be applied to all grant applications submitted by the subrecipient organization, thereby reducing the number of attachments that have to be uploaded to every project.

Automated reminders will be sent to the Organization Administrator for upcoming expiration of these documents. Many documents do not have to be renewed for annually.

Organization-level documents must be uploaded by the Organization Administrator. The Organization Administrator maintains organization information and manages GEMS users, organization roles, and projects roles. This role is at the Organization level.

The Organization Documents tab appears under the “My Profile” menu in GEMS. A list of documents will populate based on your business type. Agencies applying for grant funding must upload all documents listed as **Application Documents**. If an organization-level document does not apply to your agency, you must upload a statement on agency letterhead in its place.

Note that there will be additional documents required at the Organization level once an application is approved for funding. These are listed under **Supplemental Documents**.

Required Organization Documents

When uploading required Organization Documents, the “File Name” should reflect the Document Type.

- 501(c)(3) Verification (*non-profit agencies*)
- Board of Directors List (*non-profit agencies*)
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Data Breach Policy
- DUNS Number
- Indirect Costs Certification, Federally Negotiated/De Minimis
- IRS Form 990 (*non-profit agencies*) (*must be the most recent fiscal year's form*)
- Overtime Policy
- Procurement/Purchasing Policy
- Record Retention Policy
- SAM.gov Registration
- Travel Policy
- Unlawful Discrimination Policy
- Whistleblower Policy

Indirect Costs *NEW*

While utilizing an indirect cost rate occurs at the organization level, the Financial Officer is responsible for the verification of an organization’s indirect cost rate (*de minimis* or *federally-negotiated* rate). If an organization is utilizing an indirect cost rate, this must be uploaded to GEMS by the Financial Officer.

K. VAWA STOP Project-Specific Attachments

Additional required documents are project-specific and are also required at the time of application. These documents should be uploaded by the individual completing the application for grant funding.

When uploading these documents, the File Name should indicate the attachment number detailed below (ex: Attachment 01) and the Description should indicate the content (ex: Document Name).

All Applicants

- Attachment 01: Current, written agreement(s) demonstrating community partnerships: MOU, MOA, etc. (if applicable) A sample MOU is available on the GCC website. If there are multiple agreements, please number your attachments as follows: "Attachment 01A", "Attachment 01B", etc.
- Attachment 02: Detailed Supply Listing - should be documented in list form indicating which supplies will be purchased in YEAR 1 and/or YEAR 2. Please also indicate Program supplies vs. Office supplies. There is a **NEW** sample "Detailed Supply Listing" form available in the Resources section on the GCC website.
- Attachment 03: Contracts for project-related services (if applicable). A sample contract is available on the GCC website. If there are multiple contracts, please number your attachments as follows: "Attachment 04A", "Attachment 04B", etc.
- Attachment 04: Agency's current equipment lease and/or rental space agreement with floor plan (if costs are budgeted for reimbursement or match) in the project.

Culturally Specific Applicants

- Attachment VW-01: Culturally Specific Organization Verification utilizing the **required Culturally Specific Organization form** that is available on the GCC website. **NOTE:** Requires signatures of Project Director and Authorizing Official.

Applicants Providing Legal Services

- Attachment VW-02: Legal Services Certification utilizing the **required Legal Services Certification form** that is available on the GCC website. **NOTE:** Requires signatures of Project Director and Authorizing Official.
- Attachment VW-03: Assurance Concerning Polygraph Testing Prohibition utilizing the **required Assurance Concerning Polygraph Testing Prohibition form** that is available on the GCC website. **NOTE:** Requires signatures of Project Director and Authorizing Official.

Applicants Providing Law Enforcement Services

- Attachment VW-04: Assurance Concerning Polygraph Testing Prohibition utilizing the **required Assurance Concerning Polygraph Testing Prohibition form** that is available on the GCC website. **NOTE:** Requires signatures of Project Director and Authorizing Official.

Applicants Providing Court Ordered Batterer’s Intervention Programs

- Attachment VW-05: Certification from N.C. Council for Women and Youth Involvement
- Attachment VW-06: Letter from N.C. Council for Women and Youth Involvement supporting a multi-service area application. (if applicable)

Supplemental Attachments

If there are additional attachments, please upload them with the file name “Supplemental Attachment 1” and provide details of the content in Description section.

All Funded Applicants During Modifications

These documents are not requested or required during the application period, however upon notification of approval for funding, these may be required to be submitted as attachments during the Modification period. GCC encourages subrecipients to prepare attachments prior to notification of approval for funding to ensure timely submission.

- Summary of direct and contracted GCC funds that includes current and projected funding utilizing the **required Summary of Direct and Contracted GCC funds form** on the GCC website.
- Project staff allocations across all GCC funded (current and projected) projects utilizing the **required Staffing Allocations form** on the GCC website.
- Job descriptions – specific to the project - for all staff, consultants and volunteers budgeted (funded or match) in the project. After award, your grant administrator will request a full job description for any of the project’s funded staff necessary to effectively monitor your project.

7. STOP APPLICATION REVIEW

The Governor’s Crime Commission (GCC) serves as the chief advisory body to the Governor and to the Secretary of Public Safety on crime and justice issues. Commission Members include the heads of statewide criminal justice agencies, appointed state and local government officials, and private citizens.

The VAWA STOP grant is a competitive application process. Members of the Crime Victim Services Committee review all submitted STOP grant applications that meet eligibility requirements and score each organization's overall project based on the following:

- 1) Who will benefit from the grant;
- 2) How many will benefit from the grant;
- 3) The cost of administering the grant
- 4) Geographical representation; and
- 5) Past performance of the applicant with grants and publicly funded projects.

Members of the Crime Victim Services Committee of the GCC will assess each application based on the following criteria:

- Data/Evidence of Problem (20 Points)
- Community Collaboration (20 Points)
- Logic/Clarity of Proposal (10 Points)
- Implementation Schedule/Timeline of Activities (10 Points)
- Program Goals and Objectives (20 points)
- Potential for Positive Impact (10 Points)
- Evaluation (10 Points)

No application or proposal is guaranteed award at any time during the time of grant review or the recommendation process. Funding is subject to the availability of federal funds and the project’s adherence to federal funding guidelines. Funding decisions are made by the members of the Crime Victims Services Committee and the members of the Governor’s Crime Commission.

8. POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS

A. Project Reimbursement

The GCC will distribute awarded funds to sub-recipients by a reimbursement of expenditures in conjunction with the timely submission of corresponding Fiscal and Programmatic Reports. These reports must be submitted through the Grants Management System, using the same NCID username and password that was used for the application process.

Agencies may elect to receive reimbursement of funds for this grant program no more frequently than on a monthly basis. In order to receive monthly reimbursements, financial documentation will need to be submitted on a monthly basis. Agencies may elect to receive reimbursement based on a longer schedule, but financial reimbursement requests should be

submitted on no less than a quarterly basis as the project utilization rate is one determination of project progress.

B. Programmatic Reports

Programmatic reports are required to be submitted semi-annually, on January 30th and October 30th. Submission of performance reports is a federal condition for receiving funds from this award. Failure to submit performance reports automatically bars further reimbursement on any GCC funded project until the overdue report is submitted. The report template can be found at: https://www.vawamei.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/STOPSubgrantee_Form2019.pdf

C. Special Conditions

All grants will be subject to all Special Conditions set forth by the Office on Violence Against Women associated with the federal award.

D. Transparency and Accountability

A strong emphasis is being placed on accountability and transparency. Award recipients must be prepared to track, report on, and document specific outcomes, benefits, and expenditures attributable to the use of grant funds. Misuse of grant funds may result in a range of penalties to include suspension of current and future funds and civil/criminal penalties.