

**NC Department of Public Safety
Governor's Crime Commission**

**CRIME VICTIM SERVICES COMMITTEE
Report September 3, 2020**

CRIME VICTIMS SERVICES VOCA FUNDING PRIORITIES

All funding priorities are of equal importance, regardless of their listed order. Sexual assault, domestic violence, and child advocacy center projects are mandated priorities and have formula-driven funding allocations.

All other priorities do not have established caps; however, the budget submitted in each grant application is reviewed and assessed for allowable and reasonable costs. Upon review, applicants may be required to revise proposed budgets. If you are an agency seeking funding for a continuing project and are submitting an increased budget, you must illustrate a reasonable need for additional funding. This may include added personnel, services, and/or additional resources for victims.

Proposals may include costs for direct service personnel in the form of advocates and/or licensed therapists, and things needed to support direct services, such as but not limited to: training, travel, equipment, and outreach materials. If you have questions about which funding priority may be appropriate for your application, please contact a member of the Crime Victim Services team.

1. SEXUAL ASSAULT/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS' SERVICES (FOR DESIGNATED AGENCIES ONLY)

Eligible agencies will be notified prior to the grant application period with information on applying for funding.

Dual service agencies should provide the percentage of domestic violence victims and sexual assault victims that have been served by the agencies in the previous fiscal year.

Proposals should include a plan of action to provide core crisis intervention services to victims, which may include:

- Client Outreach Services
- Crisis Line Operations
- Evidence-based Mental Health Services
- Counseling and Support Services
- Information and Referral Services
- Language Crisis Line Services
- Legal Assistance
- Relocation Expenses

- Shelter and Transitional Housing Services
- Hospital Accompaniment

2. **CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS (FOR DESIGNATED AGENCIES ONLY)**

Eligible agencies will be notified prior to the grant application period with information on applying for funding.

Proposals should describe services provided by a **fully accredited** Child Advocacy Center (CAC) or by a **provisionally accredited** CAC who is developing child advocacy services. Each organization must upload a verification letter from Children’s Advocacy Centers of North Carolina (CACNC) that states their accreditation status. All applicants **must** have a signed interagency agreement with the District Attorney’s office, Department of Social Services, and Law Enforcement (at a minimum).

Proposals may include costs to cover direct services personnel for the following services:

- Advocacy
- Evidence-based Mental Health Services
- Child Medical Evaluation
- Forensic Interviews
- Forensic Medical Evidence Collection Exams

3. **UNDERSERVED CRIME VICTIMS SERVICES**

VOCA requires funding be allocated to projects serving “previously underserved populations of victims of violent crime”. Underserved populations may be distinguished by crime type or by demographic characterizations. These populations may require special consideration/services due to possibly being overlooked in the past or not having access to adequate services. Under this funding priority, programs should look to develop and/or continue implementing programs that address underserved crime victim groups by providing an array of services. Programs that can be replicated are of special interest.

Proposals should describe services to a population that is defined by your community to be underserved. Examples of underserved victim populations include, but are not limited to:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culturally Specific Populations, including but not limited to:
African/African American,
American Indian/Tribal
Communities, Latinx Communities,
LGBTQ+ Victims, Immigrant
Victims, Male Victims | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Populations • Elderly Victims of Crime • Disabled Victims of Crime • Veterans/Military Personnel • Adult Survivors of Child Abuse • Victims of Gang-related Crimes • Survivors of Homicide Victims |
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Proposals may include costs for direct service personnel in the form of advocates and/or licensed therapists. Proposals may also include things needed to support direct services, such as but not limited to: training, travel, equipment, and outreach materials.

4. LEGAL SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

Proposals will be accepted for state, regional or local legal services non-profit agencies to provide legal services to victims of crime to including domestic or intimate partner violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, human trafficking and/or child abuse. This includes emergency legal assistance by an attorney, and allowable civil legal assistance provided to victims of crime.

All proposals must comply with NCGS 84-5.1 and must also include a written interagency agreement to include local victim service providers.

Proposals will be considered for the following:

- Statewide legal agencies/organizations that provide legal services to crime victims. Examples include but are not limited to agencies such as Legal Aid of North Carolina.
- Local and/or Regional Non-Profits that aid with legal services to crime victims. Examples include, but are not limited to, agencies such as local SA/DV/CACs.

5. COLLABORATIVE/MULTI-AGENCY MODELS (FAMILY JUSTICE CENTERS)

Proposals will be accepted for the development of collaborative/multi-agency models across North Carolina. Funding awarded under this priority will assist local communities in providing services to victims through the establishment of co-located service models. Proposals should promote the collaborative effort of service providers in making services more readily available to victims and to promote the collaborative efforts of agencies within a local/regional area. Guidance from statewide coalitions (CACNC, NCCASA, NCCADV, NCHTC, CFW/YI, LANC) and additional information from the Family Justice Center Alliance (www.familyjusticecenter.org) may serve as sources for developing these plans.

- Each center should establish a collaborative plan specifying how victims will access services and obtain referrals for support and assistance.
- Applicants for co-located service provision must provide evidence of pre-existing collaborative relationships in the community, including previous collaborative agreements for participating service providers and partners.
- Proposals should include a plan of action and memoranda of understanding with local partners outlining how the group will provide core crisis intervention services to sexual assault and/or domestic violence victims. These documents **must** be uploaded to the application.

- Co-location of all service providers is not a requirement.

Services may include:

- Counseling and Support Services
- Information and Referral services
- Client Outreach Services
- Legal Assistance
- Shelter/Transitional Housing
- Medical/Forensic Examination
- Evidence-based Mental Health Services
- Court Accompaniment

6. VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Proposals will be accepted from agencies to address human trafficking, including child victims of trafficking, by increasing the level of awareness of human trafficking and by improving the level of service provided to victims. Funding awarded under this priority will increase the number of agencies and service providers who are qualified to work with trafficking victims.

It is required that proposals include letters of support from the NC Human Trafficking Commission and other service providers involved in the direct provision of services to victims of human trafficking as an attached document in GEMS. The North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission Standards of Service for Survivors of Human Trafficking can be found:

<https://www.nccourts.gov/assets/inline-files/NCHTC-Standards.pdf?0cNLOYFUXWEPG.Ymg.8UFUfS4Hnw.hdg>

All human trafficking project proposals **must** include improving and/or developing multi-system, interagency, multi-disciplinary responses to the needs of human trafficking victims, including one or more of the following:

- Improving and/or developing interagency protocols on effective response.
- Improving and/or developing an advocacy council, task force and/or multi-disciplinary team to, among other tasks, meet regularly to review current services/cases.

Proposals **must** include a plan of action and a statement of collaboration to provide core crisis intervention services to victims of sexual and/or labor trafficking, which may include:

- Case Management
- Client Outreach Services
- Evidence-based Mental Health Services
- Counseling and Support Services
- Court Advocacy Services
- Information and Referral Services
- Legal Services
- Shelter/Transitional Housing
- Language/Translation Services

7. **CHILD ABUSE VICTIMS' SERVICES**

The term "child abuse" serves as a broad and encompassing term to cover a variety of harm to children. This specific priority does not include adults who were victimized as children; however, such programs may be funded under the Underserved Crime Victims Services priority. Victims of child abuse may include, but are not limited to, child victims of: physical, sexual, or emotional abuse; child pornography-related offenses; neglect; commercial sexual exploitation; bullying; and/or exposure to violence.

Developing Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) should apply for funding under this category. Child Advocacy Centers that are accredited by CACNC must meet specific requirements in order to qualify for funding and should apply for their basic service projects under the Child Advocacy Centers priority.

Note: Accredited CACs seeking to provide enhanced services may not apply to fund these services in the "Other Services for Victims of Crime" priority. If an accredited CAC would like to provide additional or enhanced services (separate from their basic services project allocation), that project should be applied to under this priority.

8. **OTHER SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME**

Proposals will be considered for the development of enhanced services for victims of crime that are allowable under Victims of Crime Assistance regulations. Proposals should include a plan of action and a statement of collaboration to provide enhanced services to victims, which may include:

- Transitional Housing (not to exceed 365 days per victim)
- Adults Victimized as Children
- Relocation Services
- Forensic Medical Examinations (not associated with sexual assault basic services)
- Emergency Medical Assistance
- Forensic Interviews
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Services
- Client Outreach Services
- Court Advocacy Services
- Evidence-based Mental Health Services
- Services for Victims of Financial Fraud and/or Identity Theft
- Services for Victims Addressing the Intersection of Violence and Substance Use Disorder

9. **AUTOMATED VICTIM NOTIFICATION SERVICES**

Proposals should focus on statewide automated victim notification systems and technology services, including via text notification and other electronic systems. Proposals may include staff who provide services to alert victims on the status changes of offenders in the jail, correctional, or court systems. Proposals should include the provision of both incoming and outgoing call service 24/7 including other electronic and text notifications with multiple language capability and operator assistance available.

CRIME VICTIMS SERVICES VAWA FUNDING PRIORITIES

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 (STOP 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 and prosecution strategies to address violent crimes against women and the development and strengthening of 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.

STOP Funding Priorities

In 2019, the Office on Violence Against Women is interested in supporting the priority areas identified below. The GCC encourages the applicants to develop projects that:

1. Reduce violent crime against women and promote victim safety.
2. Increase the response to victims of human trafficking.
3. Include substance abuse professionals in a coordinated community response to VAWA crimes and increase victim access to substance abuse services.
4. Increase efforts to combat stalking.

STOP Priority Service Areas

The GCC encourages programs that involve partnerships, collaborations, and best practices to meet the needs of crime victims and others across the state.

You will need to identify in your application ONE priority service area that your proposed project aligns with. The courts allocation must be awarded "to" state and local courts.

Decisions for law enforcement, prosecution, and victim services should be made based on the beneficiary of the funded activities.

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; 4) Human Trafficking and/or 5) Stalking.

1) Victim Services

Providing services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, including 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, culturally specific services, population specific services, and other related supportive services.

2) Law Enforcement

A public agency charged with policing functions, including any of its component bureaus (such as governmental victim services programs or Village Public Safety Officers), including those referred to in section 2802 of Title 25.

3) Prosecutors

Any public agency charged with direct responsibility for prosecuting criminal offenders, including such agency's component bureaus (such as governmental victim assistance programs).

4) State and Local Courts

Any civil or criminal, tribal, and Alaska Native Village, Federal, State, local or territorial court having jurisdiction to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking, including immigration, family, juvenile, and dependency courts, and the judicial officers serving in those courts, including judges, magistrate judges, commissioners, justices of the peace, or any other person with decision-making authority.

5) Discretionary

Applications will only be accepted for the following under this Discretionary Priority Services Area.

- **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.
- **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)**

STOP Focus Areas

After you choose a Priority Service Area you will need to identify in your application IF your proposed project plans to serve one of the two STOP Focus Areas below. (Not Mandatory)

A) Sexual Assault

Projects must have a legitimate focus on sexual assault and that personnel funded under the projects have sufficient expertise and experience on sexual assault.

B) Culturally Specific

Projects that are 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
- Hispanics.

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:

- focuses 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 Verification Letter signed by the agency's Board President in the application (Attachment 25).

STOP Purpose Areas

Any projects funded utilizing STOP funds must meet one or more of the OVW's statutory purpose areas. The GCC has identified thirteen (13) purpose areas that align with the State of North Carolina's Implementation Plan and fill in funding/service gaps for the State.

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

- 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)).
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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.

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.

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:

- 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.

I. Developing, implementing, or enhancing Sexual Assault Response Teams, or other similar coordinated community responses to sexual assault.

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.

K. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing sexual assault against men, women, and youth in correctional and detention settings.

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.]

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.