



**STOP Violence
Against Women**
Formula Grant Program
FFY 2022 - FFY 2025
Implementation Plan

Ohio | Department of
Public Safety

OCJS
Office of Criminal Justice Services

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I. Introduction

Approved Plan Date: May 27, 2022

The time period covered by the plan: Federal Fiscal Years 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.

Overview

Formerly an independent cabinet-level agency, the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) became a part of the Ohio Department of Public Safety in 2005. By statute, OCJS is the lead criminal justice planning and assistance office for the state and is authorized with administering over \$225 million in state and federal criminal justice funding annually.¹ OCJS also evaluates programs and develops technology, training materials, and products for criminal justice professionals and communities statewide. OCJS has been designated by the Governor of Ohio to administer Ohio's federal Services*Training*Officers* Prosecutors* (STOP) Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funding.

The state's efforts in administering STOP VAWA funding includes working with Regional Planning Units (RPUs), which oversee Ohio's major metropolitan counties including Cuyahoga (Cleveland), Franklin (Columbus), and Lucas (Toledo). Agencies within these counties receive STOP VAWA funding through the respective RPU. RPUs promote and foster cooperation and coordination amongst governmental units and agencies, and improve the justice system through planning, analysis, technical assistance, and information management. RPUs conduct criminal justice assessments, including violence against women and family violence issues to determine the best use of justice funds at the local level. Information gleaned from these assessments is used to project spending trends for current and future grant cycles.

The goal of the of the FFY2022 to FFY2025 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan (Implementation Plan) is to identify and fund programmatic priorities that increase the awareness of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence, address the needs of the Ohio community, and to facilitate and enhance collaborative efforts amongst courts, law enforcement, prosecution, and victim service agencies to foster a stronger coordinated response toward the elimination of violence against women.

The FFY2022 to FFY2025 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan is organized as follows:

- A summary of Ohio geographic and demographic characteristics, crime in Ohio, and the needs of victims and providers as identified through multiple structured collaborative processes
- Description of the planning process and partnerships throughout the state that inform grant funding
- An outline of Ohio's STOP VAWA program priorities and strategies to address the needs identified and those that meet the statutory funding areas

II. Needs and Context

Ohio's Geographic Characteristics

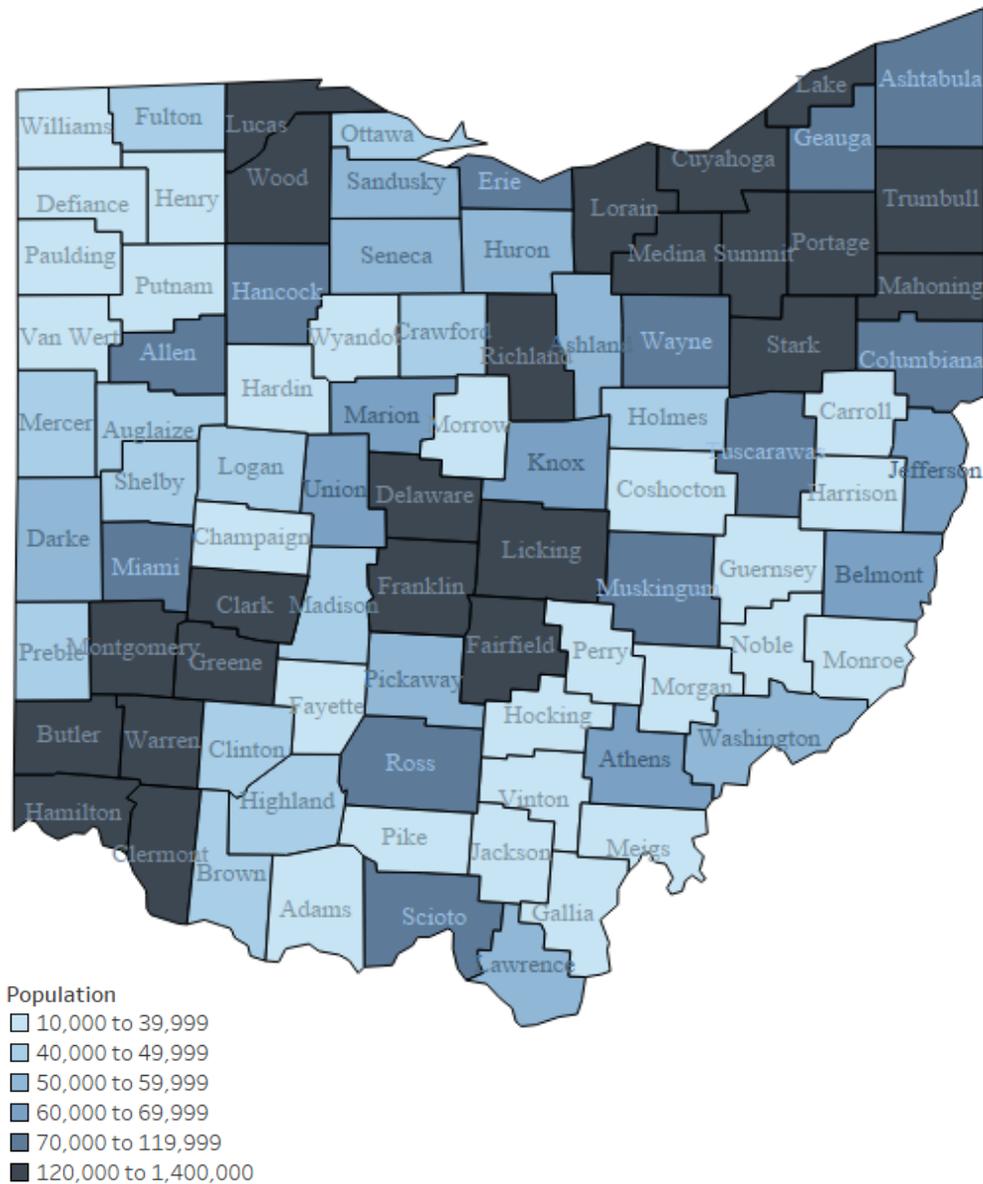
Home to approximately 11,780,017 individuals, Ohio has the 7th largest population out of all other states in the United States.² Ohio's land area covers just over 40,952 square miles and is

¹ Office of Criminal Justice Services – powers and duties. Ohio Revised Code §5502.62 (2007)
<https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-5502.62>

² U.S. Census Bureau *Quickfacts: Ohio*. United States (U.S.) Census Bureau, 1 Apr. 2020, [U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Ohio](#)

divided into 88 counties with the ten largest counties accounting for 53% of the state’s total population (Figure 1).³ Eighty percent of Ohioans live in metropolitan areas; and three of the largest metropolitan areas are Cincinnati, Cleveland and Columbus. Thirty-two of Ohio’s 88 counties are designated as Appalachian, which accounts for more than one-third of all Ohio counties, and nearly 17% of Ohio residents lives in the Appalachian regions which are located along the Ohio River and southeastern hill counties.⁴

Figure 1. Ohio Population for 2020 based on United States Census Data



³ *Population Counts for Governmental Units: 2020, 2010, 2000*. Ohio Department of Development, Aug. 2021, <https://devresearch.ohio.gov/files/research/P3008.pdf>

⁴ *Ohio County Profiles: Appalachia*. Ohio Department of Development, 2020, <https://devresearch.ohio.gov/files/research/C1090.pdf>

Ohio's Residents-Demographic Information

Ohio's residents have become more diverse and older since the last census. The median age in Ohio is 39.5, slightly older than the U.S. median of 38.2. Driving this ageing is the percent of persons 65 years old or over, 17.1%, which is 1.1% greater than the share across the U.S. The percentage of Ohioans aged 60 and over is expected to increase from 19.8% of the total population in 2010 to 24.1% in 2050. During this same time period, the percentage of Ohioans aged 19 and under is expected to decrease from 26.6% of the total population to 25.5%, while the percentage of individuals aged 20 to 59 is expected to decrease from 54.6% to 50.4%.⁵ According to the 2020 U.S. Census, 51% of Ohio's population is female. Additionally, 78.4% of the population is White; 13.1% of the population is Black or African American; 4% is Hispanic or Latino; 2.5% of the population is Asian, and 0.3% is estimated to be American Indian or Alaskan Native.⁶

Figure 2. Race/Ethnicity in Ohio

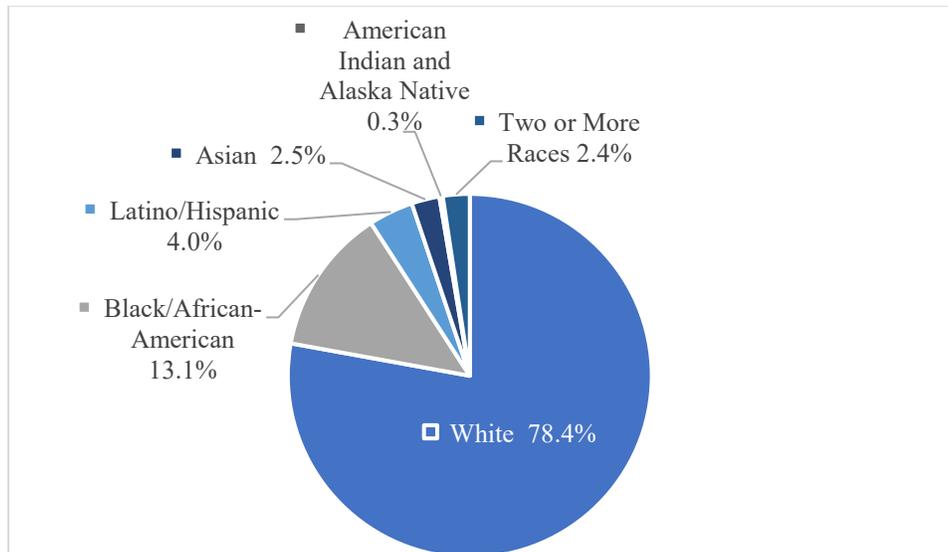


Figure 2 U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). *2020 Population Census* [Data file]. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/OH/RHI325220#qf-headnote-a>

Minority populations and communities comprise 22% of Ohio's population, with the share of the population identifying as a minority increasing by 5.1% since 2010 while the white, non-Latino/Hispanic population saw a 5.2% decrease during the same period. The Latino/Hispanic population has grown by 140% since 2000,⁷ while the Asian population has

⁵ Ohio Legislative Service Commission, *2020 Ohio Facts, Demographics*, 3, Sep. 2020, <https://www.lsc.ohio.gov/documents/reference/current/ohiofacts/2020/Demographics.pdf>

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). *2020 Population Census* [Data file]. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/OH/RHI325220#qf-headnote-a>

⁷ *Latino Community Report*, The Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs (OCHLA), 22 Dec. 2021, [Ohio's+Growing+Minority+Population+-+An+Analysis+of+the+Hispanic+Latino+Community.pdf](https://www.ochla.org/Ohio's+Growing+Minority+Population+-+An+Analysis+of+the+Hispanic+Latino+Community.pdf)

more than doubled.⁸ Contextualizing these trends nationally, minorities comprise 43% of the population, up from 34% in 2010.⁹

The majority of Black/African Americans in Ohio live in urban areas. Four out of every ten Black/African Americans in the state live in the cities of Cincinnati, Cleveland, or Columbus. In Columbus, there are 262,667 Black/African American residents, in Cleveland there are 181,841 in Cleveland, and 130,841 Black/African American residents in Cincinnati. The Cleveland Metropolitan area alone is home to more than one-quarter of Ohio’s Black/African American population.

Total Black/African American Population		% of County that Identifies as Black/African American	
Cuyahoga	385,769	Cuyahoga	30.5%
Franklin	315,066	Hamilton	26.6%
Hamilton	220,950	Franklin	23.8%
Montgomery	115,521	Montgomery	21.5%
Lucas	87,550	Lucas	20.3%
Summit	81,605	Mahoning	16.1%
Mahoning	36,807	Summit	15.1%
Butler	35,913	Allen	12.5%
Stark	29,988	Clark	9.0%
Lorain	28,167	Erie	8.9%
Trumbull	17,370	Richland	9.6%
Allen	12,776	Lorain	9.0%

Table 1 and 2 Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). *2020 Population Census* [Data file]. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/OH/RHI325220#qf-headnote-a>

A majority of Asians live in the state’s metropolitan areas. Generally, Asians in Ohio are more likely to live in the suburbs than the central city, but Columbus is an exception with more Asians living in the city because of the influence of The Ohio State University. Nearly 53,000, or 18%, of Ohio’s Asian population lives in Columbus. There are another 27,704 Asians living in the Columbus metropolitan area. The combination of the Cleveland/Akron metropolitan areas has nearly 79,000 Asians as well.

⁸ , *Ohio Asian Americans: Snapshot from the 2019 American Community Survey*, Ohio Department of Development, Accessed on 18 Feb. 2022, <https://devresearch.ohio.gov/files/research/P7004.pdf>

⁹ *Latino Community Report*, OCHLA, 22 Dec. 2021, [Ohio’s+Growing+Minority+Population-An+Analysis+of+the+Hispanic+Latino+Community.pdf](https://www.ochla.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Ohio-s-Growing-Minority-Population-An-Analysis-of-the-Hispanic-Latino-Community.pdf)

Total Asian Population		% of County that Identifies as Asian	
Franklin	75,457	Delaware	7.6%
Cuyahoga	43,004	Warren	6.3%
Hamilton	24,089	Franklin	5.7%
Summit	21,077	Union	4.9%
Delaware	16,273	Butler	3.9%
Warren	15,267	Summit	3.9%
Butler	15,224	Cuyahoga	3.4%
Montgomery	12,358	Athens	3.1%
Lucas	7,332	Greene	3.1%
Greene	5,207	Hamilton	2.9%
Lorain	4,381	Montgomery	2.3%
Stark	3,749	Portage	2.1%

Table 3 and 4 Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). *2020 Population Census* [Data file]. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/OH/RHI325220#qf-headnote-a>

The majority of Latino/Hispanic Ohioans live in urban areas of the state. One out of every three Latino/Hispanic Ohioans live in one of the four cities of Cleveland, Columbus, Lorain and Toledo. There are 56,156 Latino/Hispanic residents in Columbus, 44,342 in Cleveland, 23,395 in Toledo, and 18,585 Latino/Hispanic residents in Lorain. Note the Latino/Hispanic population makes up a higher proportion of county populations in the north and northwest sections of Ohio, many of which are rural in nature.

Total Latino/Hispanic Population		% of County that Identifies as Latino/Hispanic	
Cuyahoga	79,683	Defiance	10.4%
Franklin	76,781	Lorain	10.4%
Lorain	32,548	Sandusky	10.2%
Lucas	31,915	Fulton	8.8%
Hamilton	29,903	Henry	7.8%
Butler	19,518	Lucas	7.4%
Montgomery	17,731	Huron	6.9%
Mahoning	14,860	Putnam	6.6%
Summit	12,430	Mahoning	6.5%
Lake	10,932	Cuyahoga	6.3%
Stark	8,247	Hancock	5.8%
Wood	7,538	Wood	5.7%

Table 5 and 6 Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). *2020 Population Census* [Data file]. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/OH/RHI325220#qf-headnote-a>

Figure 3. Arrival of Foreign-born Population by Time Period

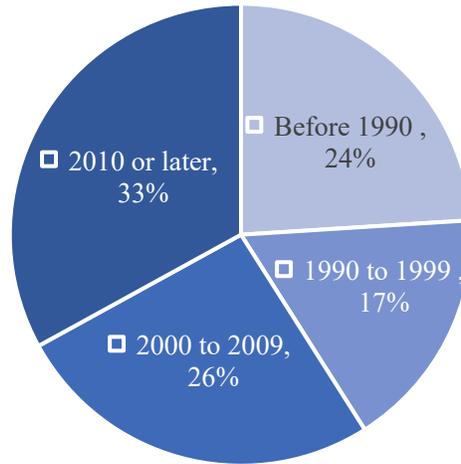


Figure 3 Source: Ohio Department of Development, *Ohio Population Overview*, Feb. 2019, <https://devresearch.ohio.gov/files/research/P7001.pdf>

Foreign-Born Population

More than 555,000 foreign-born persons live in Ohio and account for 5% of the total population, a 63% increase in foreign-born people since 2000. Over 43% of Ohio’s foreign-born residents are from Asia, with people from India accounting for 65,000 and people from China accounting for 42,000 residents. Additionally, nearly 48,000 persons have emigrated from Mexico, with another 23,000 persons coming from other Central American countries.¹⁰

Education

Ohioans are Approximately 89% of Ohioans aged 25 and older have at least a high school degree or higher, below the national rate of 91.1%. Of high school graduates, approximately 26% have obtained a Bachelor’s degree, below the national average of 37.9%.¹¹

Poverty

The average poverty rate for Ohio are approximately 13.9%; however, the highest rates of poverty occur in Ohio’s Appalachian counties. The 32-Appalachian counties had a rate of 17.0% overall, and the nine counties with the highest rates of poverty in Ohio were Appalachian.¹² In the U.S., the official poverty rate in 2020 was 11.4%, 2.5% lower than Ohio in 2020.¹³

¹⁰ Ohio Department of Development, *Ohio Population Overview*, Feb. 2019, <https://devresearch.ohio.gov/files/research/P7001.pdf>

¹¹ U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). *2020 Population Census* [Data file]. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/OH/RHI325220#qf-headnote-a>

¹² *The Ohio Poverty Report*, 14. Ohio Development Services, June 2020, <https://devresearch.ohio.gov/files/research/P700>

¹³ U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). *2020 Population Census* [Data file]. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/OH/RHI325220#qf-headnote-a>

Ohio's Crime

Throughout the state, Ohioans experience various crimes, with some populations experiencing heightened levels of victimization. Given that Ohio's elderly population is increasing, more awareness is needed to protect the elderly. Each year, there are around 15,000 cases of elder abuse, but the actual number of abuse incidents is much higher. There are approximately between 75,000 to 214,000 incidents of elder abuse,¹⁴ but the majority of these cases go unreported.¹⁵

Hate Crime

Over the past decade, hate crimes in the United States have increased across the nation. According to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), the number of hate crime incidents recorded by law enforcement rose from 6,628 to 7,314 from 2010 to 2019, a 10% increase. By comparison, the total volume of reported crime-including both hate and non-hate incidents-decreased 22% during the 10-year period. Bias against race, ethnicity, or ancestry accounted for more than half of all hate crime incidents recorded by law enforcement in 2019. More than half (54%) of hate crime incidents reported to the Hate Crime Statistics Program (HCSP) were motivated by bias against the victim's race, ethnicity, or ancestry, as determined by a law enforcement investigation of the incident. Anti-black or anti-African American bias was the motivation for nearly half (49%) of hate crime incidents motivated by race, ethnicity, or ancestry bias between 2015 and 2019.¹⁶ During the 5-year period of 2015-19, law enforcement recorded increases in the number of hate crime against Black or African Americans (from 2,201 to 2,391 victims), Asian Americans (from 136 to 215) and Americans of Arab descent (from 48 to 126).¹⁷ In Ohio, hate crimes have remained consistently above the national average in the same 5-year period, with an incidence of 5.3 per 100,000 people,¹⁸ as compared to the national average of 2.6 per 100,000 people.¹⁹

Sexual Assault in Ohio

Another area of crime that seriously effects Ohioans is sexual assault and interpersonal violence (IPV). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly one in five

¹⁴ Policy Matters Ohio, *Protecting Elderly Ohioans from Abuse and Neglect*, May 3, 2014, https://www.policymattersohio.org/research-policy/quality-ohio/revenue-budget/budget-policy/protecting-elderly-ohioans-from-abuse-and-neglect#_ftn13

¹⁵ Acierno, Ron, Melba A. Hernandez, Ananda B. Amstadter, Heidi S. Resnick, Kenneth Steve, Wendy Muzzy, and Dean G. Kilpatrick. "Prevalence and Correlates of Emotional, Physical, Sexual, and Financial Abuse and Potential Neglect in the United States: The National Elder Mistreatment Study." *American Journal of Public Health*. American Public Health Association, February 2010. <https://doi.org/10.2105/ajph.2009.163089>.

¹⁶ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Hate Crime Recorded by Law Enforcement, 2010-2019*, 4, Sep. 2021, [Hate Crime Recorded by Law Enforcement, 2010-2019 \(ojp.gov\)](https://www.ojp.gov/bjs/hate-crime)

¹⁷ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Hate Crime Victimization, 2005-2019*, 2, Sep. 2021, [Press release for Hate Crime Victimization, 2005-2019; Hate Crime Recorded by Law Enforcement, 2010-2019; and third-party report Enhancing the Measurement of Hate Crime in the NCVS: Developing and Testing Improvements to the Survey Questions \(ojp.gov\)](https://www.ojp.gov/bjs/hate-crime)

¹⁸ Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, *Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System Hate Crime statistics for 2015-2019*, accessed on March 3, 2022.

¹⁹ U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Uniform Crime Report: Hate Crime Statistics, 2019*, Retrieved (March 2022), [incidents-and-offenses.pdf \(fbi.gov\)](https://www.fbi.gov/ucr/hate-crime-statistics)

women have experienced completed or attempted rape and one in fourteen men were made to penetrate someone (completed or attempted) during their lifetime.²⁰ About one in four women and one in ten men experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetimes and reported some form of IPV-related impact from the violence.²¹ Nearly one in three women (31.2%) and one in six men (16.1%) in the United States reported stalking victimization at some point in their lifetime during which they felt fearful, threatened, or concerned for the safety of themselves or others.²²

2021 data collected through the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System²³ reported 7,441 incidents of sexual assault and 8,291 victims. These incidents were reported at a rate of 95.7 per 100,000 population with Franklin County having the highest reported incidents. Sixty percent of reported sexual assault victims were White and 31% were Black. Females made up 85% of all sexual assault victims and males made up 14% of all sexual assault victims.²⁴

Figure 7. Percent of Victims by Age Group and Sex

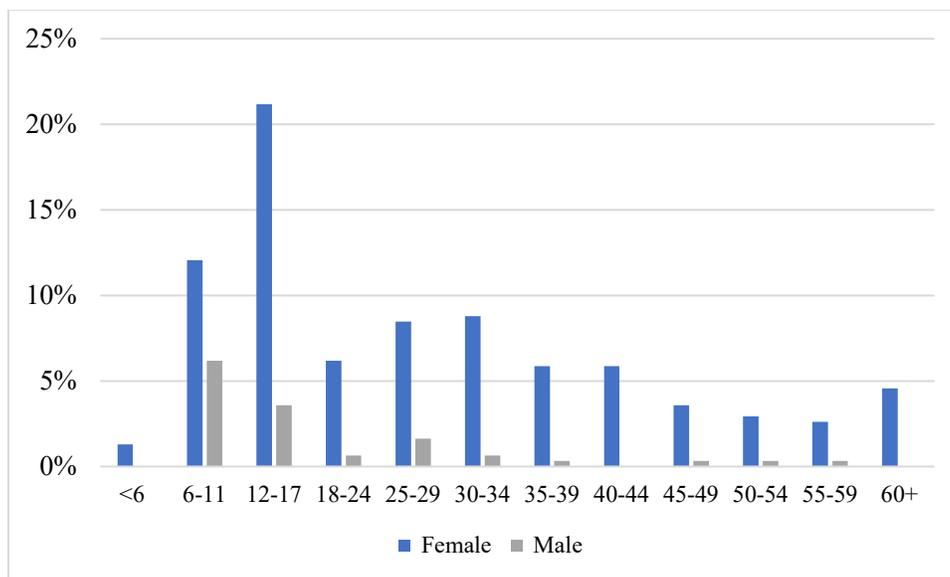


Figure 7 Source: Ohio Incident Based Reporting System Data pulled by the Office of Criminal Justice Services

²⁰ National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2015 Data Brief*, 2018, <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/2015data-brief508.pdf>

²¹ National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Intimate Partner Violence Fast Facts*, Jan. 2022, <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/fastfact.html>

²² National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2016/2017 Report on Stalking*, Jan. 2022, https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs/NISVS-Stalking-Report_508.pdf

²³ Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System at the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services OIBRS is a voluntary crime reporting program in which Ohio law enforcement agencies can submit crime statistics directly to the state and federal government in an automated format.

Sexual Violence in the LGBTQ Community

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), sexual minority respondents reported levels of intimate partner violence at rates equal to or higher than those of heterosexuals. In the 2010 NISVS, 43.8% of lesbian women and 61.1% of bisexual women have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime, as opposed to 35% of heterosexual women. For sexual minorities who identify as men, the trend is similar; 26% of gay men and 37.3% of bisexual men have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime, in comparison to 29% of heterosexual men. Additionally, the rate of stalking among bisexual women is more than double the rate among heterosexual women. One in three bisexual women (37%) and one in six heterosexual women (16%) have experienced stalking victimization at some point during their lifetime in which they felt very fearful or believed that they or someone close to them would be harmed or killed.²⁵ Nationally, the trends make it clear that members of the LGBTQ community are at an elevated risk for intimate partner and sexual violence.

Outside of intimate partner and sexual violence, the LGBTQ community is a target for hate crimes as well. According to the Hate Crime Statistics Program derived from the FBI's Unified Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, victims believed the hate crime was motivated by bias against their sexual orientation in about 1 in 5 (20%) violent hate crime victimizations between 2005 and 2019.²⁶ In Ohio, the Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization (BRAVO) documented 46 reports of Anti-LGBTQ hate violence in 2016.²⁷

Crimes Against Persons with Disabilities

In Ohio, 2,322,751 adults have a disability, 25% of the entire adult population in 2020. Of this population, 12% have mobility disabilities, 11% have a disability that affects their cognition, 6% have a disability that affects their hearing, and 4% have a disability that affects their vision. In Ohio and across the nation, these people are victimized at higher levels than people who do not have disabilities. In 2019, the rate of violent victimization against persons with disabilities was nearly four times the rate for persons without disabilities (49.2 compared to 12.4 per 1,000 age 12 or older). From 2017 to 2019, persons with disabilities were victims of 26% of all nonfatal violent crime, while accounting for about 12% of the population. Additionally, 1/3 of all robbery victimizations involved a victim with a disability, representing a victimization rate of people with disabilities higher than those of aggravated assault, rape/sexual assault, and simple assault. While a quarter of simple assault victims had a disability, the rate of

²⁵ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), *National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation*, 2010, [NISVS: An Overview of 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/nisvs/2010-findings-on-victimization-by-sexual-orientation)

²⁶ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Hate Crime Victimization, 2005-2019*, 2, Sep. 2021, [Press release for Hate Crime Victimization, 2005-2019; Hate Crime Recorded by Law Enforcement, 2010-2019; and third-party report Enhancing the Measurement of Hate Crime in the NCVS: Developing and Testing Improvements to the Survey Questions \(ojp.gov\)](https://www.bjs.ojp.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2021/09/01/hate-crime-recorded-by-law-enforcement-2010-2019)

²⁷ National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV-Affected Hate Violence in 2016*, 2017, [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV-Affected Hate Violence in 2016 \(avp.org\)](https://www.avp.org/2017/01/20/lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-queer-and-hiv-affected-hate-violence-in-2016)

simple assault against persons with disabilities (28.3 per 1,000) was still more than three times the rate for persons without disabilities (8.3 per 1,000). Among people with disabilities, people with cognitive disabilities had the highest rate of violent victimization (83.3 per 1,000) among the disability types measured.²⁸

Crimes against people with disabilities were committed by strangers at a lower rate (32%) than against persons without disabilities (41%). Relatives not including an intimate partner account for a higher percentage of violent victimizations against persons with disabilities (14%) than against persons without disabilities (7%).²⁹

Domestic Violence in Ohio

The Ohio Attorney General reported that for 2020 law enforcement received 71,507 calls concerning domestic violence incidents. Forty-four percent of these calls resulted in the filing of domestic violence charges or violations of protection orders or consent agreements, while approximately four percent resulted in the filing of other charges, but not domestic violence, protection order, or consent agreement. There are a reported 58,170 offenders, 38% of whom were live-in partners or the spouse of one of the 59,599 reported victims.³⁰ Within each category there are meaningful trends to note. Males account for 74% of reported offenders while females account for 74% of all victims. While African Americans comprise 13.1% of the state's population, they account for 30% of all victims of domestic violence, a representation more than double their population share. Those ages 18-40 account for 65% of offenders, and 61% of victims, shares larger than the remaining age groups combined. Lastly, there are 29,158 incidents where the relationship between the participants is unknown, which quantifies a portion of the incidents of domestic violence that aren't directly defined in the report, but still affect Ohioans.³¹

2021 Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS) indicate that 9.6% of the 917 homicides in Ohio reported by law enforcement agencies with complete data were domestic violence related based on the relationship of the victim and offender. Within the data, when the scope of the relationship between victim and offender was limited to only those incidents where the relationship is known (n =343), the percent of domestic-violence related homicides represented 25.6% of these incidents. These cases are largely in large counties with high levels of domestic violence, as county level data indicates that 70.1% of counties have reported a rate

²⁸ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Crimes Against Persons with Disabilities, 2009-2019*, 1, Nov. 2021, [https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/crime-against-persons-disabilities-2009-2019-statistical-tables#:~:text=Persons%20with%20disabilities%20were%20victims,disabilities%20\(12.3%20per%201%2C000\).](https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/crime-against-persons-disabilities-2009-2019-statistical-tables#:~:text=Persons%20with%20disabilities%20were%20victims,disabilities%20(12.3%20per%201%2C000).)

²⁹ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Crimes Against Persons with Disabilities, 2009-2019, Table 6*, Nov. 2021, [https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/crime-against-persons-disabilities-2009-2019-statistical-tables#:~:text=Persons%20with%20disabilities%20were%20victims,disabilities%20\(12.3%20per%201%2C000\).](https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/crime-against-persons-disabilities-2009-2019-statistical-tables#:~:text=Persons%20with%20disabilities%20were%20victims,disabilities%20(12.3%20per%201%2C000).)

³⁰ *2020 Domestic Violence Report: Victim Statistics*. Ohio Attorney General, 2. Dec., 2021, <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Files/Reports/Domestic-Violence-Reports/Domestic-Violence-Reports-2020/2020-Race-Age-and-Gender>

³¹ Ohio Attorney General's Office, *Domestic Violence Report: Ohio Race/Ethnicity, Age and Gender Statistics 2020*, 2021, <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Files/Reports/Domestic-Violence-Reports/Domestic-Violence-Reports-2020/2020-Race-Age-and-Gender>

of domestic violence that is less than the statewide average.³² Through a different lens of reporting, the Ohio Domestic Violence Network reviews homicide reports from newspapers and publicly accessible information to examine additional details on domestic violence related homicide. OVDN reports that there were 131 domestic violence-related fatalities in 90 cases in 2021, a 20% increase from 2020.¹⁹

Stalking in Ohio

2021 data collected through the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System reported 1,952 incidents of stalking from law enforcement agencies that reported complete data for the year.³³ Eighty-two percent of victims were female (Figure 8). A majority of victims were females between the ages of 18 and 39. While over half (57%) of victims reported were identified as white, roughly 38% were Black or African American (Figure 9). Again, Black or African American victims are over-represented in the data compared to their population in Ohio.

Figure 8. Victims of Stalking by Age and Sex

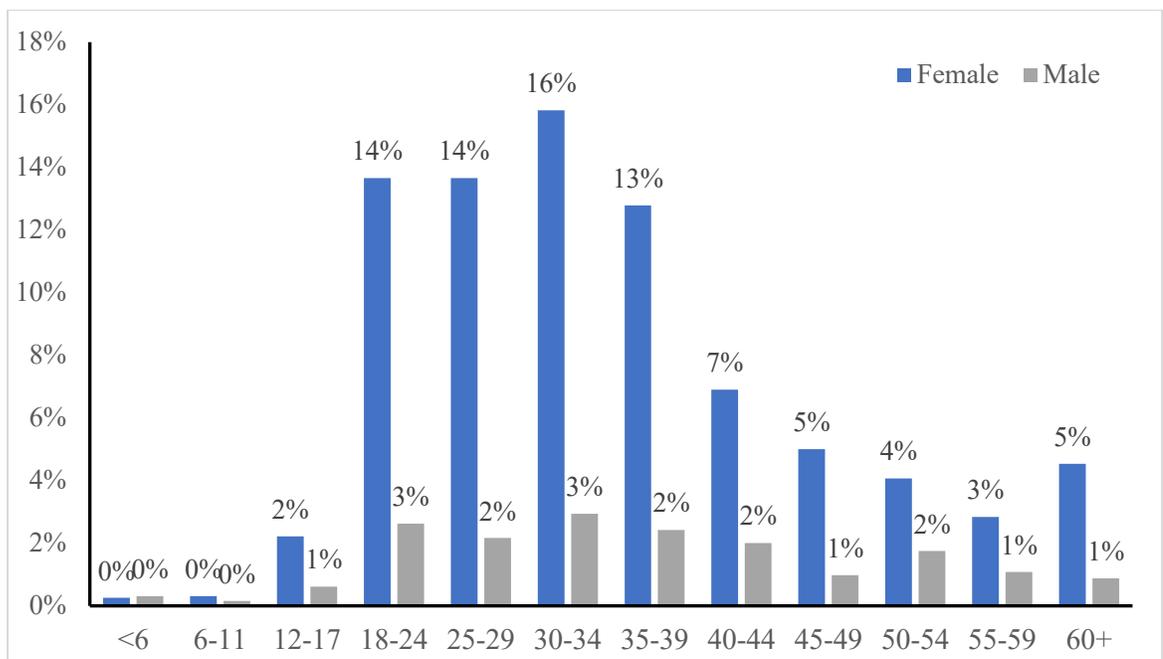


Figure 8 Source: Ohio Incident Based Reporting System Data pulled by the Office of Criminal Justice Services

³² Statewide domestic violence rates are indicative of large counties with high levels of domestic violence. Ohio Department of Public Safety, Office of Criminal Justice Services, *Domestic Violence in Ohio, 2015* Retrieved from http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/crime_stats_reports.stm

³³ Data provided by the Office of Criminal Justice Services – Ohio Incident-Based Reporting system data pulled on 4/18/2022

Figure 9. Stalking Victims by Race

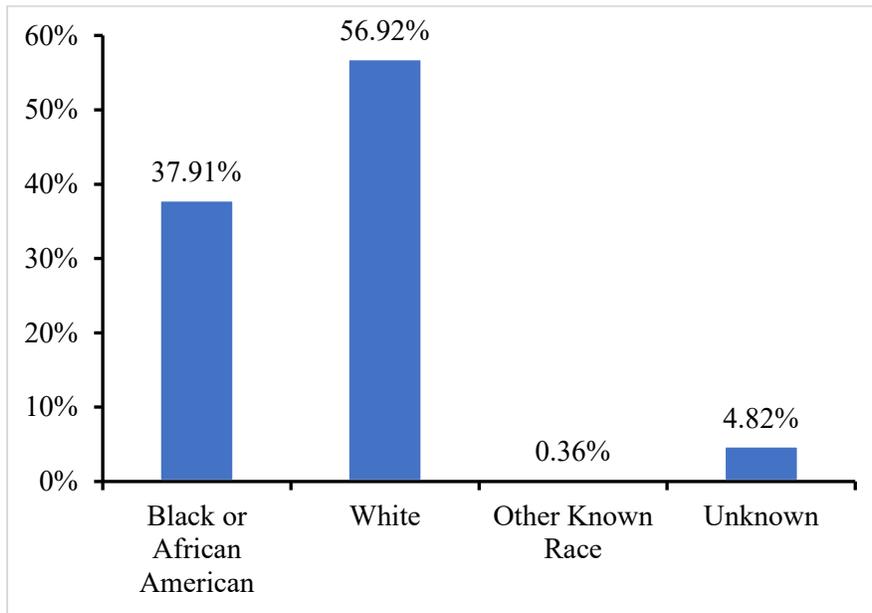


Figure 9 Source: Ohio Incident Based Reporting System Data pulled by the Office of Criminal Justice Services

Human Trafficking in Ohio

Over the last decade, recognition and responding to human trafficking, (which includes sex and labor trafficking) in Ohio has grown substantially as a result of trafficking in persons being formally criminalized through Ohio statute in 2011.³⁴ With formalizing the statute, public awareness of the issue has increased through training and identification protocols that have been put in place at both within state systems and local agencies, with an ever-growing response throughout the state.³⁵ While the response to human trafficking continues to grow, the need for service and resources remains for both juvenile and adult victims of trafficking, and survivors who experience trafficking at the intersection of sexual and domestic violence.

Although Ohio does not have specific data related to the problem or needs of trafficking victims within the context of domestic violence and sexual violence, Anderson, Kulig, and Sullivan (2019) examined the prevalence of human trafficking of minors (including youth 11 to 17 years of age). In the context of sex trafficking, any individual under a given age engaged in commercial sex regardless of the presence of force, fraud, coercion is considered a victim of human trafficking under the law. Based on these legal definitions and engagement with different systems, Anderson et al. (2019) estimated that nearly 1,032 minors were trafficked between 2014 and 2016 and identified by different systems, and roughly 4,200 more were at-risk of being

³⁴ 29 Ohio Revised Code §2905.32 (2011) available at <https://codes.ohio.gov/orc/2909.21</ohio-revised-code/section-2905.32>

³⁵ Governor’s Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force Report (November 2021) Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force available at <https://www.humantrafficking.ohio.gov/links/OhioHumanTraffickingTaskForceReport1121.pdf>

trafficked.³⁶ Outside of the Anderson et al. (2019) paper, Table 7 identifies that a majority of individuals, adult and minors, identified throughout state systems in Ohio report experiencing sex trafficking.³⁷

	Ohio Department of Youth Services	Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections	Statewide Automated Child Welfare System	Ohio Department of Job and Family Services – Refugee Services	Ohio Attorney General	US Health and Human Services Grant Partnership
Target Population	Minors	Adults	Minors	Refugees	General public	Foreign national and domestic victims
No. Victims Identified	15	262	33	11	148	214
17 years of age & younger	15		33		32	15
18 years of age & older	0		0		115	199
Age Unknown	0		0	11	1	0
Female	11	262	30		147	196
Male	4		3		1	9
Transgender						8
Unknown				11		1
Sex Trafficking Cases	12		33		145	161
Labor Trafficking Cases	3		0		2	18
Both Sex and Labor Trafficking*					1	8
High Risk For Trafficking						
Unknown				11		27

***Shaded cells indicate that the information was not reported by the data source.*

**Individuals included under this category were trafficked in both sex and labor, and are not included in the Sex Trafficking and Labor Trafficking rows.*

Table 7. January 2020 to December Human Trafficking Case Data as Reported by State Sources

³⁶ Anderson, V. R., Kulig, T. C., & Sullivan, C. J. (2019) *Estimating the Prevalence of Human Trafficking in Ohio*, School of Criminal Justice at the University of Cincinnati, Grant No. 2016-JG-HTP-6096 accessed at https://www.humantrafficking.ohio.gov/links/Ohio_Human_Trafficking_Prevalence_Study_Full_Report.pdf

³⁷ 2020 Ohio Human Trafficking Data from State Sources (2020) Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force accessed at <https://www.humantrafficking.ohio.gov/links/2020OhioHumanTraffickingDatafromStateSources.pdf>

Ohio's Family Violence Needs Assessment

In 2021, the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) collaborated with the Ohio Family Violence Prevention Center Advisory Council to update the state's assessment to identify needs and gaps in serving survivors of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking. In addition to the collaborative work with the advisory council, OCJS also subgranted funding to the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (OAESV), the state's sexual assault coalition, and the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN), the state's domestic violence coalition, to conduct needs assessments within specific underserved communities and with survivors.

Part I: Needs Assessment Survey Results

To inform the needs assessment survey, data were gathered directly from providers throughout the state. Participants included 292 individuals representing victim service providers, law enforcement agencies, sexual assault nurse examiners, prosecutors, court personnel, and civil legal service providers. The following provides an overview of key findings from the survey.

Courts

- In general, court-specific respondents identified the following as resources either “insufficient to meet needs” or “unavailable” within the community:
 - Specialized domestic violence programs or courts (67%)
 - Batterer intervention services (67%)
 - Validated lethality or risk assessment tools (56%)
- Most court-specific respondents noted that additional information is needed for court personnel related to stalking but felt that there was sufficient information on human trafficking, sexual assault, dating violence, and domestic violence.

Civil Legal Services

- At least half of civil legal service provider respondents stated that they had not received training on working with victims who are minors, nonfatal strangulation, or cyberstalking vs. First Amendment protections.
- Civil legal service provider respondents ranked their highest trainings needs as:
 - Cyberstalking;
 - Trauma-informed interview practices;
 - Ohio's “Safe at Home” program; and
 - Custody litigation when domestic violence is present.
- With regards to civil legal service needs, respondents ranked the highest needs in their community as:
 - Legal representation for victims
 - Referral to pro bono attorneys
 - On-site social workers and advocates for victims
- With regards to critical needs in client representation that are not currently being met, respondents identified the below as highest need:
 - Representation in housing (e.g., evictions, assertion of VAWA rights in public housing, fair housing, and help with utilities)

- Domestic representation (e.g., representation in protection orders, divorce, custody, child support, alimony, access to property)
- Assistance with public benefits (e.g., access to medical benefits, childcare, transportation, SNAP)

Law Enforcement

- When asked, law enforcement survey respondents identified that the following trainings would be most helpful for their agency:
 - New laws related to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking (78%)
 - Evidence collection for sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking (63%)
 - Enforcement of protection orders (62%)
 - Firearms surrender, confiscation, and return (57%)
 - Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview/trauma informed interviewing skills (50%)
- Over the last year, most law enforcement survey respondents reported that they had not received training on working with certain communities and populations including:
 - Individuals with limited English proficiency (86%)
 - Deaf/Hard of Hearing individuals (82%)
 - Individuals with cognitive disabilities (51%)

Prosecution

- When asked how often their agency is able to implement best practices and services, the following were identified as less likely to be implemented within the prosecutor-respondent based agency compared to other practices:
 - Utilizing expert testimony
 - Informing the court of lethality factors in cases pursuant to Ohio Revised Code
 - Using lethality or risk assessments in case evaluation
 - Continuing to prosecute a case despite reluctant or recanting victims
- When asked about trainings completed, more than two-thirds of the prosecutor-based respondents reported “no or unsure” to whether they had received training on the following topics in the last year:
 - How to assess and try a human trafficking case (75%)
 - How to assess and try a stalking case (70%)
 - Providing clients with culturally relevant services (70%)
 - How to assess and try a sexual assault case (70%)
 - Sexual violence evidence (70%)

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners

- When asked about the most serious issues facing agencies that serve victims using open-ended responses, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner respondents predominantly identified the following issues through open ended responses:

- A lack of education on trauma-informed care for victims and prevention education
- A lack of funding for full-coverage staff, meaning 24/7 staff availability for survivors in emergency.
- A need for additional forensic staff to respond to cases outside of sexual assault cases, including intimate partner violence.
- A need for funding after-care services and follow-up medical care

Victim Service Providers

- In general, victim service respondents identified the following as resources either “insufficient to meet needs” or “unavailable” within the community for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking:
 - Transitional housing (83%)
 - Civil attorneys/legal aid (80%)
 - Childcare (80%)
 - Transportation (77%)
 - Emergency housing-including shelter (72%)
- When asked about the most serious issues facing agencies that serve individuals who have experienced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, victim service providers predominantly identified a lack of funding or funding cuts from state and federal funders in their open-ended responses. Funding cuts and lack of funding were tied to the inability to serve survivors adequately, inability to maintain proper staffing levels to meet the needs of survivors who contact agencies, inability to provide referrals for resources that are external to the serving agencies, inability to coordinate services, and more. In addition to funding cuts and overall funding, limited accessibility and inaccessibility of funding for serving underserved and marginalized populations was also identified.

All Respondents

- The following groups were identified by at least half of all survey respondents as having a “high need for training” in serving victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking.
 - Law enforcement (66%)
 - Judges (56%)
 - Prosecutors (55%)
 - Court staff (51%)
- When it comes to training needs in serving special populations, whether those are underserved, unserved, or inadequately served, all respondents reported the highest needs for training in working with the following populations:
 - Individuals with cognitive disabilities
 - Individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder
 - Individuals that identify as Black or African American
 - Individuals that identify as transgender, non-binary, or gender-fluid
 - Teens and adolescents

Part II: Focus Groups Results

In addition to the online survey, focus groups were conducted throughout Ohio highlighting the perspectives of different disciplines across the state. Questions were developed in collaboration with the Family Violence Prevention Center Advisory Council, building on questions and information from the needs assessment survey and previous years. A total of four focus groups were conducted along with two interviews. All focus groups and interviews were conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams. Each of the four focus groups focused on perspectives of a discipline in the field, including prosecutors, law enforcement, court personnel, victim services, and healthcare providers. In addition to these professions, interview and conversation requests were sent to service providers who focus on culturally specific and underserved populations. Across these different groups and interviews many barriers and issues were discussed. A synopsis of common themes and topics is provided below.

Language Access, Interpreter Services, and Culturally Responsive Services

Language access and interpreter services were identified as a significant gap across the state and across systems. Challenges were identified not only on general availability of interpreters, but also in the quality of interpreters that are available (e.g. knowledge of domestic violence dynamics, specific dialects, knowledge of context around language typically used in advocacy and the trauma response, understanding vicarious trauma, etc.) and how accountability is present in situations where interpreters break code of ethics (e.g. breaking confidentiality, providing advice and services when they are not licensed to do so, providing personal opinion, etc.). Relatedly, in many systems, policies and protocols are missing for creating language access and ensuring that accountability of quality of interpreter services, but also accountability within the agency or organization if accessible services, particularly around language, are not provided.

A need was identified for training agencies on expectations around immigration services and resources and who provides these services. Due to a lack of understanding regarding the immigration process and miscommunication, non-culturally specific agencies can provide inaccurate and unrealistic expectations to clients about the time it takes to secure necessary documentation and thus provide untimely referrals to culturally-specific agencies. While there continues to be a need for services specifically to address culturally-specific needs and immigration concerns, the gap is confounded by unmet expectations and challenges faced by survivors when the timeframe to get documentation is extensive.

Training and Education

Outside of training and education related to language accessibility, culturally specific approaches for each underserved community, and immigration services, the focus groups also brought light to needs on training for personnel, particularly in court settings, on how to address protection orders when physical violence is not apparent. Additionally, training for prosecutors and prosecutor-based advocates on building effective evidence-based prosecution for sexual assault, human trafficking, domestic violence, and stalking cases.

Across all groups, focus group participants noted that very little information on stalking as its own separate issue is available. It is primarily presented as a cooccurrence with domestic violence/intimate partner violence and dismissed and relies on victim persistence in filing reports and documenting the crime prior to reporting. Focus groups specifically stated that there was a

need for training on how to identify stalking and the impact or role of technology in stalking cases. Training for landlords on domestic violence, sexual assault, and victim rights was also identified as a barrier for survivors within focus groups.

Lastly, in several of the focus groups, training and education for first responders and medical staff on trauma-informed care in a medical setting was also discussed. This topic highlighted the needs of trauma-informed interviewing methods and the need for evidence collection in cases where sexual violence wasn't the main reason for a victim presenting at a hospital (e.g., forensic exams for victims of intimate partner violence).

Recruitment and Retention Efforts of Quality Staff

Throughout the feedback process, victim service and prosecutor-based focus group participants expressed the need for specific attention to recruitment and retention efforts of qualified personnel. With the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, staff shortages were reported anecdotally. With staff shortages due to the pandemic paired with the rising need for services, staff placed within victim-serving agencies experienced burnout ultimately leading to turnover from their positions. In several areas of the state, shelters and victim advocates are paid comparable or less than jobs that are often not associated with vicarious trauma or working to address the needs of individuals in crisis. Focus group participants emphasized the need for agencies to address burnout and retention efforts meaningfully, whether through increased pay rates and/or benefits such as paid-time off, medical insurance, and a culture that prioritizes self-care in addition to a victim-centered approach.

Specific Resources

In focus groups, specific resources identified as needs and gaps in services for survivors included:

- Mental health services, both long term mental health, trauma therapy, support groups, and substance use disorder services;
- Transportation for survivors to access identified services;
- Access to childcare to help facilitate access to systems that survivors engage with;
- Coverage of costs for all components of a forensic exam without the need for a survivor to complete the entire exam;
- Staffing for specialized forensic nurses to maintain 24/7 coverage;

Part III: Assessments incorporating the needs and gaps in specific underserved populations

In 2021, the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (OAESV) and the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) were granted funding to address the identification of survivor needs and barriers experienced by underserved and marginalized communities. Their findings from the feedback directly from survivors is summarized in the following paragraphs.

Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence

To increase the effectiveness and quality of support services for survivors of sexual assault in Ohio, OAESV held community forums and conversations throughout Ohio to create space for Ohio's Deaf and hard of hearing survivors, transgender and gender-nonconforming survivors, and rural survivors to share their experiences interacting with different systems. As a result of these community forums, OAESV developed graphic illustrations outlining

conversations and resources guides to assist service agencies in creating equitable space for survivors of these communities.³⁸ Key points of these conversations are as follows:

Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing Survivors

- The impact of a lack of interpreters completely, or lack of quality interpreters within systems is significant, for example:
 - Police often use family members or children to interpret when they show up without a qualified interpreter, potentially putting the abuser in control of the reporting situation.
 - There are excessive wait times during emergencies, which may result in Deaf survivors moving forward in systems without an interpreter at all.
 - In intimate situations, there's often no choice or option for the interpreter, even when there is someone available (e.g. only cis-men interpreters available during a hospital visit after an assault or rape).
- Given that the Deaf and hard of hearing communities are so small, there are often negative impacts on survivors, including:
 - Potential isolation from the Deaf community when reporting occurs as anonymity is often not an option and gossip spreads.
 - When harm has occurred in Deaf-centric institutions, community silence occurs and there's a lack of offender and systems accountability.
 - There's an overall lack of education around consent and sex education in Deaf and hearing schools.

Serving Transgender & Gender Non-Conforming Survivors

- When asked what violence looks like in transgender and gender non-conforming (GNC) communities, community members stated that there's an overall lack of acknowledgement and representation of transgender and GNC folks. For example, in data presentation linked to funding there is no data collection on transgender and GNC individuals and there is inaccurate and missing representation in media, which fosters stereotypes. These barriers limit the ability to identify gaps in services and where growth in services can occur.
- Violence is also seen in how legislative action describe trans identities as a mental illness and mental health issues. Relatedly, forum participants noted how access to healthcare for trans and GNC individuals is “constantly under attack” with limitations in access for the community. As such, there is a need for education and public education about Transgender and GNC communities.
- Resources are also needed that flow to trans/GNC communities rather than the expectation that individuals seek out services in places that do not explicitly serve transgender and GNC individuals. If these services are not explicitly available and community providers are making referrals, then vetting to ensure safety and inclusivity for transgender and GNC must be done prior to providers making any external referrals.
- Sex education that centers transgender and GNC youth was also expressed as a need by forum participants.

³⁸ Community Forums: Reimagining Anti-Violence in Ohio's Communities to Increase Equity in Services (2021). Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence accessed online at [Community Forums – Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence \(oaesv.org\)](https://www.oaesv.org/community-forums)

Serving Survivors in Rural Communities

- One major barrier experienced by survivors in rural communities is isolation. Spatial isolation creates barriers in accessing services, heightening the need for transportation. Social isolation creates barriers in social support and connectedness to safety and diverse service options, and systems isolation creates the perception on a larger scale that harm and violence are not occurring in these communities.
- Overall, forum participants identified needs around more services in general. Transportation and childcare are often not accessible, there is limited funding for services in rural areas, and in many cases communities rely on resources from big systems in metro and urban areas that have branched out to surrounding communities. Regardless, it is common for one agency of given specialty to serve multiple counties.
- Conversations also brought to light the social norms around violence, guns, poverty and the need for survivors to be treated as individuals with complex experiences and for trust-building to be facilitated by community-led initiatives.

Ohio Domestic Violence Network

ODVN conducted a statewide survey and focus groups with 588 domestic violence survivors to better understand their experiences when seeking help from law enforcement, courts, child welfare, and social services systems.³⁹ The assessment specifically focused on examining differences in services and experiences of Black/African American women, other women of color, immigrants, LGBTQ+, and Deaf/Hard of Hearing domestic violence survivors. While ODVN identifies that most survivors had positive experiences with systems including law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, domestic violence organizations and other services, differences were identified in how survivors experienced problems given that survivors of color, immigrants, and LGBTQ+ survivors were over-represented. Key findings from the ODVN assessment include:

Experiences with Law Enforcement

- Roughly 33% of survivors fearful of calling 911 expressed fear of violence from the police;
- Victims who felt disrespected by law enforcement (e.g., that concerns were not taken seriously or who experienced blame) were much more likely to come from marginalized communities.
- Officers were more likely to interview children of marginalized survivors compared to non-marginalized survivors.
- Women of color reported 30% more often than white survivors that police officers questioned their children.
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing survivors consistently reported problems accessing language interpreters with police, courts, and social service providers. Only one participant (of 22) responded that they had been provided an interpreter when they called police.

³⁹ *Seeking Safety, Equity, and Justice 2021 Ohio Statewide Survey Results: Domestic Violence Survivors' Experiences with Law Enforcement, Courts, Child Welfare and Social Service Systems (2022)*. Ohio Domestic Violence Network. Accessed at [Seeking Safety Equity and Justice Appendices.pdf \(odvn.org\)](#)

- Male survivors were the least likely group to have ever called 911 and were 20% less likely to call the police again based on their experiences with dispatch.

Experiences with Courts and Prosecutors

- Women of color were 21% more likely to have child protective services (CPS) involvement compared to white women.
- Just 59% of participants had an advocate during prosecution, with many saying they learned about services too late. For those that did have an advocate, 92% found them helpful in their efforts of gaining safety.
- LGBTQ+ survivors indicated the highest levels of being criticized by judges, magistrates, prosecutors, and advocates for seeking a protection order after previously having one; more than three times as often compared to their heterosexual counterparts.

Experiences of Survivors with Children and Child Protective Services

- LGBTQ+ parents reported 15% higher CPS involvement compared to heterosexual parent survivors.
- Women of color survivors were involved with child welfare workers 21% more often than white survivors.
- Women of color who were not Black/African American experienced high rates of being threatened with losing their children, more than double the rate for white women.
- LGBTQ+ survivors were threatened with their children being taken away at the highest rate (41% of all LGBTQ+ survey respondents). This is more than double the rate of heterosexual survivors.

Ohio's Response Considering the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on survivors in Ohio and on the programs that provide them with critically needed services. Just one example is the impact that the pandemic has had on families experiencing domestic violence. Following the onset of the pandemic, domestic violence shelters and programs have faced serious challenges in adapting to new methods of serving survivors while keeping them safe. The Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN), surveyed 56 domestic violence programs in 2020 about how the pandemic has affected them, with a key finding that 59% of surveyed programs experienced disruptions in staffing due to resignations or staff illness.⁴⁰ Without adequate PPE, sanitizing products and fair compensation, some workers are leaving their domestic violence jobs for employment with other agencies that provide protection and competitive hazard pay.

Despite the challenges shelters and service providers have faced, the need for their services hasn't gone away. As such, Ohio shelters, crisis centers, and victims service providers have stepped up to support survivors in this time. To quantify this, all of Ohio's domestic violence programs participate in a 24-hour national census of services conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV). In the 2019 DV Counts Survey there were 2,640

⁴⁰Ohio Domestic Violence Network. *A Dangerous Intersection: The Call for Supporting Families Experiencing Domestic Violence During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Ohio*, 2020, <https://www.odvn.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/ODVN-COVID-19-Report.pdf><https://www.odvn.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/ODVN-COVID-19-Report.pdf>

adult and child victims served, compared to 2,650 victims served in 2020.⁴¹ Despite the added challenges for survivors to access services, the number of survivors who found services marginally increased.

The Ohio Domestic Violence Network provided member services to 111,487 survivors, including 8,753 children in CY 2021.⁴² Specifically, ODVN provides a legal assistance program that helped over 480 survivors with a wide range of legal services. In CY 2021, ODVN helped shelter 7,497 survivors, including 2,980 children. Additionally, the ODVN relocation program helped 568 survivors and 656 children move into safe homes with their families in 2021, while the hotel program has helped 564 survivors and 644 children. Advocating to a broader audience about the issues that affect Ohio survivors, ODVN held 207 trainings to 12,012 attendants in 2021 as well.

Ohio has additional agencies whose services span across the state. The Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (OAESV) is a statewide coalition that advocates for comprehensive responses and rape crisis services for survivors and to empower communities to prevent sexual violence. OASV collects information on the 32 rape crisis programs in the state, and the latest data from 2018 shows that 30,888 survivors and co-survivors were served by helplines. Additionally, 22,464 survivors and 2,970 co-survivors were served by all programs supported by OAESV combined. The Alliance provided legal advocacy to 6,686 survivors and co-survivors, counseling services to 4,880 survivors and co-survivors, and support group opportunities to 5,103 survivors and co-survivors. In 2021, OAESV held trainings via webinar, online meetings, and two virtual conferences that provided relevant information for victim service professionals, allied professionals, and the public, that were attended by 8,552 people.⁴³

While the need for services to support survivors of domestic and sexual violence remained consistent, revenue streams for programs have decreased since the beginning of the pandemic. For example, Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants are the largest funding source for most of Ohio's domestic violence and sexual assault response programs but were cut by more than \$20 million from FFY20 to FFY21.⁴⁴ Alongside the decrease in VOCA funds, many fundraising events have been canceled, putting non-profit providers in a strained financial condition when they've indicated that there is an urgent need for emergency funding. In a 2020 survey of 32 Ohio rape crisis centers, the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence found that 89% of rape crisis centers need emergency stimulus funding to respond to survivor requests.⁴⁵

⁴¹ National Network to End Domestic Violence, *16th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report*. Washington, DC., March, 2022. Retrieved from: <https://nnev.org/resources-library/16th-annual-domestic-violence-counts-report-vermont-summary/><https://nnev.org/resources-library/16th-annual-domestic-violence-counts-report-vermont-summary/>

⁴² Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN), *ODVN Fact Sheet: April 2022*, May, 2022, https://www.odvn.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/ODVNFactSheet_May2022.pdfhttps://www.odvn.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/ODVNFactSheet_May2022.pdf

⁴³ Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence, *Annual Report 2020*, 2021, https://oaesv.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/REV-8-11-21_OAESV_Annual-Report20_Layout_reference.pdf

⁴⁴ Ohio Domestic Violence Network, *Serious Funding Cuts Threaten Ohio's Domestic Violence Programs*. Columbus, OH, 25 Sep. 2020, Press-Release_VOCA-cuts_V3-3.pdf (odvn.org)

⁴⁵ Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence, *Sexual Violence in Ohio: The Effects of COVID-19*, 26, 2020. Retrieved from https://oaesv.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/covid-19_report_only_-_final.pdf

Over 75% of centers surveyed indicated that they need funding to meet the emergency needs of survivors (food rent, etc.), around 70% of respondents are requesting additional funds to provide quality services to vulnerable communities (immigrants, homeless, culturally specific, etc.), and over 60% require funds to purchase laptops, tablets, etc. for staff to support survivors remotely.⁴⁶

While stay-at-home orders have been lifted, rape crisis centers, domestic violence programs, and other victim response agencies are adjusting to a new normal where in-person services are being re-introduced alongside the integration of hybrid and virtual methods adopted over the past two years to best meet the needs of Ohioans.

III. Description of Planning Process

As the state-designated agency to administer Ohio’s STOP VAWA funding, OCJS assumed the lead role to prepare the Federal Fiscal year 2022 to 2025 Implementation Plan for Ohio. The Family Violence Prevention Center, housed within OCJS, serves as an information clearinghouse for public and private organizations that provide assistance to victims. The center also includes a multi-disciplinary advisory body, The Ohio Family Violence Prevention Center Advisory Council (Advisory Council), comprised of stated experts and community leaders on domestic, sexual, family violence and human trafficking prevention and intervention. The Advisory Council conducts work primarily through committees, one of which is the STOP VAWA Implementation Planning Committee (Planning Committee). Membership for this committee is expanded beyond the Advisory Council membership to ensure broad representation in the planning process and to promote improved services for underserved, unserved, and inadequately served populations in the state.

The Planning Committee is a multidisciplinary group of stakeholders whose purpose is to assist with strategic planning related to STOP VAWA criminal justice projects, policies, and practices throughout the state including:

1. State sexual assault coalition
2. State domestic violence coalition
3. ~~Dual domestic violence and sexual assault coalition~~ N/A
4. Law enforcement entity or State law enforcement organization
5. Prosecution entity or State prosecution organization
6. A court or the State Administrative Office of the Courts
7. ~~Representatives from tribes, tribal organizations, or tribal coalitions~~ N/A
8. Population specific organizations representing the most significant underserved populations and culturally specific populations in the State other than tribes (which are addressed separately)
9. Other if relevant (including survivors, probation, parole, etc.)

Documentation for each Planning Committee member is provided in Appendix A.

The Implementation Plan was informed and developed as a result of meetings that occurred predominantly virtually over the course of 2019, 2020, and 2021. From the perspective

⁴⁶ Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence, *Sexual Violence in Ohio: The Effects of COVID-19*, 26, 2020. Retrieved from https://oaesv.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/covid-19_report_only_-_final.pdf

of the Planning Committee, the needs assessment process incorporated information using a three-prong approach using a needs assessment survey, focus groups, and survivor engagement. In early 2021, a needs assessment survey was administered by OCJS in partnership with the Advisory Council. Focus groups were facilitated by a Social Sciences Research Specialist at OCJS in Fall of 2021, with questions informed by Planning Committee members and survey results. Both the survey and focus groups engaged law enforcement, victim service agencies, healthcare providers, prosecutor office and court staff, and culturally-specific agencies. In addition to the needs assessment survey and focus groups coordinated by OCJS and the Planning Committee, OAESV and ODVN were provided funding to work with local partners to engage survivors of specific underserved communities and to hear about their experiences with accessing systems. The findings of these assessments are discussed in detail within the needs and context section.

The primary concern discussed during the previous planning and needs assessment process was a lack of outreach and engagement with survivors and communities directly, particularly those in underserved communities and agencies. To help address this through the needs assessment process, ODVN and OAESV were funded given their expertise and existing relationships with community partners. Given their work with programs throughout the state and strong relationships with local programs, the state coalitions were able to create a space for survivors to safely and confidentially share their experiences and to help inform priorities for funding based on their needs directly. Though survivors had the opportunity to engage in the needs assessment process directly, there is still work to be done in applying intentionality of how survivor feedback is communicated and applied without further exploiting the voices of those who chose to participate by offering lasting benefits and change based on feedback from the individuals.

Another gap identified as the needs assessment process concluded was missing needs identified from within underserved populations. While the needs assessment process focused on identification of needs around training on these underserved and culturally specific populations, gaps remained in direct representation from all communities. Specifically, the assessment notes that training is needed for service providers and systems on working with individuals with cognitive disabilities and individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, however, these communities were not directly engaged to hear about the needs and experiences of people living with a disability or neurodiversity. Feedback was also received regarding the incorporation of needs and resources for the aging population in Ohio as it relates to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking. As such, the planning committee meetings will continue to highlight growth and trainings on these topics from experts in Ohio and incorporate their feedback into the ongoing planning and accountability process.

In addition to input from the Planning Committee, the STOP VAWA Implementation Plan was developed in coordination with the state plan for the Family Violence Prevention Services Act and the programs under the Victims of Crime Act and section 393A of the Public Health Service Act (Rape Prevention Education). This occurs primarily through OCJS' committee membership on the Interagency Victims Assistance Coordinating Committee (IVACC). This committee is composed of key Ohio agencies that administer victim assistance funding. The committee was established to increase collaboration among state agencies with the goal of

improving services for victims of violence. This interagency collaboration has been an important element for informing the state planning process. For this reason, these agencies are also members of the STOP VAWA Implementation Planning Committee.

- Office of Criminal Justice Services:⁴⁷
 - STOP VAWA
 - Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA)
- Ohio Department of Health
 - Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Prevention Program (SADVPP),
 - Rape Prevention Education (RPE) Program
 - Sexual Assault Service Program (SASP)
- Ohio Attorney General's Office
 - Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)
 - State Victims Assistance Act (SVAA)
 - Ohio Victims of Crime Compensation Program
- Ohio Department of Higher Education
 - Campus Safety - Changing Campus Culture
- Ohio Children's Trust Fund - new member
 - Sole public funding source dedicated to child abuse and neglect.

IV. Documentation from Programs

Need and Use for Grant Funds:

Each state is required to provide information from each of the disciplines (prosecution, law enforcement, court and victim services programs) that describes the following:

- The need for grant funds;
- The intended use of the grant funds;
- The expected result of the grant funds; and
- The demographic characteristics of the population to be served including age, disability, race, ethnicity, and language background.

Refer to Appendix B for letters from Prosecution, Law Enforcement, Court, and Victim Service Programs.

V. Plan for the Four-Year Implementation Period

Goals and Objectives

The following long-term Goals and Objectives have been identified for the FFY 2022-2025 implementation plan and were initially identified based on results from a needs assessment implemented in 2013 and incorporated into subsequent implementation plans. Continuing to focus on the same long-term goals and objectives is important to sustaining progress that has been made on the objectives since 2014.

⁴⁷ OCJS also administers the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG) which includes a victim service program category.

Goal 1: Multidisciplinary and program specific projects will meaningfully address and ensure coordinated community responses for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.			
Objective 1 Provide training for multidisciplinary and program specific agencies to ensure a coordinated community response.	Objective 2 Coordinate resources, address barriers, and advocate for increased access to economic justice needs. ⁴⁸	Objective 3 Increase access to resources for underserved populations and limited English proficient victims.	
Goal 2: Domestic violence homicides will be reduced throughout the state.			
Objective 1 Provide training to multidisciplinary and program specific agencies to ensure a coordinated community response.	Objective 2 Provide technical assistance for the provision of countywide fatality reviews.	Objective 3 Coordinate resources, address barriers, and advocate for increased access to economic justice needs.	Objective 4 Increase access to resources for underserved populations and limited English proficient victims.
Goal 3: Meaningfully address services for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.			
Objective 1 Provide training to multidisciplinary and program specific agencies to ensure a coordinated community response.	Objective 2 Coordinate resources, address barriers, and advocate for increased access to economic justice needs.	Objective 3 Increase access to resources for underserved populations and limited English proficient victims.	

Distribution of Funds for Core Categories

Federal requirements mandate the VAWA funding distribution within Ohio’s justice system. OCJS determines funding categories for projects based on the agency implementing the project

⁴⁸ “Research indicates that financial abuse is experienced in 98% of abusive relationships and surveys of survivors reflect that concerns over their ability to provide financially for themselves and their children was one of the top reason for staying in or returning to a battering relationship.” National Network to End Domestic Violence, *Economic Justice Project*, Retrieved from <http://nnedv.org/resources/ejresources/about-financial-abuse.html>

and the services most directly supported by the project. All allocation categories identified below are disbursed based on the type of organization that benefits from the VAWA program and the type of services supported by the program. Discretionary funding may be used for any of the categories as deemed appropriate by OCJS.

- Law Enforcement 25%
- Prosecution 25%
- Victim Services 30%⁴⁹
- Court 5%⁵⁰
- Discretionary 15%

Pursuant to the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (H.R. 3402), STOP VAWA funding decisions must take into consideration that 10% of the 30% that is allocated to victim services must be distributed to community-based organizations that provide culturally specific services.

State Priority Areas

The FFY2022-FFY2025 implementation plan identified and gives priority to the following programs areas to meet the Ohio goals and objectives.

Program Priorities for Culturally Specific, Underserved, and Overlooked Populations

Capacity Building Priority Areas:

- Training and technical assistance towards providing access to culturally and linguistically accessible services
- Services for culturally specific, underserved and overlooked populations through culturally and linguistically appropriate practices provided by population-specific organizations and agencies
- Anti-bias training for every system responding to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking
- Cultural and community audits to assess internal capacity and community capacity to serve marginalized populations and the intersectionality of survivor identities
- Training for non-culturally specific agencies on expectations on immigration services and immigration resources to ensure appropriate referrals are being made
- Develop and increase culturally and linguistically appropriate practices in systems that victims interact with by:
 - o Ensuring multi-lingual quality access to program materials
 - o Establishing interpreter contracts in advance with qualified interpreters
 - o Establishing legal competence to provide legal consent
 - o Ensuring victims and survivors understand their rights in medical and legal settings

Training Priority Areas:

- Title IX education on Deaf and hard of hearing rights
- Title VI (Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons and American with Disabilities Act requirements)

⁴⁹ 10% of funds directed toward Victim Services must go to culturally specific community-based organizations

⁵⁰ Funds awarded from the court allocation are required to be awarded “to” courts rather than “for” courts

- Prevention and healthy relationship education within underserved communities while considering cultural practices and social norms

Partnerships and Collaboration Priority Areas:

- Establish or increase partnerships with culturally specific service providers that address the intersectionality of survivor identities by:
 - o Expanding partnerships beyond requests and fulfillment of interpretation-based services only
 - o Requesting co-advocacy, training and technical assistance with local and community based, state, and national professionals
 - o Supporting culturally specific providers in becoming domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking experts
- Establish or increase partnerships with underserved and overlooked population service providers by requesting co-advocacy, training and technical assistance with local and community based, state, and national professionals
- Ensure extensive bridging between Developmental Disabilities (DD) system providers and victim service providers

Priority Areas for Court-Based Programs

Training and Education Priority Areas:

- Training on protection order enforcement
- Education on obtaining protection orders when violence is not apparent, including coercive control
- Training on coercive control, stalking, and cyberstalking
- Training judicial officers and other court personnel in neurobiology of trauma
- Training and education on validated lethality or risk assessment tool

Judicial Resources and Protocols that Promote Innovative Practices Priority Areas:

- Firearms disability and protection orders trainings for law enforcement and prosecution to address the relationship and specific laws surrounding these issues as well as the intersection between federal and state
- Effective and consistent judicial responses that promote offender accountability
- Referral programming to hold offenders accountable through effective Batterer Intervention Programs that adhere to standards for Ohio programs
- Evidence-based risk assessments designed for intimate partner violence offenders, including those on parole or probation and dangerousness/lethality assessments designed to enhance victim safety
- Programs that respond to the needs of victims with co-occurring disorders related to mental health and/or substance abuse
- Programs that respond that respond to needs of victims who have experienced brain injury to ensure access to services
- Programs that promote access to childcare for victims through partnerships with local providers or reassessing court resources
- Programs that utilize the services of the Domestic Violence Program of the Supreme Court of Ohio

Language Access Priority Areas:

- Programs that use certified court interpreters, who have received training in domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking
- Programs that provide in-person and remote (audio and/or video) accessibility
- Programming to make quality translated material readily available
- Training regarding addressing the needs of parties from diverse populations through culturally competent services, including what to expect from and how to utilize qualified interpreters
- Programs that promote access to the courthouse through signage in other languages.
- Consult the Supreme Court of Ohio Rules of Superintendence related to language access
- Programs that work with the Language Services Program of the Supreme Court of Ohio

Specialized Dockets for Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, and Human Trafficking

Program Priority Areas include dockets that:

- Promote intensive supervision of high-risk offenders
- Hold regular status review of offenders
- Order appropriate interventions for offenders
- Adopt practices and protocols that ensure victim safety and confidentiality
- Adopt practices and protocols that encourage, prioritize, and incorporate victim input
- Contact the Specialized Docket Section of the Supreme Court of Ohio

Priority Areas for Prosecutor-Based Programs

Specialized Units Priority Areas:

- Programs that enhance and/or create specialized units for sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and/or human trafficking
- Provide prosecutor-based legal advocacy and ensure confidentiality for victims
- Collaborate with community-based victim advocates

Training Program Priority Areas:

- Trauma informed practices for prosecution to improve service to and interviews with victims.
- Use and implementation of lethality or risk assessments in case evaluation
- Informing courts of lethality factors pursuant to O.R.C. 2919.251
- Firearms disability and protection orders trainings for law enforcement and prosecution to address the relationship and specific laws surrounding these issues as well as the intersection between federal and state.
- Determining admissible evidence and the use of experts, DNA, and toxicology
- Building an effective evidence-based prosecution for domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking cases
- Child Sex Abuse cases/Training that addresses how to identify and prosecute cases and to better understand survivor neurobiology of trauma and trauma responses
- Coordinated Community Response (CCR) training regarding healthcare's role in the prosecution of these cases
- Training and capacity building on addressing strangulation including creating a list of strangulation experts and involvement of health care professionals (e.g., forensic nurses)

- Cross training and collaboration with other agencies to expand and enhance capacity of all collaboration team members for the benefits of victims needing services whether they are working with prosecution
- Addressing the needs of clients from diverse populations through culturally and linguistically competent services, including what to expect from and how to utilize qualified interpreters

Capacity Building Program Priority Areas:

- Providing safe and accessible childcare options for victims presenting for court while they are conducting court business
- Acknowledging poly-victimization and intersectionality of crimes
- Increasing collaboration with content experts (i.e. rape crisis providers, domestic violence providers, survivors of crime, and forensic nurses)
- Increasing collaboration and programming that is embedded in underserved and unserved communities

Priority Areas for Law Enforcement-Based Programs

Training and Accountability Priority Areas:

- Reviews/revisions and development of department policies on response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking including but not limited to the administration of lethality and risk assessments.
- Investigation, interviewing and evidence gathering.
- Determining the primary aggressor and integrating primary aggressor assessments;
- Enforcement of protection orders;
- Firearms disability and protection orders trainings for law enforcement and prosecution to address the relationship and specific laws surrounding these issues as well as the intersection between federal and state.
- Firearms surrender, storage, confiscation, and return;
- Developing and implementing protocols and best practices on social media and maintaining boundaries while using technology for the purpose of filing stalking charges (i.e., protection order and stalking violations).
- Accountability relative to the obligations required of law enforcement under statute.
- Working with and responding to culturally specific and/or underserved populations through trauma-informed care.
- Neurobiology of trauma training – to strengthen law enforcement’s understanding of the impact of trauma and victim’s response.
- Trauma-informed interview and investigative practices.

Capacity Building Priority Areas:

- Specialized units that expand/co-locate units for domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking.
- Develop and/or increase collaboration by:
 - o Increasing the number of Sexual Assault Response Teams and their collaboration with sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE), forensic nurses, victim services, prosecutors, probation, elder abuse and children protective service agencies.

- o Establishing or increasing partnerships with culturally specific service providers to ensure all populations are referred to culturally-appropriate services.
- Provide quality interpreter services that:
 - o Provide and ensure the use of effective interpretation services for limited English proficient and Deaf victims.
 - o Incorporate co-advocacy, training and technical assistance with local and community-based, state and national professionals.

Priority Areas for Victim Service Programs

Housing Priority Areas:

- Emergency shelter support services
- Transitional supportive housing services
- Training for landlords on domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking and victim rights

Training Priority Areas:

- Evidence-based practices, including trauma-informed care and providing culturally and linguistically appropriate services
- Medical advocacy
- Safe and Together model for cases in which domestic violence is present
- Stalking both as part of intimate partner violence and outside of intimate partner violence and sexual assault
- Cross-systems trainings for community-based advocates and systems-based advocates to encourage engagement and collaboration for improved survivor interactions

Capacity Building Priority Areas:

- Recruitment and retention efforts of personnel that reduce burnout
- Provide quality interpreter services that:
 - o Provide effective interpretation services for limited English proficient and Deaf victims
 - o Incorporate co-advocacy with culturally-specific agencies, training and technical assistance with local and community-based, state and national professionals.
- Long-term mental health services from licensed professionals
- Trauma specific counseling and therapy
- Group support services
- Responding to the needs of victims with co-occurring disorders related to mental health and/or substance abuse.
- Transportation accessibility within systems that victims/survivors interact with
- Access to childcare within systems that victims/survivors interact with
- Access to affordable substance use disorder treatment services

Priority Areas for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner and Forensic Nurse Programs

Capacity Building Priority Areas:

- Access to sexual assault nurse examiners and forensic nurses
- Provide quality interpreter services that:
 - o Provide effective interpretation services for limited English proficient and Deaf victims within hospitals and healthcare settings

- o Incorporate co-advocacy with culturally-specific agencies, training and technical assistance with local and community-based, state and national professionals
- Increase collaboration with hospitals and accessibility of advocates within hospitals

Training Priority Areas:

- Trauma-informed care and victim-centered models
- First responder training for trauma-informed evidence collection
- Ongoing comprehensive screening when victims present and available resources
- Relationship development and working with multi-disciplinary teams

Priority Areas for Civil Legal Services

Direct Services Priority Areas:

- Civil legal assistance and legal service funds
- On-site social workers, client support specialists, and advocates for victims
- Assistance with public benefits such as access to medical benefits, childcare, SNAP, OWF, and transportation
- Assistance provision around housing (e.g., evictions, assertion of VAWA rights in public housing, fair housing, utilities)
- Legal assistance in domestic relations/family court, including protection orders, divorce, custody, child support alimony, access to property, and more
- Effective interpretation services for limited English proficient and Deaf victims

Training Priority Areas:

- Child welfare litigation involving domestic violence calls
- Cyberstalking
- Trauma-informed interview practices
- Ohio’s “Safe at Home” Program
- Safety-focused parenting plans
- Trauma informed practices to improve service to and interviews with victims
- Use and implementation of lethality or risk assessments in case evaluation
- Firearms disability and protection orders trainings regarding the relationship and specific laws surrounding these issues as well as the intersection between federal and state.
- Training and capacity building on addressing strangulation including creating a list of strangulation experts and involvement of health care professionals (e.g., forensic nurses)

Statutory Priority Areas

State Planning to Meet Sexual Assault Set-Aside

Under VAWA 2013, 20 percent of funds granted to a state shall be allocated for programs or projects in two or more allocations (victim services, courts, law enforcement, and prosecution) that meaningfully address sexual assault, including stranger rape, acquaintance rape, alcohol or drug-facilitated rape, and rape within the context of an intimate partner relationship. Ohio plans to meet the set-aside requirement through the following:

Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (OAESV)-State Sexual Assault Coalition

OAESV is a critical element to ensure funding is allocated to support programming that meaningfully addresses sexual assault. As a STOP VAWA implementation planning committee member OAESV will continue to serve an important role in the following processes:

- Provider of Resources:
 - Culturally responsive and trauma informed direct services.
 - Training resources for programming across the federal allocation categories (Victim Services, Law Enforcement, Prosecution and Courts).
 - Sexual Assault Response Team development.
- Statewide Needs Assessments-OAESV's role is important to the development and implementation of the STOP VAWA implementation planning needs assessment process, as well as other relevant data gathering processes throughout the state. As described in the Needs Assessment process, OAESV's role as the state's recognized sexual assault coalition has been crucial to prioritizing the inclusion of survivor feedback particularly through the lens of resource access for underserved and/or culturally specific populations.

The Sexual Assault Advisory Board of Ohio (SAABO)

SAABO, is co-convened by the Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, and Ohio Attorney General's Office. SAABO's mission is to ensure all victims (patients/individuals/survivors) of sexual assault or sexual abuse have consistent access to quality medical care in the collection of evidence that meet the standards set forth in the Ohio Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical and Forensic Examination".

Interagency Victims Assistance Coordinating Committee (IVACC)

As described in the description of the planning process OCJS is a member of the Interagency Victims Assistance Coordinating Committee (IVACC). Membership includes the Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Attorney General's Crime Victims Services Section, and the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

- Ohio Department of Health
 - Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Prevention Program (SADVPP),
 - Rape Prevention Education (RPE) Program
 - Sexual Assault Service Program (SASP)
- Ohio Department of Higher Education
 - Campus Safety - Changing Campus Culture

Guidance and information obtained from participating on this committee assists to inform the types of programming occurring throughout the state, request for proposal development, best practices and monitoring.

State Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinator

OCJS houses the State Anti-Trafficking Coordinator and is the lead agency of the Governor's Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force. OCJS is readily available as a resource for programs seeking to serve victims of sex and labor trafficking who are very likely victims of sexual violence (and/or domestic violence and dating violence). While there are similarities between the service needs of survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence, dating

violence, and sexual assault, it is also important for programs to be familiar with the service considerations unique to human trafficking survivors. OCJS has developed resources for programs to assist in serving, and particularly housing, this under-served population through the provision of guidance, resources, and training.

Incorporating Voices from the Sexual Assault Field, Culturally Specific Community Based Organizations and Underserved Populations in the Competitive Application Review Process

OCJS implements a competitive application review process (refer to Grant Making Strategy) which includes a peer review component. Important to this component is ensuring experts from the field of sexual assault are participants. Additionally, it is important that OCJS continue to include participants who create and implement programming by and for culturally specific and underserved populations to participate in the review of applications to ensure culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate services are provided for victims/survivors.

Addressing the Needs of Underserved Victims Federal guidelines identify VAWA underserved populations to include geographic location (rural isolation), underserved racial and ethnic populations, special needs populations (language barriers, disabilities, alienage or age) or any other population identified in consultation with the U.S. Attorney General. All OCJS applicants that request funding through the STOP VAWA solicitation must also identify at least one underserved population. Applicants must also demonstrate how the project will increase and enhance services for culturally specific, underserved and overlooked populations through culturally competent practices as described in the “Priorities and Approaches” section. Each applicant’s statement of the problem in their community should include a detailed response to the following questions:

“What are the underserved populations your project will serve?”

- *Avoid identifying “all” victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking as underserved.*

“Why are the populations currently underserved?”

- *What are the barriers to services for the populations?*
- *Are the underserved populations attempting to access services? If not, then why not?*

“How will the project meet the needs of the underserved populations?”

- *What efforts will or are occurring to promote eliminating barriers to accessing services, and help increase the utilization of services for underserved populations?*

Applicants **MUST** clearly describe whether the underserved community falls into one of the following three-tier populations:

- **Unserved:** *populations that have no services available to them.*
- **Underserved:** *populations that have minimal access and are in need of more outreach and support.*

- ***Inadequately served:*** *Historically marginalized populations that may be overrepresented, but remain inadequately served with specific reference to the quality of service and a “one-size-fits-all” approach.*⁵¹

State Planning to Meet Culturally Specific Set-Aside

Utilizing the three-tier matrix in the review process will assist OCJS in determining culturally specific programs and projects to be funded from the required 10 percent victim service set aside.

Additional criteria will be evaluated to determine if the applicant is eligible to receive funding from the **culturally** specific set aside such as whether the primary role of the applicant is to provide services to racial and ethnic populations, or whether it has demonstrated competency to provide services to culturally specific targeted populations. Further consideration will include assessing whether the representatives from the targeted communities have been included with the planning and development of outreach and services to be provided.

The FFY2022 – FFY2025 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan will continue to enhance the current grant making strategy through the release of a **separate** solicitation intended for culturally specific community-based organizations whose purpose is to provide culturally specific services for racial and ethnic communities.

Culturally Specific Set-Aside Subrecipients

Pursuant to the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (H.R. 3402), STOP VAWA funding decisions must take into consideration that 10% of the 30% that is allocated to victim services must be distributed to community-based organizations that provide culturally specific services.

The term ‘culturally specific’ means primarily directed toward racial and ethnic minority groups (as defined in section 1707(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u–6(g)).

“(7) CULTURALLY SPECIFIC SERVICES.—The term ‘culturally specific services’ means community-based services that include culturally relevant and linguistically specific services and resources to culturally specific communities.

It is not known which subrecipients meeting the culturally specific set-aside definition will receive funding. OCJS will announce the funding solicitation via traditional resources and through venues specifically focused on providing services for culturally specific populations. OCJS will continue to release a separate request for proposal (RFP) tailored specifically for culturally specific victim service applicants. OCJS releases the separate RFP following the traditional grant review cycle (***refer to Grant-making strategy***).

Grant-making Strategy

STOP Grant Cycle Timeline

OCJS posts a Grants Calendar at www.ocjs.ohio.gov that provides constituents with Request for Proposal release dates; due dates; notification dates, and project start dates for *all* OCJS federal grants. STOP VAWA request for proposals are released in May and due in June.

⁵¹ Women of Color Network, 2013

STOP VAWA Culturally Specific Request for proposals are released in June and due in July. Notification of funding recommendations for both application processes are typically made in November.

Methods Used to Release the Solicitation

Information about various funding streams, solicitations and a grants calendar are available online at www.ocjs.ohio.gov. Notice of funding availability is provided via news releases made through the Governor's office, social media and an OCJS electronic newsletter that is distributed to a broad range of constituents and include criminal justice organizations and service providers across the state.

Technical Assistance

OCJS hosts a Bidder's Conference following the release of the VAWA Request for Proposal. This conference serves a dual purpose as it provides an overview of the STOP VAWA application requirements and provides a forum for prospective grantees to ask questions about the grant writing process. OCJS provides grant writing workshops several times a year, however due to the COVID-19 pandemic workshops have been on hold as strategies to develop virtual trainings are explored. Applicants are encouraged to contact OCJS staff for assistance with any part of the proposals and solicitation process. After funding is received OCJS provides both programmatic and fiscal technical assistance. This may occur through virtual webinar trainings, site visits and post site visit activities.

Consultation with Victim Service Providers

OCJS requires a collaboration board component with all applications. This component must include a list of the collaboration board members, the goals of the collaboration board and a description of how the agencies/organizations work together to achieve the goals of the collaboration board. OCJS also requires all non-victim service provider applicants to submit letters of participation that detail both the involvement and role of the victim service providers during the development of applications. The purpose is to promote safety, confidentiality, and economic independence for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Application Review Process

OCJS implements a 3-tiered competitive grant application review process:

- An internal compliance review is conducted by the OCJS Fiscal Monitors to ensure fiscal and compliance with state and federal guidelines.
- The second tier is the peer review process. Peer review teams are comprised of state and local professionals and include law enforcement, prosecution, victim services (to include culturally specific representation), and court personnel. Peer reviewers participate in the review of submitted applications.
 - A two-part training process is provided via an online training campus and virtual meetings.
 - All peer reviewers are required to submit conflict of interest disclosure forms.
 - Reviews are completed in the online grants system (www.ocjsgrants.com) using a grant review matrix to score applications and to provide narrative.

- Finally, grant applications are reviewed with the OCJS Director, the STOP VAWA program planner, the OCJS Family Violence Prevention Director and management staff to make final funding recommendations. While projects are not given preference based on their geographical area, final funding decisions are reviewed to foster an even distribution of funds throughout Ohio. Organized by discipline, all recommendations and scores are included in the funding plan for the OCJS Director's review. Once the review is completed, the funding plan and the Director's recommendations are forwarded to the Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety for final recommendations and approval.

Case-specific circumstances at times influence the review and funding of non-competitive applications outside of the normal competitive application review process.

Length of Funding

Projects are funded for one year typically beginning January 1 of the calendar year. OCJS is in the process of determining the timeline for the 2022 grant cycle.

Distribution of Funds Based on Population and Geographic Areas (Urban and Rural) and Need Based on the Availability of Existing Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking Programs.

OCJS is committed to the equitable distribution of funding throughout the state. For grant administration purposes, all of Ohio's counties are served directly by OCJS, with the exception of three large metropolitan counties served by Regional Planning Units (RPU): Cuyahoga, Franklin, and Lucas. A formula, consisting of 1-part crime to 1-part population, is used to determine the amount of funds each RPU receives each year. The RPUs are responsible for planning and distributing funds to their communities based on local needs and conditions. Additionally, the RPUs administer and evaluate VAWA-funded initiatives consistent with this Implementation Plan.

OCJS is also a member of the Interagency Victims Assistance Coordinating Committee (IVACC).⁵² The interagency committee has been an important element for informing the state planning process. The committee's purpose includes ensuring the equitable distribution of grants and grant funds occurs between urban and rural areas.

The Family Violence Prevention Center at OCJS and its Advisory Council also play a pivotal role in providing leadership for coordinated state and local efforts to reduce and prevent family violence in Ohio and to ensure equitable distribution of grant funds.

To maximize the number of projects that may be funded, OCJS caps most STOP VAWA application budget requests at \$60,000.

Types of Programs and Projects

OCJS implements a competitive review process and it is unknown which programs throughout the state will receive funding prior to the release of a request for proposal. Applicants for STOP VAWA funding must specify the purpose area(s) that will be addressed within the

⁵² Refer to **Coordination with Related Federal Funding Programs**. Interagency Victims Assistance Coordinating Committee Membership consists of Office of Criminal Justice Services, Ohio Department of Health, and Ohio Attorney General's Office.

proposed project and how the project will impact the goals and objectives of the FFY2022 - FFY2025 Implementation Plan.

STOP VAWA funding requests must meet one or more of the following applicable federal statutory purpose areas:

1. Training law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence, including the use of nonimmigrant status under subparagraphs (U) and (T) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a));
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 the appropriate treatment of victims;
4. Developing, installing, or expanding data collection and communication systems, including computerized systems, linking police, prosecutors, and courts for the purpose of identifying, classifying, and tracking arrests, protection orders, violations of protection orders, prosecutions, and convictions for violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking and domestic violence;
5. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening victim services and legal assistance programs, including sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence 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, dating violence, stalking, and domestic violence;
6. 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, dating violence, stalking, and domestic violence;
7. Supporting formal and informal statewide, multidisciplinary efforts, to the extent not supported by state funds, to coordinate the response of state law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts, victim services agencies, and other state agencies and departments, to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence;
8. 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;
9. 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;
10. Providing assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in immigration matters;
 11. Maintaining core victim services and criminal justice initiatives, while supporting complementary new initiatives and emergency services for victims and their families;
 12. 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 domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, 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 domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and may undertake the following activities:
 - 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;
 - notifying persons seeking enforcement of protection orders as to what responses will be provided by the relevant law enforcement agency;
 - referring persons seeking enforcement of protection orders to supplementary services (such as emergency shelter programs, hotlines, or legal assistance services); and;
 - taking other appropriate action to assist or secure the safety of the person seeking enforcement of a protection order.
 13. Providing funding to law enforcement agencies, nonprofit nongovernmental victim services providers, and State, Tribal, Territorial, and local governments (which funding stream shall be known as the Crystal Judson Domestic Violence Protocol Program) to promote—
 - the development and implementation of training for local victim domestic violence service providers, and to fund victim services personnel, to be known as “Crystal Judson Victim Advocates,” to provide supportive services and advocacy for victims of domestic violence committed by law enforcement personnel;
 - the implementation of protocols within law enforcement agencies to ensure consistent and effective responses to the commission of domestic violence by personnel within such agencies such as the model policy promulgated by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (“Domestic Violence by Police Officers: A Policy of the IACP, Police Response to Violence Against Women Project” July 2003); and
 - the development of such protocols in collaboration with State, Tribal, Territorial and local victim services providers and domestic violence coalitions.
 - **Note:** Any law enforcement, State, Tribal, Territorial, or local government agency receiving funding under the Crystal Judson Domestic Violence Protocol Program shall, on an annual basis, receive additional training on the topic of incidents of domestic violence committed by law enforcement personnel from domestic violence and sexual assault nonprofit organizations and, after a period of two years, provide a report of the adopted protocol to the Department, including a summary of progress in implementing such protocol. As such, States and Territories are responsible for ensuring that each subgrantee receiving funds under this purpose area will receive the required annual

training. States are also responsible for ensuring that subgrantees submit their two-year report to the Department. States and Territories **must** notify and provide OVW with a list of subgrantee recipients awarded STOP funds under the Crystal Judson Domestic Violence Protocol Program;

14. Developing and promoting State, local, or tribal legislation and policies that enhance best practices for responding to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking;
15. Developing, implementing, or enhancing Sexual Assault Response Teams, or other similar coordinated community responses to sexual assault;
16. 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;
17. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing sexual assault against men, women, and youth in correctional and detention settings;
18. Identifying and conducting inventories of backlogs of sexual assault evidence collection kits and developing protocols and policies for responding to and addressing such backlogs, including protocols and policies for notifying and involving victims;
19. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs and projects to provide services and responses targeting male and female victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, 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, United States Code; and
20. Developing, enhancing, or strengthening prevention and educational programming to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, with not more than 5 percent of the amount allocated to a State to be used for this purpose.

The FFY2022 – FFY2025 Implementation Plan will also continue to require that applicants who request funding in support of visitation centers clearly demonstrate the following eligibility criteria to be considered for funding:

- A secured and adequate space for the location; and hours of operation
- Type of supervision
- Frequency and type of domestic violence training project staff receive
- Demonstration of need/uniqueness of the service area
- Procedures to address liability issues
- Letters of participation from the court and Jobs and Family Services
- Means of referrals
- Target population

The State does not plan to use the “Crystal Judson” purpose area.

VI. Conclusion

Ohio’s FFY2022 through FFY2025 STOP Implementation Plan represents a solid and ongoing collaborative effort to identify and address violence against women. OCJS will continue to work with its STOP VAWA Committee, IVACC, and the Family Violence Prevention Center Advisory Council to monitor and implement this broad-based strategy.

Priorities established for the FFY2022 - FFY2025 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan strive to meet the immediate needs for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking while holding offenders accountable. With the support of a wide range of stakeholders throughout the state, Ohio's STOP Implementation Plan will ultimately enhance the strength of system-wide initiatives for effective, long-term change.

Appendix A:
Documentation of Collaboration

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program Implementation Planning Participation

Please send back to Jacquetta Al-Mubaslat at JAL-Mubaslat@dps.ohio.gov by 5/18/2022.

State/Territory: Ohio

Administering Agency: Office of Criminal Justice Services

Participant Agency: Ohio Hispanic Coalition

Type of Agency: Population Specific Organization

If population specific organization, please specify which population: Latino/Hispanic

Other: N/A

Planning Team Meeting Date(s): 8/29/2019; 1/16/2020; 2/14/2020; 3/9/2020; 5/20/2021; 3/15/2022

Did you receive notification of meeting dates at least one month in advance? Yes No

How were you notified? (check all that apply)

Email In-person Phone call Website post Letter Other: N/A

Were you able to participate in the meetings? Yes No

If yes, how many meetings did you attend? All Some

Meeting format: (check all that apply) Teleconference Video conference In-person

If no, please explain: N/A

During the meeting(s), were you able to freely provide input, ask questions, share concerns, and propose goals? Yes No Partially

Did you receive a draft of the Implementation Plan *and* a list of major concerns raised during the planning process? Yes No

If no, please explain: N/A

Were you given at least one month to review the draft plan? Yes No

If no, please explain: Three-week turnaround time was provided

Were the major concerns raised during the planning process included in the draft plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: N/A

Did you provide comments or recommended changes to the draft plan?

Yes

No

Did you receive a copy of the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: Final Plan will need to be reviewed by OCJS Director and that is still in process

If applicable, do you believe your recommended changes to the draft plan were adequately addressed in the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

Not applicable

If no, please explain: N/A

Overall, were the feedback, concerns, recommended goals, etc. of planning group participants adequately reflected in the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: N/A

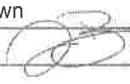
Do you have any concerns with the content of the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If yes, please explain: N/A

Name Sarah Brown

Signature 

Date 5/18/2022

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program Implementation Planning Participation

Please send back to _____ at _____ by May 18, 2022.

State/Territory: Ohio

Administering Agency: Office of Criminal Justice Services

Participant Agency: Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

Type of Agency: Other State Agency

If population specific organization, please specify which population: Developmental Disabilities

Other: _____

Planning Team Meeting Date(s): 1/16/20;2/14/20;3/9/20;3/15/22;5/20/21

Did you receive notification of meeting dates at least one month in advance? Yes No

How were you notified? (check all that apply)

Email In-person Phone call Website post Letter Other: _____

Were you able to participate in the meetings? Yes No

If yes, how many meetings did you attend? All Some

Meeting format: (check all that apply) Teleconference Video conference In-person

If no, please explain: _____

During the meeting(s), were you able to freely provide input, ask questions, share concerns, and propose goals? Yes No Partially

Did you receive a draft of the Implementation Plan *and* a list of major concerns raised during the planning process? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Were you given at least one month to review the draft plan? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Were the major concerns raised during the planning process included in the draft plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

Did you provide comments or recommended changes to the draft plan?

Yes

No

Did you receive a copy of the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

If applicable, do you believe your recommended changes to the draft plan were adequately addressed in the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

Not applicable

If no, please explain: _____

Overall, were the feedback, concerns, recommended goals, etc. of planning group participants adequately reflected in the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

Do you have any concerns with the content of the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If yes, please explain: _____

Name Vicki Lynn Jenkins

Signature 10073419

Digitally signed by 10073419
Date: 2022.05.18 11:15:42 -04'00'

Date May 18, 2022

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program Implementation Planning Participation

Please send back to Jacquetta Mubaslat at OCJS by 5.18.22.

State/Territory: Ohio

Administering Agency: ODPS - Office of Criminal Justice Services

Participant Agency: Crime Victim Services

Type of Agency: Other

If population specific organization, please specify which population: _____

Other: Victim Services

Planning Team Meeting Date(s): _____
1, 8/29/2019 – conference call 2, 1/16/2020 – In-Person/Conference Call 3, 2/14/2020 – virtual 4, 3/9/2020 – virtual 5, 5/20/2021 – virtual 6, 3/15/2022 – virtual

Did you receive notification of meeting dates at least one month in advance? Yes No

How were you notified? (check all that apply)

Email In-person Phone call Website post Letter Other: _____

Were you able to participate in the meetings? Yes No

If yes, how many meetings did you attend? All Some

Meeting format: (check all that apply) Teleconference Video conference In-person

If no, please explain: _____

During the meeting(s), were you able to freely provide input, ask questions, share concerns, and propose goals? Yes No Partially

Did you receive a draft of the Implementation Plan *and* a list of major concerns raised during the planning process? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Were you given at least one month to review the draft plan? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Were the major concerns raised during the planning process included in the draft plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

Did you provide comments or recommended changes to the draft plan?

Yes

No

Did you receive a copy of the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

If applicable, do you believe your recommended changes to the draft plan were adequately addressed in the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

Not applicable

If no, please explain: _____

Overall, were the feedback, concerns, recommended goals, etc. of planning group participants adequately reflected in the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

Do you have any concerns with the content of the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If yes, please explain: _____

Name Kathryn "Ryn" Farmer, MSW, LSW, RASS

Signature *Kathryn Farmer, MSW, LSW, RASS*

Date 5.18.22

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program Implementation Planning Participation

Please send back to _____ at _____ by 5/17/22.

State/Territory: _____

Administering Agency: _____

Participant Agency: Ohio Department of Health, SADVPP

Type of Agency: Sexual Assault Coalition

If population specific organization, please specify which population: _____
Didn't have an option for government or health. Focus on Black/African American, Latin

Other: _____

Planning Team Meeting Date(s): _____

Did you receive notification of meeting dates at least one month in advance? Yes No

How were you notified? (check all that apply)

Email In-person Phone call Website post Letter Other: _____

Were you able to participate in the meetings? Yes No

If yes, how many meetings did you attend? All Some

Meeting format: (check all that apply) Teleconference Video conference In-person

If no, please explain: _____

During the meeting(s), were you able to freely provide input, ask questions, share concerns, and propose goals? Yes No Partially

Did you receive a draft of the Implementation Plan *and* a list of major concerns raised during the planning process? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Were you given at least one month to review the draft plan? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Were the major concerns raised during the planning process included in the draft plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

Did you provide comments or recommended changes to the draft plan?

Yes

No

Did you receive a copy of the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: n/a _____

If applicable, do you believe your recommended changes to the draft plan were adequately addressed in the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

Not applicable

If no, please explain: _____

Overall, were the feedback, concerns, recommended goals, etc. of planning group participants adequately reflected in the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

Do you have any concerns with the content of the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If yes, please explain: _____

Name Corina Klies

Signature _____

Date 5/17/22

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program Implementation Planning Participation

Please send back to _____ at _____ by 05/15/2022.

State/Territory: Ohio

Administering Agency: OCJS

Participant Agency: Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence

Type of Agency: Sexual Assault Coalition

If population specific organization, please specify which population: SV survivors

Other: _____

Planning Team Meeting Date(s): _____

Did you receive notification of meeting dates at least one month in advance? Yes No

How were you notified? (check all that apply)

Email In-person Phone call Website post Letter Other: _____

Were you able to participate in the meetings? Yes No

If yes, how many meetings did you attend? All Some

Meeting format: (check all that apply) Teleconference Video conference In-person

If no, please explain: _____

During the meeting(s), were you able to freely provide input, ask questions, share concerns, and propose goals? Yes No Partially

Did you receive a draft of the Implementation Plan *and* a list of major concerns raised during the planning process? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Were you given at least one month to review the draft plan? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Were the major concerns raised during the planning process included in the draft plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

Did you provide comments or recommended changes to the draft plan?

Yes

No

Did you receive a copy of the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

If applicable, do you believe your recommended changes to the draft plan were adequately addressed in the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

Not applicable

If no, please explain: _____

Overall, were the feedback, concerns, recommended goals, etc. of planning group participants adequately reflected in the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

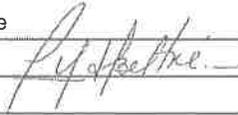
Do you have any concerns with the content of the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If yes, please explain: _____

Name Rosa Beltre

Signature 

Date 05/15/2022

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program Implementation Planning Participation

Please send back to _____ at _____ by May 18, 2022.

State/Territory: Ohio

Administering Agency: Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services

Participant Agency: Ohio Domestic Violence Network

Type of Agency: Domestic Violence Coalition

If population specific organization, please specify which population: domestic violence survivors

Other: _____

Planning Team Meeting Date(s): 8/29/19, 1/16/20, 2/14/20, 3/9/20, 5/20/21, 3/15/22

Did you receive notification of meeting dates at least one month in advance? Yes No

How were you notified? (check all that apply)

Email In-person Phone call Website post Letter Other: _____

Were you able to participate in the meetings? Yes No

If yes, how many meetings did you attend? All Some

Meeting format: (check all that apply) Teleconference Video conference In-person

If no, please explain: _____

During the meeting(s), were you able to freely provide input, ask questions, share concerns, and propose goals? Yes No Partially

Did you receive a draft of the Implementation Plan *and* a list of major concerns raised during the planning process? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Were you given at least one month to review the draft plan? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Were the major concerns raised during the planning process included in the draft plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

Did you provide comments or recommended changes to the draft plan?

Yes

No

Did you receive a copy of the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

If applicable, do you believe your recommended changes to the draft plan were adequately addressed in the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

Not applicable

If no, please explain: _____

Overall, were the feedback, concerns, recommended goals, etc. of planning group participants adequately reflected in the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

Do you have any concerns with the content of the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If yes, please explain: _____

Name Mary O'Doherty

Signature MaryO'Doherty

Digitally signed by MaryO'Doherty
Date: 2022.05.18 11:30:17 -0400

Date May 18, 2022

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program Implementation Planning Participation

Please send back to _____ at _____ by May 19, 2022.

State/Territory: Ohio

Administering Agency: Department of Public Safety

Participant Agency: Ohio Department of Health

Type of Agency: Other State Agency

If population specific organization, please specify which population: _____

Other: _____

Planning Team Meeting Date(s): 8/29/19, 1/16/20, 2/14/20, 3/9/20, 5/20/21, 3/15/22

Did you receive notification of meeting dates at least one month in advance? Yes No

How were you notified? (check all that apply)

Email In-person Phone call Website post Letter Other: _____

Were you able to participate in the meetings? Yes No

If yes, how many meetings did you attend? All Some

Meeting format: (check all that apply) Teleconference Video conference In-person

If no, please explain: _____

During the meeting(s), were you able to freely provide input, ask questions, share concerns, and propose goals? Yes No Partially

Did you receive a draft of the Implementation Plan *and* a list of major concerns raised during the planning process? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Were you given at least one month to review the draft plan? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Were the major concerns raised during the planning process included in the draft plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

Did you provide comments or recommended changes to the draft plan?

Yes

No

Did you receive a copy of the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

If applicable, do you believe your recommended changes to the draft plan were adequately addressed in the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

Not applicable

If no, please explain: _____

Overall, were the feedback, concerns, recommended goals, etc. of planning group participants adequately reflected in the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

Do you have any concerns with the content of the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If yes, please explain: _____

Name Debra Seltzer

Seltzer Debra Seltzer

Digitally signed by Debra Seltzer
Date: 2022.05.19 14:02:38 -04'00'

May 19, 2022

Date _____

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program Implementation Planning Participation

Please send back to _____ at _____ by _____.

State/Territory: Ohio

Administering Agency: Ohio Department of Public Safety / OCJS

Participant Agency: Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction / OVS

Type of Agency: Choose one

If population specific organization, please specify which population: Crime victims of violent
Crimes where the incarcerated individuals are sentenced to
Other: Prison

Planning Team Meeting Date(s): 1/7/20, 9/9/20, 5/20/21, 3/14/22 (many meetings prior to those listed.)

Did you receive notification of meeting dates at least one month in advance? Yes No

How were you notified? (check all that apply)

Email In-person Phone call Website post Letter Other: _____

Were you able to participate in the meetings? Yes No

If yes, how many meetings did you attend? All Some

Meeting format: (check all that apply) Teleconference Video conference In-person

If no, please explain: _____

During the meeting(s), were you able to freely provide input, ask questions, share concerns, and propose goals? Yes No Partially

Did you receive a draft of the Implementation Plan and a list of major concerns raised during the planning process? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Were you given at least one month to review the draft plan? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Were the major concerns raised during the planning process included in the draft plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

Did you provide comments or recommended changes to the draft plan?

Yes

No

Did you receive a copy of the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

If applicable, do you believe your recommended changes to the draft plan were adequately addressed in the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

Not applicable

If no, please explain: _____

Overall, were the feedback, concerns, recommended goals, etc. of planning group participants adequately reflected in the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

Do you have any concerns with the content of the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If yes, please explain: _____

Name Chrystal Pounds-Alexander

Signature CP Alexander

Date 5/19/22

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program Implementation Planning Participation

Please send back to _____ at _____ by _____.

State/Territory: OHIO

Administering Agency: OCJS

Participant Agency: Legal Aid of Cleveland

Type of Agency: Choose one

If population specific organization, please specify which population: _____

Other: _____

Planning Team Meeting Date(s): 9/29/19, 1/16/20, 2/14/20, 3/9/20, 5/30/21 + 3/15/22

Did you receive notification of meeting dates at least one month in advance? Yes No

How were you notified? (check all that apply)

Email In-person Phone call Website post Letter Other: _____

Were you able to participate in the meetings? Yes No

If yes, how many meetings did you attend? All Some

Meeting format: (check all that apply) Teleconference Video conference In-person

If no, please explain: _____

During the meeting(s), were you able to freely provide input, ask questions, share concerns, and propose goals? Yes No Partially

Did you receive a draft of the Implementation Plan and a list of major concerns raised during the planning process? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Were you given at least one month to review the draft plan? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Were the major concerns raised during the planning process included in the draft plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

Did you provide comments or recommended changes to the draft plan?

Yes

No

Did you receive a copy of the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

If applicable, do you believe your recommended changes to the draft plan were adequately addressed in the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

Not applicable

If no, please explain: _____

Overall, were the feedback, concerns, recommended goals, etc. of planning group participants adequately reflected in the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

Do you have any concerns with the content of the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If yes, please explain: _____

Name Alexandria Puder

Signature _____

Date 5/19/2022

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program Implementation Planning Participation

Please send back to Jaquetta Al-Mubaslat at JAL-Mubaslat@dps.ohio.gov by 5.18.22.

State/Territory: Ohio

Administering Agency: Ohio Criminal Justice Services

Participant Agency: Supreme Court of Ohio

Type of Agency: Courts

If population specific organization, please specify which population: _____

Other: _____

Planning Team Meeting Date(s): _____
8/29/2019 – conference call, 1/16/2020 – In-Person/Conference Call, 2/14/2020 – virtual, 3/9/2020 – virtual, 7/20/2021 – virtual, 3/15/2022 – virtual

Did you receive notification of meeting dates at least one month in advance? Yes No

How were you notified? (check all that apply)

Email In-person Phone call Website post Letter Other: _____

Were you able to participate in the meetings? Yes No

If yes, how many meetings did you attend? All Some

Meeting format: (check all that apply) Teleconference Video conference In-person

If no, please explain: _____

During the meeting(s), were you able to freely provide input, ask questions, share concerns, and propose goals? Yes No Partially

Did you receive a draft of the Implementation Plan *and* a list of major concerns raised during the planning process? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Were you given at least one month to review the draft plan? Yes No

If no, please explain: We received the plan on 5/4/22, which was sufficient as we had discussed several parts of the plan before.

Were the major concerns raised during the planning process included in the draft plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

Did you provide comments or recommended changes to the draft plan?

Yes

No

Did you receive a copy of the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: We are still working on it.

If applicable, do you believe your recommended changes to the draft plan were adequately addressed in the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

Not applicable

If no, please explain: _____

Overall, were the feedback, concerns, recommended goals, etc. of planning group participants adequately reflected in the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

Do you have any concerns with the content of the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If yes, please explain: _____

Name Anne M. Murray

Signature *Anne M. Murray*

Date 5.18.22

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program Implementation Planning Participation

Please send back to _____ at _____ by 5/18/2022.

State/Territory: Ohio

Administering Agency: OCJS

Participant Agency: DWAVE

Type of Agency: Population Specific Organization

If population specific organization, please specify which population: Deaf DeafBlind

Other: DeafDisabled Hard of Hearing

Planning Team Meeting Date(s): quarterly

Did you receive notification of meeting dates at least one month in advance? Yes No

How were you notified? (check all that apply)

Email In-person Phone call Website post Letter Other: _____

Were you able to participate in the meetings? Yes No

If yes, how many meetings did you attend? All Some

Meeting format: (check all that apply) Teleconference Video conference In-person

If no, please explain: _____

During the meeting(s), were you able to freely provide input, ask questions, share concerns, and propose goals? Yes No Partially

Did you receive a draft of the Implementation Plan *and* a list of major concerns raised during the planning process? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Were you given at least one month to review the draft plan? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Were the major concerns raised during the planning process included in the draft plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

Did you provide comments or recommended changes to the draft plan?

Yes

No

Did you receive a copy of the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

If applicable, do you believe your recommended changes to the draft plan were adequately addressed in the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

Not applicable

If no, please explain: _____

Overall, were the feedback, concerns, recommended goals, etc. of planning group participants adequately reflected in the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If no, please explain: _____

Do you have any concerns with the content of the Final Implementation Plan?

Yes

No

If yes, please explain: _____

Name Rose Larson

Signature *Rose Larson*

Date 5/18/2022

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program
Implementation Planning Participation

Please send back to Jacquetta Al-Mubaslat at OCJS by May 19, 2022.

State/Territory: Ohio

Administering Agency: Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services

Participant Agency: Athens City Police Dept.

Type of Agency: Law Enforcement

If population specific organization, please specify which population: _____

Other: _____

Planning Team Meeting Date(s): Several meetings over a few year period.

Did you receive notification of meeting dates at least one month in advance? Yes No

How were you notified? (check all that apply)

Email In-person Phone call Website post Letter Other: _____

Were you able to participate in the meetings? Yes No

If yes, how many meetings did you attend? All Some

Meeting format: (check all that apply) Teleconference Video conference In-person

If no, please explain: _____

During the meeting(s), were you able to freely provide input, ask questions, share concerns, and propose goals? Yes No Partially

Did you receive a draft of the Implementation Plan *and* a list of major concerns raised during the planning process? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Were you given at least one month to review the draft plan? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Were the major concerns raised during the planning process included in the draft plan? Yes No

If no, please explain: No major concerns. The plan was thoroughly gone through by all members of the group.

Did you provide comments or recommended changes to the draft plan? Yes No

Did you receive a copy of the Final Implementation Plan? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

If applicable, do you believe your recommended changes to the draft plan were adequately addressed in the Final Implementation Plan? Yes No Not applicable

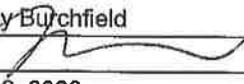
If no, please explain: _____

Overall, were the feedback, concerns, recommended goals, etc. of planning group participants adequately reflected in the Final Implementation Plan? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Do you have any concerns with the content of the Final Implementation Plan? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Name Molly Burchfield
Signature 
Date May 19, 2022

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program Implementation Planning Participation

Please send back to _____ at _____ by 5/19/2022.

State/Territory: Ohio

Administering Agency: Ohio Department of Public Safety

Participant Agency: Ohio Attorney General

Type of Agency: Other State Agency

If population specific organization, please specify which population: N/A

Other: _____

Planning Team Meeting Date(s): 3/15/2022

Did you receive notification of meeting dates at least one month in advance? Yes No

How were you notified? (check all that apply)

Email In-person Phone call Website post Letter Other: _____

Were you able to participate in the meetings? Yes No

If yes, how many meetings did you attend? All Some

Meeting format: (check all that apply) Teleconference Video conference In-person

If no, please explain: _____

During the meeting(s), were you able to freely provide input, ask questions, share concerns, and propose goals? Yes No Partially

Did you receive a draft of the Implementation Plan *and* a list of major concerns raised during the planning process? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Were you given at least one month to review the draft plan? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Were the major concerns raised during the planning process included in the draft plan? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Did you provide comments or recommended changes to the draft plan? Yes No

Did you receive a copy of the Final Implementation Plan? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

If applicable, do you believe your recommended changes to the draft plan were adequately addressed in the Final Implementation Plan? Yes No Not applicable

If no, please explain: _____

Overall, were the feedback, concerns, recommended goals, etc. of planning group participants adequately reflected in the Final Implementation Plan? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Do you have any concerns with the content of the Final Implementation Plan? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Name Mischa Hitchcock
Signature Mischa Hitchcock Digitally signed by Mischa Hitchcock
Date: 2022.05.19 10:43:11 -04'00'
Date 5/19/2022

Appendix B:
Letters from Prosecution, Law Enforcement, Court,
and Victim Service Programs

The Supreme Court of Ohio

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

65 SOUTH FRONT STREET, COLUMBUS, OH 43215-3431

CHIEF JUSTICE
MAUREEN O'CONNOR

INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR
STEPHANIE E. HESS

JUSTICES
SHARON L. KENNEDY
PATRICK F. FISCHER
R. PATRICK DEWINE
MICHAEL P. DONNELLY
MELODY J. STEWART
JENNIFER BRUNNER

supremecourt.ohio.gov
TELEPHONE 614.387.9500
FACSIMILE 614.387.9509

May 9, 2022

Ms. Amy Loder
Associate Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N St., NE, Suite 10 W. 121
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Associate Director Loder,

On behalf of the Supreme Court of Ohio, please accept this letter indicating how S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women (VAWA) Formula Grant funds, which are managed by the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Office of Criminal Justice Service (OCJS), have benefitted and would continue to benefit the judiciary in Ohio should the OCJS application for the 2022 S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women (VAWA) Formula Grant Program be awarded.

As a longstanding member of Ohio's S.T.O.P. VAWA Implementation Committee, the Court believes in the purpose of this grant program. We are committed to participating in all relevant activities to advance the fair administration of justice, hold offenders accountable, and improve victims' safety.

The Court's Domestic Violence Program works with Ohio's courts to encourage promising and proven practices in domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking cases. Domestic and sexual violence affect every court at every level, and every court member – the 723 judges, 842 magistrates, and myriad of court staff – have an essential role in fostering an effective response. The task is broad. Despite being the 34th largest state, it is the 7th most populous, and the 10th most densely populated in the country. Collectively, Ohio's courts touch the lives of more than 11.7 million Ohioans. Ohio's population is 31.3% white, 12.4% black, 2.8% two or more races; 2.2% Asian; 0.2% Native American; and 0.3% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. Slightly less than 25% of the population is under 18 years old; 17.4% are over 60. More than 14% of Ohioans live with a disability. Ohio courts continue to adjust to the ever-changing needs of the population. The census reveals that nearly 7% of Ohio's population speak a language other than English at home. Requests by Ohio courts for interpreting services continue to grow.

In 2021, courts used telephonic interpreting services for 77 different languages other than English.

Data on domestic, dating, and sexual violence and stalking in Ohio is imperfect, but the numbers illustrate the continued need for awareness raising and improved response. The Ohio Domestic Violence Network reported from July 2020 through June 2021 there were 131 domestic violence fatalities in 90 cases across Ohio, a 20% increase over the previous year, and 62% higher than in 2019. Twenty of the 91 perpetrators had been charged or convicted of domestic violence prior to the fatal incident. Ohio courts with domestic relations jurisdiction reported family or household members or intimate partners filed 22,896 domestic violence civil protection order petitions in 2021, up 15% from 5 years earlier. (Comparable court data for civil protection order relief in sexual assaults and stalking cases is not collected statewide.)

There are approximately 43,135 active Ohio protection orders records in the FBI's National Crime Information Center protection order file. While we recognize not every victim will contact law enforcement, the Ohio Attorney General's Office *2020 Domestic Violence Incidence Report* indicates law enforcement arrested or charged offenders in nearly 49% percent of the 71,507 domestic abuse calls to which officers responded. Additionally, the Office of Criminal Justice Services analysis of the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System data indicated law enforcement agencies reported 4,199 incidents of rape in 2021 and 1,564 incidents of stalking in 2016 (the most recent report on stalking).

An informed judiciary remains a critical component of holding offenders accountable and increasing victim safety. For several years, the Court has been the recipient of much of the 5% of the state's S.T.O.P. VAWA funds set aside for courts. This, in turn, has been used for a number of innovative programs and capacity-building for enhanced court response on these issues across the state. This funding stream has allowed the Domestic Violence Program to elevate the number of high caliber, relevant courses and programs on domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking for Ohio's judiciary.

In 2021 alone, S.T.O.P. VAWA funds allowed the Court to translate the recently revised standard protection order forms into American Sign Language, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, and Spanish; sponsor the placement of the standard protection orders on the legal self-help website Ohio Legal Help. Doing so allows petitioners to find local legal assistance and victim services, and complete the forms remotely via a guided interview. It also funds a remote online notary pilot program to relieve the need to find an in-person notary during the pandemic for forms requiring notarization prior to filing for a protection order. The funds also delivered technical assistance for the certified specialized domestic violence drug courts and provided 18 learning events for justice partners statewide on diverse issues such as battering intervention programs, risk assessment pre-trial and post-conviction for domestic violence offenders, partner-inflicted brain injury, domestic abuse in mediation, and understanding the trauma experienced by domestic violence and human trafficking victims.

Looking forward, S.T.O.P. VAWA monies may support the following similarly important initiatives:

- Deepen the judiciary's understanding of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking through court-specific resources and protocol, such as children exposed to domestic violence, elder abuse, firearms disability, cyber-stalking, the effects of partner-inflicted brain injury, and procedural justice,
- Identify and highlight effective pretrial services for domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking cases that incorporate victim safety considerations,
- Promote the fair administration of justice, increase victim safety, and offender accountability by supporting evidence-based batterers intervention standards and programs,
- Continue to enhance the accessibility of materials available on the Court's website regarding domestic, sexual, and dating violence and stalking,
- Improve access to justice by promoting civil and criminal domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking dockets, and
- Improve domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking victim's experience in courts by promoting protocol and policies, including case coordinators, which assist victims who are not represented by counsel to better understand the court proceeding.

The Supreme Court of Ohio commits to continuing to work with OCJS to enhance victims' safety and hold offenders accountable, as well as purposefully participating in the prioritization of initiatives in accordance with the state's implementation plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Stephanie E. Hess, Esq.
Administrative Director (Interim)



1855 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Suite 301
Columbus, Ohio 43229
Phone: 614-781-9651
www.odvn.org

April 18, 2022

Amy Loder
Associate Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N St., NE, Suite 10 W. 121
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Ms. Loder:

The Ohio Domestic Violence Network is pleased to provide this letter of support to the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) in support of its application for STOP funding and submission of the VAWA state plan. The VAWA STOP formula grant is the core component of effective coordinated community response and a critical resource for domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence and stalking services in Ohio. This funding is essential for our shelters and non-residential programs because Ohio provides limited state funding for DV services.

These grant funds support specialized units in law enforcement and prosecutor's offices as well as justice systems advocacy to reach survivors of domestic violence. Grant funds also are used to enhance outreach and services to underserved populations and expand SANE services to underserved areas of the state. These funds do much to enhance safety and access to services for victims, most of whom are poor and have limited options.

Ohio's population is estimated at 11.78 million, according to the 2020 census. The population is 78.4% white alone, 13.1% Black or African American, 4% Hispanic or Latino, 2.5% Asian, 2.4% two or more races and .3% American Indian and Alaskan Native. A total of 10% of the population under 65 has a disability, 12.6% are poor and 7.2% of them speak a language other than English in their homes. These demographics are reflected in the survivors we serve although it is very likely that a higher percentage of them are nonwhite, poor and disabled. Funding is competitive thus the characteristics of the precise populations served may change from year to year. However, the grant making process strives to ensure geographic diversity and the provision of services to underserved populations throughout the state.

ODVN worked closely with OCJS in the development of the FY 2022-25 VAWA state implementation plan, and I chair the committee that guides the process, which involves extensive data gathering, surveys and focus groups of survivors and conversations with key stakeholders. For example, last year with support from OCJS, ODVN conducted a needs assessment to support the planning process.

ODVN surveyed 505 survivors and conducted focus groups with 83 survivors, most of whom were Black/African American women, other women of color, immigrants, LGBTQ+ and Deaf or Hard of Hearing. While most survivors said they were satisfied with the response from law enforcement, courts and social services, marginalized survivors were over-represented among the participants who said they had difficulty getting help from the police, courts, and social services.

If I can answer any questions, please contact me at maryo@odvn.org or call me at 502 592-7856.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary O'Doherty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary O'Doherty
Executive Director



April 22, 2022

Amy Loder
Associate Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N. St., NE, Suite 10 W.121
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Support of Statewide VAWA Implementation Plan FY 2022-2025

Dear Associate Director Amy Loder,

On behalf of the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence, I am pleased to submit a letter in support of the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) FY2022-FY 2025 Stop Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Federal Grant Application.

Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (OAESV) is the federal designated training and technical assistance non-profit victim service coalition dedicated to advocating for comprehensive responses and rape crisis services for survivors and empowering communities to prevent sexual violence. OAESV provides emergency, culturally sensitive and supportive services to victims of sexual violence seeking to end family violence.

VAWA funds support the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence's Community Response Coordination Program, increasing accessibility to SANE services for underserved, underrepresented and marginalized, minorities, BIPOC survivors in the rural areas of Ohio. This funding allows us to provide trauma informed and survivor centered services for law enforcement, trainings with a culture sensitive lens to prosecutors and court personal, as well as intentional, intersectional and accessible programmatic with an anti-oppressive lens that is inclusive to all. The funding also allows us to work closely in the state implementation plan for the next 3 years. As the sexual assault coalition, we see the need and impact of this funding stream across all of Ohio, supporting survivors who need services of informed, educated and trauma informed providers within rape crisis centers and dual agencies.

VAWA funding is a critical need for our coalition, local programs and the Ohio Office of Crime Justice Services (OCJS). I urge you to support this funding and on behalf of the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence we are pleased and honored to work with OCJS and support its efforts to provide these much-needed services to survivors of violence. Thank you for your careful consideration.

If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns at rbeltre@oaesv.org or 216-658-1381.

In peace and community,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rosa Beltré".

Rosa Beltré, BA, RA (She, Her, Ella)
President & CEO
Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence
#ThereIsPower&StrengthInTheCollective



Department of Public Safety
Mansfield Division of Police

Keith Porch, Chief of Police
30 North Diamond Street
Mansfield, Ohio 44902



City of Mansfield
Mayor Timothy L. Theaker

Date: May 17th, 2022

Amy Loder
Associate Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N St., NE, Suite 10W. 121
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Ms. Loder,

As a 28-year member of the Mansfield Division of Police and VAWA grant Program Manager for several years, I am providing this letter of commitment in support of the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) application to apply for OVW FY 2022 VAWA implementation plan funding. OCJS has been instrumental in granting VAWA project funding not only to our agency but many others throughout the state of Ohio. VAWA funding has allowed our agency to successfully implement initiatives to better serve victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and other related crimes. This funding has been a powerful tool for training patrol officers and investigators on how to better serve DV/SA victims. Because of this funding, we have improved services to our under-served populations by providing culturally directed and needed training to our staff concerning case investigations to assist these under-served victims and help ensure they seek out available services they may not have been aware, even existed.

Some examples of how VAWA funding has assisted us to better serve our community includes:

- Maintaining consistent attendance at countywide DV/SA Collaborative meetings
- Providing valuable input with the development of the DV/SA Collaborative Protocols
- Implementing evidence-based violence reduction practices using the Lethality Assessment Program
- Providing guidance to victims as they navigate the justice system
- Participation in the local Domestic Violence Court
- Training staff to better serve our under-served populations including the LGBT community and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing population
- Enhancement of communications and collaborative efforts among DV/SA participating agencies

Future FY 2022 – FY 2025 VAWA Implementation Plan funding will continue to allow our Division to continue to actively engage our community by providing funding dedicated to improving victim services, prosecution of offenders, updated training and proactive responses.

Sincerely,

Captain Shari Robertson



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LAW DIRECTOR

May 24, 2022

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First Assistant Prosecutor

Kristen Guardado
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Trial Counsel*

Taryn Douglas
Kristina Lockwood
Elise Hamilton
Amanda Brunson
Assistant Prosecutors

Amy Loder – Associate Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 North Street NE, Suite 10 W. 121
Washington DC 20530

Dear Ms. Loder:

Re: Ohio Criminal Justice Services Grant Proposal

Ohio Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) is submitting an application under the FY2022 VAWA grant funds. The Canton Prosecutor's office has received grant funding since 1998. The Canton Prosecutor's office and the Stark County Domestic Violence Collaborative (SCDVC) strongly supports OCJS's request for funds. Without VAWA grant funding from OCJS, the DV Prosecutor position at the Canton Prosecutor's Office would be eliminated, in addition to two others within the SCDVC network.

Stark County's population is getting older and more impoverished. We continue to see an increase in the Hispanic population in Stark County from the local farms and factories. With that increase in population intimate partner violence also increases with the added stresses of the language barrier. Within Stark County, there are five college/universities that continue to have problems with dating violence and sexual assaults. The COVID pandemic hit Stark County, as well as the nation, and this area has not fully recovered. Economic instability profoundly expresses itself in domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault. The assistance of the SCDVC and the VAWA grant funding is more important than ever to help alleviate these issues within Stark County.

Since the inception of this grant, the SCDVC has collaborated with the community, the Massillon Law Department, and the Stark County Prosecutor's Office for prosecution enhancement. We work hard to train all police officers in the county. As part of the training, we teach officers about lethality assessments. They also learn how to improve their documentation skills that result in more fully developed cases with better DV prosecutions and more convictions.

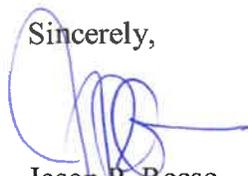
Without the collaborative intervention and a designated DV Prosecutor, we would lose the momentum and the progress that SCDVC has made for successful prosecutions. For example, some tasks the SCDVC worked on are: 1) enhancing a coordinated response to victims of domestic violence, adult sexual assault and stalking; 2) improving offender

accountability; 3) developing training for professionals who intervene in these cases; 4) developing and presenting prevention training for courts, related agencies and the community at large; 5) and planning and developing an annual training each year for the Stark County criminal justice community (social workers, probation and parole officers, nurses, school personnel, police officers, etc.).

The Canton City Prosecutor's Office/DV Prosecutor has been a long time scorer on VAWA grant applications for OCJS. In many counties throughout the state of Ohio, the funding received from OCJS is the only service for victims of domestic violence. Without funding, there would be no options for the victim to receive services or for the specialization of prosecution of domestic violence.

The Canton City Prosecutor's Office/DV Prosecutor as part of the SCDVC have developed a coordinated community approach to reduce violence against women and to create mutually respectful partnerships between the justice system and victim services. This collaboration is a great benefit to the victims of Stark County that would be lost if OCJS FY2022 grant funding was not approved.

Sincerely,



Jason P. Reese
City Prosecutor



Kristen Donohue Guardado
Senior Trial Counsel/DV Prosecutor



CITY OF ATHENS POLICE DEPARTMENT

THOMAS D. PYLE II, CLEE, CHIEF OF POLICE

Ms. Amy Loder
Associate Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N. St., NE, Suite 10 W. 121
Washington, D.C. 20530

May 6, 2022

Dear Ms. Loder;

The Athens City Police Department and the Athens VAWA Unit are pleased to assist the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services in submitting the FY 2022 VAWA grant funds and Ohio's FY 2022 – FY 2025 VAWA Implementation Plan. OCJS is diligent in their efforts to allocate funding to Ohio's law enforcement, prosecution, victim service, and court programs.

This funding has been instrumental in assisting counties throughout Ohio to better serve victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking in their communities. It has allowed programs to maintain and develop new services as needed. Many counties have developed specialized cultural services for victims and other counties now have their own local program/advocate to assist victims.

The target populations for programs are adult victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other relationship based crimes. All victims receive services regardless of age, marital status, disability, race, ethnicity, or language background.

The Athens VAWA Unit is a specialized investigative unit consisting of an investigator and a Licensed Social Worker. Services provided are criminal investigations/arrests, court accompaniment, protection orders, victim advocacy, crisis intervention, judicial liaison, etc.

If you need any further information, please contact me at 740-592-3315.

Sincerely,

Molly Burchfield, LSW
Athens City Police Dept./VAWA Unit
11 N. College St.
Athens, Ohio 45701
mburchfield@ci.athens.oh.us