

## **PRIORITY AREAS**

### S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Formula Grant Program

The emphasis of the S.T.O.P. (Services - Training - Officers - Prosecutors) VAWA Program continues to be on the implementation of comprehensive strategies for addressing violence against women that provide for the immediate and long-term needs and safety of victims while holding offenders accountable for their crimes. States should seek to carry out these strategies by forging lasting partnerships between the victim advocacy organizations and the criminal justice system, and by encouraging communities to look beyond traditional resources. States should also look to new partners, including community-based organizations, to respond vigorously to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking crimes.

States are encouraged to develop and support projects that:

1. Retain core services to victims;
2. Increase support for sexual assault, including services, law enforcement response and prosecution;
3. Increase support for underserved populations, particularly communities of color, in a culturally appropriate manner, with a special emphasis on African-American, and LGBT communities;
4. Increase the use of promising or evidence-building practices, where available;
5. Support core services for victims of sexual and domestic violence, particularly support for rape crisis centers and domestic violence shelters;
6. Provide culturally-specific services and training to underserved communities based on factors such as race, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, or gender identity;
7. Provide comprehensive training to victim services, law enforcement, prosecution, and court personnel on sexual assault, to encourage increased reporting, arrest and successful prosecution of perpetrators;
8. Support Full Faith and Credit training for States; and Implement evidence-based risk/danger assessments to identify and prioritize victims who are considered to be in relationships with a high risk of lethality

### Victims Of Crime Act (VOCA) Formula Grant Program

States are given latitude in allocating funds, but must give 10 percent to each of the following priority areas:

- Sexual assault
- Domestic violence
- Child abuse
- Previously underserved populations (victims of federal crimes, assault, robbery, gang violence, hate or bias crimes, intoxicated drivers, bank robbery, economic exploitation or fraud, elder abuse, and survivors of homicide victims)

Elder abuse is defined as the mistreatment of older persons through physical, sexual, or psychological violence, neglect, or economic exploitation and fraud.

To meet the underserved requirement, state grantees must identify crime victims by the types of crimes they have experienced (e.g., drunk driving, sexual assault, or domestic violence). States are encouraged to also identify gaps in available services by victims' demographic characteristics. For example, in a given state, "underserved" victims may be best defined according to their status as senior citizens, non-English speaking residents, persons with disabilities, members of racial or ethnic minorities, or by virtue of the fact that they are residents of rural or remote areas, or inner cities. Each state grantee has latitude for determining the method for identifying "previously underserved" crime victims, which may include public hearings, needs assessments, task forces, and meetings with statewide victim services agencies.