



## STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program 2025-2027

### Funding Announcement Q&A Tracker

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Funding Announcement Link:

[pccd.pa.gov/Funding/Pages/Active-Funding-Announcements.aspx](https://pccd.pa.gov/Funding/Pages/Active-Funding-Announcements.aspx)

About this Document:

This guide will provide an overview of questions and answers regarding the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program funding announcement and application process, which opened on March 8, 2024. Responses will be provided as staff is able to process questions through April 30, 2024.

Questions?

Please contact PCCD staff at [RA-OVSSTOPGrants@pa.gov](mailto:RA-OVSSTOPGrants@pa.gov) with "Stop Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program 2025-2027" in the subject line.

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## 1. Eligible Applicants

- 1. Question:** I received an email the other day from a local agency, who is a part of our STOP Team, but is not part of any STOP funding. They were wondering how they could go about applying for STOP Funding? Would that be through our STOP grant? If granted, would they then be a part of the allocation we get for Victim Services that we've been splitting. Are they eligible to apply? They provide shelter for victims as well as many other services. Can they apply on their own for STOP funding? Or must they go through a DA office?

**Answer:** County government and non-profit victim service agencies are eligible to apply for STOP Formula Grant Funding. PCCD is not able to comment on who is specifically able to apply for the STOP funding. Please see page 5 of the Funding Announcement for more details. STOP Funding differs from other federal victim service-related funding in that it mandates specific allocation categories for funding that include not only victim services, but also law enforcement and prosecution. This helps achieve cross-system collaboration. The solicitation explains the requirements to receive STOP Formula Grant funding in Pennsylvania, who is eligible to apply, and the goals, objectives and eligible activities that could be funded.

- 2. Question:** Dear Grant Support,

We are reviewing the instructions and requirements for the STOP Grant 2025-27 Application, and were wondering if you could help clarify a few things:

1. 'Victim service agency' is not specifically defined in the RFP or state plan, but both imply that it includes only agencies whose primary mission is serving crime victims (except in the case of a faith-based organization). Is there a specific definition?
2. More specifically, are civil legal aid organizations, like North Penn Legal Services, who serve victims of crime, but not as their primary purpose, considered 'victim service agencies' by PCCD and therefore eligible to apply for this grant?

We appreciate your time and assistance!

**Answer:** PCCD recognizes a broad spectrum of victims' service programs in Pennsylvania. To fall under that broad spectrum, an organization must meet one of the following conditions:

- The organization must have a principle mission to provide services to crime victims; or
- The organization must be a public or non-profit organization that has a component whose principle mission is to provide services to crime victims. A "component" is defined as a specific program within the organizational framework of an agency, whose principle purpose is to provide services to crime victims.

Please refer to the Eligible Applicants section of the Funding Announcement, with this additional clarification in mind. Specifically, page 13 of the Funding Announcement explains several eligibility requirements that are specific to Pennsylvania including Standards for Victim Services, STOP Coordinating Team and Protocol Development.

3. **Question:** Good afternoon, I am writing to inquire about whether the agency I work for can be a lead applicant for the STOP grant and also be indicated as a consultant/partner in another program's application. The scope of the 2 agencies is a bit different (we are a sexual assault provider and the other agency in our community does domestic violence work). Is it ok for us to be mentioned in someone else's application? Just wanted to check before we continue with both processes.

**Answer:** County government and non-profit victim service agencies are eligible to apply for STOP Formula Grant Funding. PCCD is not able to comment on who is specifically able to apply for the STOP funding. Please see page 5 of the Funding Announcement for more details. STOP Funding differs from other federal victim service-related funding in that it mandates specific allocation categories for funding that include not only victim services, but also law enforcement and prosecution. This helps achieve cross-system collaboration. The solicitation explains the requirements to receive STOP Formula Grant funding in Pennsylvania, who is eligible to apply, and the goals, objectives and eligible activities that could be funded.

## 2. Application Process

1. **Question:** Hello, I have a couple of questions regarding the application for the 2025-2027 STOP grant:

1. For those who have already received the funding and are working on formatting current protocols to new protocols, what should we do about sending in our current ones? Just use the our old ones since the ones being revised aren't completed yet?
2. Does stalking need to be a separate protocol for the new, revised protocols teams are working on now or can stalking be interwoven through the DV protocol?

**Answer:** In reference to your first question, please attach the most recent, team-approved version of your county's domestic violence and sexual assault protocols. Note: As part of the "Problem Description" section of the application, applicants are to explain their progress on revising current STOP Protocols to align with the PCCD Protocol Development Tool.

In reference to your second question, it is each team's decision whether to have a stand-alone stalking protocol or if the stalking protocol is interwoven within the domestic violence protocol.

2. **Question:** I work in the District Attorney's Office and wanted to know if we can use the 25% for law enforcement and 25% prosecution as well as 20% discretionary to make the total of 70%? Then can we use 15% for a nonprofit victim services agency and the other 15% for another nonprofit victim services agency?

**Answer:** PCCD is unable to advise individual applicants on the structure and content of their STOP competitive application budgets. As noted on Page 18 of the STOP competitive solicitation, 25% of the budget must be dedicated for law enforcement, 25% for prosecution, 30% for victim services with the remaining 20% able to be distributed among

the three initiatives as fits the needs of the county. It is the responsibility of applicants to explain how their budget complies with the allocation percentages.

### 3. Eligible Activities

- 1. Question:** During our online meetings, there was discussion about STOP being expanded to include teens who experience gender-based crime.

After reading the package, I am not sure if the new project is including middle/high school students in scope of work?

Does the new project include expanded services to teens or not? If so, does that include both SA and DV?

**Answer:** STOP funds can be utilized for any individual aged 11 and older who has experienced Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Teen Dating Violence or Stalking. However, funds cannot be utilized to develop prevention curricula for schools. The new STOP Solicitation has not expanded services to teens but has continued to fund services to any individual aged 11 and older.

- 2. Question:** We have a question about the new STOP application as we noticed in the announcement that the issues listed to be addressed are domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence. And it is the same in the application drop down in egrants to choose the items to be addressed. Trafficking is notably absent, although in our previous application and work under STOP sex trafficking was included as it ties into some of the other issues to be addressed. Should we plan to separate our sex trafficking work from what we do under STOP moving forward? This would be something we would need to address with our team now as the current grant will end in December and we have a STOP subcommittee focused on trafficking that we would likely need to shift to be separate.

**Answer:**

According to guidance provided by the federal Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), STOP funds can be used to address sex trafficking, but only when the sex trafficking is discovered to be a component of a survivor's overall experience of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. STOP funds cannot support work that is solely focused on sex trafficking.

In light of the guidance from OVW, PCCD recommends that STOP Teams engaged in work to support victims of sex trafficking ensure that STOP funding is used to support services to victims who originally come to the attention of the team *as a part of a domestic violence or sexual assault incident* but disclose sex trafficking after the initial response.

Additionally, STOP Teams can address sex trafficking within the broader context of victimization through domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking.

- 3. Question:** The attached solicitation indicates consultants are considered eligible expenses, but research projects are considered ineligible expenses. We are considering including consultant expenses to perform a local service gap analysis with a portion of Year 1 STOP funds. I want to ensure this work is not viewed as a 'Research Project' before moving forward with that

component of the proposal. Any direction you are able to provide is greatly appreciated. I understand that direction may be published via the Funding Announcement Q&A.

**Answer:** Research is defined in 28 C.F.R. § 46.102 as a systematic investigation designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge. Research is outside the scope of OVW grant programs, meaning OVW grant funds cannot support research activities. (The only exception is grants funded under OVW's Research and Evaluation Initiative.) The OVW research decision tree [in this document](#) can assist applicants/recipients in determining whether an activity they plan to undertake with federal funds constitutes research and therefore cannot be supported with OVW funds.

OVW recipients may use funds to conduct assessments for quality assurance and internal improvement purposes. Examples include surveying training participants about the quality of training content and delivery or convening a listening session to identify service gaps in the community. Recipients planning to conduct any type of assessment or survey must use the decision tree to ensure that the activity does not constitute research.

4. **Question:** Our county is currently working on our STOP grant application and we have a question about how the Law Enforcement portion of the funds can be used. We would be implementing the LAP Screening Tool with the help of these funds, so in order for officers to contact our local DV shelters on behalf of victims who screen appropriately, can we utilize these funds for purchasing 1-3 prepaid phones (like trac phones) for each department (depending on the size of the dept)? This would not be "standard" police equipment for our county, so we just wanted to check and see if that would meet the definition of standard police equipment under the STOP funds.

**Answer:** All Standard issue law enforcement items are listed under Ineligible Program Expenses in the Funding Announcement. If any equipment or supplies are purchased using 100% of STOP Funds, it must be 100% used for the STOP Project. If not, the cost must be pro-rated. Please refer to PCCD's Applicants Manual for more information on Equipment purchases and Procurement Standards.

5. **Question:** I have a question regarding the following aspect of this year's RFP: "PCCD requires each project funded under this competitive solicitation to dedicate 25% of the total amount of STOP funding requested for law enforcement; 25% for prosecution; 30% for victim services; and 20% discretionary. The discretionary portion may be added to any of the other three initiatives."

Within the prosecution bucket, could work carried out by a position such as criminal court advocate stationed within criminal court (providing services such as safety planning, crisis and options counseling in the criminal case) be considered eligible?

Additionally, within either the prosecution or law enforcement buckets, could we include funds for a position such as a coordinator who would support Act 79 gun relinquishment work amongst Family Court, the District Attorney's office, and the Police department?

**Answer:** While PCCD is unable to advise applicants on what positions to include in their applications and which allocation areas to use, we can clarify the meaning of the STOP Program Guidelines from the Federal Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) and PCCD's solicitation.

In this case, the STOP Program Guidelines state that “25% of the funds can be used **for** law enforcement, 25% **for** prosecution, 30% **for** victim services with the remaining 20% discretionary to be used in whatever allocation area needed.” The use of the word “for” means that projects have the flexibility to use the funding in unconventional ways in one allocation area for activities and positions that *benefit* the work of a different allocation area. The application should explain why this arrangement is necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of the project as well as the benefit to be derived from it. The application must also include a letter from an authorized representative of the component that it is benefiting, stating that they agree to give up a portion of their STOP funding to support the work being done under another allocation area.

For example, a victim service program could use funding under the law enforcement allocation to provide training to law enforcement to improve their understanding of the trauma associated with violence against women crimes. In this scenario, funding under law enforcement could support the time of victim service staff while they provide training because it is a **benefit** to the law enforcement component of the STOP Project. The application could include an explanation of how training law enforcement on trauma improves officer’s ability to respond to VAW crimes. A letter from a representative of the law enforcement allocation could be attached to verify that they agree to giving up part of their allocation to the victim service agency because it benefits their officers.

#### 4. General Questions

- 1. Question:** Hello PCCD, I have a clarifying question about question one in the Problem Description Section. Question one asks “Is your county currently receiving STOP Formula Grant Funds?” We provide victim services in a county that is receiving STOP Formula Grant funds. We are not currently a part of the STOP Team that is receiving this funding. In light of this, do we select that our county is receiving STOP Formula Grant funds and the two subparts to this question?

**Answer:** Please indicate that your county does receive STOP funding. In the following questions, explain that your organization does not participate on the STOP Team.

- 2. Question:** If we do an MOU for the 2025 STOP grant application, can we have it for all three years with the extensions or do we need to do one each new year since we have to apply for the extensions?

**Answer:** Either way is acceptable.

- 3. Question:** Good Morning, We understand the deadline for the application is May 3, 2024 by 11:59 p.m. However, is it possible to ask for an extension, if need be?

**Answer:** Due to the competitive nature of the solicitation, the deadline for submission of STOP Formula Grant 2025-2027 applications cannot be extended past May 3, 2024 at 11:59pm for any applicants.

**4. Question:** Is docusign an acceptable form of signature for grant applications?

**Answer:** PCCD will accept documents endorsed through DocuSign.

**5. Question:** Do we need a signed MOU and contract with submission with the grant application or that comes when and if its awarded?

**Answer:** Please see page 17 of the Solicitation. Under Section 7b are the required signed documents for a successful application.

**6. Question:** In the Federal Transparency Act Certification section, I cannot add any pass through agencies to provide their UEI number or other pertinent information. Is there a way to populate this information into the grant application, or should I just provide the information for the applicant agency?

**Answer:** Only the Applicant Agency's UEI is needed in this section.