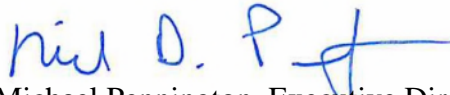




Date: March 8, 2024

Subject: STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program 2025-2027
(Competitive)

To: Interested Parties

From: 
Michael Pennington, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency

The Office of Victims' Services (OVS) of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) is pleased to announce the availability of up to \$12 million in federal STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant funding for projects beginning January 1, 2025. County governments and non-profit victim service agencies are eligible to apply for up to three years of funding, with projects not to exceed a total of \$375,000 or \$125,000 per year. Under this solicitation, applicants will submit a budget for an initial year of funding, with Years Two and Three awarded as continuation applications.

Under this solicitation, funds are being made available to support a multidisciplinary approach to improve criminal, civil, and juvenile justice systems' response to violence against women and to enhance advocacy and services available to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence. The emphasis on the STOP Program is on the implementation of comprehensive victim services, healthcare, law enforcement, and prosecutorial strategies addressing violence against women that are sensitive to the needs and safety of victims and hold offenders accountable for their crimes.

Applications must be submitted in PCCD's Egrants system no later than May 3, 2024.

Questions concerning the Egrants system should be made directly to the Egrants Help Desk at either (717) 787-5887 or you may call toll-free at (800) 692-7292 and select option 9 and then option 6 when prompted. The Help Desk is available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Your interest in developing programs that strengthen victims' services and the civil/criminal/juvenile justice systems' response to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence is greatly appreciated.



Office of Victims' Services

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program 2025-2027 (Competitive)

Please Note: Applications are *only* accepted through PCCD's Egrants system. Applicants must register in Egrants prior to submitting an application. Applicants are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Egrants system and allow adequate time to prepare and submit an application.

Recommended [Egrants Agency Registration](#) Date:
4/5/2024

Recommended [Egrants User Registration](#) Date:
4/19/2024

Mandatory Egrants Application Deadline:
05/03/2024

This funding guideline contains information not appearing in the Egrants application. Applicants are advised to print and review this document and refer to it while completing your Egrants application.

PCCD staff may only respond to questions to clarify the funding announcement. Questions must be sent via email to: RA-OVSSTOPGRANTS@pa.gov with "STOP Formula Grant 2025-2027" in the subject line. All questions regarding this funding announcement must be received by close of business on **May 1, 2024. PCCD staff will post responses to questions, as they are received, on [PCCD's website](#). Select the appropriate funding announcement to view questions and answers.**

For any technical or system questions, contact and ask for the Egrants Help Desk at (717) 787-5887 or (800) 692-7292, or by emailing RA-eGrantsSupport@pa.gov.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY
Office of Victims' Services

Funding Stream: Federal STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program

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PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY
Office of Victims' Services

Funding Announcement Title: STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program 2025-2027 (Competitive)

Funding Stream: Federal STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program

Submission Requirements for Applications:

- **Scoring** – All applications received will be [competitively reviewed and scored](#) based on the applicant's adherence to the funding announcement guidelines and timely submission in the PCCD Egrants system.
- **Due Date** – Applications must be submitted electronically through PCCD's Egrants system **no later than 11:59 PM on Friday, May 3, 2024.**
- **Technical Assistance** – Grant application and administrative guides can be accessed on [PCCD's website](#) under the Funding section. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the application and administrative guides before calling the Egrants Help Desk for assistance. The Egrants Help Desk is available to assist with technical or system questions Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and may be reached by calling (717) 787-5887 or (800) 692-7292, or by emailing RA-eGrantsSupport@pa.gov.
- **Egrants Submission** – An application submitted in Egrants by the deadline is not considered complete until PCCD has received the executed signature page, as well as any other required documents. Successful applications will be presented for consideration at the September 11, 2024 Commission meeting.
- **Administrative Rejection** – An application that does not meet all the listed requirements in this funding announcement may be administratively rejected.
- **Corrections** – If PCCD returns an application for corrections, the final application (including all corrections and required documents) must be returned to and approved by PCCD for the requested funding to be awarded.
- **Non-supplantation** – Funding must not be used to supplant/replace state, federal, or local funds that would otherwise be available to provide for program-related services. PCCD funding is to be used in addition to other funds that are made available for services.
- **Keywords** – Applicants are required to select "Keywords" from the dropdown menu located on the Main Summary screen in Egrants. The required keywords are below.

Keywords: Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence and Stalking

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY
Office of Victims' Services

1. Overview:

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) is now accepting competitive applications for funding under the **S**ervices **T**raining **O**fficers **P**rosecutors (STOP) Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program, hereafter referred to as STOP. The STOP Program, authorized by the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), has a primary purpose of supporting communities in their efforts to develop and strengthen effective responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking through multidisciplinary collaboration. STOP differs from other federal victim service-related funding in that it mandates specific allocation categories for funding that include not only victim services, but law enforcement and prosecution. This helps achieve cross-system collaboration.

The federal Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), which administers the STOP Program, strongly encourages the use of STOP funding to support projects that promote civil rights (including meeting the needs of underserved and marginalized survivors), improve access to justice, enhance survivor safety, and hold offenders accountable. The STOP Formula Grant Program prohibits recipients from excluding, denying benefits to, or discriminating against any person on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability. This means that recipients of services under STOP are not limited to women.

NOTE:

The goal(s) and objective(s) of Pennsylvania's Competitive STOP Solicitation originate from [Pennsylvania's STOP Violence Against Women Program FFY 2022-2025 Implementation Plan](#) as Amended, hereafter referred to as "Plan". Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the Plan in its entirety before submitting a competitive application under this solicitation. Scoring of competitive applications under this STOP solicitation will take into account how well the proposed project aligns with the goals, objectives, and priorities outlined in the Plan.

The anticipated impacts resulting from this solicitation include the support of county-based, multi-system collaborative efforts that improve the safety of victims of violence against women crimes and hold offenders accountable.

2. Funding Availability:

A total of \$12 million in federal STOP Formula Grant Program funds is being announced to support this initiative. PCCD expects to fund up to 32 grants with budgets not to exceed \$125,000 per 12-month project period. Under this solicitation, applicants will submit an application for an initial year of funding, and following successful completion of the initial year, applicants will submit separate applications for years 2 and 3 to continue the project.

PCCD is not liable for costs incurred prior to the official start date of the award.

3. Project Dates:

Applications approved at the September 2024 Commission meeting will be 12-month projects and have a start date of January 1, 2025 and an end date of December 31, 2025. Continuation applications will be required to commence years 2 and 3.

4. Eligible Applicants:

County governments and non-profit victim service agencies are eligible to apply for STOP Formula Grant Funding.

Applicants must be in good standing with PCCD to be eligible for these funds. The applicant and recipient agencies' historical success in implementing PCCD-funded programs/initiatives that met their intended goals will be considered in the review process. Applicants are not required to have a prior funding history with PCCD to be eligible.

Funding for Faith-Based Organizations

A DOJ regulation (28 C.F.R. Part 38) provides that faith-based or religious organizations are able to participate in DOJ-funded programs on an equal basis with other organizations. In addition, recipients and subrecipients at any tier must comply with all applicable requirements of Part 38 which, among other things, prohibits specific forms of discrimination on the basis of religion, religious belief, a refusal to hold a religious belief, or refusal to attend or participate in religious practice. Part 38 also sets out rules and requirements that pertain to recipients and subrecipients that engage in or conduct explicitly religious activities, as well as rules and requirements that pertain to recipients and subrecipients that are faith-based or religious organizations. For more information click [here](#).

In reference to Pennsylvania's competitive solicitation for STOP Program funding, faith-based organizations whose primary mission is not serving crime victims may be eligible for funding. Such applicants must submit a signed Memorandum of Understanding with a partnering victim service agency and a letter of support, signed by the chair of their county's STOP Coordinating Team. If the county does not currently have a formalized STOP Coordinating Team in place, a signed Memorandum of Understanding with law enforcement, prosecution, and victim services is required.

Additional Requirements Under the Federal STOP Formula Grant Program

As with the Commonwealth's prior Plans, the FFY 2022-2025 Plan relies on systemic collaboration at the local level through the efforts of multidisciplinary STOP Coordinating Teams. The Plan preserves Pennsylvania's long-standing commitment to provision of core direct victim services to victims and cultivation/maintenance of specialized units in law enforcement and prosecution. Core victim services, as defined by the Plan include:

- Crisis Intervention;
- Supportive counseling through either individual sessions or groups;
- Victim advocacy and accompaniment within the criminal and juvenile justice systems, healthcare, immigration, Veteran's Affairs, financial, and/or educational institutions;
- Legal Advocacy;
- Legal Services;
- Emergency Housing;
- Safety Planning;

- Multidisciplinary Sexual Assault Response Teams;
- Language access services (i.e. provision of interpretation and/or translation);
- Crime Victims' Compensation Assistance; and
- Transportation Assistance.

Specialized units in law enforcement and prosecution consist of dedicated detectives, law enforcement officers, probation staff, and prosecutors who have specialized knowledge, training, and experience in handling domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking cases.

Federal Purpose Areas

The regulations governing the STOP Formula Grant Program identify 24 Federal Purpose Areas under which STOP-funded projects must fall. Each state has the ability to choose the federal purpose areas that best meet needs identified in its Plan. Proposed projects do not have to correspond to every federal purpose area in order to be considered a viable project. PCCD recognizes the diverse nature of Pennsylvania and understands that needs may vary greatly from county to county based on demographics, geography, socioeconomic factors, etc. The following federal purpose areas under the STOP Formula Grant Program align with the goals and objectives of Pennsylvania's FFY 2022-2025 STOP Implementation Plan, as Amended:

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 domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and including the appropriate use of nonimmigrant status under subparagraphs (T) and (U) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. §1101(a)(15)).
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 domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
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 domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, as well as the appropriate treatment of victims including implementation of the grant conditions in section 40002(b) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291(b)).
4. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening victim services and legal assistance programs, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking programs, developing or improving delivery of victim services and legal assistance 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 domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
5. 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.
6. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs to assist law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and others to address the needs and circumstances of individuals 50 years of age and over, individuals with disabilities, and Deaf individuals who are

victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, including recognizing, investigating, and prosecuting instances of such violence or assault and targeting outreach and support, counseling, legal assistance, and other victim services to such individuals.

7. Providing assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in immigration matters.
8. Maintaining core victim services and criminal justice initiatives, while supporting complementary new initiatives and emergency services for victims and their families.
9. Developing, implementing, or enhancing Sexual Assault Response Teams, or other similar coordinated community responses to sexual assault.
10. 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.
11. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing sexual assault against men, women, and youth in correctional and detention settings.
12. 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 of the United States Code.
13. Developing, enhancing, or strengthening prevention and educational programming to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or female genital mutilation or cutting, with not more than 5 percent of the amount allocated to a state to be used for this purpose.
14. Developing, enhancing, or strengthening programs and projects to improve evidence collection methods for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, including through funding for technology that better detects bruising and injuries across skin tones and related training.
15. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening culturally specific victim services programs to provide culturally specific victim services and responses to female genital mutilation and cutting.
16. Paying any fees charged by a governmental authority for furnishing a victim or the child of a victim with any of the following documents: (A) A birth certificate or passport of the individual as required by law. (B) An identification card issued to the individual by a State or Tribe, that shows that the individual is a resident of the State or a member of the Tribe.

Federally Required Focus Areas

The FFY 2022-2025 STOP Implementation Plan as Amended highlights three (3) focus areas required by the federal guidelines governing the STOP Formula Grant Program.

1. Culturally Specific and Underserved Populations

Under the federal guidelines governing STOP, states are required to dedicate 10% of their victim services allocation to meaningfully serve culturally specific populations. To this end, the Plan contains the following goal and objectives:

GOAL 3: Identify and meaningfully address barriers to service for culturally specific and underserved populations in Pennsylvania.

Objective 3.1: Prioritize STOP Funding for projects that meaningfully address service provision to underserved populations (e.g., racial/ethnic minorities, immigrants, victims of sex trafficking, elder victims, LGBTQ+ victims, people with mental health and or substance use disorders, individuals with disabilities, etc.).

Objective 3.2: Provide training to increase awareness of immigrant communities in Pennsylvania among first responders, enhance understanding of unique barriers faced by this population (e.g., language access, fear of deportation, cultural barriers, etc.), and identify strategies to effectively provide services and supports.

Objective 3.3: Prioritize STOP funding for counties that engage community-based, culturally specific organizations as funded partners, including cross-county/regional projects focused on improving outreach to specific underserved populations, addressing barriers to service, and building capacity.

NOTE: Under the STOP Formula Grant Program, the term "culturally specific" means primarily directed toward racial and ethnic minority groups which are defined by 42 U.S.C. 300 u-6(g) as American Indians (including Alaska Natives, Eskimos and Aleuts); Asian Americans; Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders; Blacks; and Hispanics. For the purposes of STOP, a "culturally specific, community-based agency", is an agency in a community whose mission is to provide services to individuals identifying from a particular cultural, ethnic, and/or linguistic background. PCCD encourages applicants to review the latest census data for their service provision area as part of the application preparation process. Applicants may benefit from looking at the demographics of their service provision in comparison to the demographics shown by their county's census data when determining the need for culturally specific outreach and services.

Objective 3.4: Invest in practices that address victimization among vulnerable populations, including people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, individuals with co-occurring disorders, and/or older Pennsylvanians, with a particular focus on addressing sexual violence within facilities serving these populations (e.g., nursing homes, personal care homes, residential facilities, group homes, etc.

2. Sexual Assault Set Aside

The federal guidelines governing STOP require states to dedicate 20% of their STOP funding across two or more allocation areas (i.e. law enforcement, prosecution, victim services) to activities that meaningfully address sexual assault. Meaningfully addressing sexual assault means providing services by STOP-funded staff that have substantive understanding and training in the

victim-centered response to sexual violence. To meet this requirement, the Plan contains the following goal and objectives:

GOAL 4: Improve coordinated responses to sexual assault.

Objective 4.1: Increase the number of multidisciplinary Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) across the Commonwealth by providing funding for counties to start or enhance programs through training, support personnel (e.g. SART Coordinators), and/or improve coordination with existing multidisciplinary teams.

Objective 4.2: Develop and deliver cross-training programs on successful sexual assault prosecutions, with a focus on the benefits of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) and medical evidence to the prosecutorial process.

Objective 4.3: Increase the number of hospital-based personnel trained on effectively addressing sexual assault victims/survivors, including utilization of trauma-informed approaches.

3. Domestic Violence Homicide Reduction

States receiving STOP funding are encouraged to implement evidence-based risk/danger assessments to identify and prioritize victims who are considered to be in relationships with a high risk of lethality. As part of Pennsylvania's ongoing efforts to reduce domestic violence-related homicides, PCCD has been collaborating with the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) for over a decade to encourage law enforcement departments across Pennsylvania to voluntarily adopt the Maryland Model of Lethality Assessment (LAP). These efforts continue through the following Goal in the Plan:

GOAL 5: Reduce domestic violence-related homicides in Pennsylvania.

Objective 5.1: Continue to partner with PCADV to support implementation of the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) in municipalities /counties across the Commonwealth using STOP funds.

Guiding Principles and Approaches

The Plan contains the following list of Guiding Principles and Approaches that applicants are encouraged to incorporate, as appropriate, into their STOP applications:

Cultural Appropriateness - Projects must be designed to promote/reinforce expectations of culturally appropriate responses among all service providers. This should include development and/or enhancement of meaningful collaborations between providers and community-based agencies to provide effective supports to culturally specific or underserved populations.

Diffusion of Knowledge - When appropriate and/or feasible, trainings and professional development programs funded through STOP should be recorded and provided to PCCD to be made accessible to providers across the state.

Advanced Topics - PCCD encourages counties to provide training and professional development programs on Violence Against Women-related topics that go beyond basic or "101" levels.

Trauma Informed - Projects funded through STOP must emphasize and adopt trauma informed practices in systems and settings beyond victim services (e.g. law enforcement, courts, prosecution, healthcare, etc.)

Federal Certifications and Conditions

Federal Certifications

Applicants for STOP Program funds must certify that they comply with the statutory eligibility requirements of the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) as summarized below:

1. Applicant does not charge victims for filing criminal charges or obtaining protection orders;
2. Applicant does not make victims of sexual assault bear the cost for forensic medical exams;
3. Applicant coordinates with healthcare providers and allied professionals to notify victims of sexual assault of the availability of rape exams at no cost and without regard to whether the victim cooperates in the criminal justice system or cooperates with law enforcement;
4. Applicant complies with judicial notification requirements regarding firearms;
5. Applicant does not ask or require, as a condition for proceeding with a criminal investigation or prosecution, a victim of an alleged crime to submit to a polygraph examination, or any form of mechanical or electrical lie detector examination, or psychological stress evaluation examination; and
6. The prosecution component within the applicant's project will, during the grant project period, engage in planning, developing, and implementing the following: training regarding victim-centered approaches to VAWA cases, the development of policies that support a victim-centered approach, and implement protocols that support the use of evidence-based prosecution practices. The intent of this new federal certification is to ensure that alternative practices and procedures for material witnesses and bench warrants are exhausted before compelling victim testimony.

For the full text of and additional resources on the federal certifications under STOP, please refer to Appendix A.

Prohibited Practices

Applicants for STOP funds must agree to refrain from the following practices that have been found to jeopardize victim safety, retraumatize victims, and/or undermine offender accountability:

1. Procedures or policies that exclude victims from receiving safe shelter, advocacy services, counseling, and other assistance based on their actual or perceived age,

immigration status, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental health condition, physical health condition, criminal record, work in the sex industry, income or lack of income, or the age and/or gender of their children;

2. Procedures or policies that compromise the confidentiality of information and privacy of victims;
3. Procedures or policies that require victims to take certain actions (e.g., seek an order of protection; receive counseling; participate in counseling, mediation, or restorative justice/circle processes; report to law enforcement or other authorities; seek civil or criminal remedies) or penalize them for failing to do so;
4. Procedures or policies that fail to include conducting safety planning with victims;
5. Project designs, products, services, and/or budgets that fail to account for the unique needs of individuals with disabilities, with limited English proficiency, or who are Deaf or hard of hearing, including accessibility for such individuals;
6. Using technology without addressing implications for victim confidentiality, safety planning, and the need for informed consent; and
7. Partnering with individuals or organizations that support/promote practices that compromise victim safety and recovery or undermine offender accountability.

Confidentiality and Privacy Protections

STOP program grantees must satisfy specific requirements regarding nondisclosure of confidential or private information of persons receiving services and must document their compliance. A set of frequently asked questions about the VAWA confidentiality requirements may be found [here](#).

Requirement to Report Actual or Imminent Breach of Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

The applicant and any subrecipient must have written procedures in place to respond in the event of an actual or imminent "breach" (OMB M-17-12) if it (or a subrecipient) 1) creates, collects, uses, processes, stores, maintains, disseminates, discloses, or disposes of "personally identifiable information (PII)" (2 CFR 200.79) within the scope of a PCCD-funded grant program or activity, or 2) uses or operates a "Federal information system" (OMB Circular A-130). Guidance regarding data breach response policies from the National Network to End Domestic Violence may be found [here](#).) The applicant's breach procedures must include a requirement to report an actual or imminent breach of PII to PCCD no later than 24 hours after an occurrence of an actual breach, or the detection of an imminent breach.

Delivery of Legal Assistance

1. Any person providing legal assistance through a program funded under the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program must meet the following criteria:
 - (a) (i) is a licensed attorney or is working under the direct supervision of a licensed attorney;

- (ii) in immigration proceedings, is a Board of Immigration Appeals accredited representative;
 - (iii) in Veteran’s Administration claims, is an accredited representative; or
 - (iv) is any person who functions as an attorney or lay advocate in Tribal court; and;
- (b) (i) has demonstrated expertise in providing legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking in the targeted population; or
- (ii)(I) is partnered with an entity or person that has demonstrated expertise described in clause (i); and
 - (II) has completed, or will complete, training in connection with domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault and related legal issues, including training on evidence-based risk factors for domestic and dating violence homicide.
2. Any training program conducted in satisfaction of the requirement of paragraph (1) has been or will be developed with input from and in collaboration with a tribal, state, territorial, local, or culturally specific domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking victim service provider or coalition, as well as appropriate tribal, state, territorial, and local law enforcement officials.
 3. Any person or organization providing legal assistance through a program funded under the STOP Formula Grant Program has informed and will continue to inform state, local, or tribal domestic violence, dating violence, or sexual assault programs and coalitions, as well as appropriate state and local law enforcement officials of their work.
 4. The applicant’s organizational policies do not require mediation or counseling involving offenders and victims physically together, in cases where sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or child sexual abuse is an issue.

Policy for response to workplace-related incidents of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, and dating violence

Applicants, and any pass-through organizations, must have a policy, or issue a policy to address workplace-related incidents of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, and dating violence involving an employee, volunteer, consultant, or contractor. The details of this requirement are posted on the OVW web site at <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/award-conditions> (Award Condition: Policy for response to workplace-related sexual misconduct, domestic violence, and dating violence), and are incorporated by reference here.

Determination of suitability required, in advance, for certain individuals who may interact with participating minors

This condition applies to an applicant whose proposed project has some or all of the activities to be carried out under the award whether by the direct recipient or passthrough to benefit victims under 18 years of age.

The applicant, and any passthrough agencies, must make determinations of suitability before certain individuals may interact with participating minors. This requirement

applies regardless of an individual's employment status. The details of this requirement are posted on the OVW web site at <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/award-conditions> (Award condition: Determination of suitability required, in advance, for certain individuals who may interact with participating minors), and are incorporated by reference here.

OVW Training Guiding Principles

The recipient understands and agrees that any training or training materials developed or delivered with funding provided under this award must adhere to the OVW Training Guiding Principles for Grantees and Subgrantees, available at <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/resources-and-faqs-grantees#Discretionary>.

Prohibited conduct by recipient and subrecipients related to trafficking in persons

The applicant, and any pass-through agencies, must comply with all applicable requirements (including requirements to report allegations) pertaining to prohibited conduct related to the trafficking of persons, whether on the part of the applicant, a passthrough agencies, or individual employees of either.

The details of the recipient's obligations related to prohibited conduct related to trafficking in persons are posted on the OVW web site at <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/award-conditions> (Award Condition: Prohibited conduct by recipients and subrecipients related to trafficking in persons (including reporting requirements and OVW authority to terminate award)), and are incorporated by reference here.

Blocking of pornography on computer networks

Funds appropriated under the Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 2020, and awarded by OVW are not legally available, and may not be used, to maintain, or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography. Nothing in this provision limits the use of funds necessary for any federal, state, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, adjudication, or other law enforcement- or victim assistance-related activity.

Certification of employment eligibility verification for hiring under the award

Applicants must ensure that, as part of the hiring process for any position within the United States that is or will be funded (in whole or in part) with award funds, the recipient (or any subrecipient) properly verifies the employment eligibility of the individual who is being hired, consistent with the provisions of 8 U.S.C. § 1324a(a)(1) and (2). The details of the recipient's obligations under this condition are posted on the OVW website at <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/award-conditions>.

Pennsylvania Specific Eligibility Requirements

Standards for Victim Services

Victim service programs receiving STOP Grant funding must meet the Program Service Standards established by the relevant state level oversight organizations, e.g., Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV), Pennsylvania Coalition to Advance Respect (PCAR), and PCCD. Programs not meeting these standards will be deemed ineligible to receive STOP funding. Sexual Assault Response

Team (SART) programs applying for STOP Grant funding must adhere to the SART Standards established through PCAR. All eligible community-based victim service programs must have at least two years of experience serving victims of crime as the principal mission of their organization. As in the past, rape crisis centers and domestic violence centers are required to maintain compliance with the relevant confidentiality laws as per 42 Pa. C.S.A. §5945.1 and 23 Pa. C.S.A. §6102.

STOP Coordinating Team

The STOP Program requires cross-system collaboration to improve the criminal and juvenile justice systems' response to violence against women and to support and enhance services to victims. In order to achieve this, there must be collaboration among law enforcement, prosecution, and victim services. The foundation of this collaboration is the STOP Coordinating Team.

To receive funding, each county in Pennsylvania must have a Coordinating Team for its STOP Project. The STOP Coordinating Team has several functions including providing leadership and direction to the STOP project; overseeing the creation, dissemination, and implementation of the protocols required under the grant; tracking the progress made on grant goals and objectives; identifying and responding to issues in the response to violence against women; and evaluating the impact of the project. STOP Coordinating Teams are expected to develop a mission statement, elect a chair, take substantive minutes, and convene at least four times per year. STOP Coordinating Team Membership consists of required members and suggested members. Required members (and/or their designee) must be part of the STOP Coordinating Team for the project to be funded. Suggested members are left to local discretion based on the goals and objectives of the applicant's proposal.

STOP Collaborative Team Required Membership

- The Director of the local domestic violence program
- The Director of the local sexual assault program
- The District Attorney
- The Chief Adult Probation Officer
- The Chief Juvenile Probation Officer
- The Pennsylvania State Police Station Commander
- The Chief of Police of the major police department(s) in the county
- Healthcare representative
- Sheriff
- Representative of an organization serving culturally specific and/or underserved population if project has a specific goal or objective for this.

STOP Collaborative Team Suggested Membership

- Dispatch Representative
- County or municipal official
- Community Social Services
- Judicial/Court Staff
- Victim/Witness Coordinator
- Civil Legal Attorney
- Batterer Intervention Program Representative
- Culturally specific organizations
- Representatives from local faith communities
- Representative from each hospital in the community (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner or Emergency Department Representative)
- Public Defender
- State Parole Agent

- Mental Health Services
- Child/Adult Protective Services
- Disabilities Organizations
- Survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking
- Community agencies serving underserved populations
- Coroner OR Medical Examiner with specialty in domestic violence
- Representative from community schools, colleges, and/or universities

Protocol Development

All recipients of STOP Program funding are expected to develop and implement separate protocols to standardize a system-wide response to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in their jurisdictions. These protocols must be developed/updated by the STOP Collaborative Team over the three-year span of the project. Any county awarded STOP Funds must review and update existing protocols to ensure that they contain all required components of the [Domestic Violence Protocol Guide for Pennsylvania STOP Grantees](#) and the [Sexual Assault Protocol Guide for Pennsylvania STOP Grantees](#). Subgrantees currently receiving STOP Funds must have updated revisions completed by December 31, 2024. County Protocols must include all required content referenced in the Protocol Guides.

5. Eligible Program Activities and Expenses:

STOP funds may be used to support cross-system, collaborative efforts to respond to victims of violence against women crimes as outlined in Pennsylvania’s FFY2022-2025 STOP Implementation Plan as Amended. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Personnel and benefit costs associated with specialized units in law enforcement and/or prosecution;
- Personnel and benefit costs associated with provision of core direct victim services as defined in the Plan;
- Supplies and operating expenses related to the STOP Project;
- Consultants;
- Equipment (other than standard issue law enforcement items) necessary to project implementation; and
- Training and/or professional development.

Training

The STOP Program exists to strengthen the criminal and juvenile justice system’s response to violence against women, increase the prosecution of violence against women cases, and augment the advocacy and services available to victims. STOP funds can be used to support (1) Professional Development and/or (2) Multidisciplinary training events.

(1) Professional Development

OVS supports the use of STOP funds for staff or team members to attend trainings that impart nationally recognized best practices that are known to improve the systemic response to domestic and sexual violence, stalking, and dating violence. In receiving requests to use STOP funds for professional development, the relevance of the training topics to the Project’s goals and objectives will carry significant weight in the approval process.

(2) Multidisciplinary Training

Applicants proposing to use STOP funds to train law enforcement, healthcare, victim services, prosecution, courts, allied professionals, and underserved populations within their jurisdiction **must include copies of signed letters of support from such stakeholders in the "Required Attachments" section of Egrants stipulating that they agree to be meaningfully involved with the development of the training and will send their staff to the STOP-funded training when it is held.**

Additionally, the applicant must obtain prior approval for multidisciplinary trainings or professional development costs budgeted over \$1,500 by emailing the request to RA-OVSSTOPGRANTS@pa.gov. Information provided in the email must include the proposed date(s) of the training, name and qualifications of the training presenter(s), training topic(s), target audience, total training hours, and itemized breakdown of costs. This request will be reviewed by program and grants management staff for cost effectiveness, adherence to federal and state guidelines/conditions, relevancy to the project's goals and objectives, and the number of participants estimated to attend/benefit from the training.

6. Ineligible Program Activities and Expenses:

The following [items, activities, program, practices, and/or objectives] are not eligible for funding under the STOP Program:

- Services that focus exclusively on children, with STOP defining children as age 0-10;
- Developing prevention curricula for schools;
- Moving expenses, furniture costs, or housing expenses for victims of domestic violence. These may be eligible expenses under the Victims' Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP) or VOCA;
- The purchase of standard issue law enforcement items such as uniforms, safety vests, shields, weapons, bullets, body cameras, and armory;
- The purchase of voice stress analyzers, polygraph equipment, and any other type of mechanical or electrical lie detection equipment or psychological stress evaluation equipment, or training programs associated with the use of such equipment;
- Immigration fees for battered immigrant women;
- Food and beverages associated with trainings;
- Lobbying;
- Fundraising;
- Research projects;
- Construction/building renovation;
- Prevention Programs;
- General public awareness campaigns (Grant funds may be used to support, inform, and provide outreach to victims about available services);
- Batterer Treatment/Offender Rehabilitation Programs;
- Local Protection Order Registries;
- Vehicle Purchase;
- Home office workspace & related utilities; and
- Honoraria when the primary intent is to confer distinction on, or to symbolize respect, esteem, or admiration for the recipient of the honorarium. A payment for services rendered, such as a speaker's fee under an award is allowable.

7. Required Egrants Sections/Documents:

- a. Required Egrants Sections – All sections identified in Egrants are required. Applicants will not be able to submit their grant application in Egrants until all sections are marked as complete.
- b. Required Signed Documents – A successful application must be accompanied by the following:
 - The executed Signature page (page 2 of the application);
 - Specific statutory requirements:
 - Signed Certification of Compliance with the Statutory Eligibility Requirements of the Violence Against Women Act as Amended;
 - Signed Multidisciplinary Memorandum of Understanding to formalize STOP Collaborative Team (if applicable);
 - Signed Memorandum of Understanding between either a faith-based organization, culturally specific, community-based organization or organization serving an underserved population, and a local victim services agency (if applicable);
 - Signed Memorandum of Understanding between two agencies whereas one agency receives funds to conduct activities that benefit another agency (i.e. victim services providing training for law enforcement, etc.);
 - Signed support letters for projects proposing to use STOP funds for multidisciplinary training in their jurisdiction (if applicable); and
 - Signed VAWA Confidentiality and Privacy Provisions.

8. Scoring:

Applicants must submit the requested information for each section specified below within the defined response fields provided in Egrants. Responses should not be duplicated in multiple sections.

Please Note: Each scoring section contains several text boxes, which have size limitations. The size limitations are shown on the right of the text box once you click on the gavel icon. A box called "Question Validation Rules" will open and indicate the approximate character limits. Size limitations in Egrants are based on the following: 5,000 characters is approximately two pages of text. It is the applicant's responsibility to check each section to ensure that all of their narrative is contained in Egrants prior to submitting the application. Applicants are encouraged to prepare responses outside of Egrants and paste them into the applicable sections.

Egrants will time out after 19 minutes of inactivity. A time out warning will be displayed. Any information entered after Egrants has timed out will not save to the application. Check each section to ensure all narrative is contained.

The following application sections in Egrants have a point value associated with them and will be scored as described below:

a. Executive Summary - Maximum of [5] points

All applicants should fill out the following script and paste into the executive summary section:

The ___[name of applicant]___ is requesting \$_____ to [provide a single sentence or two of what you are seeking to implement with your grant funding].

These funds will be used for the following: [provide bullet points of what the funds will be used for].

b. Budget Detail - Maximum of [30] points

[PCCD's Applicant's Manual](#) mandates that all costs must be allowable, necessary for the performance of the project, reasonable, allocated to the project consistently, and claimed against only one grant award.

The budget detail section should identify what the funds will be used for and line items should be entered for each budgeted cost. Clearly identify all costs, including salary and benefits. Calculations should be clear and entered as the Egrants system requires. The applicant should also provide a justification in the budget detail section showing the relationship between the budgeted expenditure and the proposed operation of the project. A justification must be provided for each agency and/or component of the proposed STOP project. **Restatement of computations is not permissible.**

The STOP Program mandates that states allocate STOP funding using a strict formula, based on percentages. To ensure Pennsylvania meets this requirement, 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. Applicants are also required to provide the percentages of funding in their budgets that will go toward meeting mandatory set aside amounts such as culturally specific services and meaningfully addressing sexual assault. Applicants should determine this based upon the goals and objectives of their applications.

Applicants should submit an initial year budget not to exceed \$125,000. Each component of funding (i.e. law enforcement, prosecution, and victim services) will require a separate budget within the Master Budget of the applicant agency. Each agency or department that will receive funding should be added as a recipient agency in the Main Summary section of Egrants. Departments within the applicant agency (such as county district attorney offices, county victim/witness offices, etc.) should designate their budgets as agency budgets in the Budget Detail section of Egrants under Budget setup. Agencies that are not part of the applicant agency should designate their budgets as pass-through budgets in the Budget Detail section of Egrants under Budget Setup.

NOTE: PCCD will have final approval of all budgets and may require budget adjustments.

Budget Detail Example

The following is an example of how to set up a typical STOP application budget:

XYZ County is applying for STOP funds. The District Attorney's Office will be responsible for the prosecution piece of the project. The ABC Victim Service Agency will be responsible for the victim service piece of the project. Three

police departments (D, E, and F Township Police Departments) will be responsible for the law enforcement piece of the project.

In the Main Summary section, XYZ County would be listed as the applicant agency and the following agencies would be listed as recipient agencies: XYZ County District Attorney's Office, ABC Victim Service Agency, D Township Police Department, E Township Police Department, and F Township Police Department. In the Budget Detail section, XYZ County District Attorney's Office would be designated as Agency Budget and all other recipient agencies would be designated as pass-through budgets.

c. Problem Description - Maximum of (25) points

This section is designed to allow the applicant to provide information specific to their service area in order to establish the need for the proposed project.

1. Is your county currently receiving STOP Formula Grant Funds?
 - (1) (a) If yes, provide a succinct summary of what STOP funding has allowed your county to achieve to improve the cross-system, collaborative response to VAW crimes. (Limit 5,000 characters/approximately 2 printed pages.)
 - (1) (b) If yes, please provide an update on the development of your county's DV and SA Protocols through the use of the protocol development tool distributed by PCCD. (Limit 5,000 characters/approximately 2 printed pages.)
2. Describe the demographic composition (i.e. race, age, gender, disability) of the area to be served through the project. PCCD strongly encourages applicants to consult [census data](#) when preparing the response to this question. Please note any culturally specific and/or underserved populations. (Limit of 2,500 characters/approximately 1 printed page.)

NOTE: For the purposes of this solicitation, there is a distinction between culturally specific and underserved. The federal Office on Violence Against Women provides the following definitions:

 - (a) Culturally Specific refers to American Indians, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, Blacks, or Hispanics.
 - (b) Underserved refers to populations who face barriers in accessing and using victim services, and includes populations underserved because of geographic location, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, and special needs such as language barriers, disabilities, alienage status, or age.
3. Discuss the geographic and socio-economic conditions in your service area. Is it urban, suburban, rural, or a mixture of the three? Consider factors such as employment, income levels, access to public transportation and technology, unique cultural or social beliefs, and any other factors considered relevant. (Limit 7,500 characters/approximately 3 printed pages.)

4. Explain how the demographic and socio-economic conditions previously discussed affect/contribute to violence against women crimes in your service area. (Limit 7,500 characters/approximately 3 printed pages.)
5. Describe the current law enforcement response to violence against women crimes in your service area. (Limit 2,500 characters/approximately 1 printed page.)
6. Describe the current prosecution response to violence against women crimes in your service area. (Limit 2,500 characters/approximately 1 printed page.)
7. Describe the current direct victim services available to violence against women crimes in your service area. (Limit 2,500 characters/approximately 1 printed page.)
8. Describe the extent of cross-system collaboration among law enforcement, prosecution, and victim services to address violence against women crimes in your service area. (Limit 2,500 characters/approximately 1 printed page.)

d. Project Description - Maximum of (30) points

This section is designed to allow applicants to explain what they will do with STOP funding and how it relates to the goals, approaches, and priorities of the FFY2022-2025 STOP Implementation Plan as Amended.

1. Identify the target population to be served through this project. If your project has a goal or objective addressing the needs of a culturally specific and/or underserved population, specify. (Limit 2,500 characters/approximately 1 printed page.)
2. Select the goals from the FFY2022-2025 STOP Implementation Plan as Amended that this project will help to meet:
 - Establish or maintain specialized unit in law enforcement and/or prosecution;
 - Preservation of core direct services to victims of VAW crimes;
 - Identify and meaningfully address barriers to service for culturally specific and underserved populations in Pennsylvania;
 - Improve coordinated responses to sexual assault; and/or
 - Reduce domestic violence homicides in Pennsylvania.
3. Select the federal Purpose Areas under STOP to which this project responds:
 - Programs responding to male and female victims whose ability to access traditional services is affected by sexual orientation or gender identity;
 - Programs addressing sexual assault victims in correctional and detention settings;
 - Policies, best practices, and training for law enforcement agencies and prosecutors relating to investigation and prosecution of sexual assault and treatment of victims;
 - Developing, implementing, or enhancing Sexual Assault Response Teams, or other similar coordinated community responses to sexual assault;
 - Maintaining core victim services and criminal justice initiatives, while supporting complementary new initiatives and emergency services for victims and their families;
 - Providing assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in immigration matters;

- Programs addressing the needs and circumstances of older and disabled victims of violence against women crimes;
 - Training 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;
 - Developing, enlarging, or strengthening victim services and legal assistance programs, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking programs;
 - Developing and implementing policies, protocols, orders, and services specifically devoted to preventing, identifying, and responding to violence against women crimes;
 - Developing, training, or expanding units of law enforcement and prosecution that specifically target violence against women crimes;
 - Training law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors to more effectively identify and respond to violence against women crimes;
 - Developing, enhancing, or strengthening prevention and educational programming to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or female genital mutilation or cutting;
 - Developing, enhancing, or strengthening projects to improve evidence collection through funding for technology that better detects bruising and injuries across skin tones and related training;
 - Developing, enlarging, or strengthening culturally specific victim services programs to provide culturally specific victim services and responses to female genital mutilation or cutting; and/or
 - Paying governmental fees for furnishing a victim or the child of a victim with a birth certificate, passport, or state identification card.
4. Identify the core services to be provided on this project by each component (i.e. law enforcement, prosecution, victim services) (Limit 7,500 characters/approximately 3 printed pages.)
 5. If applicable to this project, explain how it will meaningfully address the needs of culturally specific populations and/or underserved populations in your service area. Be sure to discuss the current level of collaboration and cross training between partners on the STOP Project and organizations in the community that serve the culturally specific and/or underserved populations targeted by the project. (Limit 5,000 characters, approximately 2 printed pages.)
 6. If applicable to your project, explain how it will meaningfully address the needs of victims of sexual assault. (Limit 5,000 characters, approximately 2 printed pages.)
 7. Provide the specific goals, objectives, and activities that this project will undertake. Identify the year (Year 1, Year 2 or Year 3) in which each goal is anticipated to be achieved. (Limit 10,000 characters/approximately 4 printed pages.)

PCCD recommends the following format:

- Goal – Aspirational Statement
 - Objective – Concrete, measurable outcome
 - Activity – Task or service to meet objective
8. Select the Guiding Principles and Approaches that align with this project.
 - Cultural appropriateness
 - Diffusion of knowledge
 - Advanced training

- Trauma Informed Approaches and Practices
9. Explain how each selected principle/approach will be integrated through the work of the project. (Limit 2,500 characters/approximately 1 printed page.)
 10. Please provide a Specific narrative that explains how your project will maintain compliance with the following federal certifications as indicated on page 9 of the Funding Announcement.
 - 10a. Victims will not bear any costs associated with filing criminal charges or protection orders.
 - 10b. Victims will not bear the costs of forensic exams.
 - 10c. Victims of sexual assault will be notified of the availability of no cost rape exams regardless of their desire to report the incident to police.
 - 10d. Ensure judicial notification to offender of firearms relinquishment.
 - 10e. Victims shall not be required to submit to a polygraph test or similar examination as part of the criminal investigation and/ or prosecution.
 - 10f. The prosecutor's office will take the necessary steps to promote evidence-based prosecution of VAWA Crimes throughout the course of the 2025 to 2027 grant cycle.

e. Evaluation - Maximum (10) points

In this section, the applicant must discuss how they plan to measure progress towards achieving the stated goals of the project. Criteria for success for each activity must be identified according to measurable outcomes. Additionally, the applicant must describe how each system will collect, report, and maintain statistics requested in the STOP Annual Report from the Muskie School of Social Work (i.e. case management system, spreadsheet, etc.). A sample reporting form is available online at <https://www.vawamei.org/tools-resource/stop-formula-sample-subgrantee-progress-reporting-form/> (Limit 2,500 characters/approximately 1 printed page.)

f. Required Attachments

While there are no points attached to this section, applicants must be sure to attach the following:

- Signed Certification of Compliance with the Statutory Eligibility Requirements of the Violence Against Women Act as Amended;
- Signed VAWA Confidentiality and Privacy Provisions;
- Listing of current STOP Team Members (if applicable);
- Signed Multidisciplinary Memorandum of Understanding to formalize a STOP Collaborative Team (if applicable);
- Signed Memorandum of Understanding between either a faith-based organization, culturally specific, community-based organization or organization serving an underserved population, and a local victim services agency (if applicable);
- Signed Memorandum of Understanding between two agencies whereas one agency receives funds to conduct activities that benefit another agency (i.e.; victim services providing training for law enforcement, etc.);
- Signed support letters for projects proposing to use STOP funds for multidisciplinary training in their jurisdiction (if applicable);

- Job descriptions for all STOP funded positions;
- Pass-through contract (if applicable);
- County Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Protocols; and,
- If currently funded through STOP, minutes of the last four team meetings.

9. Performance Measures:

Under this Funding Announcement, successful applicants are required to submit an Annual Progress Report via the Egrants system. A copy of the Annual Progress Report" is available at: <https://www.vawamei.org/grant-program/stop-formula-grant-program/>

The funding recipient must agree to collect data and ensure that valid and auditable source documentation is available to support all data collected and reported for each activity/category specified in the Annual Progress Report.

10. Competitive Bidding/Sole Source Procurement:

All procurement transactions shall be conducted in a manner that provides open and free competition. Grant recipients must follow the Procurement Standards section in PCCD's [Applicant's Manual](#).

Procurements by noncompetitive proposal are strongly discouraged and must demonstrate an economic benefit or lack of alternate resources to be justified. If a request is made, the prospective applicant must identify the request as a procurement by noncompetitive proposal and provide a substantial justification for the request within their funding request. (See PCCD's [Applicant's Manual](#) for Procurement by Noncompetitive Proposal Approval Procedure.)

11. Administrative Requirements:

a. Egrants Agency and User Registration:

Prior to submitting a grant application, both the applicant agency and at least two users from the applicant agency must be registered in Egrants. Applicants are strongly advised to allow adequate time to work on application documents in Egrants prior to the submission deadline. Please go to the [Registering in Egrants](#) page on PCCD's website for further information.

b. Fiscal Accountability:

See the [Fiscal Accountability](#) page on PCCD's website for further information.

c. Time and Effort Reporting:

See the [Time and Effort Reports](#) page on PCCD's website for further information.

d. Grant Payments:

- Payments will not be released until all applicable special conditions on the grant award have been satisfied.
- All grantees are required, at a minimum, to submit quarterly fiscal reports. PCCD will only make payments to reimburse actual expenditures reported on the fiscal reports. An agency experiencing cash flow problems may submit fiscal reports monthly and PCCD will reimburse reported expenditures. Non-submission or late submission of the required reports will result in payment delays.
- ACH Payments:

- All payments to grant recipients will be made through ACH.
 - Either before or at the time an application is submitted to PCCD, the applicant agency must [register as a Non-Procurement Vendor](#) with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- e. Federal Transparency Act Certification:
This section is required for both state and federal funding streams. See the [Federal Application Requirements](#) page on PCCD's website for further information.
- f. Reporting Requirements:
- Programmatic reports are due annually.
 - Fiscal reports are due quarterly.
 - Late submission of programmatic and fiscal reports may delay payments.
 - All reports must be submitted through the Egrants system.
- g. UCR Reporting:
Every criminal justice entity which is required to submit Uniform Crime Report (UCR) data and is participating in this project must submit UCR data to the Pennsylvania State Police. If a required entity is not submitting UCR data, they may be ineligible for funding.

12. PCCD Contact Information and Resources:

- a. Staff Contacts:
Staff are only able to clarify the funding announcement and are not be able to answer any questions about how a potential applicant should respond to any particular section. Questions regarding this funding announcement should be directed as follows:
- E-mail your funding announcement questions to RA-OVSSTOPGRANTS@pa.gov with "**STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant 2025-2027 (Competitive)**" in the subject line.
 - Questions must be received by close of business on Wednesday, May 1, 2024.
 - All questions and answers will be posted under this funding announcement title on the [Funding Announcement Q&A](#) page of the PCCD website.
- b. Egrants Funding Announcement:
Log into the Egrants system and search under the "Funding Announcement" tab for "STOP Formula Grant Program 2025-2027."
- c. PCCD Guidelines and Documents:
Applicants should be familiar with the [Applicant's Manual](#), Standard Subgrant Conditions, and other documents common to PCCD's grant application process, all of which are available on the [Grant Information](#) page of the PCCD website. Additionally, grant application and administrative guides can be accessed on [PCCD's website](#) under the Funding link.
- d. Egrants Technical Questions:
For any technical or system questions, contact and ask for the Egrants Help Desk at (717) 787-5887 or (800) 692-7292, or by emailing RA-eGrantsSupport@pa.gov.
- e. PCCD Webmaster:
Please address any technical problems you may have with the website or online forms to the [PCCD Web Master](#).

- f. Reporting Potential Fraud, Waste and Abuse:
Information about waste, fraud, abuse, conflict of interest, bribery, gratuity, or other similar misconduct, or whistleblower reprisal relating to a PCCD employee, program, contract or grant, may be reported to the PCCD Fraud Hotline at (717) 525-5031. For more information, visit the [Reporting Fraud, Waste and Abuse](#) page on PCCD's website.

13. Submission Information:

The application must be entered into Egrants **no later than Friday, May 3, 2024 by 11:59 PM.**


The executed signature page (page 2 of the application) must be uploaded to the Main Summary section of your application. A guide to assist you with this is available on our website at [Signature Page Instructions](#).

Certification of Compliance with the Statutory Eligibility Requirements of the Violence Against Women Act as Amended, STOP Formula Grant Program

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), as an applicant for STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Funding must certify that all sub-grantees receiving STOP Funding will comply with the Statutory Eligibility Requirements of the Violence Against Women Act as Amended. Applicants applying for STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant funds must certify they will comply with the following special conditions. These requirements are as follows:

Forensic Medical Examination Payment Requirement for Victims of Sexual Assault		
Summary	For more information	Statutory language
Sub-grantees must certify that the state or another governmental entity “incurs the full out-of-pocket cost of forensic medical exams. . . for victims of sexual assault” and “coordinates with health care providers in the region to notify victims of sexual assault of the availability of rape exams at no cost to the victims.” In addition, the sub-grantee must certify compliance with this requirement for all victims, without regard to whether a victim cooperates in the criminal justice system or cooperates with law enforcement.	STOP FAQs (see pp. 6-7, 29-30, and 37-40) PA Victims’ Compensation Assistance Program (see Forensic Rape Exams)	34 U.S.C. § 10449(a)-(d)
Filing Costs for Criminal Charges and Protection Orders		
Summary	For more information	Statutory language
Sub-grantees must certify that the victims must not bear any fees or costs associated with: - The prosecution of any misdemeanor or felony domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking offense, including costs associated with the filing of criminal charges or the with the filing, issuance, registration, modification, enforcement, dismissal, withdrawal of service of a warrant, or witness subpoena; and - The filing, issuance, registration, modification, enforcement, dismissal, withdrawal or service of a protection order, or a petition for a protection order.	STOP FAQs (see pp. 40-43) BWJP No Fee Toolkit	34 U.S.C. § 10450
Judicial Notification		
Summary	For more information	Statutory language
Sub-grantees must certify that judicial administrative policies and practices include notification to domestic violence offenders of the firearm prohibitions set forth in 18 U.S.C. 922(g)(8) (domestic violence protection orders) and 18 U.S.C. 922(g)(9) (misdemeanor crimes of domestic	STOP FAQs (see pp. 40-43) NCPOFFC Firearms Checklist for Judges	34 U.S.C. § 10449(e)

violence), as well as any applicable related Federal, State, or local laws.		
Polygraph Testing Prohibition		
Summary	For more information	Statutory language
Sub-grantees must certify that their laws, policies, or practices ensure that victims of alleged sex offenses are not required to submit to a polygraph examination or other truth telling device as a condition for proceeding with the investigation of such an offense, and that the refusal of a victim to submit to a polygraph or other truth telling examination shall not prevent the investigation, charging, or prosecution of an alleged sex offense.	STOP FAQs (see p. 44)	34 U.S.C. § 10451
Prosecution Certification		
Summary	For more information	Statutory language
Sub-grantees that are prosecutor’s offices must certify that they will, within three years of the date of a subgrant with FY2023 funds, engage in planning, developing and implementing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - training developed by experts in the field regarding victim-centered approaches in domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking cases; - policies that support a victim-centered approach, informed by such training; and - a protocol outlining alternative practices and procedures for material witness petitions and bench warrants, consistent with best practices, that shall be exhausted before employing material witness petitions and bench warrants to obtain victim-witness testimony in the investigation, prosecution, and trial of a crime related to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking of the victim in order to prevent further victimization and trauma to the victim. 	STOP TA Clinic STOP TA Clinic	34 U.S.C. § 10454



Law Enforcement Policy Regarding the Polygraphing of Crime Victims

The Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association, the Office of the Attorney General, the Pennsylvania State Police and the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association hereby recognize the following findings regarding the testing of victims of crime by use of a polygraph and/or other similar testing device.

WHEREAS, the law enforcement community recognizes that all victims of crime must be treated with dignity and respect; and,

WHEREAS, the use of a polygraph or similar testing device on a victim of crime can cause the victim additional stress and a fear of being disbelieved; and,

WHEREAS, the polygraph and other similar testing devices can, in certain instances, serve as a valuable tool in criminal investigations.

Accordingly, the above-named organizations hereby adopt for use by their members and personnel the following policies regarding the use of the polygraph and similar testing devices during the course of criminal investigations.

1. No law enforcement agency shall require a victim of a crime to submit to a polygraph examination, or any form of mechanical or electrical lie-detector examination, or psychological stress evaluation examination as a sole condition for proceeding with any criminal investigation or prosecution.

2. The submission to a polygraph examination, or any form of mechanical or electrical lie-detector examination, or psychological stress evaluation examination shall be voluntary on the part of a victim, and a victim will be advised that they have no obligation to submit to such an examination whatsoever.

3. No investigation or prosecution shall be terminated on the sole basis that the victim in the case refused a polygraph examination or any other form of mechanical or electrical lie-detector examination or psychological stress evaluation examination.

4. Whenever possible, investigators and prosecutors investigating a crime should conduct all other investigative steps before asking a victim to submit to a polygraph examination or any other form of mechanical or electrical lie-detector examination or psychological stress evaluation examination.

John M. Morganello
The Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association

5/9/2000
Date

Mike Fisher
The Office of the Attorney General

5/23/2000
Date

Col. Paul Franko
The Pennsylvania State Police

5-31-2000
Date

Carl W. Miers, President
The Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association

5/10/2000
Date