IOWA

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program

FFY 2022-2025

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Department of Justice
Iowa Attorney General’s Office
Crime Victim Assistance Division
Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa
I. Introduction

A. Date of Final Approval

This Implementation Plan received final approval by the State on May 24, 2022.

B. Covered Time Period

This Implementation Plan covers the fiscal years of 2022 – 2025.

The Crime Victim Assistance Division (CVAD) of the Iowa Department of Justice serves as the state administrator for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) STOP funds. The goal of Iowa’s STOP Violence Against Women grant program mirrors the national focus of OVW’s purposes: to decrease incidents of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking by supporting agencies and projects that provide trauma-informed, victim-centered services and responses to these crimes that promote offender accountability and improve victim safety.

II. Needs and Context

A. Demographic Information – Iowa
Situated in the northern Midwest of the country, Iowa is a rural state consisting of 99 counties, with nine significant population centers. Even in the counties where these nine cities are located, however, there are pockets of rural areas made up of small towns and farms. Only six of Iowa’s 99 counties have populations greater than 100,000, while most counties have fewer than 20,000 total residents within their borders. With its extensive rural nature, the majority of Iowa’s population qualifies as “underserved,” due to the geographic and economic barriers faced by victims.

Other than its rural nature, Iowa’s population demographics have changed extensively over the decades. After years of decline prior to 1990, Iowa’s population numbers have seen slow growth, with an overall 4.7% increase between 2010 and 2020, to a total of 3,190,369.\(^1\) During this same period, Iowa has experienced a significant change in its racial and ethnic populations. While still a mostly “white” state, Iowa’s Black/African-American, Asian and Hispanic populations have increased substantially.

\(^1\) [https://www.iowadatacenter.org/data/decennial/Pop2020](https://www.iowadatacenter.org/data/decennial/Pop2020).
The diversity of Iowa, however, is both more compelling and more complex than the above chart indicates. For example, through data provided by Iowa’s culturally-specific victim service organizations, Iowa’s “Asian” populations include a variety of communities, such as: Bhutanese of Nepali ethnicity, ethnic Burmese, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Laotian, Middle Eastern/West Asian, Vietnamese and other Pacific Islander communities, including Marshallese, Micronesians, and Palauns. From 2000 – 2019, Iowa has witnessed a 95% increase in its immigrant population.\(^3\) In addition, the official census numbers fail to collect information on populations who do not consider their race accurately reflected in census questions. One such

---


\(^{3}\) “Iowa Demographics,” NIWAP, American University Washington College of Law, citing Migration Policy Institute Data Hub (August 2021) (hereinafter “Iowa Demographics.”)
population includes Arab Americans, many of whom opt for the Caucasian designation given the census’ lack of a Middle Eastern or North African category.4 According to one source dedicated to accurately identifying Arab-American populations in the United States, Arab-Americans make up over 17,700 of Iowa’s residents, living in 73 of its 99 counties.5 The largest number of new Arab immigrants to Iowa come from the countries of Sudan, Iraq, Jordan and Somalia.6 According to the Migration Policy Institute, Iowa has a total foreign-born population of more than 177,700.

Like most states, Iowa’s diversity has continued to expand over the decades. From 1980 to 2020, Iowa’s African-American population increased by 215%, and by 2050, is projected to be 8.6% of the state’s total population.7 Iowa’s Asian population grew by 134% between 2000 and 2018, with a projection in 2050 of being 5.8% of the state population.8 Finally, between 2000 and 2019, the Latino population in Iowa almost 141%, and is projected to be 12.1% of the state’s residents by 2050.9

Data also shows that Iowa’s younger population reflects a greater diversity of population than demonstrated by the table above. For example, during the 2017-2018 school year, Iowa’s public schools had over 19,600 students who were Spanish-speaking English language learners, an increase of 217.7% from the 1990-2000 school year. In fact, as of 2018, over 7% of Iowa’s

---

5 https://yallacountmein.org/states/iowa.
6 Id.
8 Id.
9 Id.
population reported that they speak English “less than very well,” and identified over fourteen specific non-English languages spoken in their homes. Additional data sources indicated that that, in Iowa, there are a more than 17 different languages spoken in homes. The racial/ethnic breakdown of Iowa’s public school students is shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PK-12 Grade Iowa Public School Students for 2021-2022</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White alone</td>
<td>374,497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>33,639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>12,786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>1,702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Islander</td>
<td>2,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more races*</td>
<td>24,012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino origin</td>
<td>61,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown/not reported</td>
<td>61,634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>510,659</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

11 “Iowa Demographics,” supra n. 3.
13 Id.
Of Iowa’s total population, there are over 368,000 residents who identify with a recognizable disability, which is 11.8% of the state’s civilian, non-institutionalized population.\textsuperscript{14} Of those 368,000 people, over 31.1% are aged 65 and older and 3.7% are children under the age of 18.\textsuperscript{15} Strikingly, 24% of those residents with a disability also identify as Native American and/or Alaska Native, which is the highest percentage of disability by race in the state.\textsuperscript{16}

B. Methods to Identify Underserved Populations and Results

As stated in VAWA’s guidelines, “underserved populations” include those communities who face barriers in accessing and utilizing victim services, including those impacted due to geographic location, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, racial and ethnic identities, and those with special needs including language barriers, disabilities or citizenship status. The information provided above demonstrates the current and growing breakdown of those Iowa residents who constitute “underserved populations.” In addition to research of traditional data sources such as census date and demographic information provided by the state’s Data Center, CVAD utilized a variety of ways to identify underserved populations or to anecdotally support and expand the information about these populations. Several of the participants in our Implementation Planning Committee work directly with or come from underserved populations and our committee conversations identified issues about language access to victim and other public services found during work in specific underserved communities or through other

\textsuperscript{15} Id.
\textsuperscript{16} Id.
statewide projects. Our Committee also relied upon prior work done by victim service organizations to identify “micro-communities” in their service areas (which included immigrants and refugees, people identifying as LGTBQIA, individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities, and sex workers) and ascertain specific needs and barriers.

III. Description of Planning Process

A. Brief Description of Planning Process

Initially, CVAD staff met internally to review the prior Implementation Plan and its process and participants and identify steps for completing this new Plan. Utilizing the prior planning committee and our STOP funded programs as a starting point, CVAD contacted all entities by email and telephone with an invitation to join the Planning Committee. That invitation provided a description of the STOP planning process and estimated time commitment. CVAD staff also created an online shared file for all committee participants that contained prior Implementation Plans, the requirements and template for this Plan, and a variety of resource documents, which were supplemented over the planning time period based on conversation topics. CVAD staff also created an extensive questionnaire for participants to complete and share their thoughts and opinions on challenges, successes and next steps in this work.

CVAD convened twelve meeting with the Planning Committee, all held virtually, extending from November 2021 through May 2022. The meeting topics followed the Plan template and worked to identify the most pressing issues across the state regarding the response to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence and how the STOP funds could
be directed to best address these challenges. The Planning Committee also reviewed and provided comments on the plan drafts, in addition to having the opportunity to see the final report prior to submission to OVW.

CVAD also relied upon findings and reports from other, recent projects including the community conversations held by funded programs across the state and CVAD’s OVC-funded Language Access/Cultural Humility state assessment. Other resources that assisted in the Planning Committee’s assessments included the state court’s ODARA (risk assessment tool) pilot project and language accessibility/interpretation projects.

B. Planning Committee Member Documentation

State Sexual Assault Coalition: Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Beth Barnhill, Executive Director
Elizabeth Balcarcel, Director of Training/TA

State Domestic Violence Coalition: Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Dr. Maria Corona, Executive Director

Dual DV/SA Coalition: N/A

Law Enforcement entity: Mason City Police Department
Lt. Logan Wernet
Meskwaki Nation Police Department
Chief Jacob Molitor

Prosecution entity: Marshall County Attorney’s Office
Torey Cuellar and Sarah Tupper (VAWA prosecutors)
Court entity: State Court Administration

Becky Kinnamon, Director, Special Crimes Agst Persons

Tribal representation: RISE (Sac and Fox Tribe, Meskwaki Nation)

Natalie Lepley, RISE Manager, Family Services

Population specific organizations: EMBARC

Henny Ohr, Executive Director

Deaf Dome

Telina Quintana, Director

La Luz

Claudia Rivera, Executive Director

SAL Family Services – Open Door Services

Loredia Nunn-Dixon, Director

Other – Victim Services: Art Force Iowa

Christine Her, Director

Catholic Charities – Phoenix House

Carrie Potter, Director

Crisis Intervention Service

Mary Ingham, Executive Director

Crisis Intervention Services

Wendi Cupples, Executive Director

Helping Services of Northeast Iowa

Kathleen Davis, Director of Domestic Abuse Services

Carson Eggland, Executive Director
C. Consultation and Coordination with Other Partners

While not specifically designed as part of the STOP process, CVAD issued a statewide victim services survey to assess needs and priorities, specific to victim services, across the state. Provided in English and Spanish, the feedback provided powerful insights from CVAD-funded agencies as well as housing assistance organizations, school districts, mental health providers, corrections staff, and victim-survivors. These results showed that victim advocacy and referrals, collaboration across professions, provision of culturally-specific services and victim notification worked well across all of Iowa’s service regions. In addition, the responses reinforced the ongoing challenges presented by the large service areas that programs try to cover, increased need for financial assistance for victims, and the lack of safe and affordable housing especially in the more rural areas of the state. These successes and struggles were corroborated by the Planning Committee’s conversations.

CVAD also has an advisory board that shepherds the grant award program, including approving final awards and deciding appeals. Appointed by the Attorney General, the Board members include representatives from law enforcement, victim services, emergency medicine, prosecution and public defense, corrections, and crime survivors. In addition to the statutory duties, these Board members often share their insights and experience to promote effective and inclusive grant award decisions.

As the state administrator for STOP, VOCA and FVPSA funds, CVAD has created a specific set-aside from victim service funds for culturally-specific programs across the state, in
addition to their eligibility for funds outside of the set-aside amounts. Especially with the VOCA grants, CVAD funds projects and agencies that provides services to youth, older Iowans, boys and young men of color, and LGBTQIA agencies. Many of these organizations serve particular culturally-specific communities including African-American and African immigrants, Latino/a and API individuals, Native Americans and Deaf/Hard of Hearing. Through CVAD’s grant monitoring and reports, grant staff collects data and anecdotal information of victim needs from all of these agencies to inform overall grant funding priorities, involving STOP and other federal and state funding sources.

D. Consultation and Coordination with Tribes

The Sac and Fox Tribe of the Meskwaki Nation is the lone, federally-recognized tribe in Iowa. Victim services for the Tribe are provided by the CVAD-funded program called RISE (Resources for Indigenous Survivors and Empowerment), located in the Meskwaki Settlement. The RISE advocate served as a Planning Committee member, participating regularly in the planning meetings, and also shared insights from the tribal law enforcement (which receives federal funding through OVW). As a veteran grant recipient, RISE has provided an invaluable voice on the issues unique to Native and Indigenous survivors to CVAD and state coalition efforts. In addition to the Meskwaki Nation, the Winnebago Reservation of Nebraska includes a small portion of land within the state of Iowa, however there are no residents in this area and the Reservation receives domestic violence and sexual assault services in its Nebraska area.
E. Summary of Major Concerns Identified

Throughout the Planning Meetings, committee members identified the following predominant issues facing victims of crime in the state, including victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking: the lack of adequately-trained law enforcement and the limited number of law enforcement agencies utilizing STOP funds; the language access barriers for victims with limited English proficiency when interacting with law enforcement, prosecutors and courts, especially in rural areas; the lack of stable and affordable housing and shelter options, again especially in rural areas of the state, and its impact on victim safety; and the rise in domestic violence homicides in Iowa over the last few years.

Lack of adequately-trained law enforcement and limited use of STOP funds

Given its rural nature, the vast majority of local law enforcement agencies across the state are small departments in isolated communities, where the demand for full-time detectives specially trained in domestic violence or sexual assault response is limited. Most of the law enforcement STOP grants are awarded to these smaller agencies, with their plans to use the funds to support overtime expenses as needed for specific cases. Furthermore, with limited staff, it is difficult for these departments to send officers for extended training events. Finally, the turnover and hiring challenges for first responders during the pandemic has meant many new staff in these positions. Committee members explored ideas for centralizing post-academy training for law enforcement and making such training available in communities across the state. This
conversation reinforced CVAD’s tentative concept of creating a law enforcement/prosecution training hub within the Training/Outreach Team of the division that would coordinate, deliver and facilitate access to domestic violence and sexual assault training events, both in person and virtual.

Language access barriers for victims with limited English proficiency

Several committee members highlighted the ongoing challenges to ensure language access for victims, especially when dealing with criminal system practitioners or appearing in court. Members described situations where no translation service was made available as well as times when the translation provided was inaccurate or incomplete. The representative from the State Court Administration explained the recent efforts by their office, as part of its Language Access Plan, to create a system for certified translators available for all court matters - including depositions, meetings with investigators and prosecutors once charges are filed, and hearings – with all costs covered by the court budget. CVAD will continue to work with State Court Administration and our funded programs to ensure information of this resource is widely shared with communities and advocates across the state.

Availability of safe, affordable housing

The inventory of safe, affordable housing in the state – especially in the rural communities – is despairingly limited. Several years ago, Iowa’s victim service programs implemented a “Housing First” model that works to quickly place victims in alternative safe
housing arrangements, as well the use of transitional housing for longer-term assistance, recognizing the many victims do not see traditional shelter as a viable option. Simply locating the actual housing is often difficult. Committee members discussed how the limited availability of safe housing impacts the safety of victims, often keeping them in homes with their abusers. Traditional shelter is an expensive service to fund, and also became limited during the pandemic. CVAD will continue to work with state coalitions and victim service programs to identify best practices for shelter, safe housing, and how to fund such services.

Rise in domestic violence homicides

In 2021, Iowa experienced its largest number of domestic violence homicides in over a decade, with twenty deaths identified as arising from a domestic violence situation. In fact, domestic violence homicides have been a slow upward trajectory over the past four years. The Planning Committee discussed several issues that this increase raised, including the state’s easing of firearms regulations, the role that the lack of housing may play, and the challenges of identifying high risk cases. The State Court Administration discussed its recent pilot project to implement the use of the ODARA (Ontario Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment) tool by law enforcement. CVAD also shared information about various other validated risk assessment tools, including the Danger Assessment, LAP (lethality assessment project), APRAIS (Arizona), and models of offender-focused deterrence applied to domestic violence cases. Committee members expressed significant interest in having more information about such tools available for

---

victim service programs. CVAD will utilize its planned training hub to act as resource for communities across the state interested in implementing the use of a risk assessment tool, and will connect those communities to the tools/models, the supporting research and practitioners to assist in implementation.

F. Coordination of Implementation Plan with FVPSA and VOCA Programs and Rape Prevention Education under section 393A of the Public Health Service Act

As the state administrative agency for STOP, VOCA, FVPSA and SASP, CVAD utilizes all of these funding sources to promote the priorities set forth in its VAWA Implementation Plans, with the overall goal of best supporting direct services to victims of crime, including victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. Through our partnerships with the Department of Public Health and the state sexual assault coalition, CVAD helps grantees partner their limited RPE funds with these other grant sources to support direct service efforts that arise from the RPE primary prevention work.

IV. Documentation from Prosecution/Law Enforcement/Court/Victim Services Program

See Appendix A.
V. Plan for Implementation Period

A. Goals and Objectives

**Advocacy Based Goals and Objectives:**

**Goal:** Continue to fund and promote legal advocacy and collaboration in victim service agencies with law enforcement, prosecution and courts to create and maintain a victim-centered, trauma-informed collaborative response to crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking.

**Objective:** Ensure that knowledgeable and effective community-based advocacy is available to victims navigating the civil or criminal systems.

**How STOP funding will be used:** CVAD will continue to fund victim services agencies, law enforcement, prosecution, and the court system. With STOP and other funding, CVAD will support organizations, such as the statewide coalitions and CVAD’s own training staff to provide training and certification to victim advocates.

**Goal:** In partnership with the state coalitions, explore how victim services agencies in Iowa can design and/or promote restorative or transformative justice options for victims who do not choose to report their victimization to law enforcement.
Objective: Increase options for victims who do not want to report their assault to law enforcement.

Objective: Promote community and culturally-specific supportive responses to victims that provide other means of offender accountability.

How STOP funding will be used: With STOP admin and direct services funding, along with other CVAD funding, CVAD will provide training on transformative justice options. STOP funding will support both mainstream victim services organizations and culturally specific organizations to provide alternative means of offender accountability.

Goal: Explore how CVAD’s grantees can leverage other funding sources to support victim services’ access to greater shelter and housing options for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking.

Objective: Expand the availability of safe, affordable housing options for victims as a means of improving safety and reducing risk of homicide.

Objective: Continue to promote and fund the provision of housing-first, rapid-rehousing and scattered site housing models by victim service programs across the state.

How STOP funding will be used: STOP admin funding and other CVAD funding will be used to explore housing and shelter options for victims in Iowa. CVAD will continue to participate on
the Iowa Council for Housing and Homelessness and will share information about affordable housing between the council and victim services organizations in Iowa. CVAD will also explore the possibility using STOP and other CVAD funding to provide grant funds to our victim services organizations to expand our shelter grants to include alternative housing options.

**Law Enforcement and Prosecution Goals and Objectives**

**Goal:** Continue to promote and support an effective, victim-centered response by law enforcement and prosecution for crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking.

  **Objective:** Maintain grant support for law enforcement and prosecution personnel dedicated to responding to crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking.

**How STOP funding will be used:** STOP funding from the law enforcement and prosecution allocation categories will be awarded to law enforcement, prosecution organizations to promote and support an effective, victim-centered response to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. STOP admin funds and CVAD training team will provide support, training and oversight to these organizations as needed.

**Court Goals and Objectives:**

**Goal:** Improve court and criminal justice experience for victims and offenders of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking, with a particular focus on the needs of non-native English speakers and Deaf/Hard-of-hearing individuals.
**Objective:** Work in collaboration with state court administration and local courts to improve victim access to court-provided interpreter services at all stages of a case.

**Objective:** In coordination with the training hub (described below), leverage funding and relationships with national TA providers to provide best practices training for judges and court personnel when handling cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking.

**How STOP funding will be used:** STOP funding from the court allocation will be used to support the Judiciary Courts of the State of Iowa who will work with the legal system to provide victim access to court provided interpreter services. STOP funding primarily from the law enforcement and prosecutor allocations will be used to support CVAD’s training team who will oversee and develop Iowa’s training hub.

**Training Goals and Objectives:**

**Goal:** Provide victim-centered and trauma-informed training for law enforcement, prosecution, victim/witness coordinators and advocates responding to crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking.

**Objective:** Create and support a statewide training hub within CVAD that provides skills-based training for effective response, investigation and prosecution of crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking for law enforcement, prosecution and victim/witness coordinators.
**Objective:** Populate the statewide training hub with local, state and national resources on best practices for individual practitioners and multi-disciplinary teams responding to crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and sexual assault.

**Objective:** Identify and assist law enforcement in accessing training and best practices regarding firearms offenses by offenders.

**How STOP funding will be used:** STOP funding primarily from the law enforcement and prosecutor allocations will be used to support CVAD’s training team who will oversee and develop Iowa’s training hub. STOP admin funds will likely support a portion of this goal too.

**Goal:** Identify and implement evidence-based lethality assessment tools and practices to reduce homicide risk in domestic violence cases.

**Objectives:** Identify and research the variety of lethality assessment tools available to different practitioners and assist funded programs in the appropriate implementation of such tools and practices in their communities and systems.

**How STOP funding will be used:** STOP admin and other CVAD funding will be used to support this goal. Once lethality assessment tool have been identified and implemented, STOP funds from all categories will likely support this goal.

**Administrative Goals and Objectives:**

**Goal:** Provide updated application processes and priorities that reflect those identified by OVW and the Implementation Plan Planning Committee, in preparation for the upcoming competitive grant cycle.
**Objective:** Using the input and report for the Implementation Plan, create and/or refine priority purpose areas in the STOP grant application to address identified needs of underserved and rural victims.

**Goal:** Obtain an updated assessment of the specific needs facing victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking in the state.

**Objective:** Conduct a statewide assessment to identify service challenges and needs and develop recommendations for future possible solutions.

**How STOP funding will be used:** STOP admin and other CVAD funding will be used to support this goal. Once priorities purposes have been for the upcoming CVAD grant application processes have been refined, or defined, CVAD will use funding from STOP law enforcement, prosecution, victim services and discretionary allocations to support this goal. Culturally specific organizations will be funded to support meeting this goal.
B. Statutory Priority Areas

Sexual Assault Set-Aside

CVAD uses an overall funding formula that distributes victim services funding equally to sexual abuse, domestic violence and sheltering programs across Iowa’s six regional service areas. CVAD meets the required sexual assault set-aside by awarding approximately 23% of its total STOP funds to dedicated sexual assault victim service organizations (victim services allocation) and uses the law enforcement allocation to fund Iowa State University, who uses grant funds to support university law officers who are trained to respond to IPV and to support their campus SANE. CVAD also uses the law enforcement allocation to fund a portion of CVAD’s sex crimes coordinator who provides instruction, outreach and training to both law enforcement personnel and prosecutors on trauma informed responses to sexual assault. In addition, CVAD uses STOP discretionary funding to support a program with the state public health department that provides resources to public health and community service providers to identify, support and refer adult victims of sexual assault and intimate sexual violence. As of January 2022, CVAD manages the statewide sexual assault forensic training program for sexual assault nurse examiners. Finally, CVAD also administers the OVW SASP grant, a funding stream available exclusively for sexual assault service providers.
Reducing DV Homicide

Iowa funds shelters and programs throughout the state that assist and protect families who are victims of domestic violence or dating violence. CVAD continues its work to ensure all areas of the state have access to advocacy, shelter and other housing options. Research has demonstrated that victim access to advocacy and services mitigate the risk of homicide. As identified by our funded programs, the challenges of shelter – location, communal living, limited availability – often keep victims trapped in dangerous living arrangements. These challenges are more pronounced for people of color and victims living in rural communities, who experience higher rates of domestic violence homicide in our state.18 Access to affordable, safe and quality housing in communities throughout the state will provide better options for ensuring victim safety, and thus preventing homicides in those high-risk situations.

The goals and objectives outlined above demonstrate a commitment to improving efforts that effectively address victim safety and intervene before violence escalates to domestic violence homicide. The specific goal of helping funded collaborations to explore and implement appropriate lethality assessment tools and practices represents a concrete commitment to reduce domestic violence homicides across the state through the use of evidence-based resources.

18 Id.
C. Addressing the Needs of Underserved Victims

1. Recognizing and responding to needs of underserved populations

CVAD has a successful history of leveraging its grant funding to support programs responding to the specific and diverse needs of underserved populations. Through a set-aside formula, CVAD holds a percentage of grant funds exclusively available for culturally-specific service providers, which includes programs that operate both statewide and in local communities. Through site visits, report review and informal conversations, CVAD has created an invaluable feedback loop to gather information from these service providers that identifies challenges and successes in working with specific underserved populations. Just last year, CVAD’s funded programs supported service provision to thousands of victims from underserved populations.

Most recently, CVAD used a federal discretionary grant to engage a statewide assessment identifying the needs of underserved and linguistically-diverse communities. Utilizing a

---

19 For example, Amani Community Services (Black/African-American population); EMBARC/Ethnic Minorities of Burma Advocacy and Resource Center (refugee communities); Iowa Safe Schools (LGBTQIA communities); LUNA/Latinas Unidos por un Nuevo Amanecer (Latinx community); Monsoon Asians and Pacific Islanders in Solidarity (API population); Nisaa African Family Service (African immigrants and refugees); RISE – Meskwaki Family Services (Native American, Sac and Fox Tribe).

20 “Annual Report, State Fiscal Year 2021,” Iowa Attorney General’s Office, Crime Victim Assistance Division. Between October 2020 to September 2021, CVAD funded programs provided services to underserved populations as follows: Rural (population under 50,000) – 20,916; Physical/Cognitive Disabilities – 7,603; Black/African-American – 6,799; Hispanic/Latina – 5,807; Limited English Proficiency – 4,139; Immigrants/Refugees/Asylees – 3,750.
community-centered framework, the project collected unique quantitative and qualitative data through surveys, documentation review, community-based participatory research, and hours of stakeholder meetings. The findings were compiled into a strategic plan for implementation of various recommendations and CVAD is currently working with the community researchers to present the results and work with local practitioners to implement identified solutions.

2. State’s set-aside requirements for culturally-specific community-based organizations.

As mentioned earlier, CVAD sets aside a minimum of 10% of all victim service funding for awards to culturally-specific, community-based organizations (CSPs). CVAD has created a specific grant application for the culturally-specific set-aside dollars. In addition, CVAD solicits grant applications from community-based and grassroots organizations that target services to specific populations, including black/African-American, Hispanic and Latino/a, refugees and immigrants from Africa and Southeast Asia, Native Americans, and LGBTQIA.

D. Grant-making Strategy

CVAD will partner the STOP funds with the other federal grant awards to meet the goals and objectives set forth previously in this report. After the continuing grant year of October 2022 – September 2023, CVAD will utilize a three-year funding cycle and make awards in accordance

21 CCEBP – community-centered evidence based practice. (Serrata et al., 2016).
23 FN 15 provides a partial list of community-based, culturally-specific programs that receive grant funds through CVAD.
with its competitive review process. STOP funds will continue to be distributed in accordance with statutory percentages as follows:

- 5% to courts
- 25% to law enforcement or law enforcement projects
- 25% to prosecution
- 30% to victim services
- 15% at state’s discretion
- 5% allowed for administrative costs

CVAD uses its 15% discretionary funds to support victim service programs as well as specific projects such as the public health training initiative with the Department of Public Health, which focuses on sexual abuse and intimate sexual violence response and referrals.
1. **Ensuring eligible entities’ awareness of funding availability**

CVAD posts all grant funding announcements on Iowa GVS, our state web-based grants management system, as well as to the Attorney General website. CVAD also prepares and shares notices of funding announcements with an extensive collection of state agencies and non-profit organizations. As in the past, CVAD also plans to host a small number of informational webinars for any agency interested in applying for CVAD funds to attend and learn more details.

2. **Ensuring consultation with victim service programs in application process**

Every application for STOP funding through CVAD that is not from a victim service agency must include a partnership or consultation agreement with the local or statewide victim service program (dependent upon the applicant’s service area). Each partnership agreement must specify how the applicant will meaningfully work and consult with victim service providers in the development and implementation of their grant application plans.

3. **Funding selection process**

CVAD awards STOP and other federal funding through a competitive grant process, with the next competitive cycle beginning October 1, 2023 (FFY2024). At the start of the competitive cycle, applicants are selected for a multi-year period, with noncompetitive allocations then being done on an annual basis.
All applicants for STOP funding must follow the application requirements set forth in state administrative rules, which detail the eligibility criteria and activities as well as the grant review and selection process. All grants to CVAD are submitted through the online grant management database, Iowa Grants for Victim Services (Iowa GVS). Once submitted, CVAD grant staff conducts a preliminary review of each application to ensure eligibility, completeness and consistency with the division’s mission and the funding purposes. CVAD then convenes a grant review committee, including staff and board members along with subject matter experts in a variety of professions from across the state, to review and score all eligible applications. Specific efforts are made to ensure the review committee reflects a diversity of gender, race/ethnicity, orientation, geographic location and skills and expertise. CVAD uses generally accepted methods of application review including checklists, quality scales, points-based systems, written comment by applicant reviewers, formulas based on past funding, population, clients served, region or area served, and available funds. Additional evaluation criteria include the prioritization of victim safety in all proposed activities, history of collaboration and partnership with victim service agencies, prohibition of practices that endanger victims (such as forced testimony or arrest for failing to comply with a subpoena or inappropriate restrictions on shelter access).
4. Population and geographic distribution of grant awards

The distribution of grant awards is obviously dependent upon the applications received. As described above, CVAD engages in extensive efforts to share funding notices throughout the state. CVAD also utilizes a regionalization of service model for victim service grantees to ensure services for victims are accessible in communities regardless of population size or geographic location.

5. Addressing need and geographic size of service areas

As stated previously, CVAD utilizes a regionalization model to ensure that victim services are funded and accessible across the state, which includes domestic abuse comprehensive services (DAC), sexual abuse comprehensive services (SAC) and shelter-based victim services (SH). That regionalization model has also been applied to the funding for homicide response programs; there is at least one provider of homicide survivor advocacy assistance in every designated region. Additionally, CVAD employs a funding formula (explained in greater detail below) that accounts for population variances, while ensuring access to services.

6. Grant award time periods

All STOP funds will be awarded on a multi-year basis.
7. Plan to equitably distribute funds on geographic basis

For all of the victim services funding, including the designated STOP funds, CVAD uses a funding formula that was created with input from victim service programs, the state coalitions and culturally-specific service programs.

- All CVAD victim service funding is compiled and 10% is set aside for culturally-specific domestic abuse and sexual abuse service programs.
- Of the remaining victim services dollars, 60% becomes the base amount with equal funding to awarded domestic abuse comprehensive programs, sexual abuse comprehensive programs and shelter-based service programs, and 40% is awarded based on population of service area.

For the prosecution and law enforcement grants, the majority of applicants continue to be offices and departments from smaller communities across the state, given the smaller budgets generally available to them for such specific programming.
8. Other funding plans, if known

The State of Iowa has no plans to utilize the “Crystal Judson” purpose area to provide required training.

VI. Conclusion

CVAD continues to utilize its STOP funds to enhance the capacity of local practitioners – advocates, law enforcement and prosecutors – to implement and augment victim-centered strategies to respond to crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking that promote victim safety and seek effective offender accountability. Over the next four years, CVAD will complement its grant funding with the creation of a training and technical assistance resource for law enforcement, prosecutors, and advocates to access the best, evidence-based practices and information to improve their efforts to address gender-based violence and strengthen victim services for all survivors.
APPENDIX A

Documentation from Prosecution/Law Enforcement/Court/Victim Services Programs
Rebecca Kinnamon  
Dir., Special Crimes Against Persons Program  
State Court Administrator's Office
May 25, 2022

I am the Sexual Assault Crimes Coordinator for the state of Iowa housed in the Crime Victim Assistance Division of the Iowa Attorney General’s Office. I am also a former law enforcement officer. In my current capacity, I work with law enforcement officers throughout the state by providing training focused on sexual assault, interviewing, prosecution. Etc. Since January 1st of this year I have provided 25 trainings that include law enforcement, advocates, medical, and prosecutors from all over the state.

This letter is to confirm the need for the STOP VAWA grant funds. The number of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence continue to remain steady. Our office is committed to supporting prosecution, offender accountability and victim advocacy. Our ability to properly fulfill this commitment is contingent upon funding. Without financial assistance the victims for whom we seek justice as well as our community at large, would be at risk.

The intended uses of these funds are to provide support for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. These funds will be used for training, prosecution, investigation and victim advocacy.

As a result of the STOP VAWA funds Iowa will see increased opportunities for training focusing on prosecution, law enforcement and advocacy related to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. Prosecutors, law enforcement agencies and the court have dedicated staff funded by STOP VAWA and reply on STOP VAWA funding to prosecute and hold offenders accountable. These funds will also assist in providing increased access to language accessibility in the criminal justice system. Victim services agencies will use STOP funds to provide trauma informed victim centered victim advocacy.

The demographic characteristics of the population to be served with STOP funding will likely be women between 24 and 50 years old. As stated in the Implementation Plan, Iowa is largely white and rural; however, it is becoming more diverse, with Hispanic and African American populations growing each year. STOP funding can also be used to serve children who witness violence and males in certain situations. While lesser in numbers, STOP funding will be used to serve men (where appropriate), those with disabilities and those with limited English proficiencies. Services funded by STOP VAWA will be provided as needed and appropriate regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Thank you,
May 24, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to support the Iowa Attorney General’s Office, Crime Victim Assistance Division (CVAD) and its submission to OVW for STOP VAWA funds. Our office understands the need for funding and appreciates the direct impact STOP VAWA have on victim services in Iowa.

This letter is to confirm the need for the STOP VAWA grant funds. The number of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence continue to remain steady. In our particular jurisdiction, we are seeing a rise in these offenses. Our office is committed to working with the Iowa Attorney General’s Office to support prosecution, offender accountability, and victim advocacy. Our ability to properly fulfill this commitment is contingent upon funding. Without the financial assistance STOP VAWA grants provide, the victims for whom we seek justice, as well as our community at large, would be at risk. The intended uses of these funds are to provide support for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. The grant our office receives through STOP VAWA funds two full-time prosecutors who specialize in these offenses.

The Marshall County Attorney’s Office is not the only beneficiary of these grant funds. As a result of the STOP VAWA funds, Iowa will see increased opportunities for training focusing on prosecution, law enforcement and advocacy related to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. Prosecutors, law enforcement agencies, and the court have dedicated staff funded by STOP VAWA and reply on STOP VAWA funding to prosecute and hold offenders accountable. These funds will also assist in providing increased access to language accessibility in the criminal justice system. Victim services agencies will use STOP VAWA funds to provide trauma informed victim centered victim advocacy.

The demographic characteristics of the population to be served with STOP funding will likely be women between 24 and 50 years old. As stated in the Implementation Plan, Iowa is largely white and rural. The rural nature and small populations of most counties present physical and mental barriers for victims trying to break the cycle of abuse. On the other hand, Iowa is also becoming more diverse in many communities, including Marshall County, with Hispanic and African American populations growing each year. STOP
VAWA funding can also be used to serve children who witness violence and males in certain situations. While lesser in numbers, STOP funding will be used to serve men (where appropriate), those with disabilities and those with limited English proficiencies. Services funded by STOP VAWA will be provided as needed and appropriate regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. I know firsthand we have used funds to serve all of these populations in our area. STOP VAWA funds are vital to the success of our office and victims alike.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Torey R. Cuellar

Assistant Marshall County Attorney
1 East Main Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158
p: 641-754-6314
f: 641-754-6386
24 May 2022

Ref: STOP VAWA funds

I am pleased to support the Iowa Attorney General’s Office, Crime Victim Assistance Division (CVAD) and their submission to OVW for STOP VAWA funds. Our office understands the need for funding and appreciates the how STOP VAWA funds have impacted victims in Iowa.

This letter is to confirm the need for the STOP VAWA grant funds. The number of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence continue to remain steady. Our office is committed to working with the Iowa Attorney General’s Office to support prosecution, offender accountability and victim advocacy through the training we provide. Our ability to properly fulfill this commitment is contingent upon funding. Without financial assistance the victims for whom we seek justice as well as our community at large, would be at risk.

The intended uses of these funds are to provide support for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. These funds will be used for training, prosecution, investigation and victim advocacy.

As a result of the STOP VAWA funds Iowa will see increased opportunities for training focusing on prosecution, law enforcement and advocacy related to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. These funds will also assist in providing increased access to language accessibility in the criminal justice system. Victim services agencies will use STOP funds to provide trauma informed victim centered victim advocacy.

As stated in the Implementation Plan, Iowa is largely white and rural; however, it is becoming more diverse, with Hispanic and African American populations growing each year. STOP funding can also be used to serve children who witness violence and males in certain situations. While lesser in numbers, STOP funding will be used to serve men (where appropriate), those with disabilities and those with limited English proficiencies. Services funded by STOP VAWA will be provided as needed and appropriate regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Thank you,

Wes C. Breckenridge  
Interim Director  
Iowa Law Enforcement Academy
May 25, 2022

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to support the Iowa Attorney General’s Office, Crime Victim Assistance Division (CVAD), and their submission to OVW for STOP VAWA funds. Our office understands the need for funding and appreciates how STOP VAWA funds have impacted victims in Iowa. This letter is to confirm the need for the STOP VAWA grant funds. The number of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence continues to remain steady. Our office is committed to working with the Iowa Attorney General’s Office to support prosecution, offender accountability, and victim advocacy. Our ability to properly fulfill this commitment is contingent upon funding. Without financial assistance, the victims for whom we seek justice as well as our community at large, would be at risk.

The intended uses of these funds are to provide support for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence. These funds will be used for training, prosecution, investigation, and victim advocacy.

As a result of the STOP VAWA funds, Iowa will see increased opportunities for training focusing on prosecution, law enforcement, and advocacy related to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence. Prosecutors, law enforcement agencies, and the court have dedicated staff funded by STOP VAWA and reply on STOP VAWA funding to prosecute and hold offenders accountable. These funds will also assist in providing increased access to language accessibility in the criminal justice system. Victim services agencies will use STOP funds to provide trauma-informed, victim-centered victim advocacy.

The population’s demographic characteristics to be served with STOP funding will likely be women between 24 and 50 years old. Iowa is largely white and rural; however, it is becoming more diverse, with Hispanic and African American populations growing each year. STOP funding will also serve children who witness violence. While lesser in numbers, STOP funding will to serve men (where appropriate), those with disabilities, and those with limited English proficiencies. Services funded by STOP VAWA will be provided as needed and appropriate regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Sincerely,

Mary J. Ingham
Executive Director
APPENDIX B

Planning Committee Member Documentation

Planning member documentation is provided as a PDF portfolio.
CVAD Implementation Plan Attendance

November 5th, 2021
Natalie Scarpino, Lori Miller, Sandi Tibbetts Murphy, Carrie Potter, Henny Ohr, Becky Kinnamon, Wendy Cupples, Claudia Rivera, Mary Ingham, Loredia Dixon, Kathleen Davis, Sarah Tupper

Discussion Topics:
Goals – improving services for sexual assault and human trafficking, policy surrounding protective orders, discussed STOP VAWA 4 crime areas, importance of survivor voices & feedback, benefits of focus groups, effects of covid on agencies

November 19th, 2021
Natalie, Lori, Sandi, Gretchen, Mary Ingham, Carrie Potter, Carson Eggland, Telina Quintana, Pearl Hammes, Claudia Rivera, Loredia Dixon, Famatta Passawe,

Discussion – shelter discussion r/e covid and how it has changed the way services are delivered (many programs exclusively sheltered survivors in hotels), many discussed staffing shortages as the reason for continued use of hotel/motels, available and affordable housing continues to be a challenge – especially in rural areas, but in urban and suburban as well, sometimes due to uncooperative landlords, hotels have been a preferred option for survivors for a number of reasons – privacy, proximity to their home base (sometimes the nearest shelter is a 2+hour drive), discussed the importance of diversified funding to cover client assistance, discussion of scattered site sheltering and how well that is working with one specific program. Discussed a specific challenge with sheltering deaf or hard of hearing victims when the sheltering agency would say they needed to “talk with the victim directly” which created a barrier for deaf clients accessing safety,

December 3rd, 2021
Natalie, Lori, Sandi, Carrie Potter, Claudia Rivera, Loredia Dixon, Kathleen Davis, Telina Quintana, Lily V. (La Luz), Gretchen, Sarah Tupper & Torrey Cuellar, Becky Kinnamon,

Lots of language access discussion,

December 17th, 2022
Mary, Wendy, Becky, Claudia, Nicole, Sandi, Tammy (SAL) Torrey, Sarah, Natalie, Lori, Gretchen, Telina,

Reduction of DV Homicide, ODDARA tool, challenge of victims having nowhere to go for safety, Nicole mentioned that a particular challenge on the settlement is that often times the men (perps) retain the home in, Mary mentioned the need to be more creative as what advocates are currently, doing
It’s an offender problem. Prosecutors have to work within the confines of the legal system. Currently if you punch your spouse in the face you get the same punishment as if you were pulled over with an edible. Mental health, substance abuse

Jan. 14th 2022

Telina, Carson, Torrey, Sarah T, Natalie, Nicole, Wendy, Becky, Loredia, Sandi,

Swift accountability for offenders, covid delays in court, pleading down, barriers to getting offenders...? Fast track courts - ? This is something we made a note about creating an objective around – talk with Torrey and Sandi about filling in these blanks,

Wednesday Jan. 26th, 2022

Nat, Beth Barnhill, Dr. Corona, Zeb, Adam, Elizabeth,

Demographics – specific cities in Iowa that have more than 100 languages in their schools, shelters during the pandemic – need is high, screening for lethality is challenging, not enough beds in the right highest need communities, moving away from congregant shelters but how to do it better, address children’s mental health safety & security – Zeb – in sum – there are just not enough shelter resources. Reduction of DV homicide would benefit from more housing resources, diverse workforce in a shelter is rare, need a clear definition between congregant shelters, emergency shelter and scattered site?

Wednesday Jan. 26th

Beth Barnhill, Iowa CASA, Dr. Maria Corona, ICADV, Elizabeth Barcarcel, Iowa CASA, Adam Starks, ICADV, Zebulon Beilke-McCallum, ICADV

Overview of the IP process and the coalitions role/input.

Friday February 11th, 2022

Gretchen, Lori, Natalie, Sara Hulen, Telina, Sarah Tupper, Wendy C., Zeb., Torrey, Carrie Potter, Elizabeth, Dr, Corona, Luana Nelson Brown, Claudia, Loredia,

15% discretionary set aside – where has this been used in the past. CVAD funds IDPH with a majority of those funds. Elizabeth – to provide stability and sustain foundational programs rather than support the VOCA projects – or perhaps additional/new VOCA projects

Discussed funding cuts

Discussed DART/SART teams
April 1, 2022
Mary Ingham, Zebulon Beilke-McCallum (ICADV), Becky Kinnamon, Elizabeth Barcarcel, IowaCASA, Carson Eggland, Torey Cuellar, Wendi Cupples, Tellina Quintana, Lori, Natalie and Gretchen,

Review of draft plan

April 15, 2022
Gretchen, Natalie, Lori, Wendi Cupples, Torey Cuellar, Zebulon Beilke-McCallum, Claudia, Dr. Maria Corona

Review of draft plan