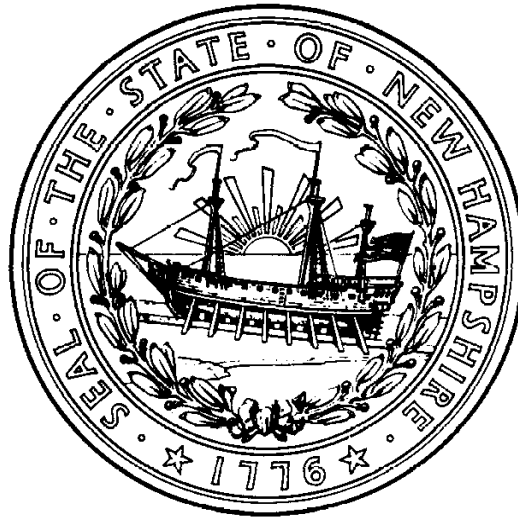


**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
GRANTS MANAGEMENT UNIT**



**S*T*O*P VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
FORMULA GRANT PROGRAM**

**STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
FISCAL YEARS 2014-2016
(Submitted: March 19, 2014)**

**Margaret Wood Hassan, Governor
Joseph A. Foster, Attorney General**

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**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
GRANTS MANAGEMENT UNIT**

MISSION STATEMENT

The Grants Management Unit of the Department of Justice exists to make a difference in the lives of the citizens of New Hampshire by ensuring the proper use of federal funds for criminal justice purposes. The Grants Management Unit does this through:

- * the professional administration of grant resources,
- * the adherence to all underlying federal and state requirements;
- * the coordination of federal criminal justice resources available to the state;
- and
- * efficient service and assistance.

I. INTRODUCTION

In 1995, the Governor of the State of New Hampshire designated the NH Department of Justice to serve as the State Administering Agency for the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program (STOP). The NH Department of Justice, Grants Management Unit, has coordinated the STOP grant-related finances, programs and activities for the State since the grant programs' inception.

The New Hampshire Department of Justice, Grants Management Unit, currently manages a number of grant programs able to provide victim related services throughout the state. These programs include both state and federal grant programs that target victim centered activities. They include the State Victim Assistance fund; the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Assistance and Compensation programs; two formula grant programs from the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), including the STOP program and the Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP); and one additional OVW discretionary grant entitled 2010 *Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange*. From 2009 through 2013, a number of victim related programs received funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), as sub-awarded by the Grants Management Unit of the NH Department of Justice. New Hampshire received ARRA awards under the VAWA, VOCA Assistance, VOCA Compensation and Byrne JAG programs. The Grants Management Units' oversight of these multiple grant programs allows for a more coordinated delivery of services to address the many areas of need across the state. The blending of formula and discretionary funding streams allows us to expand and strengthen our efforts even further.

The STOP Violence Against Women program is a crucial component of our overall victim services strategy; however it addresses only a portion of the State's overall victim centered efforts and strategies. The STOP formula grant is essential to the success of the twenty four sub-recipient agencies, comprised of law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and victim service agencies, that receive this funding in New Hampshire. With the current challenging economic times, the future of many of these programs is tentative at best. The long-term effects of the recession have produced an increased need for victim services throughout the state; however securing funding to continue those operations has proven increasingly difficult. In this

context, a centralized multidisciplinary approach towards victim services is more critical than ever. Our 2014-2016 Plan does not articulate significant changes in strategic direction and the majority of our STOP grant funding will continue to support the core programs that have proven so successful at meeting victim needs in New Hampshire. We will continue to expand services to sexual assault victims through continued funding of the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Coordinator position based at the NH Department of Justice. This program was originally created using Stimulus funding and has been continued with STOP funds. The SART Coordinator is funded under the prosecution allocation, as it is based at the NH Department of Justice. This innovative program will assist the State in meeting the upcoming 20% set aside to meaningfully address sexual assault. The SART coordinator is in addition to two sexual assault focused and STOP funded programs at the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (NHCADSV). Those programs include a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) coordinator and crisis advocacy support for the Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS) center in Portsmouth, NH.

As is true with other smaller states, our options for meeting the mandatory category percentages are somewhat limited. While not making any significant changes, some changes are necessary. By making reductions to some long-standing programs, we will make funding available to begin new programs or expand services to meet the new requirements. These changes will be based on the overall statewide victim needs priorities, federal mandates and the availability of funding. It is widely recognized that victim services are seriously underfunded, resulting in the continued erosion of their ability to maintain basic services. Reductions in funding are being seen at not only the federal level but also at the state, local and non-governmental levels as well. Many service providers have been forced to reduce staff, cut back on service hours or even to eliminate some services. Some agencies have even been forced to close their doors after providing years of valuable community service. The State will continue to administer these funds in support of services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking and will include efforts to enhance services to our underserved and culturally diverse populations.

A: This plan, as developed in concert with our collaborative partners, has been approved by the New Hampshire Attorney General, or designee, on March 19, 2014, and submitted to the

Office on Violence Against Women at the United States Department of Justice for final approval, as required.

B: The time period covered by this plan extends from calendar year 2014 through 2016.

C: The goal of this implementation plan is to provide the framework for the activities to be accomplished over the next three years and to serve as the state strategy for addressing domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence in New Hampshire. STOP funds are a significant part of the funding structure for struggling agencies, in New Hampshire, tasked with providing services to an ever increasing population of persons in need.

D: This Plan is organized in accordance with the OVW provided “*2014 Implementation Plan Toolkit*” and adheres closely to that outline. Please note that examples of some required documentation are included as attachments. Also note that when referencing a report or protocol, a site reference is provided that should allow the reader to access that document if desired.

E: It can be challenging to provide support for victim service programs in New Hampshire. As a state with no sales tax; State funding is relatively limited. STOP funding is distributed in accordance with programmatic guidelines, with a priority given to broad geographic coverage. The distribution of these funds takes into consideration the amounts and types of programming currently available in each specific area of the state. That process also explores what areas or populations are experiencing continuing disparity in the level of services available to them. The process ensures the equitable distribute of funding throughout the state, as well as ensuring that the needs of underserved and culturally specific populations are addressed. The underlying theme throughout this Plan will be to continue funding the victim related core services already established throughout New Hampshire.

Only 13% of the state population lives in the northern half of the state with the other 87% living in the seven counties located in the southern half of the state.¹ Victim needs are significant throughout New Hampshire, regardless of the geographic area in which victims reside. Each region of the state and segment of the population face unique barriers to receiving services. In the northern region of the state, victim services are primarily centered in the limited number of larger communities. The lack of public transportation in the northern portion of the state makes obtaining services, located in those larger communities, quite difficult for many. In the southern, more populated region of the state, victim services are more readily available however the

number of victims seeking services is also greater, thereby putting a greater strain on the available resources.

The State strives to provide equitable and balanced services for all segments of the population, to include underserved populations. New Hampshire's growing numbers of immigrant and refugee populations face unique barriers to services due to cultural and linguistic challenges, which require special consideration. The increasing number of victims presenting with substance abuse and mental health issues has also placed a heavy burden on available services. The need to provide increased outreach to victims who may be elderly, mentally and/or physically challenged, and/or who are trapped in rural isolation and poverty is also recognized. The ability to provide transitional housing is a concern; all too frequently a victim must make a decision between staying in an abusive relationship or becoming homeless if she chooses to leave the abusive environment.

Our primary objectives are to maintain the current level of victim service support and to make every effort to enhance services as the opportunity becomes available. The STOP grant will continue to be one of the primary vehicles for delivering services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. New Hampshire is committed to maintaining a seamless, effective, and accessible continuum of support and services for victims of violence.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING PROCESS

A: With the collective goal of strengthening our response to victims of violent crimes our 2014-2016 State Implementation Plan has been developed with information gathered from a variety of sources. This Plan examines statewide needs and challenges; analyzes current gaps in services and is a critical part of our long-term approach to improving the lives of victims. Many of the identified priority areas are funded by other state and/or federal sources, but our STOP grant continues to be a significant part of the State's overall efforts to serve victims of violent crime.

The 2014-2016 Plan was completed with the input of our collaborative partners, to include representatives from: the dual purpose NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the New Hampshire Department of Justice, Prosecutors

¹ <http://www.nh.gov/oep/data-center/population-estimates.htm>
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from NH County Attorney Offices, Victim Service providers, representatives of underserved populations and state and local law enforcement. Representatives also included a cultural specific victim advocate, crisis center managers, and representation from NH Catholic Charities. The Plan was also developed with the assistance of the Byrne JAG, VOCA and FVPSA grant administrators. Concerns within the Latino community were brought forward by local crisis center victim advocates and Catholic Charities, as community representative spokespersons were unavailable. The diversity of these partners is their greatest asset. Planning members are active participants on an array of committees, work groups and task forces across the state where “needs issues” are continually being assessed. This group is committed to providing vital, in-depth, information on a continuing basis and this is reflected in this Implementation Plan. The state’s strong working relationship with the dual purpose NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (NHCADSV), a non-profit non-governmental victim service provider, is crucial, as they bring years of immeasurable experience to the table. There are no registered Indian tribes in NH; therefore, there are none included in the planning process.

In order to prepare the FY 2014-2016 Implementation Plan: current practices were reviewed, discussions were held relative to where the state hopes to be within the three year period this plan encompasses, statistical data for the state was researched and funding priorities were developed. Information that helped create this Plan was obtained through additional resources, including: feedback from subgrantees, annual and semi-annual progress reports, subgrantee applications, and our experts in the field. Many different forms of information were analyzed to best determine unmet need, underserved populations, and obstacles to providing services, as well as identifying gaps in current services.

These multiple sources of information were used to better understand the impact of domestic and sexual violence in New Hampshire, as well as to assist in the development of our statewide victims’ needs and funding priorities. Planning team members are committed to working collaboratively on a statewide level and continue to improve the state’s response to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

B: Round table discussions and meetings were held with numerous multidisciplinary collaborative partners to discuss the impact of violence against women in the State and the programs necessary to support those victims. Organizations, groups and individuals collaborating on this Plan are indicated in the section above. Representatives were provided an opportunity to

raise and discuss concerns on issues related to the discipline they represent and will receive a final copy of this Plan. A common thread presented at most meetings included the ability to provide legal representation for victims, the need for interpretation services, and expanded community response to victims of sexual assault. Training for judicial staff, law enforcement and prosecutors was also cited as an ongoing need. Another frequent topic was the difficulty most programs had in generating adequate funding, grant or otherwise, to provide services to an ever increasing victim population.

PLEASE REFERENCE ATTACHMENT A: Documentation from Planning Members

C: Meetings took place in September with the state administrators of the FVPSA, VOCA and Byrne JAG programs. Discussions centered on how to better understand what issues each federal program can address in the state, ensuring coverage in crucial areas of victim assistance and avoiding duplication of service and efforts. The Grants Management Unit and the FVPSA grant administrator have initiated a conversation about the possibility of developing a joint VAWA/FVPSA state plan, with further discussion scheduled for this spring. The state VOCA and Byrne JAG administrators are within the NH Department of Justice Grants Management Unit. The management structure of the Grants Management Unit ensures that all of our grant programs are management in such a way as to ensure the most efficient and effective delivery of services throughout the state and the elimination of any duplication in services.

D: STOP planned activities over the upcoming three year period include continued dialog with collaborative community partners and stakeholders, continued monitoring of legislative activities, reviews of best practices and the implementation of those practices to the extent possible.

III. NEEDS AND CONTEXT

New Hampshire is a small New England state that incorporates both urban and rural settings. The state shares boundaries with Canada to the north, Maine and the Atlantic Ocean to the east, Vermont to the west and Massachusetts to the south. The state has a population of 1.3 million.²

A: Population demographics and geographic information

- NH is ranked 44th in the nation for overall total land area and 41st in population.³

² <http://www.nh.gov/oep/data-center/population-estimates.htm>

³ <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/index.html>

- Population density reflects that only 13% of the state population lives in the northern half of the state with the other 87% living in the seven counties located in the southern half of the state. Coos County in the north has an average of 27 people per square mile whereas Hillsborough County located in southern New Hampshire has an average of 446 persons per square mile.⁴
- The average median household income indicates that southern counties lead the state in family income with Rockingham County at \$75,425 per household and Coos County in the northern most region of the state indicating an income level of only \$42,788.⁵ Researchers from the UNH Carsey Institute stated that 8.1% of NH's population is living in poverty⁶, which is relatively low when compared to national standards. Unfortunately this low number all too often provides a false sense of security to many policy makers.
- The male and female population is split fairly equal at approximately 50% each in NH.⁷

B: Distribution of underserved and cultural specific populations

- A significant underserved population in New Hampshire continues to be isolated rural populations. Due to a lack of adequate public transportation, these populations struggle to access services that are generally located in the larger towns and cities. Grafton County attorney states that *“as a rural county, our victims continue to struggle with a lack of public transportation, adequate daycare, and stable employment. We need services to be more available so that someone in an abusive relationship can have some measure of financial security to assist in developing a safety plan”*. Another growing underserved segment of the population experiencing a higher level of abuse is the elderly. Persons age 65 and older in NH are abused at a slightly higher rate than the national rate, with NH showing about 14.7% of the population being 65 or older compared to the national level of 13.7%.⁸ The elderly, often living in social isolation and/or perhaps having poor communication abilities, can all too often become a target of physical or financial abuse. This abuse is often perpetrated by a care providers or family member. As the needs of the elderly community have become more evident, the crisis centers have focused services on underserved elderly victims and outreach is

⁴ <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/index.html>

⁵ <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/index.html>

⁶ <http://www.unh.edu/news/releases/2013/apr/1w12carsey.cfm>

⁷ <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/index.html>

⁸ <http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dcbcs/beas/elderabusecouncil.htm>

directed at raising community awareness. It is also well understood that persons with physical and/or developmental disabilities may be subject to abuse and often that abuse is by the person responsible for caring for them. Victims who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transsexual may face unique barriers and often avoid seeking services due to their sexual orientation.

- When examining culturally specific populations, it becomes evident that the racial and ethnic composition of the state is slowly expanding; however New Hampshire's diversity tends to be less about race and more about socio-economic and educational status. New Hampshire's overall population has held steady at 1.3 million, of which 94.4% is white; 1.4% is African-American; American Indian or Alaska Native persons are at 0.3%; Asian persons totals about 2.4% and Hispanic or Latino origin make up 3.0%. The majority of these percentages have climbed only slightly since 2010, for example our Hispanic/Latina population has grown from 2.9% to the current 3.0%.⁹

- While domestic and sexual violence, dating violence and stalking cut across all ages, ethnicities and socioeconomic groups, it is also generally understood that certain populations have a tendency to be disproportionately targeted. As New Hampshire becomes more ethnically and culturally diverse, representatives from under-served groups will be important stakeholders in the decision making process. The NH Department of Justice works closely with both the Immigrant Victim Committee, of the Governor's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence, and the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence to identify and address the needs of this population. Crisis centers located in southern and central regions of the state are increasingly tasked with providing services to members of the immigrant and refugee communities, especially in the cities of Manchester, Laconia and Nashua. These three New Hampshire cities, each of which is a designated refugee resettlement location, lay claim to our largest groups of immigrant and/or refugee communities. At this time, Latino and Brazilian immigrants and African refugees represent the largest percentages of underserved populations in these three cities. With the addition of two culturally specific tri-lingual/bi-cultural advocates supported with STOP, the crisis centers have begun to make inroads into underserved communities. The YWCA of Manchester crisis center has sponsored Latino community meetings. Through these meetings, minorities have become better educated on the

⁹ <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/33000.html>

services available and have begun to voice their opinions on what services might better suit the Latino community.

- As a recipient of the OVW Safe Havens discretionary grant funding to support supervised visitation and exchanges services, NH has developed a network of visitation centers able to provide services for, primarily, court ordered visitation. Since receiving the OVW 2010 Safe Havens program, these centers have provided 9,573 supervised visitation and exchange services to 688 families in need. The lack of sufficient supervised visitation services is an additional barrier to many victims and to the courts as well.

C: Criminal Justice and Court Data

- Due to a lack of resources and budgetary cutbacks, New Hampshire's courts struggle to manage caseloads and provide services. The Courts report that in 2012, 6,347 petitions for civil protective orders were filed and, of these petitions, 4,589 temporary orders were issued and scheduled for final hearings. In order to provide a judiciary, knowledgeable on the ever changing legal landscape and informed about victim needs, judges need exposure to national best practice policies and guidelines to help them resolve a docket of high conflict cases.
- The Courts reported the following plaintiff ethnicity information from domestic violence court petitions filed in 2012. Of all domestic violence petitions filed, it is reported that 3% were filed by persons identifying as Hispanic, 1% unknown, 27% refused to identify themselves and 86% identified as non-Hispanic. Data also reflects that in DV matters, females filed 82% of court petitions. In reviewing these statistics, one must ask if additional outreach would increase these numbers, or do the numbers simply reflect the slow growth of New Hampshire's cultural diversity?
- Criminal cases involving violence against women are difficult to segregate because relationship and gender are not elements of the state offense. Additionally the age of the victim can be difficult to distinguish. In the District Court, in 2013 there were 1,299 sexual assault charges filed but there is no way to know the gender or age of the victim of these allegations as that data is not available. Of these sexual assault charges filed 1,076 were felony sexual assaults and were 223 misdemeanor sexual assaults. There were 915 stalking charges filed and 929 violations of protection orders charges filed.

- An annual STOP grant has been instrumental in assisting the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) with developing a data management system that allows for the collection and analysis of court statistics on violence against women. The development of the Data Warehouse Project has significantly improved their ability to report basic statistical information about these cases. This data is imperative for policy work within the court system and for working with external stakeholders on policies and practices that impact violence against women.
- ***PLEASE REFERENCE ATTACHMENT B: For additional Court Documentation***
 - The NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, which is primarily supported by the VOCA grant, reported that they provided services to a total of 14,178 victims during 2013. That assistance was provided to 9,322 victims of Domestic Violence, 1,502 victims of sexual assault and 625 victims of stalking. It should also be noted that there were 1,659 child victims of sexual assault assisted.

New Hampshire continues to make legislative inroads with numerous new victim related protections. A key piece of legislation currently being discussed in New Hampshire is the establishment of a domestic violence crime. The NHDOJ and the NHCADSV have been successful advocates for a number of current pending bills as well as successfully defeating several harmful pieces of legislation.

- In August of 2013, a tragedy occurred at the Supervised Visitation Center of the YWCA of Manchester when, during a court ordered supervised visitation, a non-custodial parent took the life of his 9 year old son Joshua and then turned the gun on himself, committing suicide. New Hampshire is one of only 15 states that don't have a statute specific to domestic violence. While any crime that occurs during an incident of domestic violence can be charged, there is no clear process for helping to track domestic violence as those statutes apply to both domestic violence and non-domestic violence related cases. The current DV bill, which will create the crime of domestic violence, would make it much easier to track and prosecute domestic violence cases, as all of them would be charged under this one law. In January of this year, in a well-attended legislative hearing, Joshua's mother told her story for the first time, reflecting on her years of domestic abuse by her former husband. Her brave testimony has helped highlight the issues surrounding this bill. The current bills (SB318) will not create a new criminal offense; rather it will consolidate existing offenses into one statute for domestic violence

related cases. This consolidation will help officials distinguish between an assault committed as part of a bar fight and an attack on a spouse. This bill once passed, will strengthen the tools of law enforcement and prosecutors, as well as the courts. It recently passed through the Senate with unanimous support.

- In the wake of the Joshua Savyon tragedy in August of 2013, several pieces of legislation were filed to address concerns regarding security at supervised visitation centers. The bills currently under legislative consideration are SB205 and HB1236. Both bills are an effort to improve security at supervised visitation centers and to also provide Judges with better options regarding visitation.
- A proposed senate bill (SB317) works to strengthen NH's Human Trafficking statute by toughening the penalties for those convicted of engaging in human trafficking activities and strengthens protection for victims. This bill recently passed through the Senate with unanimous support.
- New Hampshire is also moving forward with a senate bill (SB253) concerning the termination of parental rights for certain convicted rapists. New Hampshire is one of 21 states that don't require the termination of parental rights of a rapist, even after conviction, for a child conceived during the commission of that rape. The current bill proposes to terminate a rapist's parental rights. It has recently passed through the Senate with unanimous support.
- Proposed senate bill (SB1410) would include household and domesticated animals under the domestic violence protection statute under RSA 173-B. This bill seeks to add a new section under "relief" to allow a judge to order custody of pets and domesticated animals to the plaintiff.
- In January of 2011, a new state strangulation law went into effect. The new law upgraded any attempted strangulation to a second degree assault charge, which is a felony, punishable by a sentence of 3 ½ to 7 years in prison. This has proven to be a valuable tool for protecting victims. The first arrest under this new law was on January 6, 2011.

IV. PLAN PRIORITITES AND APPROACHES

A: Identified Goals:

Over the years New Hampshire has made substantial progress in addressing the issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. The collaborative planning process provides a renewed appreciation for the remarkable work being accomplished with limited resources, while striving to meet the needs of victims. The Congressional reauthorization

of the 2013 Violence Against Women Act and the program's continued funding to the states will assist New Hampshire to continue the significant gains and inroads made towards reducing domestic and sexual violence, stalking and dating violence. The basis of New Hampshire's current strategic direction reflects a continuation of the state's core services that were outlined in our previous three year implementation plan. While there is growth projected for the time period this plan encompasses, this growth will necessitate fine-tuning our existing resources and seeking alternatives when funding dictates program limitations.

1. Description of Current Project Goals and Objectives

Based on the information gathered during the development of this Plan, the following priorities have been determined and will be supported through STOP funding, to the extent possible.

GOAL: Provide support and services for victims of sexual assault.

OBJECTIVE: Continue support of sexual assault programs currently in place within the state, to include SANE and SART coordinator positions and the expansion of services when possible.

OBJECTIVE: Continue to provide sexual assault training to community members to increase the level of knowledge and services.

GOAL: Provide support and services for victims of domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.

OBJECTIVE: Continue support for domestic violence and stalking programs currently in place within the state, to include support for local agency programs and other related programs.

OBJECTIVE: Assist programs with strategies aimed at helping to mitigate the pending 5% reduction in the level of STOP funds for 2015.

GOAL: Provide support for supervised visitation services in New Hampshire.

OBJECTIVE: Assist visitation centers with staff training and resources to the extent possible.

OBJECTIVE: Continue to work with the Courts to help improve communication between the visitation centers and the Courts.

GOAL: Enhance our ability to serve all clients regardless of differences in culture, language or sexual orientation.

OBJECTIVE: Continue to support effective training for subgrantee programs and the availability of culturally specific services, to include interpretation services.

2. Goals and Objectives for Reducing Domestic Violence Related Homicides in New Hampshire.

In February of 2013, New Hampshire's Attorney General released a report that underscored the prevalence of domestic violence-related homicides. A decade of statistics illustrates that the state has a problem it cannot ignore, as roughly half of all murders since 2001 have been domestic violence related. New Hampshire's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee (DVFRC) meets bi-monthly and produces annual reports that include statistical data, recommendations, and responses to the recommendations previously made by the Committee. This year the DVFRC has released a report which presents 10 years worth of data on domestic violence-related homicides in New Hampshire, from 2001 to 2010.¹⁰ The goal in presenting the data in this way is to improve the understanding of the context of these homicides and to promote the optimal allocation of resources to help prevent future homicides. Also included in the report are crisis center data from the NHCADSV and court system data from the New Hampshire Judicial Branch. The DVFRC strives to promote greater awareness of domestic violence in New Hampshire and to create opportunities for building safer communities for all our citizens. The Committee is hopeful that this report may serve as a valuable resource to those who serve victims of domestic violence, decision-makers and researchers.

Over the past few years New Hampshire has worked to implement the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) on a statewide basis. The LAP provides first responders with screening tools to help assess the level of risk a victim may experience. If the screening tool indicates an elevated danger level, law enforcement is directed to contact an advocate immediately and offer the victim the opportunity to speak with them. Numerous victim advocates and law enforcement officers have reported on the success of this program and its ability to help victims better assess their level of danger.

B: Priority Areas

1. How STOP Funding Will Be Used.

¹⁰ The DVFRC report may be viewed at <http://doj.nh.gov/criminal/victim-assistance/domestic-violence-fatality-review-committee.htm>
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Sexual Assault Services - The National Victim Center reports that over 700,000 women are raped or sexually assaulted each year¹¹. A recent NH Violence Against Women Survey found that 22.4% of women living in the state had been sexually assaulted¹². Activities under the STOP program, the OVW Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) award and state allocations have been coordinated since 2010 in an effort to improve training and increase services for victims of sexual assault. More victims are reporting crimes committed against them, but system responses still lag in providing service. During the period that this plan encompasses, STOP funds will continue to support NHCADSV programs, to include a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE), and the Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS) crisis center, located in Portsmouth, NH. STOP funds will also support the Sexual Assault Resource Team (SART) coordinator here at the Department of Justice. SASP federal funds and state funds are awarded to the NHCADSV each year to be passed through to eleven of the statewide crisis centers to specifically assist victims of sexual assault. SASP funding supports such activities as : a 24-hour crisis lines; available 24-hour accompaniment to hospital emergency rooms, police stations and court proceedings; transportation; peer support groups; child care; criminal justice and social services systems advocacy and also information about and referrals to additional community supported services. Multidisciplinary sexual assault training sessions will continue to be offered at the annual Attorney Generals' Domestic and Sexual Violence, Stalking and Child Abuse training conference, which typically draws nearly 500 participants. New Hampshire is working to expand services to victims of sexual assault with the goal of increasing the level of services to that currently available to domestic violence victims. The STOP grant also funds law enforcement officers and prosecutors that often address the needs of sexual assault crimes.

Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking -Referencing the stated goals above, New Hampshire will continue to support our life saving core partners who provide ongoing services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking on a statewide basis. While sexual assault was addressed as a separate priority area, it is also a major component of our current system of core services. New Hampshire will work to enhance sexual assault

¹¹ http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_report2010-a.pdf#page=27

¹² New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. *Violence Against Women in New Hampshire: a Report from NHCADSV*. (Concord, NH: 2007), 1. <http://www.nhcadsv.org/Maureen/VAW%20Report%20Final.pdf> (February 19, 2010).

services while also supporting the other components of our comprehensive core service system. Despite funding shortfalls and an increasing number of victims, STOP funding continues to be a major source of victim centered funding. STOP funding will build on previous programming by encouraging specific initiatives aimed at providing ongoing support and services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. New Hampshire struggles to continue to meet a demand for services that far outnumber the resources available.

Supervised Visitation - It has been documented that the period following a victim's separation from their abuser can be the most dangerous time for that victim. Approximately 25% to 50% of women killed by an intimate partner were during or immediately after separation. Up to 75% of DV calls to law enforcement occur after separation and up to 73% of visits by battered women to emergency rooms are made after separation¹³. There is a critical need for continued support for the state's network of supervised visitation and safe exchange centers. Since receiving the OVW Safe Havens discretionary grant, to support Supervised Visitation and exchanges services, NH has developed a network of visitation centers. These centers are primarily aimed at providing services for court ordered visitation. Through the OVW 2010 Safe Havens program, centers have provided 9,573 supervised visitation and exchange services to 688 families in need. The lack of supervised visitation services is a substantial barrier to many victims and to the Courts as well. The State is looking closely at an upcoming legislative bill that is designed to improve safety at supervised visitation centers. Supervised visitation is provided primarily by local non-profit organizations that struggle to stay open. The vast majority of clientele for visitation services are generated by the New Hampshire court system. In addition to STOP and Safe Havens funding the state has recently applied for the Justice for Families (JFF), a new OVW discretionary grant.

Equal Protection/Culturally Diverse services- STOP programming will continue to help ensure underserved populations, as well as culturally specific populations, are provided services that are sensitive to their needs and traditions. Ongoing training will continue with a focus on services to the underserved and un-served populations.

A: Crystal Judson Purpose Area

New Hampshire does not expend specific funds in relation to the Crystal Judson Domestic Violence Protocol Program, however we do realize that family violence committed by law enforcement personnel is a problem. That topic is addressed in an Office of the Attorney

General Model Protocol for Law Enforcement Responses to Domestic Violence Cases that was created in concert with the Governor's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence.¹⁴

2. Description of Types of Programs to be Supported With STOP Funds.

The following section outlines the general description of the types of programs that will be funded with STOP dollars over the next three years.

Law Enforcement – During the upcoming Implementation Plan period of 2014 to 2016, STOP funds are expected to continue to support six law enforcement departments. Three of those departments (Manchester, Nashua and Portsmouth) are located in the state's largest cities, with funds being used to support staff positions within their DV Units. All three cities are located in the southern part of the state, where services struggle to keep pace with the ever increasing number of victims. Manchester Police Department reports that the DV Advocate and an AmeriCorps volunteer handled 810 cases in 2013 and the DV Unit Officer investigated 145 of those cases. The Victim Assistant at the Nashua Police Department provided services to over 260 victims of domestic and sexual violence while the STOP funded victim assistant at the Portsmouth Police Department provided services to 84 victims. The fourth law enforcement STOP funded agency is located in the more rural college town of Plymouth, where funding supports a part-time officer who specializes in domestic and sexual violence investigations for the Plymouth State University Campus Police Department. In addition to police investigations into issues that arise on campus, the investigator has also provided a range of workshops and seminars to students and faculty, which has enhanced connections with students on issues such as domestic and sexual violence, dating violence and stalking. While not STOP funded, this strong public awareness campaign has increased the number of victims coming forward to report crimes committed against them. Also, an important detail to note is many college students seemed to have a limited understanding of exactly what is "acceptable sexual behavior" by an intimate partner. This program has made huge steps at improving communication between local law enforcement and college students. The fifth law enforcement award continues to support a full-time regional victim assistant position within the Plaistow District Court catchment area, consisting of Plaistow and six surrounding towns. Because, individually, none of the small towns could support an advocate position that was desperately needed, they collaborated to support a

¹³ Cost of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States
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regional advocate position. The advocate is able to provide services to victims in all six towns within the Plaistow District Court catchment area. This regional victim assistant position has been instrumental in elevating the victims' satisfaction level regarding their involvement with the criminal justice system. Victims once disenfranchised with the system now better understand how it can assist them. The Plaistow Police Department serves as the fiscal agent for the position. In 2011, STOP funds began supporting a new law enforcement agency located in Franklin, NH. Starting with ARRA funding, Franklin has made a number of improvements in the area of providing victim services within that community. STOP funds have continued those efforts by supporting an officer/investigator, who works in partnership with the local crisis center victim advocate to follow up on domestic violence incidents reported to the police department. This officer/advocate partnership is providing outstanding results in that most victims, after having completed the lethality assessment tool, are willing to follow-up with the local crisis center for additional support and services.

It is anticipated that, over the next three year period, we will continue funding these six law enforcement agencies, as they have continued to exceed performance expectations.

Prosecution - Funding currently supports a part-time domestic violence/sexual assault trained prosecutor and /or a victim assistance position at seven of our ten county attorney offices.

Awards to prosecuting agencies are well dispersed throughout the state and include the counties of Coos, Grafton, Merrimack, Hillsborough, Cheshire, Strafford and Belknap. Prosecution related programming at the NH Department of Justice includes support to the Office of Victim/Witness Assistance, for statewide training and victim centered protocol development, and support for the retention of the Sexual Assault Resource Team (SART) Coordinator position.

Victim Services – Continuing into the next three years, NH expects to support two awards for community-based culturally specific victim advocate positions at local crisis centers in NH's two largest cities. These positions will be reexamined to ensure they continue to address the needs of racial and ethnic minority groups and that advocates have developed the specific expertise for the racial and ethnic minority populations specified by the updated requirements of the 2013 VAWA reauthorization. Approximately 50% of all minorities living in New Hampshire reside in Hillsborough County, with the vast majority settling in the cities of Manchester and Nashua. At

¹⁴ This protocol is available on the NH Department of Justice website at <http://doj.nh.gov/criminal/victim-assistance/protocols.htm>.

this time STOP funding support two culturally specific advocate positions, one at the YWCA Crisis Center in Manchester and the other at the Bridges Crisis Center in Nashua. Both Advocates work closely with the NH Catholic Charities' legal department to provide visas and other crucial documentation and services for victims. The relatively small immigrant population in NH makes it challenging to fund culturally specific community-based organizations, as the number of such agencies is very limited. STOP funding is awarded to the NHCADSV to support three different programs: the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program, which functions on a state-wide basis; the Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS) organization, providing services to sexual assault victims in the state's seacoast area; and the Coalition Trainer position, which coordinates services between the crisis centers and the Division of Children, Youth and Families, in cases when child neglect and abuse are co-occurring with suspected incidents of domestic violence. We also expect to continue support for the NH Bar Association (DOVE) and NH Legal Assistance programs. Both agencies provide legal services for low income victims at their temporary and final restraining orders hearings. These pro bono legal services have helped to create a more level playing field for victims. For more than two decades, the Domestic Violence Emergency (DOVE) Project has been assisting low-income victims of domestic abuse obtain restraining orders to secure their physical and emotional well-being and improve their household's financial stability. In 2013, the DOVE program leveraged nearly \$145,000 worth of free legal services for victims, thanks in significant part to the \$30,000 in STOP grant funding. Volunteer lawyers responded to 148 primary victims of domestic violence and generously provided emergency free legal advice and representation with 157 cases.

STOP funding supports the YWCA of Manchester and the Nashua supervised visitation centers as they continue to provide supervised visitation and safe exchange services to those in desperate need of those services.

Courts – The NH court system has seen its' state funded resources significantly reduced. In an effort to save money, consolidate services and meet existing demands, the NH Court system has undergone a restructuring process that has combined District, Family and Probate courts into a single Circuit Court system. The courts are also shifting to a paperless “E-Court” system designed to reduce staff by 50 percent over the next 10 years. Despite these changes and funding shortages, it is more important than ever that we keep judicial staff well trained in cases that involve violence against women. Grant funds have helped to support technical assistance to

ensure the effectiveness of the Protective Order Registry for civil and criminal orders. The criminal justice system can be a key factor in lessening the societal effects of domestic and sexual violence, stalking and dating violence when those justice system professionals have the appropriate tools and training they need. Budget and staff reductions have impacted the ability to provide hearings to litigants in a timely manner. STOP funding in 2012 and 2013 supported the Access to Justice Project which provided a dedicated DV docket and support for sustaining per-diem judges. There are no state funds identified to support the dedicated dockets after 2013 and, without this federal funding, the courts will likely not have the ability to sustain dedicated domestic violence dockets in six of the states busiest courts. These dockets have been completely funded with federal grant dollars through either the STOP or ARRA grant programs. STOP funding will also continue to be utilized to support the Courts' part-time DV Specialist. The DV Specialist is fully involved in all of the emerging issues and also serves as the point of contact for the Courts on violence against women issues. The DV Specialist is also involved in the Governor's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence and Stalking, and several of its subcommittees; Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee; SAVIN Steering Committee; and the Inter-Agency Coordinating Council for Women Offenders, which is a legislatively created committee that oversees conditions at the NH State Prison for Women. The Inter-Agency Coordinating Council worked with members of the Legislature and the Department of Corrections on the passage of a bill to provide funding to build a new women's prison. The history's of the majority of the women inmates in New Hampshire includes all manner of trauma. VAW issues have been a priority in the consideration of program design and space needs for the new prison.

3. How Funds Will be Distributed to Required Categories.

The state will continue to distribute funding in accordance with the VAWA statutory mandates by continuing support for core services currently meeting those requirements and issuing targeted requests-for-proposal when program needs change. Mandates include: 30% of our total VAWA award to victim services, with 10% of those victim service funds dedicated to community-based culturally specific organization; 25% for law enforcement; 25% for prosecution and 5% to the courts. We will continue to ensure that funding is awarded to agencies most able to provide services in the most cost-effective manner possible. This includes an in-depth analysis of the needs of crime victims at the local level, to include underserved

populations, and an understanding of the current gaps in services before program funding decisions are made. Our goal is to ensure a high standard of compassionate service to victims, while closely monitoring the cost associated with providing those services. Current and anticipated subgrants include a mix of urban and rural catchment areas that are distributed throughout the state. In conjunction with the state VOCA grant programs (14 funded Crisis Centers, DV/SA victim advocate, Child Advocacy Centers, mental health providers, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program, etc.), discretionary OVW programs, and state victims fund, the state is well represented in terms of population and geographic dispersion. Most of our core service providers rely upon STOP funds and without it critical services for victims would be in jeopardy.

4. ***PLEASE REFERENCE ATTACHMENT C: Documentation from prosecution, law enforcement, victim services and the courts as to how funds will support those programs.***

5. **Meeting the Sexual Assault 20% Set-Aside**

In order to meet the mandatory 20% set aside for sexual assault victims, New Hampshire will reduce most of our long-standing core service providers by approximately 5% in the 2014 STOP funding cycle. This program wide budget reduction should generate the funds necessary to support this new set aside. The final amount of this reduction will be based on the actual federal allocation for 2014, once it becomes available. In 2009, the ARRA award to the NHDOJ established a SART Coordinator position working within the Office of Victim/Witness Assistance at NHDOJ. This position falls within our prosecution allocation. Once the ARRA funding was fully expended, we transitioned this position to STOP funding. In 2013, the SART Coordinator conducted 19 trainings/SART presentations to a total of 620 professionals. The Coordinator also attended 92 meetings, to include monthly county SART meetings, as well as consultant meetings, quarterly SANE Advisory Board meetings and two round table meetings regarding Sexual Assault in the Military for Senator Shaheen and Representative Kuster. SARTs are now established in six of New Hampshire's ten counties and efforts continue in the four remaining counties of Coos, Carroll, Rockingham and Sullivan.

Under the victim services allocation NHDOJ provides significant funding to the NHCADSV. This funding is passed through to Sexual Assault Support Services, located in Portsmouth, NH, which provides exclusively sexual assault services. STOP funds also support the Coalition's SANE Director position. The SANE Director is responsible for the administration, coordination

and enhancement of the SANE program, including building infrastructure and alliances with appropriate agencies. The program director also works on a statewide basis to recruit and train registered nurses and other advanced practice providers on the comprehensive care of sexual assaulted victims.

6. List of current subgrantees

The programs listed below will receive STOP funds in 2014. Of the 24 programs listed, most will be funded from the 2013 STOP award; however some awards will come from the remaining balance in the 2012 award. Local sub-grant awards are for a period of one year only, however awarding the federal STOP grant for a period of two years helps the State buffer any fluctuations in funding levels.

PROSECUTION (8)

<u>SUBGRANTEE</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>AWARD AMOUNT</u>	<u>PURPOSE AREAS</u>
Belknap County Attorney Office	DV/SA Prosecutor	\$30,000	2,3
Cheshire County Attorney Office	DV/SA Prosecutor	\$30,000	1,2
Coos County Attorney Office	DV/SA Prosecutor	\$10,000	2
Merrimack County Attorney Office	DV/SA Advocate	\$30,000	2
Grafton County Attorney Office	DV/SA Prosecutor	\$30,000	2,15
Hillsborough County Attorney Off.	DV/SA Prosecutor	\$35,000	2
Strafford County Attorney Office	DV/SA Prosecutor	\$30,000	2
Office of Victim/Witness Assistance NH Dept. of Justice	VAW Training SART Coordinator position	\$50,000	1,3,7,14,15 16,

LAW ENFORCEMENT (6)

Manchester Police Department	DV Unit Staff	\$100,000	1,2,9
Nashua Police Department	DV Unit Staff	\$63,125	1,2,9
Plymouth University Campus Police	DV/SA Investigative Officer	\$25,000	1,2,9,15

Portsmouth Police Department	DV/SA Advocate	\$35,000	1,2,9
Plaistow Police Department	DV/SA Regional Advocate	\$32,000	1,2,9
Franklin Police Department	DV/SA Investigative Officer	\$30,000	1,2,9
<u>VICTIM SERVICES (9)</u>			
NH Coalition Against Domestic And Sexual Violence	SA Support Services (SASS)	\$66,000	8,10,11
NH Coalition Against Domestic And Sexual Violence	SA Nurse Examiner (SANE)	\$40,000	8,10,11
NH Coalition Against Domestic And Sexual Violence	Training/Program Coord.	\$43,500	1,5,11
YWCA of Manchester	Supervised Visitation Ctr.	\$25,000	5,10,11
Community Council of Nashua	Supervised Visitation Ctr.	\$35,000	5,10,11
NH Bar Association	Emergency Legal Services	\$30,000	1,3,5,11
NH Legal Assistance	Emergency Legal Services	\$50,000	1,3,5,11
YWCA of Manchester	Culturally Specific Adv.	\$20,000	10,11
Bridges Crisis Center	Culturally Specific Adv.	\$20,000	10,11

COURTS (1)

Administrative Office of the Courts	VAW Specialist/Judicial Training/Data collection	\$65,000	1,4,7,14,16
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C: Grant-making Strategy

1. New Hampshire will give priority to areas of varying geographic size as is determined by the overall size and composition of the State. New Hampshire is fortunate to have a high level of cooperation and coordination throughout the state and to have many of the victim related grant programs all administered within the same agency. These factors provide the opportunity to create synergies and efficiencies with our state and federal resources, including STOP funds,

which may not be possible otherwise. Awards under open requests-for-proposal take into account the services and needs of each region. New Hampshire's single statewide victim coalition helps ensure that funding for domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking reaches every corner of the state in a fair and equitable manner. Culturally specific programs are based on the level of need for the area requested.

2. The State will determine the amount of subgrants based on the population and geographic area through a careful review of services and needs. New Hampshire has only eleven prosecution agencies in the state, so subgrantee options are somewhat limited in this category. STOP funds are geographically dispersed in an unbiased manner to address established priorities and in balance with serving both urban and rural populations. One challenging issue we continually experience is seeking out law enforcement agencies willing to accept and administer a grant program. Many communities and agencies are simply too small or too fiscally challenged to take on these programs. In a small state with limited subgrantee possibilities in some of the categories, our STOP funded options are somewhat narrow. However, the state has consistently been able to meet the required percentages in all categories while funding effective programs that fit well with our priorities and geographic considerations. Population density reflects that only 13% of the state population lives in the northern half of the state with the other 87% living in the seven counties located in the southern half of the state. Coos County in the north has an average of 27 people per square mile whereas Hillsborough County located in southern New Hampshire has an average of 446 persons per square mile.

All of the past and current research as well as our discussions and analysis in developing this Implementation Plan reveal that although the nature of victims' needs in urban areas versus rural areas are somewhat different, no one specific area of the state has a greater overall need than another. Many identical needs were expressed across the state regardless of physical location.

3. The State will also determine the equitable distribution of monies on a geographic basis through a careful review of services and needs. The subgrant dollar amounts provided to an agency is partially determined by population and geographic areas to be served, however it is governed by our funding amount and by the status of the recipient as a core service continuation recipient or a new awardee. What is funded with VAWA is part of a much larger balancing act of statewide planning, priorities and funding sources. New Hampshire's overall statewide needs are

determined through input from a host of different sources, covering all geographic and functional areas in the state. It is ensured throughout the selection process, that varying geographic size, the greatest need and the availability of existing programs are all considered as awards are made. Additionally, organizations, such as the statewide NHCADSV, have internal funding formulas that determine the amount allocated to each region.

4. The State methods used for the solicitation and review of proposals and the selection of subgrant projects fall under the Grants Management Unit. The Grants Management Unit oversees the grant application and review process for each program. Competitive application processes allow selection committees the ability to review numerous programs from a variety of locations. Once the programs that most closely address the needs of the target area are selected, the Attorney General has the final decision in the process. STOP awards are made from January to December. Solicitations begin with a posting on the NHDOJ website with a “*grant funding available*” notice. This site lists the purpose areas under which funding will be considered and full instructions for submitting an application. Applications are received, undergo review and are scored on their ability to provide the required services under the selected purpose area. The majority of STOP funds have been to core service providers, which are generally level funded year-to-year. Once applications are reviewed, a funding plan is submitted to the Attorney General for final approval.

5. TIMELINE FOR THE STOP GRANT CYCLE IN A TYPICAL CALENDAR YEAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
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September/October

Receive and accept the 2013 STOP award from OVW
Continue development of the 2014-2016 Implementation Plan, continue desk and site monitoring of current existing subgrantee programs; continued financial and programmatic oversight of subgrantee programs.

November/December

Release of the STOP application on the NH-DOJ website. All applications received are reviewed, and programs to receive awards determined. Programs recommended for funding are forwarded to the NH Attorney General for final approval. Approved programs are sent to the Governor and Executive Council for authorization and approval.

January/March

Awards are made to selected programs for a period of one year from January 1 through December 31. Technical assistance and training are provided to new and existing grantees as is needed. Complete and submit applications for the next fiscal year's federal program funding including formula and discretionary applications, complete and submit annual progress reports, close out reports if due and attend the annual VAWA Administrators meeting.

April/August

Continue to desk and site monitor awarded programs and assist subgrantee with any technical training or assistance requested. Seek out additional funding sources for program/services expansions.

6. Currently subgrants are awarded on an annual basis with our normal grant cycle following the calendar year. The STOP application process is not combined with any other federal program.

7. New Hampshire's law enforcement, prosecution and Courts work closely with their local victim service organizations during the development of their funded projects and continue to have a strong ongoing and productive relationship with that victim services agency. To ensure collaboration during the development of programs we require all potential subgrantees to agree to and sign off on the following special condition:

State or local prosecution, law enforcement, and courts must have consulted with their local victim service programs during the course of developing their grant applications in order to ensure that proposed services, activities and equipment acquisitions are designed to promote the safety, confidentiality, and economic independence of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence.

Potential programs must also complete and submit with their application a Statement of Commitment to Collaborate with Victim Services as a condition of being awarded any STOP funds.

PLEASE REFERENCE APPENDIX D: *Example of Statement of Commitment to Collaboration with Victim Services agencies*

D: Addressing the Needs of Underserved Victims

1. Addressing the needs of underserved victim populations is an important aspect of New Hampshire's overall planning. NH utilizes the same definition for its underserved populations as does the federal government: *Populations underserved because of geographic location, underserved racial and ethnic populations, populations underserved because of special needs (such as language barriers, disabilities, alienage status, or age) and any other population*

determined to be underserved by the Attorney General. Underserved populations in NH include non-English speaking victims; older victims; victims with physical or mental health concerns; substance abuse issues; teenaged victims; immigrant battered women and their children and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) populations. New Hampshire's STOP supported programs work diligently to provide services for all segments of our state population and continually work to eliminate barriers so victims seeking services will not have to endure additional injustices by the systems designed to help them. Since this office began receiving the STOP grant in 1995, a variety of methods to identify New Hampshire's underserved populations have been utilized. Some of those methods include victim needs assessments; general statewide surveys; our subgrantees' annual and semi-annual performance reports; committee findings and reports; and continuous communications with service providers. Community assessments are utilized to gather information to assist in identifying the current strengths, concerns and challenges related to meeting the needs. Once an issue has been identified in a given community, collaborative discussions are held with community partners on how to best resolve the situation. Our VAWA state Implementation Plan review partners are well versed in the difficulties of reaching and providing services to our underserved populations and are involved at various levels with the effort to identify and serve these often overlooked segments of our population.

2. As is evident by the statistics provided with this Plan, the state is not extremely culturally diverse and evidence does not point to any major impediments towards accessing services by minority populations. In order to meet the set aside requirement of the STOP program, culturally specific STOP awards are made to community based organizations annually. These awards support community centered culturally specific advocate positions in two inner city crisis centers. The two centers are located in Manchester and Nashua, both of which are in Hillsborough County. In NH, the majority of our cultural diversity is in the southern most areas of the state, with Manchester being the second largest resettlement area in New England. Both advocates work to address the concerns of racial and ethnic minority groups in Manchester and Nashua. Currently the Latino, Brazilian and African immigrants and refugees comprise the largest underserved populations in these cities. With the addition of our two culturally specific tri-lingual/bi-cultural advocates, inroads into un-served communities are being established. The YWCA of Manchester crisis center has sponsored Latino community meetings, and through this line of communication, minorities have become better educated on the services available and

have voiced the nature of services that might better suit the Latino community. In speaking with the culturally specific advocate located at Bridges crisis center in Nashua recently she stated “*working with the Nashua Latina population regarding domestic violence is like peeling away layers on an onion, with gaining trust being the first step to successful advocacy*”.

PLEASE REFERENCE ATTACHMENT E: Map that charts Hispanic/Latino population percentages throughout the state.

3. As has been stated throughout this Plan, the highest cultural diversity is located in the more heavily populated southern counties. At this time STOP funding supports two culturally specific victims’ advocates, in Manchester and Nashua, at the local crisis centers. STOP funding also supports a culturally specific victim assistant working from the Manchester Police Department’s DV Unit. All three positions have been providing services since the 2005 reauthorization that mandated the 10% set aside.

4. At this time, two subgrant programs receive funding that exceeds the 10% culturally specific set aside. Both are active non-profit, non-governmental crisis centers that are able to provide culturally relevant and linguistically specific services and resources to the culturally specific community, and who are also members of the NHCADSV. Bridges Crisis Center is located in Nashua and the YWCA of Manchester Crisis Center is located in Manchester.

E. Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure that all our subgrantees are operating within in the established guidelines and conditions of their funding program, and to ensure compliance with all federal and state mandates, we have adopted program-specific performance measures that assist in determining a program’s compliance and overall effectiveness. The Grants Management Unit also requires that recipients comply with these requirements:

- Any programmatic and/or budgetary changes must have prior approval from the NHDOJ before implementation. All requests must be in writing.
- OVW and the NH Department of Justice require annual or semi-annual performance reports from each subgrantee program.
- The NH Department of Justice performs frequent desk monitoring as well as site monitoring of the subgrant programs. A site monitoring visit includes a review of programmatic activities

undertaken with grant funds as well as status updates on the goals and objectives for the program as a whole. A review of the subgrantees' financial records is also performed. This includes a review and spot check reconciliation of backup documentation for previously reported federal and match expenses.

➤ Monthly and/or quarterly expenditure reports filed by the subgrantee (request for reimbursement and match reporting) are reviewed by the grant manager before it is processed to ensure the report is in line with expectations for the program.

➤ Through regular contact with our subgrantees the progress of their programs is monitored. Through this open line of communication, it is our goal not only to support and assist our subgrantees, but to ascertain the level and quality of services they are providing.

V. CONCLUSION

This FY 2014-2016 Implementation Plan should provide the reader with a well-organized and succinct document which outlines in detail how New Hampshire will administer the OVW STOP grant. This Plan represents just a portion of our overall efforts to address the needs of victims in New Hampshire. These efforts are designed to address the entire spectrum of allowable victims' needs and populations through a combination of Federal and State funding sources.

VAWA funding has been critical and essential to the significant progress NH has made on the issues of domestic and sexual violence, dating violence and stalking. VAWA has funded all of the multidisciplinary statewide initiatives of the NH Governor's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence and its' Committees, including the work of the DV Fatality Review Committee, Research Committee studies, Batterer's Intervention Standards and offender accountability, multidisciplinary protocol and policy development and extensive professional trainings including our Annual Statewide Conference. The trainings have been instrumental in enhancing the system's response to victims and assisting the various disciplines in better meeting the needs of both victims and justice. These trainings have provided professionals - from law enforcement, prosecutors and corrections, to victim advocates and Judges, to medical and mental health professionals - with the skills and information they need to better respond to and assist victims dealing with the horrors inherent in domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. NH is considered by many to be a leader on these issues. Without VAWA funding,

however, NH would be a very different place for victims of domestic and sexual violence, dating violence and stalking. Due, in large part, to the VAWA program, NH has been able to greatly enhance and standardize the response to these issues and has created a culture where survivors are provided with dignity, respect and vital services and where the importance of holding offenders accountable is fully understood. The loss STOP VAWA funding would set New Hampshire back 20 years, with essential victim services, professional training and specialized personnel being eliminated and any future progress in terms of violence against women made impossible. The impact on future victims cannot be understated.

As a result of funding reductions expected in the coming years it will become impossible to continue to support our basic core services at the current levels. It is anticipated that this will mean funding reductions for multiple programs or the elimination of some programs. In the Prosecution and Court categories, the number of agencies qualifying for funding is somewhat limited. In the Law Enforcement category, many agencies are too small or do not have the financial resources to take on a program. This Plan takes those realities into account. Most of our funding will continue to support the core programs that have evolved over the course of many years to meet the specific needs of New Hampshire's victims. In conclusion, The State of New Hampshire works diligently to adhere to all federal and state requirements while coordinating the federal grant programs that are available to this state while maximizing and enabling the delivery of services to victims of violent crime.

Prison Rape Elimination Act: New Hampshire is not expected to be fully compliant with the PREA Standards in 2014. By May 15, 2014 we are hopeful that NH will be able to provide assurance that the state will use the 5% of STOP funds to come into compliance with the PREA Standards, however, this is unknown at this time. Numerous meeting are scheduled between now and May to better understand NH's obligation and remedy for resolution. We are unsure, at this time, if VAWA will be exempt from the PREA penalties.