



State of Georgia

**2014-2016
Services*Training*Officers*Prosecution (S.T.O.P.)
Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
Implementation Plan**

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I. Introduction

The State of Georgia's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), the State Administering Agency for the S.T.O.P. VAWA and SASP Formula grants and the state's FY 2011 Safe Havens Supervised Visitation Program, is pleased to submit this Implementation Plan for the FY 2014 S.T.O.P. Formula Grant. This plan was approved by the state on March 12, 2014.

CJCC is the state planning and grant-making agency for criminal justice and victims' assistance programs. CJCC's enabling statute (O.C.G.A. § 35-6A-2) ensures its members represent all components of the criminal justice system. CJCC builds knowledge and partnerships among state, local and non-governmental organizations to enhance the effectiveness of Georgia's criminal justice system and to develop and sustain results-driven programs, services and activities.

Given the substantial changes to S.T.O.P. VAWA as a result of the 2013 Reauthorization, CJCC developed a new strategy for developing the 2014-2016 Implementation Plan. At the first planning committee meeting, the agency's staff discussed the changes and new purpose areas with attendees. CJCC adopted a grassroots approach to soliciting stakeholder feedback, which led to rich discussions about victims' needs and the challenges subgrantees face in service delivery and criminal justice system response to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. Based on these discussions, the State of Georgia identified three top priorities and nine "medium" priority areas to target in the 2014-2016 Implementation Plan. Separate purpose areas that specifically address the 20% sexual assault set-aside are outlined in section IV(B)5. The subsequent subcommittee meetings resulted in clear, measurable and obtainable goals and objectives based on the priority purpose areas identified.

Because of limited funding and increased demands on criminal justice and nonprofit service agencies, CJCC asked its subgrantees to imagine new partnerships and collaborations to sustain core services, enhance service delivery and maximize resources. The 2014-2016 S.T.O.P. VAWA Implementation Plan covers goals, strategies and objectives to achieve with S.T.O.P. VAWA funds in FY 2014 through FY 2016. CJCC and the planning committee members will convene at least annually and subcommittees will convene quarterly to sustain ongoing dialogue, produce certain deliverables and develop updates to the plan. These updates will be submitted to the Office on Violence Against Women with the S.T.O.P. applications for FY 2015 and 2016.

II. Description of Planning Process

To re-launch the planning process, CJCC attended webinars and teleconferences with OVW and ALSO-STAAR that covered the 2013 VAWA Reauthorization and subsequent Implementation Plan changes. CJCC's S.T.O.P. Administrator and Planning and Policy Development Specialist also met with the former Planning and Policy Development Specialist, now CJCC's Statistical Analysis Center Director, to coordinate the steps in the 2014-2016 planning process with that of the 2011-2013 plan. These consultations, in conjunction with the lapse in meetings during 2013, resulted in changes to CJCC's approach to the Implementation Plan development process.

To ensure comprehensive outreach to its stakeholders, CJCC used the contacts in its subgrantee database to develop a list of planning meeting invitees. CJCC combined this contact list with that of the prior Implementation Plan committee members' contact information. Several email blasts were sent to all 2013 and 2012 subgrantees of VAWA and SASP funds. CJCC circulated the details of the meeting to state agency partners and members of its Council, and included notices of the meeting in its January and February Victim Assistance Subgrantee

Newsletter, available to all VOCA, VAWA and SASP recipients as well as to members of the public who sign up for the newsletter listserv.

CJCC conducted additional targeted outreach to the three state-recognized Native American tribes. Per O.C.G.A. 44-12-300 (2010), the State of Georgia recognizes the Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee, the Lower Muscogee Creek Tribe, and the Cherokee of Georgia Tribal Council. None of these tribes are federally recognized. The Planning and Policy Development Specialist made calls and sent follow-up emails to each of the tribes' chiefs, but received no response. The state's domestic violence coalition, Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (GCADV), remarked that they had made numerous attempts to communicate and collaborate with these tribes since their state recognition to no avail. In the coming years, CJCC and GCADV will work together to develop new strategies for communicating with the tribes and to incorporate their needs and concerns in future implementation plans.

On February 24, 2014, CJCC convened a meeting of Implementation Plan Committee members at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth, Georgia. Thirty-seven participants representing twenty-eight agencies and organizations were in attendance at the meeting. Below is a list of agency types represented as outlined in the OVW Implementation Plan Checklist. A complete list of agencies and participants is included in the appendix.

1. State sexual assault coalition
2. State domestic violence coalition
3. Dual domestic violence and sexual assault coalition – *not applicable*
4. Law enforcement entities
5. Prosecution entities
6. State and local courts
7. Tribal governments (in states with state or federally recognized tribes) – *Federally recognized tribes not applicable; no state-recognized tribal representatives were in attendance*
8. Representatives from underserved populations, including culturally specific populations
9. Victim service providers

10. Population-specific organizations

11. Other

CJCC sent a S.T.O.P. VAWA Purpose Area Assessment Form (see appendix) to all stakeholders to solicit the feedback of those who could not attend the February 24 meeting. This form was also used as a pre-assessment tool for those who could attend the meeting. CJCC asked subgrantees to assess the state's performance under each of the twenty purpose areas. At the meeting, the attendees spent time discussing each purpose area in smaller groups of five to nine people each, who then selected purpose areas as top priorities for the implementation plan. CJCC sent follow-up emails and made calls to those who could not attend to request submission of the forms. CJCC also sent a recap of the meeting and a summary of topics discussed to all invitees.

During the meeting, CJCC staff provided an overview of the implementation plan requirements and changes to VAWA due to the 2013 Reauthorization. CJCC staff then moderated an assessment of the state's performance on the previous thirteen purpose areas and the state-specific goals outlined in the 2011-2013 Implementation Plan. At that point, the participants then held small group discussions to assess the current state of Georgia regarding the twenty 2013 VAWA purpose areas. CJCC staff moderated these discussions and took notes on the group's prioritization of the purpose areas. CJCC staff then presented each group's priority areas to the committee members in attendance.

CJCC also convened five subcommittee meetings from March 3-6, 2014, to further define goals and objectives in the plan. These subcommittees are listed below. A document outlining the subcommittee descriptions and a list of members and attendees is included in the appendix.

- Performance Measures and Evaluation
- Training Initiatives
- Underserved Populations
- Policy Development and Analysis

- Multidisciplinary Teams¹

The subcommittees discussed other state plans and priorities, the priorities identified in the larger committee meeting and victims' needs across the state. Subcommittee members then produced specific goals and objectives for the 2014-2016 Implementation Plan. Subcommittees will continue to convene on a quarterly basis each year. Additional details on the subcommittees' work products are outlined in section IV(A)1.

To supplement the work of the committees and subcommittees, CJCC's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) team compiled data on victims served from 2009-2013 for a five-year review of VAWA funding. SAC also produced a report of Uniform Crime Records data to compare to the services provided, and a demographic report of victims served with VAWA and SASP funds. Analyses are found in section III.

Subsequent to the subcommittee meetings, CJCC produced a draft plan for committee members' review. This draft was circulated on March 7. Committee members were given until March 11 to return their comments, which were then incorporated into the plan. CJCC sent the final plan to committee members and stakeholders on March 13, who then submitted documentation of collaboration forms (included in the appendix).

Limitations

CJCC experienced several delays in convening stakeholders since the last planning committee meeting in November of 2012. During 2013, the agency underwent an organizational restructure that impacted the staff and units tasked with producing the Implementation Plan. Staff turnover and re-assignment resulted in a new S.T.O.P. Administrator and Planning and Policy Development Specialist. Despite the lapse in formal committee meetings, CJCC held twelve Regional Forums for all criminal justice system stakeholders in each of the state's ten Judicial

¹ Was formerly "Coordinated Community Responses and Sexual Assault Response Teams"

Districts. Many S.T.O.P. VAWA and SASP subgrantees attended these forums, and their feedback, which largely echoed the issues discussed at the committee and subcommittee meetings, was also considered throughout the plan development process.

The Implementation Plan committee lacks representation of the state's prosecution and law enforcement VAWA recipients. Only one of the three law enforcement subgrantees sent a representative, and only one representative from a prosecution office attended. The state's Prosecuting Attorney's Council had a representative present. This lack of representation may have skewed the priority areas and subsequent plan heavily towards victim services. No representatives from either of the state's three recognized tribes attended, nor did any staff of correctional or detention centers. CJCC staff considered these limitations in developing the plan and took care to ensure these subgrantees' perceived needs were represented, especially with respect to the required allocations for prosecution and law enforcement projects.

Coordination with FVPSA, VOCA and RPE

In the state's SFY 2015 budget, Governor Nathan Deal recommended that Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) funds be transferred from the Governor's Office on Children and Families (GOCF) to CJCC. Pending the approval of the state legislature, this change will take effect on July 1, 2014. CJCC is already the State Administering Agency for Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds. The transfer of FVPSA funds will further facilitate the alignment of various federal funding streams with state needs and priorities.

GOCF drafted the state's FFY 2014 FVPSA application while participating in the Implementation Plan development process; therefore, most discussions included efforts to coordinate, avoid duplication of services, and prevent supplantation of federal and state funds. If the transfer of FVPSA funds is approved, CJCC will uphold the FFY 2013 and 2014 applications

submitted by GOCF. CJCC will coordinate the state's FVPSA plan with the S.T.O.P. VAWA Implementation Plan goals for the FFY 2015 FVPSA application.

VOCA is the state's largest source of victim assistance funds that support direct services. CJCC's priority is to maximize the provision of these core services while encouraging innovative partnerships to ensure victims in all areas of the state have access to assistance. CJCC uses VOCA funds for the following objectives:

- To sustain service provision levels throughout the state;
- To ensure that crime victims across the state have access to advocacy services to ensure their rights under the Georgia Crime Victims Bill of Rights² are upheld;
- To ensure all crime victims have access to core services.

While VOCA funds can support most of the services provided by SASP and VAWA-funded victim service providers, they cannot support other activities such as courts, law enforcement or prosecution projects. Therefore CJCC takes these limitations into consideration when allocating funds for each of the three federal funding streams.

CJCC solicited applications for VOCA, VAWA and SASP funds during the 2013 Competitive Application process. CJCC staff, who are trained to recognize and monitor adherence to federal guidelines for the respective funding streams, reviewed over 250 applications and produced funding recommendations to the agency's Council for approval. Staff recommendations included award amounts based on stated need and designated a funding stream for each award in accordance with the proposed projects' allowability under federal guidelines. This process also ensured that Georgia's victims could receive services regardless of geographic location, and that core services were available regardless of victimization type. Additional information on CJCC's grant making process can be found in section C.

² Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. (2011). *Know Your Rights as a Victim: Georgia's Victims' Bill of Rights*. Available at: <http://cjcc.georgia.gov/sites/cjcc.georgia.gov/files/VictimBillOfRights2011.pdf>. Accessed 3.7.14.

The Georgia Department of Public Health currently administers the state’s Rape Prevention Education (RPE) Program through the Georgia Sexual Violence Prevention Program. All nine of the current RPE funding recipients are also current subgrantees through CJCC’s VOCA, VAWA and/or SASP programs. Should CJCC decide to award up to 5% of funds for prevention and education programs, CJCC will request each applicant submit comprehensive financial statements as well as relevant materials and curricula. This information will help CJCC make funding decisions that avoid duplication of services or supplantation of federal and state funds.

The State of Georgia’s 2014-2016 Implementation Plan did not change as a result of its coordination with FVPSA, VOCA and RPE program administrators due to their participation and input during the plan’s development process.

III. Needs and Context

Subgrantees rely on VAWA funds to provide exceptional services and a coordinated criminal justice system response to victims of sexual assault, stalking and domestic and dating violence. Below are statistics from the Muskie School’s state profiles for 2011 and 2012. The State of Georgia’s S.T.O.P. VAWA funding decreased by \$150,297 from 2011 to 2012. During this time, the number of victims served decreased precipitously by 4,830 to 4,433. With an additional decrease of \$194,934 in 2013, the 2012 data suggests that even fewer victims will receive services, providers and responders will receive even less training, and the law enforcement response will continue to decline.

Victim Services

Below is a table of funding from 2011-2012 with corresponding statistics on victims served.

OVW	VAWA funds	Domestic	Sexual	Stalking³	TOTAL
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³ CJCC began collecting stalking data during the 2011 VAWA grant year. 2010 VAWA data reflects responses in the “other” category.

Funding Year		Violence	Assault		
2011	3,866,723	6,392	2,682	189	9,263
2012	3,716,426	2,711	1,610	112	4,433
2013 ⁴	3,521,492	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>

In the annual reports submitted to the Muskie School, subgrantees indicated reasons why victims were not served. The top reasons in 2012 included the following:

- Program reached capacity
- Conflict of interest
- Insufficient/lack of culturally appropriate services
- Insufficient/lack of language capacity (including sign language)
- Services inappropriate or inadequate for victims/survivors with mental health issues
- Services inappropriate or inadequate for victims/survivors with substance abuse issues
- Transportation

These reasons highlight the need to at least sustain and ideally increase funding to support victim services. Increased funding would enable service providers to grow their capacity to serve all victims, especially underserved populations or those with unique needs such as victims with co-occurring or pre-existing mental health issues.

Training

Training is an important component of criminal justice system improvement and victim services. In 2011, 18 subgrantees used S.T.O.P. VAWA funds for training and held 413 training events. The most common training topics included domestic violence or dating violence overview, dynamics and services; confidentiality; advocate response; and safety planning for victims and survivors. In 2012, 21 subgrantees used S.T.O.P. VAWA funds for training and held 219 training events. The most common training topics included advocate response; domestic violence

⁴ The 2013 VAWA funds were awarded to subgrantees for projects covering January 1-December 31, 2014.

overview, dynamics and services; safety planning for victims and survivors; confidentiality; and coordinated community response. The table below shows VAWA-funded subgrantees' training outputs from 2011 and 2012.

People trained	2011 Data		2012 Data	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Law enforcement officers	1,433	32.6%	953	27.3%
Multidisciplinary (various disciplines at same training)	1,006	22.9%	563	16.1%
Educators	325	7.4%	338	9.7%
Faith-based organization staff	322	7.3%	208	6%
Social service organization staff	175	4.0%	192	5.5%
Sexual assault nurse examiners/sexual assault forensic examiners	140	3.2%	182	5.2%
Mental health professionals	135	3.1%	155	4.4%
Volunteers	133	3.0%	128	3.7%
Translators/interpreters	113	2.6%	90	2.6%
Victim advocates	110	2.5%	76	2.2%
Advocacy organization staff	73	1.7%	69	2%
Health professionals	59	1.3%	46	1.3%
TOTAL	4,401		3,489	

Law Enforcement

The State of Georgia funded 9 law enforcement programs in 2011. The table below illustrates the law enforcement response in 2011:

Activity	Sexual assault	Domestic violence/ dating violence	Stalking	Total activities
Calls for assistance	237	3,014	65	3,316
Incident reports	256	4,755	99	5,110
Cases/incidents investigated	192	4,169	78	4,439
Forensic medical evidence	66			66
Arrests	52	1,542	27	1,621
Dual arrests		1		1
Protection/ex parte/temporary restraining orders served	1	30	3	34
Arrests for violation of bail bond	5	14	1	20
Enforcement of warrants	3	893	15	911
Arrests for violation of protection order	0	23	1	24
Protection orders issued	0	0	0	0
Referrals of cases to prosecutor	52	1,188	21	1,261
Referrals of federal firearms charges to federal prosecutor	0	2	0	2
TOTAL ACTIVITIES				16,805

In 2012, because of reduced funding, CJCC was only able to fund 7 law enforcement programs.

This decrease in programs funded resulted in a decrease in the law enforcement activities. The

table below shows data on their activities during the grant year:

Activity	Sexual assault	Domestic violence/ dating violence	Stalking	Total activities
Calls for assistance	113	3,092	102	3,307
Incident reports	120	3,483	102	3,705
Cases/incidents investigated	122	2,520	121	2,763
Forensic medical evidence	66			66
Arrests	66	1,461	55	1,582
Dual arrests		3		3
Protection/ex parte/temporary restraining orders served	0	6	4	10
Arrests for violation of bail bond	4	57	9	70
Enforcement of warrants	66	1,303	48	1,417
Arrests for violation of protection order	1	31	27	59
Protection orders issued	0	0	0	0
Referrals of cases to prosecutor	81	1,635	78	1,794
Referrals of federal firearms charges to federal prosecutor	0	4	0	4
TOTAL ACTIVITIES				14,780

Prosecution

The State of Georgia funded 8 prosecution programs in 2011. The table below illustrates the dispositions of cases in 2011:

Type of case	Total disposed	Total convicted⁵	
		<i>Number</i>	<i>% of disposed</i>
Domestic violence/dating ordinance	3	2	66.7%
Misdemeanor domestic violence/dating violence	685	447	65.3%
Felony domestic violence/dating violence	453	327	72.2%
Domestic violence/dating violence homicide	13	12	92.3%
Misdemeanor sexual assault	11	9	81.8%
Felony sexual assault	71	61	85.9%
Sexual assault homicide	2	2	100.0%
Stalking ordinance	0	0	0.0%

⁵ Includes deferred adjudications

Misdemeanor stalking	25	17	68.0%
Felony stalking	65	43	66.2%
Stalking homicide	0	0	0.0%
Violation of bail	1	1	100.0%
Violation of probation or parole	63	60	95.2%
Violation of protection order	6	4	66.7%
Violation of other court order	16	16	100.0%
Other	0	0	0.0%
TOTAL	1414	1001	

In 2012, CJCC funded the same 8 prosecution programs. Unlike victims' services and law enforcement, the prosecution programs fared substantially better than in 2011. The table below shows data on their activities during the grant year:

Type of case	Total disposed	Total convicted ⁶	
		Number	% of disposed
Domestic violence/dating ordinance	45	36	80%
Misdemeanor domestic violence/dating violence	770	512	66.5%
Felony domestic violence/dating violence	621	443	71.3%
Domestic violence/dating violence homicide	18	18	100%
Misdemeanor sexual assault	51	30	58.8%
Felony sexual assault	257	109	42.4%
Sexual assault homicide	0	0	0
Stalking ordinance	1	1	100%
Misdemeanor stalking	20	19	95%
Felony stalking	50	31	62%
Stalking homicide	0	0	0.0%
Violation of bail	0	0	0%
Violation of probation or parole	90	86	95.6%
Violation of protection order	5	3	60%
Violation of other court order	5	5	100.0%
Other	0	0	0.0%
TOTAL	1933	1293	

Courts

While CJCC did not fund a courts' program in 2011⁷, it was able to fund one such program in 2012. Of the protection orders for which VAWA-funded court staff provided assistance, 172 orders were granted for victims of domestic or dating violence, and 62 orders were granted for stalking victims.

⁶ Includes deferred adjudications

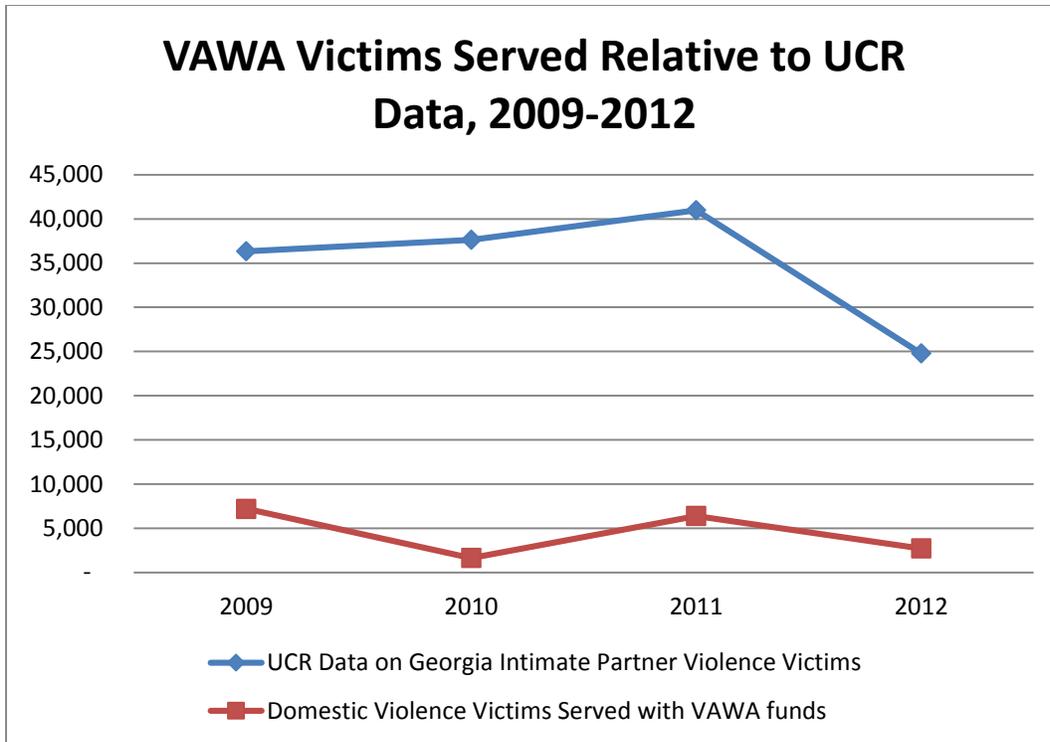
⁷ CJCC funded programs that benefitted courts through training

Probation and parole

CJCC was also able to fund a Probation and parole program in 2012. The program monitored 328 new and continuing offenders. Of the offenders monitored, 134 or 40.9% completed probation without violations whereas 194 or 59.1% completed probation with violations. In addition to offender monitoring, probation officers also made 109 contacts with 74 victims as an additional strategy to increase victim safety. Because of reduced funding in 2013, CJCC was unable to fund this important program.

Uniform Crime Records Data

To compare VAWA-funded subgrantees' efforts with the need for services, CJCC also analyzed Uniform Crime Records (UCR) data on Georgia's victimization totals by county for 2009-2012. The abuse types analyzed were fatal injury; permanent physical disability; temporary disability; broken bones; gun or knife wounds; superficial injuries; property damage/theft threats; abusive language, sexual abuse and "other." CJCC isolated the data by relationship of aggressor to victim to narrow it down to aggressors who are present or former spouses, or lives/d in the same household as the victim. CJCC then compared this data to the number of victims that VAWA-funded subgrantees reported serving for domestic violence as the primary victimization.



According to the UCR data, the number of intimate partner victims reported increased between 2009-2011, then decreased at a substantially faster rate from 2011-2012. This data reflects an overall trend in the decline of intimate partner violence since 1993, with some spikes in IPV around 2007 and 2009⁸. At first glance, the decline in UCR data is encouraging and may indicate lower rates of victimization; however, it may also indicate a precipitous decline in the rates of domestic violence incidents reported to law enforcement. Furthermore, the rate of decline in victims served by VAWA subgrantees is nowhere near the same rate as the decline shown by UCR data. Subgrantees report that they are almost always at capacity and are increasingly serving victims with more and greater needs, which prolongs their involvement in programs and extends the average length of shelter stays.

State of Georgia demographics and geographical information

Georgia's total area is 59,425 square miles, which is carved into 159 counties. Located in

⁸ Catalano, Shannan. (2012). *Intimate Partner Violence, 1993-2010*. U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Available at: <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ipv9310.pdf>. Accessed 3.7.14.

the southeastern United States, Georgia shares borders with Alabama to the west, Florida to the south, Tennessee and North Carolina to the north, and South Carolina to the northeast. Georgia also boasts a southeastern coastline on the Atlantic Ocean. The northernmost areas of the state are part of the Blue Ridge Mountains of the Appalachian mountain range, whereas the central parts of the state are part of the Piedmont foothills. The southern portion of the state is a largely rural coastal plain, notable for its agricultural economy.

Georgia is the eighth most populous state in the country. Per the U.S. Census Bureau's 2013 estimate, Georgia has a total population of 9,992,167⁹. This figure represents a 3.1% increase since April 1, 2010. Of the state's total population, 51.1% are female per the 2012 estimate. Georgia has a non-white population that is 15.1% higher than the U.S. as a whole, with 37.2% of Georgians identifying as Black or African American, American Indian and Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Asian Pacific Islander, Hispanic/Latino or two or more races.

Georgia is also one of the most poverty-stricken states, with 17.4% of persons living below poverty as compared to 14.9% nationwide¹⁰. The poverty rate is estimated to be 19.2% of the state's population, a 47.6% increase since 1999¹¹. Additionally, 16.9% of households are classified as "food insecure," while 6.5% of all households are classified as "very low food secure." Approximately 16% of Georgians age 25 and older did not complete high school, and another 28.9% have only completed high school¹². Georgia has a child poverty rate of 27% and a senior poverty rate of 13%. Twenty-one percent (21%) of the state's female population lives in poverty¹³.

⁹ U.S. Census Bureau. (2014). *State and County QuickFacts: Georgia*. Available at: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/13000.html>. Accessed 2.3.14.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ United States Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service. *State Fact Sheets: Georgia*. Available at: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/state-fact-sheets/state-data.aspx?StateFIPS=13&StateName=Georgia#.Uw5xWPldWCK>. Accessed 2.26.14.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity. *Georgia State Data*. Available at: <http://www.spotlightonpoverty.org/map->

These statistics on race and poverty highlight the importance of culturally sensitive, population-specific victim services that must be available and accessible to Georgia residents. A map of the percent of total population in poverty by county in 2011 is included in the appendix. The map shows that all but 34 of Georgia’s 159 counties have a poverty rate of 17.9% or higher¹⁴. Lower poverty rates are clustered around urban centers, although most of Georgia’s urban centers have a poverty rate of 17.9% or above.

Demographic data on the distribution of underserved populations within the state

Georgia’s population is majority white (62.8%, 2012); however, a third of residents are African-American (31.2%), close to one tenth (9.2%) are Hispanic, and 3.5% are Asian. Data from 2008-2012 show that 9.7% are foreign born and that 13.1% speak a language other than English at home. Additionally, 74.9% of Georgia’s population is over the age of 18 and 11.5% of Georgians are over the age of 65.

Below is a table outlining demographics from the state of Georgia based on 2012 census data:

Demographic	2012 US Census Bureau Estimated Population	% Total Population
Total Female	5,066,895	51.1%
Total Speaking Language Other than English in the Home	1,298,950	13.1%
White alone	6,227,026	62.8%
African-American	3,093,681	31.2%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	49,578	0.5%
Asian	347,048	3.5%
Hispanic	893,184	9.2%
Two or more races	178,482	1.8%
Foreign Born	961,818	9.7%
Individuals with disabilities	1,166,329	12%

[detail.aspx?state=Georgia](#). Accessed 3.4.14.

¹⁴ United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service. (2011). *Percent of total population in poverty, 2011* Available at: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/county-level-data-sets/poverty.aspx#.UxXvCvldWck>. Accessed 3.4.14.

Over 18	7,426,819	74.9%
Over 65	1,140,299	11.5%
Rural ¹⁵	1,775,414	17.9%

(n=9,915,646. 2012 US Census Bureau Estimated Georgia Population. 2013 demographic data was not yet available.)

Immigrants and foreign-born population

At the committee meeting, many subgrantees expressed concern for meeting the needs of immigrant victims of violence. Culturally specific and other population specific services tend to be clustered in the metro Atlanta region, but those service providers are stretched thin. Rural victims face significant challenges to accessing services, especially with regard to translators and interpreters.

Below is a table of languages spoken at home by those 5 years of age and older per the U.S. Census Bureau's 2008-2012 American Community Survey¹⁶:

Language(s) spoken at home	Percent of population age 5 and older
Only English	86.9%
Speak a language other than English	13.1%
Spanish or Creole	7.7%
Other Indo-European languages	2.5%
Asian and Pacific Islander languages	2.1%
Other	.7%

As the table above shows, since the 2011-2013 Implementation Plan was developed, the number of persons reporting they speak a language other than English at home has increased from 12.7% to 13.1%. The continued growth in this population subset indicates a clear need for multi-lingual services and interpreters. In 2013, CJCC awarded \$136,668 in VOCA funds to the Cherokee Family Violence Center, which operates the only Spanish domestic violence crisis hotline in the

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). *2008-2012 American Community Survey: Language Spoken at Home*. Available at: http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_12_5YR_S1601. Accessed 3.6.14.

state.¹⁷ Most subgrantees report that language access is an immense barrier to services, especially outside of the metropolitan Atlanta area. Those service providers who have more capacity to accommodate language access often receive referrals from other agencies, which increases the burden on these agencies.

Of the state's 2012 population, 52.5% of the state's total foreign-born population (n = 940,088) was born in Latin America. Another 27.7% was born in Asia and 9.6% born in Europe, with the remainder of the foreign-born population from Africa, North America and Oceania¹⁸. Of the total foreign-born population, 37.6% (n = 353,192) are naturalized citizens, with the remaining population classified as noncitizens¹⁹. The needs of this community were addressed by the Underserved Populations Subcommittee and through feedback of population specific service providers, although many other stakeholders provided input from their agencies' perspectives.

Race and ethnicity

While 62.8% of Georgians identified as "white," this figure includes those who identify as white Hispanics. The white Non-Hispanic population in Georgia is 55.1% per the 2012 U.S. Census. To understand the population distribution across the state, CJCC generated maps using the U.S. Census's Data Mapper tool²⁰. Counties with Latino or Hispanic populations of 12.3% or more can be found in all areas of the state except central Georgia. These counties include Whitfield, Murray, Gordon, Cobb, Clayton, Gwinnett, Hall and Habersham in the north; and Chattahoochee, Stewart, Colquitt, Echols, Atkinson, Telfair, Long and Evans in the South.

Asian populations are similarly disbursed throughout the southern portion of the state,

¹⁷ While other crisis lines may contract with an interpreter service, this is the only hotline with a phone number dedicated strictly for Spanish-speaking victims that is staffed by Spanish speakers trained in working with domestic violence victims.

¹⁸ Migration Policy Institute. (2012). *State Immigration Data Profiles: Georgia*. Available at: <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/demographics/GA>. Accessed 3.4.14.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Available at: <http://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/maps/datamapper.html>. Accessed 3.4.14. Unfortunately, the data is from 2010.

with most populations residing near the urban centers of Atlanta, Macon, Savannah, Augusta and Columbus. American Indians/First Nation populations are sparsely scattered throughout the state, with the highest population (1.1% or above) in Echols, near the Florida/Georgia line. Finally, the state's African-American/Black population is found throughout the state, with populations below 14.8% only found in areas north of metro Atlanta and a few scattered counties across the southern portion of the state (Berrien, Echols, Pierce, Brantley, Bryan and Effingham counties).

Below is a table of victims' racial and ethnicity demographics for those served by VAWA and SASP-funded service providers from October 1, 2012-September 30, 2013²¹.

RACE AND ETHNICITY									
	Victimization	African-American	Asian	Caucasian	Hispanic or Latino	Multi-Racial	Race - Other	Race Unknown	TOTAL
VAWA	DV	2,062	166	2,091	501	72	37	1,810	6,739
	SA	310	12	462	64	25	5	730	1,608
	STALK	85	2	117	8	-	2	9	223
SASP	DV	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
	SA	50	6	90	11	1	1	19	178
	STALK	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
	TOTALS	2,509	186	2,761	585	98	45	2,568	

The table clearly identifies African-Americans as a high-need population. While African-Americans make up approximately one-third of the state's population, they represent almost 50% of the victims served.

²¹ CJCC is still in the process of collecting and analyzing fourth quarter VAWA and SAP data covering October 1-December 31, 2013. Therefore the data from the final quarter of 2012 is included to illustrate a years' worth of data.

Age

Below is a table of victims' age demographics for those served by VAWA and SASP-funded service providers from October 1, 2012-September 30, 2013²². Age ranges from 0-18 may also reflect child witnesses to domestic violence and/or children sheltered by service providers.

	VAWA			SASP			TOTALS
	DV	SA	STALK	DV	SA	STALK	
0-4	475	14	0	0	0	0	489
5-9	370	32	0	0	0	0	402
10-14	326	66	0	0	3	0	395
15-19	273	187	12	0	32	1	505
20-24	680	162	36	2	26	0	906
25-29	766	143	38	0	20	0	967
30-34	859	94	34	1	25	0	1,013
35-39	791	75	26	0	12	0	904
40-44	536	47	20	0	16	0	619
45-49	381	36	18	0	4	0	439
50-54	232	14	5	0	12	0	263
55-59	153	8	12	0	2	0	175
60-64	99	6	5	0	1	0	111
65 or Older	79	3	3	0	0	0	85
Unknown	719	721	14	0	25	0	1,479
TOTAL	6,739	1,608	223	3	178	1	

²² CJCC is still in the process of collecting and analyzing fourth quarter VAWA and SAP data covering October 1-December 31, 2013. Therefore the data from the final quarter of 2012 is included to illustrate a years' worth of data.

This demographic data suggests that the rate of victimization may increase during teenage years and peaks when victims are in their thirties. Fatality reviews suggest that dating violence is a strong indicator for domestic violence later in life and for a high risk of fatality (see section IV(A)2). Below is a line graph that depicts the data listed in the table above:



Elder abuse is emerging as a large and growing problem in Georgia. Per the U.S. Census Bureau's 2012 estimate, Georgia has a total population of 9,992,167, of which an estimated 11.5% (n = 1,140,794) are age 65 or older. CJCC also generated an elderly population (65 and older) using the U.S. Census mapping tool. The highest populations of elders (19.1% or more of the total population) are found in Quitman, Clay, Greene, Taliaferro, Fannin, Union, Towns and Rabun counties, all rural areas.

To determine the extent of the problem of elder abuse in Georgia, CJCC analyzed statewide Victim Services Statistical Report (VSSR) data from October 1, 2000 through September 30, 2011²³. Based on VSSR data, reported cases of elder abuse have increased

²³ Data collected from VOCA, VAWA and SASP subgrantees by CJCC on a quarterly basis each year. 2011 was the most recent year for which data was available from DAS to compare to VSSR data.

steadily between 2000 and 2011. The number of victims of elder abuse served rose from 345 to an alarming 1,582, representing an increase of 358%. Georgia's Department of Aging Services (DAS) provided data on substantiated and investigated cases for the years 2007-2011. Within this five-year time frame, the number of substantiated cases climbed from 1,039 to 1,612, representing a 55% increase in substantiated cases of elder abuse. VSSR data from 2007-2011 illustrates an increase in elder abuse victims served from 910 to 1,582, which reflects a 73.8% increase in victim service provider caseload.

Recently, CJCC applied for OVW's FY14 Enhanced Training and Services to End Abuse in Later Life program to fund efforts to address elder abuse in Chatham County. If awarded, the program's successes will be incorporated into subsequent iterations of the Implementation Plan. CJCC also works with two subgrantees that have prior years' funding from the End Abuse in Later Life program who can advise committee members on best practices.

Rural Areas

Georgia's State Office of Rural Health defines rural counties as those that have a population of less than 35,000 (n = 108), with one county listed as a legislatively designated rural area (Liberty, near Chatham on the Atlantic coast)²⁴. For a complete map of rural counties please see the appendix.

Rural victims face distinct challenges such as lack of access to transportation. There are few FVIP programs in these corners of the state, and fewer providers in general, although they tend to cover a much more expansive service area. This increases the travel burden on both victims and providers.

²⁴ State Office of Rural Health. (2013). *Georgia's Rural Counties*. Available at: https://dch.georgia.gov/sites/dch.georgia.gov/files/related_files/document/Georgia%27s%20Rural%20Counties-Oct%202013.pdf. Accessed 3.4.14.

LGBTQQIA

A 2010 study conducted by the CDC produced alarming statistics on rates of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) experiences by LGBTQQIA²⁵ individuals. The findings showed that bisexual women experience shockingly higher rates of rape, sexual violence, IPV and stalking than any other group. For example, 41.6% of bisexual women experiences sexual violence during their lifetimes, whereas 13.1% of lesbians and 17.4% of heterosexual women experienced violence at some point²⁶. Further, 1 in 3 bisexual women are victims of stalking at some point in their lives, as compared to 1 in 6 heterosexual women. The table below shows statistics by gender and sexual orientation related to lifetime prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), which includes rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner²⁷.

	Women	Men
Lesbian or Gay	43.8%	26%
Bisexual	61.1%	37.3%
Heterosexual	35%	29%

Another study conducted by National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) took gender identity into account as well as sexual orientation. NCAVP member organizations reported 2,679 reports of IPV in 2012, including 21 homicides. Of these incidents, the report found that people of color were more likely to experience threats, and Black/African-American people were more likely to experience violence. Gay men are more likely to experience injury or require medical care. Finally, transgender people were more likely to experience police violence, and transgender women “face the greatest likelihood of experiencing threats, intimidation,

²⁵ The acronym LGBTQQIA, which stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex and Asexual, is used here to describe the full spectrum of non-heterosexual sexual orientations and gender non-conforming people. Other terms such as “LGBT” are used periodically to reflect the terminology used in specific sources cited.

²⁶ Center for Disease Control National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. (2010). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation*. Available at: http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_sofindings.pdf. Accessed 3.4.14.

²⁷ Ibid.

harassment and injury²⁸. These findings underscore the impact of IPV on LGBTQ people.

The state of Georgia has an estimated LGBT population of 260,044, with 25% of same-sex couples raising children²⁹. According to the Urban Institute, Georgia has the seventh highest population of same-sex households³⁰. Georgia has the fifth highest concentration of gay male couples, the ninth highest concentration of same-sex couples with children, and the fourth largest concentration of African-American same-sex couples³¹. Areas with high concentrations of gay couples can be found in the cities of Macon, Albany, Columbus, Atlanta and Decatur³². A map of 2010 Census data on same-sex households can be found in the appendix³³.

According to subgrantees’ data, 77% of the victims served through VAWA and SASP funds are women. Fifteen percent of victims are men, 8% are unknown and .34% are transgender. These statistics illustrate that males and transgendered victims are likely a high-need population less likely to seek services, and the unknown category further suggests a need for better data collection methods. Below is a table of gender demographics for victims served by VAWA and SASP-funded service providers from October 1, 2012-September 30, 2013³⁴.

GENDER						
	Victimization	MALE	FEMALE	TRANS	GENDER Unknown	TOTAL
VAWA	DV	1,132	5,569	1	29	6,731
	SA					

²⁸ National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. (2013). *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and HIV-affected Intimate Partner Violence in 2012*. Available at:

http://www.avp.org/storage/documents/ncavp_2012_ipvreport.final.pdf. Accessed 3.12.14.

²⁹ Movement Advancement Project. *State Profile: Georgia*. Available at:

http://www.lgbtmap.org/equality_maps/profile_state/11. Accessed 3.4.14.

³⁰ Urban Institute. *Fact Sheet*. Available at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/900695_GL_FactSheet.pdf. Last accessed: 3.4.14.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

³³ Williams Institute. (2012). *Georgia state profile*. Available at:

<http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/uncategorized/georgia/>. Accessed 3.4.14.

³⁴ CJCC is still in the process of collecting and analyzing fourth quarter VAWA and SAP data covering October 1-December 31, 2013. Therefore the data from the final quarter of 2012 is included to illustrate a years’ worth of data.

		85	835	27	661	1,608
	STALK	40	181	2	-	223
SASP	DV	-	3	-	-	3
	SA	18	154	-	6	178
	STALK	-	1	-	-	1
	TOTALS	1,275	6,743	30	696	

An alarming 50% of transgender or *trans people have experienced sexual violence³⁵.

Transgender populations can be very hard to define, since there are numerous terms and identities that these terms encompass³⁶. Population statistics can be inaccurate and/or incredibly difficult to find, especially since many health care providers, agencies and organizations only collect gender-binary (male or female) data. This invisibility makes it difficult to conduct outreach to this population, making it incredibly difficult to access services³⁷. Worse, most service providers are not trained to provide trans-friendly, sensitive resources and services to this victim population. Victim service providers need to consider these barriers and work to make services more accessible, conduct outreach through community leaders within this demographic, and aim to provide trans-sensitive services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

Religion

According to the Pew Forum on Religious and Public Life³⁸, 38% of Georgians are members of an evangelical Protestant church. An additional 16% of the population identifies as

³⁵ FORGE. (2012). *Transgender Rates of Violence*. Available at: <http://forge-forward.org/wp-content/docs/FAQ-10-2012-rates-of-violence.pdf>. Accessed 3.4.14.

³⁶ FORGE. (2005). *Implications of the 2004-2005 Transgender Sexual Violence Survivor Research*. Available at: <http://forge-forward.org/anti-violence/sexual-violence-research/implications/>. Accessed 3.4.14.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. (2008). *U.S. Religious Landscape Survey: Religious Affiliation: Diverse and Dynamic*. Available at: <http://religions.pewforum.org/pdf/report-religious-landscape-study-full.pdf>. Accessed 3.4.14.

members of a mainland Protestant church and another 16% are members of historically Black Protestant churches. Twelve percent identify as Catholic and less than .5% identify as “other Christian.” The state’s population of people unaffiliated with a religion (13%) is on par with the average for all Southern states. Mormons, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and Jewish people make up an additional 1% each. Orthodox, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, and other world religions make up roughly .5% each. Although the state’s population is heavily Christian, there is a clear need to provide services to those who are members of other religions in ways that take their beliefs into account.

People with disabilities

Per the 2012 U.S. Census, 1,166,329 or 12% of Georgians have at least one disability. This represents a substantial proportion of the state’s population that may face substantial barriers to service, depending on the type of disability and service providers’ capacity to accommodate their needs. Additional barriers include perceived or real inaccessibility of services and intersecting identities such as gender identity or immigration status that can further compounded perceived or real inaccessibility.

Accurate statistics on victims’ disability status are among the most difficult data points to collect from subgrantees. Many providers report a reluctance to ask victims unless they have what appears to be clear evidence of a physical disability. Mental health issues are sometimes confounded with developmental disabilities. Additionally, providers who do ask this question during intake report that not all people with a disability identify as such. Therefore a substantial proportion of victims are reported as having an unknown disability status. Below is a table of victim demographics on those identifying as having a disability for victims served by VAWA and SASP-funded service providers from October 1, 2012-September 30, 2013³⁹.

³⁹ CJCC is still in the process of collecting and analyzing fourth quarter VAWA and SAP data covering October 1-

DISABILITY					
	Victimization	Disabled	Not Disabled	Disabled Unknown	TOTAL
VAWA	DV	316	2,279	4,136	6,731
	SA	126	699	783	1,608
	STALK	22	166	35	223
SASP	DV	1	2	-	3
	SA	15	115	48	178
	STALK	-	1	-	1
	TOTALS	480	3,262	5,002	

IV. Plan Priorities and Approaches

At the committee meeting, CJCC asked stakeholders to evaluate the state’s performance for each of the twenty S.T.O.P. VAWA 2013 Purpose Areas. The participants were asked to assess each purpose area from an agency perspective, then convene in small groups to discuss a statewide assessment and rank each purpose area in order of priority (high, medium, low, not applicable or declined to indicate). The rankings were assigned scores of 3, 2, 1 and 0 respectively. The scores assigned by each group were then averaged for each purpose area (mean score 2.19). The standard deviation was calculated to be 0.63. The scores were then classified as “high priority” if they fell within two standard deviations higher than the mean (3.45), medium priority if they were within one standard deviation of the mean (2.82), or low priority if they were less than the mean. Three purpose areas were identified as “high priority” and an additional nine purpose areas were identified as “medium priority.” The remaining eight purpose areas were classified as “low priority.” The ranked purpose areas are indicated below, in order of priority.

December 31, 2013. Therefore the data from the final quarter of 2012 is included to illustrate a years’ worth of data.

This approach has limitations in its validity, as addressed in the “Limitations” subsection above. Additionally, purpose areas relating specifically to sexual assault were de-prioritized by virtue of the fact that there were fewer sexual assault service providers than domestic violence service providers at the committee meeting. To mitigate this effect, CJCC addressed these priorities separately in section IV(B)5.

High Priorities (all tied)

9. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs to assist law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and others to address the needs and circumstances of older and disabled women who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault, including recognizing, investigating, and prosecuting instances of such violence or assault and targeting outreach and support, counseling, and other victim services to such older and disabled individuals.

11. Maintaining core victim services and criminal justice initiatives, while supporting complementary new initiatives and emergency services for victims and their families⁴⁰.

20. Developing, enhancing, or strengthening prevention and educational programming to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, with not more than 5 percent of the amount allocated to a state to be used for this purpose.

Medium Priorities

19. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs and projects to provide services and responses to male and female victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, whose ability to access traditional services and responses is affected by their sexual orientation or gender identity, as defined in section 249(c) of title 18, United States Code.

(5, 8, 10, and 14 tied)

5. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening victim services and legal assistance programs, including sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence programs, developing or improving delivery of victim services to underserved populations, providing specialized domestic violence court advocates in courts where a significant number of protection orders are granted, and increasing reporting and reducing attrition rates for cases involving violent crimes against women, including crimes of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and domestic violence.

8. Training of sexual assault forensic medical personnel examiners in the collection and preservation of evidence, analysis, prevention, and providing expert testimony and treatment of trauma related to sexual assault.

⁴⁰ Subgrantees were primarily concerned with sustaining core services. They thought supporting new initiatives was a much lower priority at the moment.

10. Providing assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in immigration matters.

14. Developing and promoting state, local, or tribal legislation and policies that enhance best practices for responding to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

(1, 4 and 7 tied)

1. Training law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence, including the use of nonimmigrant status under subparagraphs (U) and (T) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)).

4. Developing, installing, or expanding data collection and communication systems, including computerized systems, linking police, prosecutors, and courts or for the purpose of identifying, classifying, and tracking arrests, protection orders, violations of protection orders, prosecutions, and convictions for violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and domestic violence.

7. Supporting formal and informal statewide, multidisciplinary efforts, to the extent not supported by State funds, to coordinate the response of state law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts, victim services agencies, and other state agencies and departments, to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence.

3. Developing and implementing more effective police, court, and prosecution policies, protocols, orders, and services specifically devoted to preventing, identifying, and responding to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and domestic violence, as well as the appropriate treatment of victims.

Low Priorities

15. Developing, implementing, or enhancing Sexual Assault Response Teams, or other similar coordinated community responses to sexual assault.

16. Developing and strengthening policies, protocols, best practices, and training for law enforcement agencies and prosecutors relating to the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases and the appropriate treatment of victims.

18. Identifying and conducting inventories of backlogs of sexual assault evidence collection kits and developing protocols and policies for responding to and addressing such backlogs, including protocols and policies for notifying and involving victims.

13. Providing funding to law enforcement agencies, victim services providers, and state, tribal, territorial, and local governments (which funding stream shall be known as the Crystal Judson Domestic Violence Protocol Program) to promote—

- (A) the development and implementation of training for local victim domestic violence service providers, and to fund victim services personnel, to be known as “Crystal Judson Victim Advocates,” to provide supportive services and advocacy for victims of domestic violence committed by law enforcement personnel;
- (B) the implementation of protocols within law enforcement agencies to ensure consistent and effective responses to the commission of domestic violence by personnel within such agencies such as the model policy promulgated by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (“Domestic Violence by Police Officers: A Policy of the IACP, Police Response to Violence Against Women Project” July 2003); and
- (C) the development of such protocols in collaboration with state, tribal, territorial and local victim services providers and domestic violence coalitions.

12. Supporting the placement of special victim assistants (to be known as “Jessica Gonzales Victim Assistants”) in local law enforcement agencies to serve as liaisons between victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and personnel in local law enforcement agencies in order to improve the enforcement of protection orders. Jessica Gonzales Victim Assistants shall have expertise in domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and may undertake the following activities—

- (A) developing, in collaboration with prosecutors, courts, and victim service providers, standardized response policies for local law enforcement agencies, including the use of evidence-based indicators to assess the risk of domestic and dating violence homicide and prioritize dangerous or potentially lethal cases;
- (B) notifying persons seeking enforcement of protection orders as to what responses will be provided by the relevant law enforcement agency;
- (C) referring persons seeking enforcement of protection orders to supplementary services (such as emergency shelter programs, hotlines, or legal assistance services); and
- (D) taking other appropriate action to assist or secure the safety of the person seeking enforcement of a protection order.

2. Developing, training, or expanding units of law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors specifically targeting violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and domestic violence.

6. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing the needs and circumstances of Indian tribes in dealing with violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and domestic violence.

17. Developing, enlarging or strengthening programs addressing sexual assault against men, women, and youth in correctional or detention settings.

Identified Goals

CJCC determined project goals and objectives in consultation with subcommittee members (see descriptions and membership roster in the appendix). The following goals and objectives were defined in the subcommittee meetings held March 3-6, 2014:

Performance Measures and Evaluation Subcommittee

- Goals
 - Ensure alignment with Governor's Office of Children and Families (GOCF) and FVPSA funds' reporting requirements, assuming transfer of funds to CJCC will be approved by the state legislature
 - Ensure alignment with 2013 VAWA reauthorization, e.g. collecting data on stalking and dating violence
 - Ensure timely and clear communication of CJCC's expectations for subgrantees in regards to data collection and reporting
- Objectives
 - Provide feedback on VSSR and CJSSR⁴¹
 - Assess utility of OPMs⁴²
 - Compile a list of potentially helpful data collection systems and practices not currently used by CJCC
 - Create a logic model to evaluate Implementation Plan goals

Underserved Populations

- Goals
 - Enhance victim safety and access to services for underserved communities
 - Understand the needs, distribution and characteristics of underserved victim populations throughout the state.
 - Building service providers' capacity to provide culturally sensitive and population specific services
- Objectives
 - 2014 - Compile best practices and protocols that ensure all victims will have access to services
 - Conduct a needs assessment of underserved populations and barriers to service
 - Create a directory of resources and services, including clear direction on how to use the guide to best serve victims
 -
 - Encourage leadership and communication about culturally specific services and cultural competency
 - Create a section on CJCC's website to serve as a clearinghouse for resources and upcoming trainings
 - Share subgrantees' work on monthly e-newsletter

⁴¹ The VSSR, or Victim Services Statistical Report, is a reporting tool that CJCC requires each of its victim services subgrantees to complete on a quarterly basis (January 30, April 30, July 30, and October 30). The VSSR captures outputs on services and victim demographics. The CJSSR, or Criminal Justice System Statistical Report, is a reporting tool that CJCC requires each of its VAWA-funded courts, training, law enforcement, fatality review, CCR, and prosecution subgrantees to complete on a semiannual basis (July 30 and January 30). The CJSSR captures programmatic outputs for each program type. Both the VSSR and CJSSR align with the annual report form that subgrantees complete and submit each January-February that is submitted by CJCC to the Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine, although additional data is requested by CJCC to identify statewide needs. Both the VSSR and CJSSR capture outputs by funding stream (i.e., VOCA, VAWA and SASP data are reported separately).

⁴² OPMs, or Outcome Performance Measures, are client surveys that CJCC requires each of its subgrantees to provide to clients who substantially complete a program of service, regardless of the funding stream used by the agency to provide the services. The data are reported on a semiannual basis to CJCC each May 30 and November 30.

- 2015 - Develop template protocols for subgrantees
- 2016 - Require subgrantees to submit a plan for serving underserved populations with their application and provide training with VAWA funds
- Ongoing - Collaborate with training subcommittee to ensure coordination of content
- Include population and culturally specific services in the victim assistance subgrantee directory

Training Initiatives

- Goals
 - Increase collaboration on trainings. Ensure inclusion of victims' economic needs, underserved victims' needs, safety, autonomy, and other standards
 - Improve communication regarding where trainings occur
 - Prioritize increased access to trainings
- Objectives
 - Share training materials with CJCC
 - Reach out to colleagues with specific expertise to review content and provide trainings as needed
 - Develop a training calendar that CJCC will host and maintain on its website
 - Establish a listserv for training subgrantees to facilitate communication and collaboration
 - Offer more training opportunities in central and south Georgia and other rural areas
 - Supplement in-person trainings with webinars and recorded trainings when appropriate
 - Increase training provision to certain areas and professions such as judges and court personnel

Multidisciplinary Teams

- Goals
 - Build the capacity of existing services and resources by supporting new and existing multidisciplinary partnerships in the forms of SARTs, Coordinated Community Responses (CCR) and Domestic Violence Task Forces
- Objectives
 - Prioritize the support of existing SARTs and new SARTs. Develop a statewide clearinghouse for tools, training and resources to support SARTs.
 - Assess existence and capacity of other types of MDTs across the state
 - Work towards greater representation of underserved community leaders and non-traditional stakeholders representation such as Department of Children and Family Services (DFCS), faith leaders etc.
 - Where needed, apply objectives from SART goal to Task Forces and CCRs.

Policy Development and Analysis

- Goals
 - Promote policies that ensure economic independence for victims
 - Develop and implement policies that enhance victim safety and hold offenders accountable
 - Promote policies that increase victims awareness of services
 - Promote policies that enhance accessibility to services

- Align policies with GCFV’s State Plan to End Family Violence, the state’s FVPSA and RFE funding plans, and the Fatality Review Annual Reports
- Objectives
 - Increase victims’ awareness of and accessibility to CVCP, specifically regarding SANE/SAFE payments and free Forensic Medical Exams
 - Implement law making strangulation assault a felony (pending enactment of the bill)
 - Implementation of stalking laws; revise and update harassing communications code to incorporate cyberstalking
 - Increased state funding for sexual assault centers
 - Change definition of rape to align with federal law
 - Protocols to address rape kit backlog
 - Legislative and systems advocacy, training and protocol development to facilitate enforcement of firearms removal for offenders subject to federal firearms prohibition
 - Strategies to increase FVIP compliance
 - Develop strategies to address teen dating violence and working with child witnesses to domestic violence

The following goals were developed by CJCC upon reviewing the committee and subcommittee meeting notes, priorities and objectives:

CJCC’s Funding Goals

- Ensure that funding for FY 2014-2016 meets the allocation requirements for Law Enforcement, Prosecution, Courts, Victim Services, and Underserved populations
- Meet the 20% required set-aside for sexual assault projects
- Ensure that the funding meets the stipulation to award at least 5% of funds *to* courts and not just *for* programs that benefit courts
- Prioritize sustaining extant programs and services to ensure availability of services
- Include Implementation Plan priority purpose areas and subcommittee goals and objectives in RFAs for 2014-2016

CJCC’s Other Goals

- Improve communication and coordination with statewide stakeholders such as Governor’s Office of Children and Families, Georgia Commission on Family Violence, Division of Aging Services, Prosecuting Attorney’s Council, Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts and the Health and Human Services Administration; state sexual assault coalition Georgia Network to End Sexual Assault; and state domestic violence coalition Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Coordinate quarterly subcommittee meetings
- Coordinate Implementation Plan Committee meetings annually, at minimum
- Display leadership in regards to cultural sensitivity and access to appropriate, population specific services for underserved victims

Reducing domestic violence-related homicides in Georgia

To develop goals and objectives for reducing domestic violence-related homicides in Georgia, CJCC consulted the recently released the 10th Annual Report by the Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Project, a VAWA-funded joint effort by GCADV and the Georgia Commission on Family Violence (GCFV). The report is a ten-year prospectus on the circumstances surrounding the 126 domestic violence-related homicides and six near-fatality survivors' cases that were reviewed by the Fatality Review Project in the state between 2004-2013.

The Fatality Review Project has worked with 22 communities across the state of Georgia to assess the circumstances surrounding domestic-violence related homicides. The Project collects data through a media-monitoring service and through agreements with domestic violence shelters across the state. Because of the limitations that arise through this data collection method, the actual number of domestic violence-related deaths is believed to be higher.

The Fatality Review Project partners convene Family Violence Task Forces in participating communities. Multi-disciplinary subcommittees conduct reviews of domestic violence related fatalities in their respective areas. Subcommittee members include but are not limited to victim service providers, law enforcement, prosecution office staff, judges and FVIP staff. Teams request case-specific data through Open Records Requests. Data commonly include 911 calls, transcripts, investigation reports, civil and criminal case files, sex offender registry information, and probation files. Members also conduct interviews to glean information on those who came in contact with the victim including friends and family, medical personnel, service providers, colleagues, places of worship, and legal services, among many others. The members then develop case chronologies which help to assess gaps in services. Finally, the members convene to address the following for each case:

1. Ways to improve the systems involved with victims and perpetrators
2. Systems and agencies involved with the victim and perpetrator
3. Protocols that helped or hindered the victim
4. History of violence between victim and perpetrator
5. What could have been done differently

From there, the teams develop case findings and recommendations. These are aggregated into each annual report.

The Violence Policy Center has collected data on femicides since 1997. Georgia’s lowest ranking was in 2002, when it ranked 17th in the nation for the rate of females murdered by males in single victim/single offender incidents. Below is a table comparing femicides to the number of domestic violence-related homicides in Georgia from 2004-2013:

Year	Number of DV-related deaths⁴³	Number of Femicides⁴⁴	State Ranking in Femicide⁴⁵
2004	137	90	7
2005	110	77	13
2006	127	75	14
2007	106	86	15
2008	118	82	10
2009	113	90	6
2010	123	80	10
2011	134	79	12
2012	131	Not available	Not available
2013	116	Not available	Not available

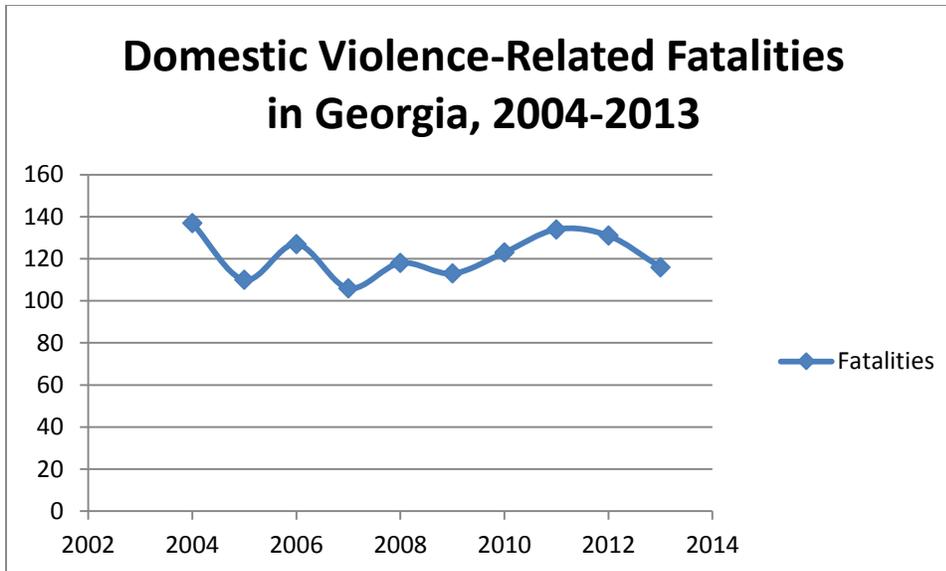
The Fatality Review Reports’ figures are higher because they include data on suicides, murder-suicides, and children killed as a result of domestic violence, whereas the femicide data is only from single victim/single offender incidents. The chart below, generated from the Fatality

⁴³ Data compiled from Fatality Review Annual Reports for years 2004-2013. Available at: <http://gcadv.org/what-we-do/fatality-review/>. Accessed 3.7.14.

⁴⁴ Femicide deaths and state rankings are taken from the Violence Policy Center’s *When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of Homicide Data* reports from 2004-2011 (the most current report available).

⁴⁵ Ibid.

Review Report data in the table above, illustrates the fluctuation in the domestic violence-related fatality rate from 2004-2013:



CJCC respects the work of the Fatality Review Project by incorporating the 10th Annual Report's findings and recommendations into the 2014-2016 S.T.O.P. VAWA Implementation Plan. The ten findings are detailed below:

1. Children are often the silent victims of domestic violence, a fact that can perpetuate the cycle of violence in families and communities. Children were more likely to witness domestic violence than others (18% of cases), and in 45% of the fatalities reviewed, 45% of the parties were sharing minor children.
2. Many relationships ending in homicide started when the victim was in their teens. Fifty-one percent of victims were between the ages of 13-24 when their relationship with their abusers began.
3. Limited financial resources can be the single greatest barrier to leaving an abusive relationship. At the time of their death, 74% of victims were employed, but still felt unable to support themselves or their families outside the abusive relationship.
4. Domestic violence victims and perpetrators often have contact with the criminal legal system, a fact which holds great potential for increasing safety. Unfortunately, homicides still occur when a lack of accountability and coordination among systems leaves victims at risk. In 93 reviewed cases (70.4%), 235 calls were made to law enforcement regarding a domestic violence incident prior to the homicide.
5. In many cases, homicide victims are in contact with the civil courts at the time of their death. Of the 93 reviewed cases, 15% of victims had a TPO in place when they were murdered.

6. The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation significantly increases the risk of a homicide. In 2013, use of a firearm was the leading cause of death in 72% of all recorded domestic violence fatalities in Georgia.
7. In most cases, domestic violence victims turn to their family, friends, co-workers or members of their faith community who are not prepared with the knowledge and resources to respond most effectively.
8. When a domestic violence victim is leaving an abusive relationship, s/he is at a significantly higher risk for serious injury or death. In almost all reviewed cases, victims were taking steps in the months and weeks prior to the homicide indicating an increased desire to separate from their abusers.
9. An abuser's depression and suicidal thoughts are high risk factors for domestic violence fatalities. In 35% of reviewed cases, the perpetrator attempted or committed suicide.
10. Many victims from marginalized communities face additional barriers to accessing resources and achieving safety.

Below is a broad summary of the recommendations in the 10th Annual Report. The complete list of findings and recommendations are included in the appendix.

1. Develop and strengthen partnerships with faith- and community-based organizations, and think creatively about ways to incorporate non-traditional partners into identifying, preventing and intervening in domestic violence situations. This includes involving underserved communities, schools and DFCS on task forces and CCR teams; and coordinating efforts between criminal justice system players and victim service providers.
2. Prioritize trauma-informed care and mental health services. Support mental health screenings and suicide prevention efforts.
3. Increase awareness of services and access to resources, such as Georgia's Crime Victim's Compensation Program (CVCP); develop a statewide program to link survivors of homicide to services and programs, including CVCP; inform victims of resources to establish economic independence; enhance accessibility of legal services, especially for immigrant victims; fully incorporate safety planning into services; and prioritize access for underserved victims.
4. Develop consistent statewide policies for assessing and responding to domestic violence. Specific recommendations include protocols for law enforcement responses and primary aggressor identification; TPO enforcement and firearms removal; developing model policies for providers that enhance safety and access to services, especially for underserved victims; benchbooks to encourage courts to be cognizant of victim safety and offender accountability; and education for prosecutors to file appropriate charges.
5. Encourage prevention activities through modeling behaviors, and incorporating domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking prevention curricula in schools.
6. Allocate resources to specific projects, such as those that treat child victims of homicide, and dedicated dockets, SVUs and other programs that provide criminal justice system support to domestic violence victims.
7. Conduct education and awareness campaigns for a wide variety of audiences including but not limited to teachers, parents, faith leaders, and judges. Provide trainings when able and incorporate assessments into materials. Encourage the development and implementation of protocols on identifying and responding to domestic violence in workplaces, schools and places of worship.

Implementation Plan Priority Areas

CJCC is fully invested in the fatality review project team's efforts to reduce domestic violence-related homicides in the state. Ideally, CJCC would be able to allocate additional funds to both partners in the next three years. The Fatality Review Project Partners assert that the reports contain a substantial amount of data and solid policy recommendations which are ripe for implementation and training. A statewide endeavor of this nature will take time and significant financial support. Barring an increase of funds, CJCC plans to continue funding the fatality review projects spearheaded by GCADV and GCFV as federal funds allow.

Priority Areas

CJCC released a VAWA/SASP Request for Applications (RFA) in May of 2013 to launch the 2013 Competitive Application process. The RFA outlined the eligibility requirements for each program, as well as priority areas for the state as defined by the prior VAWA Implementation Plan and a needs assessment finalized in late 2012. The RFA invited applicants to submit proposals for maintaining core services for victims, addressing the priority areas, and/or Criminal Justice System Improvement (CJSI) projects⁴⁶. In prior years, CJCC included offender accountability programs such as FVIPs/BIPs and probation and parole monitoring; however, due to a reduction in FY2013 VAWA funds, CJCC was unable to fund these projects during the 2013 application cycle.

Below are the priorities for S.T.O.P. VAWA and SASP as outlined in the 2013 RFA:

Priorities identified by the State of Georgia for S.T.O.P. VAWA

- Updated training, including U-Visas, accessing interpreters, economic security, and helping underserved victims (e.g. 50% of DV homicide victims are African American) in domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking cases for law enforcement.

⁴⁶ CJSI projects are defined by CJCC as those that meet the allocation requirements for courts, prosecution, law enforcement, training, or some discretionary projects.

- Increased cross training opportunities for victim advocates.
- Policies and enforcement for the removal of firearms from defendants who have been convicted of domestic violence misdemeanors or who are subject to temporary orders of protection (TPOs).
- Increased training opportunities for court personnel, Judges, Prosecutors and probation officers.
- Training and policies to implement bond supervision and monitoring for family violence offenders.
- Compile and share training materials, with the goal of increasing the amount of multi-disciplinary training available (especially between law enforcement and prosecutors).
- Develop new training methods that reach more people and mitigate challenges for rurally based agencies.
- Reduce the threat of sexual assault centers closing.
- Provide services to victims of human trafficking.

Priorities identified by the State of Georgia for SASP

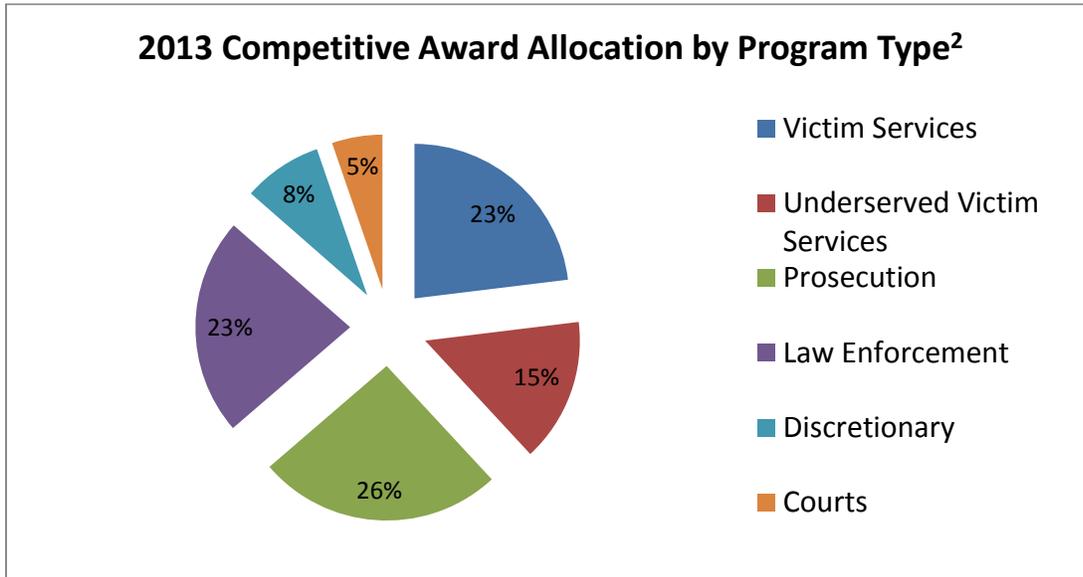
- Creative ways to expand into counties with no sexual assault agencies. This could be accomplished through collaborations with Sheriff's offices to place an advocate there. Quitman, Dade, Atkinson, Schley and Webster are counties that have been highlighted as having a high need. These counties either have high numbers of victims as a proportion of their total population, or low average service provision as compared to the number of victims seeking services.
- Increase SANE/SAFE service availability.

Priorities for the 2014-2016 RFAs will adhere to the 2014-2016 Implementation Plan priority areas, goals and objectives. More specific goals can be found in section IV(A)1 "Description of project goals and objectives."

The State of Georgia does not plan to address the Crystal Judson purpose area. This purpose area was identified as a low priority for the state; of the twenty purpose areas, it was ranked 17th in order of importance and critical need.

Currently funded S.T.O.P. VAWA programs

CJCC currently funds fifty-nine (59) S.T.O.P. VAWA projects totaling \$3,485,519⁴⁷. A directory of S.T.O.P. VAWA subgrantees can be found in the appendix. Below is a pie chart of the allocations by program type:



Of these 59 projects, twenty-four are victim services programs that include domestic violence shelter and non-shelter programs as well as sexual assault centers. Services include legal advocacy, legal assistance, shelter services, therapy and counseling, criminal justice system advocacy and information and referrals. CJCC requires all victim services programs to affirm adherence to core service definitions established in 2012⁴⁸. Nine of these programs are for underserved populations; three for agencies that are located in rural areas and primarily serve rural victims, and six programs provide culturally sensitive services to refugee, immigrant, Latino, and/or Southeast Asian victims. These nine programs total \$525,995 (39%) of the \$1,334,337 awarded to VAWA Victim Services subgrantees in 2013.

⁴⁷ The agency's Council is reviewing five appeals at the time of the plan's submission. These figures are therefore subject to change.

⁴⁸ Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. (2012). *Victim Services Programs: Core Service Definitions*. Available at: <http://cjcc.georgia.gov/sites/cjcc.georgia.gov/files/Core%20Services%20by%20Agency%20Type%2011.6.13.pdf>. Accessed 2.26.14.

CJCC also funds thirty-two CJSI projects. Of these projects, fifteen are for prosecution and three are for law enforcement projects that fund Special Victims Units for domestic violence and sexual assault cases. An additional ten projects classified under law enforcement are for training. Finally, four of the projects are for court programs. An additional two subgrants are discretionary awards for the aforementioned Fatality Review Project partners, GCADV and GCFV. Another discretionary award is made to Project Safe, which provides victim services in addition to a CJSI project involving a locally-based fatality review and convening a Coordinated Community Response team.

There are five locally-based law enforcement training subgrants awarded to victim service providers, two of which also incorporate activities to support their local CCRs. These awards supplement statewide training projects, alleviate the burden on statewide trainers, and help forge close partnerships between victim service providers and law enforcement. Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) has a subgrant for law enforcement training on domestic violence and sexual assault that is offered at all five of its Regional Academies across the state, including an online stalking course. Georgia Network to End Sexual Assault (GNESA) is awarded a grant to train law enforcement on sexual assault, which supplements GPSTC's trainings and facilitates a victim services collaboration with law enforcement. Gwinnett Sexual Assault Center provides SANE/SAFE training. Tapestri, Inc. and Raksha offer population specific training for law enforcement, courts and prosecutors that addresses barriers faced by refugees, immigrants and those with limited English proficiency, as well as cultural competency. Finally, CJCC funds three law enforcement SVUs in Henry, Athens-Clarke and Oconee counties.

CJCC funds fifteen prosecution projects across the state. These projects fund Special Victims Units dedicated to S.T.O.P. VAWA-eligible cases. The agency also currently funds four court programs. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) provides training and

coordinated community response support to judges and courts personnel across the state. The AOC's project also provides training to other audiences including advocates and law enforcement, among others. Another award was made to GCFV through AOC, which conducts a project to connect law enforcement officers with local domestic violence task forces. The Douglas County Board of Commissioners was awarded a subgrant for an SVU and a lethality assessment project. Finally, GCADV has an award to conduct training for domestic violence advocates and court personnel from a victim services perspective.

In 2014, CJCC plans to use S.T.O.P. VAWA funds to sustain and strengthen existing programs. CJCC will make the appropriate adjustments to ensure at least 5% of funds are awarded *to* courts rather than *for* programs that benefit courts. This will require outreach to potential applicants and coordination with partners such as AOC. VAWA funds will also be used to achieve the following goals developed during the Implementation Plan development process as outlined in section IV(A)1.

Documentation from agencies regarding the need and use for funds, expected results of the funds, and service population demographics is included in the appendix. Representative agencies such as the Prosecuting Attorney's Council, Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, Georgia Network to End Sexual Assault, and Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence each provided letters of documentation. Each of the currently funded law enforcement projects (Henry, Athens-Clarke and Oconee Counties) also submitted letters of documentation.

CJCC plans to continue to allocate funds according to VAWA's allocation requirements. CJCC will work with AOC and its partners to solicit applications from courts to meet the new statutory requirement. Additionally, CJCC will solicit applications that expand current victim

services, prosecution and law enforcement programs to meet the 20% sexual assault set-aside as detailed in section IV(B)5.

If federal funds allow, CJCC will expand the number of subgrantees that support law enforcement and/or prosecution-based SVUs to high-need jurisdictions, especially rural areas. Increased FY 2013 VOCA funding enabled an expansion of victim services during CJCC's 2013 competitive award cycle, but since funds are not allowed to be used for law enforcement, courts and prosecution projects, the cuts in VAWA funding resulted in many of those programs being reduced or sometimes eliminated. Hopefully federal funding will enable CJCC to restore and even expand financial support of these important projects.

Sexual Assault Set-Aside Requirement

As a result of the 2013 competitive application cycle, CJCC is already close to achieving the 20% sexual assault set-aside but will need to allocate additional funds during the 2014 grant year in order to meet the requirement. Currently, ten organizations are receiving a total of \$560,956 in funds dedicated solely to sexual assault programs. Eight of these subgrantees are victim service providers whereas two are for sexual assault training to law enforcement and SANE/SAFE personnel. Another four agencies are receiving a total of \$121,279 in sexual assault funding for dual domestic violence and sexual assault programs; one of which is a victim service provider, another one that is a law enforcement SVU and two that are prosecution SVUs. This represents a 19% set-aside for programs that meaningfully address sexual assault, and is spread across three of the non-discretionary allocations.

The Implementation Plan development process uncovered several areas of great need related to sexual assault services and criminal justice system coordination in Georgia. The following purpose areas and corresponding goals will be incorporated into the 2014-2016 funding process, in order of prioritization:

8. Training of sexual assault forensic medical personnel examiners in the collection and preservation of evidence, analysis, prevention, and providing expert testimony and treatment of trauma related to sexual assault.

Goals:

- Increase training availability and coordination with domestic violence service providers
- Continue to improve training content to be both based on national models and area needs
- Increase availability in rural and south Georgia
- Work with hospitals and other medical providers to encourage attendance and paid staff time to complete trainings

(15-18 tied)

15. Developing, implementing, or enhancing Sexual Assault Response Teams, or other similar coordinated community responses to sexual assault.

Goals:

- Provide support and training to SART teams
- Develop innovative means of encouraging judicial presence and top-down support
- Develop protocols for SART establishment and development

16. Developing and strengthening policies, protocols, best practices, and training for law enforcement agencies and prosecutors relating to the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases and the appropriate treatment of victims.

Goals:

- Increase training availability
- Develop protocols and implement to ensure consistency

18. Identifying and conducting inventories of backlogs of sexual assault evidence collection kits and developing protocols and policies for responding to and addressing such backlogs, including protocols and policies for notifying and involving victims.

Goals:

- Identify areas with backlogs and rank based on size and need
- Develop protocols and policies for addressing backlogs, starting with highest-need areas
- Include protocols for speeding up results from initial testing

17. Developing, enlarging or strengthening programs addressing sexual assault against men, women, and youth in correctional or detention settings.

Goals:

- Begin to build a foundation to address this purpose area in future implementation plans, including forging relationships with correctional and detention facilities

It should be noted that all but one of the purpose areas (#8) were identified as “low priorities” by the committee as a whole. This dilution of sexual assault providers’ priorities indicates a need to

better coordinate domestic violence service providers' needs with that of sexual assault service providers. Sexual assault often co-occurs with domestic violence and dating violence, but since it is stigmatized it is more often underreported. This improvement of coordination and alignment of priorities will better serve the needs of all victims. For example, sexual assault was identified as a primary tool of abusers in the 2012 Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Annual Report, but the report also noted that "sexual assault history is almost never documented" in the cases reviewed⁴⁹.

During the 2014-2016 continuation funding years, CJCC will note these priorities in the RFAs and conduct outreach to meet the set-aside requirements. CJCC will coordinate with the state sexual assault coalition and other currently funded programs that meaningfully address sexual assault to conduct aggressive outreach to spread the funds across at least two non-discretionary funding allocations.

Grant-making Strategy

As part of its current grant-making strategy, CJCC considers the service area of each applicant in conjunction with its proposal narrative and budget. One area of special concern is the need to fund rural programs, which tend to serve larger areas. Although these rurally-based service providers often serve fewer victims and have a lower cost of operating, these victims often face more substantial barriers to service such as transportation, and large service areas that require extensive staff and/or client travel puts an additional burden on both the programs' performance and efficacy.

During the application review process, CJCC staff create maps of service areas by program type in order to ensure equitable geographic distribution of VOCA, VAWA and SASP

⁴⁹ Georgia Commission on Family Violence and Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence. (2012). *2012 Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Annual Report*. Available at: <http://gcadv.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Fatality-Review-Project-Annual-Report-2012.pdf>. Last accessed 3.3.14.

funds. This method helps to ensure accessibility of services across the state. The maps included in the appendix illustrate the current distribution of VAWA and SASP funds by program type and funding amount according to the county where the service provider is based⁵⁰. Fortunately, VOCA funding allows for additional subgrants to augment existing services and cover a greater service area than is represented in the maps. However, these funds do not allow for criminal justice awards to prosecution, law enforcement or courts, except for Victim Witness Assistance Programs, which contributes to the existing challenge of spreading funds across the state for those program types.

Subsequent to the agency's absorption of FVPSA and state funds from GOCHF (see section II(C)), CJCC will be able to better coordinate equitable funding allocations. GCFV identified rural south Georgia and parts of northeast and central Georgia as high-need areas, a consideration that will also be included in the upcoming RFA priority areas⁵¹. Additional funds may be awarded based on availability of federal funds and the quality of applications received. Regarding the determination of funding amounts, CJCC examines applicants' budgets in conjunction with the proposal narrative. Special attention is given to needs statements for the service area targeted as well as program activities and projected outputs and outcomes. Staff make award amount recommendations based on projected need and service delivery types, and the allowability of costs in each budget's line items.

In 2013, CJCC held a competitive application process for VOCA, VAWA and SASP subgrants. These subgrantees are currently in their first year of a four year competitive cycle. The continuation process, which will be launched in the summer of 2014, is a noncompetitive application where only subgrantees who currently receive subgrants are eligible to receive

⁵⁰ Please note that the maps do not address service area or population density, nor do they represent the distribution of non-VAWA or SASP funded service providers.

⁵¹ Georgia Commission on Family Violence. (2012). *Georgia State Plan for Ending Family Violence*. Accessible at: <http://issuu.com/gcfv/docs/gcfvstateplan/1?e=7868502/4501413>. Last accessed: 3.3.14.

funding. Subgrantees must demonstrate compliance with programmatic and financial reporting requirements during the previous funding year, and they must submit their continuation application on time to receive the same level of funds as the previous year. Those who are either delinquent with their continuation application or have been delinquent with several financial or programmatic reports may receive a 10% reduction in their award. The continuation application process allows subgrantees to further develop projects they may have started, modify their project scope to serve a new victim demographic or provide different services, and alert CJCC to any technical assistance issues or obstacles they encountered during the previous funding year.

Pending the Council's approval, the two subsequent years (2015 and 2016) may also be noncompetitive continuation grant years. If so, a new four-year grant cycle will launch in 2017 with a competitive application process. At CJCC, VAWA and SASP subgrants follow the calendar year; therefore the 2013 VAWA subgrants are for projects conducted between January 1, 2014-December 31, 2014. The first continuation grant year of this funding cycle will start January 1, 2015.

CJCC orchestrates meetings of its subgrantees through application and award workshops as well as its S.T.O.P. VAWA Implementation Plan committee and subcommittee meetings. During these meetings, subgrantees have the opportunity to network and share best practices for victim safety, confidentiality and economic independence. In the 2014-2016 RFAs, CJCC will include language requiring all prosecution, law enforcement and courts applicants to produce documentation that they consulted with local victim service providers and/or the state coalitions on how to ensure their programs incorporate the highest standards for victim safety and confidentiality and promote victims' economic independence.

Addressing the Needs of Underserved Victims

The Underserved Populations Subcommittee will work to enhance victim safety and

access to services for underserved communities. Its members will accomplish this goal by identifying underserved victim populations and their needs; identifying barriers to service provision; identifying resources and technical assistance; and building service providers' capacity to provide culturally sensitive and population specific services through tools and training. As stated in section IV(A)1, CJCC will work with the subcommittee to conduct a needs assessment to better understand the distribution of various underserved populations, their needs when seeking services or criminal justice system support as a result of a victimization, and existing gaps in meeting those needs across the state of Georgia.

CJCC will ensure compliance with the requirements for culturally specific community based services by outlining their federal requirements in the 2014 RFA and requesting documentation be provided with each application. CJCC will require the following elements to be included in each application:

- (A) focuses primarily on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking;
 - (B) has established a specialized culturally specific program that addresses domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking;
 - (C) has a primary focus on underserved populations (and includes representatives of these populations) and domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking; *or*
 - (D) obtains expertise, or shows demonstrated capacity to work effectively, on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking through collaboration;
- and:**
- (E) is primarily directed toward racial and ethnic minority groups; *and*
 - (F) is providing services tailored to the unique needs of that population.

CJCC will also require 501(c)(3) certificates and information on the organization's outreach and service delivery models from each applicant. The agency will work with the Underserved Subcommittee and partners to conduct outreach to other organizations who may qualify for funding under this allocation.

Currently, 49% of the culturally specific allocation is awarded to projects that serve Latino victims. Another 20% is allocated to Raksha, which primarily serves Asian victims, and the remaining 31% is allocated to Refugee Family Services (RFS), which serves immigrants and

refugees who identify with many different ethnicities. While many funds are allocated to projects that serve Latino victims, this population represents one of the largest minority groups in Georgia (9.2%), second only to African Americans (31.2%). Those who identify as Asian alone represent 3.5% of the population, whereas well over 20% of the culturally specific funds cover projects for this population, considering that it is a primary demographic served by RFS and Raksha.

However, when comparing these allocations to the total amount of VAWA awards, the state of Georgia has room for improvement. Considering the funds relative to the state's ethnic and racial minority populations, only 5% go to the Latino victim services projects, 2% to Raksha, and 3% to RFS. There are currently no projects funded that specifically address the state's African-American population. As the demographic data indicated, almost 50% of victims are African-Americans although they make up roughly a third of the state's population as a whole.

The need to improve service delivery and criminal justice system response for underserved victims was a priority addressed at all the committee and subcommittee meetings. CJCC will include a related priority in the forthcoming RFAs, and will work with the existing subgrantees to support existing services, enhancing collaboration with other stakeholders and expanding services to be more accessible.

CJCC is currently exceeding the 10% set aside for culturally specific populations through six awards for population-specific services. These awards, totaling \$389,884, represent 29% of the total \$1,334,337 in victim services subgrants.

Caminar Latino, Cherokee Family Violence Center and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Atlanta provide services to domestic violence and sexual assault victims who are members of the Latino community. Raksha provides culturally and linguistically specific counseling, advocacy, support groups for adults and children, and outreach to South Asian

survivors of domestic, dating violence and sexual assault. Refugee Family Services' Refugee Family Violence Prevention Project provides culturally and linguistically appropriate services to refugee and immigrant victims of domestic violence. Clients served primarily come from Southeast and Central Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. Finally, International Women's House serves refugee and immigrant women and their children who reside primarily in DeKalb County.

These projects all meet the requirements outlined on page 17 of the 2014 S.T.O.P. VAWA FAQs as organizations that "Qualify for funding if [their] primary mission is to address the needs of racial and ethnic minority groups." Catholic Charities, CFVC and Refugee Family Services have each "developed a special expertise regarding a particular racial or ethnic minority group." CJCC plans to sustain these projects and provide additional funding opportunities if federal funds allow.

E. Conclusion

The data presented in the State of Georgia's 2014-2016 Implementation Plan indicate a strong correlation between S.T.O.P. VAWA funding and agencies' ability to respond effectively to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. The Implementation Plan Committee and subcommittee members have developed realistic goals and objectives based on a consensus of the stakeholders' priorities. In concert with the changes due to the 2013 VAWA Reauthorization, these goals and objectives will aid CJCC in its funding decisions in the coming three years. CJCC plans to prioritize sustained support of core services and programs, while growing its financial support to expand provider capacity and accessibility of services and programs as federal funds allow.

CJCC is grateful for OVW's continued support through the S.T.O.P. VAWA formula grant program. Along with our subgrantees and state partners, we look forward to sustained support and a strong partnership with OVW in the coming three years. While the challenges

remain great, CJCC is committed to developing strategies that enhance programs under its purview to support services and criminal justice system response for all victims in the State of Georgia.

F. Appendixes

S.T.O.P. VAWA Purpose Area Assessment Form

Implementation Plan Meeting PowerPoint

Implementation Plan Committee Members – Meeting Attendance

Implementation Plan Subcommittee Descriptions

Implementation Plan Subcommittee Members – Meeting Attendance

2013 VAWA Recipients Map

2013 SASP Recipients Map

2013 VAWA Subgrantee Directory

Maps of Georgia’s Population Distributions

Percent of population age 65 and older

Percent Female

Percent Black or African American

Percent Hispanic or Latino (of any race)

Percent Asian

Percent American Indian and Alaskan Native

Percent Some Other Race

Percent White

Percent total population in poverty

SORH Rural County Map

Same-sex households

2013 Fatality Review Findings and Recommendations

Map of Domestic Violence Deaths in Georgia, 2003-2013

Letters of Support

Courts

Prosecution

Law Enforcement

Victim Services

Documentation of Collaboration Forms