



## State of Georgia

### 2013 S.T.O.P. VAWA Subgrantee Directory

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**S.T.O.P. Formula Grant Award:** 2013-WF-AX-0013

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## Administrative Office of the Courts

**Address:** 244 Washington Street, Suite 300 Atlanta, GA 30334-5900

**Program type:** Courts

**Federal award:** 25000

**Match amount:** 8333

**Counties served:** Bulloch; Elbert; Houston; Lanier; Lowndes; Mitchell; Terrell; Tift; Treutlen; Troup; Union; Ware

**Project title:** Connecting Community Resources to Law Enforcement

**Project description:** The Connecting Community Resources to Law Enforcement (CCRLE) Project seeks to enhance a coordinated community response to domestic violence by connecting local law enforcement officers with local and statewide domestic violence resources and service providers. This initiative embraces a coordinated effort while drawing on the expertise and knowledge of local systems and provides POST-certified domestic violence training to law enforcement within local jurisdictions for the purpose of: 1) increasing law enforcement officers knowledge of state and local domestic violence resources; 2) increasing communication and relationships between law enforcement officers and domestic violence advocates; 3) increasing law enforcements officers' knowledge of the Georgia Family Violence law. This initiative will continue to increase the Connecting Community Resources with Law Enforcement POST certified trainings that GCFV has been conducting across the state since 2012. The CCRLE material was approved by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) through the Fatality Review Project in 2012. While some communities have been able these implement these trainings independently, others have come to GCFV for assistance in coordinating these trainings. In response, GCFV began collaborating with communities to implement this training to their areas. Trainers for the CCRLE initiative include a POST certified law enforcement officer, GCFV staff person (Jennifer Thomas), and local domestic violence program advocates. The CCRLE trainings focus on connecting law enforcement with community resources. While law enforcement is the targeted audience, the CCRLE trainings are multidisciplinary to increase communication and relationships between a variety of community agencies. Furthering this initiative will allow for the following activities to continue: GCFV Program Manager (Jennifer Thomas) will partner with a POST certified instructor with law enforcement experience and state certified domestic violence agencies to conduct local law enforcement trainings across Georgia. GCFV will reach out to state certified domestic violence agencies to determine if they wish to participate in this initiative. Participating domestic violence agencies will be asked to contact their local law enforcement departments to increase attendance and agency participation and to invite other relevant service providers (Department of Family and Children Services, legal services, etc.) to attend the training. Participating state certified domestic violence agencies will also be asked to coordinate the trainings by securing training locations, managing registration and providing lunch, if possible, for 1-day trainings. Law enforcement officers attending these trainings will receive 6 to 8 hours of POST certified instruction. GCFV will collaborate with local state certified domestic violence agencies to determine which of the following topics (mandated family violence response, primary aggressor identification, incident reporting, family violence protection orders, and stalking) will be covered by a POST certified instructor based on need in their area. GCFV staff will present the following sections at all trainings: dynamics of domestic violence, prevalence of domestic violence in Georgia and connecting law enforcement to local and state domestic violence resources. Local domestic violence advocates are included as presenters in all trainings and inform law enforcement on local resources available to victims at the domestic violence program.

## Administrative Office of the Courts

**Address:** 244 Washington Street, Suite 300 Atlanta, GA 30334-5900

**Program type:** Discretionary

**Federal award:** 60032

**Match amount:** 20011

**Counties served:** Bacon; Bibb; Brantley; Charlton; Chatham; Clayton; Coffee; DeKalb; Fulton; Gwinnett; Habersham; Lowndes; Murray; Pierce; Rabun; Stephens; Ware; Whitfield

**Project title:** Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Project

**Project description:** The Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Project, conducted jointly by the Georgia Commission on Family Violence (GCFV) and the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (GCADV), is Georgia's only statewide initiative to review domestic violence-related deaths. Since the Project began in 2004, over 20 communities have reviewed 99 cases with the assistance of project coordinators from each agency. The Project seeks to enhance the safety of victims and the accountability of batterers. The Project does this by conducting detailed reviews of fatalities and near-fatalities and by preparing, publishing, and disseminating objective information gained from these reviews. The resulting information is used as a tool for identifying gaps in system responses, improving statewide data collection, and implementing recommendations to create a coordinated community approach to ending domestic violence through enhancing efforts to train systems on better responses, identifying critical points for intervention and prevention, and providing a forum for increasing communication and collaboration among community agencies. Domestic violence-related deaths rarely occur without warning; in most cases, there have been repeated incidents of violence, indicators of increased risk of lethal violence, and opportunities for agencies, community members, and individuals to intervene before the death. Fatality review provides a lens for Fatality Review Teams (FRTs) to review domestic violence-related homicides in their community, analyze gaps in system response, and strategize ways to improve their responses to prevent future such tragedies from happening. 2014 will mark the 11th year that GCFV and GCADV will co-lead the Project with funding from CJCC. Under the guidance of two Project Coordinators, Jenny Aszman from GCFV and Taylor Tabb from GCADV, the project will enter into the second year of focusing on the implementation of recommendations in local communities while also seeking new solutions for reducing domestic violence fatalities in Georgia. Creating change is difficult and the recommendations that have come from fatality reviews seek to address problems that are multi-faceted and complex. The recommendations address the following areas of need: increased training for system response, information sharing across systems, increased communication between agencies, policy and protocol development, and community outreach about available services. Implementing these types of recommendations can be challenging; success requires buy-in from a wide range of systems. While many communities and FRTs have completed implementation efforts, others have struggled to implement meaningful change in their communities. The challenges most often cited are conflicts between agencies, funding challenges, and limited staff time. In response to these challenges, Project Coordinators will continue to work closely with local communities on implementation efforts. Project Coordinators will provide support, training, and technical assistance for identifying recommendations, crafting a plan for implementing them in the community, and partnering to execute the plan. To increase accountability and clearly define expectations and goals, Project Coordinators will execute Memorandums of Understandings (MOUs) with communities and FRTs wishing to participate in the Project. The MOU will outline a 2 year commitment for both the FRT and the Project Coordinators. Communities will be strategically chosen

based on the Project's current relationships with active FRTs and/or active FVTFs and the readiness of those groups. In the first year, FRTs will be required to identify 1-2 key findings they would like to address and develop a plan to implement the findings. FRTs who have already reviewed fatalities will re-review a compilation of past cases to identify areas of need that have not been addressed. The Project Coordinators will gather all past case review documents and facilitate a meeting to review past findings and recommendations. The Project will continue to conduct a small number of new case reviews with communities each year. Project Coordinators from GCFV and GCADV will continue to train new FRTs, develop case reviews, and facilitate the fatality review process. In the second year, the Project Coordinators will work intensively with communities to execute their implementation plan. This support will include conducting research, serving as liaisons between FRTs and the National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative, regular meeting attendance, and funds to assist in implementation activities. Funding through the Project will adhere to allowable grant expenses and may include monies for trainings, consultants and printed materials. The Project Coordinators will produce an Annual Report which includes statewide statistical information, case narratives, and system-specific recommendations. The Annual Reports previously released by the Project have gained ever-increasing visibility (through media exposure, distribution to legislators, and statewide presentations) and have become a tool that is commonly cited and relied upon in numerous disciplines. The Annual Reports will include successes and challenges of implementation efforts in Georgia.

## Administrative Office of the Courts

**Address:** 244 Washington Street, Suite 300 Atlanta, GA 30334-5900

**Program type:** Training

**Federal award:** 67118

**Match amount:** 22373

**Counties served:** Appling; Atkinson; Bacon; Baker; Baldwin; Banks; Barrow; Bartow; Ben Hill; Berrien; Bibb; Bleckley; Brantley; Brooks; Bryan; Bulloch; Burke; Butts; Calhoun; Camden; Candler; Carroll; Catoosa; Charlton; Chatham; Chattahoochee; Chattooga; Cherokee; Clarke; Clay; Clayton; Clinch; Cobb; Coffee; Colquitt; Columbia; Cook; Coweta; Crawford; Crisp; Dade; Dawson; Decatur; DeKalb; Dodge; Dooly; Dougherty; Douglas; Early; Echols; Effingham; Elbert; Emanuel; Evans; Fannin; Fayette; Floyd; Forsyth; Franklin; Fulton; Gilmer; Glascock; Glynn; Gordon; Grady; Greene; Gwinnett; Habersham; Hall; Hancock; Haralson; Harris; Hart; Heard; Henry; Houston; Irwin; Jackson; Jasper; Jeff Davis; Jefferson; Jenkins; Johnson; Jones; Lamar; Lanier; Laurens; Lee; Liberty; Lincoln; Long; Lowndes; Lumpkin; Macon; Madison; Marion; McDuffie; McIntosh; Meriwether; Miller; Mitchell; Monroe; Montgomery; Morgan; Murray; Muscogee; Newton; Oconee; Oglethorpe; Paulding; Peach; Pickens; Pierce; Pike; Polk; Pulaski; Putnam; Quitman; Rabun; Randolph; Richmond; Rockdale; Schley; Screven; Seminole; Spalding; Stephens; Stewart; Sumter; Talbot; Taliaferro; Tattnall; Taylor; Telfair; Terrell; Thomas; Tift; Toombs; Towns; Treutlen; Troup; Turner; Twiggs; Union; Upson; Walker; Walton; Ware; Warren; Washington; Webster; Wheeler; White; Wilcox; Wilkes; Wilkinson

**Project title:** DV Court and Curriculum

**Project description:** The project's purpose is to provide ongoing support, technical assistance, and training to DeKalb County's Domestic Violence Court personnel team as they implement the state's pilot urban domestic violence court. The Domestic Violence Court will greatly benefit domestic violence survivors in DeKalb. They will receive individualized legal advocacy without having to hire an attorney. Women, including African American, immigrant, and refugee women, will receive culturally- and

linguistically-appropriate safety planning and services on-site from domestic violence experts. They will receive assistance overcoming barriers that keep women from accessing the courts, such as costs associated with transportation. Victims will be met by judges with specialized training in domestic violence cases, courtroom security and protocols designed specifically for domestic violence cases, and consolidated calendars (meaning less time away from work). They will also have increased access to complementary community services, such as supervised visitation and exchange, because knowledgeable court personnel and on-site legal advocates will be able to provide referrals. The project will also use the lessons from DeKalb to train other similar jurisdictions on the Domestic Violence Courts Training Curriculum. The Curriculum will be taught regionally in North, Middle and South Georgia, with a multi-disciplinary format and an emphasis on rural jurisdictions who would like to enhance their coordinated community response, and/or form a domestic violence docket.

## Athens-Clarke County

**Address:** PO Box 1868 Athens, GA 30603-1868

**Program type:** Law Enforcement

**Federal award:** 70000

**Match amount:** 17500

**Counties served:** Clarke

**Project title:** Athens-Clarke County Courts Domestic Violence Intervention Program

**Project description:** As part of the county-wide Domestic Violence Intervention Program, the ACC Probation Services Office and Clerk of Superior and State Courts will continue to provide enhanced services for domestic violence cases. Key staff includes the grant-funded Senior Probation Officer and Court Clerk, along with the Chief Probation Officer and Clerk of Court who supervise their efforts, all of whom have specialized training and knowledge. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed and is attached to this proposal that establishes the relationship and responsibilities of all of the governmental and non-profit agencies contributing to the effort supported by S.T.O.P. VAWA funding. Through S.T.O.P. VAWA grant funding, the ACC Clerk of Superior and State Courts is able to provide more efficient processing of domestic violence cases from filing to disposition. The court clerk funded by the grant will expedite both misdemeanor and felony violence against women cases as well as related temporary protective orders (TPO's). ACC Probation Services will provide better supervision, monitoring, and accountability of adjudicated offenders.

## Atlanta Victim Assistance, Inc

**Address:** 150 Garnett Street Atlanta, GA 30303 3612

**Program type:** Domestic Violence Programs; Victim Witness Assistance Program (Law Enforcement or Prosecution); Community Based Victim Witness Assistance Program

**Federal award:** 344850

**Match amount:** 72300

**Counties served:** Fulton

**Project title:** Law Enforcement Advocate Program

**Project description:** The Law Enforcement Advocate Program's (LEAP) mission is threefold: (a) enhance response to domestic violence and sexual assault victims, (b) increase service offerings to victims- especially when a perpetrator has not been identified; and (c) provide advocates for victim services. Three Law Enforcement Advocates, one temporary Protection Order Advocate, and one Support Service

Advocate will make up AVA's LEAP program. This gives AVA an immediate opportunity to work with victims to provide immediate crisis intervention, assess their needs, and assist them on their journey from victim to victor. Placing advocates in the police zones and having a dedicated TPO advocate also helps to facilitate AVA's community outreach efforts, which include providing awareness and education programs to neighborhood associations, schools, and addressing the victimization needs of our increasing Hispanic and immigrant population.

## Berrien County Bd of Commissioners - Alapaha Circuit D.A.'s Office

**Address:** 201 North Davis Street, Room 128 Nashville, GA 31639-0158

**Program type:** Prosecution

**Federal award:** 70000

**Match amount:** 23333

**Counties served:** Atkinson; Berrien; Clinch; Cook; Lanier

**Project title:** Alapaha Circuit D.A.'s VAWA Unit

**Project description:** The VAWA Unit, within the confines of the mission of the Alapaha Circuit District Attorney's Office, seeks justice for victims of all violent crimes against women, including domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and works to hold perpetrators accountable by proactive prosecution of these crimes. It collaborates with law enforcement to create safer communities for women and all citizens. The Unit also utilizes and coordinates with available agencies (out-of-circuit, non-profit) which offer specialized services and programs, and collaborates for training, community awareness, and activities toward prevention. It remains our goal to improve prosecution activities and increase successful conviction rates for VAWA-defined crimes. This includes increasing the rate and shortening the time of conviction from incident, by obtaining needed documentation, and locating and interviewing victims and witnesses; by improving the quality and rate of collection of evidence; and by working toward protocols with the many law enforcement agencies to improve notification of the VAWA Unit of new cases.

## Caminar Latino, Inc.

**Address:** PO Box 48623 Doraville, GA 30362-1623

**Program type:** Domestic Violence Programs

**Federal award:** 37711

**Match amount:** 0

**Counties served:** Clayton; Cobb; DeKalb; Fulton; Gwinnett; Rockdale

**Project title:** Providing Culturally Appropriate Domestic Violence Services for Latinas

**Project description:** Under the proposed project, the women's advocates will work with Latino survivors and will be responsible for providing: safety planning, crisis management, information and case management, referral for services that Caminar Latino does not provide itself, facilitating weekly support and reflection groups and guidance through the criminal justice, legal, and health systems. This project will support the work of the current women advocates as well as provide funding for an additional women's advocate enabling Caminar Latino to maintain its high quality of services for this underserved population. In addition, a group facilitator will facilitate a weekly group for youth ages 16 and up who have witnessed and/or experienced dating violence. Finally, Caminar Latino will host a monthly networking event for social service providers working with the Latino community and/or domestic violence. The monthly meeting will provide the opportunity for social service providers to

learn more about each other's agencies, available services and materials, and increase victim's access to these community resources. In addition, the networking meeting will also provide opportunities to foster community partnerships between agencies, enabling them to be more effective and strategic in addressing the complex problem of DV while also making best use of limited resources.

## Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Atlanta

**Address:** 2401 Lake Park Drive, SE Smyrna, GA 30080-8862

**Program type:** Legal Services Provider

**Federal award:** 76222

**Match amount:** 0

**Counties served:** Cobb; DeKalb; Forsyth; Fulton; Gwinnett; Habersham; Hall

**Project title:** VAWA Transformation Project

**Project description:** VAWA PROJECT ACTIVITIES: CCA's VAWA Transformation Project specializes in representing women immigrant survivors of domestic violence; stalking; sexual assault; including the elderly and abandoned or abused children. Since 1996, CCA has successfully assisted more than 2,000 immigrant women and children; our legal services have helped families to be restored. These survivors come from the most vulnerable and linguistically challenged populations in the state of GA. Weekly Activities: CCA will provide legal counsel and/or legal representation statewide. Our work begins with a referral from a partner organization; other agencies statewide; or with a telephone call or an email from a survivor. Initial responses are carried out telephonically and if needed shelter and other referrals are made. Staff meet with a survivor one on one and proceeds with a confidential consultation to evaluate their immigration history; criminal background and issues pertaining to the abuse suffered. At the Intake process, victims are often relieved to know that they have options and can make informed choices. We evaluate eligibility for immigration relief and work closely with clients to engage them in their immigration case service plan. Clients are never asked to accomplish a task that they cannot achieve due to a language barrier or other skills. Clients incrementally achieve success, and they become empowered and feel capable to take on more ownership of their immigration case plan. Staff assists with evidence gathering; with providing information about the victim compensation program, and if necessary at this stage, any safety protocols if required. We help with drafting affidavits (this is important for a successful case) and this process could take weeks because the clients are usually confused and traumatized. Our staff is experienced in taking into account the victim's cultural and language challenges and we are sensitive to their trauma. Staff informs survivors of their rights and responsibilities as CCA's clients as well as confidentiality policies. We provide them with a copy of the retainer agreement which indicates this legal service under the VAWA grant is available at no cost to them. Survivors are very thankful and often tearful about this funding as they are homeless or have no means of income at that stage of the process. Legal staff also refer clients to other services within Catholic Charities such as counseling, financial literacy and to other service providers for shelter, protective orders, food banks, and family law resources, etc. These referral activities occur mainly at two stages of the process: at the Intake (beginning) process of VAWA, and also at our disengagement/completion process as part of our continuum of services approach. Staff develop case strategies and attends immigration interviews; we review cases with clients; and have case peer reviews as part of our Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process. Staff files VAWA remedies such as the I-360 (self-petition); I-918 (U-visa for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault); I-751 (Removal of condition for abused women married to US citizens); I-485 (application for permanent residency); I-765 (employment authorization card); VAWA-

Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) for women who are married to NACARA applicants; Three Year VAWA Cancellation (for women who were married to abusive US citizens); Ten Year Cancellation (for women who are victims of domestic violence, have US citizen children, prove hardship and have 10 years of continuous presence in the US). Staff attend immigration court; file motions and appeals in deportation matters. Staff meet periodically with clients to keep them informed of case updates. Additionally, staff follows policies for best practices under the Council on Accreditation (COA), and work diligently to meet high quality standards of service delivery under CQI agency requirements. The CQI department manages and provides reports on the CJCC VAWA survey. CCA's innovative practice encompasses a service delivery which is survivor-client centered. It addresses victims from their own cultural context; and emphasizes a strategy that addresses the needs and safety of the client. Clients are provided with opportunities to achieve case goals; the application process involves clients experiencing case ownership. By providing legal remedies, clients gain a life free from violence and full of other life sustaining goals such as job opportunities. Clients transform from seeing themselves as victims to becoming empowered survivors. CCA integrates services within the agency and with external providers as part of our continuum of services approach. CCA programs offer bilingual counseling and family therapy; financial literacy seminars; citizenship classes; and housing counseling. CCA uses advanced safe technology for case management such as LAW LOGIX and CIMA. Staff successfully obtains 98% of case approvals and work authorizations. In 2013, 21 counties were served. Since 2007, 96% of clients represented became self-reliant; entered the work force and/or engaged in some form of higher education. Project staff has expert knowledge of VAWA; U-visa and Human Trafficking as well as being experienced in dealing with vulnerable populations. All staff are bilingual and diverse. Staff participates annually in domestic violence or sexual assault training. This project will have 1.19 staff assigned. In 2015, CCA will provide at least 60 consultations and take 20 new or carry over cases as applicable. Collaborative Partnerships: CCA (ILS-Immigration Legal Services) collaborates closely with the following organizations: International Women's House; Atlanta Legal Aid; Tapestri; Raksha; Caminar Latino; Circle of Hope; and The Latin American Association. CCA is also an affiliate of the following national organizations: The Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC); The Immigration Assistance Technical Support (ASISTA); staff attorneys are members of the local AILA Chapter (The American Association of Immigration Attorneys); and Accredited Representatives are members of the Immigration advocate Network (IAN).

## Cherokee County Board of Commissioners

**Address:** 1130 Bluffs Parkway Canton, GA 30114-5632

**Program type:** Prosecution

**Federal award:** 70000

**Match amount:** 23333

**Counties served:** Cherokee

**Project title:** VAW Prosecution Unit

**Project description:** The VAW Prosecution Unit will prosecute felony cases in the District Attorney's Office that include domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The goal of the unit is to hold offenders accountable while enhancing victim safety. The unit will collaborate with the community to provide education and training to law enforcement, first responders, and community stakeholders. This education and training will improve the outcome of the prosecution by increasing victim sensitivity by

responders and increasing evidence preserved for prosecution. The unit falls under the direction of the District Attorney.

## Cherokee Family Violence Center, Inc.

**Address:** P.O. Box 489 Canton, GA 30169-0489

**Program type:** Domestic Violence Programs

**Federal award:** 44843

**Match amount:** 0

**Counties served:** Cherokee

**Project title:** Multicultural Program

**Project description:** The Multicultural Program is staffed, in part, by Pilar Sarmiento who is bi-lingual in Spanish and English who is also bicultural and BIA accredited. This advocate supports the needs of non-English speaking victims, with a particular emphasis within the Latino community. These support services include a 24 hour Spanish-language hotline; weekly Spanish-language support groups; culturally specific Financial Literacy, Leadership and Intimate Partner Education classes; client advocacy; legal advocacy; housing advocacy and support through our Transitional Housing Program; outreach materials and resources in multiple languages; development of bilingual volunteers; partnerships with community-based Latino groups and churches; and direct immigration status assistance as the only domestic violence shelter in Georgia to receive Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) recognition. Through our Multicultural Program, victims are able to seamlessly access services in their own language whether it be a crisis call, emergency shelter, transitional housing, emergency protective orders, support groups, safety planning, immigration services or emotional support. This program addresses the VAWA Priority Area of need by serving the underserved population of immigrant victims of Domestic Violence and Stalking with culturally and linguistically competent services. Specifically, the VAWA-funded advocate will provide a holistic approach to services and support for Latino victims of domestic violence, from the initial crisis call to providing direct assistance in applying for immigration status adjustments. These clients will include shelter clients, non-residential community clients, families currently in our Transitional Housing Program and victims seeking immigration relief under U-Visas, T-Visas and VAWA petitions. She will also provide Legal Advocacy for Latino clients that are seeking protective orders and court services. In addition, she will share in the responsibility of servicing the Statewide 24 hour Spanish-language hotline during normal business hours. Her outreach responsibilities include developing relationships with Latino Community leaders in an attempt to broaden the support network for Latino victims of domestic violence living in Cherokee County as well as educate local law enforcement about the importance of supporting immigration relief under U-Visas to enhance victims' safety.

## Clayton County Board of Commissioners

**Address:** 112 Smith Street Jonesboro, GA 30236-4912

**Program type:** Prosecution

**Federal award:** 70000

**Match amount:** 23333

**Counties served:** Clayton

**Project title:** Clayton County District Attorney's Office Criminal Justice System Improvement Grant

**Project description:** We propose to use 2014 S.T.O.P. VAWA Criminal Justice System Improvement funding to support continuation of the Clayton County District Attorney's Office Crimes Against Women Unit. This specialized prosecution unit is currently made up of two assistant district attorneys and one part time investigator. Staff assigned to this project are able to devote increased attention to assigned cases of violence against women allowing staff to spend extra time with victims, with victims' families, and with the challenging legal issues that surface. Such patience and individualized victim encouragement is impossible without the assistance of grant funding. Output and outcome data reveal that the Clayton County Crimes Against Women Unit has proven to be a proper means by which to address the needs of this special population of victims. Team staff provide focused attention and services to victims and survivors in assigned cases. Examples of this are that the investigators and prosecutors are able to address the needs of victims by establishing early contact with the victims scheduling meetings to review the case's strengths and weaknesses, explore the victim's ability and willingness to testify in court, explain prosecution goals and responsibilities, obtain victim's input and address safety issues. Prosecutors are able to meet with victims to discuss reasons to consider negotiated pleas and have been able to make recommendations based on the needs of the victims and the community while holding the offender accountable and expediting prosecution goals. Further, coordinating efforts with prosecution based victim advocates has enabled prosecutors to enhance services to victims in that victims' physical and emotional needs are being addressed in a timely manner. Because prosecutors are able to make multiple contacts with the victim, issues that arise during the prosecution of the case are handled expeditiously. The project will be managed directly on a day to day basis by the Senior Litigation Specialist assigned to the special Crimes Against Women Unit. The Senior Litigation Specialist will be responsible for prosecuting cases of violence against women, supervising project employees and ensuring that cases of violence against women are prosecuted within VAWA guidelines.

## Community Connection of Northeast Georgia

**Address:** 1865 West Broad Street, Suite C Athens, Ga 30606-3572

**Program type:** Sexual Assault Program

**Federal award:** 25000

**Match amount:** 0

**Counties served:** Banks; Barrow; Jackson

**Project title:** Piedmont Rape Crisis Center

**Project description:** PRCC will continue to use CJCC VAWA funding to provide crisis intervention and support services for sexual assault, primary and secondary victims and survivors. These VAWA funds are used to help fund one full time employee who serves as the Program Director and one part time employee who serves as a Victim Advocate. The services provided for those in need are; 24/7 crisis hotline, exam accompaniment, follow-up services, legal and personal advocacy, court accompaniment and resources and referrals. PRCC also provides counseling assistance, emergency financial assistance and education surrounding sexual violence. PRCC educates and assists clients with information and application assistance regarding the Georgia Crime Victims Compensation Program. In addition, PRCC actively engages in community outreach, public education, awareness and prevention to help dispel myths and misconceptions surrounding sexual violence.

## Crisp County Board of Commissioners

**Address:** 210 S. 7th St Cordele, Ga 31015-4217

**Program type:** Prosecution

**Federal award:** 70000

**Match amount:** 23333

**Counties served:** Ben Hill; Crisp; Dooly; Wilcox

**Project title:** District Attorney's Office S.T.O.P VAWA Prosecution Unit

**Project description:** The Cordele Judicial Circuit S.T.O.P VAWA Unit is a specialized prosecution unit within the District Attorney's Office. Created in August 2009, it is dedicated to the investigation, and prosecution of crimes of violence against women cases including domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, and dating violence. The VAWA Unit provides support to victims of crimes of violence against women and is responsible for promoting efforts to improve the criminal justice system's response to crimes of violence against women. The VAWA Unit operates under the administration of the District Attorney and is composed of a Prosecutor and Investigator. The S.T.O.P VAWA Unit Attorney is responsible for strategic case management, from initial investigations through final resolution, and daily supervision of the VAWA Prosecution Unit. She also serves as lead trial counsel in the majority of court proceedings for crimes of violence against women and is responsible for training and advising other personnel as to most successful methods for the case management of crimes against women. The VAWA Unit Investigator performs complex investigative work with regards to all cases involving crimes against women fourteen years old and older which allows for an improved response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The investigative work includes but is not limited to: interviewing victims, witnesses and law enforcement officials, locating victims and witnesses, seizing evidence, serving subpoenas and organizing case files in a prosecutable form. The goals of the STOP VAWA Prosecution Unit includes enhancing prosecution, improving conviction rates, and reducing any further trauma suffered by victims in crimes of violence against women. Its objectives include identifying best prosecution practices, increasing the awareness of the dynamics of violence against women victimization, and identifying and referring available services. The VAWA Attorney promotes within the judicial circuit coordinated community efforts to address violence against women. These efforts include, but are not limited to, establishing and serving on domestic violence task forces, commissions, working groups, and/or multidisciplinary teams. Ms. Todd serves as the Coordinator of the Cordele Judicial Circuit Domestic Violence Task Force and is a member of all four counties multidisciplinary teams. She further facilitates improvement efforts which include, but are not limited to, participation in and providing on-going and specific training about violence against women and coordinated community responses, working with community-based organizations providing services to victims of crime as well as other government agencies in law enforcement, prosecution, the judiciary, and corrections/community supervision. Additionally, the VAWA Unit Attorney coordinates the development of written protocols, memorandums of understanding, and revisions in agency and procedure manuals. The VAWA Unit Investigator coordinates with law enforcement and becomes involved in reported crimes from the onset in an effort to develop confident relationships with victims and law enforcement. On a daily basis Mr. Sheppard checks the integrated law enforcement system for arrests of crimes of violence against women. Upon obtaining the appropriate reports identifying the victim(s) and or witness(es), an attempt to make contact with the parties is made. The victim(s) and are witness(es) are interviewed and when necessary a risk assessment is performed. Also any additional services needed or referrals necessary are made. VAWA Unit staff follows up with victims to obtain any

additional information pertinent to prosecution, and that will enable us to better assist them and ensure their safety. A thorough review of the case is conducted to decide the best course of action. Overall VAWA Unit staff works towards any method that will contribute to a better and more comprehensive approach to investigating, prosecuting, sentencing and supervising individuals charged with crimes of violence against women as well as protecting and serving victims of these crimes.

## Dawson County Board of Commissioners

**Address:** 25 Justice Way Dawsonville, GA 30534-3431

**Program type:** Law Enforcement

**Federal award:** 39589

**Match amount:** 13196

**Counties served:** Dawson

**Project title:** S.T.O.P. VAWA Domestic Violence Investigator

**Project description:** The management of the domestic violence/sexual assault investigator is under the Criminal Investigation Division-CID (see Dawson County Sheriff's Office organizational chart attached). The purpose of placing the investigator under the CID chain of command is to maintain unity of command. The investigator is assigned all domestic violence and sexual assault reports taken by uniformed patrol officers who require follow-up investigation including interviews, interrogations, photographing, directing victims to appropriate social agencies, coordinating with the District Attorney's Office on prosecution of offenders, as well as working in concert with the victim's advocate director for the victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Domestic violence and sexual assault are two of the most trauma producing types of crime that can be committed. Therefore, after an arrest is made it is imperative that follow-up services include referral to a domestic violence assistance program. Once the investigator determines a victim of domestic violence is in need of a social service, the victim will be referred to No One Alone, RAPE Response, INC., or the Edmondson-Telford Center. Attached are Memorandums of Understanding for the victim services the domestic violence investigator refers victims to and follows up with. The domestic violence/sexual assault investigator works closely with our female victim's shelter (NOA) by notifying them of the cases. The investigator works closely with NOA's case workers, getting them involved by providing services to the victims. The domestic violence/sexual assault investigator, in certain cases, may notify the case worker from NOA to respond to crimes scenes, if requested by the patrol officer. These collaborative responses allow the victim to feel supported while the investigation is being conducted. Such scenes would be those requiring additional investigation expertises or where NOA needs to be immediately involved. Without the referral of law enforcement personnel NOA would not be able to adequately assist the victims they serve. RAPE Response advocates are utilized to provide non-investigative emotional support to victims in their time of greatest need. These advocates will be called to a scene in the event of needed support during the initial interview, or will meet with the victim at the hospital when a SANE examination is performed. RAPE Response provides victims with the services they need to obtain follow-up psychological care. Without the close-relationship with the sheriff's office there would be no means of notification which would insure prompt and essential care for the victim. Finally the Edmondson-Teleford Center allows a comfortable environment for the victim to be interviewed by a trained specialist. The environment is such that it does not have the harsh and institutional characteristics of a law enforcement center, thereby allowing the victim to feel more safe and secure. The feeling of security is enhanced by the fact that it is a specialized Forensic Interviewer conducting the dialogue. The investigator does not actively

participate in the interview, but instead, views via live video. The Center maintains the safe space, as well as all video and audio equipment. Any video recorded can be taken by the investigator for evidentiary purposes. If the investigators did not take advantage of the space offered, and coordinate with forensic interviewers to use said space; the Center would not be capable of continued operation, thus unable to furnish such a quality service to victims. The Dawson County Sheriff's Office provides office space for the investigator, and when funding is available, the proper resources in order to conduct a thorough investigation. Daily activities of the investigator will include reviewing all domestic violence and sexual assault incident reports taken by uniformed patrol officers, unless the domestic violence/sexual assault investigator is already involved in the situation. The investigator will immediately address any cases which require follow-up. The nature of cases will determine what type of follow-up is needed. Most cases will require, at minimum, interviews with the victim, additional photographs, arrest warrants, if not taken by the initial responding officer, social service referrals, and assistance to the victim(s). During court, the investigator will testify in court proceedings. Prior to court, the investigator will assist the District Attorney in case preparation to ensure all data gathered and documented during the investigation is available during court. The investigator is an active member of the Domestic Violence Task Force and attends meetings when scheduled. This task force is made up of judges, law enforcement, district attorneys, local social service personnel, and other boards that address the topic of domestic violence concerns. The investigator prepares for and conducts training classes on domestic violence and the growing concern to our officers on an annual basis. This is to ensure that domestic violence situations officers may encounter can be acted upon in an appropriate manner. The domestic violence investigator also prepares and conducts training and awareness classes for women's groups, high school students, and college students at Lanier Technical College located in Dawsonville, and other civic and community organizations. Educating individuals on domestic violence and sexual assault raises community awareness of these types of crimes and helps to stem the growing tide. Since the primary responsibility of our domestic violence investigator is to conduct investigations on domestic violence situations, we encourage specialized training in this area as well as sexual assault training when funding is available. This is to ensure our investigator keeps abreast on all current changes in domestic violence laws and procedures, as well as relaying that information to our officers. The investigator will insure that equal care is taken of victims of non-citizen status, to include the proper completion of any "T" or "U" Visa paperwork. Finally, the investigator will continue to insure that custody is taken of any firearms by an offender with a civil or criminal protective order (formally a temporary or permanent protective order) against them. Furthermore, the investigator insures appropriate storage and final legal terminus of repository.

## DeKalb County Government

**Address:** 1300 Commerce Drive; 6th Floor Decatur, GA 30030-3222

**Program type:** Prosecution

**Federal award:** 56786

**Match amount:** 16929

**Counties served:** DeKalb

**Project title:** Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Prosecution Unit

**Project description:** The goal of the Domestic Violence / Sexual Assault (DVSA) Unit is to fight for justice on the behalf of sexual assault and domestic violence victims. The DVSA Unit 1) provides comprehensive victim advocacy services, 2) ensures that victims and their families will receive knowledgeable and highly

skilled representation of cases with sensitive emotional and legal issues, and 3) allows for specialized investigations that demand evidentiary tasks that are time consuming, unique and expansive. The overall impact of this specialized unit is the service delivery improvement of advocacy and criminal justice to persons already traumatized by these life changing crimes. The DVSA Unit consists of three (3) Prosecutors, three (3) Investigators, and five (5) Victim Advocates. The day to day operations of the Unit are managed by a supervisor, a Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney. The supervisor reports directly to an executive board member, the Chief Assistant District Attorney. The investigators are managed by the Chief Investigator and the Advocates are managed by the Victim Witness Assistance Program Director, both executive board members. The Unit operates in all ten (10) divisions of DeKalb County Superior Court and handles felony level criminal cases. Felony level cases include criminal charges with a minimum sentence of one (1) year to a maximum sentence of death. The domestic violence charges typically seen by the Unit are aggravated assault, aggravated battery, and homicide between parties that are intimately involved, currently or formerly married, living together, parent and child, or that share a child in common. All cases with felony level sexual assault charges are handled by the Unit regardless of how the parties involved know each other.

## DeKalb County Solicitor General's Office

**Address:** 556 North McDonough Street 4th Floor Decatur, GA 30030-1634

**Program type:** Prosecution

**Federal award:** 50000

**Match amount:** 16667

**Counties served:** DeKalb

**Project title:** Prosecution

**Project description:** The salary costs for the existing VAWA funded DV prosecutor.

## DeKalb Rape Crisis Center

**Address:** 204 Church Street Decatur, GA 30030-3328

**Program type:** Sexual Assault Program

**Federal award:** 25000

**Match amount:** 0

**Counties served:** DeKalb; Henry; Newton; Rockdale

**Project title:** Bilingual Victim Services

**Project description:** The VAWA funds will be used to cover 34% of the annual salary for a Bilingual/Adult Counselor who will provide individual therapy to Latino clients in Spanish. A small amount of \$389.00 will be used to purchase office materials for the counselor and clients.

## Dougherty County Board of Commissioners

**Address:** 222 Pine Ave Albany, GA 31701-2531

**Program type:** Prosecution

**Federal award:** 50000

**Match amount:** 16667

**Counties served:** Dougherty

**Project title:** Dougherty County District Attorney Stop VAWA Domestic Violence Unit

**Project description:** The mission of the District Attorney's Stop VAWA Domestic Violence Unit is to prosecute offenders of domestic violence, hold the offender accountable and to initiate collaborative efforts with law enforcement, victim witness assistance and other victim service agencies to serve the victims of domestic violence and to prevent domestic violence crimes. The prosecution team will be overseen by the elected District Attorney Greg Edwards and the State Court Chief Assistant Kimberly Windom. This program will be directly managed by Assistant District Attorney and special prosecutor for domestic violence offenses, Victoria Johnson. Victoria Johnson will assist in the day to day training and development of the grant-hired prosecutor. The grant will fund a full time prosecutor, Crystal Harmon and a part time legal assistant Olivia Taft. The responsibilities of the grant funded prosecution team will largely remain the same. However, the grant funded prosecutor will handle both misdemeanor and felony cases. In the Dougherty Judicial Circuit, a misdemeanor trial can be handed in one day or less, but some of the complex felony domestic violence cases require a week or more of jury trial time. The grant funded prosecutor will put on 50-60 misdemeanor cases per trial term and will put on 15-30 felony trial cases per trial term. This will a total approximately 360 misdemeanor cases per year and 180 felony cases per year for a total of 540 cases total for the year. The grant-funded prosecutor Crystal Harmon, along with help from the Project Director, Assistant District Attorney Victoria Johnson will review cases and accept domestic violence and stalking cases against women, prepare them for arraignment by formally charging them and scheduling them for a timely trial. The legal Assistant Olivia Taft will assist on a part time basis with trial preparation and victim contact.

## Douglas County Board of Commissioners

**Address:** 8700 Hospital Dr., 3rd Floor Douglasville, GA 30134-2264

**Program type:** Prosecution

**Federal award:** 53489

**Match amount:** 17950

**Counties served:** Douglas

**Project title:** Domestic Violence Unit

**Project description:** Our newly formed Domestic Violence Unit will provide a prosecutor to work in conjunction with our Domestic Violence Investigator and Victim-Witness Assistance Program, and devote 100% of her time to domestic violence cases. This DV Unit will be managed by the Solicitor-General, Matthew Krull, and the Chief Assistant Solicitor-General, David Holmes. This DV Unit will work together to be the victim's point of contact forming the needed relationship of trust and guidance throughout the case's prosecution. This focused team will decrease the time it takes to prosecute domestic violence cases by moving them more efficiently through the court system. This will increase the likelihood of convictions while simultaneously providing more contact and service referrals to female victims of domestic violence. The DV Unit's involvement will begin at bond hearings where the prosecutor, or investigator if needed, will attend bond hearings to request bond conditions and be proactive in obtaining information about the case and meeting with the victim. The prosecutor will explain the court process to the victim and give agency referrals including contact information for our Victim-Witness Assistance Program. Once a case arrives in our office and is assigned, it will go to the Victim-Witness Assistance Program to compile the victim contact information, send the victim impact statement, and victims compensation information within three days. Victims of sexual assault will be contacted by phone prior to receiving their victim impact statement to be informed of the case status and answer any questions that she may have. The case then will be given to the Domestic Violence

Investigator to contact the victim and begin our investigation. The investigator will review the file for any needed evidence, such as videos, 911 tapes, certified copies of convictions, medical records, and interview additional witnesses. The investigator will also track down any previous incidents of domestic violence, any involvement with DFCS, bond conditions, and evaluate any possible violations or threats. The Domestic Violence Investigator will remind victims of the Crime Victim Bill of Rights and provide referrals to service agencies such as the Domestic Violence Task Force and the SHARE House. Once the case has been investigated and evidence obtained, it will be given to the Domestic Violence Prosecutor for review. Within 10 days, the prosecutor will determine the appropriate charges. In making this determination, the prosecutor will evaluate whether to transfer the case to the District Attorney to be prosecuted as a felony or file as an accusation in State Court. The extent and seriousness of the injuries, use of weapon, criminal history, and past history of violence will all be considered when determining how to prosecute the case. Prior to the first court date, the prosecutor will contact the victim to begin to build a relationship and explain that they represent the State and the victim's interest in their case. The prosecutor will remind the victim of their responsibility to testify truthfully in court regarding the incident. This relationship will be imperative to carry out the goal of empowering and protecting the victim. Within 30 days of the accusation being filed, the case will be placed on an arraignment calendar. The victim will be notified of the arraignment date by the Victim-Witness Assistance Program who will meet with the prosecutor the Friday before the arraignment date to provide updates and possible victim issues. As the case further proceeds through the court system, the Prosecutor will be available to update the victim on the case status, negotiations, and request her opinion on possible dispositions. If a case is resolved in a negotiated guilty plea, the victim will be given the opportunity to give her input as regards to possible sentence to the prosecutor and/or speak to the Judge during the plea hearing. If the case proceeds to trial, the prosecutor, investigator, and the Victim-Witness Assistance Program will support the victim and make certain that our office adheres to the requirements of the victims' bill of rights by providing a separate, safe, and secure waiting area away from the defendant and his family. The team may also arrange for transportation if needed and provide the victim with a safety plan following her testimony. If the victim appears to be influenced by the defendant or a third party, the prosecutor may reiterate the victim's role and explain consequences if she refuses to abide by a subpoena and notify the court of possible witness intimidation. If the trial results in a guilty verdict, the victim will be assisted by the DV Unit to make certain that she may be heard in court regarding sentencing. The Domestic Violence Unit will meet every Friday with the Victim-Witness Assistance Program to discuss cases and any new related issues that may arise. This meeting will be a time to discuss needed evidence, special needs or requests that victims may have, and questions that need to be answered and conveyed back to the victim. By creating a DV Unit within the Solicitor-General's office, our presence in Douglas County's service community will increase. The new DV Unit will be an integral part of this community by serving on the Douglas County Domestic Violence Task Force, providing periodic domestic violence trainings to law enforcement, and being available to law enforcement while investigating crimes of domestic violence and sexual assault against women. The Domestic Violence Prosecutor will act as the Coordinator of Douglas County's newly formed Domestic Violence Lethality Assessment Program by acting as a mediator between law enforcement and involved service agencies. In order to maintain oversight of the project, the Domestic Violence Team which consists of the Domestic Violence Unit, the members of the Victim-Witness Assistance Program, the Chief Assistant Solicitor-General, and the Solicitor-General, will meet on a monthly basis to ensure that the projects goals are being met and to address any issue that may have arisen.

## Douglas County Task Force on Family Violence, Inc.

**Address:** P.O. Box 362 Douglasville, GA 30133-0362

**Program type:** Domestic Violence Programs; Sexual Assault Program

**Federal award:** 83499

**Match amount:** 0

**Counties served:** Douglas

**Project title:** DV-ALERT

**Project description:** DCTF provides for survivors of intimate violence client-centered advocacy which includes researching, identifying, and accessing resources related to obtaining or providing services and supports. DCTF provides services such as crisis intervention, safety planning, peer counseling, legal advocacy, personal advocacy, housing advocacy, and information/referral. The primary services include:

- Hotline
- Crisis intervention
- Hospital/clinic medical response
- Legal advocacy
- Support groups
- Education, and
- Outreach to underserved populations
- Crime Victim Compensation Assistance

. DCTF provides a 24-hour hotline for intimate violence survivors. Hotline staff members offer crisis guidance and advocacy to survivors. When survivors require emergent treatment, hotline staff members go with them to emergency rooms. DCTF Hotline coverage is coordinated by DCTF director who also provides full-time backup to hotline volunteers. DCTF director is responsible for recruiting, training, and supervising volunteers. One DCTF legal advocacy coordinator attends daily bond hearings to identify survivors while the director answers calls for legal advocacy at the office and meets with walk-ins. The legal advocate offers education on the survivors' role in the legal system. Survivors who become clients of DCTF are notified by the legal advocacy coordinator of hearings and required filings. The legal advocacy coordinator ensures that survivors have trained legal advocates (volunteer or staff) to accompany them to court to explain court procedures, and assists with obtaining protection orders. Clients in need of child support are placed in our fast-tracking system by contacting Douglas DCSS the same day we assist with the Temporary Protective Order. DCSS then processes their paperwork the same day. This allows the Temporary Protective Order and child support documents to be served at the same time. The legal advocacy coordinator assists survivors in applying for any victim's compensation services for which they are eligible. The legal advocacy coordinator then tracks the victim's compensation claim through the system to ensure timely and adequate reimbursement. Assistance to DCTF clients includes information provided in their primary languages, as well as culture and gender sensitive support to deal with the immediate trauma inherent in the intimate violence incident. All DCTF services are dispensed in the language or modality that the client is most comfortable using. The DCTF director coordinates program use of Low English Proficiency and Sensory Impairment (LEPSI) services. DCTF LEPSI services are provided through a language hotline as well as by volunteers. In addition the director serves as a back-up legal advocate when the full-time legal advocate is in superior court, bond hearing, or serving another victim. The director also answers crisis call, responds on sexual assault hospital accompaniment and serves as back up in court when the legal advocate has heavy case loads. DCTF regularly provides community outreach to victims of intimate violence. Volunteer training for domestic violence is held a minimum of four times annually. Volunteer training for sexual assault is also held a minimum of four times annually. DCTF participates in at least four community health events each year.

## F.A.I.T.H. in Rabun County, Inc.

**Address:** PO Box 1964 Clayton, GA 30525-0050

**Program type:** Sexual Assault Program

**Federal award:** 28323

**Match amount:** 0

**Counties served:** Habersham; Rabun; Stephens

**Project title:** FAITH's Sexual Assault Program

**Project description:** VAWA funds will provide victim of sexual assault with advocates trained to provide the following services (not limited to): crisis support, information & education about the legal process and victim rights; assist with victim's compensation applications, hospital, legal and court accompaniment; emergency food and clothing; forensic interviews; personal advocacy during forensic medical exams; legal advocacy; referrals for trauma focused therapy & support groups; assistance with victim's compensation applications; relocation assistance. The Advocate schedules and coordinates monthly SART meetings to review legal cases and address issues, obstacles and/or progress. The Advocate keeps the victim informed throughout the investigation and will accompany the victim with any court appearances to help explain the process and provide emotional support. If a victim is displaced, the advocate helps to find a safer place or utilizes the FAITH shelter. The advocate is also responsible for the collection and data entry of client demographic information and services provided into the MDTIS data management system. The use of MDTIS allows FAITH to collect information on victims that may have multiple victimization (e.g. sexual assault, domestic violence, adult victim of child molestation) experiences in order to provide more accurate data regarding the types of violence in our community. Annually, the Sexual Assault Advocate will receive a minimum of 25 hours of sexual assault training from a CJCC approved training source, state/local/web-based training. FAITH has 4 trained facilitators of the Stewards of Children "Darkness to Light 5-steps to protecting children" program who are actively training MDT/SART members, community professionals, etc. FAITH was the first agency in the state to reach Tipping Point in Rabun County with the goal of reaching Stephens County by 2017.

## Family Crisis Center of Walker, Dade, Catoosa & Chattooga Counties, Inc.

**Address:** PO Box 252 LaFayette, GA 30728-0252

**Program type:** Domestic Violence Programs

**Federal award:** 36861

**Match amount:** 10682

**Counties served:** Catoosa; Chattooga; Dade; Walker

**Project title:** Victim Services

**Project description:** The Family Crisis Center using funding for Outreach services. Our Outreach services include two Outreach Legal Advocates that service all four counties. Our Outreach Legal Advocates help clients obtain needed legal documentation such as temporary restraining orders and/or accompany clients to court as necessary. They also provide resources, financial aid, and legal guidance as needed. Our goal is to provide our communities with the best possible services to help them improve their circumstances to live a healthy and safe life.

## Four Points, Inc

**Address:** P O Box 1212 Lafayette, GA 30728-1212

**Program type:** Domestic Violence Programs

**Federal award:** 25000

**Match amount:** 0

**Counties served:** Catoosa; Chattooga; Dade; Walker

**Project title:** Domestic Violence Team Coordination

**Project description:** The funding for this project is directed for Domestic Violence Team Coordination for the Elder Abuse, Safety Audit, and Teen Dating Violence Teams to provide client services in coordination with interested community partners.

## Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence

**Address:** 114 New St. Suite B Decatur, GA 30030-4132

**Program type:** Discretionary

**Federal award:** 177561

**Match amount:** 59187

**Counties served:** Bacon; Bibb; Brantley; Charlton; Chatham; Clayton; Coffee; DeKalb; Fulton; Gwinnett; Habersham; Lowndes; Murray; Pierce; Rabun; Stephens; Ware; Whitfield

**Project title:** Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Project

**Project description:** Domestic violence-related deaths rarely occur without warning; in most cases, there have been repeated incidents of violence, indicators of increased risk of lethal violence, and opportunities for agencies, community members, and individuals to intervene before the death. Fatality review provides a lens for FRTs to review domestic violence-related homicides in their community, analyze gaps in system response, and strategize ways to improve their responses to prevent future such tragedies from happening. The Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Project (the Project), conducted jointly by the Georgia Commission on Family Violence (GCFV) and the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (GCADV), is Georgia's only statewide initiative to review domestic violence-related deaths. 2014 marks the 11th year that GCFV and GCADV will co-lead the Project with funding from CJCC. Under the guidance of two Project Coordinators, Jenny Aszman from GCFV and Taylor Tabb from GCADV, the project will enter into the second year of focusing on the implementation of recommendations in local communities while also seeking new solutions for reducing domestic violence fatalities in Georgia. Creating change is difficult and the recommendations that have come from fatality reviews seek to address problems that are multi-faceted and complex. The recommendations address the following areas of need: increased training for system response, information sharing across systems, increased communication between agencies, policy and protocol development, and community outreach about available services. Implementing these types of recommendations can be challenging; success requires buy-in from a wide range of systems. While many communities and FRTs have completed implementation efforts, others have struggled to implement meaningful change in their communities. The challenges most often cited are conflicts between agencies, funding challenges, and limited staff time. In response to these challenges, Project Coordinators will work closely with local communities on implementation efforts. Project Coordinators will provide support, training, and technical assistance for identifying recommendations, crafting a plan for implementing them in the community, and partnering to execute the plan. To increase accountability and clearly define expectations and goals, Project Coordinators will execute MOUs with communities and FRTs wishing to participate in the Project. The MOU will outline a 2 year commitment for both the FRT and the Project Coordinators. Communities will be strategically chosen based on the Project's current relationships with active FRTs and/or active FVTFs and the readiness of those groups. In the first year, FRTs will be required to identify 1-2 key findings they would like to address and develop a plan to implement the findings. FRTs who have already reviewed fatalities will re-review a compilation of past cases to identify areas of

need that have not been addressed. The Project Coordinators will gather all past case review documents and facilitate a meeting to review past findings and recommendations. The Project will continue to conduct a small number of new case reviews with communities each year. Project Coordinators from GCFV and GCADV will continue to train new FRTs, develop case reviews, and facilitate the fatality review process. In the second year, the Project Coordinators will work intensively with communities to execute their implementation plan. This support will include conducting research, serving as liaisons between FRTs and the National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative, regular meeting attendance, and funds to assist in implementation activities. Funding through the Project will adhere to allowable grant expenses and may include monies for trainings, consultants and printed materials. The Project Coordinators will produce an Annual Report which includes statewide statistical information, case narratives, and system-specific recommendations. The Annual Reports previously released by the Project have gained ever-increasing visibility (through media exposure, distribution to legislators, and statewide presentations) and have become a tool that is commonly cited and relied upon in numerous disciplines. The Annual Reports will include successes and challenges of implementation efforts in Georgia. The below table of proposed Project activities aims to address the needs of FRTs and communities in an effort to increase implementation of fatality review recommendations. The table provides a detailed outline of project activities, person(s) responsible, and the timeframe for which the activities are expected to be completed over 2 years of the grant cycle.

## Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence

**Address:** 114 New Street, Suite B Decatur, GA 30030-4132

**Program type:** Training

**Federal award:** 37500

**Match amount:** 12500

**Counties served:** Appling; Atkinson; Bacon; Baker; Baldwin; Banks; Barrow; Bartow; Ben Hill; Berrien; Bibb; Bleckley; Brantley; Brooks; Bryan; Bulloch; Burke; Butts; Calhoun; Camden; Candler; Carroll; Catoosa; Charlton; Chatham; Chattahoochee; Chattooga; Cherokee; Clarke; Clay; Clayton; Clinch; Cobb; Coffee; Colquitt; Columbia; Cook; Coweta; Crawford; Crisp; Dade; Dawson; Decatur; DeKalb; Dodge; Dooly; Dougherty; Douglas; Early; Echols; Effingham; Elbert; Emanuel; Evans; Fannin; Fayette; Floyd; Forsyth; Franklin; Fulton; Gilmer; Glascock; Glynn; Gordon; Grady; Greene; Gwinnett; Habersham; Hall; Hancock; Haralson; Harris; Hart; Heard; Henry; Houston; Irwin; Jackson; Jasper; Jeff Davis; Jefferson; Jenkins; Johnson; Jones; Lamar; Lanier; Laurens; Lee; Liberty; Lincoln; Long; Lowndes; Lumpkin; Macon; Madison; Marion; McDuffie; McIntosh; Meriwether; Miller; Mitchell; Monroe; Montgomery; Morgan; Murray; Muscogee; Newton; Oconee; Oglethorpe; Paulding; Peach; Pickens; Pierce; Pike; Polk; Pulaski; Putnam; Quitman; Rabun; Randolph; Richmond; Rockdale; Schley; Screven; Seminole; Spalding; Stephens; Stewart; Sumter; Talbot; Taliaferro; Tattnall; Taylor; Telfair; Terrell; Thomas; Tift; Toombs; Towns; Treutlen; Troup; Turner; Twiggs; Union; Upson; Walker; Walton; Ware; Warren; Washington; Wayne; Webster; Wheeler; White; Whitfield; Wilcox; Wilkes; Wilkinson; Worth

**Project title:** Domestic Violence Advocate Training Grant

**Project description:** The work of GCADV is focused heavily on the provision of training and educational resources to our Georgia DV programs that provide shelter and supportive services for victims of DV and their children. The outcome of this work results in quality and evolving improvement of services to victims delivered with a trauma-informed lens. DV advocates will gain new knowledge and increased skills in order to better serve victims of DV and programs will develop and continue practices consistent

with best practice in the field including confidentiality, coordinated accessible services, the promotion of trauma-informed services, culturally specific advocacy and more. DV advocates and programs will also become familiar with Federal, State and local requirements and laws that impact their work with DV victims. Christy Showalter, GCADV Director of Training and Membership (resume and job description attached) will manage the Training Project and is responsible for all curriculum development, training announcements, training site logistics and grant reporting. Trainings will be developed at the GCADV office located at 114 New Street, Suite B in Decatur, Georgia. During each grant year, GCADV will provide three Frontline Advocacy Trainings. Each Frontline Advocacy Training is three days in length for a total of 24 hours of in-person training per participant per training. In addition, GCADV will offer four in-person Specific and Advanced Issues trainings and a minimum of four Webinars. The specifics of each type of training are outlined below. GCADV's Frontline Advocacy Training is designed to educate and train new advocates on the basic principles of working with victims of DV. A variety of topics are addressed including: dynamics of domestic violence, barriers faced by victims, cultural competency, lethality indicators, safety planning, crisis intervention and crisis line work and advocacy foundations such as empowerment, ethics and confidentiality. These Frontline trainings are supported through existing GCADV funding sources; however, GCADV proposes to use CJCC-VAWA funding to support travel scholarships for participants. Frontline Advocacy Trainings are three-day trainings at eight hours each day for a total of 24 hours per training. Training will be held in different geographic areas throughout the state and travel and accommodation scholarships will be offered in order to facilitate ease of access to advocates from outlying areas and as not to burden individual programs with added expenses. Advanced Issues Trainings are designed to expand the knowledge-base of DV advocates beyond the information provided in the Frontline Advocate Trainings. Advanced Issues Trainings hone in on specific subjects, questions or concerns that face DV victims and advocates. These trainings provide concrete tools and practical strategies for addressing these challenges while providing services and advocacy based on current best practice in the field. These trainings are one day each and last for approximately six hours each. Current training priorities include: Legal Advocacy, Trauma Informed Programming, Documentation, Data Collection, Outcome Strategies, Confidentiality, Child Advocacy, Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Helping Victims Access Victims Compensation, Accessibility and Underserved Communities. Trainings are delivered by Christy Showalter, GCADV Director of Training and Membership, other GCADV staff as needed and state and national experts from the DV field. GCADV's Webinar Trainings offer internet-based trainings for topics suitable for this type of presentation delivery. These trainings typically last for one-and-a-half to two hours. Topics will be taken from the training priorities identified above, other topics as requested by advocates and directors, those identified as critical or those identified through needs assessments.

## Georgia Legal Services Program, Inc.

**Address:** 233 12th Street, Ste. 910, P.O. Box 176 Columbus, GA 31902-0176

**Program type:** Legal Services Provider

**Federal award:** 28249

**Match amount:** 0

**Counties served:** Chattahoochee; Harris; Marion; Muscogee; Talbot; Taylor

**Project title:** Domestic Violence Project (VAWA)

**Project description:** The GLSP Domestic Violence Project will focus on the emergency civil legal needs of low income victims of family violence in the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit. Family Violence threatens

the security and stability of families at all economic levels. The physical abuse of family members by another member, as well as the emotional and physical harm to children in such homes, calls for heightened awareness and a fast response by the judicial system. The intervention of lawyers in obtaining judicial remedies, such as orders of protection can be life-saving. The GLSP Domestic Violence Project shall offer that vital assistance to low income victims of family violence in the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit. The project will focus not only on the individual client needs but on systemic responses and issues related to domestic violence. In close-knit rural communities served by the project, poverty is high and there are few services available compared to more urban areas of the State. The GLSP Columbus Domestic Violence Project is one of the few resources available to advocate for victims in this region of the state, and the only one that provides for representation by attorneys. The project will work to make court processes more user-friendly and to mitigate barriers to child support, spousal support and retaining custody for victims of family violence. Beyond protective orders, the priorities for the project will be securing economic assistance and maintaining housing. The project will provide training for non-attorney advocates to help them assist victims to petition for protective orders. We will work with law enforcement, social service agencies, the medical community and other community resources to coordinate a holistic approach to meeting the needs of family violence victims and their dependents in the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit.

## Georgia Mountain Women's Center, Inc.

**Address:** PO Box 833 Cornelia, GA 30531+5340

**Program type:** Training

**Federal award:** 23100

**Match amount:** 7700

**Counties served:** Habersham; Stephens; White

**Project title:** Improved System Response for Victims of Domestic Violence

**Project description:** The goal of this project is to strengthen the community and criminal justice system response to victims of domestic violence and ensure appropriate intervention and referral strategies are practiced. The following activities will be conducted: 1) coordinate and conduct law enforcement trainings that focus on evidence gathering, protective orders, stalking, elder abuse, culturally competent responses to non-English speaking victims, Victims Compensation program, lethality assessments, and GMWC services and referral options. 2) coordinate and conduct individualized trainings with court personnel, judges, and prosecutors that focus on best practices around domestic violence dynamics, assessing for lethality, firearm removal, full faith and credit, protective orders, protective order registry, Family Violence Intervention Program resources and compliance, immigration protections, and GMWC services and referral options. 3) coordinate and conduct individualized trainings with probation personnel that focus on best practices around domestic violence dynamics, assessing for lethality, firearm removal, Family Violence Intervention Program resources and compliance, and GMWC services and referral options. 4) develop protocols with law enforcement, state court, superior court, and probation personnel within the Mountain Judicial Circuit that enforce and monitor the removal of firearms from perpetrators that have been convicted of family violence or are sanctioned through a Protective Order. 5) develop protocol with Family Violence Intervention Program providers and state court, superior court, and probation personnel to monitor FVIP compliance and improve class completion. 6) coordinate and conduct trainings for community members, employers, healthcare

professionals, school officials, members of the faith community, and social service agencies on how to identify, respond to, and refer victims to services.

## Georgia Network to End Sexual Assault (GNESA)

**Address:** 817 West Peachtree Street, Suite 200 Atlanta, GA 30308-1196

**Program type:** Training

**Federal award:** 120137

**Match amount:** 40046

**Counties served:** Appling; Atkinson; Bacon; Baker; Baldwin; Banks; Barrow; Bartow; Ben Hill; Berrien; Bibb; Bleckley; Brantley; Brooks; Bryan; Bulloch; Burke; Butts; Calhoun; Camden; Candler; Carroll; Catoosa; Charlton; Chatham; Chattahoochee; Chattooga; Cherokee; Clarke; Clay; Clayton; Clinch; Cobb; Coffee; Colquitt; Columbia; Cook; Coweta; Crawford; Crisp; Dade; Dawson; Decatur; DeKalb; Dodge; Dooly; Dougherty; Douglas; Early; Echols; Effingham; Elbert; Emanuel; Evans; Fannin; Fayette; Floyd; Forsyth; Franklin; Fulton; Gilmer; Glascock; Glynn; Gordon; Grady; Greene; Gwinnett; Habersham; Hall; Hancock; Haralson; Harris; Hart; Heard; Henry; Houston; Irwin; Jackson; Jasper; Jeff Davis; Jefferson; Jenkins; Johnson; Jones; Lamar; Lanier; Laurens; Lee; Liberty; Lincoln; Long; Lowndes; Lumpkin; Macon; Madison; Marion; McDuffie; McIntosh; Meriwether; Miller; Mitchell; Monroe; Montgomery; Morgan; Murray; Muscogee; Newton; Oconee; Oglethorpe; Paulding; Peach; Pickens; Pierce; Pike; Polk; Pulaski; Putnam; Quitman; Rabun; Randolph; Richmond; Rockdale; Schley; Screven; Seminole; Spalding; Stephens; Stewart; Sumter; Talbot; Taliaferro; Tattnall; Taylor; Telfair; Terrell; Thomas; Tift; Toombs; Towns; Treutlen; Troup; Turner; Twiggs; Union; Upson; Walker; Walton; Ware; Warren; Washington; Wayne; Webster; Wheeler; White; Whitfield; Wilcox; Wilkes; Wilkinson; Worth

**Project title:** Training

**Project description:** GNESA intends to continue funding our on-going law enforcement trainings statewide in addition to other criminal justice focused training and technical assistance regarding sexual violence. Currently GNESA provide through CJCC funding 6 to 10 law enforcement trainings per year. These trainings are either a one day basic training or a two day advanced training. These trainings are intended to strengthen the officers abilities to successfully investigating sexual assault cases using a victim-centered approach.

## Georgia Public Safety Training Center

**Address:** 1000 Indian Springs Drive Forsyth, GA 31029-8836

**Program type:** Training

**Federal award:** 138990

**Match amount:** 46330

**Counties served:** Appling; Atkinson; Bacon; Baker; Baldwin; Banks; Barrow; Bartow; Ben Hill; Berrien; Bibb; Bleckley; Brantley; Brooks; Bryan; Bulloch; Burke; Butts; Calhoun; Camden; Candler; Carroll; Catoosa; Charlton; Chatham; Chattahoochee; Chattooga; Cherokee; Clarke; Clay; Clayton; Clinch; Cobb; Coffee; Colquitt; Columbia; Cook; Coweta; Crawford; Crisp; Dade; Dawson; Decatur; DeKalb; Dodge; Dooly; Dougherty; Douglas; Early; Echols; Effingham; Elbert; Emanuel; Evans; Fannin; Fayette; Floyd; Forsyth; Franklin; Fulton; Gilmer; Glascock; Glynn; Gordon; Grady; Greene; Gwinnett; Habersham; Hall; Hancock; Haralson; Harris; Hart; Heard; Henry; Houston; Irwin; Jackson; Jasper; Jeff Davis; Jefferson; Jenkins; Johnson; Jones; Lamar; Lanier; Laurens; Lee; Liberty; Lincoln; Long; Lowndes; Lumpkin; Macon; Madison; Marion; McDuffie; McIntosh; Meriwether; Miller; Mitchell; Monroe; Montgomery; Morgan;

Murray; Muscogee; Newton; Oconee; Oglethorpe; Paulding; Peach; Pickens; Pierce; Pike; Polk; Pulaski; Putnam; Quitman; Rabun; Randolph; Richmond; Rockdale; Schley; Screven; Seminole; Spalding; Stephens; Stewart; Sumter; Talbot; Taliaferro; Tattnall; Taylor; Telfair; Terrell; Thomas; Tift; Toombs; Towns; Treutlen; Troup; Turner; Twiggs; Union; Upson; Walker; Walton; Ware; Warren; Washington; Wayne; Webster; Wheeler; White; Whitfield; Wilcox; Wilkes; Wilkinson; Worth

**Project title:** STOP VAWA Grant Program

**Project description:** The Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) and the Georgia Peace Officers Standards (P.O.S.T.) have long recognized the need for consistent statewide response by law enforcement agencies to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. In accordance with the mandate set forth in Title 35 of Georgia Code (O.C.G.A 35-1-10), GPSTC has consistently provided training that not only meets, but exceeds the expectations of the public safety community. The proposed training initiative will result in two training programs that will provide a State sanctioned P.O.S.T. certified training for law enforcement professionals that respond to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence crimes. This training is also relevant and available to all state prosecutors and other court personnel whose duties involve the prosecution of domestic violence and sexual assault cases. This training has produced a victim centered approach to investigating both sexual assault and domestic violence cases and is focused on the following course objectives: 1) improved response to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence; 2) improved on-scene investigation skills; 3) enhanced utilization of sexual assault and domestic violence service providers; 4) improved evidence gathering and preservation; and 5) enhanced case preparation skills. By providing consistent statewide training which sets a standard for appropriate law enforcement response to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, GPSTC anticipates improved response to all victims, increased offender accountability, and increased utilization of services by victims. The first course developed by the GPSTC for a direct delivery format is a 40-hour course that will be presented at the GPSTC facilities. This training will involve classroom lecture, video training in class, and a series of practical applications. GPSTC has contracted with consultants who are experts in the field of sexual assault and domestic violence to ensure only the highest quality, most up to date training is offered in this course. Administration of all grant paperwork and financial accountability of the grant will be the responsibility of the GPSTC staff. The Law Enforcement Officers Response to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault cases will be taught by instructors with C & M Consulting. Both courses will be coordinated by a Public Safety Training Instructor within the Georgia Police Academy. The course coordinator will be responsible for all scheduling requirements. Law Enforcement Officers Response to Domestic Violence: This course includes training on the following topics: psychology of victimology; dynamics of abuse; psychology of abusers; the effects of family violence on children; family violence law; on-scene investigations; report writing; case building; courtroom presentation; officer safety; community based intervention; and civil remedies to family violence. These blocks of instruction are instructed by subject matter experts with experience as direct service providers and advocates in the field of family violence incidents. We propose to conduct nine onsite classes. The course is one week or 40 hours long. The course is scheduled to be taught on the following dates at GPSTC in Forsyth: • January 12th-16th, 2015 • February 9th-13th, 2015 • March 9th-13th, 2015 • April 13th-17th, 2015 • May 11th-15th, 2015 • Dates for four courses in the latter part of the State fiscal year will be determined during the normal scheduling period. The course is also scheduled to be taught on the following dates at GPSTC Regional Academies located throughout the state of Georgia. We propose to conduct the following offsite classes: • January 26th-30th, 2015 at Athens • March 23rd-27th, 2015 at Cherokee • April 20th-24th,

2015 at Savannah • May 18th-22nd, 2015 at Tifton • Dates for three courses in the latter part of the State fiscal year will be determined during the normal scheduling period. Sexual Assault Investigations The investigations portion of the training includes the following topics: on-scene investigation, interviews and interrogation tactics, case management, and processing victim evidence. The DNA evidence and other crime scene processing training includes training applicable to the collection, documentation, preservation and testing of evidence related to sexual assault crime. The legal portion of training includes instruction on sexual assault law, case building, and courtroom presentation. This course is scheduled to be taught four times during the calendar year. This course offers one week and 40 hours of training. The course is scheduled to be taught on the following dates at GPSTC in Forsyth: • February 9th-13th, 2015 • May 4th-8th, 2015 • Dates for two courses in the latter part of the State fiscal year will be determined during the normal scheduling period. These training courses are designed to support law enforcement response to victims of sexually and domestic violence based offenses, incorporating a victim-centered focus. Many sexual assault and domestic violence cases are not handled properly resulting in additional trauma to the victim, offenders not being held accountable and police departments becoming the focus of bad publicity. The training will emphasize a team approach using a multi-disciplinary model to investigate these violent crimes. Basic and advanced techniques learned will give the attendee the necessary tools to ensure a complete and thorough investigation.

## Grady Memorial Hospital Corporation d/b/a Grady Health System

**Address:** 80 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE Atlanta, GA 30303-0303

**Program type:** Sexual Assault Program

**Federal award:** 69122

**Match amount:** 0

**Counties served:** DeKalb; Fulton

**Project title:** Victims Services

**Project description:** This grant will fund 1.4 staff people to provide crisis intervention, medical accompaniment, information and referral, legal advocacy and crisis hot line coverage. VAWA Funded Projects Activities: A. Provide hospital (Grady) accompaniment to survivors presented in the ER. B. Provide advocacy services to survivors in the ER and legal community. C. Provide volunteer training to persons interested in volunteering for at least 12 months with the Center.

## Gwinnett Sexual Assault Center, Inc.

**Address:** PO Box 1329 Duluth, GA 30096-0024

**Program type:** Child Advocacy Center (CAC); Legal Services Provider; Sexual Assault Program

**Federal award:** 61461

**Match amount:** 20487

**Counties served:** Gwinnett; Rockdale

**Project title:** GSAC Georgia Statewide SANE/SAFE Training

**Project description:** These funds allow GSAC-CAC to provide adolescent and adult SANE/SAFE training to qualified and eligible licensed medical professionals. Training may include: 40-hour didactic classroom training, specialty one-day advanced SANE/SAFE training, technical assistance, and support with clinical competencies, SART development, and other related SANE/SART support and assistance as possible.

## Habersham County Board of Commissioners

**Address:** 555 Monroe Street Unit 20 Clarkesville, GA 30523+7815

**Program type:** Law Enforcement

**Federal award:** 58272

**Match amount:** 19424

**Counties served:** Habersham

**Project title:** Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Investigation Unit

**Project description:** The mission of this project is to ensure appropriate criminal justice system responses that result in increased victim safety and perpetrator accountability outcomes. The goal is that through superior investigations, protocol development, training, and referral strategies, Habersham County will experience increased victim safety and offender accountability. The Sergeant and Investigator within the Habersham County Sheriff's Office Special Victims Unit will conduct thorough investigations on cases of domestic violence and sexual assault committed against individuals age 12 and older and ensure the evidence and documentation is prepared for trial. The Sergeant and Investigator will also work closely with the victims and local victim assistance programs to assist them in securing the emergency assistance needed to enhance safety. Specifically, the Sergeant and Investigator perform the following activities: conduct original in-depth investigation of crime, conduct follow-up interviews with witnesses to crime, gather physical evidence in preparation for trial, maintain chain of custody for physical evidence, prepare written reports detailing the original investigation and any follow-up that occurs, refer victims to local victim assistance agencies and act as liaison between the Sheriff's Office and the victim assistance programs, testify at Grand Jury or trial proceedings as requested, locate missing witnesses or suspects and serve subpoenas to last minute witnesses in preparation for trial, assist in preparing victim and witnesses for testimony, transport victims to local victim assistance agencies when necessary, and transport victim or witnesses to trial if Victim's Services Coordinator within District Attorney's office is unable to do so. In addition, the Sergeant and Investigator will work toward improved system responses by collaborating with Georgia Mountain Women's Center, Inc. to develop written protocols with all seven law enforcement agencies, State court, Superior court, and probation personnel within Habersham County that enforces and monitors the removal of firearms in cases of domestic violence.

## Henry County Board of Commissioners/Henry County Police Department

**Address:** 108 S. Zack Hinton Parkway McDonough, GA 30253-3353

**Program type:** Law Enforcement

**Federal award:** 70000

**Match amount:** 23333

**Counties served:** Henry

**Project title:** Henry County VAWA Alliance

**Project description:** VAWA funds will be used to pay partial salaries of 3 detectives in the Special Victims Unit. Their VAWA-funded time will be dedicated solely to investigating violent crimes against women, training in VAWA-related best practices for general and at-risk populations, outreaching to victim populations and offering referrals for service, and working with other members of the VAWA Alliance to assist victims. VAWA-funded staff are English proficient only, but MOU Stakeholders encompass two or more persons who are native-Spanish speakers. The Henry STOP VAWA Alliance has the clear commitment of the multi-disciplinary team of (Henry County-all) Board of Commission Chairman Tommy

Smith, Senior Superior Court Judge Arch McGarity, District Attorney Jim Wright, Solicitor General John A. ("Trea) Pipkin III, Police Chief Keith Nichols, Senior Services Director Diane Reed, Haven House Executive Director Marjorie Lacy, Southern Crescent Sexual Assault Center Director Gayla Nobles, and Senior Services Director Diane Reed to execute an effective coordinated community response (CCR). Stakeholders have been involved in a formal MOU since October 2009 and have seen great successes in arrests and prosecutions and victims' needs being addressed and met over the years of their partnership. NON-GRANT FUNDED multidisciplinary efforts include: The LEP stakeholder representatives for the District Attorney's and Solicitor's Offices are victim advocates, certified interpreters, and native-Spanish speakers. Ms. Vilma Valdivia and Ms. Guadalupe Dunlap, respectively, will work with the Haven House and Southern Crescent Sexual Assault Center to support victims applying for Victims' Compensation to the Georgia Crime Victims Compensation Program, administered by CJCC. Ms. Valdivia and Ms. Dunlap will provide feedback on VAWA education and training superior and state court victim advocates may need, or be able to provide to other stakeholders. They will attend regional/national trainings, and participate in stakeholder discussions on best practices. Other stakeholders are the Henry County Court System, the Haven House, the Southern Crescent Sexual Assault Center, and the HC Senior Services will collectively participate in meetings, both attend and provide relevant training for/to the target populations, design safety plans, help obtain TPOs, accompany victims to court, etc., as needed. Henry County judges and prosecutors will, respectively, continue to enhance in-house trainings with proper court protocol and offer guidance on types of evidence needed to successfully prosecute VAWA cases. These multiple facilitations are in direct support of the Alliance's mission to improve the criminal justice system's response to violence against LEP and Elder women and other VAWA victims.

## Houston County Board of Commissioners

**Address:** 201 North Perry Parkway Perry, GA 31069-9275

**Program type:** Prosecution

**Federal award:** 50000

**Match amount:** 16667

**Counties served:** Houston

**Project title:** Prosecution

**Project description:** The Assistant District Attorney and Investigator positions funded by VAWA are an essential part of the prosecution of crimes of domestic violence in Houston County. The Special Victims Unit (SVU) is responsible for internal supervision of domestic violence cases. Currently our VAWA funded positions are held by Mark Anthony, ADA and Beverly Robinson, Investigator. District Attorney George H. Hartwig III oversees all aspects of the prosecution of violent crimes, collaborating with several agencies to assure that violent criminals are dealt with properly and that victims of these crimes receive the assistance and support that they need.

## International Women's House, Inc.

**Address:** PO Box 1327 Decatur, GA 30031-1327

**Program type:** Domestic Violence Programs

**Federal award:** 60065

**Match amount:** 0

**Counties served:** DeKalb

**Project title:** VAWA-DV Victims Services

**Project description:** The project funds one full-time victims' advocate with responsibility for ensuring that victims receive all core services. The advocate accompanies victims to court, provides supportive services/counseling, arranges medical appointments, and makes referrals to appropriate community resources. The funds will pay advocate's salary + benefits, provide food and supplies and transportation for victims both in shelter and outreach. Additional funds will be used for office supplies and utilities.

## NOA'S ARK INC.

**Address:** PO BOX 685 DAHLONEGA, GA 30533-0012

**Program type:** Domestic Violence Programs; Legal Services Provider

**Federal award:** 86990

**Match amount:** 0

**Counties served:** Dawson; Lumpkin

**Project title:** NOA'S ARK INC. VICTIM SERVICES

**Project description:** NOA's two full-time Legal Advocates will continue to review police reports and contact victims immediately after incidents of family violence or domestic violence occurs to offer them assistance. The Legal advocates will continue to be housed in the Sheriff's Office of the primary service areas that they serve. Advocates will interview victims privately, completing personalized safety plans, lethality and other assessments and service plans for each victim served. The intake, initial assessment and service plan development process takes approximately two hours. The legal advocates also review police reports for accuracy and completeness; they follow up with victims to ensure safety, offer them assistance in obtaining a Temporary Protective Order, provide information on community resources and encourage them to access shelter services. In some cases, advocates accompany domestic violence investigators to victims' homes to provide immediate victim assistance. They may also provide emergency financial assistance and access to legal protection. The advocates will function as liaisons between law enforcement and NOA, advocating for the victim at all times. Collaboration between a legal advocate and the domestic violence investigator provides the best level of assistance and support as the victim goes through the initial interview process, during the process of photographing her injuries and as her case is prepared for prosecution. NOA legal advocates are trained to assist victims with filing temporary protection orders and assist with initial ex-parte petitions for protective or restraining orders and contempt orders when TPOs are violated. They assist with "no contact" constraints and "stay away" bond conditions and assist victims with obtaining warrants for offender arrests. Their ongoing involvement may facilitate the arrest of perpetrators when bond conditions are violated. Other project activities carried out by NOA legal advocates include: assisting victims with property retrieval, providing transportation to court proceedings, accompanying victims and advocating for them during criminal justice activities and assisting with other legal issues arising from the domestic violence. Regular, ongoing information sharing is key to the collaboration enabled by NOA's Legal Advocacy Program. To that end, in-service trainings will be provided at both the Lumpkin and Dawson County Sheriff's Offices. Training sessions will generally focus on such topics as increasing officers' understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence, safety issues in responding to domestic violence calls and resources offered to female victims through NOA. A legal advocate will also facilitate regular meetings of Coordinated Community Response (CCR) task force meetings in Lumpkin and Dawson counties. These meetings help strengthen community response to domestic violence and provide opportunities to educate other social service agencies about domestic violence and NOA's services. In addition to

meeting and maintaining core Legal Advocacy Program services, NOA will enhance its services to better assist victims in 1) gathering the requisite documentation to accompany Victim's Compensation Applications, 2) completing Victim's Compensation applications and 3) following up with the CJCC Victims' Compensation Program.

## Oconee County Board of Commissioners

**Address:** P.O. Box 1226 Athens, GA 30603-1226

**Program type:** Law Enforcement

**Federal award:** 70000

**Match amount:** 23333

**Counties served:** Clarke; Oconee

**Project title:** Special Victims Unit - Law Enforcement

**Project description:** The Western Judicial Circuit (WJC) District Attorney's (DAs) Office plans to address and reduce violence against women including Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, Domestic related homicides, and Human Trafficking in our community through continuation and expansion of our Special Victims Unit (SVU), which will result in continued reduction in our homicides, higher conviction rates, quicker dispositions, more offenders monitored on pretrial release, quicker response to bond violations, more firearms removed from offenders under TPOs and/or sentences, and continued community response towards these issues. The SVU team currently consists of 3 Assistant District Attorneys (ADAs) assigned to each of the 3 Superior Courts and 1.5 Investigators. The SVU was first created in the DA's Office in 2005 and consisted of an ADA, an Investigator and a Victim Advocate (VA). A rapidly increasing caseload quickly became more than the SVU could keep up with. The SVU did not have the staff to handle all of the cases that qualified as SVU in each of the three courtrooms and two counties which lead to frequent conflicts with the Judge's scheduling. The number of cases pending trial continued to grow specifically the SVU cases. During this time period there was also the reduction in funding policy in place through CJCC for Law Enforcement and Prosecution subgrantees. In 2009, the funding was eliminated altogether for the circuit and we, in essence, did not have a functioning SVU for almost a year. During the same time, our city experienced a drastic increase in DV related deaths reaching 10 homicides and three murder/suicides in 2009 and there was a backlog of nearly 300 SVU cases pending trial. The majority of cases were over 2-3 years old. In 2010, we received a Recovery Act and Regular VAWA grant to specifically address the backlog of cases through the use of extra ADAs and Investigators with both counties also agreeing to provide much needed personnel funding. Each Judge provided extra trial weeks and Senior Judges were used to get the cases to trial with specially set calendars of only SVU cases. By March 2011, all but about 10 of those original 300 pending cases had been disposed of and the average time between arrest and disposition of SVU cases had been reduced to around 14 months. The most dramatic effect, however, was a reduction in DV homicides. There have only been a total of 2 since 2009 and there were none at all in two of those years. The expansion of our original one ADA SVU team in to all three of the Superior courts has proven effective in reducing the homicide rate and length of time cases are pending. Having a special trained, experienced ADA handle the SVU cases in the courtroom is the best way to ensure that women are protected and offenders held accountable in our community. The Investigators provide much needed assistance by gathering all history between the parties that can be used to show the defendants propensity for violent acts therefore enhancing prosecution and increasing sentence length. We seek to maintain our current three SVU ADAs (1 is county funded) and our SVU Investigators. The cases come to the SVU Intake VA and are

reviewed for history and victim contact is made within 72 hours. If needed, the VA responds to the scene and/or hospital in the most serious cases and, responds to the scene of all homicide cases. All victims will be given a Victims Compensation application and assistance to complete the application. There is usually a Special Bond hearing set in the case within 2 to 3 days. The victim meets with the ADA and VA to discuss safety issues. A recommendation is made to the Judge for either no bond if there is a significant history and special conditions are added to the defendant's who will receive a bond. The defendants are most always ordered to have no contact with the victim while the case is pending and an ankle monitor can be ordered if needed to ensure victim safety. A copy of the bond order is given to the victim, sent to law enforcement to place a flag in the dispatch system. The Pretrial Release Officer (PRO) at probation is notified if there is a GPS ankle monitor ordered. The PRO works with the Investigators and VA in the SVU to obtain any information needed on the victim such as address and work place to add exclusion zones that will notify the PRO if the offender enters those zones and is thereby too close in proximity to the victim. The PROs closely monitor the defendants for any violations of the bond conditions and remain on-call. The ankle monitor system will notify the PRO 24 hours a day through email, text message and/or an automated call should the defendant be outside of his zone, enters and exclusion zone and/or violates curfew. When any violation occurs, the PRO will immediately respond and arrest the defendant using the GPS to track his exact location. All SVU bonds have an immediate "pick up" order in them so that the PRO can arrest the defendant without immediately before having a hearing to revoke bond. The PRO notifies the case ADA that there has been a violation and the revocation motion is filed that day. The SVU VA will notify the victim of the violation and all other court hearings. Events will be added in to the Tracker to monitor the frequency of bond revocations filed and the number granted by the Judge by the SVU Investigator and/or the SVU VA. All cases are assigned to a Judge upon arrest in our circuit. The case, and therefore, the ADA and SVU Investigator will remain with that case from arrest to disposition. In 2006, our community developed a Family Protection Center (FPC) which provides a "one stop shop" for victims to receive services from all of our community partners which has lead to a much greater collaborative effort in reducing violence against women. The SVU will continue to be a vital part of the FPC and Fatality Review Team and try to implement recommendations from the team. In order to better address the most troubling perpetrators of domestic violence, a subcommittee of the Athens-Clarke County Domestic Violence Task Force initiated what has come to be known as the Community Accountability Protocol (CAP). The CAP program facilitates vital sharing of information between the prosecutor's office, probation officers, treatment providers, and victim advocates, including the Family Violence Clinic and Project Safe. The program helps to ensure that the most accurate and detailed information available is shared so that appropriate, case specific measures can be taken. The coordinated response by the CAP program simultaneously promotes offender accountability and victim safety. We will work with our community partners to develop a policy / procedure for removal of firearms from offenders under conditions of bond, TPOs and/or misdemeanor DV sentences within the first year of the project. Currently removal is requested only if we are made aware of the offender having a firearm. We will be able to track the number of firearms removed through an event entered in Tracker which will be entered by the SVU Investigator, searched and reported to CJCC. The SVU will be able to implement the protocol the second year which will provide for greater victim safety by removal of more firearms from misdemeanor and TPO offenders. The SVU teams will work with their Judges to reduce the time between arrest and disposition of the case by continuing to request additional trial calendars from their Judges and by bringing in Senior Judges. The goal would be to dispose of cases within less than 1 year vs. the current

average of 14 months. Each ADA, having their own Investigator, would assist with this allowing the team to focus on the cases from the onset so that they can be prepared for trial immediately making a greater likelihood for an early plea agreement. This will contribute to a conviction rate which we seek to increase to a minimum of 85% across all SVU cases.

## Oconee County Board of Commissioners

**Address:** P.O. Box 1226 Athens, GA 30603-1226

**Program type:** Prosecution

**Federal award:** 70000

**Match amount:** 23333

**Counties served:** Clarke; Oconee

**Project title:** Special Victims Unit - Prosecution

**Project description:** The Western Judicial Circuit (WJC) District Attorney's (DAs) Office plans to address and reduce violence against women including Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, Domestic related homicides, and Human Trafficking in our community through continuation and expansion of our Special Victims Unit (SVU), which will result in continued reduction in our homicides, higher conviction rates, quicker dispositions, more offenders monitored on pretrial release, quicker response to bond violations, more firearms removed from offenders under TPOs and/or sentences, and continued community response towards these issues. The SVU team currently consists of 3 Assistant District Attorneys (ADAs) assigned to each of the 3 Superior Courts and 1.5 Investigators. The SVU was first created in the DA's Office in 2005 and consisted of an ADA, an Investigator and a Victim Advocate (VA). A rapidly increasing caseload quickly became more than the SVU could keep up with. The SVU did not have the staff to handle all of the cases that qualified as SVU in each of the three courtrooms and two counties which lead to frequent conflicts with the Judge's scheduling. The number of cases pending trial continued to grow specifically the SVU cases. During this time period there was also the reduction in funding policy in place through CJCC for Law Enforcement and Prosecution subgrantees. In 2009, the funding was eliminated altogether for the circuit and we, in essence, did not have a functioning SVU for almost a year. During the same time, our city experienced a drastic increase in DV related deaths reaching 10 homicides and three murder/suicides in 2009 and there was a backlog of nearly 300 SVU cases pending trial. The majority of cases were over 2-3 years old. In 2010, we received a Recovery Act and Regular VAWA grant to specifically address the backlog of cases through the use of extra ADAs and Investigators with both counties also agreeing to provide much needed personnel funding. Each Judge provided extra trial weeks and Senior Judges were used to get the cases to trial with specially set calendars of only SVU cases. By March 2011, all but about 10 of those original 300 pending cases had been disposed of and the average time between arrest and disposition of SVU cases had been reduced to around 14 months. The most dramatic effect, however, was a reduction in DV homicides. There have only been a total of 2 since 2009 and there were none at all in two of those years. The expansion of our original one ADA SVU team in to all three of the Superior courts has proven effective in reducing the homicide rate and length of time cases are pending. Having a special trained, experienced ADA handle the SVU cases in the courtroom is the best way to ensure that women are protected and offenders held accountable in our community. The Investigators provide much needed assistance by gathering all history between the parties that can be used to show the defendants propensity for violent acts therefore enhancing prosecution and increasing sentence length. We seek to maintain our current three SVU ADAs (1 is county funded) and our SVU Investigators. The cases come to the SVU Intake VA and are

reviewed for history and victim contact is made within 72 hours. If needed, the VA responds to the scene and/or hospital in the most serious cases and, responds to the scene of all homicide cases. All victims will be given a Victims Compensation application and assistance to complete the application. There is usually a Special Bond hearing set in the case within 2 to 3 days. The victim meets with the ADA and VA to discuss safety issues. A recommendation is made to the Judge for either no bond if there is a significant history and special conditions are added to the defendant's who will receive a bond. The defendants are most always ordered to have no contact with the victim while the case is pending and an ankle monitor can be ordered if needed to ensure victim safety. A copy of the bond order is given to the victim, sent to law enforcement to place a flag in the dispatch system. The Pretrial Release Officer (PRO) at probation is notified if there is a GPS ankle monitor ordered. The PRO works with the Investigators and VA in the SVU to obtain any information needed on the victim such as address and work place to add exclusion zones that will notify the PRO if the offender enters those zones and is thereby too close in proximity to the victim. The PROs closely monitor the defendants for any violations of the bond conditions and remain on-call. The ankle monitor system will notify the PRO 24 hours a day through email, text message and/or an automated call should the defendant be outside of his zone, enters and exclusion zone and/or violates curfew. When any violation occurs, the PRO will immediately respond and arrest the defendant using the GPS to track his exact location. All SVU bonds have an immediate "pick up" order in them so that the PRO can arrest the defendant without immediately before having a hearing to revoke bond. The PRO notifies the case ADA that there has been a violation and the revocation motion is filed that day. The SVU VA will notify the victim of the violation and all other court hearings. Events will be added in to the Tracker to monitor the frequency of bond revocations filed and the number granted by the Judge by the SVU Investigator and/or the SVU VA. All cases are assigned to a Judge upon arrest in our circuit. The case, and therefore, the ADA and SVU Investigator will remain with that case from arrest to disposition. In 2006, our community developed a Family Protection Center (FPC) which provides a "one stop shop" for victims to receive services from all of our community partners which has lead to a much greater collaborative effort in reducing violence against women. The SVU will continue to be a vital part of the FPC and Fatality Review Team and try to implement recommendations from the team. In order to better address the most troubling perpetrators of domestic violence, a subcommittee of the Athens-Clarke County Domestic Violence Task Force initiated what has come to be known as the Community Accountability Protocol (CAP). The CAP program facilitates vital sharing of information between the prosecutor's office, probation officers, treatment providers, and victim advocates, including the Family Violence Clinic and Project Safe. The program helps to ensure that the most accurate and detailed information available is shared so that appropriate, case specific measures can be taken. The coordinated response by the CAP program simultaneously promotes offender accountability and victim safety. We will work with our community partners to develop a policy / procedure for removal of firearms from offenders under conditions of bond, TPOs and/or misdemeanor DV sentences within the first year of the project. Currently removal is requested only if we are made aware of the offender having a firearm. We will be able to track the number of firearms removed through an event entered in Tracker which will be entered by the SVU Investigator, searched and reported to CJCC. The SVU will be able to implement the protocol the second year which will provide for greater victim safety by removal of more firearms from misdemeanor and TPO offenders. The SVU teams will work with their Judges to reduce the time between arrest and disposition of the case by continuing to request additional trial calendars from their Judges and by bringing in Senior Judges. The goal would be to dispose of cases within less than 1 year vs. the current

average of 14 months. Each ADA, having their own Investigator, would assist with this allowing the team to focus on the cases from the onset so that they can be prepared for trial immediately making a greater likelihood for an early plea agreement. This will contribute to a conviction rate which we seek to increase to a minimum of 85% across all SVU cases.

## Partnership Against Domestic Violence

**Address:** Post Office Box 170225 Atlanta, GA 30317-0225

**Program type:** Domestic Violence Programs; Legal Services Provider

**Federal award:** 97750

**Match amount:** 0

**Counties served:** Fulton; Gwinnett

**Project title:** Legal Advocacy Program

**Project description:** Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV) is applying for Core Services in the Legal Services Provider and Domestic Violence Program categories as a domestic violence agency for our Legal Advocacy Program in Fulton and Gwinnett Counties, Georgia. PADV is applying for funding to meet and maintain core services provided by our Legal Advocates embedded in the Fulton County Courthouse and Gwinnett County Courthouse who work with women affected by domestic violence in our community. Through 39 years of experience, PADV has laid a strong foundation of comprehensive programming to address the needs of victims of domestic violence in metropolitan Atlanta. PADV's Legal Advocacy Program is a critical component in this effort by improving the criminal justice system's response to domestic violence victims. In this program, PADV's Legal Advocates offer one-to-one lay legal advocacy to clients to ensure they are treated appropriately and fairly by the legal system and with attorneys, police officers and Family and Children Services Case Workers; and to support women who need temporary protective orders (TPOs), criminal prosecution of their abusers and legal assistance with other family law matters. PADV's Legal Advocates also provide referrals to lawyers and advocacy services that address victim's safety, health and resolution of housing, employment and public benefits issues. PADV's Legal Advocates assist clients in completing a victim's compensation application, gathering the requisite documentation to accompany an application, and assisting the victim in following up with CJCC's Victims Compensation program.

## Paulding County Board of Commissioners

**Address:** 280 Constitution Blvd Room 2072 Dallas, GA 30132-4615

**Program type:** Prosecution

**Federal award:** 50000

**Match amount:** 16667

**Counties served:** Paulding

**Project title:** Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit

**Project description:** VAWA funds will be used to directly maintain the newly (2014) established comprehensive Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prosecution Unit in the Paulding County District Attorney's office. This unit will continue to increase the overall effectiveness of criminal prosecution and accountability of offenders. Additionally, the unit's advocate will offer criminal justice support to victims of misdemeanor and felony domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault related crimes. The mission of the highly specialized team, consisting of one Prosecutor one Investigator, and one Victim Advocate, will be to offer moral support to victims and witnesses of crime and guidance through the

criminal justice process. The Prosecutor, Investigator and Advocate will work as a team to address unique challenges in prosecuting domestic violence and sexual assault offenses while the Victim Advocate will continue to establish early contact with victims and build rapport. This specialized team will collaborate with community agencies to increase services to victim and raise community awareness and effective case building by offer training to Law Enforcement as needed. The unit as a whole would ensure that no matter what the outcome of the case, victims of such crimes feel that the criminal justice system is available to them in the future. This can be accomplished when victims receive the value, care, and support from a whole skilled prosecutorial team.

## Pickens County Board of Commissioners

**Address:** 1266 East Church Street Jasper, GA 30143-1901

**Program type:** Prosecution

**Federal award:** 40835

**Match amount:** 13612

**Counties served:** Fannin; Gilmer; Pickens

**Project title:** Prosecution

**Project description:** The VAWA continuation grant award for 2015 will be used to fund the Investigator position. She is integral to our VWAP team because she is specially trained in how to investigate crimes against women and how to help bring about the successful prosecution of those crimes. It is because of our Investigator that we are able to attain justice for our crime victims.

## Project Safe Inc.

**Address:** P.O. Box 7532 Athens, GA 30604-7532

**Program type:** Domestic Violence Programs

**Federal award:** 50141

**Match amount:** 5333

**Counties served:** Clarke; Madison; Oconee; Oglethorpe

**Project title:** Individual and Systems Level Services

**Project description:** This project is to continue and enhance our local priority to promote a coordinated community response to domestic violence at two levels: micro/individual and macro/systems. VAWA-funded advocates working at the Family Protection Center are proactively contacting survivors of domestic violence and providing comprehensive services, while the VAWA-funded Community Response Coordinator (formerly Fatality Review Coordinator) leads the systems level effort through a variety of collaborative initiatives. The individual level services include the following: 1. Arrest report reviews: Laserfiche is the Athens-Clarke County Police document repository. It is installed on two PSI computers and we maintain four user licenses to view information. (See MOU attached. Madison County police reports are emailed directly to PSI advocates by the Sheriff's department). Each arrest report is read to screen for domestic violence. DV arrest reports are then summarized in PSI's Alice database using a special "Police Report Review" victim type and 11 custom fields that capture information commonly found in arrest reports. 2. Lethality review: VAWA-funded advocates cross check information from reviews with other information in our database (such as abuser names and hotline records) to look for patterns, trends or previous contacts and also review for lethality factors. High-lethality cases are discussed with law enforcement if additional safety measures are indicated. 3. Proactive survivor contact: Within a week of the arrest report, VAWA-funded advocates contact the

victim either by phone or letter to check on safety/provide safety planning, answer questions, and explain/offer further Project Safe services. Those who desire further services have the opportunity to meet with an advocate in person. 4. Victims' compensation eligibility screening and assistance: A new aspect of police report review and outreach that we've just recently implemented is explaining the eligibility requirements for crime victims' compensation to survivors as part of our standard proactive survivor contact. We believe this will result in greater use of the program as people become aware of requirements such as documentation of expenses or lost wages and are therefore able to provide needed information to complete applications. 5. Initial survivor meeting: VAWA-funded advocates can schedule an appointment with a survivor to meet at PSI's outreach offices at the Family Protection Center—the state of Georgia's first and only family justice center. In addition to these appointments, VAWA-funded advocates and their interns attend weekly Fast Track Arraignments (meeting 109 victims present at those arraignments) in state court as well as special bond hearings in order to meet face to face with survivors who are often present. This also gives the advocates a convenient time to connect with court advocates from the solicitor and DA's offices as well as the Family Violence Clinic. 6. Ongoing advocacy and support: The proactive contact and ensuing meeting begin a relationship that can last for months or even years. Because domestic violence is a crime of repetition, survivors may need support and help through many separations and reconciliations, through many months and years of emotional healing long after a prosecution has ended. Initiating that relationship early builds trust and confidence. Secondly, many police incident reports do not result in investigation or arrest, yet the victim and her family are still in need of assistance. Providing outreach to these people can help prevent serious violence in the future by connecting victims to resources that are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Complementing the individual level services are macro or systems level activities which will be led by our Community Response Coordinator. The CRC position is a new one for Project Safe, evolving from our Fatality Review Coordinator position. By carefully scrutinizing the events leading up to domestic violence fatalities, we have identified gaps in services and barriers to safety, and have been working to make changes in our community response to reduce fatalities, and other acts of domestic violence as well. The main focus of our local fatality review is systems analysis, that is identifying how accountability and helping systems were or were not effective for domestic violence victims and perpetrators leading up to the fatality. In recent years, the panel has expanded its focus to include near fatalities and other serious cases. Having a local fatality review initiative and dedicated coordinator ensures a depth of analysis of each fatality/staffing case as well as an ongoing commitment to implementing and evaluating the recommendations of the fatality review panel. In fact, many of Project Safe's current activities, as well as those detailed in this proposal, are based on recommendations of the local panel. By shifting the coordinator's role beyond fatality review to a more generalized community response coordinator role, this position will support a variety of task force initiatives: 1. Fatality Review/Non-Fatal Staffing: The coordinator is in charge of obtaining data and information on cases, summarizing histories for the panel, contacting "experts" to speak about particular cases, making reports to the full task force, and supporting the work of panel members to implement recommendations. 2. Perpetrator Case Tracking: The coordinator maintains an extensive spreadsheet to keep up with perpetrators in Athens-Clarke County. Regular weekly meetings with the Athens-Clarke County Probation Department help ensure that domestic violence perpetrators follow court orders. 3. TPO Case Tracking: Our efforts here—multi-year documentation of the dismal rates of FVIP compliance with civil orders and advocacy with court personnel—led directly to the court protocol in use today. Compliance monitoring through county probation has resulted in civil FVIP compliance rates increasing

from less than 7% to 70%. This protocol is featured in the 7th edition Georgia Domestic Violence Bench Book and is a model for other communities to follow. 4. Community Accountability Protocol (CAP) Team: In order to better address the most troubling perpetrators of domestic violence, a subcommittee of our task force initiated what has come to be known as the Community Accountability Protocol (CAP). The CAP program facilitates the vital sharing of information between the prosecutor's office, probation officers, treatment providers, and victim advocates, including the Family Violence Clinic and Project Safe. The program helps to ensure that each of these organizations is provided with the most accurate and detailed information available so that appropriate, case specific measures can be taken. The coordinated response fostered by the CAP program simultaneously promotes offender accountability and victim safety. The Community Response Coordinator helps facilitate information sharing among CAP team participants, and by following trends and patterns over time will help transform individual-level work into broader systems change. 5. Cross Training: Working through the task force, PSI led 13 one-hour training sessions in February, reaching every sworn and non-sworn officer in Athens-Clarke and UGA Police. It was a huge effort that strained the resources of our staff, but one that will be more easily repeated—and expanded to other audiences—with the CRC position. 6. General Task Force Support: In 2012 the Domestic Violence Task Force of Athens-Clarke and Oconee Counties was named "Task Force of the Year" by the Georgia Commission on Family Violence. While we enjoy solid relationships based on trust and mutual respect, we are also each incredibly busy with our own workloads and priorities. In its expanded role, the Community Response Coordinator will help task force members stay on track, provide requested information, respond to one another in a timely fashion, and otherwise be the glue that holds the task force together.

## Raksha

**Address:** P.O. Box 12337 Atlanta, GA 30355-2337

**Program type:** Training

**Federal award:** 25000

**Match amount:** 8333

**Counties served:** Bibb; Cherokee; Clarke; Clayton; Cobb; DeKalb; Fayette; Forsyth; Fulton; Gwinnett; Hall; Henry; Houston; Lee; Macon; Rockdale; Sumter

**Project title:** Training and Technical Assistance for Law Enforcement working with Immigrants

**Project description:** 1 Video/Webinar /live trainings for law enforcement to increase their cultural competency for working with immigrant victim/survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, and sexual assault, especially around language access and services available to immigrant survivors regardless of immigration status. Raksha will send out a survey to identify any other topics that may need to be addressed. 2 Video/webinar/live trainings for law enforcement and courts, utilizing law enforcement officers and judges throughout Georgia and preferably in rural counties, who are proactive and working on these issues (especially U visas) from rural communities, to address barriers that they face and hear from "one of their own" on how to work with immigrant and limited English Proficiency issues. Raksha will utilize immigration attorneys to explain immigration law or will explore having staff from Department of Homeland Security also present. 3. Printing out of Language Identification mini booklets for courts, law enforcement, and service providers can use to identify a victim's language. (This will be created based on another grant we have but increase printing of them will be used to send to professionals who may need them.)

## Raksha, Inc

**Address:** P.O. Box 12337 Atlanta, Ga 30355-2337

**Program type:** Counseling Services; Domestic Violence Programs

**Federal award:** 66921

**Match amount:** 0

**Counties served:** Bibb; Cherokee; Clarke; Clayton; Cobb; DeKalb; Douglas; Fayette; Forsyth; Fulton; Gwinnett; Hall; Henry; Lee; Muscogee; Rockdale; Sumter; Tift

**Project title:** Himmat (Courage)

**Project description:** The goal of this project is to sustain and enhance our capacity to provide immigrant domestic/sexual violence survivors with culturally competent, linguistically appropriate confidential support services, advocacy, and education. Raksha aims to help our clients heal from the violence they experienced, have tools to empower themselves to seek safety and justice, and to outreach and train community members about ending violence against women in their communities. Raksha will provide culturally appropriate services to South Asian and other immigrant survivors and their children such as but not limited to counseling, advocacy, training, and access to criminal, civil and immigration legal services. Raksha offers services in English and in the following South Asian languages: Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Punjabi, Tamil, and Gujarati. Our 1.5 licensed therapists provide individual counseling in English, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu. Additional staff members provide support, translation and interpretation services in Hindi, Bengali and Tamil. Trained volunteers provide additional linguistic support and when necessary. Raksha will provide culturally and linguistically appropriate counseling to at least 30 survivors a year to ensure safety, dignity, and justice to meet the needs of domestic, dating, and sexual violence survivors from South Asian community. Sixty percent of domestic violence clients require assistance and care in some form for 60 days, over 40% require assistance for 90 days or longer, and nearly 20% will require support for 6 months or longer. Raksha will consult with interpreter or outsource to another agency if there is therapist who speaks that specific language in the community or hire an interpreter to assist with serving the client. Raksha will also provide SKYPE sessions when it is difficult for a client has difficulty traveling to metropolitan Atlanta or if they are geographically isolated. This will depend on whether the client has access to computer equipment and internet access. Clients are free to utilize individual therapy services as long as they deem necessary, terminating only when the client feels ready. Raksha also provides monthly adult and child support groups facilitated by our Georgia licensed staff therapists. The adult group is facilitated by a LMSW, Guneeta Singh. Ms. Singh provides some directed therapeutic activity and facilitates discussion among members. Ms. Patel Garcia (non CICC funded) leads the youth group with directed therapeutic art activities and facilitated discussion. Following each therapy group, members of both groups as well as staff and volunteers share South Asian snacks provided by Raksha. . The groups encourage the women to delve into empowerment techniques, belief systems, parenting issues, survival skills, self-sufficiency, and independence. . Raksha will conduct Monthly children's art therapy group for children who witnessed violence. Approximately 20 children will benefit from this activity. Manisha Lance coordinates the children's group. Safety Planning : Persons Responsible Guneeta Singh and Manisha Lance. Ongoing. The staff work closely with clients regarding safety planning. Safety planning for clients involves in-depth discussions of physical safety throughout the process of leaving, needs of the client once she has left the perpetrator's home (i.e. shelter, food, clothing, legal documents and immigration status, living expenses and economic planning, etc.) The goal of safety planning is always to ensure that if a survivor decides to leave, she does so in the safest way possible with every resource available to her as she

proceeds through the difficult transition of leaving her perpetrator's home to self-reliance and independence. Raksha's safety planning always accounts for the special circumstances of immigrant survivors including: (1) the need to gather important documentation (documentation regarding identity, proof of marriage, and evidence of abuse); if it is safe to do so and (2) how to deal with being detained by Immigration (3) International abduction and abandonment . Additionally, Raksha advocates work together with local law enforcement to support survivors. Raksha will provide safety planning with at least 120 survivors. Culturally Competent Advocacy : Persons Responsible Manisha Lance. Ongoing Raksha staff and volunteer legal advocate interns provide for the criminal, civil and immigration needs of our clients. These needs may involve obtaining immigration relief for a battered women so that she may become employed and establish financial independence. In these instances, Raksha staff and interns assist clients with documentation to support immigration relief. Interns also help clients obtain pro-bono services from local immigration and family law attorneys. Legal interns also act as liaisons and interpreters between clients, attorneys and the court system on a range of legal matters including civil, immigration, criminal, and divorce and custody issues. Raksha will subcontract with Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network (GAIN) for immigration legal services for at least 20 clients and for assistance with community outreach. The staff at GAIN speak South Asian languages and understand the culture and have helped many of our clients file for U visas and other immigration relief. Client Advocacy with Outside Agencies Person Responsible : All staff. Ongoing. Raksha works closely with other agencies to ensure that our clients receive effective support. We also provide technical assistance and training to outside agencies that may come in contact with South Asian and other immigrant survivors. Collaboration with outside agencies includes working closely with the staff of shelters, VWAP programs and law enforcement agencies throughout Georgia to provide technical assistance on appropriate food, clothing and the living needs of South Asian women and their children. These activities also include providing individual casework and technical assistance support for South Asian clients who enter shelters. Economic Empowerment : Person Responsible: Manisha Lance. Ongoing Most survivors who utilize Raksha's resources are in need of support while they work towards financial self-sufficiency. The Advocate works with clients on a broad range of issues to prepare them to become self-sufficient. The program supports survivors in accessing transportation, seeking medical care, finding affordable housing and qualifying and applying for jobs. In addition, the Economic Empowerment Advocate also works with clients to research and help them enroll in training, education and certificate classes so they may qualify for better paying positions.

## Refugee Family Services, Inc.

**Address:** 2300 Henderson Mill Rd, Suite 200 Atlanta, GA 30345-2745

**Program type:** Domestic Violence Programs

**Federal award:** 102302

**Match amount:** 0

**Counties served:** Cobb; DeKalb; Fulton; Gwinnett

**Project title:** Refugee Family Violence Prevention Project

**Project description:** The focus of the Refugee Family Violence Prevention Project is to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services to refugee and immigrant victims of domestic violence in a supporting and trusting environment and to provide cultural awareness and competency training through a multi-disciplinary approach to improve the mainstream system's response to dealing with violence against refugee and immigrant women. This program's mission and the program's activities

relate directly to our agency's mission to support the efforts of refugee and immigrant women and children to achieve self-sufficiency in the United States by providing education and economic opportunity. Funding from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council will help RFS ensure a sufficient network of services and support for refugee and immigrant victims/survivors.

## SafeHomes of Augusta

**Address:** PO Box 3187 Augusta, GA 30904-3187

**Program type:** Training

**Federal award:** 23566

**Match amount:** 0

**Counties served:** Burke; Columbia; Glascock; Jefferson; Lincoln; McDuffie; Richmond; Taliaferro; Warren; Wilkes

**Project title:** Enhanced Community Response for Victims of Domestic Violence

**Project description:** Project activities will be twofold: development and implementation of training. SafeHomes' Executive Director, Aimee Hall, will oversee all project activities, measurements, and outcomes. The Volunteer Coordinator, will develop intervention training programs: streamlining, expanding, and updating existing programs—so that they emphasize intervention topics—DV 101, Barriers to Escape, Victim and Aggressor Identification, and Basic Law Enforcement DV; while creating new programs for Law Enforcement/Judicial System Professionals Interviewing Skills for Victims and Witnesses with Communication Limitations; Victim and Aggressor Identification for Medical Personnel, and The Domestic Violence Intervention Role of Human Resources and Management in the Workplace. SafeHomes Victim Advocates will participate in all such training as in-service opportunities, and Intervention Advocates with partner agencies will be cross-trained as well. The Volunteer Coordinator will administer and analyze all measurements and make necessary adjustments. All programs will be developed in collaboration with field-specific experts, and as available, experts will assist in implementation of training. DV 101 training materials will be expanded to better focus on intervention protocols for law enforcement, including assessing barriers to escape, victim/primary aggressor identification, and intervention agency resources, i.e. SafeHomes, and its programs and services. Training will be developed for law enforcement/judicial system professionals interviewing victims or witnesses of DV with communications limitations. This includes those with: communication and/or cognitive disabilities, limited English language proficiency, sufferers of Alzheimer's, mental illness/retardation, visual and hearing impairment. Victim and Aggressor Identification for Medical Personnel training will be developed and implemented by Volunteer Coordinator and field-specific expert facilitator. Training will include photographic examples of aggressor/victim physical abuse DV markings, as well as "hands-on" simulations that will demonstrate to participants how typical marking occur, and how to distinguish victim or aggressor infliction between similar markings. Workplace Human Resource and Management Trainings will include reviews of current policies for DV intervention effectiveness. Participants will be asked to provide copies of policy if any exist and it will be actively revised. An action plan will be initiated to form a DV Response team, publicize organizational position statement to staff, and implementation of intervention safety procedure. Subsequent, periodic DV intervention trainings for other pertinent management who may be in a position of DV intervention will be held. SafeHomes' staff will participate in ongoing in-service intervention trainings, including, but not limited to, Victim and Aggressor Identification, Interviewing DV Victims with Communication Limitations, and Workplace DV intervention. Advocates with partner agencies will receive training's of the same,

customized for their particular staff and target audience when needed. These training's for both SafeHomes and partner agencies will be conducted by the Volunteer Coordinator, and when available will include facilitation by topic-specific experts. The goals of this project is (a) increase training availability and coordination with domestic violence service providers and first respondents (b) continue to improve training content to based on area need (c)work with hospitals, medical providers, law enforcement and other victim providers to encourage attendance.

## Sexual Assault Center of NWGA

**Address:** Po Box 928 Rome, Ga 30165-0928

**Program type:** Counseling Services; Legal Services Provider; Sexual Assault Program

**Federal award:** 32893

**Match amount:** 0

**Counties served:** Bartow; Chattooga; Floyd; Gordon; Polk

**Project title:** Victim Services

**Project description:** SAC NWGA is a “sole service” provider of comprehensive sexual assault services, providing a well-rounded program to victims and survivors of sexual assault. The funds are used to provide ongoing victim services through counseling, support group, criminal justice advocacy, legal advocacy, follow up and court accompaniment.

## Support in Abusive Family Emergencies, Inc.

**Address:** PO Box 11 Blairsville, GA 30514-0011

**Program type:** Sexual Assault Program

**Federal award:** 25000

**Match amount:** 0

**Counties served:** Towns; Union

**Project title:** SAFE-SA Victim Services

**Project description:** S.A.F.E.'s goals are to provide services, advocacy and education to create safety and support for adult and youth victims of sexual assault, including both shelter residents and outreach clients. The emphasis of this year's project will be to continue and enhance services to the sexual assault victims by increasing safety, support, advocacy, education, and access to services provided in both Union and Towns Counties, and participation with the local SART. These services will be provided by the Part-time Sexual Assault Advocate, who will share coverage for emergency sexual assault call-outs and exams; provide individual support to victims through the criminal justice system process, case management and safety planning; provide transportation to victims, and make follow-up calls to victims to maintain support services. These services will also be provided by the SA/DV Advocate, who will be working with victims in our emergency shelter.

## Support in Abusive Family Emergencies, Inc.

**Address:** PO Box 11 Blairsville, GA 30514-0011

**Program type:** Law Enforcement

**Federal award:** 35000

**Match amount:** 11667

**Counties served:** Towns; Union

**Project title:** SAFE-Community Response

**Project description:** S.A.F.E.'s goals are to provide services, advocacy, training and education to create safety and support for adult and child victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. The emphasis of this year's project will be to continue and enhance collaborative efforts between victim services, medical facilities, local law enforcement agencies, prosecutorial services, and court systems. This project, through the Community Response Coordinator, will provide coordination of efforts community-wide to enhance mutual response to the needs of domestic violence and sexual assault victims of all ages, to include: coordination of domestic violence task force meetings, development and revision of current protocols, sexual assault response team meetings, coordinated community response trainings, and implementation of new evaluations and updates to current practices and agreements. As part of this project, the SA/DV Advocate will communicate with the victims S.A.F.E. serves utilizing a service evaluation in an attempt to determine what services were provided by the various agencies, to identify gaps with the current practices, and to make recommendations as to the best adjustments and/or training necessary. This information is presented to the Community Response Coordinator by the SA/DV Advocate, who together review the victims' evaluation of services bi-weekly to determine if practice adjustments or trainings are required. Training will be made available to the community partners, victim services, medical facilities, local law enforcement agencies, prosecutorial services, and court teams when a need is identified. The aim of this program is to ensure that the approach utilized by all collaborative agencies responding the domestic violence and sexual assault victims is focused on using the most efficient victim-centered response available.

## Tapestri, Inc.

**Address:** PMB 362, 3939 Lavista Rd. Ste.E. Tucker, GA 30084-5164

**Program type:** Training

**Federal award:** 55994

**Match amount:** 18665

**Counties served:** Cherokee; Clayton; Cobb; DeKalb; Forsyth; Fulton; Gwinnett; Henry

**Project title:** Law Enforcement

**Project description:** The proposed project is a collaborative project of Tapestri, Inc., Raksha, Inc., and Caminar Latino, Inc. Raksha, Inc and Caminar Latino, Inc. have a long history of collaboration and partnership, working on issues of violence against women for the past decade. Each of the organizations brings unique skills, expertise and resources to this project. Tapestri will serve as the lead agency for the project and will be responsible for fiscal management of the grant. All of the 3 agencies will participate in organizing and facilitating the following project activities:

- Organize and facilitate training for Court personnel on cultural competency, special needs of refugee and immigrant battered women and on strategies to improve language access for immigrant communities.
- Organize and facilitate trainings for Court interpreters on culturally specific issues of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, with an emphasis on recruiting interpreters in languages that are needed but challenging for the court to find.
- Conduct "Court classes" in DeKalb County court for Spanish-speaking battered women to educate them about their rights, the US legal system, TPO provisions, their options and resources.
- Conduct "Court classes" in DeKalb County court for Spanish-speaking men arrested for domestic violence, and mandated to attend the "Diversionary process" class, to explain to them about the US legal system, TPO conditions and the consequences of violating them.
- Develop and

disseminate multicultural educational and resource materials for Court system personnel, Law enforcement, Interpreters, advocates and immigrant women.

## The Southern Crescent Sexual Assault Center, Inc.

**Address:** PO Box 1788 Jonesboro, GA 30237-1788

**Program type:** Sexual Assault Program

**Federal award:** 71427

**Match amount:** 0

**Counties served:** Clayton; Fayette; Henry; Spalding

**Project title:** Victim Services

**Project description:** The proposed project will provide services to adolescent and adult victims of sexual violence and their significant others. Core services will be provided by all staff members including the Executive Director, the Victim Advocate, the Program Services Coordinator, and the Volunteer Coordinator. The volunteer coordinator will also supervise volunteers. Core services include 24-hour telephone response provided by a crisis responder, advocate or volunteer for individuals with a crisis related to sexual assault or needing support and assistance with accessing specialized sexual assault services. SCSAC will provide emotional support and stabilization during times of distress related to incidents of sexual assault. SCSAC advocates are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to respond to callers. When victims need additional assistance, agency staff may make a referral to an outside social service agency. The victim advocate will conduct a follow-up call to the victim within 48 hours of the initial contact to answer any further questions and to remind victim of the services and resources that are available from the agency and collaborating agencies. Staff will offer emotional support, provide empathetic listening, check on client's progress, and supply further information and/or referrals if needed. Staff will document the follow-up call, in-person meeting, or by mail correspondence on the supplemental sheet attached to the client contact form. In April 2013, SCSAC began providing forensic medical exams to adolescents, and adults. These exams include the collection of evidence and the administration of medications related to the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy. Agency staff will provide support throughout this process and will make appropriate medical referrals as necessary. Agency staff will provide assistance throughout the criminal justice process. We will notify clients of case status if possible, accompany clients to court proceedings, accompany clients to law enforcement interviews, and provide information and emotional support as needed. Agency staff will work closely with law enforcement and court personnel to ensure that the clients' needs are met. The goal is to assist the victim in understanding how to navigate the criminal justice system, how to gain access to all avenues of participation in the legal system and to promote the responsiveness of individual legal participants. All victims are notified about the Crime Victim's Compensation program. This information is included in the packet that victim's receive upon the initial contact with our agency. The program is also discussed at follow-up and staff provides assistance in the submission of the required forms related to crime victim's compensation.

## The Unified Government of Athens Clarke County

**Address:** 301 College Avenue Athens, GA 30601-2715

**Program type:** Prosecution

**Federal award:** 70000

**Match amount:** 23333

**Counties served:** Clarke

**Project title:** Community Safety and Accountability Prosecution Team

**Project description:** (For application purposes, charges of Family Violence as defined by O.C.G.A. §19-13-1, stalking, sexual battery, and violations of protective orders are collectively referred to as “domestic violence”. The term “victim/s” represents victims of the above offenses.) The project involves a team of representatives from the Solicitor General’s Office. Management of the team is comprised of the Solicitor General, Carroll R. Chisholm, Jr. (Project Director), and the Director of the Victim Witness Program, Amelia Addison Rushton. Other members of the team include the VAWA funded Domestic Violence (DV) Prosecutor, William Fleenor, and Victim Advocate, Pat Peterson. The Solicitor General consults with the DV Prosecutor on case investigation, trial preparation, potential felony transfers, and legal issues. The Director of the Victim Witness Program assists the DV Prosecutor with the victims in the Fast Track cases. The Director of the Victim Witness Program consults with the DV Prosecutor on case issues, appropriate service referrals, available resources, and special circumstances. Both victim advocates ensure that domestic violence victims receive proper attention and have an understanding of the criminal justice process, their rights as a victim of crime, and all available resources, including the Crime Victims Compensation Program. Additionally, the Director of the Victim Witness Program supervises the overall function and practice of the project. The Director of the Victim Witness Program, with assistance from the VAWA funded DV Prosecutor, is responsible for collecting project related data and is responsible for grant reports and reimbursements. The Domestic Violence Prosecutor is responsible for prosecution of all VAWA eligible misdemeanors in the Solicitor General’s Office. A large number of those cases are “Fast-Tracked”. The DV Prosecutor manages the Fast Tracks from case initiation. Prior to filing the formal accusation, the DV Prosecutor reviews the incident report and determines if any investigative follow up is necessary, or if additional charges should be considered. The DV Prosecutor also looks for potential felony transfers based on injuries to the victim and the Defendant’s criminal history. At this time it is important for the DV Prosecutor to review confidential victim contact notes provided by the victim advocates. Victim advocates establish contact with the victim in advance and provide an overview of any concerns the victim may have or any information that may be helpful in structuring sentence recommendations. Once the accusation has been filed, the case is arraigned in State Court. At the Fast Track arraignment, victims are invited to meet with the DV Prosecutor and a victim advocate to discuss issues of concern such as any unreported history of domestic violence behavior, substance abuse concerns, potential negative impact on children, and the desired outcome of the case from the victim’s perspective. This opportunity has led to an overall increased comfort level for the victim to then effectively work with the DV Prosecutor. Additionally, at the Fast Track arraignments, the DV Prosecutor and victim advocate facilitate meetings with representatives from Project Safe, Inc., which is a local shelter and counseling provider and advocacy group, and the Family Violence Clinic who can provide legal assistance in filing temporary protective orders. Throughout the prosecution process, the DV Prosecutor and victim advocates communicate with each other regarding the progression of the case. It is also very important that DV Prosecutor and victim advocates communicate directly with the victim about the procedures and disposition of the case. Efforts are made to answer any questions the victim may have and ease concerns about the criminal justice system, potential case resolutions, and long term outcomes. Victims are encouraged to notify the DV Prosecutor if there are any new incidents reported to the police or if there are any violations of special conditions of bond that should be addressed. The DV Prosecutor and victim advocates work with victims to determine if restitution is appropriate in each case and inform the victim of the Crime Victims

Compensation Program eligibility and application process. The DV Prosecutor's goal is to resolve cases in a manner that most effectively increases offender accountability and ensures victim safety. The DV Prosecutor works closely with the project team and partner agencies to achieve this goal. Efficient resolution of these domestic violence cases and early access to support and resources increases victim cooperation. Domestic violence is traumatic to a family, and resolving cases expediently can serve to prevent further trauma to a victim. Should a case require a trial, the DV Prosecutor will draw on specialized training and experience working with these complicated cases. Success in this project is measured by "positive interventions" which are defined as sentences that achieve the goals of holding offenders accountable and efforts to ensure victim safety. Positive interventions include guilty pleas, especially those that occur early in the process, or convictions at trial. Sentence terms requiring the completion of the Family Violence Intervention Program (FVIP), orders of no contact or no violent contact with the victim, and community service can assist in achieving the goals of increasing offender accountability and ensuring victim safety. It is a priority that team members collaborate with partner agencies. The Solicitor General's Office includes four members of the Domestic Violence Task Force of Athens-Clarke and Oconee Counties. Two team members are on the Executive Committee. The DV Prosecutor and the Director of the Victim Witness Program both serve on the Fatality Review Panel and Police Training Committees. Based on the recommendations and evaluation of the Fatality Review Committee, the Domestic Violence Task Force created the FVIP Compliance and Monitoring sub-committee to address concerns regarding the low rate of completion of court ordered Family Violence Intervention Programs (65% who enrolled did not complete FVIP) and the unfortunately high rate of non-compliance for repeat offenders, especially those who have completed FVIP. As a result of these FVIP related concerns, the Solicitor's Office implemented a pilot program in cooperation with Family Counseling Services of Athens (a local FVIP Provider). The pilot program utilizes a "Community Accountability Protocol" (CAP) with on-going participation from victim advocates in the Solicitor's Office, Project Safe, and the designated Domestic Violence Probation Officer. The primary goal of the CAP Program will be to provide early identification and enhanced case management services for offenders who have not complied with court requirements for FVIP. Specific objectives for CAP are to review barriers to timely FVIP compliance, assess and monitor risks associated with continued non-compliance, provide intensive case management during the initial weeks, and in rare circumstances, recommend alternative remedies to the court. Offenders are referred to the CAP group based on concerns of any of the partner groups, most often the FVIP treatment provider or probation officer. The CAP group communicates via e-mail and meets monthly to share information, discuss progress, relate any new developments, and monitor risk to victims. During the meetings, with permission, victim concerns are expressed. Of additional benefit, the Victim Liaison will be able to relay more thorough progress reports to the victim. In addition to the ongoing development of the CAP program, The Community Safety and Accountability Prosecution Team also participate in the local Multi-Disciplinary Team response to child abuse within Athens-Clarke County. This team meets monthly to coordinate information gathering and sharing, review of case information, and assess intervention and safety concerns. As outlined in our original application for funding, the Domestic Violence Prosecutor is also spearheading new projects closely related to the primary goals of increased offender accountability and ensuring victim safety. In May of 2013, Georgia's Governor approved the revision of O.C.G.A. §16-5-95 making it an arrestable offense to violate a criminal family violence order, defined as a pretrial release order issued as result of an arrest for an act of family violence or a special condition of probation imposed for an act of family violence. The legislation was initiated from the efforts of local Magistrate Judges, domestic violence

detectives, and prosecutors. The DV Prosecutor will work with local law enforcement, courts, and probation agencies to develop a community-wide database for these criminal family violence orders and probation conditions. Currently, without contacting court personnel during hours of operation, police officers do not have access to court sentences of probation. Special conditions of bond are maintained only in paper form by dispatch. There is currently no established method to communicate modifications of special conditions of bond. Through this collaboration, the DV Prosecutor with partner agencies hopes to establish a procedure and protocol for the removal of firearms from defendants who have been convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence offenses. By involving the Clarke County Sheriff's Office and agencies who assist in the filing of temporary protective orders, the county can achieve a protocol which can serve to help ensure victim safety while remaining vigilant in protecting our law enforcement personnel.

### Tifton Judicial Circuit Shelter, Inc.

**Address:** P. O. Box 2727 Tifton, GA 31793-2727

**Program type:** Legal Services Provider

**Federal award:** 55389

**Match amount:** 0

**Counties served:** Irwin; Tift; Turner; Worth

**Project title:** Victim Services

**Project description:** The project that will be supported by CJCC VAWA funds will be for the positions of our Senior Legal Advocate and our Legal Advocate. The duties of these advocates which VAWA funds will support include: Communicate with victim and assess danger level, establishing a safety plan with education on its importance and implementation strategies; Provision of Legal Advocacy Handbook that includes education and informational documents on domestic violence and victim rights; Assistance with filing the GA Crime Victim's Compensation Program; Assistance filing a temporary protection order; Accompanying the victim to a first appearance and subsequent hearings; Assisting the victim with contacting an offender's probation or parole officer – particularly with respect to TPO violations; Assisting the victim with advocating for no contact constraints or stay away bond conditions; Assisting the victim with obtaining a warrant for an offender's arrest; Referring the victim to legal counsel with respect to custody, divorce and/or immigration matters; Educating the victim about his/her role in the criminal justice process; Assistance and coordination with attorneys and the Latin American Association for filing T- or U-Visa paperwork, or a VAWA self-petition; Outreach to underserved communities to identify potential victims of crime and provide services; Ensuring that all services are available for persons with limited English proficiency or provide referrals for culturally and linguistically appropriate services; Explaining options to victims (TPA, warrant, stalking order, etc.); Helping the victim choose the proper proceedings to obtain the help needed; and Assisting in follow-up to the initial hearing, answering victim's questions about the court process, about violations of the Court's order, and helping to assure the victim's appearance when appropriate at follow-up hearings. Both advocates travel to each of the four counties in our judicial circuit. In doing the above listed tasks they coordinate with and are liaisons for the courts, law enforcement, and medical providers to expedite and improve services to both do domestic violence and sexual assault victims. The Senior Legal Advocate is bi-lingual and Hispanic herself thus helping Ruth's Cottage to better serve our Hispanic victims.

## Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County (Police Department)

**Address:** 3035 Lexington Road Athens, GA 30605-2444

**Program type:** Law Enforcement

**Federal award:** 128363

**Match amount:** 42787

**Counties served:** Clarke

**Project title:** VAWA Investigators & Records Technician

**Project description:** The Athens-Clarke County Police Department's mission is to form partnerships with law-abiding persons which result in every neighborhood being safer as residents enjoy a higher quality of life. The Department's Vision is to eliminate crime, the fear of crime, and general disorder in our communities. With such guiding statements, the maintenance of additional Domestic Violence Investigators (as with the requested four detectives and one records technician) would proactively address individual victim's concerns by aggressively targeting domestic violence offenders on both the felony and misdemeanor level. It would address community concerns by demonstrating the agency's commitment to combating domestic violence. The project would also continue to maintain/build on existing partnerships with prosecutors and non-profit service providers, potentially leading to: a higher arrest rate, a higher rate of successful prosecutions, and a reduction in the number of domestic violence incidents within our service area. To this end, the primary goal shall remain, as it has always been, to reduce the total number of domestic violence incidents in Athens-Clarke County by providing designated police and detectives to specifically investigate domestic violence incidents, to act as points of contact for community stakeholders, and to review all applicable departmental policies and provide input as to possible additional/modification to such policies/procedures.

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for community stakeholders, and to review all applicable departmental policies and provide input as to possible additional/modification to such policies/procedures.

## University Health Services, Inc.

**Address:** 1350 Walton Way Augusta, GA 30901-2612

**Program type:** Counseling Services; Sexual Assault Program

**Federal award:** 77168

**Match amount:** 0

**Counties served:** Burke; Columbia; Jefferson; McDuffie; Richmond

**Project title:** Comprehensive core services to victims involving sexual violence

**Project description:** The request for the VAWA Grant Program supports the salary, FICA and partial benefits of one staff position, Crisis Specialist (1.0 FTE) primarily for Richmond, Columbia and McDuffie Counties. Two contract staff, Rural Outreach Advocate FTE .54 (1,113 hours) for Burke and Jefferson Counties; and one contract staff Rape Crisis Counselor (9 hours per week not to exceed 459 hours). The services provided by RCSAS are invaluable community resources and are essential to address the aftermath of sexual assault and to facilitate the recovery and well-being of the survivor. Survivors who are routinely informed about the process are more likely to stay involved and participate in their health care, the investigative and prosecutorial process. Advocacy provided ensures continuous emotional support to the survivor and is a contributing factor to success of the criminal justice system. RCSAS provides in-house specialized individual counseling and therapeutic support groups for persons who are survivors of sexual and interpersonal violence. RCSAS enhances the capacity of helpers to respond appropriately to victims by providing specialized training to volunteer sexual assault advocates and staff. The provision of services results in a more effective response to the needs of sexual assault victims in the Central Savannah River Area. RCSAS supportive services to victims of sexual assault provide a 24/7 crisis hotline, medical accompaniment, advocacy and crisis intervention, information and referral, follow-up, counseling and therapeutic support groups, assistance filing victim's compensation, criminal justice support, promotion of a survivor's rights, community awareness and outreach programs. Hospital accreditation requirements as well as RCSAS policies set the standard for quality in the management and effectiveness of the delivery of comprehensive sexual assault services. RCSAS assists clients in attaining the advocacy, support, treatment and education services needed and seeks to establish and maintain positive, collegial partnerships with relevant community organizations, consumers, advocates, local area resources, contractual partners, educational institutions, and staff in achieving and providing access and linkages to the highest quality services and programs. The VAWA funded program is managed by the Rape Crisis Director and supported by key staff. The Crisis Specialist and Rape Crisis Counselor work out of the Augusta office and the Rural Outreach Advocates have donated office space in Jefferson and Burke Counties.

## Upson County Board of Commissioners

**Address:** P.O. Box 871 Thomaston, GA 30286-0011

**Program type:** Prosecution

**Federal award:** 50000

**Match amount:** 16667

**Counties served:** Fayette; Pike; Spalding; Upson

**Project title:** S.T.O.P. VAWA Prosecution Program

**Project description:** The District Attorney's Office of the Griffin Judicial Circuit S.T.O.P. VAWA Prosecution Program is seeking funds to cover the partial cost for an Assistant District Attorney and an Investigator. This team will specialize in handling domestic violence and sexual assault cases. This will provide better case management and insure that only the most qualified and experienced handle these types of cases.

## Wayne County Board of Commissioners

**Address:** 341 E Walnut Street jesup, ga 31546-0000

**Program type:** Prosecution

**Federal award:** 700000

**Match amount:** 233333

**Counties served:** Appling; Camden; Glynn; Jeff Davis; Wayne

**Project title:** VAWA Prosecution

**Project description:** This project will target the problem of domestic violence, stalking, dating violence, sexual assault, including stranger rape, acquaintance rape, alcohol or drug-facilitate rape, and rape within the context of an intimate partner relationship in the Brunswick Judicial Circuit to strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies; recognize, investigate and prosecute such violence or assault; to address violent crimes against women (young, old and disabled); and to develop and strengthen victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women; maintain core victim services and criminal justice initiatives, while supporting complementary new initiatives and emergency services for victims and their families; The Brunswick Judicial Circuit is united in the fight against domestic violence, stalking, dating violence, sexual assault, including rape acquaintance rape, alcohol or drug-facilitate rape, and rape within the context of an intimate partner relationship and in providing comprehensive services to victims of such crimes. The S.T.O.P. VAWA Project will continue a mutually supportive, formal partnership as an interactive way of working together to combat domestic violence and the related issues of dating violence, intimate partner violence, stalking, and sexual assault between different agencies throughout the Brunswick Judicial Circuit. The initiatives will include: the implementation of a protocol addressing response to and enforcement of protective orders in family violence and stalking; training of law enforcement officers and related agencies as needed; providing resource and victim outreach materials to law enforcement, victims, and the community at large to reach victims for services, support and safety, and to increase awareness and understanding of the complicated and multi-faceted dynamics of domestic violence, and reviewing and comparing domestic violence related data collected from supporting agencies. This project would be managed by the VAWP Director with the approval of the District Attorney. All personnel would report directly to the VAWP Director and she would then report to the District Attorney. As the elected official charged with prosecuting violent crimes against women, the District Attorney can ensure that sufficient resources are allocated to target violent crimes against women in this area. The prosecutors trained in the prosecution of violent crimes in general and against women in particular, will prosecute all major domestic violence. They would work in conjunction with other assistant district attorneys in prosecuting violent crimes against women. The VAWA Prosecution Unit takes notice that a victim's ability to pursue prosecution may be compromised by fear of retaliation and threats made by the perpetrator. Prosecution strategies must involve input from the victim. However, the ultimate decision regarding whether to prosecute the case should remain with the prosecutor. A strategy adopted by this team for accomplishing this goal is to develop "no drop" policies. "No drop" policies promote prosecution of all

appropriate cases without placing the burden of the decision for prosecuting upon the victim. These policies effectively state that domestic violence is a crime, not a private family matter. However, if the concerns of the victims are not considered, these policies could create additional barriers to victim safety. The victim's safety will be the first priority of the prosecutor. The District Attorney's Office VAWA Prosecution Unit with one 20 hour week prosecutor at 90 % of his time and one at 85% of her time can build and prosecute approximately 482 cases per year, which is approximately 48% of cases. To fully seek out and prosecute all potential criminal domestic violence cases would require at least one more full-time attorney. The District Attorney's current level of funding through the general revenue is projected to stay at its current level for at least two more years thus precluding the department from adding additional personnel without outside funding. Funding for one additional prosecutor would potentially result in approximately an additional 585 Criminal Domestic Violence prosecutions per year. The projected increase in domestic violence prosecutions would expectedly result in a future increase in cases of domestic violence. All employees will comply with the federal rules regulating grants. Each one will comply with the applicable provisions of the S.T.O.P. VAWA, the Program Guidelines, and the requirements of the OJP Financial Guide. All Programmatic and financial records that fully disclose the amount and disposition of funds received will be maintained by the VWAP Director.

## Whitfield County Board of Commissioners

**Address:** P.O. Box 248 Dalton, GA 30722-0248

**Program type:** Prosecution

**Federal award:** 57231

**Match amount:** 19077

**Counties served:** Murray; Whitfield

**Project title:** Conasauga Circuit DA Prosecution-VAWA

**Project description:** Federal Grant Funds will be used to fund a full time Domestic Violence Unit Investigator in Whitfield County. The Whitfield County DV Investigator will be housed in the Whitfield County DV Unit and will assist prosecutors with Domestic Violence cases and the newly positioned Domestic Violence Court prosecutor. We are requesting continuation of funding as we are in the process of expanding services to victims as we move forward with a Domestic Violence court in the circuit. Our goals are coordinate a multidisciplinary approach to improve the criminal justice system's response to violent crimes against women by developing and strengthening effective LE and Prosecution strategies regarding disclosure and safety of victims and children and by advising the victim of their rights under the Crime Victims Bill of Rights. We will provide on-site & hospital response, assist LE, refer victim to shelter and to DA DV Unit for follow up and TPO. The DA DV and/or SART Advocate will provide them with compensation information, make a therapy referral, complete a Request for Notice, and serve as liaison between the victim and the system. In addition, we will continue to work to improve our lethality/dangerousness assessment, maintain statistics on repeat offenders and multiple incidents, hold quarterly DV Fatality Review Meetings and make referrals to RESOLV, our local batterer intervention program. In addition, we will provide bi-lingual services, develop policies to protect the privacy of victims, develop an Elder Abuse Protocol, and work within a network of criminal justice and community victim service providers to provide resources and treatment for victims. In Kind Match will be supplied from the salary of the full time Domestic Violence Prosecutor housed in the Whitfield County DA Domestic Violence Unit.