



State of Alaska
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Services*Training*Officers*Prosecutors

STOP Three Year Implementation Plan
FFY2014-2016

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I. Introduction

Alaska is in an exciting period of time for those who work to increase safety and strengthen services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. In the fall of 2009 then Governor, Sean Parnell, announced a ten year initiative to end domestic violence and sexual assault. In 2014, Alaska had year fives of this initiative. Governor Parnell put the power of his office behind intervention work in the state and new prevention efforts.

The Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) has this mission statement:

Provide safety for Alaskans victimized or impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault through a system of statewide crisis intervention, perpetrator accountability and prevention services.

State departments, tribes, health care professionals, the faith community, businesses, advocates and local community members are coming together to jointly address Alaska's high rates of sexual and domestic violence. STOP funding will be a crucial component of the state's intervention efforts.

CDVSA is the STOP formula grant administering agency for Alaska and will allocate the funds according to the grant requirements. The Alaska STOP Three Year Implementation Plan was approved on February 26, 2014 by the Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault at its regularly scheduled quarterly meeting and covers the time period of federal fiscal year (FFY) 2014 through FFY2016 and the Council will review the updates at the June 2015 meeting. This plan follows the Alaska STOP Three Year Implementation Plan planning committee recommendations to continue current efforts to enhance victim safety and hold perpetrators accountable for their actions. The limited funds available through STOP will be distributed to organizations situated to best provide statewide services. STOP requires these allocation categories: 25% to law enforcement, 25% to prosecution, 5% to courts, 15% discretionary, and 30% to victim services; up to 10% from each of the categories may be used for grant administration. Alaska allocates 25% to Alaska State Troopers, 25% to Department of Law, 5% to the Alaska Court System and 30% to Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA), 15% CDVSA discretionary and 10% from each category goes to administration. These organizations will train first responders throughout the state and implement projects to improve access to victim services as well as the criminal and civil justice systems.

Outcome measures were developed with the Governor's Initiative and the STOP plan supports implementation of consistent measures across disciplines. Alaska is using a dashboard. The 2014 Alaska Dashboard is a broad overview of population indicators on key issues impacting domestic violence and sexual assault in Alaska. Though not required by the Office of Violence Against Women as part of STOP three year implementation plan, monitoring and evaluation of project activities are discussed.

The Alaska STOP Three Year Implementation Plan is organized following the Implementation Plan Checklist furnished by OVW with a few additional sections outlined with headings. Finally, concluding remarks end the plan asking us to see it as a guide that can be adapted according to the results we encounter as we continue the struggle to create safety for all Alaskans.

II. Description of Planning Process

The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (Council), housed in the Department of Public Safety, is Alaska's STOP funds administrating agency. The Council convened a planning committee and is responsible for the plan and its implementation. The Council invited representatives from statewide tribal and victim service organizations, state departments of Public Safety, Law, Health and Social Services Behavioral Health, the Alaska Court System, University of Alaska representatives from the Justice Center and the Center for Human Development's Disability Justice Initiative, a community-based victim advocacy program and members of the Council to participate as part of the committee.

The implementation planning committee met in December 2013 and in January 2014. At the January 2014 meeting the group split into groups to review allocations areas for the victim services, law enforcement, prosecution and judicial plan components and ideas from these three groups were reviewed and discussed by the full committee. The committee reviewed the reports and discussed issues relating to underserved populations and possible evaluation areas.

Description of how Alaska consulted with Alaska Tribes

Tribal Consultation on the Plan

CDVSA used a contact list for the 228 tribes from Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs and divided it into five arbitrary groups approximately by region. Each group consisting of about 45 tribes were sent invitations to teleconference. We sent by email and US Mail these documents: DRAFT Three Year Plan; STOP Solicitation; and the CDVSA work plan for tribal consultation.

We held the same teleconference on five different dates for the five arbitrary groupings of tribes to ensure enough room on the teleconference for all. The teleconferences were held over the winter/spring of 2014/2015. CDVSA is incorporating the comments into this 3-Year STOP Implementation Plan that addresses Tribal Police Officers (TPO), Village Police Officers (VPO), and Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO) be included in statewide training offered for law enforcement and review how positions may be covered during training. (Currently, training is offered, but there is no one to cover for a weeklong training in a remote community.)

The 3 Year Implementation Plan now includes that when there are trainings in regions on subjects of domestic violence and sexual assault an invitation be sent to tribal administrators and/or tribal councils.

One comment was about desiring quarterly meetings of interested tribes so that there could be information sharing between tribes and with CDVSA.

Description of how Alaska coordinated this plan with the FVPSA and VOCA program grants

The STOP Three Year Implementation Plan will coordinate with FVPSA and with VOCA. The Council not only administers the Services*Training*Officers*Prosecutors grant, but also FVPSA funds for the state and the Victims of Crime Act. The Council also funds several other Violence Against Women Act grants including the Grant to Encourage Arrest, Supervised Visitation Safe Exchange Program, the Sexual Assault Services Program as well as the Sexual Assault Prevention funds. The Network and other interested state and community based organizations participate in various levels in developing plans for each of these funds to ensure services are culturally appropriate and address the needs of the varied population of survivors.

The STOP, Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), and Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant administrators met in November 2013 to discuss coordination of grant activities with of the STOP Three Year Implementation Plan. Then in January 2014, the Council convened a statewide meeting, which included Council staff who administer the above noted federal grants, along with other state and community level stakeholders to coordinate planning and identify priority needs for victim services, prosecution, law enforcement and judicial offices as related to training and services for survivors of domestic violence, teen dating violence, and sexual assault and stalking. The five victim service objectives resulting from the meeting include:

- maintaining skills and increasing the knowledge of legal advocates and attorneys leading to increased victim safety and understanding of the needs of underserved populations;
- maintain a pro bono legal referral and mentoring project;
- provide civil legal advocacy and outreach to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking including traditionally underserved populations such as racial, cultural, or ethnic minorities, individuals experiencing disabilities, the elderly and teens, language minorities, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Queer and Intersexed (LGBTQI), and domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking victims in geographically isolated rural and bush communities which are not road connected and outreach to Tribes and Tribal Members;
- evaluate barriers to women's participation within the legal system, women's knowledge and ability to exercise legal rights and options, and systems effectiveness; and,
- provide outreach to rural and bush communities with legal advocates.

These priority areas along with the Council's strategic plan developed by statewide committee in 2008 serves to guide the Council and their partners engaged in addressing family and sexual violence; align missions; identify underserved populations; inform culturally appropriate services and point to common goals and reinforce one another's work.

The committee reviewed previous STOP funded projects; identified what is working well and gaps in service; discussed possible evaluation steps; decided to develop a plan that continues funding current intervention efforts; and, agreed to prioritize access to services to underserved

populations including LGBTQI, Alaska Native people, people with disabilities, and people with language barriers and those in rural areas. The rough draft of the STOP Three Year Implementation Plan was drafted and submitted to implementation plan planning partners and the Council for review and input.

Description of how Alaska meets the 10 percent set-aside for culturally specific organizations within the victim services allocation

The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVS) is the recipient of the victim services allocation of the STOP formula grant funding and uses at least 10 percent of the allocation for culturally specific organizations. ANDVSA will work with culturally specific organizations within Alaska. ANDVSA legal staff will continue to provide training, support and coordination with underserved populations, culturally specific organizations, Alaska Native organizations including the STOP Violence Against Native Women grantees, FVPSA tribal grantees, the Alaska Native Justice Center, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and others. ANDVSA has funded advocates from various Alaska Native organizations within Alaska to consult, plan, attend and present at our annual statewide conferences.

Planning activities throughout the life of the plan:

Subgrantees will meet quarterly to discuss progress on implementing plan projects and program evaluation. At least annually, invitations will be extended to Alaska tribes to participate in the review of the Three-Year STOP Implementation Plan. Comments from the tribe review and the subgrantees will be taken to the Council for possible inclusion in plan revisions. The implementation plan planning partners will again be consulted for recommendations after the first year of the plan. The Council will review the plan annually, making adjustments when needed to ensure project completion.

III. Needs and Context

Geographical and Demographic Information

The State of Alaska ranks as the largest state and encompasses 587,878 square miles of land. It is 1,400 miles long and 2,700 miles wide and is 16.1 percent of the US square mileage, with over 47,000 miles of coastline. The average temperatures for the city of Anchorage, home to 41 percent of Alaska's population, averages highs in the 20's Fahrenheit for four months of the year and in the 60s for three months. Less than 10 percent of the state has a road system. The state is divided into 16 boroughs, which are legal forms of government equivalent to counties in other states.

The 2010 US Census derived the Alaska Population Overview 2012 Estimates, which estimates Alaska's population to be 732,298, of which 48% are female and the median age is 34.1. Historically, Alaska's very small population at the turn of the century held steady at about 60,000 for 40 years. Alaska's population has increased in a few booms since then with only two years, 1986 to 1988, when it decreased. Alaska's population doubled from 1945 to 1953, from 103,000 to 200,100. It doubled again from 1953 to 1975 to 409,800. In 2012 it is at 732,298.

Alaskan cities with more than 10,000 people in 2012 included Anchorage (298,842), Juneau (32,832), and Fairbanks (32,070). These three cities are home to 49.7 percent of Alaska's population. 80 percent of Alaska's population lived in cities or places with populations of 2,500 or more in 2012. Alaska ranked 47th in the US, in population, in 2012. The states with fewer people were Wyoming (576,412); Vermont (626,011); the District of Columbia (632,323); and, North Dakota (699,628).

Over 368,346 rural Alaskans (20 percent of Alaska's 2012 total) are spread out in a few small towns and in numerous smaller communities and villages, many accessible only by small plane and boat and then only if weather permits such travel. If Anchorage is excluded, the rest of Alaska averages 0.8 people per square mile in contrast to 88.9 people per square mile for the US as a whole.

There are 228 federally recognized tribes in Alaska. Each tribe is a unique government with differing organizational structures, distinct customs, traditions, practices and values. 14.8 percent of Alaska's population identifies as Alaska Native (106,268) and just over 60 percent (65,028) of Alaska Native people live in rural areas. Another way in which Alaska is unique is that tribes in Alaska are not on reservations and tribes exist throughout Alaska and Alaska Native people may live in cities, towns, or villages, in other words, anywhere in Alaska.

In 2012, 67.5 percent of the population identified as White, 6.1 percent as Hispanic or Latino, 7.1 percent were persons reporting two or more races, 5.8 percent as Asian, 3.7 percent as African American, and 1.2 percent as Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander.

The majority of people living in Alaska are migrants to the state; as of the 2010 Census, only 39.1 percent of Alaskans were born in Alaska, contrast that to 75 percent of residents of rural Alaska. Alaska's foreign born population increased 50 percent during the 1990s. Based on the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, 7.2 percent of Alaskans were foreign-born in 2012, up from 5.9 percent from the 2000 Census.

Taken from 2010 Alaska Population Estimates, in Anchorage the number of foreign-born residents is higher than 7.2 percent. One in eleven people was born outside of the United States and one in seven speaks a language other than English at home. As of 2005, there were 93 different languages spoken in the Anchorage School District. In Kodiak, an island community located approximately 250 miles south of Anchorage, the Department of Homeland Security estimates that 45 percent of the community's population is foreign born.

The Alaska Population Overview – 2012 Estimates say that according to IRS tax statistics show that Alaska has among the highest rates of migration turnover in the nation. Even when not counting seasonal workforce migration, at 14.5 percent, Alaska still has the second-highest rate of gross migration, (in-migration plus out-migration, divided by total population) in the nation for 2009 to 2010, the national average being 9.7 percent.

In 2012, Alaska had 259,858 households, a slight increase of 1.1 percent over 2011. Each of these households averaged approximately 2.71 people in 2012. 36.1 percent of households had one or more people under age 18, and 17.7 percent had one or more people age 65 or older. The

median age of Alaska's population in 2012 is 34.1 years; the national median is 37.4. The school age population of children ages 5 to 17 was 134,676 in 2012, or 18.4 percent of the total.

Alaska has 22,438 active duty military personnel in 2012, representing about 3.1 percent of the population. Additionally, the state had 36,565 military dependents, 4.9 percent of the state's total population. When these two percentages are combined, active duty military with dependents equal 8% of Alaska's total population. Active duty military personnel are primarily located in the areas of the state with military bases, the Municipality of Anchorage, 10,967; Fairbanks North Star Borough, 9,216; and Kodiak Island Borough, 974, though active duty military are located in other areas of the state as well.

Context

The Council partnered with the University of Alaska Justice Center to conduct a statewide victimization survey during the spring of 2010. The survey was modeled after the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Surveillance System (lead by CDC). The survey was conducted by phone in May and June. Due to funding constraints, survey respondents were limited to English-speaking adult women residing in a household with at least one land or cell phone line. Sampling weights were used to control for selection, non-response and coverage. The survey measured the number of victims not the number of victimizations and did not measure all forms of intimate partner or sexual violence therefore the estimates are conservative.

2010 statewide results indicated that 58.6 percent of adult women in the State of Alaska experienced intimate partner violence, sexual violence, or both at some point in their lifetime. 47.6% experienced intimate partner violence and 37.1 percent experienced sexual violence. Additional results show that 31.0 percent experienced threats of physical violence, 44.8 percent experienced physical violence, 26.8 percent experienced at least one alcohol or drug involved sexual assault, and 25.6 percent experienced at least one forcible sexual assault. Almost 10 percent experienced intimate partner violence, sexual violence, or both in the past year.

Further surveying following the same methods as the 2010 statewide survey were conducted by region. In 2011, women in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau and Bristol Bay were surveyed. In 2012 women in Kodiak, Sitka and the Yukon-Kuskokwim regions were surveyed. And, in 2013, women in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough were surveyed and the results indicate that 42.5 percent experienced intimate partner violence, 33.2 percent experienced sexual violence. In 2013, women in the Kenai Peninsula Borough were surveyed and key estimates are that 43 percent experienced intimate partner violence, and 30.1 percent experienced sexual violence. In the Matanuska-Susitna Borough in 2013, the victimization survey found that 45.5 percent experienced intimate partner violence and 33.7 percent experienced sexual violence.

Needs

Victim Services

The victim services portion of STOP funds supports the legal advocacy and pro bono program within the statewide coalition, the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

(ANDVSA). Victims need assistance in navigating both the civil and criminal justice system as they seek safety and justice. Unless a person has prior personal experience with the court system, it is unlikely that someone who has been assaulted will know how to interact with the courts to best get their needs met whether they need a protective order or are going through the criminal justice process dealing with a sexual assault or stalking. The court system has a unique jargon and structure that is not easily understood, even differing between civil and criminal matters.

Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault as well as service providers continue to identify the need for legal advocacy and legal representation as a top priority for victim services in Alaska. In July 2007, the Alaska Judicial Council released a report which assessed the effectiveness of advocates for petitioners in the protective order process, collected data about the civil protective order petitions filed in Anchorage, and interviewed practitioners about procedures for making decisions in the protective order process. They recommended having more advocates available, for more hours. In all of the communities, when the advocate was on duty in the court house, stakeholders were pleased with her effectiveness. They believed that she helped petitioners file better organized petitions, and be better informed about what to expect from the process. Court staff were happy to have someone who could calm petitioners, and refer them to resources such as transportation. They were pleased that the advocate could take the time to explain the differences among the court processes such as custody orders, criminal prosecutions, and divorce/dissolution proceedings, and the civil DV process. A 2010 article in the Alaska Justice Forum documents the huge unmet legal needs in Alaska. Domestic violence and sexual assault advocates from Alaska's eighteen ANDVSA member programs continue to identify the need for legal representation in family law cases as a top priority for keeping victims safe within Alaska. Advocates and national studies have found that because direct legal services help survivors with practical matters such as child support, child custody, divorce, and protective orders, this presents real, long-term options to enhance victims safety.

In the "Court Innovations in Domestic Violence Cases, August 2005 Report" prepared by the Alaska Judicial Council, stakeholders were asked if having a legal advocate helped/hindered/or had no significant effect on petitioners in the domestic violence protective order process. Interviewees unanimously reported that the advocate had a positive effect on petitioners. Effects included the ability to help petitioners navigate the court system and proceedings, the ability of the advocate to provide information on self-care issues, the advocate having a calming effect on petitioners, empowering petitioners by giving them more information, providing crisis intervention and allowing petitioners to be more emotionally comfortable in courts.

In order to provide optimal legal advocacy, advocates require training to keep current on legal options available to victims; protective order petition processes; current federal and state statutes and state regulations addressing domestic violence and sexual assault; courtroom procedures and other systems interactions that might affect victims as they navigate through the civil or criminal justice systems. Due to staff turnover in domestic violence/sexual assault programs and the degree of difficulty in many cases, ongoing training and updated legal resource materials are critical to ensuring victims have access to the civil and criminal justice systems within Alaska. ANDVSA trains legal advocates and provides continuing legal education and mentoring to attorneys who will perform pro bono services for victims.

Federal and state funding cuts to Alaska Legal Services in the mid-1990s drastically reduced the availability of attorneys to provide representation to victims. To address this problem the ANDVSA formed a Pro Bono component to their services. In May of 1999, the project responded to the growing need for victims to have legal representation and formed the Pro Bono Program. Since STOP funding, more than 400 Alaska attorneys have volunteered with ANDVSA. Volunteer attorneys donate on average between 25-85 hours to each case, equaling millions of dollars in attorney time donated to the project. In FY 2013 alone, volunteers donated 1.2 million dollars in donated time to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault through the Pro Bono Program. ANDVSA also operates an Information and Referral Legal Hotline answering requests for legal information and assistance from victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The statewide toll free hotline is staffed by volunteer attorneys who provide brief legal assistance every other week. The hotline provides information and referral resources to approximately 6-8 domestic violence and sexual assault victims each month.

The intersection of domestic violence, limited English proficiency, immigration status, and unfamiliarity with the U.S. civil and criminal justice systems create lethal and complicated legal situations. In Alaska these issues are exacerbated by geographic isolation, the lack of qualified interpreters, and the lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate services. The Alaska Immigration Justice agency reports that the majority of immigrant domestic violence victims in Alaska who seek services are married to U.S. citizens who may as a victimization tactic, threaten deportation as a means of exerting enormous control over non-citizen partners and spouses and who may not comply with US immigration laws in order to control their spouse. After the first year of the 2014-2016 STOP 3 Year Implementation Plan, Alaska will use a portion of the discretionary allocation through a request for proposal process to provide comprehensive low-cost legal services to low-income immigrants and refugees to meet the immediate legal needs of immigrant victims.

Prosecution

The prosecutor portion of STOP funds training and support for state and municipal prosecutors and paralegal/victim witness coordinators. The criminal division of the department of law is responsible for prosecuting all felony domestic violence, sexual assault and most misdemeanor domestic violence cases in Alaska. The criminal division has thirteen regional offices, some of which are staffed by only one attorney. During 2013, over 1,493 felony and 3,688 misdemeanor domestic violence cases, 285 felony sexual assaults and 636 violations of protective orders were referred for prosecution. Each year the criminal division experiences turnover in staff. New attorneys and paralegals are unlikely to have had any training regarding the impact of victimization, the rights of crime victims, and the specialized skills to prosecute domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking cases. Aggressive and consistent prosecution can make an important contribution to a community's efforts to ending domestic violence and sexual assault. Comprehensive training for both attorneys and paralegals is key to successfully handling such cases.

A paralegal/victim witness coordinator may be the only person in the regional office that notifies victims of their rights, assists them with court appearances and helps them understand

prosecutorial procedures. It can be an isolating job experience. A statewide victim witness program coordinator provides oversight of the victim witness services within the thirteen district attorney offices to ensure consistent treatment of victims throughout Alaska; ensure compliance with Alaska statutes requiring victim notification of all criminal proceedings and provide guidance to the paralegal/victim witness coordinators.

Law Enforcement

The law enforcement portion of STOP funds training and materials for the Alaska State Troopers (AST), Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO), Municipal Law Enforcement Officers, and medical providers conducting sexual assault forensic exams. Among the most daunting challenges to law enforcement officers in investigating domestic violence and sexual assault crimes in rural Alaska are weather and distance. Less than 10% of the state has road services. Law enforcement in most rural areas is the primary responsibility of AST. For example, AST's "C" detachment, with only 56 authorized commissioned positions, covers all of western Alaska from Kotzebue to Kodiak, excluding those few communities served by municipal police departments. Troopers responding to domestic violence or sexual assault-related calls in rural Alaska are often unable to reach the scene for several hours or even days, depending on the distance, trooper post staffing, bad weather and lack of transportation resources. It is common for a trooper to respond to the scene by boat, snow machine or chartered aircraft. More often than not, the responding trooper's backup is over 100 miles away. As a result, the majority of cases in rural Alaska are investigated by a single law enforcement officer, which creates a significant need for crime scene investigation training.

The unique issues of policing in Alaska dictate the necessity for consistent and quality training specific to domestic violence, sex crimes and stalking. Difficulty in training law enforcement officers across the state is exacerbated by the geographical size of Alaska. There are over 50 municipal police departments in Alaska. Many of the rural municipal departments do not have the funding to send their officers to training outside of their communities as travel within the state is very costly. As a result, many of the smaller departments are unable to participate in training that is offered in the "urban" areas. Practically speaking, training for the majority of rural police departments does not occur without the support of STOP funding. Even when training conferences are offered in local jurisdictions, municipal departments absorb overtime costs and so are unable to commit many officers to training.

The Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program was designed to train and employ individuals residing in the village as "first responders" to public safety emergencies such as search and rescue, emergency medical services and law enforcement support. The VPSOs are instrumental in providing an immediate response to all emergencies. In domestic violence and sexual assault cases the initial complaint is often reported to either the VPSO or the Community Health Aide. VPSOs are an essential component to the overall success of the investigation and ensuring the safety of the victim. Currently, there are 121 funded VPSO positions, of which only 88 are filled. VPSOs benefit from first responder training specific to domestic violence and sexual assault.

As a result of Tribal Consultation, tribes will be informed of trainings being offered in their region and invitations extended to the law enforcement entities, including VPSOs, Village Police Officers (VPO) and Tribal Police Officers (TPO) in the region.

State Courts

The Alaska Court System (ACS) is a unified court system. There are no local or municipal courts in Alaska. Thus, ACS judges hear all domestic violence protective orders requested under state law, all state and municipal prosecutions of domestic violence crimes, and all domestic relations matters (except some child custody matters involving tribal members may be handled by tribal courts). Many of the cases that come before the state court judges involve domestic violence, and the dynamics and unique issues presented by these cases continue to challenge the court system's ability to provide due process for those accused of domestic violence crimes while preserving the safety of victims. Statewide, 6,603 ex parte petitions and 6,098 long-term petitions were filed in 2013. Judicial training, use of qualified interpreters and an improved system of notifying law enforcement of bail conditions will strengthen the justice system's ability to handle these cases.

Education of judicial officers and employees is particularly challenging and expensive because of the state's geography. Many court locations are not accessible by road, making travel expensive, time-consuming and uncertain due to possible weather conditions. It is difficult to arrange coverage for the many rural judges who serve in single-judge locations. These realities make it difficult to deliver educational programs to judges and court employees. However, when judicial officers are provided training, the uniqueness of Alaska, and the needs of underserved and inadequately served victims will be included.

There is no funding for interpretation services in civil cases in Alaska, and petitioners often cannot afford to hire their own interpreters. Making language interpretation services available at no charge for protective order hearings encourages the use of qualified interpreters. Before STOP funding, few petitioners brought interpreters to protective order proceedings, and almost none brought qualified interpreters. Petitioners often brought bilingual friends or even witnesses to interpret for them. The use of unskilled interpreters sometimes resulted in miscommunications with judicial officers. This also gave rise to parties' lack of understanding of the proceedings and nature of the order. Some victims who could not find an interpreter declined to file petitions, resulting in lack of access to the justice system. The lack of qualified, neutral interpreters compromised the fairness and accuracy of protective order proceedings.

Except for the successful pilot information technology bail conditions of release (BCOR) project over 2011-2013, partially funded through ACS STOP funds, courts handwrite or type the BCOR on paper forms and distribute the orders to law enforcement and corrections agencies manually. There is no systematic entry of this information into any statewide information system maintained by the court system or by the Department of Public Safety. Because the information is not entered into the court system's case management system, it is unavailable to law enforcement agencies unless they call the local court or the booking office at the detention facility. Thus, law enforcement officers often are unaware of BCOR that apply to subjects they encounter. This weakens enforcement of the conditions of release orders and jeopardizes public and victim safety, especially for BCOR involving crimes of domestic violence and ACS is

committed to using technology to enhance the efficiency of its operations and is making the move beyond the pilot project to on-line BCOR as funding allows.

IV. Plan Priorities and Approaches

A. Identified Goals

Description of Current Project Goals and Objectives

Victim Services

The current victim service goal is to expand and maintain a sustainable network of legal advocates and attorneys providing increased victim safety and greater accountability of perpetrators. The ANDVSA will develop resources and provide training for legal advocates and attorneys statewide, in the areas of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking for all underserved populations including the traditionally underserved - racial, cultural, or ethnic minorities including Alaska Native tribal members, immigrants, individuals experiencing disabilities, the elderly and teens, language minorities, LGBTQI, and domestic violence/sexual assault victims in geographically isolated rural and bush communities which are not road connected

Five victim services objectives include

- 1) maintaining skills and increasing the knowledge of legal advocates and attorneys leading to increased victim safety and understanding of the needs of underserved populations;
- 2) maintain a pro bono referral and mentoring project;
- 3) provide civil legal advocacy and outreach to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking including traditionally underserved populations such as racial, cultural, or ethnic minorities including Alaska Native tribal members, individuals experiencing disabilities, the elderly and teens, language minorities, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Queer and Intersexed (LGBTQI), and domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking victims in geographically isolated rural and bush communities which are not road connected;
- 4) evaluate barriers to women's participation within the legal system, women's knowledge and ability to exercise legal rights and options, and systems effectiveness; and,
- 5) provide outreach to rural and bush communities with legal advocates.

Prosecution

The prosecution goals are to focus an emphasis on our previous plan goals and hone in to more effectively identify, hold those responsible accountable, and respond to violent crimes against women and underserved populations who are victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking including racial, cultural, or ethnic minorities including Alaska Native tribal members, individuals experiencing disabilities, the elderly and teens, language minorities, LGBTQI, and domestic violence/sexual assault victims in geographically isolated rural and bush communities which are not road connected. The Department of Law (DOL) criminal division will develop and provide training for prosecutors and victim/witness paralegals statewide, in the areas of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking and to more effectively enable the department to address the needs of victims of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic

violence, and stalking the DOL criminal division will maintain the statewide victim witness program.

Four prosecution objectives include

- 1) sponsor three mandatory statewide two-day conferences to increase the knowledge and skills of approximately 100 prosecutors and 30 paralegals to effectively prosecute sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking cases and will include education on assisting underserved victims, including racial, cultural, or ethnic minorities including Alaska Native tribal members, individuals experiencing disabilities, the elderly and teens, language minorities, LGBTQI, and domestic violence/sexual assault victims in geographically isolated rural and bush communities which are not road connected,
- 2) send a minimum of fifteen prosecutors and nine paralegals to five-day Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) training courses held in different communities throughout Alaska;
- 3) send a minimum of nine prosecutors and six paralegals to specialized training conferences sponsored by the National District Attorneys' Association (NDAA) on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; and,
- 4) annually fund a statewide victim witness program coordinator position to oversee the victim witness program.

Law Enforcement

The current law enforcement goals are to provide discipline-specific and multi-disciplinary training for law enforcement personnel and first responders across the state including VPSOs, VPOs, TPOs when trainings are offered in local region; to increase victim safety, to enhance the overall quality of evidence collection and crime scene documentation through use of technology; and to maintain coordinated training, outreach efforts and implementation of the law enforcement segment of Alaska's STOP plan.

Five law enforcement objectives include

- 1) law enforcement personnel will gain skills to better respond to and investigate crimes against women and to victims within underserved populations who are victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking including racial, cultural, or ethnic minorities including Alaska Native tribal members, immigrants, individuals experiencing disabilities, the elderly and teens, language minorities, LGBTQI, and domestic violence/sexual assault victims in geographically isolated rural and bush communities which are not road connected;
- 2) to increase victim safety and reduce domestic violence-related homicides by continuing to train officers on recognizing lethality indicators;
- 3) to provide sexual assault response multi-disciplinary training to first responders across the state including VPSOs, VPOs and TPOs, and explore ways to provide domestic violence training in a multi-disciplinary format;
- 4) to ensure trooper detachments and/or posts as well as municipal departments have adequate equipment; and,
- 5) to retain AST's STOP Program Coordinator

State Courts

The current state court goals are to encourage use of qualified language interpreters in domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and civil sexual assault proceedings; provide education to court employees and judicial officers regarding the issues of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking and on the needs of victims including the traditionally underserved including racial, cultural, or ethnic minorities including Alaska Native tribal members, immigrants, individuals experiencing disabilities, the elderly and teens, language minorities, LGBTQI, and domestic violence/sexual assault victims in geographically isolated rural and bush communities which are not road connected; and use E-Bail Conditions of Release Pilot Project, and develop a plan to allow for video conferencing hearings and language interpreters.

Five state court objectives include

- 1) provide free language interpreter services for participants in domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking restraining order proceedings and develop statewide policies and procedures for recruiting, training and using court language interpreters;
- 2) encourage efforts to recruit and adequately train bilingual people to provide court language interpretation services;
- 3) provide in-state and out-of-state training opportunities, self-study and reference materials to court employees and judicial officers on the issues of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking and the needs of victims including the traditionally underserved including racial, cultural, or ethnic minorities including Alaska Native tribal members, immigrants, individuals experiencing disabilities, the elderly and teens, language minorities, LGBTQI, and domestic violence/sexual assault victims in geographically isolated rural and bush communities which are not road connected;
- 4) support its ongoing pilot project at the Fairbanks court to offer current bail conditions of release in electronic format.
- 5) assess equipment needs and procedures and policies for the wider use of video instead of telephonic participation by parties and interpreters in domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking restraining order proceedings.

Goals for 2014-2016

The state intends to keep the goals from the previous three-year plan and add to the objectives to specifically address serving underserved populations and the requirement of the Reauthorized Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 2013.

Training is clearly emphasized in each purpose area of the plan. Generally, when people understand their roles and the responsibilities and limitations involved in responding to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking they are more confident in interacting with both victims and offenders. Hopefully, the process in which the victim participates becomes easier to navigate. STOP funds allow people new to the issues to get grounded in the basics of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking response in their respective fields--law enforcement, prosecution, advocacy and the judiciary. It also allows people who have been in the field awhile to hone their skills and enhance their expertise.

Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) training includes Alaska's prohibition against charging victims of sexual assault for forensic medical exams and will include information to health care providers to notify sexual assault victims of the availability of rape exams at no cost to the victims. Alaska will ensure it incurs the full out-of-pocket expense for sexual assault forensic medical exams. At least 20% of Alaska's STOP funds go to sexual assault across at least two allocations, prosecution and law enforcement, for SART statewide training.

The plan intends to be inclusive of underserved populations and specifically highlights access for underserved populations including traditionally underserved such as racial, cultural, or ethnic minorities including Alaska Native tribal members, immigrants, individuals experiencing disabilities, the elderly and teens, language minorities, LGBTQI, and domestic violence/sexual assault victims in geographically isolated rural and bush communities which are not road connected

The goals and objectives for reducing domestic violence-related homicides within Alaska are included in goals and objectives in law enforcement.

Specific tasks and activities necessary for accomplishing each goal and objective and time frames that identifies when activities will be accomplished

Victim Services

Goal One: Expand and maintain a sustainable network of trained legal advocates and attorneys providing increased victim safety and greater accountability of perpetrators.

Objective 1: Throughout the three years of the plan, maintain the skills and increase the knowledge of legal advocates and attorneys about laws pertaining to domestic violence and sexual assault, legal options, and understanding the needs of underserved populations and the role of advocacy within the legal system.

Activities: Over the next three years, The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) will provide an annual Legal Advocacy conference. The annual training will include statewide coordination with law enforcement, prosecution and the courts to provide a statewide multi-disciplinary training including victim advocates and service providers knowledgeable of underserved populations.

Additional statewide trainings over the three years will include a combination of teleconference web-cast trainings and in-person trainings as funding allows.

ANDVSA will annually update legal resources as needed including the Legal Advocacy Curriculum, Women's Legal Rights Handbook, and brochures on Federal Domestic Violence Laws and Full Faith & Credit of Protective Orders.

Objective 2: To maintain a pro bono referral and mentoring project to ensure access to legal representation for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in divorce, child custody and protective order proceedings.

Activities: Over the next three years, ANDVSA will provide volunteer attorneys to represent victims of domestic violence/sexual assault in civil cases. Referrals to the ANDVSA pro bono program will come through the legal advocates in community based victim services programs.

The ANDVSA attorneys will screen applicants and recruit, train and mentor volunteer attorneys for these cases.

The ANDVSA will also network with legal advocates across the state and provide technical assistance.

The ANDVSA will provide annual continuing legal education training for volunteer attorneys during the next three years as funding allows.

Objective 3: To provide legal advocacy and outreach to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking including traditionally underserved populations such as racial, cultural, or ethnic minorities including Alaska Native tribal members,; individuals experiencing disabilities; the elderly and teens, language minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, and intersex (LGBTQI) victims, and domestic violence/sexual assault victims in geographically isolated rural and bush communities which are not road connected. This includes the provision of advocacy and legal resource materials in as many different languages as possible.

Activities: Over the next three years, ANDVSA will coordinate with the Alaska Institute for Justice (AIJ) statewide court interpreter center for the use of qualified, trained interpreters in working with limited English proficient victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

The ANDVSA will make available to programs and others advocacy and legal resource materials in as many different languages as possible.

The ANDVSA will work closely with representatives from underserved populations including culturally specific organizations such as tribes and Alaska Native organizations to ensure that legal and support services are available to traditionally underserved populations within the state.

Objective 4: To evaluate barriers to women's participation within the legal system, women's knowledge and ability to exercise legal rights and options, and systems effectiveness.

Activities: Over the next three years, ANDVSA will continue to work to improve the response to domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and sexual assault within Alaska. This includes working with department of law, court system personnel, medical providers, family law attorneys, child protective service workers, and law enforcement on domestic violence and sexual assault protocols, court forms, gaps in the civil and criminal systems, and effectively implementing state and federal domestic violence/sexual assault laws.

Objective 5: To provide outreach to village, rural and bush communities with legal advocates.

Activities: Over the next three years, ANDVSA staff will travel to at least four villages, rural or bush communities within Alaska to conduct outreach and provide support services to domestic violence and sexual assault programs.

Prosecution

Goal One: The Department of Law (DOL) criminal division will develop and provide training for prosecutors and victim/witness paralegals statewide, in the areas of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking and about the needs of victims in underserved populations to more effectively enable the department to address the needs of victims of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking

Objective 1: The criminal division will sponsor mandatory statewide two-day conferences to increase the knowledge and skills of approximately 100 prosecutors and 30 paralegals to effectively prosecute sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking cases and will include education on assisting underserved victims.

Activities: The criminal division will sponsor two days of training in Alaska for all department attorneys and paralegals each of the three years, focusing on strategies for the successful prosecution of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking cases. Local, state, and nationally renowned practitioners in these fields and those who are knowledgeable about specific underserved populations will be invited to present at the conferences. In addition, break out work sessions will be offered at each conference to discuss techniques and strategies specifically designed for the various levels of expertise among the staff. The criminal division will coordinate with victim advocacy, law enforcement and the courts to provide multi-disciplinary training for SARTs.

Objective 2: The criminal division will send a select number of prosecutors and paralegals to five-day, multi-disciplinary Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) training courses held in different communities throughout Alaska.

Activities: Prosecutors and paralegals will attend SART training annually for each of the three plan years. The SART training courses the staff will attend focus on a multi-disciplinary response to adolescent/adult sexual assault and the medical-forensic exam and will include training and will include information that Alaska will ensure it incurs the full out-of-pocket expense for sexual assault forensic medical exams and that health care providers notify sexual assault victims of the availability of rape exams at no cost to the victims.

Objective 3: The criminal division, depending on funding, will annually send a select number of prosecutors and paralegals to specialized training conferences on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking sponsored by the National District Attorneys' Association (NDAA).

Activities: The criminal division will send prosecutors and paralegals to recommended training and conferences that provide comprehensive and technical assistance to improve skills and

treatment of victims including victims who are in underserved populations of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking annually for each of the three plan years.

Goal Two: The DOL criminal division will maintain the statewide victim witness program.

Objective 1: Annually retain a statewide victim witness program coordinator position to oversee the victim witness program.

Activities: The victim witness coordinator will provide oversight of the victim witness services within the thirteen district attorney offices statewide to enable the department to more effectively address the needs of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and to ensure compliance with Alaska statutes requiring victim notification of all criminal proceedings.

Law Enforcement

Goal One: To provide multi-disciplinary and discipline-specific training for law enforcement personnel and first responders across the state

Objective 1: Law enforcement personnel will gain skills to increase victim safety, and to better investigate crimes against women and underserved populations who are victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking including racial, cultural or ethnic minorities including Alaska Native tribal members, immigrants, individuals experiencing disabilities, the elderly and teens, language minorities, LGBTQI, and domestic violence/sexual assault victims in geographically isolated rural and bush communities which are not on the road system..

Activities:

Alaska State Troopers (AST) will coordinate with victim advocacy, prosecution and the courts to provide multi-disciplinary training.

Discipline-specific training will include academy level training and in-service training as well as advanced level training. Academy and in-service training will continue to focus on the fundamentals of domestic violence and sex crime investigations with a focus on principal physical aggressor assessments. Advanced level training will focus on crime scene documentation and interview and interrogation techniques. Secondary trauma, victim dynamics and cross-cultural communication, and the needs of victims who are members of underserved populations will also be addressed. AST will develop, coordinate and organize all training in consultation with other law enforcement agencies, DOL, victim advocacy and medical providers.

AST will continue to provide training to municipal police departments. Training may be provided as available to local 911 dispatch on request. Training will be available during all three years of the plan. Training will focus on issues and needs identified by the command staff of municipal departments. AST will continue to consult with local prosecutors and local domestic violence and sexual assault programs prior to providing training.

AST will continue to sponsor crime scene documentation training. The training will utilize experts within the department. Rural posts have been identified as the areas where the greatest need for training and technical support exists. In rural posts it is standard for one trooper to handle felony sex crimes and domestic violence investigations without any assistance from the Alaska Bureau of Investigation.

AST will focus a portion of the advanced level training on the interview and interrogation of suspects in both domestic violence and sex crime cases. In many instances, sex crime cases do not benefit from evidence collected in a SART exam, as the assault is often not reported immediately. In these cases, the suspect interview is one of the most important aspects of the investigation. Also, a large number of sex cases in Alaska involve victims who were incapacitated due to alcohol. In these cases, the defense is almost always a consent defense. Thus, the suspect interview becomes more important than DNA evidence. Training on interview and interrogation will focus on overcoming the consent defense as well as assessing for principal physical aggressor.

The first responder training will focus on Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO), Village Police Officers, Tribal Police Officers, Village Health Aides, and Behavioral Health Aides, and may include local 911 dispatchers when requested and when trainers are available. We will partner and coordinate with the local domestic violence and sexual assault programs and the local Alaska Native Health Corporations. Training will focus on the laws, roles of each of the disciplines, mandatory reporting, responding to trauma, historical trauma, responding to underserved populations, evidence preservation and safety planning. Trainers from the local community will be utilized, if they are available.

Academy level training will continue to focus on the requirements outlined in state statute with an emphasis on principal physical aggressor assessment. Domestic violence and sexual assault programs will continue to be offered the opportunity to provide referral information to recruits regarding the services available to victims and survivors and batterers. Program staff will continue to be offered the opportunity to assist training in domestic violence investigation scenarios. This includes participating in the evaluation/critique process.

To increase victim safety and reduce domestic violence-related homicides, academy level training will also continue to include training officers on recognizing lethality indicators.

Objective 2: To provide sexual assault response multi-disciplinary training to first responders across the state. AST will also begin exploring ways to provide domestic violence training in a multi-disciplinary format.

Activities: AST will partner with the Council, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (the Network), the University Of Alaska Anchorage School Of Nursing, DOL and the crime lab to provide training. AST will provide trainers and participate on the statewide planning committee. AST will begin reviewing ways to provide domestic violence training in a multi-disciplinary format.

The statewide planning committee will partner with local communities to provide a fixed schedule of trainings for the last week of March and first week of November. Locations will be based on community application, readiness and length of time from last training in that community and law enforcement needs.

The training covers the roles of the team members, evidence collection and documentation, anatomy and physiology, trauma responses to sexual victimization, drug facilitated sexual assault, strangulation, interviews, interrogations, expert witness testimony and cross-cultural issues and underserved populations including Alaska Native tribal members, and that Alaska will ensure it incurs the full out-of-pocket costs for forensic medical exams and will train that health care providers to notify victims of sexual assault of the availability of rape exams at no cost to the victims.

STOP funds will be used to cover the costs of the majority of the lead presenters including speakers' fees, airfare, hotel costs and meals. In addition, funding will also pay for specific supplies such as binders, tab inserts, and/or thumb drives, certificates and name tags.

Goal Two: To enhance the overall quality of evidence collection and crime scene documentation through use of technology.

Objective 1: To ensure trooper detachment and/or posts as well as municipal departments have adequate equipment.

Activities: Each year, AST will determine which trooper detachment and/or posts as well as municipal departments are in greatest need of equipment. In an effort to establish need, surveys will be sent to municipal departments. Training will be provided specific to all new equipment purchased.

Goal Three: To maintain coordinated training, outreach efforts and implementation of the law enforcement segment of Alaska's STOP 3 Year Implementation plan.

Objective 1: Retain AST's STOP Program Coordinator.

Activities: The AST Program Coordinator is responsible for the implementation of the law enforcement portion of the STOP Three Year Implementation Plan. The success of all of the law enforcement activities in this plan are the primary responsibility of the Program Coordinator.

In addition to the activities listed above, the AST Program Coordinator acts as the primary instructor for the Department of Public Safety specific to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking as well as conducts periodic assessments and research for AST. The Program Coordinator provides the majority of academy level and in-service training for the Department.

Eleven years ago, the AST Program Coordinator was made a full-time position with the Alaska State Troopers. STOP funds will be used to support 73% of the total costs of this position and the Alaska State Troopers will incur the remaining 27% of the total costs. This position is directly

accountable to the Director of the Alaska State Troopers. The AST Program Coordinator is an on-going position, which will require funding in future years. The level of funding for this position will increase incrementally each year as a result of merit increases as well as cost-of-living increases.

State Courts

Goal One: To encourage use of qualified language interpreters in domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence or stalking civil legal proceedings.

Making language interpretation services available at no charge for protective order hearings encourages the use of qualified interpreters. The first objective is to continue to provide these services, using both telephonic and in-person providers as feasible. Telephonic interpreter services can be used for short or uncomplicated hearings but are not preferred. Telephonic interpretation is not appropriate for trials or other complicated evidentiary hearings. Because there is a dearth of trained and qualified interpreters in Alaska, the second objective is to support efforts to improve access to legally certified interpreters.

Objective 1 (a): Provide free language interpreter services for participants in domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking restraining order proceedings and develop statewide policies and procedures for recruiting, training and using court language interpreters..

Activities: The Alaska Court System (ACS) intends to continue efforts to improve access to qualified and impartial interpreters in domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking protective order proceedings.

Objective 1 (b): Encourage efforts to recruit and adequately train bilingual people to provide court language interpretation services

Activities:

The Language Interpreter Center, established in the fall of 2007, was created when ACS began an initiative to partner with other state and federal agencies and with private businesses and nonprofits to create a statewide language interpreter referral and training center. The center receives funding from a combination of state, federal and private foundations and is a nonprofit agency. ACS purchases interpreter training for bilingual individuals deemed to show promise for becoming qualified interpreters. The courts find domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking civil cases difficult to handle when they involve recent immigrants with limited English proficiency parties or other limited English proficiency parties. To address these problems, the court system will continue to use STOP funds to support statewide language interpreter training and referral center.

Goal Two: Judicial Education

Objective 1: Train court employees and judicial officers on issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking and the needs of victims including the traditionally underserved such as racial, cultural, or ethnic minorities including Alaska Native tribal members,

immigrants, individuals experiencing disabilities, the elderly and teens, language minorities, LGBTQI, and domestic violence/sexual assault victims in geographically isolated rural and bush communities which are not road connected;

Activities: Training needs for judges, magistrates and ACS employees are determined by the Judicial Education Coordinator, the Conference Planning Committee, the Magistrate Training Judges and Magistrate Education Coordinator, the Resource Development Officer and the Clerks' Conference Planning Committee. Depending on the training needs and opportunities identified by these persons and entities, STOP funds may be used for domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking and the needs of victims including the traditionally underserved including racial, cultural, or ethnic minorities including Alaska Native tribal members, immigrants, individuals experiencing disabilities, the elderly and teens, language minorities, LGBTQI, and domestic violence/sexual assault victims in geographically isolated rural and bush communities which are not road connected for in-house training, for outside conferences, or for purchase of self-study and reference materials annually for each year of the plan.

Goal Three: Support the ongoing pilot project at the Fairbanks court to offer current bail conditions of release in electronic format to law enforcement and others and to create electronic filing of petitions for domestic violence protective orders.

Objective 1: The ACS is committed to using technology to enhance the efficiency of its operation whenever possible.

Activities: The Fairbanks court is using a special electronic document to enter bail conditions of release; including a notation of whether the charges are domestic violence-related and the information is deposited in an electronic bail repository. Next steps will include possible revisions to the bail form and planning how to take the project to additional court locations.

Work with E-filing vendor to create an electronic petition for domestic violence protective order. The electronic process would enable petitioners to get notice of when the order is served, information not currently available to petitioners.

Goal Four: Assess equipment needs and procedures and policies for the wider use of video instead of telephonic participation by parties and language interpreters in domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking protective order proceedings.

Objective 1: assess equipment needs.

Objective 2: write policies and procedures.

B. Relation to Prior STOP Implementation Plans

Description of how this implementation plan builds on efforts of previous years

Victim Services

The Legal Advocacy Project (LAP) within ANDVSA started during the first year of the STOP program as a small project providing training and technical assistance to victim advocacy program staff throughout the state. Then in 1998, the STOP Violence Against Women Grants Office recognized the LAP as an innovative and promising state practice in improving the justice system response to violence against women. Since the start of the project through June 2013, staff has provided more than 26,000 legal case consultations with an average of 30 requests per week from domestic violence/sexual assault programs.

In May of 1999, the project responded to the growing need for victims to have legal representation and formed the Pro Bono Project. Since STOP funding, more than 400 Alaska attorneys have volunteered with the LAP. Volunteer attorneys donate on average between 25-85 hours to each case, equaling millions of dollars in attorney time donated to the project. In FY 2013 alone, volunteers donated 1.2 million dollars in donated time to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault through the Pro Bono Program. ANDVSA also operates an Information and Referral Legal Hotline answering requests for legal information and assistance from victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The statewide toll free hotline is staffed by volunteer attorneys who provide brief legal assistance every other week. The hotline provides information and referral resources to approximately 6-8 domestic violence and sexual assault victims each month.

Before STOP funding legal advocacy training was either non-existent or very limited within the state. The LAP has successfully implemented 15 statewide legal advocacy conferences, 15 continuing legal-education trainings, and numerous special topic web/ teleconference trainings. Hundreds of attorneys have been trained through ANDVSA's legal program to provide quality legal services to victims.

Due to staff turnover in domestic violence/sexual assault programs and the degree of difficulty in many cases, ongoing training and updated legal resource materials are critical to ensuring victims have access to the civil and criminal justice systems within Alaska. The LAP will continue to train legal advocates and provide continuing legal education and mentoring to attorneys who will perform pro bono services for victims. Training over the next three years will focus on access issues to include working with victims experiencing disabilities; working with victims whose first language is not English; and, improving cross-cultural communication. The LAP will continue to work cooperatively with statewide partners to provide services to immigrant victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The LAP will join with the other plan disciplines to provide interdisciplinary training throughout the three years of the plan. Further, the LAP will continue to update and revise written and oral materials covering legal issues important to Alaskan victims.

Prosecution

Each year the DOL criminal division experiences a significant statewide turnover in attorney and paralegal staff, which dictates the on-going necessity for consistent and quality education, training, and technical assistance for the prosecution of criminal cases involving violence against women. This plan reaffirms the ongoing effort by the criminal division to ensure that all prosecution staff has a basic understanding about the dynamics of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking to ensure that crimes against women are fairly assessed and cases are meritoriously prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law while taking into consideration the rights of the victims and witnesses. Committed to expanding education and training efforts, the mandatory statewide two-day conferences, SART and National District Attorney Association training courses provide knowledgeable practitioners, up-to-date resources, and victim related training including the traditionally underserved populations for the newly hired personnel and continuing education programs for existing staff. Going forward training and education will include information on the VAWA expanded definition of underserved populations.

Additionally, funding for the victim witness coordinator position continues and this position does much to coordinate a consistent statewide approach for working with domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking victims.

Law Enforcement

The unique issues in Alaska dictate the necessity for consistent and quality training specific to domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and sex crimes. Training law enforcement officers across the state is another issue that is exacerbated by the vast geographical size of Alaska and the isolated communities dotted across the state without a connecting road system. Many of the rural municipal departments do not have funding to send their officers to training outside of their communities as travel within the state is very costly. High travel cost and minimal training budgets preclude many of the smaller, rural municipal departments from participating in ongoing and advanced level training that is offered in the "urban" areas. Essentially, training specific to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking does not occur for the majority of rural municipal departments without the support of OVW funding as they do not have the resources to support the much-needed training.

The AST Program Coordinator position has been filled since April of 1999. Maintaining the funding and support for this position is paramount to the success of implementing the STOP grant activities listed in this plan. For example, the AST Program Coordinator is directly responsible for the development and organization of training Village Public Safety Officers (VPSOs), Tribal Police Officers, and Village Police Officers (TPO/VPO) as well as training for all commissioned law enforcement officers. Coordination of training will entail working with Alaska Native non-profit corporations, domestic violence and sexual assault programs, and AST's VPSO coordinator as well as selecting training locations, dates and most importantly, curriculum development. In addition, the AST Program Coordinator is tasked with developing, organizing and presenting at academy level, in-service, advanced level and SART training. Continued funding of the AST Program Coordinator position is necessary to implement all aspects of the three year plan.

State Courts

With STOP funding, ACS has taken many significant steps to meet the needs of victims involved in domestic-violence-, dating violence-, sexual assault- and stalking-related cases. These steps include staffing domestic violence offices in the higher volume courts of Anchorage and Fairbanks, having regular domestic violence protective order calendars in the higher-volume courts, writing grants, and supporting grants submitted by others to have domestic violence and sexual assault advocates work directly in the courts, and having a grant-based domestic violence initiatives position within the central administrative office. In some court locations, court staff participates in local task forces on domestic violence and sexual assault. ACS seeks funding from a variety of sources to enhance its handling of domestic-violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking cases; however, STOP funds are an important and irreplaceable part of the court system's overall strategy to meet these challenges.

This STOP Three Year Implementation Plan includes continuation of two goals from earlier plans—court personnel training and language interpreters. From the beginning, training for judicial officers has been an integral part of ACS' STOP program, when ACS held its first statewide judicial conference devoted to domestic violence in 1996. Ensuing years have included various other trainings that touched virtually all judicial officers (magistrates, special masters and judges). This plan continues ACS's ongoing emphasis on training, taking into account the need for new employee training as well as to providing advanced training for more senior employees. The lack of qualified, neutral language interpreters compromised the fairness and accuracy of protective order proceedings. For the past several years the court system has used STOP funds to pay for trained, qualified and impartial interpreters in protective order hearings. Also, the court system led the effort to found a statewide language interpreter referral and training center in Alaska. The Alaska Court System used STOP funding in the most recent (2010-2013) STOP three year implementation plan to pilot a Bail Conditions of Release information technology system in Fairbanks and studied the issue of how to capture conditions of release in an electronic case management system. ACS completed the initial effort and is proceeding with planning for a statewide system based upon the successful pilot project.

Discretionary

Additionally, within the first year of the 2014-2016 STOP Three Year Implementation Plan, Alaska will assess the need for and as indicated, release a request for proposal for a portion of the discretionary allocation for years two and three for providing immigration legal services to immigrant women experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, human and/or sex trafficking, dating violence or stalking.

C. Priority Areas

STOP funds are one component of the State of Alaska's overall initiative to end domestic violence and sexual assault. Concentrating STOP funds on training, providing accessible services and necessary legal information and representation to victims including underserved victims is integral to the intervention efforts in Alaska. Including providing civil legal advocacy

and outreach to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking including traditionally underserved populations:

- racial,
- cultural or ethnic minorities,
- individuals experiencing disabilities,
- the elderly and teens,
- language minorities,
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Queer and Intersexed (LGBTQI), and
- domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking victims in geographically isolated rural and bush communities which are not road connected, and
- tribes and tribal members.

Fully trained first responders significantly improve the ways in which the system interacts with victims and holds offenders accountable for their actions. A trained judiciary ensures that victims' rights are protected and offender sentencing will be carried out in a thoughtful manner.

Programs and projects supported with STOP grant dollars are generally statewide in application with an emphasis on ensuring participation from rural isolated areas of the state. Since the beginning of the STOP program, Alaska's plans have emphasized improving the availability and provision of services statewide. Comprehensive outreach and services to rural areas are a priority for all projects in Alaska. Villages are small, with limited access and have little or no resources to address domestic violence and sexual assault within the village itself. As a result, there is a strong commitment to prioritize and incorporate rural Alaskan communities in all activities identified within the state plan. While Anchorage meets the definition of an urban area, projects in this plan include service provision to Anchorage due to the high rates of domestic violence against Alaska Native women and the high rate of sexual assault against the population as a whole in that community.

The plan addresses the following STOP purposes:

1. Training law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, and dating violence.
3. Developing and implementing more effective police, court and prosecution policies, protocols, orders and services specifically devoted to preventing, identifying and responding to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault and domestic violence.
5. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening victim services programs, including sexual assault, domestic violence, and dating violence programs, developing or improving delivery of victim services to underserved populations, providing specialized domestic violence court advocates in courts where a significant number of protection orders are granted, and increasing reporting and reducing attrition rates for cases involving violent crimes against women, including crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking and dating violence.
7. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing the needs/circumstances of Indian tribes in dealing with violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault and domestic violence.

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

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

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

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

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

Though the plan does not address purpose 17, the Council will coordinate with other agencies to begin the PREA compliance process for Alaska. In 2013, the Department of Corrections (DOC) PREA Coordinator submitted a report to the Council about compliance. The DOC PREA Coordinator also is a member of the STOP Three Year Implementation Plan planning committee. Alaska intends to use 5 percent of covered funds from the discretionary allocation to assist compliance efforts.

How funds will be distributed each year:

STOP		Match
211,986	30% - Victim Services	
176,655	25% - Law	117,770
176,655	25% -Alaska State Troopers	117,770
105,993	15% - Discretionary	
35,331	5% - Courts	26,171
78,512	Up to 10 % - Admin (from all allocations)	
785,132	Total	261,711

Match:

While not required, the ANDVSA LAP has volunteered to assist the state of Alaska in providing matching funds for the total STOP award if needed. The Victim Services match will be provided by volunteer attorneys donating hours to the pro bono project.

ACS will meet its match with 10% of the Judicial Education Coordinator's time. Additional match will be provided via judges and other court employees' time who attend training.

DOL will meet its match through the monetary value of time contributed by prosecutors and victim/witness paralegals attendance at the annual Department of Law's District Attorney / Victim Witness Paralegal Conference, and specialized training courses on sexual assault sponsored by a partnership between the Department of Public Safety and DOL, and the domestic violence and sexual assault training course offered by NDAA.

AST will meet its match through the monetary value of time contributed by the Trooper personnel who attend training and by state general funds contributed to the Program Coordinator's salary.

Alaska has for many years used at least 20 percent of STOP funding for sexual assault purposes across two or more allocations as can be seen in past year's STOP plans and progress reports. Currently, Alaska uses the majority of the 15 percent discretionary allocation for sexual assault response team (SART) training and at least 40 percent of prosecution allocation for sexual assault purposes including sending prosecuting personnel as community team members to SART training. Currently, at least 60 percent of the law enforcement allocation is used for sexual assault purposes including sending officers as community team members to SART training. While the department of public safety has matching funds for SART kits and exams, STOP funds would be used from the law enforcement allocation to cover the cost of the exams and kits, especially for the smaller jurisdictions, if the matching funds did not completely cover costs. Currently, the Alaska Court System reports using 10 percent of their allocation for sexual assault purposes. The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault currently reports using 25 percent of the victim services allocation for sexual assault purposes. Alaska intends to continue using at least 20 percent of STOP funding for sexual assault purposes across two or more allocations.

D. Grant-making Strategy

The state will continue to give priority to agencies able to provide a state-wide approach to implementing projects funded with STOP dollars. Agencies with infrastructure in place to travel within the state; to communicate with member organizations throughout the state; and, to create and/or reproduce training and other materials are best suited to reach the most Alaskans.

The Governor has authorized the state departments of Public Safety and Law as well as the Alaska Court System to expend STOP funds under the designations appropriate to their functions: law enforcement, prosecutors and state courts. The Council allocates the Victim Services and Discretionary STOP funds and has the overall responsibility for STOP implementation.

The timeline for the STOP grant cycle follows the federal fiscal year and begins when the grant award has been successfully negotiated with OVW.

The Council provides pre-proposal technical assistance to prospective applicants of Victim Services and Discretionary funds via teleconference to ensure that the proposed activities are designed to promote the safety, confidentiality, and economic independence of victims, and provides post award technical assistance teleconferences to grantees regarding grants management and reporting requirements.

STOP sub-grant projects will be funded on a single-year basis for the first year of this three-year plan. Subsequent awards may be on a multiple-year basis.

E. Addressing the Needs of Underserved Victims

The STOP Three Year Implementation Plan planning committee focused on barriers and providing services to the traditionally underserved. Victims in remote areas, Alaska Natives, people with disabilities and immigrants are some underserved populations in Alaska. The planning committee discussed these populations and VAWA 2013's addition of other populations to the underserved list. The committee discussed ways to determine improvement toward moving a population out of the underserved category and the feasibility of such few dollars adequately addressing needs of all populations or if work with one population should be emphasized during this particular plan period.

Committee members were not comfortable with only focusing on one underserved population so plan activities will to the extent possible include each identified underserved population including racial, cultural, or ethnic minorities including Alaska Native tribal members, individuals experiencing disabilities, the elderly and teens, language minorities, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Queer and Intersexed (LGBTQI), and domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking victims in geographically isolated rural and bush communities which are not road connected. Toward the end of the first year of the plan, the STOP Three Year Implementation Plan planning committee will met again and review ways to determine improvement of effort in serving specific populations. Measurements will be agreed upon and implemented during the second and third years of the plan. Simultaneously, activities mentioned throughout the plan to support underserved populations such as interpreters for people with limited English proficiency, to train village first responders, to support services in remote areas of the state, access for LGBTQI, and access for people experiencing disabilities will be carried out.

As an example of addressing the needs of Alaska Native victims of violence, the plan calls for inclusivity and outreach to tribes and tribal organizations ongoing in the plan and plan review.

As an example of addressing the needs of victims with disabilities, the Center for Human Development's Disability Justice Initiative is partnering with the Council to provide training to first responders as part of the SART training occurring during each year of the plan.

F. Barriers to Implementation

Significant barriers are not expected at this time. The political will of the state for addressing violence against women is very strong. There is focused attention across state departments, municipalities, tribes, faith-based, and grassroots organizations on anti-violence work for domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. STOP funded projects contribute in a direct way to that effort.

V. Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring

Though this section is not required with the 2014 implementation plan checklist, it is included as optional information. The Council's program staff monitors victim service and discretionary subgrantees. Quarterly narrative and financial reports are required and STOP funds and activities are specifically reviewed during routine on-site visits to funded agencies.

The Council enters into reimbursable services agreements with AST, DOL and ACS to transfer STOP funds to them. They in turn must report expenditures to the Council. In addition to routine budget forms, they also report quarterly on match amounts provided for the STOP funds. During the course of the state departments and court system's annual audit these agreements are reviewed by state auditors. Additionally, the coordinators from the respective groups meet quarterly with the Council STOP Administrator to discuss implementation of projects and progress toward completing STOP goals and objectives.

Evaluation

A statewide review of data gathering and evaluation methods across disciplines is underway as part of the Governor's Initiative. The Governor believes that everyone has a right to feel and be safe in their own homes and that is the overarching goal of the initiative. STOP goals and objectives fit very well under the umbrella of this goal.

The state moved from output evaluation of activities only to include outcome measures as a way of determining whether or not what is being done meets victims' needs, holds offenders accountable and works in communities to create an atmosphere of non-violence.

The prior year STOP plan was used to assist with the development of the statewide evaluation effort called the Alaska Dashboard and to incorporate outcome measures into STOP goals and objectives. The Dashboard is in its third year. The Dashboard looks at reported incidents, service utilization, protective factors, and offender accountability and victimization survey results to date. The Council uses Dashboard indicators to monitor trends, strengthen policy and practices to enhance intervention efforts, implement prevention strategies and when necessary, make changes/revise program development to adopt practices better suited to ending domestic violence and sexual assault in Alaska.

Current evaluation efforts that measure work volume and sequence such as number of trainings, number of first responders reached through training, pre- and post- testing of training participants to gauge increases in knowledge and skills will continue during the life of the plan.

VI. Conclusion

This plan is a guide. STOP funds continue to be a critical part of the work to end violence against Alaskan women. The STOP Three Year Implementation Plan planning committee and partners are heartened to see the increased interest and commitment to expand the state's resources beyond STOP-funded activities to include primary prevention efforts, coordinated health and behavioral care services, increased housing capacity and community organizing. We believe the elements of this plan will prepare justice system partners to fully participate in the integrated efforts now forming.