



State of Alaska  
Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual  
Assault  
PO Box 111200  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
(907) 465-4356

Services\*Training\*Officers\*Prosecutors

STOP Four Year Implementation Plan

FFY2017-2020

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## **I. Introduction**

A. The date on which the Plan was approved by Alaska.

Alaska's Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) approved the Alaska FFY2017-FFY2020 STOP Implementation Plan on June 13, 2017, at the Council's regular quarterly meeting where public comment was made available.

B. The time period covered by the Plan.

The time period covered by this Alaska STOP Implementation Plan is FFY2017 through FFY2020.

C. Overview or abstract of the STOP Implementation Plan that includes Alaska's Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault mission statement and general goals of the Plan.

As a state, Alaska is facing steeply declining revenues due to falling oil prices and other issues and is having to find creative ways to conduct state government and do such work as described by Alaska's STOP Implementation Plan by departments working closely together which happens to closely align with how the STOP Implementation Plan is meant to work – state departments of government and other agencies are working together toward a common goal.

CDVSA 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.

Alaska is using a dashboard. The 2017 Alaska Dashboard is a broad overview of population indicators on key issues impacting domestic violence and sexual assault in Alaska. The Dashboard looks at reported incidents, service utilization, protective factors, offender accountability and survey results. Though not required by the Office of Violence Against Women as part of STOP four year implementation plans, Alaska does monitor and evaluate domestic violence and sexual assault project activities (Attachment D).

## General Goals of the Plan

### *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.

Six 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) provide civil legal services to victims through trained volunteer and staff attorney;
- 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 trained legal advocates.
- 6) Enhance and expand culturally informed victim services in two localized communities within Alaska.

### *Prosecution*

The prosecution goals are to focus 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.

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Four prosecution objectives include:

- 1) sponsor four 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,

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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 Alaska Courts 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 the development of electronic filing and distribution of domestic and stalking petitions, including the creation of the necessary forms.
- 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.

D. Explanation of how the Plan is organized.

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

E. Description of the overall context for how Alaska will allocate STOP funds within the state.

CDVSA is the STOP formula grant administering agency for Alaska and will allocate the funds according to the grant requirements. This plan follows the Alaska STOP Four 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 Victim Services of which the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) receives 90% with

culturally specific organization(s) receiving 10%, 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.

## II. Description of Planning Process

### A. A brief description of the planning process

The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA or Council), housed in the Alaska Department of Public Safety, is Alaska's STOP funds administering agency and is responsible for the plan and its implementation.

CDVSA convened an Implementation Plan planning meeting on March 6, 2017 in the most central hub in Alaska in Anchorage, and 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, the South Central Foundation, an LGBTQ organization-The Identity Center, military sexual assault response team coordinators, Alaska Native Women Coalitions and Alaska Native Women Centers, the Alaska Corrections PREA coordinator and members of the Council to participate as part of the committee.

### B. Documentation of Collaboration Forms from each member of the planning committee

1. A list of the attendees is attached to this plan along with their Documentation of Collaboration forms. The list is contact information for each planning committee members and there is a sign-in sheet that states what area they represent. In attendance were representatives from:

- Alaska's dual domestic violence and sexual assault coalition - the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- Law Enforcement entity - Alaska State Troopers
- Prosecution entity - the Alaska Department of Law
- A court - Alaska Courts
- Representatives from tribes, tribal organizations, or tribal coalitions –
  - A. Alaska Native Women's Resource Center
  - B. South Central Foundation
  - C. Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
  - D. Alaska Native Justice Center
  - E. Rural CDVSA member
  - F. An Alaska Tribe, Ketchikan Indian Corporation
  - G. Other Alaska Native entities were invited, but were not able to attend.
- Population specific organizations
  - A. UAA Justice Center; LGBTQ – Identity Center ; UAA Center for Human Development for people with disabilities

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- Other
  - A. CDVSA Executive Director; Alaska National Guard Sexual Assault Response Coordinator; Urban Sexual Assault program-Standing Together Against Rape; FVPSA Alaska Coordinator; Rural Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault program-Kodiak Women's Resource Center; Alaska National Guard State and Family program director; Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program Manager

2. CDVSA began inviting potential participants to the FFY2017- FFY2020 Alaska STOP Implementation Plan planning meetings in early February. CDVSA was in email communication with the planning committee members. CDVSA assisted several participants with travel to Anchorage in order for them to participate.

3. Some of the potential Plan committee participants, though invited with several communications, never did respond and they are not listed. Some of the Plan committee members responded positively that they would attend the in-person meeting in Anchorage on March 6, but then they could not attend and they are not counted as participants, though each of them are provided the opportunity to submit comments and provide input on the FFY2017 – FFY2020 Alaska STOP Implementation Plan.

4. All Plan committee participants were emailed drafts of the implementation plan for their review before the meeting commenced on March 6. CDVSA used the FFY2014-FFY2016 STOP Implementation Plan as the Draft Copy to work from. In addition, hard copies of the Draft Plan were made available at the March 6 meeting.

5. All of the STOP Implementation Plan committee members submitted written Documentation of Collaboration forms for the March 6 meeting.

6. CDVSA sent the final draft of the FFY2017- FFY2020 Alaska STOP Implementation Plan and a list of major concerns or major changes on June 1, 2017 to all the entities consulted in 2017 including:

- The FFY2017-FFY2020 Alaska STOP Implementation Plan planning committee members
- 228 Alaska Tribes
- Participants of the OVW Alaska Native Listening Session from October 19, 2016 in Fairbanks
- Any public who requests one
- The same will be posted for the public on the CDVSA website.

7. Following the final outreach on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, CDVSA received no concerns with the final FFY2017-FFY2020 Alaska STOP Implementation Plan. CDVSA will continue to provide for feedback opportunities with the plan and the planning process on an annual basis throughout the course of the plan. CDVSA will report on concerns received with the FFY2018 STOP grant application and make adaptations as needed. Over the entire course of outreach, CDVSA received one letter of concern with the STOP planning process in Alaska and that letter is attached as attachment # E.



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The implementation planning committee met in March 2017 and teleconferenced again in April 2017. At the March 2017 meeting, the participants reviewed the FFY2014-FFY2016 Alaska Implementation Plan as the draft from which to work. The committee heard about and discussed current STOP projects and then split into groups to review allocations areas for the victim services, law enforcement, prosecution and judicial plan components. Ideas from these smaller group discussions and the allocation areas, and the use of discretionary funding were reviewed and discussed by the full committee. The committee discussed issues relating to underserved populations and possible evaluation areas.

The implementation plan planning 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 LGBTQ, Alaska Native people, people living in Alaska Native Villages in rural Alaska, people with disabilities, and people with language barriers. The rough draft of the STOP Four Year Implementation Plan was drafted and submitted to implementation plan planning partners and the Council for review and input.

### C. A Summary of Major Concerns

One of the main ideas brought forward was the need for communication on many issues dealing with domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking, but especially needed is communication about upcoming trainings on issues of domestic violence and sexual assault – where they were going to be held around our huge state. Those at the meeting representing villages and tribes and Alaska Native Women's centers and coalitions stated how helpful it would be to simply know about what is being offered for trainings in their regions.

The Plan committee participants agreed they would like to have a database or a clearinghouse that announced trainings in Alaska on the topics of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking that was kept up-to-date where Tribes and public could access the information.

### D. Description of consultation with other collaboration partners not included in the planning committee.

1. Collaborative partners for sexual assault victim service providers were part of the STOP Implementation Plan planning committee. Standing Together Against Rape (STAR) participated.
2. Domestic violence victim service providers, Kodiak Women's Resource and Crisis Center (KWRCC) participated as part of the STOP Implementation Plan planning committee.
3. Tribal Consultation on the Plan

As of the 2010 US Census and the 2012 update to the Census, 14.8 percent of Alaska's population identify as Alaska Native that make up the 228 Tribes within Alaska. CDVSA used a contact list for the 228 federally recognized Alaska tribes from Alaska Department of

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Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Community and Regional Affairs and CDVSA further refined the list by calling each tribe to get up-to-date addresses, emails and contact names. The Alaska Tribe list changes frequently. (Please see attachment #F of the list of Alaska Tribes.) CDVSA sent correspondence by US mail, email, and fax to inform Alaska tribes about the teleconference meetings and to inform tribes about their opportunities to comment and add input on the Alaska STOP FFY2017-FFY2020 STOP Implementation Plan.

Letters and the Alaska FFY2014 – FFY2016 DSTOP Implementation Plan, which CDVSA used as the Draft of the Plan to update for FFY2017- FFY2020, and the blank Documentation of Collaboration Forms, were sent to all 228 Alaska Tribes:

- By US Mail on March 10, 2017
- By email on March 10, 2017

And, a letter announcing the two teleconferences and an invitation to participate in one of the teleconferences to provide input to the STOP Implementation Plan was sent to all 228 Alaska Tribes:

- By FAX on March 10, 2017

CDVSA emailed the 228 Alaska Tribes on April 10, 2017 to let them know that the Draft FFY2017-FFY2020 Plan will be mailed and emailed to them in April 2017. The final draft was emailed to the 228 Alaska Tribes on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The final draft was also sent via the United States postal service to all 228 Alaska Tribes on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Accompanying the email and mailed hard copy was a letter to tribes highlighting tribal contributions made during the planning process that are now included in the plan (Attachment H). CDVSA has already and plans to continue to use the mailing and email list to inform Alaska Tribes about trainings in Alaska and other items of possible interest.

Representatives from the Department of Law, the Alaska Courts, the Alaska State Troopers and the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault met with Hallie Bongar White from the Southwest Center on Law and Policy about future plans to continue to meaningfully consult with tribes, during the week of May 15<sup>th</sup> in Anchorage, Alaska. STOP partners will continue to work with Ms. Bongar White to ensure that Alaska is meaningfully consulting with tribes through this four-year plan. A meeting for this purpose is set for July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

#### A Summary of Major Tribal Concerns

We held the same teleconference on two different dates. ANDVSA staff attended both teleconferences to get information about how to better serve tribal citizens. The teleconferences with Alaska tribes were sparsely attended with very few comments. About 20 people participated on the calls reflecting representation from fourteen tribes. The people on the calls primarily were interested in what the current STOP projects are and they did not have comments on the plan. We received back very few forms for documentation of collaboration from these teleconference call meetings, though the form was emailed and faxed to all Tribes.

Some of the members of the 2017 STOP Implementation Plan planning committee are tribal members and representatives of tribal groups and reiterated the need for communicating about upcoming trainings on issues of domestic violence and sexual assault – where they were going to

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be held around Alaska, especially in Alaska Native Villages. For example, even though there might be an announcement that goes to Village Public Safety Officers about upcoming law enforcement training, the announcement also needs to go to the Tribe so that more people are informed about what is happening within their region.

The need for a training database or a clearinghouse that announced trainings in Alaska on the topics of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking that is kept up-to-date where Tribes and public could access the information will be helpful.

During the last STOP implementation planning cycle for the FFY2014-FFY2016 Plan, CDVSA used input received from teleconference meetings with Alaska tribes to include Tribal Police Officers (TPO), Village Police Officers (VPO), and Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO) in statewide training offered for law enforcement.

The Alaska STOP Implementation Plan requires that when there are STOP-funded trainings in regions on subjects of domestic violence and sexual assault an invitation be sent to tribal administrators and/or tribal councils. Another comment from tribes was about desiring quarterly meetings of interested tribes so that there could be information sharing between tribes and with CDVSA. The FFY2017- FFY2020 Alaska STOP Implementation Plan requires one meeting with Alaska tribes (by teleconference) annually and another meeting where CDVSA will provide a time and place to meet with Alaska Tribes at an annual gathering of Tribes. The anticipated meetings would occur either at the Alaska Federation of Natives or the Bureau of Indian Affairs Provider's Conference. These meetings will provide opportunities to continue to comment on the STOP Implementation Plan and other issues of domestic violence and sexual assault in their communities.

4. Population specific organizations, representatives from underserved populations, and culturally specific organizations and how Alaska meaningfully consulted with the included organizations and considered demographics and barriers /historical lack of access to services for each population.

Alaska is used to considering how to best reach out to its geographically-remote populations and that includes also how best to reach out to all culturally specific populations including Alaska Native populations, LGBTQ populations, elders and senior citizens, people living with disabilities and populations with limited English language proficiency.

As concerns the planning for the FFY2017-FFY2020 Alaska STOP Implementation Plan, CDVSA included on the planning committee:

- Organizations that serve LGBTQ
- Alaska Native consortiums for health and mental health, justice centers, Alaska Native Women's Resource Centers, Alaska Native Tribe
- An organization that works with people experiencing disabilities.
- Rural Alaskan representative of the Council
- An organization that works with immigrant populations of domestic violence and/or sexual assault victims/survivors who are limited English proficient

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The Implementation Plan planning committee met in person in March and by teleconference in April, 2017. Each member was specifically asked in a round robin style for input or any comments at all.

5. Others who were consulted.

Military: 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 with dependents reside primarily in three major locations around Fairbanks, Anchorage and Kodiak, though smaller duty stations are in other locations around the state.

CDVSA consulted with several military representatives as part of the Alaska STOP Implementation Plan planning process as part of the Plan planning committee.

LGBTQ: CDVSA received comments on the Draft plan from the Gender and Sexuality Alliance Club (GSA) at the University of Alaska - Fairbanks (UAF) in March 2017. A UAF professor, invited to be on the STOP Implementation Plan planning committee could not commit the time to attend the meetings however, the professor read the Draft Plan and gave to the GSA student organization for comment and they provided comments and the students were interested in seeing data and measurable outcomes, but "on the whole, the goals are headed in the right direction.

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

The STOP Four Year Implementation Plan will coordinate with Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA, Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP), the Public Health Service Act Rape Prevention Education and with the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). The Council not only administers the Services\*Training\*Officers\*Prosecutors grant, but also FVPSA and SASP funds for the state and the Victims of Crime Act. The Council also funds several other Violence Against Women Act grants including the Improving Criminal Justice Response (Arrest), Justice for Families, the Sexual Assault Services Program grants. The Alaska 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, FVPSA, SASP and VOCA grant administrators met in April 2017 to discuss coordination of grant activities with of the Alaska FFY2017-FFY2020 STOP Implementation Plan. Earlier in March 2017, CDVSA convened a statewide meeting, which included the Council staff who administers FVPSA, as well as 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

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violence, teen dating violence, and sexual assault and stalking. These victim service objectives were discussed and they remain a priority:

- maintaining skills and increasing the knowledge of legal advocates and attorneys leading to increased victim safety and understanding of the needs of underserved populations;
- provide civil legal services to victims through trained volunteer and staff attorneys;
- 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 (LGBTQ), 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;
- provide outreach to rural and bush communities including Alaska Native Villages with legal advocates; and,
- find ways to communicate all trainings concerning domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking as well as services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, dating violence and stalking within the rural and bush communities including Alaska Native Villages.

These priority areas along with the Council's state fiscal year 2009-2019 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.

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

The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) receives 90% of the victim services allocation of the STOP formula grant funding. The ANDVSA is Alaska's statewide domestic violence and sexual assault coalition. Its membership reflects the majority of Council funded victim service agencies all of which provide culturally specific services to the diverse populations in their regions. In a state as large, culturally diverse and geographically challenging as Alaska, it is not possible to have programs in every community. In order to assure that training, resources, and information are available across the state to address the issues of domestic and sexual violence, programs are designed to provide services locally and to outlying areas. As the state coalition, ANDVSA works in cooperation with its members and affiliates (which include tribes, military and youth organizations), tribal governments, the Department of Law, the Alaska State Troopers and other state and non-profit entities to ensure that legal services, training, and legal advocacy into isolated regions is culturally relevant and enhances victims safety. With STOP funds, ANDVSA legal staff will continue to provide legal services, legal training, and technical assistance with underserved populations, culturally specific organizations, and Alaska Native organizations including the STOP Violence Against Native

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Women grantees, FVPSA tribal grantees, the Alaska Native Justice Center, and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. ANDVSA has funded advocates from various Alaska Native organizations within Alaska to consult, plan, attend and present at our annual statewide conferences.

Additionally, to the above regarding ANDVSA, Alaska will distribute the mandated set aside funding, 10% of the 30% for victim services, to culturally specific services for community based organizations whose services are primarily directed toward racial and ethnic minority groups as described in 42 U.S.C. 300u-6(g) as:

- (1) The term "racial and ethnic minority group" means American Indians (including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts); Asian Americans; Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders; Blacks; and Hispanics.
- (2) The term "Hispanic" means individuals whose origin is Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or any other Spanish-speaking country.

The current recipients of the culturally specific set aside are:

Kenaitze Indian Tribe  
P.O. Box 988  
Kenai, AK 99611-0988  
And

Ketchikan Indian Community  
2960 Tongass Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Both are working to enhance existing victim services through culturally relevant, localized trainings and cross-system collaboration with law enforcement, shelter services and other community based service providers.

*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 Four-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**

#### **A. Geographical and Demographic Information**

Alaska is a vast state, the largest of the 50 United States, covering a large land mass, 587,878 square miles, with the majority of communities being remote and isolated and less than 10 percent of the state has a road system. Alaska measures from top to bottom, 1420 miles, the

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distance from Denver to Mexico City, and east to west 2500 miles, the distance from Savannah, Georgia to Santa Barbara, California. (Please see Attachment # G which is a comparison map of Alaska.) It is 16.1 percent of the US square mileage, with over 47,000 miles of coastline.

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.

These three Alaskan cities; Anchorage (298,842), Juneau (32,832), and Fairbanks (32,070) are home to 49.7 percent of Alaska's population. 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. In 2012, 80 percent of Alaska's population live in cities or places with populations of 2,500 or more.

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 Alaska's population identified as White, 14.8 percent identified as Alaska Native, 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.

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. One in eleven people were 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 median age of Alaska's population in 2012 is 34.1 years; the national median is 37.4. The school age population (5 to 17 years old) 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.

B. Context and methods used to identify underserved populations within the state and the results of those methods.

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The Council partnered with the University of Alaska Justice Center to conduct a statewide victimization survey in 2010 and conducted another statewide survey in 2015. The survey was modeled after the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Surveillance System (lead by CDC). The survey was conducted by phone. 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.

The 2015 Alaska Victimization Survey results show a decline in Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence in Alaska since 2011. The survey results show:

- In 2010, 12 in 100 women had experienced intimate partner violence, sexual violence, or both in Alaska during the previous year. By 2015, that number dropped to 8 in 100.
- Intimate partner violence decreased by 32%.
- Sexual violence decreased by 33%.
- 6,556 fewer women experienced intimate partner violence in 2015 than in 2010.
- 3,072 fewer women experienced sexual violence in 2015 than 2010.

In 2011 regional surveying was completed, 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.

In addition to the Statewide Victimization Survey, CDVSA works with many community partners and the Council itself is made up of the principal heads or their designees of state government departments of law, public safety, education and early development, health and social services, and corrections and four public members whose mission is to work together from their professional perspectives on the issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking and to best serve all of Alaskans including the underserved. The CDVSA Council meets quarterly, usually over a two day period and in doing so coordinate between the state departments and the public.

C. Alaska criminal justice and court data pertaining to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking.

#### *Victim Services*

The victim services portion of STOP funds supports legal services to victims through trained volunteer and staff attorneys and training and technical assistance to legal advocates through that statewide coalition, the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA).



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Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault as well as service providers continue to identify the need for legal advocacy and representation as a top priority for victim services Alaska. In a 2016 ANDVSA program needs assessment survey, legal advocacy was the most requested topic for additional training in our online advocate course. While all of ANDVSA's 24 member and affiliate programs have a legal advocate, the turnover rate for these positions is extremely high due to low wages and job stress, and most of them – all but 3 - function in rural, isolated communities, without regular professional peer interaction. Continual training on civil and criminal justice issues, working with interpreters, and providing culturally relevant services - accessible through multiple platforms such as webinars, in-person trainings, on-line resources and on-demand technical assistance- is critical.

A 2010 article in the Alaska Justice Forum documents the huge unmet legal needs in Alaska. Unfortunately, access to no-cost legal services in Alaska continues to be outpaced by the needs of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. The Alaska Court System estimates that 80% of individuals go through the family court system process without the assistance of an attorney. During a one day survey conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence in 2013 in Alaska, 618 survivors were served by Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) member programs; but there were 51 unmet requests for services, the most frequent being housing and legal representation. Legal advocates at ANDVSA's 24 member and affiliate programs have continually identified the need for civil legal assistance as a high priority area for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. Advocates acutely understand what national studies have found: that providing legal representation to survivors in child support, child custody, divorce, and protection order cases provides survivors with the tools to overcome the obstacles that formally kept them trapped in the violence.

ANDVSA's Legal Program provides quality comprehensive legal assistance to survivors statewide, utilizing a hybrid model of staff and volunteer attorneys. Attorneys provide legal assistance in a range of civil proceedings, including: divorce, custody, child support, employment, housing, immigration, and protection order cases. Clients are referred from trained legal advocates at ANDVSA's 24 member and affiliate programs statewide that help to screen the cases and provide safety planning and support services as needed throughout the case. This three-way relationship provides ANDVSA Legal Program with a broad geographic base for client intake, while also maximizing our attorney's efficiency and the client's safety. Relationships with the Alaska Institute for Justice and tribal organizations increase our accessibility to underserved populations. 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. 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.

ANDVSA demographic information demonstrates the diversity of our clients. Routinely, ANDVSA statistics show that approximately ¼ of our clients providing demographic

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information identify as non-Caucasian. Additionally, the majority of ANDVSA legal services clients come from rural Alaska. Statistical information for ANDVSA’s Legal Program below underscores that it is a cost-effective means of providing quality services to victims in our state.

ANDVSA Legal Program	FY 15	FY16
Overall new referrals made for legal assistance	380	410
Percentage of Cases Accepted	43%	50%
Number of Volunteers taking cases	81	71
Number of cases handled overall	222	271
In-Kind Donation	\$860,000	\$858,116
% of clients indicating that their families’ safety increased with an attorney	100%	100%

*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.

Alaska rates of domestic violence and sexual assault continue to remain high and there are unique physical barriers of remoteness and weather for victims seeking help. Dozens of villages in Alaska have no local law enforcement presence, leaving those communities with no immediate law enforcement which often coincides with high rates of violence against women. Shelter or legal advocacy services may be even farther away and the prosecutor farther still. The communities are often very small, insular villages where sexual and domestic violence have gone unchecked for years.

In addition to physical barriers, there are systemic barriers to victim assistance/offender accountability. Currently, the line prosecutors in Alaska have an average of five years on the job. During the same five years, victim advocacy organizations have experienced a significant turnover in staffing and prosecution rates have continued to increase. An observed by-product of these two phenomena is that the prosecutors who are now trying sexual assault and domestic violence cases are not acquainted with the advocacy community and vice-versa. It is the collective opinion of both the prosecution and advocacy communities in Alaska that advocates need to be in the courtroom more often. They need to bear witness to the process and thereby be better able to inform victims and provide the caliber of support that victims of sexual and domestic violence deserve. Likewise, prosecutors need to be better informed about the impact of sexual and domestic violence on the victim and the greater community associated with that

person. 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 are key to successfully handling such cases.

A victim who is secure in the knowledge that the "system" will not be re-victimizing them is going to be a better witness and accept the outcome of the process with greater certainty that the process worked if the prosecutor and advocate work collaboratively.

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, Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO) and Village Police Officers (VPO) and Tribal Police Officers (TP) 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

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when training conferences are offered regionally or in local jurisdictions, municipal departments must 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.

Concerning law enforcement, the most significant areas of remaining need with respect to improving services to victims and increasing victim safety in Alaska are having a sufficient local law enforcement presence within the community and ongoing training. Unfortunately, Alaska's current fiscal climate has led to significant cuts to most state provided services including law enforcement. Currently the Department of Public Safety (AST) is facing significant budget cuts resulting in cuts to training funds (outside of STOP funds) and to law enforcement positions. Reduced personnel will result in a struggle to ensure the best services are being provided to victims of crimes. Alaska State Troopers (AST) have been working with municipal police departments to transition more jurisdiction from the state level to municipal level.

To make the required budget cuts, AST has shut down a number of trooper posts, requiring the municipal police agency to cover area they had not prior. This also then requires the municipal agency to take the lead on investigations rather than AST, such as felony level sexual assaults. To assist with this, AST continues to offer training opportunities to the police departments to help ensure victims of DVSA crimes still receive the strongest law enforcement response possible.

As the primary law enforcement agency in the state, the Alaska State Troopers (AST) provides baseline law enforcement training, to include domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, at its training academy. Academy level training is the best and most efficient way to provide this training to all levels of law enforcement. However, there is a significant need for ongoing training once officers and troopers graduate from the academy. STOP funds are vital to ensure ongoing training opportunities. In addition to providing direct training, the Alaska State Troopers strive to provide law enforcement officers with the opportunity to attend conferences and trainings to improve their response to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, and to improve offender accountability. However, training logistics are challenging and costs are typically high due Alaska's geography. These are challenges we will continue to face. Regarding coordinated community response, the AST have been working with the Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (CDVSA) to schedule and host regular statewide Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) trainings. The Alaska State Troopers support the SART concept and the multidisciplinary training model.

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As a result of Tribal Consultation, Alaska 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, 6626 short-term petitions and 5967 long-term petitions were filed in 2016. 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. Electronic filing of domestic violence and stalking petitions will enhance access to the courts, particularly in remote communities.

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.

Providing interpreter services for protective order hearings at no cost to the parties 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. Alaska has very few qualified interpreters and has had to rely on remote interpretation services by telephone, particularly in rural communities. The courts have been working to enhance the availability of video communications throughout the state, with the result that video participation is gradually replacing telephone for interpreters.

From the Alaska Courts perspective, statewide improvements to monitoring defendants released on bail is a big need. Enhanced monitoring of convicted batterers and faster response to violations of criminal judgments and civil protection orders also are significant needs throughout the state of Alaska. Another need is increased funding for victim advocate and shelter programs

and batterers' intervention programs is needed statewide. Also increased access to supervised visitation is needed throughout the state.

#### **IV. Plan Priorities and Approaches**

##### **A. Identified Goals**

###### *(1) Concise Description of Current Project Goals and Objectives*

For the duration of the four-year period (FFY2017-FFY2020) Alaska STOP Implementation Plan, Alaska intends to keep the goals from the previous three-year plan, (FFY2014-FFY2016) 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. It is Alaska's intention for the Plan that 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 responses to domestic violence, sexual assault, and dating violence and stalking within 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.

*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 Four 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 Four 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 Four years will include a combination of teleconference web-cast trainings and in-person trainings as funding allows.

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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:** provide civil legal services to victims through trained volunteer and staff attorneys in civil legal proceedings including divorce, child custody and protective order proceedings.

**Activities:** Over the next Four years, ANDVSA will provide volunteer and staff 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 and tribal entities.

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 and webinars for volunteer attorneys during the next Four 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 Four 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, and 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.

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**Activities:** Over the next Four 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 Four 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.

**Objective 6:** Enhance and expand culturally informed victim services in two localized communities in Alaska.

**Activities:** Over the next Four years, Ketchikan Indian Community (KIC) staff and Kenaitze Indian Tribe (KIT) staff will provide localized trainings and cross-system collaboration with law enforcement, shelter services and other community based service providers to improve the safety and service needs of Alaska Native survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

*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-three 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-three days of training in Alaska for all department attorneys and paralegals each of the Four 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 Four 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 Four 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 twelve 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, LGBTQ, 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, tribes, prosecution and the courts to provide multi-disciplinary training.

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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 as available to municipal police departments and will invite Alaska tribes in the region to trainings. Training may be provided as available to local 911 dispatches on request. Training will be available during all Four 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 Consortiums. 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

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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.

**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 partners with local communities to provide a fixed schedule of trainings for the last week of March and first week of November. Locations are based on community application, readiness and length of time from last training in that community and law enforcement needs. SART Trainings will be offered in a tiered format based on community readiness.

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 4 Year Implementation plan.

**Objective 1:** Retain AST's STOP Program Coordinator and Project Assistant

The AST Program Coordinator is responsible for the implementation of the law enforcement portion of the STOP Four 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.

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.

Additionally, STOP funds will be used to support the AST Project Assistant. As training needs and requests increased, the workload expanded the capacity of the Program Coordinator to fulfill all the demands. STOP funds support 50% of the total costs of the position. Another federal grant source (Sexual Assault Kit Initiative) supports the remaining 50%. While working on STOP goals, the Project Assistant is responsible for assisting the Program Coordinator in the law enforcement activities listed above including providing direct training to for the Department as well provide supportive activities to project. This includes maintain training records, evaluations, and performance metrics. Since the inception of the Project Assistant position, there has been a 125% increase in the number of people trained.

*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 telephonic, video, and in-person providers as feasible. Telephonic interpretation is not appropriate for trials or other complicated evidentiary hearings and is the last choice for any hearing. 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, including the use of video connections.

**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..

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**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 is a non-profit agency and receives Federal and private foundation grants and interpreting fees from center users. The court system continues to provide testing interpreter certification and qualification and collaborates with national, state and local agencies in training prospective 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 the increased use of legally certified interpreters.

**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 development of electronic filing of petitions for domestic violence protective orders and electronic distribution of orders.

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

**Activities:** 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. 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, and Queer (LGBTQ), 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

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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 noted as they are numbered for STOP:

Purpose area 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.

Purpose area 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.

Purpose area 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.

Purpose area 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.

Purpose area 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.

Purpose area 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.

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

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

Purpose area 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.

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Though the plan does not address purpose 17, the Council continues to coordinate with other agencies to begin the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) compliance process for Alaska. The Department of Corrections Commissioner (DOC) is on the CDVSA Council and the DOC PREA Coordinator also is a member of the STOP Four Year Implementation Plan planning committee.

Statement that Alaska prohibits charging victims of sexual assault for forensic medical exams:

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.

Statement that Alaska's Plan includes access for underserved populations:

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

Statement that Alaska's Plan addresses reducing domestic violence-related homicides:

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

Statement that Alaska's Plan does not plan to use the Crystal Judson Purpose Area:

Alaska's Plan does not plan to use the Crystal Judson Purpose Area, however, though not part of STOP funding, Alaska's law enforcement officers all must attend the Alaska Police Academy and protocols for investigating domestic violence crimes or for assisting victims attain protective orders are subjects taught in the academy and the protocols are taught for when law enforcement officers are part of the domestic violence complaint.



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3. How funds will be distributed each year:

FFY2017 Alaska STOP

Allocation Area	Allocation Amount	Admin Amount	Amount after Admin	Match
30% - Victim Services	259,282	25,928	234,054	none
(out of the 30% VS, 10% goes to Culturally Specific Organization(s))	25,928			none
25% - Law	216,068	21,607	194,461	
25% - Law Enforcement	216,068	21,607	194,461	
5% - Courts	43,214	4,321	38,893	
15% - Discretionary	129,641	12,964	116,677	none
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>864,273</b>	<b>86,427</b>	<b>778,446</b>	

*Match:*

While not required, the ANDVSA Legal Program 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.

Alaska State Courts 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.

Department of Law 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.

Alaska State Troopers 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 and the AST Project Assistant’s salary.

4. Documentation from: prosecution; law enforcement; courts, and victim service programs describing a) the need for the grant funds; b) the intended use of the grant funds; c) the expected result of the grant funds, and d) the demographic characteristics of the population to be served.

CDVSA received letters of need and the intended use of funds from prosecution – the Alaska Department of Law dated April 13, 2017; law enforcement – Alaska State Troopers dated March

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8, 2017; courts – the Alaska Court System, dated April 12, 2017; victim service programs – the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault dated April 14, 2017, the Kenaitze Indian Tribe dated June 22, 2017 and Ketchikan Indian Community dated June 22, 2017. Collectively, these letters are Attachment # C.

5. Information on how Alaska plans to meet the sexual assault set-aside, including how the state will ensure the funds are allocated for programs or projects in two or more allocations.

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. The Alaska Court System is 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.

6. The most recent subgrant listing with contact information:

<b>Allocation Area</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Contact Info</b>	<b>Purpose Area</b>
Law Enforcement – Alaska State Troopers	Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault training statewide for Alaska law enforcement	Randi Breager, Alaska State Troopers Dept of Public Safety 5700 E Tudor Road Anchorage, AK 99507	1, 3, 9, 10, 15, 16
Courts – Alaska State Courts	Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault training statewide for judicial personnel; court interpreter services, electronic filing.	Wendy Lyford, Alaska State Courts 820 W. Fourth Ave. Anchorage, AK 99501	1, 3
Prosecution – Department of Law	Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault training statewide for prosecutors and victim/witness coordinators	Susie Frenzel, Department of Law 123 4 <sup>th</sup> Street, Dimond Courthouse Juneau, AK 99801	1, 3, 9, 10, 15, 16
Victim Services – Alaska Network on Domestic Violence	Legal Program	Carmen Lowry, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and	5, 7, 10, 12, 15

and Sexual Assault		Sexual Assault 130 Seward St., Ste. 209 Juneau, AK 99801	
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**C. Grant-making Strategy**

*1. A description of how Alaska will address the needs of sexual assault victims, domestic violence victims, dating violence victims, and stalking victims, as well as how the State will hold offenders who commit each of these crimes accountable.*

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 address issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking and hold perpetrators accountable for these crimes. The Council allocates the Victim Services allocation, including distributing the set aside for community based culturally specific organizations providing culturally specific services, and Discretionary STOP funds and has the overall responsibility for STOP implementation. Alaska funds at least two annual regional and statewide Sexual Assault Response Team trainings of multi-disciplinary teams.

*2. A description of how Alaska will give priority to areas of varying geographic size with the greatest showing of need based on the availability of existing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking programs.*

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.

*3. A description of how Alaska will determine the amount of subgrants based on the population and geographic area to be served.*

The statutory allocations go to State agencies of Department of Law, Alaska State Troopers, and Alaska Courts and to the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Each of these agencies and this organization have statewide service areas and are responsible for serving even the most remote geographic areas of Alaska.

*4. A description of how Alaska will equitably distribute monies on a geographic basis including nonurban and rural areas of various geographic sizes.*

STOP grant funds are awarded to state agencies and Alaska Courts and to the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and these agencies and this organization serve the entirety of Alaska. When trainings are conducted they are brought to various regions of the state on a rotating basis.

*5. A description of methods to be used for solicitation/review of proposals and selection of subgrant projects and for which sectors these methods apply, including whether the process will be competitive and whether Alaska plans to use pass-through administration for any or all categories of subgrants.*

Using the statutory allocation categories of STOP, Alaska predetermines that the 25% for prosecution goes to the Alaska Department of Law, 25% for law enforcement goes to the Alaska State Troopers, and the 5% for courts goes to unified court system of the Alaska Courts – each of these state agencies reach across the state. Discretionary funds are used at the discretion of CDVSA for STOP purposes; and the victim services allocation goes to the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, an agency with statewide service area. 10% of the Victim Service allocation will go towards improving culturally specific services in two localized communities in two separate regions of the state.

CDVSA announces and publicizes when Request for Proposals are open. Primarily for the STOP grant, the request for proposals under the 2017-2020 will be for a portion of the discretionary funds in the second year of the plan should feedback from stakeholders indicate a need to pursue new area(s) of focus. CDVSA follows the state protocols for competitive Requests for Proposals and announces them broadly.

*6. A timeline of the STOP grant cycle.*

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

*7. Whether and which STOP subgrant projects will be funded on a multiple- or single-year basis.*

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

*8. A Description of how Alaska will ensure that any subgrantees will consult with victim service providers during the course of developing their grant applications in order to ensure that the proposed activities are designed to promote the safety, confidentiality, and economic independence of victims.*

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.

*9. A description of how Alaska will ensure that eligible entities are aware of funding opportunities, including projects serving underserved populations.*

Alaska uses a contact list for Alaska Tribes and announces through email and US Mail and on the CDVSA website and other state websites when funds are being let in a request for proposal.

*10. Information on projects that the State plans to fund, if known.*

Alaska is funding the projects that are outlined in goals and objectives portion of this FFY17-FFY2020 Alaska STOP Implementation Plan.

**D. Addressing the Needs of Underserved Victims**

*1. Description of how Alaska will recognize and address the needs of underserved populations as defined by VAWA 2013. This includes information on how Alaska plans to meet the needs of the identified underserved populations, including but not limited to, culturally specific populations, victims who are underserved because of sexual orientation or gender identity, and victims with limited English proficiency.*

The STOP Four 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.

*2. Specifics on how the state plans to meet the set-aside for culturally specific community based organizations, including a description of how Alaska will reach out to community-based organizations that provide linguistically and culturally specific services.*

The State will continue to enhance and expand culturally informed victim services in two localized communities in Alaska through grants to Ketchikan Indian Community in Southeast Alaska and the Kenaitze Indian Tribe in Southcentral Alaska. Both agencies will continue to provide localized trainings and cross-system collaboration with law enforcement, shelter services and other community based service providers to improve the safety and service needs of Alaska Native survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

*3. A description of how the state will ensure that monies set aside to fund culturally specific services and activities for underserved populations are distributed equitably among those populations.*

Culturally specific programming for Alaska Natives continues to surface as high priority. In Alaska, we have identified two community based Alaska Native agencies to receive on-going support through this STOP plan. The distribution to two Alaska Native specific agencies allows for the limited resources of the 10% set aside to be optimally leveraged. These resources will continue to be used to enhance and expand existing culturally informed efforts in two separate regions of the state. These agencies provide opportunities for in-depth regional responses that

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are culturally informed and serve to improve the safety of Alaska Native survivors through enhanced partnerships with local courts, law enforcement and local victim service agencies.

Equitable distribution of resources for underserved populations is also assured through the broader statewide reach provided by ANDVSA that provides 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. Over the next Four 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, and sexual assault and stalking. In addition, 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.

*4. Specific information as to which subgrantees meet the requirement of a culturally specific organization to receive the 10% set aside for culturally specific organizations of the 30% Victim Services allocation.*

Kenaitze Indian Tribe  
P.O. Box 988  
Kenai, AK 99611-0988  
And

Ketchikan Indian Community  
2960 Tongass Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Ketchikan, AK 99901

In addition, 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 Intersex (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 Four Year Implementation Plan planning committee will meet 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 LGBTQ, and access for people experiencing disabilities will be carried out.

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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.

Another item as an example of addressing the needs of underserved populations, Alaska Native Tribes, especially those that are located in rural and isolated and remote Alaska, CDVSA STOP funded training will be contacted using the Alaska Tribe contact list made available through the Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development, Division of Community and Regional Affairs.

### **Relation to Prior STOP Implementation Plans**

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

#### *Victim Services*

The Legal Program 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. Over the last 20 years, the ANDVSA Legal Program has grown from a one-attorney project to four attorneys, 2 paralegals, and one intern, and a cadre of active volunteer attorneys providing legal training and direct legal services statewide.

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. Each year, ANDVSA's volunteer program takes in more in-kind legal services than the total amount of its budget. 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 numerous statewide legal advocacy conferences, 19 continuing legal-education trainings for volunteer attorneys, and hosted 8-12 legal advocate webinars and 6-8 volunteer attorney webinars each year. Webinars and print resources are available on an intranet site for our advocates and attorneys to utilize. Hundreds of attorneys and thousands of advocates 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 Four 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 Four 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.



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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 Four 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 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 Four 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 and almost certainly discouraged those without English language proficiency from accessing the courts. 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 Four 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. In the past year, the court system developed a domestic violence "wizard" form that is the basis for future electronic filing of petitions.

*Discretionary*

Additionally, within the second year of the 2017-2020 STOP Four Year Implementation Plan, Alaska will assess the need for additional areas of service. Once identified, CDVSA will release a request for proposal for a portion of the discretionary allocation for years three and four per feedback from stakeholders on identified need.

## **V. Monitoring and Evaluation**

*Monitoring*

Though this section is not required with the 2017 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*

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 Four 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

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believe the elements of this plan will prepare justice system partners to fully participate in the integrated efforts now forming.