



Alaska's Council on  
Domestic Violence  
& Sexual Assault

State of Alaska  
STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant  
Program  
FFY2022-2025 Implementation Plan

Alaska Department of Public Safety  
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# I. Introduction

- A. Alaska's FFY2022-FFY2025 VAWA-STOP Implementation Plan (IP), was approved by the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) Board of Directors on June 8, 2022, by special electronic vote. Throughout state fiscal year 2022 (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022) the CDVSA Board was kept apprised of each step of planning, outreach, and development of this plan. Each quarterly meeting of the board included a presentation and update of the progress of the report and provided an opportunity for discussion, dialogue, and questions. Eight of the nine board members returned their electronic ballot of approval on June 8<sup>th</sup>, following a 30-day review period of the final draft that had been public noticed and open for public comment. The ninth board member was out of the country and unable to vote.
- B. The time covered by the plan is FFY2022-FFY2025 ([28 C.F.R. 90.12\(a\)](#))
- 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.

Alaska's rates of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking are appallingly high with 2020 Alaska Victimization Survey (AVS) research indicating that 48 out of every 100 adult women who reside in the state of Alaska having experienced intimate partner violence; that 41 out of 100 Alaskan women experienced sexual violence; and 58 out of 100 Alaska women experienced one or both types of violence over the course of their lifetime. (AVS 2020). In addition, a corresponding study with the Alaska Mental Health Trust\*, indicated that persons who may be Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries were more than 1.6 X more likely to experience IPV, SV or both than women who were not trust beneficiaries over their lifetimes and out of women in Alaska who experienced IPV, SV or both is SFY20, half were possibly Alaska Mental Health Trust beneficiaries. Alaska Native women continue to experience these forms of violence at rates that far exceed the highest rates of other populations where 55.5% have experienced IPV, 56.1% had experienced SV, 48.8% had experienced stalking within their lifetimes (2016 National Institute of Justice study). These pervasive and persistent forms of violence demand coordinated planning efforts that include institutional responses that are victim centered, trauma informed and culturally relevant. The VAWA STOP Implementation Plan, coordinated through the CDVSA provides the state with an important opportunity to work together towards a common goal.

The CDVSA is a state agency housed within the Department of Public Safety with statutory responsibilities that include the receipt and dispensing of state and federal funds and awarding of grants and contracts from appropriations for the purpose to qualified entities for domestic violence, sexual assault, crisis intervention and prevention programs. As such, CDVSA serves as the administering agency for the Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA), Services, Training, Officers and

Alaska FFY2022-FFY2025 STOP Implementation Plan  
Alaska's Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Prosecutors (S\*T\*O\*P\*), formula grant to states. In addition, CDVSA's statutory responsibilities include the coordination of services provided by the Department of Law, the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Corrections and other state agencies and community groups addressing domestic violence, sexual assault, and crisis intervention and prevention, and provide technical assistance as requested by those state agencies and community groups.

The CDVSA is overseen by a board of directors comprised of high-level officials from various state agencies and members of the public and is itself a coordinating body for state planning. Currently, the board of directors consists of nine members including the state commissioners or their designees from the Departments of Law, Health and Social Services, Education and Early Childhood Development, Public Safety, Corrections and four public members appointed by the governor who may serve two three-year terms. To ensure that the voices of rural and/or geographically isolated populations are represented on the Council, one public member seat is statutorily designated as a rural seat. The public member appointed to this seat must be from a community meeting the definition of "Rural area" meaning a community with a population of 7,500 or less that is not connected by road or rail to Anchorage or Fairbanks or with a population of 3,500 or less that is connected by road or rail to Anchorage or Fairbanks per A.S. 18.66.020(d). The terms of public member service are also two three-year terms. Additionally, the Council actively seeks input from the state coalition (the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, or Network), community organizations, and other knowledgeable individuals when developing statewide plans. The Council operates within a public format, holding meetings four times a year, providing an opportunity for public comment either in person or via a toll-free phone line. Additionally, the Network director is invited to submit a report at each meeting and participate in discussions about issues and needs which is an essential contribution to the statewide planning process. The statutory responsibilities of the CDVSA and organizational structure of the board of directors provide the state with a synergistic coordination to achieve the CDVSA mission as outlined below.

***CVSA 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.

In developing the 2022-2025 VAWA-STOP implementation plan, these coordinating bodies, community organizations, tribes and individuals were provided opportunities to review Alaska's current plan and comment on areas of strengths, identify service gaps, and offer suggestions for improvement in the developing plan. In addition to input from multiple stakeholders, Alaska is also using data such as the CDVSA dashboard to identify service needs. The CDVSA 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. <https://dps.alaska.gov/getmedia/d073444f-161d-4c66-b44b-b02e6e27995f/2021-Alaska-Dashboard-5-23-22.pdf>. 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.

***Orientation to Alaska's Implementation Plan:***

Alaska's Plan follows the content sections as laid out in the STOP Formula Grant Program, Implementation Plan Template, developed by the STAAR Project-Alliance of Local Service Organizations. The plan itself will continue the practice of distributing VAWA S\*T\*O\*P\* funds to state level organizations that are best situated to promote a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to improve Alaska's criminal justice system's response to the violent crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. All goals outlined under this year's plan serve to enhance prior years' efforts by prioritizing trainings that are trauma informed, culturally relevant, and victim centered. These three capacities were consistently highlighted by stakeholders, as training content areas in need of strengthening. It is CDVSA's intent to support the inclusion of these three focus areas throughout the training and services delivered through VAWA-STOP funds.

***General Goals of the Plan***

***Victim Services:*** In Alaska, the victim service portion of STOP funds, supports victims through trained volunteer and staff attorneys and training and technical assistance to legal advocates through Alaska's statewide coalition the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA). The 10% cultural set aside portion of victims services will be granted, through an RFP process, to an Alaska Native Tribe or organization that has the capacity to enhance and expand culturally relevant training that improves system responses to victims, that is community based, and have additional capacity to support regional training efforts.

The victim service goal, under the 2022-2025 Implementation plan, continues to maintain and expand a sustainable network of legal advocates and attorneys providing increased victim safety. The ANDVSA will develop resources and provide annual trainings for legal advocates and attorneys statewide, in the areas of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

Trainings and resources provided by ANDVSA will include information on victim centered practices, that are trauma informed and culturally relevant. To ensure trainings, services and resources are delivered with these capacities in-mind, ANDVSA will partner with and/or coordinate training efforts with agencies and populations representative of communities traditionally identified as underserved. In Alaska, these populations include, racial, cultural, or ethnic minorities including Alaska Native tribal members, immigrants, individuals experiencing disabilities, the elderly and teens, language minorities, LGBTQ+ and domestic violence and sexual assault victims in geographically isolated rural and bush communities which are not road connected. As Alaska is home to 229 federally recognized tribes, with over 15.6% of Alaska's population identifying as Alaska Native, with most tribes being in geographically isolated areas,

the service needs of Alaska Native populations and Alaska Native populations living in geographically isolated communities will be emphasized in trainings and in service delivery.

**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 (DOL) 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 throughout the state. Goals for prosecution under VAWA STOP, will continue to work to better meet the needs of victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking by identifying and holding accountable those perpetrating these forms of violence accountable, through annual trainings and resources, for prosecutors and paralegals, that are victim centered, trauma informed and culturally relevant.

Under the 2022-2025 Implementation Plan, the DOL criminal division will maintain the statewide victim witness program coordinator position that provides oversight of the victim witness services within the twelve district attorney offices statewide, as well as the office of special prosecutions. The coordinator provides uniformity and policy direction for the paralegals that assist victims and witnesses in preparing for trial, guiding them through the prosecution process, meeting the victims' rights, and assistance in navigating the criminal justice system.

The coordinator is also the hiring manager for the victim witness paralegal positions statewide. This key responsibility assures that the new hires will have the skills and abilities to respond appropriately and effectively to women in a variety of crisis situations, as well as the abilities to effectively work with people from diverse socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. The coordinator also develops and coordinates training opportunities for the prosecutors and paralegals, including, the annual District Attorney / Paralegal Conference, and specialized courses on domestic violence and sexual assault.

**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. The 2022-2025 IP goals under law enforcement include continuation funding for the Program Coordinator II position. The coordinator serves as the department's subject matter expert on DVSA issues. This position conducts or coordinates the greater majority of the DVSA training in the state for troopers and municipal law enforcement as well as assisting in developing policies on these topics. This position ensures compliance to relevant department policies, state, and federal laws through the "performance" review process and by other means.

In addition, the Program Coordinator II position acts as a liaison between the department and numerous agencies including ANDVSA, DOL, ACS and the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center(AKNWRC). This position provides technical assistance to municipal police agencies, SART programs and victim services providers as well as within the department. This position coordinates and shares relevant information with other DVSA trainers statewide. This includes

any new training materials, changes to statutes and/or case law. Lastly, this position monitors Court of Appeals decisions for relevant and related material and consult with LAW's appeals division so that all training materials are up to date.

It is anticipated that law enforcement trainings will be coordinated by AST with other relevant state, non-profit and tribal partners. It is further planned that trainings and resources developed under the 2022-2025 IP will emphasize trauma informed practices that are victim centered and culturally informed to increase victim safety and enhance overall quality of law enforcement response. Goals also include improved evidence collection and crime scene documentation using technology.

**Courts:**

The Alaska Court System (ACS) receives the court portion of STOP funds. 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 for those heard by tribal courts. The State of Alaska and Alaska Tribes have overlapping authority in certain areas. Today, tribal courts in Alaska hear an array of cases involving their tribal citizens, including Adoptions; Child Protection and Child Custody; ICWA intervention; Probate; Inheritance; Marriages and Divorces; Domestic Violence; Trespass; Assault and Disorderly Conduct; Drug and Alcohol Regulation; Juvenile Delinquency; and Vandalism. In addition, The Alaska State Court System developed procedures based on AS 18.66.140 to recognize and register protective orders issued by other jurisdiction, including tribal courts. Attachment# 1. The names and locations of tribal courts in Alaska can be found through the following linked resource.

[Draft Tribal Court Directory 2022 - Digital Version.docx \(netdna-ssl.com\)](#). Current goals for ACS include funds for a staff position to oversee and improve the courts capacity to provide directed services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Planned improvements include additional court protective order resources and information; researching quality programs and/or trainers to improve judicial and court staff training, including obtaining education to be able to help train court staff; researching additional trainings, programs, or materials the court could adopt to support survivors. In addition, this position would identify training partners, and materials that are needed to address members of traditionally underserved communities including racial, cultural, or ethnic minorities (which includes Alaska Native tribal members; immigrants; individuals experiencing disabilities; the elderly and persons with limited English proficiency; members of the LGBTQ+ community and domestic violence/sexual assault victims in geographically isolated rural and bush communities which are not road connected.

## II. Needs and Context

**A.** *Demographic information regarding the population of the State derived from the most recent available United States Census Bureau data including population data on race, ethnicity, age, disability, and limited English proficiency. (28 C.F.R. 90.12(g)(1))*

Geographically, Alaska is a vast and rugged state. Comprising 16.1% of the total U.S. square mileage, it is the largest of the 50 states, covering a landmass of 587,878 square miles with 47,000 miles of coastline. Most Alaskan communities are remote and isolated, and less than 10% of the state is connected to a road system. Many communities can only be accessed by boat or plane, and Alaska's extreme weather often cuts off access to communities for days or weeks at a time. During the pandemic, one of Alaska's major rural airline carriers shut down, further limiting access to rural communities. 14.6% of Alaskan households do not have internet access, and often, especially in smaller communities, internet connection can be slow and dependent on weather conditions. Much of Alaska's economy is based on natural resource extraction. Oil and Gas make up almost 85% of the state budget. Tourism, fishing, mining, and agriculture are some other important industries in Alaska. The population data outlined above comes from US Census population estimates from 2021 as displayed by Alaska's Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Live Labor statistics unless otherwise noted.

Alaska's population is 734,323. The population is 48.5% female and 51.4% male. Juneau, located in the southern panhandle and the Southeast region, is Alaska's capital city. Juneau has a population of 32,155. It is Alaska's third-largest city. Anchorage has the largest population at 289,697. Fairbanks and the greater North Star Borough total 97,515. Alaska averages 1.2 people per square mile.

In 2020, 64.8% of Alaska's population identified as White alone, 15.5% identified as Alaska Native only, 6.6 percent as Asian only, 3.62% percent as African American alone, and 1.6 percent as Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander alone 7.8% of Alaskans identified as belonging to two or more races and 7.3% identified as being of Hispanic origin of any race.

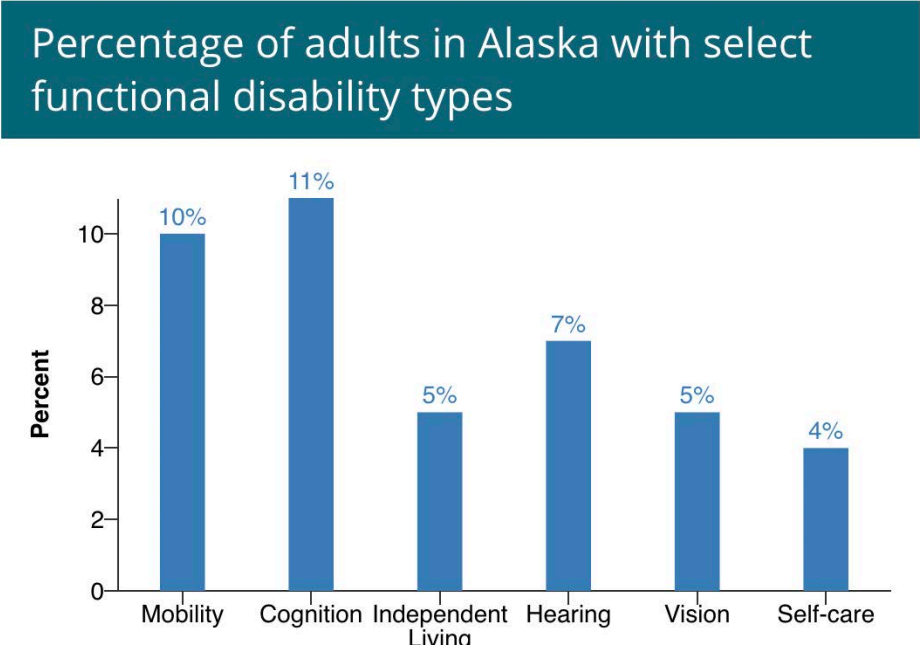
There are 229 federally recognized tribes in Alaska. Each tribe is a unique government with differing organizational structures, distinct languages, customs, traditions, practices, and values. Except for Metlakatla, Alaska does not have reservations. Tribes exist throughout Alaska, and Alaska Native people live in cities, towns, or villages. Of all U.S. cities with populations over 100,000, Anchorage has the highest percentage (12%) of people identifying as Alaska Native/American Indian. Alaska Native people may be both tribal citizens and shareholders in Alaska Native Corporations. Some Alaska Native people are citizens but not shareholders, or vice versa.

It is important to note that Alaska Native tribal government representatives have raised concerns about using U.S. Census data to count Alaska Native people. Since 60% of Alaska Natives live in rural areas, it can be physically difficult to get an accurate count. In addition, many Alaska Natives choose not to be counted due to historically justified mistrust of state and federal governments. There can be large discrepancies between their tribal government enrollment numbers and the counts of tribal members by the U.S. census. Many Native groups would prefer their data to be used over the U.S. census data since they feel their data is more accurate.

The median age in Alaska is 36, with 24.7.% being children under the age of 18 and 13.6% being over the age of 65. According to World Population Review, almost a third of Alaskans live in rural

or bush areas. 92.8% of Alaskans over the age of 25 are high school graduates and 29.6% have a bachelor’s degree or higher. The 2022 literacy rate in Alaska is 90.8%.

According to the Centers Disease Control data for 2021, 137,688 adults (26% of adults) in Alaska have a disability.



Alaska has a Mental Health Trust. Beneficiaries include Alaskans with mental illness, traumatic brain injury, developmental disabilities, Alzheimer’s disease and/or related dementia, and people with chronic alcohol or drug addiction. Numbers per category are provided by the Mental Health Trust and are included in the graph below.

## Approximate Number of Trust Beneficiaries

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99,700

Any Mental Illness  
(of whom 22,000 experience  
a serious mental illness)

11,800

Traumatic Brain Injury

7,100

Alzheimer's Disease

2,100

Illicit Drug Dependence  
or Abuse  
(ages 12 to 17)

1,500

Alcohol Dependence  
or Abuse  
(ages 12 to 17)

5,500

Serious Emotional  
Disturbance  
(ages 9 to 17)

17,500

Illicit Drug Dependence  
or Abuse

44,000

Alcohol Dependence  
or Abuse

11,700

Developmental  
Disabilities

Based on the U.S. Census Bureau data from 2015-2019, 7.8 percent of Alaskans were foreign-born and 16.1% speak a language other than English in their homes. According to the Anchorage School District, in 2020, while 80% of families listed English as the first language spoken at home, their families spoke over 110 different languages.

Due to Alaska's geography and remoteness, the cost of living in Alaska is high. On average, the cost of living in Alaska is 25% higher than the U.S. average. The average wage in 2021, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics was \$24.45 an hour or \$61,760 annually and the unemployment rate was 5.6% in January of 2022. The current minimum wage is \$10.34. According to the 2019 census, 9.6% of Alaskans live in poverty. According to Talk Poverty, in 2021 10.2% of Alaskans lived in poverty, including 22.9% of our Alaska Natives/American Indian population. Housing and especially utilities are especially expensive in Alaska, coming in at 34% and 70% higher than U.S. averages in 2019. The Alaska Department of Health and Human Services estimates that at any given time about 2000 Alaskans experience homelessness. Many more Alaskans are housing insecure or live-in multigenerational households that often include extended family due to need rather than choice, especially in rural Alaska.

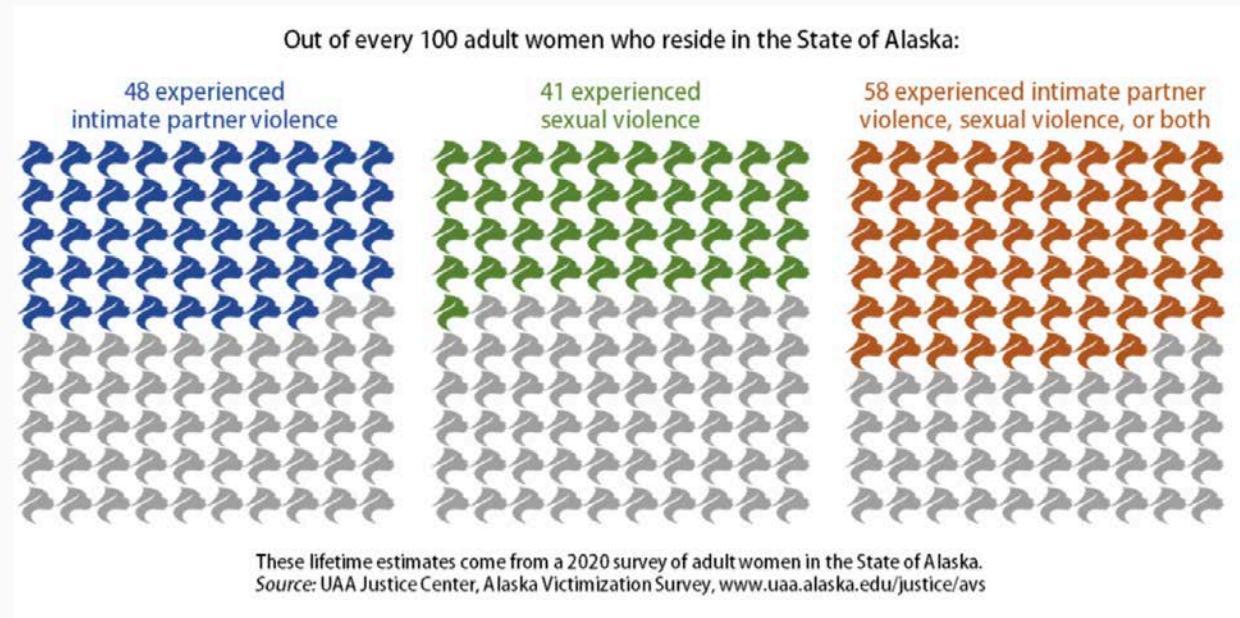
Alaska had 21,407 active-duty military personnel in 2019, representing about 2.9 percent of the population. Additionally, the state had 29,406 military dependents, 4 percent of the state's total population. When these two percentages are combined, active-duty military with dependents equals almost 7% of Alaska's total population. Most active-duty military personnel in Alaska serve with the Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard, and are primarily located in the areas of the state with military bases or large military presence including the Municipality of Anchorage (10,687), Fairbanks Greater area (10,687) Kodiak Island Borough (958), and Juneau (226) though

active-duty military are in other areas of the state as well. Close to 10% of Alaskans identify as veterans.

***B. Description of the methods used to identify underserved populations within the State and the results of those methods, including demographic data on the distribution of underserved populations within the State.***

Alaska's Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault partners with the University of Alaska Justice Center to conduct a statewide victimization survey every five years. The Alaska Victimization Survey (AVS) was conducted in 2010, 2015, and 2020. As explained in the latest report, 2100 randomly selected women across Alaska representing diverse backgrounds and geographical areas were asked behaviorally specific questions about intimate partner violence and sexual assault. Precautions were taken to ensure safety and confidentiality. All estimates were weighted to control for selection and coverage. 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. It is important to note that domestic violence and sexual assault estimates may be higher within excluded populations. 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. According to the 2020 Alaska Victimization survey, 57.7% (152,556) of adult women experience intimate partner violence, sexual assault, or both in their lifetime, and 8.1% (21,217) have experienced intimate partner violence sexual assault, or both in the past year.

### Alaska statewide lifetime violence



According to the 2020 AVS:

- 48% of adult[KA5] women (127,248) experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime,
- 28.5% (75,347) experiencing threats of physical violence,
- 46.8% (123,987) experience physical violence.
- 6.9 % of adult women or (18,314) experienced Intimate Partner Violence in the past year, with
- 2.6% (6,873)of those experiencing threats of physical violence and in the past year.
- 6.5% (17,198) experienced physical violence in the past year.

In addition,

- 40.5% of adult women (106937) experience sexual violence in their lifetime.
- 27.5 % (72,654) experiencing at least one drug or alcohol-related sexual assault
- 27.7% (73203) experiencing at least one forcible sexual assault.
- 3.4% of adult women (8,791) experienced sexual assault in the past year.
- 2.1% (5596) experienced at least one drug of alcohol-related sexual assault in the past year.2.2% (5712) experiences at least one instance of forcible sexual assault in the past year.

Rates of intimate partner violence and sexual assault declined between 2010 and 2015 but have remained statistically the same from 2015 to 2020. Dr. Johnson, from the UAA Justice Center who headed the research, stated that she believes rates probably continued to decline between 2015 and the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and then rose. Women statewide were impacted by the pandemic, 43.2% said that they or the primary breadwinner experienced unemployment or a reduction in work hours due to the pandemic and 36.7% said their household income was negatively impacted. The women who stated that their household income was negatively impacted were statistically significantly more likely to have experienced intimate partner violence, sexual assault, or both over the past year. In addition, due to stay-at-home orders, 84.2% of women reported spending more time at home with family members. Meaning that some women were stuck at home with their abusers and that they also were forced to stay at home isolated with them for longer periods.

Every year, CDVSA tabulates Victim Services Data for all our grant funded programs as another method to identify populations accessing services. This data is included in the CDVSA annual report which is provided to the state legislature and available on our website to the public. The 2020 and 2021 data are listed below.

#### 2020 Victim Services Overview Data

- Total unique men, women, children served (N) = 8,749
- Demographics:
  - 42% Alaska Native/American Indian, 40% White, 18% Other race or race unknown
  - 81% Female, 18% Male, 1% Unknown/Other
  - 79% 18-64, 13% 0-12, 4% 13-17, 4% 65+, 1% Unknown
- Victim service programs provided 82,226 shelter nights.



- Highest victim services received were Individual advocacy, individual counseling, and crisis intervention services
- Highest reported primary victimization for participants is “intimate partner violence and family violence” (50%), with “adult sexual assault” ranking second (14%).

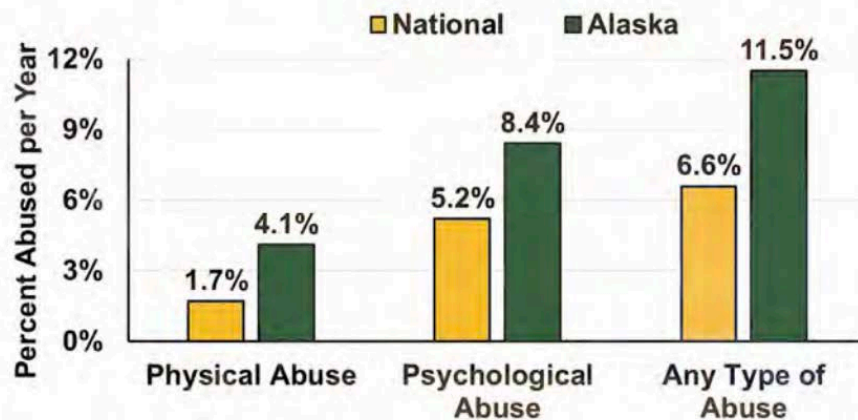
In 2020, according to the Department of Public Safety’s Uniform Crime Reporting Project, there were 1135 rapes and 19 attempted rapes reported to law enforcement, of those 21.4% led to an arrest. According to statistics provided from the State of Alaska’s Department of Law the prosecution rate of those arrested for sexual assault in 2020 was 73%. Historically, it averages around 69%.

According to the 2015 Alaska Victimization Survey, 1 in 3 of all Alaska women have experienced stalking in their lifetime, and 1 in 17 have experienced stalking during that past year. Among women who have or are experiencing IPV, the statistics are even starker, 1 in 2 had experienced stalking in their lifetime and more than 1 in 4 had experienced stalking in the past year.

According to the Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey from 2019, 13.1% of youth reported experiencing sexual violence. In addition, of students who identified themselves as dating, 9.7% reported having experienced physical dating violence and 7% reported experiencing sexual dating violence in the past year.

According to data from the 2015 Alaska Victimization Survey 11.5% of women in Alaska over the age of 60 reported experiencing psychological or physical violence in the past year with 8.4% reporting having experienced psychological abuse in the past year and 4.1% reporting physical violence. This is significantly higher than the national average.

**Figure 2. Percentage of Women Age 60+ Experiencing Psychological or Physical Abuse Per Year**



Note: All differences between national and Alaska percentages are statistically significant ( $p < .05$ ).  
Sources: *Alaska Victimization Survey (2010-2015)* & *National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (2010)*

According to the 2019 Census, 8.9% of Alaskans under the age of 65, report having a disability. The Alaska Victimization Survey specifically looked at Alaska's Mental Health Trust beneficiaries to analyze rates of DV and SA in their community. Mental Health Trust beneficiaries include Alaskans with mental illness, traumatic brain injury, developmental disabilities, Alzheimer's disease and/or related dementia, and people with chronic alcohol or drug addiction. According to the AVS, 75% of women beneficiaries have experienced Intimate Partner or Sexual violence in their lifetime, and of all women who experienced IPV and SV last year, a full 50% were beneficiaries. In the past year, female beneficiaries were 2.4 times more like to have experienced IPV, SV, or both and more than 1.6 times more likely to have lifetime experiences of IPV, SV, or both. (2020, AVS).

According to the Indian Law Resource Center, American Indian and Alaska Native women experience IPV, SA, and stalking at high rates. One out of every two, American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced sexual assault and more than 4 out of 5 American Indian women and Alaska Native women have experienced physical violence. "Alaska Native women continue to suffer the highest rate of forcible sexual assault and have reported rates of domestic violence up to 10 times higher than in the rest of the United States." (ILRC, 2021) According to the Urban Indian Health Institute over 52 Alaska Native women and girls have been murdered or gone missing.

Immigrant women and women who are English language learners also experience high rates of domestic violence and sexual assault. They are often uncounseled due to language barriers or fear due to their status. Abusers may use their status against them, and many may think that due to being immigrants that the legal system is not meant for them. Often, they do not have access to bilingual shelters and other victim services. (Futures Without Violence, n.d.)

According to UCLA's Williams Institute, School of Law 3.7% of Alaskans identify as LGBTQ+. The CDC's 2010 National Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence Survey found that members of the LGBTQ+ community experience domestic and sexual violence rates higher than the national average. Lifetime rates of IPV were 44% for lesbians, 61% for bisexual women, 26% for gay men, and 37% for bisexual men. A third to a half of all transgender people report experiencing IPV over the course of their lifetime. The survey also found that 46.4% of lesbians and 74.9% of bisexual women report having experienced sexual violence compared to 43.3% of women who identify as straight. Forty percent of gay men, 47.4% of bisexual men, and 20.8% of heterosexual men report a lifetime prevalence of sexual violence.

According to a meta-analysis, 13.9% of active-duty and veterans report having experienced military sexual trauma during their service. Those figures include 1.9% of men and 38.4% of women. (Wilson, 2016) Other studies suggest women who are active-duty military, or the wives of active-duty military had lifetime prevalence rates for IPV, sexual assault, and stalking rates like national rates for women. However, they had slightly lower rates of having experienced sexual assault and stalking rates in the past three years except for active-duty military women who had been deployed. Female military who had been deployed in the past three years had significantly

higher rates of contact sexual assault than active-duty military women who had not been deployed.

In addition to the research studies listed above, CDVSA works with many community partners including the Alaska Network for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center (AKNWRC), the Alaska Native Justice Center (ANJC), the Alaska Institute for Justice (AIJ), the University of Alaska, Center for Human Development (CHD) among many other organizations to identify underserved populations and coordinate responses. The Council itself is made up of the principal heads or their designees of state government including the Department of Law, Department of Public Safety, Department of Corrections, Department of Education, Department of Health and Social Services and four public members assigned by the Governor. The mission of the CDVSA Board to work together from their professional perspectives on the issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking to best serve all of Alaskans including the underserved. The CDVSA Council meets quarterly, usually over two days, and in doing so coordinates between the state departments and the public. It is through these multiple and varied planning processes that underserved communities are identified and services are coordinated in Alaska.

### III. Description of Planning Process

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

In state fiscal year 2022, the CDVSA initiated statewide efforts to plan for and draft the state's VAWA-STOP Implementation Plan (IP) for federal fiscal years 2022-2025. The plan serves to prioritize statewide training and service needs to better prevent and respond to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking under the federal VAWA STOP formula grants to states. In addition, the statewide planning process assists the CDVSA in the coordination of prevention programming, victim's services, and programs for those that perpetrate violence, thus assisting the state to better leverage resources to address, reduce and prevent these forms of violence across disciplines and funding streams. Alaska's current 2017-2021 implementation plan served as the baseline for stakeholder review and comments. As part of the planning process, CDVSA, organized several opportunities to gather stakeholder input for the planning process through a variety of methods. These opportunities included the creation of a statewide survey of priority needs for services and training within the VAWA STOP allocations areas of victim services, law enforcement, prosecution, and courts. Attachment #2. The survey was sent by individual email to tribal leaders of all the 229 federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes; the CDVSA Board of Directors, community based domestic violence and sexual assault victim service agencies; state and municipal law enforcement; mental health professionals and those representing underserved populations including LGBTQ+ and those with disabilities. In addition, CDVSA hosted three listening sessions, open to tribal representatives of each of the 229 federally recognized tribes, to ensure additional access and diverse opportunities were available to

Alaska's tribes wishing to participate in the planning process. CDVSA also organized and hosted a state planning committee with representation from Alaska's dual domestic violence and sexual assault coalition, (ANDVSA), state law enforcement, state prosecutors, state courts, tribal representatives, UAA-Center for Human Development's Disability Justice Initiative, the Identity Center, LGBTQ+, two community based dual domestic violence and sexual assault programs, military and sexual assault team coordinators and the UAA-Justice Center. The specific planning processes are explained in detail in the below sections.

**Implementation Planning (IP) Committee:**

CDVSA convened the VAWA STOP IP planning committee meetings on January 21, 2022, and February 17, 2022. The IP planning meetings were hosted virtually due to the Covid pandemic and its continuing impact on public health. Steering committee members received an email invitation to participate on the IP committee in early November 2021. Included in the initial invitations were the 2017-2021 Alaska IP, a link to participate in the statewide VAWA-STOP survey and a VAWA STOP "At-A-Glance" pdf, which provided invitees with an overview of the current STOP IP and the planning process. The packet of invitation materials is provided as attachment #3.

***B. Documentation from each member of the planning committee as to their participation in the planning process. (34 U.S.C. 10446(i)(2)(B); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(b)(7)).***

A list of the attendees for each of the planning sessions is attached to this plan along with their Documentation of Collaboration form, attachment #4. Please note committee member attendance is noted by the date(s) following the agency representation listed below and in the attachment.

1. Alaska's Dual domestic violence and sexual assault coalition, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA), 1/21/22 and 2/17/22
2. Alaska's State law enforcement organization (Alaska State Troopers), 1/21/22 and 2/17/22
3. Alaska State prosecution organization, State of Alaska Department of Law (DOL), 1/21/22 and 2/17/22
4. State Administrative Office of the Courts, Alaska Court System (ACS), 1/21/22 and 2/17/22
5. CDVSA Executive Director, 1/21/22
6. CDVSA VAWA STOP Administrator 1/21/22 and 2/17/22
7. CDVSA VOCA Administrator 2/17/22
8. CDVSA SASP Administrator 1/21/22 and 2/17/22
9. CDVSA FVPSA Administrator 2/17/22
10. Alaska's Public Health, Rape Prevention Education (RPE) Administrator, 1/21/22 and 2/17/22
11. Representatives from tribes, tribal organizations, or tribal coalitions:

Alaska FFY2022-FFY2025 STOP Implementation Plan  
Alaska's Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

- a. Alaska Native Women's Resource Center (AKNWRC), 1/21/22
  - b. Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), 1/21/22 and 2/17/22
  - c. Alaska Native Justice Center (ANJC) 1/21/22 and 2/17/22
  - d. Denali Commission, Tribal Victim Assistance Micro-grant Program, 1/21/22
  - e. Alaska Tribe representation: Ketchikan Indian Community, 1/21/22 and 2/17/22; Association of Village Council Presidents, 2/17/22.
12. Population specific organizations representing the most significant underserved populations and culturally specific populations in the State other than tribes.
- a. Identity Inc. (LGBTQ+), 1/21/22.
  - b. University of Alaska Center for Human Development (Disability Awareness Resource Team) 1/21/22 and 2/17/22.
13. Other if relevant (including survivors, probation, parole, etc.)
- a. United States Army, Victim advocate, 1/21/22
  - b. Alaska National Guard, SAPR team, 1/21/22
  - c. UAA, Justice Center, Alaska Victimization Survey, Research, 1/21/22
  - d. Safe and Fear Free Environment, Dillingham (VS), 1/21/22 and 2/17/22
  - e. Kodiak Women's Resource Center, Kodiak (VS), 1/21/22 and 2/17/22

As noted above, CDVSA invited potential participants to the FFY2022-FFY2025 Alaska STOP IP planning meetings in early November 2021. As part of the initial outreach, all potential participants, received a copy of the current Alaska STOP IP plan FFY2017-FFY2020; a quick glance document outlining the major purpose areas and goals of the VAWA STOP formula grant to states and, (contained within), an invitation to participate in the state survey.

In the body of the email, participants were provided with an outline of the purpose for the two virtual planning meetings and asked to respond as to their availability and interest to participate by the end of November 2022. A list of committee members is attached, as is documentation confirming that they were notified of planning meetings, received a copy of the current plan to review prior to the committee meetings, were invited to contribute comments following each meeting, and were provided with an opportunity to submit comments and/or corrections to committee notes and or the plan.

The implementation planning committee met on January 21<sup>st</sup> and February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022. At the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, committee members reviewed the Alaska Implementation Plan from FFY2017-FFY2020 as the draft from which to work. The committee heard from current grantees and were provided presentations that discussed the current STOP projects. We then divided ourselves into breakout rooms to review allocations and goals and objectives for the victim services and law enforcement portions of the plan. The same practice occurred on February 17<sup>th</sup> where committee members broke into discussion groups. During the February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting committee members were able to review and discuss the goals and objectives for prosecution and judicial plan components

of the IP. The use of discretionary funding and the States suggested plans for funding the culturally specific set aside component was reviewed and discussed by the full committee on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Committee members were invited to prioritize goals and objectives; identify what is working well under the existing plan and identify any gaps in services. In addition, participants were asked to explore training improvements specific to the allocation areas that would best or better serve Alaska's unserved and underserved populations including Alaska Native populations. Committee members were also invited to provide general comments on the plan itself or allocation areas specifically. Unserved and underserved populations continue in the new plan as Alaska Natives, victims living in geographically isolated areas including Alaska Native Villages, people with disabilities, people with language barriers and people within the LGBTQ+ communities.

All steering committee planning sessions were recorded and were available to committee members upon request throughout the review process. Most confirmed members were able to attend both sessions. The dates of attendance of each member are noted above and also as attachment #4. Each session was three- and one-half hours. Following each session, all committee members were emailed PPT presentations, and summary notes from the breakout sessions and recommendations in general. Committee members were asked to review all materials and provide corrections, comments and/or clarifying statements prior to our meeting on February 17, 2022. Following our February 17, 2022, meeting, all committee members were emailed a complete set of presentation materials from both planning sessions and asked for their final review of information. All committee members were asked to provide any additional information by the end of February. CDVSA received no additional comments from planning committee members throughout the planning process described above.

CDVSA sent the final draft of the Alaska STOP IP FFY2022-FFY2025 and a list of major concerns or major changes on May 4-2022 to all entities consulted in 2022 including:

- The FFY2022-FFY2025 Alaska STOP Implementation Plan planning committee members
- The Council Board
- The Office of the Governor
- 229 Alaska Tribes
- Any public who requests one
- The same information was posted for public comment on the State of Alaska's website for public notice.

During the required 30-day review period, ending at COB, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022, CDVSA received input from the following reviewers, Tami Jerue, Executive Director of Alaska Native Women's Resource Center, Alex Cleghorn with the Alaska Native Justice Center, Brenda Stanfill, Executive Director for Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

and Tiffany Saporito with the Department of Law. Their comments provided edits and clarifications to the existing draft and have been incorporated into this final document. (Attachments #5, #6 contain CDVSA request for final review and comments. Attachment #7 is a letter of support for the final draft of Alaska's IP from the Office of the Governor.

***C. A description of consultation with other collaboration partners not included in the planning committee.***

1. Collaborative partners for sexual assault victim services included representation from Alaska's dual coalition, ANDVSA, and two dual, community-based victim service agencies, Kodiak Women's Resource Center (Kodiak) and Safe and Fear Free Environment (Dillingham). In addition, representatives from the National Guard and US Army victim services were also members of the IP the committee.
2. Domestic violence consultation with victim service providers included the same entities listed above.
3. Additional consultation occurred with population specific organizations including the board chair from Identity Inc. a (LGBTQ+) service program, the University of Alaska Center for Human Development (Disability Awareness Resource Team). Outreach efforts were made to the Alaska Immigration and Justice Project and survey forms were provided. Though the AIJ did not respond to the invitation they work in direct partnership with CDVSA on language access projects for the state and work in cooperation with the state coalition (ANDVSA) under VAWA funding to meet the victim service needs of undocumented victims and/or support for language access services.
4. As noted in earlier sections of the state's plan. The state identified underserved populations that are representative of Alaska's population and specific needs, through the planning committee meetings, survey responses, demographic research provided by the latest, United States Census Bureau data which includes, population data on race, ethnicity, age, disability, and limited English proficiency. In addition, the CDVSA populations-based indicator dashboard; the 2020 Alaska Victimization Survey, and research from the Alaska Children's trust to identify and prioritize Alaska's unserved and underserved populations. Additionally, the CDVSA Board, which consists of nine members including the state commissioners or their designees from the Departments of Law, Health and Social Services, Education and Early Childhood Development, Public Safety, Corrections and four public members appointed by the Governor who may serve two three-year terms were all invited to provide input throughout the planning process and were provided access to the survey link, copies of the FFY2017-FFY2020 plan and provided with quarterly updates on the plan and planning process during the regularly scheduled council meetings which are also open for public testimony. The CDVSA Board meets quarterly, usually over a two-day period and in doing so coordinates between the state departments and the public on the issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking and to best serve all of Alaskans including the underserved.

***D. A Summary of Major Concerns from the Planning Committee:***

The two planning committee meetings offered committee members, with opportunities to learn about VAWA STOP programming in Alaska and then offer their feedback on each of the defined allocation areas.

While not addressed as concerns, the below topics were brought forward as considerations for inclusion in the developing Alaska's FFY2022-2025 VAWA STOP IP:

- Enhance victim centered, culturally relevant, trauma informed programming throughout the trainings and services delivered through the plan.
- Prioritization of multidisciplinary responses to DV and SA as a common thread woven throughout all allocation objectives.
- Training and services to rural and geographically isolated communities including geographically isolated communities need enhancement.
- Increase focus for primary prevention programming throughout Alaska.
- Improved access to law enforcement especially in rural and geographically isolated communities.
- Trauma informed interviewing skills for law enforcement officers.
  - Comment: Every underserved population is bringing with them layers of trauma to the situation whether they are Alaska Native or people with disabilities, LGBTQ+, etc.
- Ensure municipal, tribal, local and village officers have access to training.
- There should be an overlap of trainings done with Victim Services/Advocates and Prosecution and Courts.
- Bandwidth considerations as a barrier to access and/or increase to access.
- The court STOP plan includes training for judicial officers. Judges attend out of state and in-state training. Suggestions were made that training for judges and trainers are identified through consultation with other STOP recipients and other stakeholders.
- The STOP plan itself and trainings should be evaluated for effectiveness to ensure continuous quality improvement.

It was recognized by the committee that not every need can be addressed through the VAWA STOP implementation plan, however, the plan does prioritize those services and trainings offered through STOP funds have a statewide reach, and emphasize victim centered, culturally relevant and trauma informed practices by implementing a multi-disciplinary approach. In addition, Alaska's FFY 2022-2025 IP will engage a coordinated approach to evaluation to ensure that the trainings being provided are achieving the desired outcomes.

***E. Consultation and coordination with tribes (34 U.S.C. 10446(c)(2)(F); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(b)(3) and (c)(2)(iii))***



*A description of efforts to reach tribes.*

There are 229 federally recognized tribes in Alaska. In 2020, 15.6% of all Alaskans identified as Alaska Native or American Indian. According to the American Indian Justice Center, Alaska Native and American Indian women are impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault at higher rates than the general population. Due to historic and present-day systemic oppression; the fact that many of Alaskan Natives live in rural communities that are not connected to roads systems; and the reality that many villages are without the continuous presence of law enforcement, CDVSA recognizes that Alaska Native populations continue to be an underserved (and sometimes unserved) population. The state is committed to improving safety and service access to Alaska Native populations through populations specific input, partnership, and coordination of efforts. Opportunities to provide input on the impact of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking were provided throughout the FFY2022-2024 IP planning process. Outreach efforts included invitations to Alaska's 229 federally recognized tribes to share information on victim service needs and training priorities for law enforcement, courts, and prosecutors that would improve institutional responses to violence.

To conduct outreach with Alaska's 229 federally recognized tribes, CDVSA used an e-mail contact list for the tribal leaders provided by the US Bureau of Indian Affairs. The list was from 2019. Alaska Tribal leadership contacts can change frequently. If emails were returned, CDVSA found working contact information, updated our tribal leadership contact list and resent any correspondence to ensure that all tribes were given the opportunity to participate in outreach. We offered several different ways, times, and dates for tribal leaders to participate. CDVSA also consulted with Tami Truitt Jerue, Executive Director of the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center (AKNWRC), to discuss ways to meaningfully engage tribal members and leaders.

On November 18, 2021 in partnership with the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center (AKNWRC) CDVSA sent an individual email to each of Alaska's 229 federally recognized tribes inviting their input and participation in the State's VAWA STOP implementation planning process. Multiple ways of offering input into the process was provided as part of the email outreach. Attached to the email was:

- A joint letter, drafted and signed by the executive directors of CDVSA and AKNWRC.
- An invitation to participate in a VAWA STOP Implementation Plan Survey
- A link to complete the survey online through Survey Monkey.
- A printable and/or fillable version of the survey, in case they didn't have access to fill out the survey online or would prefer to do it manually with information about the best ways to get the printable or fillable survey back to us.
- An invitation to participate in the first of three scheduled listening sessions between CDVSA and tribal leaders to be held December 15, 2021.
- A copy of the VAWA STOP Implementation plan for FY2017-FY2020.

The email list for Alaska Tribes, and outreach information described above is attached as attachment # 8.

Reminder emails for the first listening session were sent on November 30, December 6, and December 14, 2021.

On December 15, 2021 CDVSA held the first of three scheduled listening sessions with Alaska Native tribal leaders. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was conducted virtually. The meeting was held in conjunction with the annual Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Conference held December 13-14, 2021 which was also a virtual event this year. An attendance list from the meeting is provided as attachment #9. The Na'ini Family and Social Services Director, representing the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, provided comments during the teleconference. The listening session was recorded. There were 20 participants, with 11 representing the following tribes:

- Anvik Village
- Dot Lake Village
- Kawerak.org. Representing the Tribes of the Bering Strait Region
- Metlakatla Indian Community
- Kenaitze Indian Tribe
- Pauloff Harbor Tribe
- Ketchikan Indian Community
- Curyung Tribe
- Organized Village of Kake
- Nenana Native Council

And the following tribal roles

- Executive Director, Alaska Native Women's Resource Center
- Tribal Program Manager
- Domestic Violence Justice Coordinators for the Kawarek Inc., representing 20 Tribes
- Men's Engagement Program Coordinator for ANDVSA
- Family and Social Service Director
- Tribal Administrator (2)
- School Engagement Coordinator
- Victim Services Program Director
- Tribal Executive Director (2)
- Transitional Housing Coordinator

CDVSA staff including the VAWA STOP program director and Executive Director also attended the AKNWRC's Unity conference on December 10<sup>th</sup>. The Unity conference is an annual gathering that occurs just prior to the AFN conference and focuses on VAWA initiatives specific to Alaska Native populations and additional programming information specific to the needs of Alaska

Native populations including information on improving state efforts towards missing and murdered Indian persons (MMIP).

A stakeholder survey opened in November and closed February 28, 2022. There were 17 respondents who identified as Alaska Native, representing 9% of all survey takers. The respondents represented the following 17 communities and/or tribal groups:

- Doyon/Hungwichin Tribal Corporation
- Akiachak Native Community
- Tlingit & Haida (2)
- Tangirnaq Native Village
- Village of Aniak
- Village of Kaltag
- King Island Native Community
- Organized Village of Kake
- Nondalton Village
- Sitka Tribe
- Colville Confederated Tribes
- Two individuals identified as Yupik but did not identify their specific community (2)
- One stated that they are non-enrolled but are affiliated with Nulato Village and the Tanana Chiefs Conference
- And 2 who said they were enrolled tribal members, but chose not to provide their tribal affiliation

The Alaska Native respondents also represented the following tribal roles in their communities. Some respondents fulfilled more than one role.

- Victim Advocates (3)
- Tribal Courts/Justice System (3)
- Tribal Government/Tribal Administration (3)
- Retired CDVSA board members (2)
- Native Association/Corporation Leadership (2)
- Traditional Healer (1)
- Alaska Native Justice Center (1)
- Alaska State Trooper (2)
- Tribal Court Judge (1)
- Village Public Safety Officer (1)

In February, CDVSA contracted with outgoing CDVSA board chair Teresa Lowe, from Mountain Village home of the Asa'carsarmiut Yupik tribe, to help facilitate two more teleconferences with Alaska Tribal leaders on the topic of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Invitations from CDVSA and Ms. Lowe went out by email on March 22, 2022, for teleconferences inviting tribal leaders to participate in facilitated discussions either on April 5, 2021, or April 7, 2021. All

email invitations included the VAWA STOP IP for FY2017-2020 as an attachment. The attendance list from the meetings is included as Attachment #10. There were 15 people in attendance at the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting with 7 representing tribes and 10 at the meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup>, with three representing tribes. Both sessions were recorded. Between the two meetings the following Alaska Native tribes were represented:

- Asa'carsarmiut
- Native Village of Unalakeet
- Naikak Village
- Kawerak, Org.-representing 20 tribes in the Bering Strait region.
- Chickaloon Native Village
- Native Village of Paimiut
- Organized Village of Kake
- Kenaitze Indian Community

Representing the following community roles:

- Board Member at Large, CDVSA
- Board Member at Large, Governor's Council on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons
- Retired CDVSA Board President
- Justice Coordinator for a Tribal Government
- Domestic Violence Justice Coordinator for a Native Corporation representing 20 regional tribes.
- Tribal Community Member
- Tribal Police Officer
- Tribal Administrator
- Executive Director of an organized Tribal village
- *Tribal Court Administrator*

***A summary of Major Tribal Concerns brought forward throughout the planning process:***

The number one concern that came up repeatedly in discussions with tribal leaders and from the survey we conducted were issues with law enforcement. Alaska Natives, especially in rural villages, are simultaneously under-policed and have trauma from a long history of abuses at the hands of police. The relationship remains complicated. Many villages of the villages represented do not have continuous police presence. They are served by Alaska State Troopers who often oversee twenty or more villages in the region. Since the villages are also often not road connected, this means that when a call for help comes in, the Troopers are a plane ride away. Due to the extreme geography and weather in Alaska, it can take hours to days for Troopers to arrive in a village. As a tribal leader from Southeast said in one of our listening sessions, "Currently, we are lawless and court-less. It is hard to keep citizens accountable. By the time law enforcement (LE) fly into the village (our community is only accessible by boat and small

airplane), there isn't a lot to build a case on." It also means that villagers are often reluctant to report to or cooperate with LE because when LE leave they are left unprotected with the perpetrator. They make a calculation that non-cooperation is the safer option. This leaves LE frustrated.

As the leader continued, they explained that there are also issues with law enforcement (LE), "The State needs to be at the table helping to undo what was done to us. It needs to be made right. LE should be some of the people at the table." A domestic violence justice coordinator for a Native Corporation in the Northern region explains that while some of the LE in their hub city are good guys they come up against the very real trauma that many Alaska Natives have experienced in the past (and even up to the present day) by other officers. "Our women were raped in the paddy wagons, and sometimes they would drive Alaska Native women far out of town without a coat in the middle of winter and leave them there." She described her frustration when an Alaska Native woman went missing recently. Cops refused to search for her for over six days "that would not have happened if she was white." One officer told the Justice Coordinator, "Why should I be out here helping your people when I can be in town, where I have better things to do?"

Alaska Native participants expressed wanting to feel safe, protected, and to have perpetrators held accountable with meaningful sentencing. "Too often perpetrators remain in our villages or return quickly because of plea deals" was a common survey response. There was a sense that prosecutors and judges did not understand village life and so did not understand the consequences of their decisions. Another issue that came up is many tribal leaders see a connection between alcohol use and domestic violence and sexual assault. Instead of describing it as a causal situation, they see alcohol use as a coping mechanism for historical trauma, a symptom like the DV and SAs in their communities. A Family and Social Service for a tribal government in the Southeast region, used a beautiful word for the visitors to their shelter "Un'ina" meaning "those who come to us". She said that often alcohol may have been involved in their assault. She felt that when alcohol was a factor those victims were not treated with the same level of respect, care, concern, and understanding and that often their cases were not prosecuted.

To help prevent domestic violence and sexual assault as well as to help victims heal, the most requested services were mental health services especially practices (including traditional practices) that would help people overcome present-day, lifetime, generational, and historic trauma. There was another overarching theme that respondents felt that more services (including the use of teleservices and safe houses) should be available in every village. They thought it was unfair that victims must leave their home communities and felt that many chose not to receive services if it meant leaving home.

The most requested trainings for advocates, service providers, officers, prosecutors, and other members of the Alaska Court System from Alaska Native leaders were for training in culturally responsive practices. They felt that these trainings should be specific to the community being

served, taught by members of that community-elders if possible. They also asked for trainings on trauma-informed practice, and mental health training.

There was also an ask for more use of restorative justice in DV and SA cases, especially programs that were in concert with traditional practice and cultural values.

Survey results from Tribal respondents' attachment #11.

***A summary of major concerns that were raised during the planning process and how they were addressed or why they were not addressed, which should be sent to the planning committee along with any draft implementation plan and the final plan. (28 C.F.R. 90.12(c)(2)(i))***

As noted in the introduction, Alaska's rates of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking are some of the highest in the nation. The VAWA STOP Implementation Plan, coordinated through the CDVSA, provides the state with an important opportunity to identify major concerns and work together to leverage state and federal resources towards the common goals of primary prevention programming, victim services and initiatives and programming for those perpetrating these forms of violence. The concerns expressed during the planning process reflect the comments of multiple stakeholders who completed surveys, gave of their time to attend planning committee meetings, tribal leaders and representatives, who attended listening sessions, and the general- public including representatives of underserved populations. Stakeholder feedback from all regions of the state and especially from rural areas were represented. Of the main ideas brought forward, services, especially for those living in geographically isolated communities including Alaska Native villages, was of major concern. There was also support for increased law enforcement in every village. In addition, there was support for an increase of safe housing in every village so that those who have been victimized by violence could remain in their homes. Training recommendations consistently included culturally responsive practices and trauma informed practices. It was further recommended that cross cultural training include facilitator representation reflective of the populations being trained.

Alaska's IP is addressing the need for statewide access to services by funding agencies with a statewide reach under each allocation area. These statewide agencies focus on improvements to institutional responses to violence through training and service delivery. Training and service delivery under each allocation area have training goals and objectives that are designed to achieve services that are trauma informed, culturally relevant, and victim centered. To further improve culturally relevant training and service delivery Alaska's FY2022-2025 IP increases the cultural set aside funds beyond the 10% of prior plans. In addition, to the 10% set aside for culturally specific victim services, CDVSA will combine State General Funds to support a partial and/or full-time staff position, through a competitive process, to an Alaska Native Tribe or organization that has the capacity to enhance and expand culturally relevant training, that improves system responses to victims, that is community based, and have additional regional reach. In addition, culturally relevant training and collaborations are further addressed in each allocation area and include a multi-disciplinary team model that includes facilitator representation reflective of participants

receiving the information.

The Department of Public Safety is Alaska's primary statewide law enforcement agency and provides direct support to other law enforcement agencies through investigative assistance, search and rescue, training, Alaska's Public Safety Information Network, and the state's crime lab. While law enforcement officer positions are not funded under the VAWA-STOP IP, the Alaska legislature has received a budget request from the Department of Public Safety that would increase the number of Alaska State Troopers by 17 for SFY23. Some of the new trooper positions would either be placed in or respond to public safety needs in rural Alaska. In addition, there is a legislative request to fund additional positions to specifically address crimes of domestic violence and sexual assault and missing and murdered indigenous people. There is also a budget request for a renewed Village Public Safety Officer program that will add a Tribal Liaison Position and add funding for ten additional Village Public Safety Officers! Finally, the Office of the Governor has recently formed two committees, the Governor's Council on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons and the Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking, all of which begin to further address the need for increased law enforcement throughout Alaska. While the legislature is still in session, these bills have strong support, and we are confident that an increase in law enforcement presence in rural and rural remote parts of the state will see improvements in SFY23.

The planning and implementation for safe homes in geographically isolated parts of the state including Alaska Native villages, is partially funded through CDVSA victim service grants that are competed every three years, and include FVPSA, VOCA, SASP and State General Funds. Alaska has a hub and spoke model of service delivery where regional, community based, non-profit agencies receive funding to provide services locally and in outlying areas. Regional programs (as part of their victim service awards) are tasked with planning for victim safety in outlying areas including rural outreach, public awareness, safe home development, and transportation to and from hub centers. CDVSA's goal through these regional and local efforts is always to provide additional services throughout Alaska, yet Alaska is the largest state in the union and covers one-fifth the size of the continental United States, covering 587,878 total square miles, with less than 10% of the state road accessible, with most rural communities in Alaska only reached by aircraft, boat, all-terrain vehicle, or snow machine, improvements in this area are slow. Recently, however, progress was made through the U.S. Department of Justice, The Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples, which was awarded to the Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurAL CAP) and supported the Bay Haven Shelter in the Native Village of Hooper Bay located in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. This is a new culturally specific shelter program, servicing the Central Yupik populations and non-native populations of Hooper Bay, Chevak and Scammon Bay. The shelter is receiving technical assistance through RurAL CAP, AKNWRC and ANDVA. They are also eligible to attend CDVSA biennial Sexual Assault Response Team trainings funded through the discretionary portion of VAWA STOP. SART-trainings are included as part of the new 2022-2025 IP. CDVSA is committed to working in partnership with stakeholders throughout Alaska to ensure victims are safe and services are ensured throughout the state.

*A description of how the State coordinated this plan with the State plan for the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act and the programs under the Victims of Crime Act and section 393A of the Public Health Service Act (Rape Prevention Education), including the impact of that coordination on the contents of the plan. (34 U.S.C. 10446(c)(3); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(b)(6) and (g)(6)).*

Alaska's FY2022-2025 STOP Implementation Plan coordinated 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) in several ways. CDVSA is the primary administrative body for the receipt and distribution of the federal formula grants to states including FVPSA, VOCA, SASP and VAWA funds. In addition, CDVSA receives state general funds to support primary prevention efforts, victim services and programs for perpetrators of violence. Collectively, these state and federal resources, fund Alaska's implementation of primary prevention programs, victim services and programming for perpetrators of these crimes. The STOP, FVPSA, SASP and VOCA grant administrators also serve as CDVSA staff and were all implementation planning committee members. All attended one or both steering committee meetings, held on January 21st, and February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022. All received opportunities to review the implementation plan, participate in the planning process and contribute towards its development. The practice of reviewing planning activities, under each federal award, to best leverage resources and ensure accessible services across Alaska is accomplished through regular staff meetings, quarterly coordinator meetings, program assessment and monitoring and the annual review and coordinator contributions to each federal application. In addition, CDVSA is overseen by a board of directors which is comprised of high-level officials from various state agencies and members of the public and is itself a coordinating body for state planning. It is through these opportunities for cooperative review and planning opportunities that the following VAWA FFY2022-FFY2025 victim service objectives were identified for prioritization:

- 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 victim's participation within the legal system, victim'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.

The planning opportunities described above assist to prioritize efforts across varied funding streams to; align missions; identify underserved populations; inform culturally appropriate services and point to common goals and reinforce one another's work.

It is important to note that in addition to the infrastructure in place through the CDVSA to support the planning, coordination, and distributions of multiple federal and state funding streams for victim services and perpetrators of violence, Alaska is fortunate to have a strong, coordinated, Primary Prevention statewide planning coalition (Pathways), an ANDVSA project, initiated by the ANDVSA in 2005, and funded through the CDC's DELTA project and the CDVSA designated general funds. The Pathways coalition brings together stakeholders throughout Alaska to plan and prioritize programming that seeks to go upstream and support factors, across the social ecology, that will reduce and ultimately prevent these forms of violence from occurring. ANDVSA, CDVSA and Public Health's, Rape Prevention and Education(RPE) Administrator, sit on the Pathways committee and meet quarterly. Prevention partners also meet outside of the Pathway meetings to implement common efforts and provide statewide training. The RPE coordinator was a planning committee member for the Alaska IP and provided the committee with information on prevention programming efforts underway in Alaska through RPE funding.

## IV. Documentation from Prosecution, Law Enforcement, Court, and Victim Services Programs

*This documentation may be in the form of letters from current grantees or State- or Territory-wide organizations representing prosecution, law enforcement, courts, and victim services able to comment on the current and proposed use of grant funds.*

CDVSA received letters of need and the intended use of funds from prosecution – the Alaska Department of Law dated March 16, 2022; law enforcement – Alaska State Troopers dated March 24, 2022, courts – the Alaska Court System, dated March 25, 2022; victim service programs – the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault dated March 14, 2022. Collectively, these letters are attachment # 12.

## V. Plan for the Four-Year Implementation Period

*This section should describe how the State 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. (28 C.F.R. 90.12(g)(3))*

### **A. Identified Goals and Objectives**

Alaska's FFY2022-FFY2025 STOP Implementation Plan (IP) will address the needs of sexual assault victims, domestic violence victims, dating violence victims and stalking victims and those who commit these forms of violence by maintaining the goals from the previous plan and prioritizing training and service delivery that increase institutional responses that are trauma informed, culturally relevant, and victim centered. These three capacities were consistently highlighted by stakeholders, as content areas in need of strengthening. Through steering committee discussions, statewide survey results, and Board review, there is agreement that the goals outlined under the FFY2022-FFY2025 plan, will serve to move these capacity areas forward. It is CDVSA's intent to support the inclusion of these three focus areas throughout the training goals and services delivered as outlined below. In addition, in the new FFY2022-FFY2025 plan, the 10% cultural set aside portion of victims services will be awarded through an RFP process, to an Alaska Native Tribe or organization that has the capacity to enhance and expand culturally relevant training that improves system responses to Alaska Native victims. Eligible entities, will, in addition to local capacity, have additional capacity to support regional efforts. The cultural set aside funds under VAWA will be complimented with state general funds to support a partial or full-time position (as funds permit) within an Alaska Native agency or tribe to work in this capacity. This change in programming and enhancement of resources is a direct result of feedback throughout the planning process and is intended to enhance specific local and regional efforts to improve system responses to Alaska Native victims. Finally, training is clearly emphasized in each purpose area of Alaska's 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 IP 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.

*Concise description of the State's goal and objectives for the implementation period. 28 C.F.R. 90.12(a)).*

#### **Victim Services:**

In Alaska, the victim service portion of STOP funds, supports victims through trained volunteer and staff attorneys and training and technical assistance to legal advocates through Alaska's statewide coalition the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA). The 10% cultural set aside portion of victims services will be granted, through an RFP process, to an

Alaska Native Tribe or organization that has the capacity to enhance and expand culturally relevant training that improves system responses to victims, that is community based, and has regional and/or statewide capacity.

**Goal One:** Expand and maintain a network of trained legal advocates and attorneys that will perform trauma informed, culturally relevant, victim centered services that enhance victim safety.

**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 coordination with victim advocates and service providers representing Alaska's underserved populations.

Additional statewide trainings over the Four years will include a combination of virtual trainings and webinars. ANDVSA will support peer-to-peer learning through bi-monthly office hours for advocates and monthly lunch and learns for civil legal providers representing survivors.

**Objective 2:** Increased provision of legal advocacy to traditionally underserved populations including racial, cultural, or ethnic minorities, immigrants, the disabled, limited English proficient victims, and domestic violence victims from rural and bush communities.

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

The ANDVSA will access rural survivors through virtual and telephonic services.

Over the next Four years, ANDVSA will coordinate with the Alaska Institute for Justice (AIJ) Language Interpreter Center (LIC) 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 advocacy and legal resource materials in as many different languages as funding allows.

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 3:** Over the next Four years, will continue to provide civil legal services to victims through trained volunteer, contract, 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, tribal entities and STOP partners.

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

The ANDVSA will provide an annual in person or virtual continuing legal education training and webinars for volunteer and contract attorneys during the next Four years as funding allows.

The ANDVSA will maintain a library of resources, a Volunteer Family Law Manual and a pleading bank to support ANDVSA volunteer, contract and staff attorneys working with survivors.

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.

The ANDVSA will ensure that their application materials are inclusive for LGBTQ+ individuals.

**Objective 4:** ANDVSA will evaluate barriers to survivor's participation within the legal system, including their knowledge and ability to exercise their legal rights and options, and will work with systems to improve their effectiveness for survivors.

**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.

ANDVSA will coordinate with STOP partners through quarterly STOP meetings to discuss activities and trends.

**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 (DOL) is responsible for prosecuting all felony domestic violence, sexual assault, and most misdemeanor domestic violence cases in Alaska. The criminal division has twelve regional offices throughout the state. Goals for prosecution under VAWA STOP, will continue to work to better meet the needs of victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking by identifying and holding accountable those perpetrating these forms of violence accountable, through annual trainings and resources, for prosecutors and paralegals, that are victim centered, trauma informed and culturally relevant.

**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:** Over the next four years, the criminal division will sponsor mandatory statewide conferences (virtual and/or in-person) to increase the knowledge and skills of approximately 120 prosecutors and 40 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 an annual training in Alaska for all department attorneys and paralegals for 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, culturally specific agencies, and the courts to provide multi-disciplinary training for SARTs.

**Objective 2:** The criminal division will identify a select number of prosecutors and paralegals to attend the biennial, four-day, multi-disciplinary Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) training courses held on-line and/or 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 which includes information 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 National District Attorneys' Association (NDAA).

**Activities:** The criminal division will send prosecutors and paralegals to recommend 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 victim witness coordinator will provide oversight of the victim witness services within the twelve district attorney offices statewide, as well as the Office of Special Prosecutions, to address the needs of victims of domestic violence more effectively, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and to ensure compliance with Alaska Statutes requiring victim notification of all criminal proceedings.

**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 address the needs of victims of domestic violence more effectively, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and to ensure compliance with Alaska statutes requiring victim notification of all criminal proceedings.

The DOL will coordinate with STOP partners through quarterly STOP meetings to discuss activities and trends.

### **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. The 2022-2025 IP goals under law enforcement include continuation funding for the Program Coordinator II position. The coordinator serves as the department's subject matter expert on DVSA issues. This position conducts or coordinates the greater majority of the DVSA training in the state for troopers and municipal law enforcement as well as assisting in developing policies on these topics. This position ensures compliance to relevant department policies, state, and federal laws through the "performance" review process and by other means.

In addition, the Program Coordinator II position acts as a liaison between the department and numerous agencies including ANDVSA, DOL, ACS and the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center (AKNWRC). This position provides technical assistance to municipal police agencies, SART programs and victim services providers as well as within the department. This position

coordinates and shares relevant information with other DVSA trainers statewide. This includes any new training materials, changes to statutes and/or case law. Lastly, this position monitors Court of Appeals decisions for relevant and related material and consult with LAW's appeals division so that all training materials are up to date.

**Goal One:** Increase Victims Safety and Offender Accountability through consistent Law Enforcement trainings and policy development that are grounded in best practices and are victim centered, culturally relevant and trauma informed.

**Objective 1:** Retain the AST Program Coordinator II position (or similar position) to coordinate all law enforcement portions of Alaska's STOP IP. The Program Coordinator position is responsible for the overall implementation of the STOP plan and is the subject matter expert on the topics of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking for the Alaska State Troopers. The Program Coordinator develops, plans, and implements the training and, in relation to multidisciplinary courses, coordinates with a broad array of partners such as ANDVSA and the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center and UAA, Center for Human Development. Training is only one component of the Program Coordinator's role; liaising with other state agencies such as the Department of Law and the Department of Corrections as well as forensic medical providers is another key component. Furthermore, the Program Coordinator develops and assists with the implementation of policies related to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

**Activities:** Over the next four years, the AST Program Coordinator II (or similar position), will provide instruction to law enforcement attending the DPS training academy in Sitka including the ALET academy, Lateral academy, APSC recertification course and the YUUT VPO academy. Alaska State Troopers, municipal officers, village public safety officers and village police officers will be instructed on best practices in law enforcement response to incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking and stalking. Training for recruits in these types of investigations includes principal physical aggressor assessments, identifying lethality indicators, interviewing suspects, crime scene analysis, vicarious trauma, victim dynamics and rights, neurobiology of trauma, trauma-informed interviewing, crime scene documentation and report writing. All academy level courses are certified through APSC and required to obtain a basic police certificate in Alaska.

The Program Coordinator II position also develop, coordinates, and provides instruction at the majority of the intermediate and advanced level trainings such as the mandatory DV refresher training which should take place every two years. Topic vary depending on the current needs of the department (DPS), municipal agency or VPSO program.

**Objective 2:** Strengthen current partnerships and identify new ones to enhance services for victims especially underserves populations including Alaska Native populations through Multi-Disciplinary Trainings.

**Activities:** Over the next four years, AST will coordinate with state, non-profit and population

specific agencies, to provide content area expertise and training facilitation at established, Multiple Disciplinary Team training courses and conferences. Established courses include: SART-training, Strangulation response courses and winter and summer series for SART MDT members. The winter and summer series provide advanced training to Alaska's SART teams and reinforce key topic areas taught during SART. Collectively, these training courses will benefit law enforcement as well as MDT partners such as victim advocacy, forensic medical providers, prosecutors, and victim witness paralegals. All MDT training courses require evaluations to receive a certificate. Evaluations will be reviewed, and adjustments will be made to courses based on the feedback.

**Activities:** Over the next four years, AST will continue to focus a portion of their training efforts on topics specific to vulnerable populations including Alaskan Native victims, LGBTQ+ victims, vulnerable adults, immigrants, and or Limited English Proficient (LEP) victims. This will be done through our MDT training. AST will continue to provide training to Village Public Safety Officers, Village Police Officers and Tribal Police Officers during academies and regional training events. Given the high rates of victimization against Alaskan Native women, training funds will be used to provide training as available with tribal grantees in partnership with the Alaskan Native Women's Resource Center or other tribal entities seeking assistance with training.

**Objective 3:** AST will develop and assist with the implementation of policies related to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking to further ensure victims' rights are being adhered to and victims have accessible resources.

**Activities:** AST will use STOP funds to update all training materials, forms, victims' rights booklets, and policies as needed throughout the course of Alaska's IP plan. Included in this activity are printing and translating (as needed) the "information for Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking Booklet" and other documents that may assist in aiding in the field throughout the four-year course of Alaska's Plan.

**Activities:** AST will develop and implement policies modeled after national best practices (IACP and SAKI) and ensure that department policies are being adhered to through the use of confidential performance reviews at the detachment level.

AST will review and discuss implementation of the Danger Assessment tool for Law Enforcement (DA-LE) or other similar tool and after consultation with LAW, will begin implementation which will be done, initially, through pilot a pilot program.

**Objective 4:** AST will support trauma informed investigations through training and policies.

**Activities:** AST will provide additional training opportunities for law enforcement by offering the opportunity to attend national training events that are approved and authorized. Priority will be given to law enforcement instructors.



AST will continue, as funds allow, to send persons through the FETI basic course as well as the FETI practical application course. AST, as funds allow, will explore additional online training opportunities through approved entities such as EVAWI that can be utilized by both state and municipal officers.

**Objective 5:** AST will purchase equipment for crime scene documentation and investigations.

The AST will coordinate with STOP partners through quarterly STOP meetings to discuss activities and trends.

**State Courts:**

The Alaska Court System (ACS) receives the court portion of STOP funds. 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 for those heard by tribal courts. The State of Alaska and Alaska Tribes have overlapping authority in certain areas. Today, tribal courts in Alaska hear an array of cases involving their tribal citizens, including Adoptions; Child Protection and Child Custody; ICWA intervention; Probate; Inheritance; Marriages and Divorces; Domestic Violence; Trespass; Assault and Disorderly Conduct; Drug and Alcohol Regulation; Juvenile Delinquency; and Vandalism. In addition, The Alaska State Court System developed procedures based on AS 18.66.140 to recognize and register protective orders issued by other jurisdiction, including tribal courts.

**Goal One:** Provide Directed Services to Survivors

**Objective 1:** ACS will fund a part-time, or part of a full-time, employee to address the objectives of this grant.

**Activities:** Hire a staff person with job responsibilities including interacting with community advocates; exploring available grants that support furthering the goals in this plan; adding to and improving the court's protective order resources and information; researching quality programs and/or trainers to improve judicial and court staff training, including obtaining education to be able to help train court staff; researching additional trainings, programs, or materials the court could adopt to support survivors; managing this grant; researching if different outreach, training, or materials are needed to address members of traditionally underserved communities including racial, cultural, or ethnic minorities (which includes Alaska Native tribal members; immigrants; individuals experiencing disabilities; the elderly and teens; persons with limited English proficiency; members of the LGBTQ+ community; and domestic violence/sexual assault victims in geographically isolated rural and bush communities which are not road connected); and providing support and information to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking protective order petitioners who have children with, or are married to, respondents, by providing information about custody and divorce procedures and forms.

**Goal Two:** Judicial and Staff Education

**Objective 1:** Train court employees and judicial officers on issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, the needs of victims, trauma – both direct and secondary, and cultural competency.

**Activities:** Training needs for judges, magistrates, and Alaska Court System (ACS) employees have historically been determined by the Judicial Education Coordinator, the Conference Planning Committee, the Magistrate Training Judges, the Magistrate Education Coordinator, the Resource Development Officer and the Clerks' Conference Planning Committee. This would be expanded to include the VAWA-funded position employee. Training topics could include domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking protective order case procedures and considerations; the needs of victims; understanding primary and secondary trauma including being a trauma-informed and trauma-responsive court; tribal court protective orders (to continue the training work conducted as part of the full faith and credit grant); cultural competency training, including addressing the needs the traditionally underserved individuals including racial, cultural, or ethnic minorities (which includes Alaska Native tribal members; immigrants; individuals experiencing disabilities; the elderly and teens; persons with limited English proficiency; members of the LGBTQ+ community; and domestic violence/sexual assault victims in geographically isolated rural and bush communities which are not road connected). Training could include in-house training; bringing national speakers to ACS conferences; outside conferences for selected court staff or judicial officers: materials to create in-house training programs; or purchase of self-study and reference materials.

**Goal Three:** To promote the training of qualified language interpreters for domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking protective order proceedings; and to expand access to court materials by expanding translated content.

**Objective 1:** Provide domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking protective order court materials in multiple languages.

**Activities:** ACS intends to translate educational materials that appear on the ACS website and in court videos into multiple languages.

**Objective 2:** Promote the recruitment and training of qualified spoken and sign language interpreters to provide the highest level of interpretation services at domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking protective order hearings.

**Activities:** ACS has noted that persons with limited English proficiency often find it difficult to navigate domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking protective order cases. To address these problems, the court system will continue to use VAWA funds to develop new training and outreach for interpreters, especially for rare languages that are specific to Alaska, like Samoan and Alaska Native languages. Court interpreting is a specialty profession within the interpreting

career field that requires extensive training, testing, and ongoing practice. In the last years, ACS has created a training and testing process to qualify new spoken language interpreters. ACS provides an Online Orientation for Court Interpreters, an eight-module training course that introduces specifics of court interpreting. ACS also provides oral proficiency tests and background checks and administers the National Center for State Courts written and oral exams to certify interpreters. ACS has trained new Samoan, Spanish, and Korean interpreters and interpreters of Alaska Native languages that are otherwise difficult to find. These interpreters are essential in cases involving domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

***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 (by teleconference). CDVSA staff will also provide an additional 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. The implementation plan planning partners will again be consulted for recommendations after the first year of the plan. The State Administrator and the CDVSA Board will review the plan annually, including comments received from tribes, committee members and the public at large. The CDVSA Board meetings are public noticed and each quarterly meeting has opportunities for public comments. Adjustments to the plan will be identified through these processes and necessary changes will be implemented to ensure project completion and desired outcomes are achieved.

***Trainings:***

As, Alaska's IP concentrates STOP funds on training, providing accessible services, and necessary legal information and representation to victims including underserved victims as integral to the intervention efforts in Alaska, CDVSA will work with subgrantees and the planning committee to maintain a training database or clearinghouse that announces trainings and services in Alaska under STOP. The purpose is to further inform the public about trainings being hosted in their regions and services available under STOP. This new resource will be created during year one of the FY2022 of the IP and maintained quarterly throughout the funding period.

***Plan Monitoring and Evaluation:***

***Monitoring***

Though this section is not required with the 2019 implementation plan checklist, it is included as optional information. The Council's program staff monitors victim service and discretionary

subgrantees for compliance with each federal and state award. 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. During 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***

Prior STOP plans were used to assist with the development of the statewide evaluation effort called the Alaska Dashboard. The Dashboard looks at reported incidents, service utilization, protective factors, and offender accountability and victimization survey results to date. The CDVSA 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. In addition to statewide evaluation, and annual reporting through the Muskie performance progress report, subgrantees will also evaluate 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 throughout the life of the plan. In the FFY2022-FFY2025 IP the maintenance of evaluation efforts from all allocation areas, will be collected and reviewed annually, by the CDVSA research analyst, to determine trends, identify what is working well and make recommendations for adjustments in programming.

### ***Description of how STOP funding will be used to meet the State's goal and objectives during the implementation period. (34 U.S.C. 10446(i)(1); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(a)).***

STOP funds are one component of the State of Alaska's overall initiative to end domestic violence and sexual assault. 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. Alaska's FFY2022-2025 IP concentrates STOP funds on training, providing accessible services, and necessary legal information and representation to victims including underserved victims as integral to the intervention efforts in Alaska.

Alaska's IP includes 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, including immigrants and people for whom English is not their first language

- Tribes and tribal members.
- domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking victims in geographically isolated rural and bush communities which are not road connected.
- individuals experiencing disabilities,
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Queer (LGBTQ+)

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.

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

*A description of how the funds will be distributed across the law enforcement, prosecution, courts, victim services, and discretionary allocation categories. (See 34 U.S.C. 10446(c)(4)).*

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 support to continue current efforts to enhance victim safety and to hold those who commit these crimes accountable. The limited funds available through STOP will be distributed to organizations situated to best provide statewide services.

STOP requires these allocation categories: 30% to victim services, 25% to law enforcement, 25% to prosecution, 5% to courts, and 15% discretionary; 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 state's dual coalition, 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.

Alaska FFY2022-FFY2025 STOP Implementation Plan  
Alaska’s Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

In SFY 2021 Alaska distributed VAWA STOP funding in the following amounts to each allocation area.

Allocation Area	Allocation Amount	Admin Amount	Amount after Admin	Match
Victim Services-30%	\$258,515.00	\$25,851.00	\$232,664.00	No match
(Of the 30% VS, 10% goes to Culturally Specific Organization(s))	\$25,851.00	\$2,585.00	\$23,266.00	No match
25% - Prosecutor (DOL)	\$215,429.00	\$21,543.00	\$193,886.00	\$53,385.25
25% - Law Enforcement (AST)	\$215,429.00	\$21,543.00	\$193,886.00	\$53,385.25
5% - Courts (ACS)	\$43,086.00	\$4,308.00	\$38,778.00	\$10,771.50
15% - Discretionary	\$129,257.00	\$12,926.00	\$116,331.00	32,314.25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$887,567.00</b>			<b>\$150,800.25</b>

**Match:** The CDVSA covers the 25% Match in all required allocation areas. The state uses state general fund grants to the University of Alaska, Center for Human Development and to the University of Alaska, College of Health, and the Nurses association to cover match.

**B. Statutory Priority Areas**

**Information on how the State 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 (law enforcement, prosecution, victim services, and courts). (34 U.S.C. 10446(c)(5)).**

The following narrative identifies Alaska’s purpose areas addressed in the FFY 2022-FFY2025 IP. The narrative is followed by a chart outlining the agency responsible for meeting each purpose area. They are:

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

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

**Purpose area 9.** Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs to assist law enforcement, prosecutors, courts and others to address the needs and circumstances of older and disabled women who are victims of domestic violence 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 11.** 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.

Though the plan does not address purpose 17, the Council continues to coordinate with the Department of Corrections to improve Alaska's compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). Initiated in 2013, the Alaska Department of Corrections began its journey towards compliance with the federal standards of the Prison Rape Elimination Act. The Department continues to comply with the standards and has made large steps towards overall compliance. In 2022, the AKDOC will begin to conduct internal audits of our facilities to ensure compliance and to address areas of concern. Currently a 2019 and 2020 PREA-Reallocation

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grant is being utilized to increase sexual safety within the Bethel and Ketchikan Correctional centers with the updating of monitoring systems. The AKDOC’s policies and practices have become an engrained practice for staff and DOC inmate population, which is ultimately increasing the sexual safety within DOC facilities. The Department of Corrections Commissioner (DOC) is on the CDVSA Council and was provided with updated IP planning throughout the IP process.

In addition, while not funded through VAWA-STOP, the State of Alaska address’s purpose area 18, through the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI). The SAKI project began in 2016, when the Department of Public Safety was awarded a total of \$1.5 million in Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) funds from the Bureau of Justice Assistance. Testing under the SAKI project covered eligible SAKs belonging to cases from the Alaska State Troopers. The testing portion of this project is complete, testing all 568 eligible AST SAKs. In 2018, the Alaska State legislature appropriated \$2.75 million in capital funds for the Department of Public Safety to address untested sexual assault kits for all other law enforcement agencies across the state. 2490 sexual assault kits were inventoried, and all have been tested. The Crime Lab is currently processing sex assault kits within six months. If FY23 budget goes through, we will get to a 90- day turnaround time in the future.

Allocation Area	Brief Description	Contact Info	Purpose Area
Law Enforcement – Alaska State Troopers	Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault training statewide for Alaska law enforcement	<b>Katie Tepas Program Coordinator II</b> Alaska State Troopers Department of Public Safety, AST Support Services, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coordinator 5700 E Tudor Road Anchorage, AK 99507 (907) 269-5511, (907) 337-2059 FAX <a href="mailto:katie.tepas@alaska.gov">katie.tepas@alaska.gov</a>	1, 3, 9, 10,11,15, 16
Courts – Alaska State Courts	Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault training statewide for judicial personnel; court interpreter services, electronic filing.	<b>Abaigeal O'Brien</b> Alaska Court System, Family Law Center 820 W. 4 <sup>th</sup> Street Anchorage, AK 99501-2005 (907) 264-8236 <a href="mailto:aobrien@akcourts.us">aobrien@akcourts.us</a>  <b>Jeannie Sato</b>	1, 3,



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		Director of Access to Justice Services Alaska Court System 820 W. 4 <sup>th</sup> Street Anchorage, AK 99501-2005 (907) 264-0877 <a href="mailto:jsato@akcourts.us">jsato@akcourts.us</a>	
Prosecution – Department of Law	Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault training statewide for prosecutors and victim/witness coordinators	<b>Tiffany Saporito</b> Associate Attorney II Victim Witness Program Coordinator II Alaska Department of Law Criminal Division Central Office PO Box 110300 Juneau, AK 99811 907.269.5261 <a href="mailto:Tiffany.saporito@alaska.gov">Tiffany.saporito@alaska.gov</a>	1, 3, 9, 10, 15, 16
Victim Services – Alaska Network on Domestic Violence	Legal Program	<b>Christine Pate</b> , Legal Program Director Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault PO Box 6631 Sitka, AK 99835 (907) 747-2673 <a href="mailto:cpate@andvsa.org">cpate@andvsa.org</a>	5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 15, 19

***Addressing Sexual Assault 20% set aside within VAWA STOP’s IP:***

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, at least 50 percent of the law enforcement allocation is used for sexual assault purposes including sending officers, as community team members, to SART trainings. The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault currently reports using 40% percent of the victim services allocation for sexual assault purposes. At least 40 % of the prosecution allocation is used for sexual assault purposes including sending prosecuting personnel as community team members to SART training. The Alaska Court System is using 10 percent of their allocation for sexual assault purposes. Alaska is currently using most of the 15% discretionary allocation for

sexual assault response team training. Alaska intends to continue using at least 20 percent of STOP funding for sexual assault purposes across two or more allocations.

***Goals and objectives for reducing domestic violence-related homicides within the State, including available statistics on the rates of domestic violence homicide within the State and challenges specific to the State and how the plan can overcome them. (34 U.S.C. 10446(i)(2)(G); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(f)).***

Each year, the State of Alaska, Department of Law (DoL), receives thousands of referrals for prosecution from its law enforcement partners. The most common referral DoL received between SFY 2018 and SFY 2021 involved “violent DV” offenses, which includes crimes such as assault, homicide, robbery, and custodial interference. This referral category made up nearly 67 percent of all the referrals DoL received (17,325 out of 25,788). Alaska’s plan to reduce the rates of domestic violence homicides is addressed under the training goals for Alaska State Troopers, including academy level training for recruits in domestic violence and dating violence investigations that includes principal physical aggressor assessments, identifying lethality indicators, interviewing suspects, crime scene analysis, vicarious trauma, victim dynamics and rights, neurobiology of trauma, trauma-informed interviewing, crime scene documentation and report writing. Advanced trainings such as strangulation response courses improve early identification in the highest risk felony domestic violence cases. In addition to plans through VAWA-STOP, the Governor of Alaska, has established a Governor’s Council on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP Council) within the Office of the Governor. The purpose of the Council is to facilitate interagency collaboration to significantly reduce violence against Alaska Native people generally and the numbers of missing and murdered indigenous persons specifically. The CDVSA is designated as a member and a CDVSA Board member serves this role. Finally, legislation has been introduced that will increase the number of Alaska State Troopers overall, increase the number of Village Public Safety Officers and have a specific Tribal liaison officer position within the AST, to improve the safety of all Alaskans in general and specifically Alaskan’s living in geographically isolated areas including Alaska Native villages.

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

***Description of how the State will recognize and meaningfully respond to the needs of underserved populations as identified above in II.B. (34 U.S.C. 10446(e)(2)(D) and (i)(2)(F); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(d)(4)).***

*How the State 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. (34 U.S.C. 10446(i)(2)(E); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(e))*

Stakeholder input received throughout Alaska's IP process, including input from Alaska's federally recognized tribes, members of the planning committee, and the public, provided suggestions for improving services to the traditionally underserved.

In Alaska, Alaska Native women continue to experience domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking at rates that far exceed the highest rates of other populations where 55.5% have experienced domestic violence, 56.1% had experienced SV, and 48.8% had experienced stalking within their lifetimes (2016 National Institute of Justice study). Alaska Mental Health Trust beneficiaries are more than 1.6 X's more likely to experience these forms of violence, immigrant communities comprise 7.8 % of Alaska's population, LGBTQ+ populations comprise approximately 3.5% of Alaska population and victims living in smaller and geographically isolated communities including many of the Alaska Native villages located across Alaska, continue to be identified as underserved.

Throughout the planning discussions, it was noted that the capacity to meaningfully address the needs of each of the identified underserved populations required on-going state coordination and resources. VAWA STOP funds provide an important portion of resources for Alaska's collective work to meet the needs of underserved populations. In Alaska's 2022-2025 IP, priorities for all allocations areas include goals to enhance training and service provision to become more victim centered, trauma informed and culturally relevant. Priority need in Alaska is to Alaska Native victims and to victims living in small geographically isolated communities including Alaska Native villages spread throughout Alaska.

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 (LGBTQ+), and domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking victims in geographically isolated rural and bush communities which are not road connected.

Towards 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 throughout the remaining 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.

Outside of VAWA-STOP funds, populations that are identified as underserved, are provided services through multiple state and federal funding streams and partnerships. In Alaska, CDVSA receives funding through FVPSA, VOCA, and SASP and state designated funds for primary prevention programming and state general funds for victim services and perpetrator rehabilitation programming.

For example, CDVSA grants, state general funds, to the University of Alaska, Anchorage, Center for Human Development to support the development of community-based Disability Abuse Response Teams (DART) across the state. These teams receive specialized training on the service needs of victims/survivors of domestic violence and sexual violence among persons with disabilities. The UAA-CHD partners with the state and state partners to enhance these services.

Also, CDVSA is currently contracting with the Alaska Institute for Justice (AIJ) to develop and implement a Language Access Plan. The intent of this plan is to take steps to provide limited-English proficient (LEP) persons with meaningful access to programs and activities conducted by both CDSVA and service providers receiving funds from CDVSA. Started in 2019, AIJ conducted a needs assessment to establish the proportion of LEP persons likely to be encountered by a CDVSA program, the frequency LEP individuals meet CDVSA programs and grantees, the nature and importance of the program or services provided by CDVSA to people's lives, and the resources available to CDVSA and costs. From here, it was identified how CDVSA will take reasonable steps to provide language access including identification of LEP individuals, training staff and grantees on the importance of Language Access and the plan to provide access, procurement of a language assistance provider, providing notice to LEP individuals of available language assistance, translation of materials and provider information, monitoring of subgrantees language access plans, and compliant procedures available in multiple languages.

Initially, AIJ worked to identify the eight most spoken languages within the state to determine what languages material should be made available in for access on the CDVSA webpage (and printed if needed). From here, CDVSA developed a complaint policy and procedures for handling complaints, which are in process of being translated for posting. Additionally, CDVSA is compiling information regarding service providers (both funded and non-funded) across the state to post on their webpage as a statewide resource for survivors and those seeking perpetrator rehabilitation services. The webpage will also contain information that language translation is available as requested in the case the needed language is not already provided on the webpage. Through the AIJ contract, CDVSA also secured a contract with the Language Interpreter Center for use of their Language Line in the case of additional translation needs.

CDVSA continues to work on the above tasks and towards improvement of accessibility for LEP individuals through this contract. This contract spans a five- year period, allowing time to respond to changing needs and updating of resource and provider information over time. This contract will be in place for the first two years of the new Alaska IP and resources developed through the contract will remain in-place throughout the new IP.

Lastly, CDVSA funding to victim service programs, with established regional service areas for services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, ensure that communities were covered without duplicating services. All CDVSA funded programs have policies in place that ensure service availability to victims including LGBTQ+ communities, those with disabilities, and victims with a broad spectrum of mental health conditions. Programs are monitored to ensure policies and

practices are in place to access victims into programs. It is through these multiple and interlocking funding streams and planning practices that Alaska works to meet the needs of the identified underserved populations.

***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. (34 U.S.C. 10446(e)(2)(D) and (i)(2)(F); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(d)(4))***

In Alaska, VAWA-STOP funds are awarded to state agencies and Alaska Courts and to the Alaska Network on Domestic on 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. \*The culturally set aside portion of victim services will be competed under the new Alaska IP and will support a partial and/or full-time position within an Alaska Native Tribe or agency that is community based, with additional capacity to support regional trainings to improve services and institutional responses to Alaska Native victims in rural and geographically isolated regions of the state. Current culturally specific grantees that meet these requirements are eligible to apply for the new RFP.

Under Alaska's current IP, the state's dual coalition, ANDVSA, receives 90% of the victim services allocation of the STOP formula grant funding. ANDVSA's membership reflects most 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. 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 partners (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 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 annual statewide conferences.

Alaska also ensures that monies set aside to fund culturally specific services and activities for underserved populations are distributed equitably by funding agencies with a statewide reach. As the state's dual coalition, ANDVSA 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, (LGBTQ+) 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. For example, over the next four years, ANDVSA will coordinate with the Alaska Institute for Justice (AIJ) Language Interpreter Center (LIC) for the use of qualified, trained interpreters in working with limited English proficient victims of domestic violence, dating violence, and sexual assault and stalking.

ANDVSA will work closely with representatives from underserved populations including culturally specific organizations such as the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center, the Alaska Native Justice Center, and Identity, Inc., to ensure that legal and support services are available to traditionally underserved populations within the state.

ANDVSA works collaboratively with other civil legal providers serving survivors in the state including the Alaska Native Justice Center and the Alaska Institute for Justice to meet the needs of survivors through cross-referrals. ANDVSA collaborates on trainings and a monthly lunch and learn to better serve survivors. The ANDVSA is currently working collaboratively with Alaska Legal Services to send out a Screening for Tribal Court checklist and Tribal Resource Directory to assist advocates and attorneys to refer survivors to tribal courts. ANDVSA has translated many of its application materials into Tagalog, Spanish, and Russian to serve LEP clients. The ANDVSA's Senior Staff Attorney in Anchorage is bilingual Spanish/English.

To further ensure an equitable distribution of resources and services, Alaska will distribute the mandated set aside funding, 10% of the 30% for victim services, through a competitive process, to a community-based organization with additional capacity to support regional efforts, 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.

In the 2022-2025, Alaska IP, the State will enhance and expand culturally informed victim services specific to victims in smaller geographically isolated communities by increasing and competing funds in this category under the new Alaska IP.

In prior years, these funds expanded culturally informed victim services in two localized communities in Alaska through grants to Ketchikan Indian Community (KIC) in Southeast Alaska and the Kenaitze Indian Tribe (KIT) in Southcentral Alaska. These two, culturally specific, community based, tribal agencies, each received \$12,500 from VAWA STOP annually. Each tribal program leveraged these very limited resources, with other funds to support annual, culturally

specific, events which occurred each spring and are on schedule to be implemented again this year. KIC, worked in partnership with numerous stakeholders to host an annual symposium on domestic violence and sexual assault that focused on traditional healing practices including traditional foods and ways of living. KIT, partnered with local law enforcement, the DA's office, public health, and other victim service programming to host an annual training to build support for culturally relevant practices for Alaska Native victims of violence and their families. Both current, culturally specific agencies, were contacted prior to the planning committee sessions about making this adjustment to the cultural set aside funding in the new FFY2022-2025 IP. The increase in resources for culturally specific programming and the planned RFP was discussed during the planning meeting and supported by the committee.

Throughout Alaska's 2022-2025 IP planning process, trainings for advocates, service providers, officers, prosecutors, and other members of the Alaska Court System that are culturally relevant were highlighted as a need by Alaska Native leaders and the Planning Committee. The need for these improved training capacities were recognized as needed throughout Alaska and especially in geographically isolated areas. Alaska Native leaders felt that these trainings should be specific (whenever possible) to the community served and taught by members of that community with participation (whenever possible) by Alaska Native Elders.

In the 2022-2025 IP, CDVSA would increase funds in this allocation category by aligning the 10% cultural set aside under STOP with state general funds to support a partial or full-time position (funding dependent) within an Alaska Native Tribe or agency. The proposed staff would have experience in training and service delivery on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and/or stalking, and serve to improve local and regional safety for Alaska Native survivors through enhanced training and partnerships with local courts, law enforcement and local victim service agencies.

Current grantees who are community based, with additional capacity to serve a broader region of stakeholders, including those in geographically remote locations, are invited to apply for funding through a competitive process. It is anticipated that funding for this partial and/or full-time position will be approximately \$50,000-\$100,000 (funding dependent) and be available throughout the new IP plan.

*Specifics on how the State plans to meet the set-aside for culturally specific community-based organizations, including a description of how the State will reach out to community-based organizations that provide linguistically and culturally specific services. (34 U.S.C. 10446(i)(2)(E); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(g)(2))*

As described above, culturally specific programming for Alaska Natives continues to surface as a high priority. In Alaska's 2022-2025 IP, we have identified the need to fund a partial/full-time position and compete the culturally specific set aside funds to an Alaska Native Tribe or organization that has the capacity to enhance and expand culturally relevant training that

improves system responses to victims in a local area. Ideally, this organization will have additional capacity to support regional work. Funding for the RFP will come using the 10% VAWA set aside funds, approximately \$25,000, along with state general funds, approximately \$25,000-\$75,000 (funding dependent) for this position. The RFP will follow CDVSA administrative policies, be public noticed, and distributed via email to each of Alaska's federally recognized tribes and regional and/or statewide non-profit Alaska Native organizations with training and service delivery expertise in domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and/or stalking. The release of the proposed solicitation is planned for September 2022. The successful applicant will be an Alaska Native Tribe or agency, with experience in training and service delivery on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and/or stalking, and serve to improve local and regional specific safety for Alaska Native survivors through enhanced partnerships with local courts, law enforcement and local victim service agencies.

#### ***D. Grant-making Strategy***

##### ***Timeline for the STOP grant cycle. (See 28 C.F.R. 90.12(g)(8)).***

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

##### ***Description of how the State will identify and select applicants for subgrant funding, including whether a competitive process will be used. If different selection methods will be used for each allocation category, describe the method. (28 C.F.R. 90.12(g)(8))***

The statutory allocations for VAWA STOP are non-competed and 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. \*The culturally set aside portion of victim services will be competed under the new Alaska IP.

Alaska's Office of the Governor reviews and comments on Alaska's IP. The CDVSA's Board of Directors, also reviews and then approves Alaska's Implementation Plan for VAWA STOP. Alaska's 2022-2025 IP plan continues to award 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.



***Whether STOP subgrant projects will be funded on a multiple or single-year basis. (See 28 C.F.R. 90.12(g)(8))***

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.

***How the State will determine the amount of subgrants based on the population and geographic area to be served. (34 U.S.C. 10446(e)(2)(B) and (i)(2)(F); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(d)(2))***

Using the statutory allocation categories of STOP, Alaska pre-determines 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 through a competitive RFP. The 10% funds will be enhanced by state general funds to achieve a partial or full-time position (as funding permits) under the culturally specific allocation. This change in programming is in direct response to stakeholder input throughout the planning process for the FFY2022-2025 IP.

CDVSA announces and publicizes when Request for Proposals are open. Primarily for the STOP grant, the request for proposals under the 2022-2025 IP will be for the 10% portion of the victim service funds in the first year of the plan. CDVSA follows the state protocols for competitive Requests for Proposals and announces them broadly. In addition, Alaska uses a contact list for Alaska Tribes and announces through email and on the CDVSA website and other state websites when funds are being let in a request for proposal.

***How the State 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. (34 U.S.C. 10446(e)(2)(A) and (i)(2)(F); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(d)(1))***

As noted above, 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 majority of Alaskans.

***Description of how the State will equitably distribute monies on a geographic basis including nonurban and rural areas of various geographic sizes. (34 U.S.C. 10446 (e)(2)(C) and (i)(2)(F); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(d)(3))***

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.

1. **Information on projects that the State plans to fund, if known. (28 C.F.R. § 90.12(g)(5)** Alaska is funding the projects that are outlined in the goals and objectives portion of this FFY2022-FFY2025 Alaska STOP Implementation Plan.
2. **Crystal Judson. (34 U.S.C. § 10441(b)(13))**

***If the State does not plan to use the “Crystal Judson” purpose area, include a note to this effect.***

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 to 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.

## VI. Conclusion

The VAWA STOP Implementation Plan, coordinated through the CDVSA, provides the state with an important opportunity to identify major concerns and work together to leverage state and federal resources towards the common goals of primary prevention programming, victim services and initiatives and programming for those perpetrating these forms of violence. This plan is a guide and will be reviewed annually and adjusted as needed to ensure goals are being met and envisioned outcomes are achieved. Under the new IP, STOP funds will address the needs of sexual assault victims, domestic violence victims, dating violence victims and stalking victims and those who commit these forms of violence by maintaining the goals from the previous plan and prioritizing training and service delivery that increase institutional responses that are trauma informed, culturally relevant, and victim centered. As noted throughout this plan, these three capacities were consistently highlighted by stakeholders, as content areas in need of prioritization. Through steering committee discussions, statewide survey results, and Board review, there is agreement that the goals outlined in the new IP will serve to move these capacity areas forward.

To further strengthen these capacities, CDVSA is increasing the 10% cultural set aside in the victim service allocation by joining state general funds to support a partial/full time position, through an RFP process, to an Alaska Native Tribe or organization that has the capacity to enhance and expand culturally relevant training that improves system responses to victims, that is community based, and has additional capacity to support regional work.

There continues to be interest to expand the state's resources beyond STOP-funded activities. For example, during this year's legislative session, legislation passed that increases public safety

for additional law enforcement officers in geographically isolated communities including increases to the Village Public Safety Officers program. Beginning January 1, 2023, this legislation will be in effect and improvements to the VPSO program and rural public safety will move forward. In addition, there is a new People First Initiative through the Governor's office that is addressing the intersecting concerns of:

- Domestic Violence
- Missing & Murdered Indigenous Persons
- Human/sex trafficking
- Foster care
- Homelessness

These five areas are being prioritized under the current administration and are a grouping of the stand-alone initiatives, each containing a mix of statutory changes, budget increments, staffing additions and administrative actions. CDVSA staff and/or board members have a seat on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons committee and the Human/sex trafficking committee and will bring forward relevant information to STOP grantees at the planned quarterly meetings to ensure that communication is shared, and state planning continues to be coordinated. Finally, during the second session of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Legislature, House Bill 325 passed, and included important changes to Alaska's domestic and sexual violence laws most importantly updating and revising Alaska's 40-year-old definition of consent. Beginning January 1, 2023 consent in Alaska now includes the language of "a freely given, reversible agreement specific to the conduct at issue."

## VII. List of Attachments

- 1) Alaska State Court System procedures based on AS 18.66.140 to recognize and register protective orders issued by other jurisdictions, including tribal courts.
- 2) Stakeholder Survey
- 3) Committee Packet of Information
- 4) Committee member participation and opportunities to provide comments.
- 5) Final Committee Outreach Letter and email invitation
- 6) Final Tribal Outreach Letter and email invitation
- 7) Letter of Support from the Office of the Governor, Special Assistant for domestic violence, sexual assault, homelessness, and other safe family issues.
- 8) Email Contact List for Alaska's 229 Federally Recognized Tribes.
- 9) Attendance List from December's Listening Session with Alaska Tribes.
- 10) Attendance from April 5th and April 7<sup>th</sup>, listening sessions with Alaska Tribes.
- 11) Survey Results from Tribal Respondents.
- 12 ) Letters of Need from Alaska Courts, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Department of Law.