

**State of Maine
Department of Public Safety
JUSTICE ASSISTANCE COUNCIL**

2017-2020 Implementation Plan for the

S T O P

(Services * Training * Officers * Prosecutors)

Violence Against Women Program



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Chairwoman Marty McIntyre, Maine Justice Assistance Council

Approved by the Justice Assistance Council on June 6, 2017

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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State of Maine Department of Public Safety 2017 – 2020 Implementation Plan STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PROGRAM

I INTRODUCTION

For a number of reasons, victims of sexual and domestic violence may be reluctant to seek medical attention or to report the crime to law enforcement officials. Factors can include a sense of shame and embarrassment about the nature of the assault, minimization of the seriousness of injuries, fear of not being treated with dignity and respect, fear that others won't believe them, fear that they may be blamed by others, fear that their name may be made public in the news media, and/or fear that working through the legal system will be traumatic and futile. It is also possible that many victims do not seek medical attention because they cannot afford to do so and not aware of resources they may have access to, such as the Maine Victims' Compensation Program

The Federal STOP (Services * Training * Officers * Prosecutors) Violence Against Women formula grant program funds state, local, and tribal governments as well as community-based organizations to engage in victim services. Funds are used to design and maintain effective, culturally meaningful services. They are also used to increase victim centered, trauma informed, collaborative response among the systems responding to these crimes of violence against individuals and their families and provide services for victims.

These STOP grants provide for law enforcement and prosecution initiatives to respond more effectively to violent crime including domestic violence, sexual violence, stalking, and dating violence against individuals, household members, and loved ones. This grant program provides the infrastructure to enhance law enforcement and prosecutorial initiatives to stem this violence and provide victim services to those who have been subjected to these violent crimes as well as those impacted by them. The State of Maine has received STOP funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) since 1994.

STOP program funds encourage states including Maine to consider a multi-disciplinary approach involving law enforcement, prosecution, the judiciary, victim service organizations, health care professionals, and other community-based organizations to respond more effectively to sexual and domestic violence as well as stalking. STOP funds are also available to develop advocacy and support services for victims and others impacted by these kinds of violence.

II DESCRIPTION of the PLANNING PROCESS

II-A A Brief Description of the Planning Process

A requirement of receiving STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program funding is that the state must develop a statewide implementation program targeting resources at identified priorities that will yield the maximum impact in responding to domestic violence, sexual violence, stalking and dating violence. Developing this plan requires an analysis of data on these violent crimes, an assessment of what has already been funded, extensive consultation with experts in the field, and documentation of what is needed to address these issues in the state.

The Maine Department of Public Safety (DPS) is assisted by the Maine Justice Assistance Council (JAC), which was formed in 1986 during Governor McKernan's administration to function as a justice policy board to develop broad-based strategies to address persistent crime issues in the state. In addition to providing modest financial support to governmental agencies and community-based organizations engaged in justice policy work, the JAC is engaged in implementing effective crime prevention strategies in Maine. The board is designated as an officially constituted advisory board by Executive Order to provide planning and guidance and to seek input on justice system policy from justice system practitioners, key stakeholders, and advocates.¹

Membership of the Justice Assistance Council consists of the following:

- Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety or his/her designee
- The Executive Director of the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence
- Director of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy
- District attorney
- Director of the Office of Substance Abuse or designee
- Commissioner of the Department of Corrections or his/her designee
- One Sheriff
- Law Enforcement Coordinator, U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Maine
- Two Police Chiefs
- Associate Commissioner for Juvenile Services, Department of Corrections
- Chairperson of the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse or designee
- Representative of a statewide law enforcement agency
- Attorney General or his/her designee
- A sexual assault victim service provider

¹ National Center for Justice Planning, a project of the National Criminal Justice Association, "Maine Department of Public Safety," n.d., <http://www.ncjp.org/maine> Accessed on August 30, 2016

In 2016, the Maine Justice Assistance Council (JAC) entered into a partnership with the Maine Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) to update the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program plan. The SAC secured funds from the State Justice Statistics Program, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Department of Justice to conduct this plan. No state funds were used in carrying out this work.

The 2017-20 plan builds upon the successes previous Maine plans have achieved in reducing violence against individuals, household members, and loved ones. Until this year the states had to update these plans every three years. In September of 2016, OVW changed this provision to every four years. Accordingly, this plan covers the fiscal years 2017-2020. The premise behind the program is that only through collaboration will the goals in this plan be achieved.

Stakeholders in the Planning Process

As part of formulating the 2017-20 STOP Implementation Plan, multiple organizations reviewed progress on the 2014-16 plan and provided input on what should be included in the latest plan. Stakeholders reviewed five years (2010-14) of STOP grantee data compiled by the University of Southern Maine's Muskie School of Public Service's Statistical Analysis Center. This was one of the first times more than one year of STOP grantee data had been reviewed by JAC members. The Maine SAC shared these trend data with JAC members enabling them to determine what should be prioritized in the new plan.

In formulating this plan, the Maine Statistical Analysis Center performed the following tasks:

- Compiled and synthesized existing domestic violence, drug crime, sexual violence, and violent crime data;
- Surveyed key law enforcement officials, judicial and prosecutorial personnel, and domestic violence and sexual violence service providers;
- Interviewed domestic and sexual violence service providers and drug treatment providers on how crime prevention, prosecution, enforcement and victim services should be prioritized by the JAC;
- Compiled current violent crime, drug crime and drug treatment, domestic violence and sexual violence initiatives at both the state and local level in Maine; and
- Reviewed the literature focusing on evidence-based community strategies to address both domestic violence and sexual violence as well as violent crime and substance abuse.

Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Services User Survey

In addition, MECASA and the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV) administered a brief, month-long domestic violence/sexual assault services user survey in the spring of 2017. The link to the survey was posted on MECASA's Facebook page. (See Appendix C for a copy of the survey). Twenty-eight (40.0%) of the respondents indicated they identify as a survivor of both domestic violence and sexual assault, followed by 35.7% of respondents mentioning they were a survivor of domestic violence only, and 24.3 indicating they were a survivor of sexual assault only.

More than a third (37.1%) of respondents mentioned they had sought domestic violence and/or

sexual assault services in the last five years, followed by 15.7% indicating they received services 10- 20 years ago, 14.3% 5-10 years ago, and 12.9% more than 20 years ago. Over a quarter (28.6%) mentioned they never received or sought services at all.

Survey participants were asked “How important are the following resources for domestic and sexual violence services in Maine?” to a list of 18 different services. The service garnering the most “Extremely Important” designations was “24/7 confidential crisis and support helpline” at 78.6%, followed by affordable housing (75.7%), comprehensive safety planning (71.0%), support/accompaniment through the criminal justice system (69.0%) and legal services (69.0%).

Respondents were then asked three open-ended questions. The first of which was, “What do you consider to be the most critical area of need for survivors of interpersonal (sexual or domestic) violence in Maine?” Sixty-four of the respondents provided an answer. Of these, 28.1% of them indicated that housing or shelter was the most critical area of need, followed by advocacy/support accompaniment (26.6%) and mental health services/counseling (26.6%).

Survivors were also asked “What do you see as the point where the criminal justice system fails survivors, if any?” Fifty-seven people completed this question. Of these, 22.8% indicated that the system fails survivors when it engages in victim blaming. About one in six or 17.5% mentioned that the legal system is not helpful, while 15.8% stated that sentences were too lenient.

Lastly, respondents were directed to consider “What legislation to address domestic or sexual violence would you like to see brought up in the next four years?” Answers varied to this question; however, nearly one (24.4%) in four respondents recommended more legislation on stiffer sentences, followed by more advocacy services/support for survivors (15.6%), and expanded shelter/housing service for survivors (13.3%).

STOP Implementation Plan Priorities

The STOP Implementation Plan was also discussed at a 2016 quarterly Justice Assistance Council meeting. The following agencies/groups are typically represented at these meetings:

- Department of Public Safety
- Maine Criminal Justice Academy
- Office of Substance Abuse
- A sheriff
- Police chiefs
- State law enforcement agency
- Victim services group
- MCEDV
- District attorney
- Department of Corrections
- U.S. Attorney’s Office, District of Maine
- Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse
- State Attorney General’s office

In December 2016, the Justice Assistance Council convened a STOP Implementation Plan planning group. Later this group was expanded to include tribal representatives and representatives from culturally specific service programs (e.g. Immigrant Resource Center). The group advanced a plan of working on the same priorities in the 2017-20 plan that it did in the 2014-16 plan.

1. Coordinated Community Response/Multi-disciplinary Response. Initiatives seeking funding under this priority area will aim to improve coordination of the justice system's response to domestic violence, sexual violence, and dating violence;
2. Victim Service Maintenance and Expansion. This priority area emphasizes upholding key victim services as well as expanding services to underserved areas and populations;
3. Enhanced Adjudication Process. These programs support the management of offender behavior and ensure victim safety;
4. Training. The JAC provides funding to victim services providers, law enforcement, prosecution, medical services personnel, and other first responders;
5. Policy, Procedures, and Planning. Funding in this priority area is geared toward developing evidence-based policies and practices in responding to domestic violence and sexual violence; and Technology and Information. Awards in this priority area are used to improve the sharing of information across systems to improve the safety of victims and safeguard evidence for prosecution purposes.

This four-year plan establishes priorities and what problems will be targeted and the means by which they will be addressed. As part of this process the group:

- ◆ Compiled and synthesized existing domestic violence and sexual violence violent crime data;
- ◆ Surveyed key law enforcement officials, judicial and prosecutorial personnel, and domestic violence and sexual violence service providers;
- ◆ Received input from forensic nurses;
- ◆ Interviewed domestic violence and sexual violence service providers on how crime prevention, prosecution, enforcement and victim services should be prioritized by the JAC;
- ◆ Compiled current violent crime, domestic violence and sexual violence initiatives at both the state and local level in Maine; and
- ◆ Reviewed the literature focusing on evidence-based community strategies to address domestic violence, sexual violence, stalking, and dating violence.

The Justice Assistance Council arranged for a diverse group of stakeholders to review the data and make recommendations on formula funding priorities. The stakeholders included:

- ◆ Polly Campbell, Director of Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Program, Maine Department of Health and Human Services
- ◆ Fatuma Hussein, Executive Director, Immigrant Resource Center of Maine
- ◆ Anne Jordan, Criminal Process & Specialty Docket Manager, Administrative Office of

the Courts

- ◆ Lisa Marchese, Criminal Division Chief, Office of the Maine Attorney General
- ◆ Marty McIntyre, Chair of the Justice Assistance Council and Executive Director of Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Services
- ◆ Heather Putnam, Victim Witness Coordinator/Law Enforcement Coordinator, U.S. Attorney's Office, Maine
- ◆ Jane Root, Executive Director, Wabanaki Women's Coalition
- ◆ Elizabeth Ward Saxl, Executive Director of Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- ◆ Francine Stark, Executive Director of the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence
- ◆ Heather Tyler, Acting Associate Director of Early Intervention and Prevention, Maine Department of Health & Human Services
- ◆ Tracy Poulin, Senior Planner and STOP Grant Administrator, Maine Department of Public Safety
- ◆ Robert Schwartz, Executive Director, Maine Chiefs of Police Association

Formula Grant Programs

The STOP Formula Program is determined by law, federal rules, and OVW guidelines. STOP funds are to be used by state, local, and tribal courts as well Indian tribal governments, local governmental entities, victim service organizations, and culturally specific groups to reduce domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, and stalking by enhancing services for victims and making offenders accountable for their actions.²

The Formula Programs and other relevant programs administered by the JAC include:

1. STOP Violence Against Women
2. Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant
3. Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant
4. Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners (RSAT)
5. Prison Rape Elimination Act, Byrne Reallocation

The Formula Programs and other relevant programs not administered by the JAC include:

- Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program (SASP) (administered by Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS))
- State and Territorial Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions Program (federal direct)
- Grants to Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions Program (federal direct)
- Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA) (administered by Maine DHHS and the Domestic Violence Coalitions Program)
- Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) (administered by Maine DHHS)
- Rape Prevention Education Programs (RPE) (administered by Maine DHHS)

² U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, "OVW Fiscal Year 2016 STOP Formula Grant Program Solicitation," n.d. <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/file/839466/download>, accessed on 2/6/17.

The 2017-20 plan provides the following:

1. Outlines how STOP funds will be used to provide the necessary support services for victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence and stalking;
2. Explains the needs and priorities determined by the Justice Assistance Council's multi- disciplinary team;
3. Provides a statewide planning mechanism in defining what needs to be done to end violence against victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence and stalking; and,
4. Describes efforts to further engage Maine's tribes in statewide planning efforts regarding domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence and stalking.
5. Continue efforts to ensure that underserved populations have opportunities to be involved in policy making, planning efforts, and program development with Maine's STOP grant award process. This requires the Senior Planner to make concerted efforts to include providers of culturally specific services as active team members.

Discretionary Grant Programs

In terms of discretionary funding, Maine domestic violence and sexual violence service providers can conceivably apply for funding through a number of different programs, those currently, or recently received in Maine are marked with an asterisk:

1. Consolidated Grant Program to Address Children and Youth Experiencing Domestic and Sexual Assault and Engage Men and Boys as Allies+ (commonly known as Consolidated Youth)
2. * Enhanced Training and Services to End Abuse in Later Life Program (Abuse Later in Life)
3. * Grants to Enhance Culturally Specific Services for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program (CSSP)
4. Grants for Outreach and Services to Underserved Populations (Underserved)
5. * Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking on Campus Program (Campus)
6. * Grants to Tribal Governments to Exercise Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction (Tribal Jurisdictions)
7. * Grants to Support Families in the Justice System (Justice for Families)
8. Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Grant Program (ICJR)
9. * Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program (LAV)
10. * Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking Assistance Program (Rural)

11. * Sexual Assault Services Culturally Specific Program (SASP-CS)
12. Training and Services to End Violence Against Women with Disabilities Grant Program (Disabilities)
13. * Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, or Sexual Assault Program (Transitional Housing)
14. Tribal Governments Program (Tribal Government)
15. Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program (TSASP)

II-B Documentation from each member of the planning committee as to their participation in the planning process: See Appendix A for copies of the actual collaboration agreements

- 1) State sexual assault coalition;
 - (a) Elizabeth Ward Saxl, Executive Director, Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault,
 - (b) Marty McIntyre, Executive Director, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services & Chair of the JAC
- 2) State domestic violence coalition;
 - (a) Francine G. Stark, Executive Director, Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence
- 3) Dual domestic violence and sexual assault coalition;
 - (a) The State of Maine does not have a dual domestic violence and sexual assault coalition.
- 4) Law enforcement entity or state law enforcement organization;
 - (a) Chief Robert Moulton, Scarborough Police Department
 - (b) Chief Jack Peck Jr., Farmington Police Department
 - (c) Major Christopher Grotton, Maine State Police
 - (d) Chief Robert M. Schwartz, Retired, Executive Director, Maine Chiefs of Police Association
- 5) Prosecution entity or state prosecution organization;
 - (a) Stephanie Anderson, Cumberland County District Attorney, Maine Prosecutor's Association
- 6) A court or the state Administrative Office of the Courts;
 - (a) James T. Glessner, State Court Administrator, Administrative Office of the Courts
- 7) Representatives from tribes, tribal organizations, or tribal coalitions;
 - (a) Jane Root, Executive Director, Wabanaki Women's Coalition, Inc.
- 8) Population specific organizations representing the most significant underserved

populations and culturally specific populations in the State other than tribes;

(a) Fatuma Hussein, Executive Director, United Somali Women of Maine (aka Immigrant Resource Center of Maine)

9) Other if relevant (including survivors, probation, parole, etc.).

(a) Janet Joyeux, Assistant to the Commissioner, Maine Department of Public Safety

(b) Heather Putnam, Victim Witness Coordinator/Law Enforcement Coordinator, U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Maine

(c) John B. Rogers, Director, Maine Criminal Justice Academy

(d) Ryan Thornell, Associate Commissioner, Maine Department of Corrections

II-C A Summary of Major Concerns That Were Raised During the Planning Process

Concern: The STOP Implementation Plan planning group discussed the challenges and complexities of administering victim services in the midst of the opiate epidemic. Some planning group members expressed concern over the ability of domestic violence shelters to provide victim services and at the same time provide drug treatment services to people needing these services.

Resolution: Funding for Maine's 10 domestic violence shelters comes primarily from federal grants that pass through DHHS, including FVPSA and VOCA funds, and through Maine Housing ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant). Those are the more appropriate resources to address these emerging needs. As part of coordinating planning efforts with DHHS, the STOP Administrator will seek to understand gaps that STOP funds might fill in addressing this critical need. One such need that is currently being addressed is with the Family Violence Project. Funding is being provided to support a portion of a Domestic Violence Homeless Advocate and a Shelter Advocate. They are covering the 24-hour helpline calls and evening shelter hours. While the Domestic Violence Resource Centers (DVRC) that are part of MCEDV have sought funding from DHHS to have overnight coverage at their combined 10 shelter locations, the necessary funding has not been made available. The Wabanaki Women's Coalition shelters lack such staffing as well.

Concern: Developing a consistent statewide response to domestic abuse was mentioned by members of the planning group. The group cited some findings in the latest Maine Homicide Review Panel report calling for a more consistent approach from law enforcement agencies in responding to domestic abuse cases. In addition, the group suggested that more information on such cases needs to be accessible in the event that multiple law enforcement agencies get involved in such cases.

Resolution: Continue to give priority to STOP Grant applications that seek to develop, sustain, and enhance coordinated community response efforts, including law enforcement training related to domestic abuse, risk assessment and management teams, and regional multi-disciplinary task forces. The Maine Department of Public Safety worked with the SAC in October of 2015 to update the Maine Justice Assistance Council Drug Control, Violence and Crime Prevention and System

Improvement Multi-Year Strategy for fiscal year 2017.

Concern: Results from the survey indicated the following Domestic Violence challenges: need for more advocacy services, improvements in the court DV case processes, training and education for various constituent groups, more prosecutors.

Resolution: Continue to give priority to STOP Grant applications that seek to develop, sustain, and enhance programs addressing these DV challenges.

Concern: Results from the survey indicated the following Sexual Violence challenges: non-reporting by victims, lack of prevention/education efforts, a lack of prosecution of these crimes, and lack of training for law enforcement.

Resolution: Continue to give priority to STOP Grant applications that seek to develop, sustain, and enhance programs addressing these SV challenges, to the extent allowable under the STOP Program.

II-D A description of consultation with other collaboration partners not included in the planning committee

Introduction

The STOP Administrator as well as the Executive Directors of MCEDV, the Wabanaki Women's Coalition, and MECASA serve on the Governor's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse, of which the Homicide Review Panel is a statutory subcommittee. The monthly meetings of the Commission include robust sharing of training opportunities across the state, sharing of reports developed by the multi-disciplinary membership on emerging and ongoing issues related to the prevention of and intervention into domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and trafficking. The overlap of membership between the Commission and Justice Assistance Council is an important linkage, keeping the JAC apprised of statewide initiatives and opportunities for collaboration and maximizing impact of scarce resources.

Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse

Melody Fitch, Representative of a Statewide Coalition of Domestic Violence Projects

Jonathan Heath, Representative with experience working in Batterers' Intervention Programs

Mary Ann McQueen, Representative of Victims of Domestic Violence

Jennifer Annis, Representative of a Statewide Coalition of Domestic Violence Projects

Kathryn Maietta, Representative of the Mental Health Profession

Ricki T. Doyle Esq., Attorney with experience in domestic relation cases and experience representing victims of Domestic Abuse

Lucia Hunt, Esq., Attorney with experience in Domestic Relation Cases, also the Chair

Alice Clifford, Esq., District Attorney or Assistant District Attorney

Sheriff Troy Morton, County Sheriff

Adrienne Bennet, Person At-Large

Faye Luppi, Person At-Large

Shawn P. LeGrega, Person At-Large

Steven Edmundson, Person At-Large

Francine Garland Stark, Statewide Coordinator of a Statewide Coalition to End Domestic Violence

Stephanie LeBlond, Representative of the Statewide Coalition of Sexual Assault Centers

William Lowenstein, Representative of Victims of Sexual Assault

Laura Yustak, Esq., Attorney General or the Attorney General's Designee

Susan Berry, Commissioner of the Department of Education or Commissioner's Designee

Tessa Mosher, Commissioner of the Department of Corrections or Commissioner's Designee

Fatuma Hussein, Executive Director United Somali Women Represent Underserved Populations

Lisa Sockabasin, Represent Underserved Populations

There are three seats currently vacant
3/6/2018

Betsy Thurston, Victim of Domestic Abuse & Used the court system

Mark Hathaway, Chief of a municipal police department

Commissioner John E. Morris, Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety

Jane Root Executive Director, Wabanaki Women's Coalition Person At-Large

Kristen Washburn Person At-Large

Kate Faragher Houghton Person At-Large

Elizabeth Ward Saxl Executive Director of a Statewide Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Donna Strickler, Representative of the Statewide Coalition of Sexual Assault Centers

Megan S. Hatch, Victim of Sexual Assault & used the court system

Lt. Mark Brooks, Chief of the Maine State Police or the Chief's Designee

Jorge Acero, Commissioner of the Department of Labor or Commissioner's Designee

Honorable Valerie Stanfill, Appointed by Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court

Doreen McDaniel, Represent Underserved Populations

Patricia Graffam, Tribal Member who provides services through a Tribal program to tribal members who are victims of domestic or sexual abuse.

This effort included a survey of key state stakeholders including law enforcement, court system employees, district attorneys, Department of Corrections' leadership, and domestic violence and sexual assault coalition/center staff. The survey was meant to capture key stakeholder opinions of the challenges in addressing violent crimes, drug crimes, domestic violence, and sexual violence, as well as stakeholders' awareness of strategies and promising practices related to these areas, and their opinions on how to prioritize and target funds to address them.

All of Maine’s tribes were invited to participate in the planning process on multiple occasions. Jane Root, Executive Director of Wabanaki Women’s Coalition participated in several planning calls. The Senior Planner did a site visit to the Passamaquoddy Tribe in March 2017 to learn more about their program successes and needs. During the July 2017 Wabanaki Women’s Coalition meeting held in Northport, the Senior Planner met with all participants to provide copies of the 2017-2020 STOP Implementation Plan, seek input and listen to concerns. In September 2017, there was further information sharing at the OVW funded conference “Weaving a Braid of Safety.” Attendees at this conference were tribal domestic and sexual violence directors and their colleagues, law enforcement, representation from MECASA, MCEDV, DPS, and DHHS, along with Federal tribal partners. This session was shared with a colleague from the Department of Health and Human Services representing the formula grants on page 6 not administered by the JAC. Telephone calls and emails have been utilized to have continuing conversation with tribal leadership.

Specific Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Groups Contacted

1. Sexual Assault Victim Service Organizations

Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault	Aroostook Mental Health Center Sexual Assault Services
Immigrant Resource Center of Maine (aka United Somali Women)	Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Services
Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine	Sexual Assault Support Services of Southern Maine
Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center	Penquis-Rape Response Services

2. Domestic Violence Victim Service Organizations

Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence	Caring Unlimited
Family Crisis Services (to be renamed Through These Doors as of March 30, 2018)	Family Violence Project
Hope and Justice Project	New Hope for Women
Next Step Domestic Violence Project	Safe Voices
Spruce Run-Womancare Alliance (renamed Partners for Peace June 30, 2017)	Immigrant Resource Center of Maine (aka United Somali Women)

3. Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Organizations

Indian Township Passamaquoddy Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center	Micmac Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center
Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center	Penobscot Nation Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center
Maliseet Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center	Wabanaki Women's Coalition

4. Population Specific Organizations, Representatives from Underserved Populations and Culturally Specific Organizations

Immigrant Resource Center of Maine (aka United Somali Women)

5. Information on any Others that were Consulted but not Part of the Planning Committee

Survey Recipients by Law Enforcement Agency:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Androscoggin County SO | Aroostook County SO |
| Ashland Police Dept. | Auburn Police Dept. |
| Augusta Police Dept. | Baileyville Police Dept. |
| Bangor Police Department | Bar Harbor Police Dept. |
| Bath Police Dept. | Belfast Police Dept. |
| Berwick Police Dept. | Biddeford Police Dept. |
| Boothbay Harbor Police Dept. | Brewer Police Dept. |
| Bridgton Police Dept. | Brownville Police Dept. |
| Brunswick Police Dept. | Bucksport Police Dept. |
| Bureau of Safety | Buxton Police Dept. |
| Calais Police Dept. | Camden Police Dept. |
| Cape Elizabeth Police Dept. | Capitol Police |
| Caribou Police Dept. | Carrabassett Valley |
| Clinton Police Department | Cumberland County SO |
| Cumberland Police Dept. | Damariscotta Police Dept. |
| Dexter Police Dept. | Dixfield Police Dept. |
| Dover-Foxcroft Police Dept. | East Millinocket Police Dept. |
| Eastport Police Dept. | Eliot Police Dept. |
| Ellsworth Police Dept. | Fairfield Police Dept. |
| Falmouth Police Dept. | Farmington Police Dept. |
| Fire Marshal | Fort Fairfield Police Dept. |
| Fort Kent Police Dept. | Franklin County SO |
| Freeport Police Dept. | Fryeburg Police Dept. |
| Frye Island Police Dept. | Gardiner Police Dept. |
| Gorham Police Dept. | Gouldsboro Police Dept. |
| Greenville Police Dept. | Hallowell Police Dept. |
| Hampden Police Dept. | Hancock County SO |
| Houlton Police Dept. | Indian Township Police Dept. |
| Jay Police Dept. | Kennebec County SO |
| Kennebunk Police Dept. | Kennebunkport Police Dept. |
| Kittery Police Dept. | Knox County SO |
| Lewiston Police Dept. | Limestone Police Dept. |

Lincoln County SO
Lisbon Police Dept.
Machias Police Dept.
Maine Drug Enforcement Agency
Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Mexico Police Dept.
Milo Police Dept.
Mt. Desert Police Dept.
Norway Police Dept.
Ogunquit Police Dept.
Old Town Police Dept.
Oxford County SO
Paris Police Dept.
Penobscot Indian Police Dept.
Piscataquis County SO
Pleasant Point Police Dept.
Richmond Police Dept.
Rockland Police Dept.
Rumford Police Dept.
Saco Police Dept.
Sanford Police Dept.
Searsport Police Dept.
Somerset County SO
South Portland Police Dept.
State Judicial Marshal Services
Topsham Police Dept.

University of Maine, Orono, Dept. of Police & Safety
Van Buren Police Dept.
Waldo County SO
Washburn Police Dept.
Waterville Police Dept.
Westbrook Police Dept.
Windham Police Dept.
Winter Harbor Police Department
Wiscasset Police Dept.
York County SO
Presque Isle Police Dept.
Maine State Police
Washburn PD

Lincoln Police Dept.
Livermore Falls Police Dept.
Madawaska Police Dept.
Maine Warden Service
Mechanic Falls Police Dept.
Millinocket Police Dept.
Monmouth Police Dept.
North Berwick Police Dept.
Oakland Police Dept.
Old Orchard Beach PD
Orono Police Dept.
Oxford Police Dept.
Penobscot County SO
Penobscot Nation Police Dept.
Pittsfield Police Dept.
Portland Police Dept.
Rangeley Police Dept.
Rockport Police Dept.
Sabattus Police Dept.
Sagadahoc County SO
Scarborough Police Dept.
Skowhegan Police Dept.
South Berwick Police Dept.
Southwest Harbor Police Dept.
Thomaston Police Dept.
University of Maine, Farmington, Dept. of Police & Safety
University Southern Maine, Dept. of Police & Safety
Veazie Police Dept.
Waldoboro Police Dept.
Washington County SO
Wells Police Dept.
Wilton Police Dept.
Winslow Police Dept.
Winthrop Police Dept.
Yarmouth Police Dept.
York Police Dept.
Newport Police Dept.
Van Buren PD
Maine State Troopers

II-E. 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

DHHS Collaboration

The Department of Public Safety and the Department of Health and Human Services staff meet regularly to review strategies and discuss areas of common interest in terms of domestic violence, sexual violence, stalking and dating violence. Both entities are also represented on the Maine

Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse and as a result collaborate monthly. As noted above, DHHS staff members were involved in the development of this plan. The working relationship between the STOP program and DHHS's Violence Prevention Program (which manages RPE, FVPSA, SASP, VOCA etc.) is critical to the coordination of shared strategies and to protect against duplicative efforts. Currently that program has a key position open, but when they are fully staffed we look forward to working even more closely together.

III. NEEDS and CONTEXT

III-A. Demographic information regarding the population of the state

Maine Demographics

As of 2016, Maine was the 3rd most populous state in New England and 42nd nationally with a population of 1.331 million residents.³ As of 2016, Maine's overall population has grown very little (0.2%) since 2010, making it one of the slowest growing states population wise in the country. Of the 100 largest cities in New England, only three—Portland, Lewiston and Bangor—are in Maine.⁴ It is the least densely populated state in New England and 38th nationally with 43.1 residents per square mile. By comparison, Rhode Island and Massachusetts have 1,018.1 and 839.4 residents respectively per square mile.⁵

In terms of territory, Maine is almost as big as the other five New England states combined.⁶ Aroostook County (the northernmost of Maine's 16 counties) covers an area larger than Rhode Island and Connecticut combined. Services in the northern part of the state are spread out and accessing them, especially in the winter months, poses a challenge. Much of Maine, especially northern Maine, consists of unorganized territories, areas without a system of local government. Roughly half (45.5%) of the state's land mass consists of unorganized territories. Residents in these towns rely on the state for governmental services. Much of the state's population (36%) is concentrated in the two southernmost counties – York and Cumberland counties.

Race & Ethnicity

With the exception of Vermont, Maine is the most racially homogenous state in the country. At the time of 2010 census, Maine's White population was 95.2%. Since then the White population has dipped to 94.9% as more people of color, most notably immigrants, have moved to the state.

While Black/African-Americans still make up a relatively small percentage of the state's population, their overall percentage more than doubled climbing from 0.5% to 1.2% from 2000 to 2010. Numerically, the number of Black/African-Americans rose 132% between the 2000 and 2010 census.⁷

While much of the State is overwhelmingly White, some locations in 2015, most notably Portland (85.0%) and Lewiston (86.6%) – the state's two largest cities - were a little more diverse than much of the rest of the state. About a third of all Portland public school students speak a primary language other than English. Of the 60 languages spoken by Portland students, the ten most

³ United States Census Bureau, National Population Totals Tables: 2010-2016, n.d., <http://www.census.gov/data/tables/2016/demo/popest/nation-total.html> Accessed on January 12, 2017.

⁴ Wikipedia, "List of cities by population in New England," n.d. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_cities_by_population_in_New_England. Accessed on October 14, 2016.

⁵ Index Mundi, "United States – Population per square mile, 2010 by State," n.d. <http://www.indexmundi.com/facts/united-states/quick-facts/all-states/population-density#chart>, Accessed on October 14, 2016.

⁶ Netstate.com, "50 State Rankings for Size," n.d., http://www.netstate.com/states/tables/st_size.htm, Accessed on October 14, 2016.

⁷ 2010 Census Results – Maine, State Population by Race – Maine: 2010, n.d., <http://www.census.gov/2010census/data/>. Accessed on December 28, 2016.

common are, in order: Somali, Arabic, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Kirundi, Vietnamese, Khmer, Kinyarwanda, and Acholi.⁸ In Lewiston, 30% of public school students' primary language is not English.⁹ Nearly 80% of these students whose primary language is not English speak Somali.

In 2015, Washington County had the lowest percentage of its population classified as White (91.5%) than any other county. This county of 31,625 (2015 Census estimate)¹⁰ was home to roughly 1,600 American Indians. Over the past 20 years, the percentage of people identifying as Hispanic has more than doubled, climbing from .6% in 1990 to 1.3% in the 2010 census.

Table 1: Maine Population by Race^{11,12,13}

	US 2010	2010	2000	1990
White	72.4%	95.2%	96.9%	98.4%
Black/African American	12.6%	1.2%	0.5%	0.4%
American Indian & Alaska Native	0.9%	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%
Asian	4.8%	1.0%	0.7%	0.5% ¹⁴
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	0.2%	0%	0%	NA
Other Races	6.2%	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%
Two or More Races	2.9%	1.6%	1.0%	NA ¹⁵

This growing language and cultural diversity provides a growing challenge (and opportunity) for local law enforcement.

Age

Maine has the highest median age of any state at 44.1. The median is 1.3 years higher than the next closest state – Vermont – at 42.8. Maine's median age rose 2.9 years from 2005 to 2014. The state's aging population presents some challenges as more people retire and there are fewer younger people to replace them in the workforce.

⁸ Portland Public Schools "Student Demographics," n.d., [http://www.portlandschools.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_1094153/File/District%20Information/Fast%20Facts%20October%202016.compressed%20\(3\).pdf](http://www.portlandschools.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_1094153/File/District%20Information/Fast%20Facts%20October%202016.compressed%20(3).pdf). Accessed on February 6, 2017.

⁹ Lewiston Maine Public Schools, "Lewiston Public Schools Language Breakdown on 11/09/2016," n.d., <https://sites.google.com/a/lewistonpublicschools.org/demographics/home>. Accessed on March 2, 2017.

¹⁰ 2010 Census Results – Quick Facts – Washington County, Maine, n.d., <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045216/23029,23>. Accessed on January 3, 2017.

¹¹ 2010 Census Results – Maine, State Population by Race – Maine: 2010, n.d., <http://www.census.gov/2010census/data/>. Accessed on December 28, 2016.

¹² 2000 Census Results – Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000 - Maine, n.d., <http://www.census.gov/2010census/data/>. Accessed on December 28, 2016.

¹³ 1990 Census Results – 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Public Law 94-171 Data (Official), Age by Race and Hispanic Origin, n.d., <https://censtats.census.gov/cgi-bin/pl94/pl94data.pl>. Accessed on January 3, 2017.

¹⁴ On the 1990 census, Asian and Native Hawaiian race categories were combined.

¹⁵ On the 1990 census this was not an established category.

Table 2: States with Highest & Lowest Median Age - 2014¹⁶

Highest		
1.	Maine	44.1
2.	Vermont	42.8
3.	New Hampshire	42.5
4.	West Virginia	41.9
5.	Florida	41.6
Lowest		
1.	Utah	30.5
2.	Alaska	33.3
3.	District of Columbia	33.8
4.	Texas	34.3
5.	North Dakota	35.1

Poverty

One (14.1%) in seven adult Mainers have incomes below the poverty line.¹⁷ This rate placed Maine 22nd among the states and highest in New England. Poverty rates vary by county and region.

Northern Maine counties tend to have the higher poverty rates in comparison to the southern counties. From 2009-13, Washington County's poverty rate stood at 19.5% - nearly one in every five people – followed by Piscataquis (18.5%), and Somerset (17.8%).¹⁸ York County had the lowest rate among the counties at 9.5%.

For the 2013-14 school year, 45.4% of Maine students were eligible for free or reduced price meals compared to 51.7% in the U.S.¹⁹ By comparison, neighboring New Hampshire had a rate of 27.8%. Rates by county varied from a high of 66.6% in Piscataquis County to a low of 32.6% in Cumberland County.

Compounding these poverty figures is the lack of public transportation in most parts of the states. Accessing domestic violence and sexual violence services is nearly impossible if victims do not have ready access to transportation.

People with Disabilities

As mentioned earlier, Maine has the highest median age of any state. The percentage of the

¹⁶ U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, Median Age, by State, 2005-2014, n.d., <http://www.denverpost.com/2015/10/08/chart-compare-the-average-age-in-each-u-s-state-2005-2014/>. Accessed on January 3, 2017.

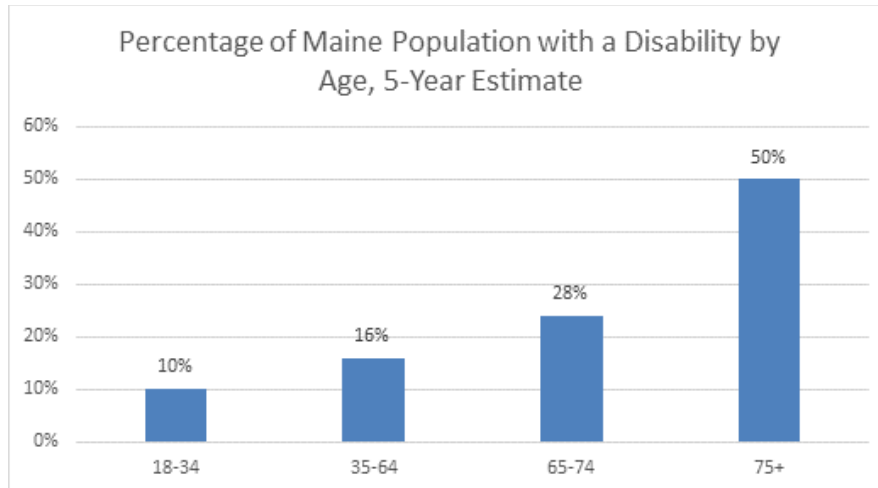
¹⁷ Talk Poverty, Poverty by State - 2015, , n.d., <https://talkpoverty.org/state-year-report/maine-2015-report/>. Accessed on January 3, 2017.

¹⁸ U. S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates. n.d. <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>. Accessed on January 3, 2017.

¹⁹ Carsey School of Public Policy, University of New Hampshire, Northern New England Indicators, n.d., http://nne-indicators.unh.edu/nne.shtml?category_id=1®ion_id=23000. Accessed on January 3, 2017.

population with a disability increases with age. Not surprisingly, a large percentage of Mainers have disabilities. As the graph below depicts, one in two Mainers 75 and above have a disability.²⁰

Chart 1 Percentage of Maine Population with a Disability



More rural counties in Maine have higher rates of disabilities than more urban Maine counties. For example, 28% of all adults (18+) in Piscataquis County have a disability, twice as high as the rate in Cumberland County (home to Portland) at 14%. Among those Mainers 65+ years or older, 20% have an ambulatory difficulty, 17% have hearing difficulty, 12% have independent living difficulty, 8% have cognitive difficulty, 6% have self-care difficulty, and 5% have vision difficulty.²¹

Other Disability Indicators include;

- Full-Time/Full-Year Employment: In ME in 2016, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities working full-time/full-year was 19.4 percent.
- Annual Earnings: In 2016, the median annual earnings of working-age people with disabilities working full-time/full-year in ME was \$35,300.
- Annual Household Income: In ME in 2016, the median annual income of households with working-age people with disabilities was \$36,300.
- Poverty: In ME in 2016, the poverty rate of working-age people with disabilities was 29.9 percent.
- Supplemental Security Income: In 2016, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities receiving SSI payments in ME was 28.5 percent.
- Educational Attainment: In 2016, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities in ME:

²⁰ U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, B18101, Sex by Age by Disability, n.d., <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmm>. Accessed on March 6, 2018.

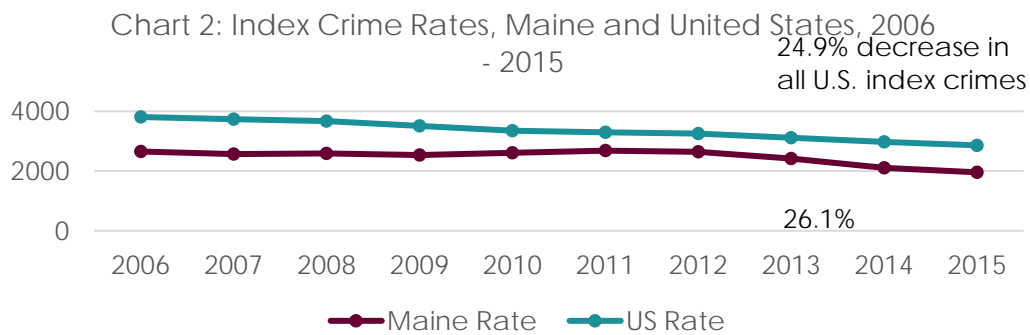
²¹ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimate, B1810, Disability Characteristics, n.d., https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_1YR_S1810&prodType=table.. Accessed on March 6, 2018.

- with only a high school diploma or equivalent was 40.7 percent
- with only some college or an associate degree was 34.9 percent
- with a bachelor's degree or more was 10.2 percent.
- Veterans Service-Connected Disability: In 2016, the percentage of working-age civilian veterans with a VA determined Service-Connected Disability was 25.5 percent in ME.
- Health Insurance Coverage: In 2016 in ME, 91.7 percent of working-age people with disabilities had health insurance.²²

Crime in Maine

Historically, Maine's index crime rates have been considerably lower than the U.S. rates. In 2015, the index crime rate plummeted to its lowest level in the past 10 years. The index crime rate of 1,956 per 100,000 population was 7.1% lower than the previous year, the 2nd lowest year. While the national and Maine index crime rates fell by comparable percentages from 2006 to 2015, the gap between the two rates is once again widening after narrowing slightly between 2010 and 2011. In 2015, the Maine index crime rate of 1,956 per 100,000 was 31.6% lower than the national rate of 2,860 per 100,000. Further, findings from the 2015 MCVS confirm that most Mainers (86.3%) are not fearful that they will be the victims of a violent crime.

Historically, Maine's index crime rates have been considerably less than the U.S. rate. In 2015, the index crime rate plummeted to its lowest level in the past 10 years



Fueling the drop in the index crime rate was a large drop in property crimes. As the table below points out, from 2006 to 2015 property crime fell by 27.2% from 33,470 to 24,377. Property crime (a category consisting of burglary, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson) is more prevalent in Maine than violent crime (murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault), therefore the 27.2% decrease in property crimes drove the 25.7% decrease in all index crimes.²³

²² Erickson, W., Lee, C., & von Schrader, S. (2016). 2016 Disability Status Report: Maine. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Yang-Tan Institute on Employment and Disability(YTI)., http://www.disabilitystatistics.org/StatusReports/2016-PDF/2016-StatusReport_ME.pdf?CFID=6944483&CFTOKEN=b76f3c1213feb0af-08911ADA-9379-C288-D154E5192E259E4D

Accessed on March 12, 2018

²³ Over the ten year period (2006-2015), property crime accounted for 95.2% of all index crimes.

Table 3: Trends in Reported Index Crimes in Maine, by Type of Offense
2006-2015

Year	Total Index Crime	Violent Crime Sub-Total	Murder	Forcible Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Property Crime Sub-Total	Burglary	Larceny/Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson
2006	34,994	1,524	21	340	383	780	33,470	6,776	25,161	1,340	193
2007	33,796	1,556	21	393	349	793	32,240	6,677	24,060	1,260	243
2008	34,008	1,549	31	373	332	813	32,459	6,516	24,582	1,173	188
2009	33,412	1,540	26	374	398	742	31,872	6,711	23,900	1,018	243
2010	34,652	1,589	24	389	416	760	33,063	7,343	24,490	985	245
2011	35,615	1,629	25	391	370	843	33,986	7,826	24,826	1,074	260
2012	35,073	1,616	24	368	421	803	33,457	7,429	24,812	990	226
2013	32,162	1,661	24	359	335	943	30,501	6,453	23,006	902	140
2014	27,987	1,582	22	356	304	900	26,405	5,009	20,501	796	99
2015	26,606	1,623	23	373	311	916	24,377	4,675	18,801	810	91

Data taken from Crime in Maine, Department of Public Safety, Maine State Police, Uniform Crime Reporting Unit's Website.

Serving Human Trafficking Victims

Human trafficking has emerged as an area of challenge in Maine and is being addressed by the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MECASA) as well as Sexual Assault and DV agencies and various non-profit faith-based organizations. It is mentioned here because this issue is addressed somewhat differently by DV and sexual violence groups. One challenge associated with providing victim services for trafficking victims stems from the multiple forms of abuse perpetrated against them and the need for long-term residential treatment to address their physical, emotional, and social needs. To date, Maine has one such residential victim services program, Hope Rising, run by Saint Andre Home, but DV agencies also have a model program under development based on the Family Violence Project's shelter model. Maine's Sexual Assault Agencies continue to engage in the coordination of victim services for sex trafficking victims.

Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Programs

Tribal domestic violence and sexual violence services are often co-located on each of the reservations. The centers are:

1. Micmac Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center
2. Maliseet Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center
3. Indian Township Passamaquoddy Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center
4. Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center
5. Penobscot Nation Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center

These centers provided services to 242 victims (not including children) in 2016.²⁴

²⁴ E-mail Communication with Jane Root, Wabanaki Women's Coalition, March 1, 2017.

Three of these programs (Micmac Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center, Maliseet Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center and the Penobscot Nation Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Center) operate emergency shelters and services. These programs provided shelter services to 81 people (not including children) in 2016.²⁵ The other programs arrange shelter services through area motels, safe homes and referrals.

FOCUS AREAS

What follows are some key findings, highlights (by no means an exhaustive list) of what is being done to address domestic violence and sexual violence and stakeholder recommendations for providing an even more robust response to these issues. The recommendations should not be thought of as the final word on these crimes but should be considered conversation starters.

Domestic Violence

Key Findings

- Reports of DV assaults: down by 11.6% from 5,554 in 2006 to 4,907 in 2015.
- Of all homicides (N=23) in Maine in 2015, 39.1% of victims were killed by a family member, spouse, or significant other.
- Eight DV resource centers associated with the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV) report serving 13,280 unduplicated victims of DV (12,781 adults and 499 children) in 2015.

Selective Strategies to address Domestic Violence

- Multi-Disciplinary consultation teams
- Child Protective Services (CPS) Liaisons
- High Risk Response Teams
- Best practice assessments

While index rates provide an accurate picture of homicide and (to a lesser extent) assault, they are not as reliable when it comes to domestic violence. There are two reasons for this. First, DV is typically underreported. Second, there is no single index for DV. There are a number of crimes which, when perpetrated by a family member or intimate partner, are considered DV. Among these are assault and murder, which are captured in index figures, but other crimes which are also considered DV, such as threatening, terrorizing, and stalking, are not reflected in index figures. As a result, index crime figures are an underrepresentation of DV.

That being said, the number of DV assaults and homicides reported to police is still important information. From 2006 to 2015, the number of arrests for DV assaults fell by 11.6% (from 5,554 to 4,907). This decrease was comparable to the decrease in all types of assaults, which fell by 8.9%. The ratio of DV assaults to all assaults remained constant at about 46-48% over the ten-year period.

From 2006 to 2015, the number of arrests for DV assaults fell by 11.6% (from 5,554 to 4,907).

²⁵ E-mail Communication with Jane Root, Wabanaki Women's Coalition, March 1, 2017.

Table 4: Domestic Violence Assaults and All Assaults Reported to Law Enforcement

Year	All Reported Domestic Violence Assaults	All Reported Assaults	Percent Domestic Violence of All Assaults
2006	5,554	11,681	47.5%
2011	5,360	13,102	40.9%
2015	4,907	10,638	46.1%
5-year change	-8.5%	-18.8%	
10-year change	-11.6%	-8.9%	

Data taken from Crime in Maine, Department of Public Safety, Maine State Police, Uniform Crime Reporting Unit's Website.

DV is also reflected in homicide numbers. Of all homicides victims in Maine in 2015 (N=23), 39.1% were killed by a family member, spouse, or significant other. The actual number of DV homicide victims in 2015 was 9, slightly more than the 8 DV homicide victims in 2006.

Another way to estimate the scope of DV is through a total count of victims served by Maine's DV resource centers. The eight DV resource centers associated with the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV) reported serving 13,280 unduplicated victims of DV (12,781 adults and 499 children) in 2015. Of these, 673 victims (410 adults and 263 children) received shelter services totaling 29,728 bed nights.

Table 5: MCEDV Resource Center Services Provided, 2016

	MCEDV Data 2016
DVRC helpline calls	40,926
Victims receiving services	12,946
Adults	12,201
Children	745
Victims receiving shelter	742
Adults	428
Children	314
Total bed-nights	30,661
Child Protective Services-involved victims receiving specialized assistance from DV advocates	2,135
Sex trafficking victims accessing help (shelter, legal, advocacy, case management)	127
Legal service hours (attorneys and legal advocates)	17,465
Legal service recipients	3,625

Summary counts from resource centers provide a wider picture of DV, but these figures have

limitations as well because not everyone who seeks help from a resource center receives it. On September 16, 2015, all eight of Maine's DV programs participated in the 24-Hour Census of Domestic Violence Shelters and Services.²⁶ The census found that a total of 416 victims were served on census day. A total of 245 DV victims (132 children and 113 adults) received emergency shelter or transitional housing, and 171 adults and children received other services, including counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups. In addition to these served victims, however, there were 36 unmet requests for services on census day, 53% of which were for housing. While some of these victims may have been served on another day, it is unlikely that all were.

Domestic Violence Prevention and Intervention Services

What follows are some recent statewide and local efforts to address domestic violence and provide services for victims of domestic violence in Maine. The list is not intended to be an exhaustive one, but illustrative of promising approaches to addressing the issue.

Multi-Disciplinary Consultation Teams

Maine's DV agencies work collaboratively with the Department of Health and Human Services, Child Protective Services (CPS), hospitals, mental health services, substance abuse treatment services, and law enforcement agencies to provide victims with a coordinated community response that addresses the complexity of abuse. Recognizing the overlap of DV and substance abuse (termed "multi-abuse"), MCEDV trains multi-disciplinary consultation teams in a trauma-responsive approach to multi-abuse trauma. These teams address the challenging safety concerns that families in crisis face due to the co-occurrence of mental illness, substance abuse, domestic and sexual violence, and child abuse.

DV agencies throughout Maine recognize the need for a coordinated solution and participate in building strong relationships that bridge the work of the various systems addressing the intertwining problems of DV and substance abuse.

Child Protective Services (CPS) Liaisons

MCEDV provides training to CPS caseworkers to improve their ability to accurately define and identify DV and have specialized advocates who serve as liaisons between the regional offices of DHHS/CPS and the domestic violence resource centers. They communicate the effects of DV on children and advise that children who have experienced abuse or been exposed to DV are safer when their non-abusing, primary caretakers are safe and supported. Interdisciplinary training on how to recognize and respond to DV is part of the cooperative efforts between community organizations to ensure greater safety for victims and their children as they navigate safety planning in their communities.

High Risk Response Teams

For victims in high-risk situations, High Risk Response Teams work together to put in place strong community safety plans that are individualized for each victim's or family's needs. These teams

²⁶ National Network to End Domestic Violence, "Census: Domestic Violence Counts – Census 2015 Report," n.d., <http://nnedv.org/resources/census.html>. Accessed on October 17, 2016.

have a two-pronged function, the first being increased focus on offenders identified as high risk through validated assessments. The teams both support the strong criminal justice system accountability be in place for the offender while enhancing safety planning for victims. Comprehensive victim services which require high levels of cooperation among agencies may include providing emergency shelter or transitional safe housing, material assistance such as clothing vouchers and gas cards, financial literacy program for survivors, nutritional support, peer to peer DV support groups, legal advocacy, protection from abuse orders, parenting education and support with childcare, substance abuse treatment, medical or mental healthcare, and transportation. In order to meet the various needs of victims who are navigating complicated situations, DV agencies in Maine build strong relationships with property owners, law enforcement and judges, healthcare and therapeutic service providers.

Best Practice Assessment

Program evaluations and effective practice assessments are a vital part of shaping responsive and progressive approaches to DV in Maine. For example, a Best Practice Assessment Coordinator (BPAC) in Aroostook County's Hope and Justice Project conducts Best Practices Assessments (BPAs) on police responses and prosecution responses to DV. The BPAC also facilitates training and awareness about the findings and recommendations that emerge from BPAs with police and prosecutors. The BPA process hones policy and practice, increasing the quality and consistency of law enforcement's response to DV, while prioritizing safety for victims and accountability for perpetrators.

Sexual Violence

Key Findings

- Arrests for forcible rape: up by 9.8% from 340 in 2006²⁷ to 373 in 2015²⁸
- Clearance rates for forcible rape: relatively stable, ranging from a low of 37.5% in 2008 to a high of 46.3% in 2011 with a 10-year average of 42.0%
- The seven sexual assault support centers composing the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault report that 3,789 unduplicated SA victims were served between October 2015 and September 2016.
- Roughly one in every seven (14.4%) respondents on the 2015 MCVS reported they had been victims of stalking crimes in the past year²⁹

Selective Strategies to address Sexual Assault

- Statewide training, technical assistance, and support
- Specialized support for underserved/marginalized victims
- Multiple means of support services
- Multidisciplinary response for child and adult victims

²⁷ State of Maine, Department of Public Safety, "Crime in Maine – 2015," (Augusta, ME: Department of Public Safety, Uniform Crime Reporting Division), p. 92.

²⁸ Crime in Maine, 2015, p. 33

²⁹ Dumont, R., Shaler, G. "2015 Maine Crime Victimization Report: Informing Public Policy for Safer Communities." (Portland, ME: University of Southern Maine), p. 24.

It is difficult to get an accurate picture of how many sexual assaults occur each year in Maine. The way that reporting mechanisms define “rape” or “gross sexual assault” often exclude other forms of sexual assault, thus presenting an inaccurate report of what is occurring in Maine. For example, from 2006 to 2015 the number of forcible rape offenses reported to law enforcement increased 9.8%, from 340 to 373. But this is only the number of incidents that meet the definition of “forcible rape” under the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program and are reported to law enforcement. The UCR defines forcible rape, as “the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Attempts or assaults to commit rape by force or threat of force are also included; however, statutory rape (without force) and other sex offenses are excluded.”³⁰ This definition eliminates any reports of sexual assault of males and many other forms of sexual assault that are criminalized in Maine.

From 2006 to 2015 the number of forcible rape offenses reported to law enforcement increased by 9.8%, from 340 to 373

The 2015 MCVS reports that nearly a quarter (23.2%) of respondents indicated they had been raped at some point in their lifetime.”³¹ The rate is nearly 3.5% higher for females than it is for males.

In 2015, the number of rapes reported by the Penobscot Nation Passamaquoddy Indian Township, and Passamaquoddy Peasant Point tribal agencies to the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program was zero, one, and two respectively.³² The other Maine tribal agencies did not report.

Another way to estimate the incidence of sexual violence is through a total count of victims served by Maine’s sexual assault centers. The Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MECASA) comprises seven sexual assault support centers which reported serving 3,789 unduplicated SA victims in one year’s time, between October 2015 and September 2016. MECASA reports that about 30% of their clients seeks victim services for an assault that occurred more than 12 months earlier.³³

³⁰ Even more so than DV, rape is typically underreported. Some of the increase in reporting reflected in the UCR report may be due to an increase in attention paid to the issue by those in the criminal justice system and a corresponding increase in the confidence of victims to report such crimes.

³¹ U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigations, “Crime in the United States – 2015,” (Washington, DC: US DOJ, FBI, Criminal Justice Information Services Division), n.d. https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2015/crime-in-the-u.s.-2015/tables/table-11/table-11-state-pieces/table_11_offenses_known_to_law_enforcement_maine_by_state_tribal_and_other_agencies_2015.xls. Accessed on January 18, 2017.

³² Destie Hohman-Sprague (personal communication, December 13, 2016)

³³ Abbey, A., Clinton-Sherrod, A.M., McAuslan, P., Zawacki, T., & Buck, P.O. (2003). Relationship between the quantity of alcohol consumed and the severity of the sexual assaults committed by college men. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 18(7). 813-833.

Sexual Assault and Substance Abuse

Sexual violence and substance abuse are often linked either at the time of event or as means of coping with the sexual violence or the ongoing pattern of abuse. Many survivors report drinking alcohol at the time of their assault. In addition, many long term sexual violence survivors are more likely to be substance abusers. Kendler and her colleagues report that women who were sexually abused as children were three times more likely to be substance abusers than women who were not abused as children.³⁴ Clearly, providing victim services to some sexual violence survivors requires a multi-systemic response.

Statewide Training, Technical Assistance, and Support

The Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MECASA) is at the forefront of efforts to eliminate sexual violence in Maine. Through the sexual assault and support centers it provides services to victims of sexual violence. MECASA engages in public policy and tracks legislation that advocates for victims and survivors of sexual violence. In recent years, MECASA member centers have altered their approach to preventing sexual violence and providing sexual violence services, emphasizing a socio-ecological approach that is far more systemic than previous efforts.

Contacts:	8,537
Clients receiving services:	3,789
Number of service hours:	11,132

MECASA engages in public policy and tracks legislation that advocates for victims and survivors of sexual violence. In recent years, MECASA member centers have altered their approach to preventing sexual violence and

MECASA supports local efforts to prevent and respond to sexual violence in ways that are coordinated, connected, and which model best practice. In order to do this, MECASA offers a range of statewide efforts, including: statewide quality assurance standards, outcome evaluation for prevention and intervention, and data collection and reporting; training for local providers (including twice yearly full-day trainings by service type, monthly topical webinars, and an annual statewide conference; statewide tools such as a standardized advocate training curriculum and a toolkits for training both prevention and intervention staff); and targeted technical assistance on a range of topics.

Multiple Means of Support Services

At the forefront of MECASA's work are the seven sexual assault crisis and support centers. These regionally based centers provide the following services:³⁵

- A 24-hour statewide sexual assault crisis and support line, with expansion (in 2017) to include text and chat services, for crisis intervention and information
- Support groups; including traditional closed groups, experiential groups, and drop-in outreach groups
- Support and advocacy for victims/survivors of sexual violence and their families
- 24/7 accompaniment for victims/survivors who choose to seek the sexual assault medical forensic exam, other medical attention, report to the police, and/or go

³⁴ Kendler, K.S., Bulik, C., Silberg, J., Hettema, J., Myers, J., & Prescott, C. (2000). Childhood sexual abuse and adult psychiatric and substance use disorders in women: An epidemiological and co-twin control analysis. *Archives of General Psychiatry* 57(10):953-959.

³⁵ Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault, "Member Centers," n.d., <http://www.mecasa.org/member-centers/>. Accessed on August 17, 2016.

- through the criminal justice system no matter when the violence was perpetrated
- Referrals to mental health professionals and other community services
- School, community and professional education programs

Local sexual assault crisis and support centers seek to provide services in many formats and in many locations, to ensure that, no matter what barriers may present, clients can have their needs met in a way that is most appropriate to their circumstances.

Multidisciplinary Response for Child and Adult Victims of Sexual Assault

The multidisciplinary response to sexual assault is a nationally-recognized best practice for responding to both adult and child victims/survivors. A multidisciplinary approach to sexual violence improves the quality and quantity of forensic evidence; increases law enforcement's ability to collect information, file charges, and refer to prosecution; results in increased prosecution rates over time.³⁶ Local sexual assault support centers have coordinated local Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART) since the 1990's.

In addition to SART, multidisciplinary response to sexual assault also consists of facilitating and participating local anti-trafficking multidisciplinary teams (Maine currently has 5 established teams, all facilitated or co-facilitated by sexual assault advocates), and the development of Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs).

The CACs are membership organizations devoted to expanding the accessibility of CAC services for families impacted by child sexual abuse. The CACs comprise multi-disciplinary teams (MDT) that provide an array of services to sexually abused children and their families. At the CAC, a child and their non-offending family care giver comes to a CAC for a joint interview/investigation. During the interview, the non-offending caregiver receives services to help them better support their child and assist in their healing. The CAC coordinates the case review with all team members, including law enforcement, child protective services, etc., eliminating the need for the abused child and his or her family to travel to multiple agencies and be interviewed multiple times.

In FY2016, the four CACs provided 727 forensically sound interviews and delivered training to over 160 CAC staff and MDT partners. Currently there are four CACs in the state (the Children's Advocacy Center of Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford Counties; the Children's Advocacy Center of Kennebec and Somerset Counties; the Cumberland County Children's Advocacy Center, and the Penquis Children's Advocacy Center) serving eight of Maine's 16 counties. There are plans underway to open four others that would serve the other ten counties in the next several years.

Maine Sex Trafficking & Exploitation Network

Though all local sexual assault support centers engage in anti-trafficking services and systems development at the local level, MECASA also has dedicated anti-trafficking programming at the statewide level. The Maine Sex Trafficking & Exploitation Network, a program of MECASA, offers

³⁶ Cameron, C, and Helitzer, D. (2003). Impact evaluation of a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program. Retrieved from <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/203276.pdf>

training, technical assistance, and resources to people and organizations working to combat human trafficking in Maine. Among the services this initiative delivers are:³⁷

- training and technical assistance,
- tools to help anti-trafficking advocates and service providers be more effective in their efforts,
- web resources, and
- public policy advocacy.

As part of this work, a human trafficking needs assessment was conducted by Hornby-Zeller Associates. The study found that in any given year there were 200-300 victims of sex trafficking in Maine.³⁸ The report included several recommendations, including expanded services for sex trafficking victims and the need for enhanced data collection services.

Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Program (SAFE)

This program, in existence since 1998, provides education, training and technical assistance for health care providers, primarily Registered Nurses, in the medical assessment and treatment of sexual assault victims and the collection of forensic evidence of the crime. Currently 120 SAFEs and SAFEs in Training are practicing in hospital emergency departments across the state. Forty SAFEs are state certified in the care of adults and adolescents with several nationally certified. Eleven are state certified in the care of pediatric patients who have suffered sexual assault. Of the 35 hospitals with emergency departments, 31 employ at least one SAFE. Due to volume issues and cost, some hospitals have opted to share the expense of having SAFEs and share these services on a regional basis among several hospitals. The SAFE education and training program is open to health care providers including Registered Nurses (who are the vast majority of SAFEs), Nurse Practitioners, physicians, and physician assistants, as well as law enforcement officers, advocates, prosecutors, and child welfare caseworkers. Maine is one of only a handful of programs across the country that extends its education and training programs to other disciplines so that all disciplines better understand the role of the forensic examiner in the care and treatment of victims.

Law Enforcement

A combination of federal, state, county and local agencies provide law enforcement services within the state. In 2015 there were 135 municipal/county agencies with the total of 1,618 municipal local full-time law enforcement officers and 342 full-time officers working for the Maine's 16 Sheriff's Departments.³⁹ There are 302 officers working for Maine State Police.⁴⁰ Maine Department of Public Safety employs 16 other full-time law enforcement officers. All told, there are 2,278 full-time

³⁷ Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault, "Member Centers," n.d., <http://www.mecasa.org/member-centers/>. Accessed on August 18, 2016.

³⁸ H. Hornby et al. Maine Human Trafficking Needs Assessment. (South Portland, ME: Hornby Zeller Associates, Inc., November, 2015), p. 20.

³⁹ State of Maine, Department of Public Safety, "Crime in Maine – 2015," (Augusta, ME: Department of Public Safety, Uniform Crime Reporting Division), p. 92.

⁴⁰ Crime in Maine, 2015, p. 92.

law enforcement officers. There are 15 county jails⁴¹ and state correctional facilities number ten.

There are three certified tribal law enforcement agencies in the state. They are:

1. Penobscot Indian Nation, Indian Island, ME
2. Indian Township Passamaquoddy, Indian Township, ME
3. Pleasant Point Passamaquoddy, Pleasant Point, ME

Since 1995, the number of full-time sworn law enforcement officers (not including the tribal law enforcement agencies) has increased 11.2%, faster than the corresponding population increase of 7.5%.⁴² However, the number of officers per 1,000 population is 1.71, lower than the New England average of 2.2 and the national average of 2.3.⁴³

The number of the number of officers per 1,000 population is 1.71, lower than the New England average of 2.2 and the national average of 2.3.

Due to the state's low number of officers and its relatively large land mass, Maine law enforcement officers are required to cover a lot of territory. With Maine's land mass of 35,387 square miles, the 2,278 sworn law enforcement officials cover an average of 15.5 square miles.

As a result, Maine law enforcement agencies must work across jurisdictions to keep crime at bay, especially drug crime, which often takes place across multiple Maine jurisdictions and sometimes states.

Most Maine residents seem to think that local law enforcement is doing a good job. In the 2015 Maine Crime Victimization Survey (MCVS), the majority of respondents, 69.1% gave law enforcement a favorable rating, though the rating were lower among crime victims (63.8%) compared to non-crime victims (75.4%).⁴⁴

With only eight prosecutorial districts, Maine's judicial system likewise serves a dispersed population. Each district covers one to four counties. In each district, the district attorney is elected by popular vote. Maine's courts system, the Maine Judicial Branch (MJB), includes a supreme court, superior courts (17 locations), and district courts (29 locations). In addition, the MJB includes a Family Division, drug treatment courts, a business and consumer court, domestic violence monitoring dockets and small claims courts. These specialty dockets are not offered/available in all jurisdictions of the state.

⁴¹ Two Bridges Regional Jail is operated by Lincoln and Sagadahoc Multicounty Jail Authority.

⁴² State of Maine, Department of Public Safety, "Crime in Maine – 1995," (Augusta, ME: Department of Public Safety, Uniform Crime Reporting Division), p. 58.

⁴³ Crime in Maine, 2015, p. 92.

⁴⁴ Dumont, R., Shaler, G. "2015 Maine Crime Victimization Report: Informing Public Policy for Safer Communities." (Portland, ME: University of Southern Maine), p.13.

In an effort to make court services more accessible to non-native English speakers, the MJB provides interpreter services. Currently there are 55 interpreters (30 females and 25 males) on the MJB roster that provide interpreter services in 27 languages. Many of these interpreters are polyglots and rostered in multiple languages. When no court rostered interpreters are available in a target language, the MJB then contacts one of the agencies that have interpreting contracts with the State of Maine. Similarly, like the Bail Commissioners, the courts also have a contract with a language line service, with over 100 different languages, available to the courts/clerks to provide telephonic translation services.⁴⁵

In addition, the MJB provides regular training on domestic violence and sexual violence issues for court personnel. Among the recent or upcoming trainings are:

- 1) Ontario Domestic Violence Assault Risk Assessment training. MJB provided two different types of ODARA trainings—one for the judges and Magistrates at the Judicial College at Sugarloaf and then 6 different training sites for the Bail Commissioners across the state. All Bail Commissioners were mandated to take and complete the training;
- 2) In September 2016, 10 new judges and one new magistrate attended an intense four-day domestic violence training program, with faculty from the National Judicial College, in Portland.
- 3) The first full day of the 2017 Summer Maine Bar meeting was devoted to training on domestic violence and sexual violence matters. There were judges in attendance as well as lawyers and the programming is open to all attendees;
- 4) In the fall of 2017, the MJB offered two 1-day trainings in Portland and Bangor for court contracted personnel (mediators, interpreters, CASA volunteers, and clerks) on trauma informed response services.

In addition, the two Passamaquoddy reservations (Indian Township and Pleasant Point) share a judge, but have separate courts and court clerks.

III-B. Description of the methods used to identify underserved populations within the state

Specialized Services and Outreach for Underserved Victims of Sexual Assault

Sexual violence disproportionately impacts already-marginalized populations – children, people of color, Native American women, LGBTQ+ individuals, homeless and street-involved individuals and youth, etc. – and those individuals often have higher barriers to seeking services as well. MECASA and the network of sexual violence crisis and support centers have focused their work in recent years on outreach to vulnerable and underserved communities who have been under-represented in a mainstream approach to service delivery. Through an “Underserved Needs Assessment,” each of the sexual assault crisis and support centers have identified vulnerable and underserved population groups in their respective communities. In turn, each of the centers have worked with various groups in their catchment areas to build partnerships to reduce barriers experienced by underserved population groups accessing sexual violence services. It is MECASA’s goal that these

⁴⁵ E-mail communication with Anne Jordan, March 1, 2017.

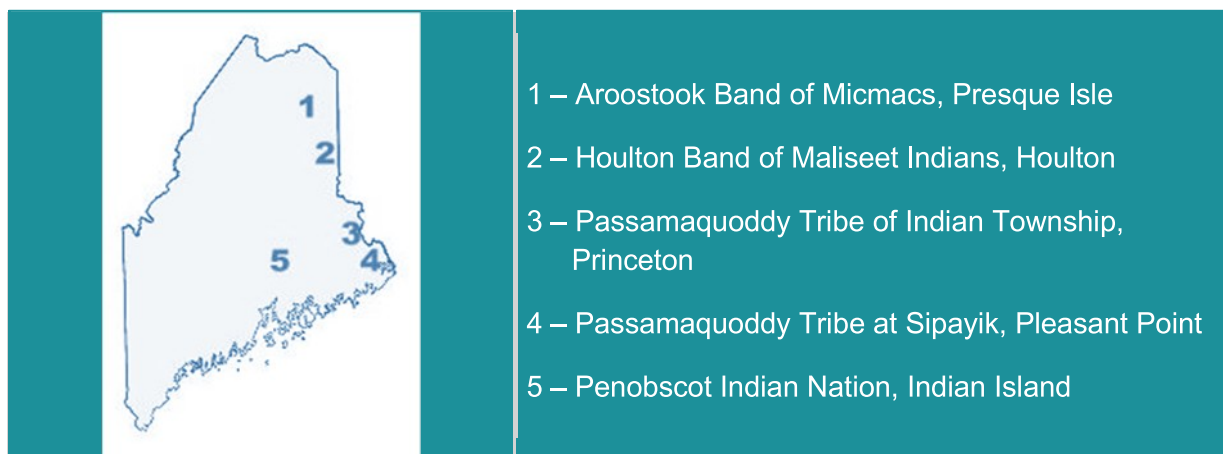
local partnerships will extend services to populations that are currently unreached, but that the partnerships will also lead to a more comprehensive array of services available to all victims of sexual violence services.

One such vulnerable population group is LGBTQ+ survivors of sexual violence. LGBTQ+ individuals experience a higher rate of sexual violence than the heterosexual population.⁴⁶ Recognizing that the LGBTQ+ community faces additional barriers to reporting sexual violence and accessing services, a collaborative of service providers developed Safe Space. This training program was designed to enhance the capacity of the centers to provide services to LGBTQ+ survivors of sexual violence and to make the centers more welcoming to these survivors.

Other similar initiatives include drop-in support programming offered on-site at related programs which serve highly victimized or marginalized populations, such as correctional facilities, homeless services, or residential facilities for elders or individuals with disabilities. It also has included the expansion of tools for delivering services, such as the text and chat crisis services and tele video support groups, which will more effectively serve individuals for whom traditional means of access are less accessible or appropriate. Each of these three new technologies will be available in 2017.

Tribal Participation

Maine has five federally recognized Indian tribes. They are depicted on the chart below. Each of these Indian tribes has a dual domestic and sexual violence victim services organization for members who live on or off the reservations as well as non-members.



The JAC, through the Senior Planner at the Department of Public Safety, reached out to all Maine tribal governments to arrange meetings or phone calls to discuss the 2017 - 2020 STOP Implementation Plan. The Wabanaki Women's Coalition provided the Maine Statistical Analysis Center data for inclusion in the report. A letter of support and need was provided by the Executive Director of the Wabanaki Women's Coalition (please see Appendix B).

⁴⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "NISVS: An Overview of 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation," n.d., http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/cdc_nisvs_victimization_final-a.pdf. Accessed on October 17, 2016.

All of Maine's tribes were invited to participate in the planning process on multiple occasions. Jane Root, Executive Director of Wabanaki Women's Coalition participated in several planning calls. The Senior Planner did a site visit to the Passamaquoddy Tribe in March 2017 to learn more about their program successes and needs. During the July 2017 Wabanaki Women's Coalition meeting held in Northport, the Senior Planner met with all participants to provide copies of the 2017-2020 STOP Implementation Plan, seek input and listen to concerns. In September 2017, there was further information sharing at the OVW funded conference "Weaving a Braid of Safety." Attendees at this conference were tribal domestic and sexual violence directors and their colleagues, law enforcement, representation from MECASA, MCEDV, DPS, and DHHS, along with Federal tribal partners. This session was shared with a colleague from the Department of Health and Human Services representing the formula grants on Page 7 not administered by the JAC. Telephone calls and emails have been utilized to have continuing conversation with tribal leadership.

IV. PLAN PRIORITIES and APPROACHES

IV-A. Identified Goals

1. Concise description of current state goals and objectives

In the State of Maine, we are keeping our identified goals fairly broad. This is done in recognition of the STOP funds being a part of a larger organizing principle that includes funding and work from the Department of Public Safety (STOP SAA), Department of Health and Human Services (VOWA SAA), MCEDV, MECASA and the service providers across the state. Continuing to fund core services for survivors has always been and will continue to be a priority. Following are goals identified (in no expressed order) for the 2017 – 2020 STOP Implementation Plan.

- a) GOAL: Increase the ability for Maine victims of crime to access trauma-informed, victim-centered direct services in order to support safety and healing, through maintenance and expansion of victim services. STOP funds will be used in the following ways:
 - To support the ability of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking providers to continue to deliver appropriate and accessible victim services to Maine victims/survivors.
 - To ensure that domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking providers receive training to have the content knowledge and skills they need to deliver high quality services.
 - To ensure the ongoing or enhanced ability of victims/survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, to access high quality medical care and medical forensic examination related to their victimization.
 - To increase the capacity of mainstream domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking providers to deliver culturally- or community-appropriate services for underserved communities.
 - To increase the extent to which underserved providers can deliver domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking services to their communities and/or partners.
 - To support the ability of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking providers to use technology and information systems to increase the availability of services or systems related to victim services.
 - To increase the ability to pilot new or innovative services or programs to respond to domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking victims/survivors.
- b) GOAL: Enhance the ability of the criminal and civil justice systems to provide a trauma-informed, victim centered, and evidence-informed response to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. STOP funds will be used in the following ways:

- To support the collaboration and coordination of multidisciplinary teams, including victim services, prosecutors, law enforcement, medical services, and other disciplines.
- To support the creation and implementation of policy, procedures, and planning, within and across disciplines related to effective response to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
- To support training and technical assistance for the key disciplines engaged in response to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking (including victim services providers, law enforcement, prosecution, medical services personnel, and other first responders).
- To support enhanced adjudication and management of offender behavior to ensure victim/survivor safety.
- To support the development, implementation, and use of technology and information systems to improve systems related to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

2 Goals and objectives for reducing domestic violence-related homicides within the state

Goals and objectives for reducing intimate partner domestic violence-related homicides within the state, including available statistics on the rates of intimate partner domestic violence homicide within the state and challenges specific to the state and how the plan can overcome them.

Goal: Maine's rate of intimate partner domestic violence homicide will be 0 by 2025. STOP funds will be used in achieving the following objectives:

Law Enforcement Objective: To implement the recommendations of the Homicide Review Panel regarding the law enforcement response to domestic abuse, including these activities:

- Information sharing to facilitate outreach to victims of domestic violence by domestic violence resource center advocates
- Participation in regional multi-disciplinary risk assessment and management teams and initiatives
- Adherence to the Model Policy provided by the Maine Chiefs of Police Association and mandatory minimum standards set by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy
- Designation and training of specialized domestic violence investigators
- Consistent inquiry of victims regarding sexual assault and/or strangulation as elements of domestic violence crimes
- Consistent referrals to victims regarding victim services and information about protection from abuse orders
- Internal reviews conducted in each jurisdiction when the perpetrator of domestic violence homicide was subject to a protection order or had previous interactions with law enforcement

Judicial Branch Objective: To implement the recommendations of the Homicide Review Panel regarding the Judicial Branch, including these activities:

- Recognizing and ordering participation in batterer intervention programs rather

- than anger management as part of sentencing in cases of domestic violence
- Consistent separation of parties in family law cases
- Provision of safety and security for victims of domestic violence in the court house and its environs
- Ensuring that victims have the opportunity to access advocacy services prior to dismissing protection from abuse orders

Healthcare Objective: To implement the recommendations of the Homicide Review Panel regarding the Healthcare system, including these activities:

- Consistently asking about and providing information regarding domestic abuse and related community resources to all patients
- Recognizing that the medical record is a legal document that may be used in evidence
- Implementing procedures to connect patients who disclose domestic abuse with advocacy services
- Screening all patients for access to firearms at the same time that they are screening for depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, and domestic abuse
- Screening older patients for depression and suicidal ideation, particularly during times of transition
- Asking older patients about their care providers and household composition in order to offer appropriate support
- Obtain training from and collaborating with the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence in achieving this objective, ensuring that all health care professionals receive adequate training and resources, including home health workers, nurses, emergency medical responders, and physicians.

IV-B. Priority Areas

1. Narrative about the priorities or goals the state has set regarding how STOP funds will be used.

a. If the state does plan to address the "Crystal Judson" purpose area

Not Applicable

b. If the state does not plan to address the "Crystal Judson" purpose area

Maine currently does not plan to use the "Crystal Judson" purpose area.

2. General descriptions of the types of programs and projects that will be supported with STOP dollars.

The Justice Assistance Council's most recent Implementation Plan for the STOP Violence Against Women Program was developed with detailed contributions from JAC members as well as key stakeholders from law enforcement, prosecution, the judiciary, and victim services. The following are examples of programs and projects that have been funded by the JAC using STOP funds. These programs are examples that may be supported with future STOP dollars.

1. Coordinated Community Response/Multi-disciplinary Response. Initiatives seeking funding under this priority area will aim to improve coordination of the justice system's response to domestic violence, sexual violence, and dating violence. Recent projects include:
 - a. Next Step Domestic Violence Project used STOP funding to enhance and maintain connections with local law enforcement agencies. The relationship building has led to law enforcement personnel reaching out to advocates when they respond to domestic violence incidents, to refer victims, and to consult with them about available services;
 - b. Family Crisis Services (FCS) used STOP Program funding to expand the Enhanced Police Intervention Collaboration (EPIC) to other critical first responders including Fire and Rescue Departments throughout Cumberland County. These working relationships have created increased referrals to FCS, improved law enforcement responses to domestic violence, and collaborative team approaches to working with victims; and
 - c. Family Violence Project used STOP funding to bring in outside agencies to meet with clients in an informal group setting. Sexual assault educators, crisis intervenors, fire & rescue personnel, community police services, and batterer intervention group leaders...all have met with shelter groups.
2. Victim Service Maintenance and Expansion. This priority area emphasizes upholding key victim services as well as expanding services to underserved areas and populations. Recent projects include:
 - a. Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services used STOP funding to provide more appropriate services to underserved populations and to expand its services into more rural communities. It has allowed them to continue to develop new strategies on how to provide services and break down some of the traditional barriers;
 - b. Family Crisis Services (FCS) partnered with the Maine Correctional Center and the Southern Maine Women's Re-entry Center to provide programming and direct services to women who are incarcerated. FCS also is able to connect women with other domestic violence and sexual assault resource centers across the state when being released to help support women when they re-enter their communities; and
 - c. Lewiston Police Department used STOP Program funding to develop a Proactive Response Team (PRT) which conducts domestic violence (DV) Safety Checks. These checks are done on victims of domestic violence crimes, sexual assaults, and plaintiffs in protection orders as well as victims of an offender who is on deferred disposition or probation with conditions not to have contact with the victim. The Domestic Violence Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the DV Safety Check details.
3. Enhanced Adjudication Process. These programs support the management of offender behavior and ensure victim safety. Recent projects include:
 - a. York County District Attorney's Office has used STOP funding to train officers, meet with social service agencies, meet with victims and keep

current with the best practices in prosecuting domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault cases. The consistency of prosecution among the three has resulted in better plea deals;

- b. Pine Tree Legal Assistance (PTLA) used STOP funding to support victims of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking in the Bridgton and West Bath District Courts twice per month each. PTLA has limited other funding sources to address the needs of survivors in these rural court areas. Without STOP funding, servicing these areas would not have been possible on a regular basis; and
 - c. Prosecutorial District IV used STOP funding to provide law enforcement to monitor the defendants while they are in the court process, and to fund a prosecutor to assist with the DV case load, and be on teams that enforce rehabilitation programs for convicted individuals who have been returned to the community;
4. Training. The JAC provides funding to victim services providers, law enforcement, prosecution, medical services personnel, and other first responders. Training is essential to any comprehensive effort to fight domestic violence and sexual assault. Victim service providers, prosecutors, law enforcement, medical personnel and first responders and the many other disciplines that interact with victims and/or offenders should receive training in one or more of the aspects of response to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. Online and traditional training of law enforcement should be coordinated with the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. Recent projects include:
- a. Maine Chiefs of Police Association used STOP funds to begin to assemble a comprehensive on-line library of courses addressing DV, sexual assault and human trafficking that will provide law enforcement officers statewide with access to affordable, high-quality training;
 - b. Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MECASA) used the funding to create a training video for law enforcement officers which features the on-the-ground skills, experience, and wisdom from a selection of law enforcement officers across many regions and jurisdictions. MECASA believes that there are many highly skilled and qualified sexual assault investigators in Maine. This will be an opportunity to bring their experience to those in training;
 - c. Maine Judicial Branch used the STOP funding to provide in depth intensive training on DV, sexual assault (SA) and stalking to 11 new judges and magistrates by highly skilled and experienced instructors from the National Judicial College. Maine's current budget does not provide for such training; and
 - d. Waldo County General Hospital, Pen Bay Medical Center and LincolnHealth are collaborating to develop and implement a high-quality regional Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) program to provide survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence with access to SAFE nurses for evidentiary collection and medical care, 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

Individually, none of the three hospitals has the resources or patient demand to support a stand-alone SAFE program, but collaboratively, they have the capacity to leverage leadership, staffing, and other resources to create and sustain a viable and sustainable regional SAFE program.

5. Policy, Procedures, and Planning. Funding in this priority area is geared toward developing evidence-based policies and practices in stopping domestic violence and sexual violence. Recent projects include:
 - a. Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault used STOP funding to provide crucial support to aid in the development of a stronger statewide service infrastructure to incarcerated victims/survivors and provide them with the services they need to heal and thrive post-incarceration. While Maine was found noncompliant with Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards in 2014, the continuation of STOP funds has directly contributed to the successful audits of each state-run correctional facility;
 - b. Spruce Care – Woman’s Alliance used STOP Grant funding to provide enhanced safety planning services to an increased number of victims of domestic violence in Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties; and
 - c. Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault used STOP funding to support dedicated time to address human trafficking by creating more robust protocols, plan for gaps in programming, and develop an action plan for the future.
6. Technology and Information. Awards in this priority area are used to improve the sharing of information across systems to improve the safety of victims and safeguard evidence for prosecution purposes. Recent projects include:
 - a. Department of Corrections used STOP funding to purchase cameras for 3 correctional facilities to detect and prevent sexual assaults in our correctional facilities.

3. A description of how the funds will be distributed across the allocation categories.

- At least 5% of the funds from OVW are awarded to state, local, and/or tribal courts;
- At least 25% of the funds are earmarked for law enforcement;
- At least 25% of the funds are earmarked for the prosecution category;
- At least 30% of the funds are earmarked for victims services, of which at least 10% has to go to culturally-specific community-based organizations;
- At least 20% of the total funds are earmarked for projects with sexual violence that fall within two or more of the categories; and
- The remaining 15% is for discretionary.

4. Documentation from the following categories: prosecution, law enforcement, courts and victim service programs.

The Documentation, in the form of letters, is contained within Appendix B.

5. 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 2 or more allocations (law enforcement, prosecution, victim services, and courts)

Sexual Assault Set-aside

Maine is committed to funding projects which address sexual assault, and to meeting the statutory set-aside, and has several ways to ensure that sexual assault projects are emphasized. The STOP Administrator and Justice Assistance Council work closely with Maine's standalone sexual assault coalition (MECASA). One of the coalition providers chairs the Justice Assistance Council and the Executive Director of MECASA has a seat at the table. In addition, the STOP Administrator is in monthly, if not weekly, contact with MECASA staff. This close working relationship is a critical factor in meeting the set-aside.

When the annual RFP is released it is sent to many entities that might submit a sexual assault related project. In addition, MECASA sends it out to all the sexual assault victim service providers, including those who are not part of the coalition, like the Wabanaki Women's Coalition and Pine Tree Legal Assistance, encouraging them to apply. Additional conversations are held at the coalition level to encourage applications from MECASA members. The coalition director also works with other disciplines to develop projects which meaningfully address sexual assault. Staff from Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Centers also work with their local partners to encourage and develop grant proposals that might support and enhance the work of those partners with survivors of sexual assault.

Once the proposals are submitted, for each priority area, the JAC has a sub-committee that reviews the applications. Those which are approved for funding undergo an assessment by experts in the field to determine whether they "meaningfully addressing sexual assault". They decide, using a consensus model, which projects and/or percentages of those projects to apply toward the overall twenty percent requirement.

Progress has been made toward meeting the set-aside across two or more categories, as can be seen in past years' STOP progress reports. Over the past four years of funding, Maine has averaged 23.72% of funds in Law Enforcement for sexual assault focused projects. These funds have been used for training of officers with six online training courses, for a training video for law enforcement and for another video for the Department of Corrections. In Victim Services, 62.07% of funds have used to fund sexual assault projects on a local or statewide basis. Currently, funding is supporting a live-answer statewide hotline, SAFE nurses, SARTs and culturally specific work through the United Somali Women. A statewide prosecutors' project, using 14.21% of the funds has had very positive impact in providing for a collection system that presents sexual assault (and

domestic violence) data in specific and consistent formats across the state.

If the 20% set-aside is not met, additional funds will be released to encourage sexual assault applications. To date, Maine's strategies have been largely successful in meeting our statutory obligations in this area.

IV-C. Grant-making Strategy

State Administrative Agency: Maine Department of Public Safety

Since 1995, the Maine Department of Public Safety (DPS) has been the state administrative agency (SAA) for STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program. The Maine SAA is responsible for: preparing the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program application for funding, accounting for and spending award funding, determining and awarding funding to sub-grantees, monitoring sub-grantee activities, providing technical assistance to sub-grantees as requested, and submitting progress reports to the Office of Justice Programs. The STOP program provides crucial financial resources to state and local governmental agencies as well as community-based organizations working on domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence and stalking. Most years, the SAA issues a request for proposal (RFP) to organizations that are interested in addressing violence against individuals, household members, and loved ones. The Maine RFP uses all federal STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program Purpose Areas as well as the Implementation Plan Maine Program Priority Areas. By retaining all federal STOP purpose areas Maine has found that the submission of new or emerging needs is continually encouraged by the JAC.

1. A description of 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.

The Justice Assistance Council is charged with carrying out the following responsibilities:

- ◆ Distributing requests for proposals that are germane to the originating federal legislation on a regular basis,
- ◆ Reviewing grant applications and determining what applications to fund based on available resources,
- ◆ Holding regular meetings to review grantee progress and carry out other requirements as appropriate, and
- ◆ Providing input and direction to the State Administering Agency (SAA) Senior Planner.

The Maine JAC membership consists of people from organizations that are involved in domestic violence/sexual violence, drug crime, and violent crime prevention, prosecution, and victim

services. These individuals are members based on their position within state government or appointed by the governor to shape policy and practice that will lead to more comprehensive strategies that minimize these types of crimes. The JAC meets quarterly to review intergovernmental policies and practices and monitor the funding decisions to state and local entities. These meetings are open to the public and include participation from providers who are not council members.

While the JAC's priorities have changed to some extent over time, the underlying principle of its work has been to enhance coordination across all criminal justice systems in the state.

In a state where nearly 75% of all local law enforcement agencies have fewer than 20 officers, this coordination takes on added significance. As criminal activity becomes more sophisticated, local and state law enforcement agencies need coordinated approaches that share the resources and expertise of multiple agencies.

The JAC coordinates its efforts with several statewide crime prevention task forces. JAC members are involved in such efforts as the Maine Opiate Collaborative, Project Safe Neighborhoods, the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence, the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse, and the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault, and the Wabanaki Women's Coalition. The JAC works with these groups to establish its funding priorities in any given year.

2. A description of 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.

Priority may be given to varying geographic size showing the greatest need based on the availability of existing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking programs for the population and geographic area to be served in relation to the availability of such programs for other such populations and geographic areas.

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

All grant requests that meet eligibility and program requirements for STOP will be reviewed and considered for funding. Applicants are required to provide population data and describe the community to be served. The number of subgrants is determined by several mitigating factors including population in the area to be served, scope of the project, requested amount as well as the projects apparent cost effectiveness.

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

Funds are generally distributed between rural and urban areas of the state. However, the vast majority of Maine is rural and as a result, projects are more frequently awarded to rural programs.

5. Description of methods to be used for solicitation/review of proposals and selection of subgrant projects

Methods to be used

Each year, the Maine Justice Assistance Council issues a competitive request for proposals (RFP) for STOP funds. In some years, depending on funding availability, the JAC issues multiple RFPs (specifically when there is at least \$50,000 unawarded in a funded category). While most grants are for one year, some grants are multi-year providing some grantees additional time to develop new programs and enhance their chances of finding a sustainable source(s) of funding. On occasion, grants are less than one year when needed to cover a “funding gap” of less than twelve months.

It is important to note that STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Programs funds are not the only source of funds aimed at reducing domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, and stalking. In addition to the STOP formula funding, Maine domestic violence and sexual violence statewide and local organizations can apply for funding from 21 other OVW formula and discretionary programs.

Allocation of Funds

Each year, the Maine Justice Assistance Council issues an RFP with all available STOP funding to eligible organizations. The RFP specifies the following breakdown in how these funds are to be specifically allocated:

- At least 5% of the funds from OVW are awarded to state, local, and/or tribal courts;
- At least 25% of the funds are earmarked for law enforcement;
- At least 25% of the funds are earmarked for the prosecution category;
- At least 30% of the funds are earmarked for victims services, of which at least 10% has to go to culturally-specific community-based organizations;
- At least 20% of the total funds are earmarked for projects with sexual violence that fall within two or more of the categories; and
- The remaining 15% is for discretionary.

6. A timeline for the Stop Grant Cycle

Date	Activities
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Develop Request for Proposal grant application kit
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ RFP material forwarded to Maine's Division of Procurement Services for Approval
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Request for Proposals Notice sent to Kennebec Journal for public notice▪ Distribution of grant application kit to applicants▪ Bidders conference and/or question period
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Applicants submit grant applications to Division of Purchases▪ Committee Chair review proposals with Senior Planner prior to distribution for review and consensus scoring
Late August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Review of applications by JAC Review Teams
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Award decisions made at the Justice Assistance Council meeting▪ All applicants and Division of Procurement Services notified of results and special conditions▪ Award sub-grants▪ Contract processing
September October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Begin technical assistance and monitoring of grants▪ Earliest date to start drawing down funds

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

The JAC Prefers that subgrants be awarded for a single year coinciding with the federal fiscal year. They do make a limited amount of 18 month awards if the project timeline demonstrates the need for additional time. The JAC preference is to make a twelve month award then assess both the need and progress before additional funds are committed to the project.

8. A description of how the state will ensure that any subgrantees will consult with victim service providers during the course of developing their grant

During the Request for Proposal process, DPS ensures that all grant applicants consult with tribal, State, or local victim service programs during the course of developing their grant applications in order to ensure that proposed services, activities and equipment are designed to promote the safety, confidentiality, and economic independence of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. A signed Consultation/Collaboration Agreement must be submitted with the application unless the applicant is the victim service entity. Letters of consultation/collaboration should provide details about the role of partners in the development of the project, the history of collaboration among the partners, what each will contribute to the project, and the financial or in-kind compensation that will be provided. If this step was overlooked or not considered complete a Special Condition would be placed on the subgrantee to complete this process before being issued a contract.

EXAMPLE CONSULTATION/COLLABORATION AGREEMENT

Maine STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program

_____ agrees that they have consulted with the local victim service program during the course of developing their Maine STOP Violence Against Women Formula grant application to ensure that the proposed project and activities are designed to promote the safety, confidentiality, and economic independence of the victim.

I further understand as a representative of the above agency that without the continued coordination and collaboration with the local victim service program, our agency will not be eligible for continued funding.

Agency Name

 Signature of Agency Representative Date

Name of Victim Service Agency

 Signature of Victim Service Representative Date

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

In Maine, these federal funds are earmarked for the following areas, and all eligible organizations are encouraged to apply:

Law Enforcement

- Municipal police departments
- Sheriff's departments

- Maine State Police
- Other state law enforcement agencies
- Tribal police departments

Prosecution

- Maine District Attorney's Office
- Office of the Attorney General

Victim Service Providers

- Non-profit, non-governmental domestic violence or sexual violence victim service organizations
- Non-profit organizations
- Tribal domestic violence and sexual violence service organizations
- Culturally-specific community-based organizations
- Faith-based organizations
- 501 (c)(3) or state agency administering a forensic examiner program

Court

- Administrative Office of the Courts
- Supreme, superior, district, and/or specialty courts in Maine
- Tribal Court

Discretionary

- Any of the above listed eligible organizations or other eligible entities that have a proposal for consideration

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

At the time of this writing, Maine is in the grant review process for the STOP grant program. Maine is also creating a RFP to solicit further projects for available STOP funding. A final decision regarding which projects will be funded will not occur until the JAC reviews and approves proposals at their next quarterly meeting. All final contracts will be held pending approval of the 2017 – 2020 Stop Implementation Plan.

IV-D. Addressing the Needs of Underserved Populations

1. Description of how the state will recognize and meaningfully respond to the needs of underserved populations as defined by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) 2013.

The JAC and STOP program strive to recognize and meaningfully address the needs of underserved populations. Several entities in Maine are critical in assessing these needs and developing meaningful responses to marginalized victims, and the STOP program director regularly interfaces with all of them. Five of these are groups, described below, which provide

regular opportunities for planning.

- Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCDSV) is statutorily charged with advising the legislature and administration on issues related to domestic and sexual violence. (The membership is provided in the Appendices.) This group meets monthly and includes a broad mix of people from across Maine representing many populations, some of which are underserved. Four seats are specifically set aside for members representing underserved populations. Additionally, over the years, a number of the six at-large seats have also represented marginalized communities. MCDSV regularly discusses issues related to underserved populations and helps inform systems responses, including the work that the STOP program engages in.
- Immigrant Resource Center of Maine (formerly the United Somali Women of Maine), a member of both MCEDV and MECASA, serves immigrant and refugee communities and provides services in more than fourteen languages. IRCM has received STOP funding for many years and works closely with the STOP Administrator to highlight program gaps and needs related to these communities.
- The five federally recognized tribes in Maine each have a domestic and sexual violence center, funded through the OVW Tribal Program. Collectively they comprise the Wabanaki Women's Coalition (WWC). WWC is represented at the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse and as a result interfaces with the STOP Administrator on a regular basis. In addition, like the other groups listed in this section, WWC participated in the STOP Implementation Plan planning process.
- The Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MECASA) recognizes that marginalized and underserved victims are disproportionately subject to sexual violence. As a result, MECASA prioritizes assessing the needs of these populations and creating strategies to better address their unique needs and barriers and has a full-time staff position dedicated to doing so. To guide this work, MECASA conducts a semi-annual Sexual Violence Underserved Needs Assessment. This report helped inform this implementation plan. MECASA uses the results of this to prioritize the needs for training, coalition building, policy, and practice. One example of the many programs and initiatives MECASA has undertaken meet these needs was the creation of the statewide LGBTQ+ Advisory Council. One of the priority projects emerging from that group was the need for Trans-specific support groups. STOP was able to fund a pilot project in three regions of the state to engage in support group-specific cross-training for sexual assault advocates and trans advocates and then to offer co-facilitated support groups.
- The Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence and its member programs, since their inception, have integrated practices of inclusivity, safety, accessibility, and non-discrimination into both direct services for survivors and community directed education and training programs. The staff and board of MCEDV include persons of color, LGBTQ+ identifying people, elder, and rural individuals, many of whom are also survivors of abuse and violence. MCEDV is part of the LGBTQ+ Advisory Council with MECASA and publishes LGBTQ+ specific materials. The core

curriculum in the training for all domestic violence resource center advocates integrates content from Praxis International's Advocacy Learning Center, OVW Technical Assistance Provider, framing both individual and system advocacy in cultural competence, liberation, and collaboration. STOP Grants have supported domestic violence resource centers to expand outreach to remote rural and island communities and to initiate contact with victims who are elder and/or disabled.

2. 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.

Maine recognizes that the culturally specific set-aside is an important part of addressing the needs of underserved populations. Unfortunately, when the federal definition was rewritten and narrowed, the result was that only a few providers in Maine are now eligible for this funding. The eligible entities include the five Wabanaki DV/SA providers and the Immigrant Resource Center of Maine (United Somali Women of Maine). The STOP Administrator met with the Wabanaki Women's Coalition. All of Maine's tribes were invited to participate in the planning process on multiple occasions. Jane Root, Executive Director of Wabanaki Women's Coalition participated in several planning calls. The Senior Planner did a site visit to the Passamaquoddy Tribe in March 2017 to learn more about their program successes and needs. During the July 2017 Wabanaki Women's Coalition meeting held in Northport, the Senior Planner met with all participants to provide copies of the 2017-2020 STOP Implementation Plan, seek input and listen to concerns. In September 2017, there was further information sharing at the OVW funded conference "Weaving a Braid of Safety." Attendees at this conference were tribal domestic and sexual violence directors and their colleagues, law enforcement, representation from MECASA, MCEDV, DPS, and DHHS, along with Federal tribal partners. This session was shared with a colleague from the Department of Health and Human Services representing the formula grants on page 6 not administered by the JAC. Telephone calls and emails have been utilized to have continuing conversation with tribal leadership. and will continue to do so on an annual basis to assess their needs and reduce barriers to applying for STOP funding.

The STOP Administrator continues the conversation with the Immigrant Resource Center of Maine with monthly meeting or telephone calls. We continue to work, as a member of the DV/SA advisory committee, with the New Mainer project spearheaded by the Immigrant Resource Center of Maine. Initially this organization was created to specifically serve the members of the Somali community. Over the past fifteen years they have evolved to include staff members speaking approximately 18 different languages, serving Androscoggin and Cumberland Counties. Efforts are underway to serve additional populations in Kennebec and York counties. These counties contain large populations of immigrant, refugees and asylum seekers.

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

Tribal Participation

The JAC, through the Senior Planner at the Department of Public Safety, will work diligently to ensure they seek tribal input and perspectives when statewide domestic and sexual violence funding policies and strategies are being developed. These agencies already have long-term working relationships with Maine's three statewide coalitions, so this effort is an added resource.

When the annual RFP is released, it is sent directly to the Wabanaki Women's Coalition and the Immigrant Resource Center of Maine. These providers are aware of the set-aside and are encouraged to apply. MECASA and MCEDV further encourage their applications; in the past MECASA has even assisted the Immigrant Resource Center of Maine with their applications. Should the set-aside not be met, additional efforts will be made in the next RFP.

4. Specific information as to which subgrantees meet the required 10% set aside for culturally specific organizations within the victim services allocation

Maine recognizes that the culturally specific set-aside is an important part of addressing the needs of underserved populations. Unfortunately, when the federal definition was rewritten and narrowed, the result was that only a few providers in Maine are now eligible for this funding. The eligible entities include the five Wabanaki DV/SA providers and the Immigrant Resource Center of Maine (Somali Women of Maine). Each year the STOP Administrator reviews the "landscape" in Maine to see if there are additional organizations emerging who could qualify to receive this funding. Part of this annual review will be to assess their needs and reduce barriers to apply for STOP funding.

Appendix A – Collaboration Agreements

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program

Maine Implementation Planning Process DOCUMENTATION OF COLLABORATION

Instructions: Please use this form to note your participation in either meetings or review processes for the Maine 2017-2020 STOP Implementation Plan

State/Territory: Maine

Administering Agency: Maine Department of Public Safety

Collaborating Agency: Maine Prosecutors' Ass'n

Category of collaborating agency (e.g., victim service provider, law enforcement, tribal, etc.):

Prosecution

Planning Team Meeting Date(s) or review dates: _____

The following questions should be answered by the Collaborating Agency:

Did you participate in planning meeting or review (please circle one): Yes **No**

If so, did you participate ____ In-person attendance ____ Via conference call

Did you have adequate opportunity to discuss the concerns or issues impacting your area of expertise and/or the population (s) you were representing? **Yes** No

Did you receive a copy of the draft plan? **Yes** No

Did you review the draft plan? **Yes** No

Do you feel the primary needs were addressed in draft plan? **Yes** No

Did you offer feedback on draft plan? Yes **No**

Did you receive a copy of the state's final plan prior to submission to OVW? Yes **No**

Were you satisfied that the plan included any issues you may have asked be included? **Yes** No

If no, please explain _____

Alyshia Anderson
Signature

Date: 6/6/17

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program

Maine Implementation Planning Process DOCUMENTATION OF COLLABORATION

Instructions: Please use this form to note your participation in either meetings or review processes for the Maine 2017-2020 STOP Implementation Plan

State/Territory: Maine

Administering Agency: Maine Department of Public Safety

Collaborating Agency: Scarborough Police Dept.

Category of collaborating agency (e.g., victim service provider, law enforcement, tribal, etc.):

Planning Team Meeting Date(s) or review dates: 6/6/17

The following questions should be answered by the Collaborating Agency:

Did you participate in planning meeting or review (please circle one): Yes No

If so, did you participate In-person attendance Via conference call

Did you have adequate opportunity to discuss the concerns or issues impacting your area of expertise and/or the population (s) you were representing? Yes No

Did you receive a copy of the draft plan? Yes No

Did you review the draft plan? Yes No

Do you feel the primary needs were addressed in draft plan? Yes No

Did you offer feedback on draft plan? Yes No

Did you receive a copy of the state's final plan prior to submission to OVW? Yes No

Were you satisfied that the plan included any issues you may have asked be included? Yes No

If no, please explain _____

Rob. Brown
Signature

Date: 6/6/17

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program

Maine Implementation Planning Process DOCUMENTATION OF COLLABORATION

Instructions: Please use this form to note your participation in either meetings or review processes for the Maine 2017-2020 STOP Implementation Plan

State/Territory: Maine

Administering Agency: Maine Department of Public Safety

Collaborating Agency: MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH

Category of collaborating agency (e.g., victim service provider, law enforcement, tribal, etc.):

COURTS

Planning Team Meeting Date(s) or review dates: 6/6/17

The following questions should be answered by the Collaborating Agency:

Did you participate in planning meeting or review (please circle one): Yes No

If so, did you participate ___ In-person attendance ___ Via conference call

Did you have adequate opportunity to discuss the concerns or issues impacting your area of expertise and/or the population (s) you were representing? Yes No

Did you receive a copy of the draft plan? Yes No

Did you review the draft plan? Yes No

Do you feel the primary needs were addressed in draft plan? Yes No

Did you offer feedback on draft plan? Yes No

Did you receive a copy of the state's final plan prior to submission to OVW? Yes No

Were you satisfied that the plan included any issues you may have asked be included? Yes No

If no, please explain _____

James T. Clemons
Signature

Date: 6/2/17

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program

Maine Implementation Planning Process DOCUMENTATION OF COLLABORATION

Instructions: Please use this form to note your participation in either meetings or review processes for the Maine 2017-2020 STOP Implementation Plan

State/Territory: Maine

Administering Agency: Maine Department of Public Safety

Collaborating Agency: Maine Department of Public Safety

Category of collaborating agency (e.g., victim service provider, law enforcement, tribal, etc.):

law enforcement

Planning Team Meeting Date(s) or review dates: May 23, 2017

The following questions should be answered by the Collaborating Agency:

Did you participate in planning meeting or review (please circle one): Yes No

If so, did you participate In-person attendance Via conference call

Did you have adequate opportunity to discuss the concerns or issues impacting your area of expertise and/or the population (s) you were representing? Yes No

Did you receive a copy of the draft plan? Yes No

Did you review the draft plan? Yes No

Do you feel the primary needs were addressed in draft plan? Yes No

Did you offer feedback on draft plan? Yes No

Did you receive a copy of the state's final plan prior to submission to OVW? Yes No

Were you satisfied that the plan included any issues you may have asked be included? Yes No

If no, please explain _____

Janet Joyeux
Signature

Date: 5/24/17

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program

Maine Implementation Planning Process DOCUMENTATION OF COLLABORATION

Instructions: Please use this form to note your participation in either meetings or review processes for the Maine 2017-2020 STOP Implementation Plan

State/Territory: Maine

Administering Agency: Maine Department of Public Safety

Collaborating Agency: Maine Chiefs of Police Assoc.

Category of collaborating agency (e.g., victim service provider, law enforcement, tribal, etc.):
Law Enforcement

Planning Team Meeting Date(s) or review dates: 5-15-17

The following questions should be answered by the Collaborating Agency:

Did you participate in planning meeting or review (please circle one): Yes No

If so, did you participate ___ In-person attendance ___ Via conference call

Did you have adequate opportunity to discuss the concerns or issues impacting your area of expertise and/or the population (s) you were representing? Yes No

Did you receive a copy of the draft plan? Yes No

Did you review the draft plan? Yes No

Do you feel the primary needs were addressed in draft plan? Yes No

Did you offer feedback on draft plan? Yes No

Did you receive a copy of the state's final plan prior to submission to OVW? Yes No

Were you satisfied that the plan included any issues you may have asked be included? Yes No

If no, please explain _____

Robert M. Schmitt
Signature

Date: 5-16-17

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program

Maine Implementation Planning Process DOCUMENTATION OF COLLABORATION

Instructions: Please use this form to note your participation in either meetings or review processes for the Maine 2017-2020 STOP Implementation Plan

State/Territory: Maine

Administering Agency: Maine Department of Public Safety

Collaborating Agency: Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services

Category of collaborating agency (e.g., victim service provider, law enforcement, tribal, etc.):

Victim Service Provider - Sexual Assault

Planning Team Meeting Date(s) or review dates: 12/9/16, 3/1/17

The following questions should be answered by the Collaborating Agency:

Did you participate in planning meeting or review (please circle one): Yes No

If so, did you participate In-person attendance Via conference call

Did you have adequate opportunity to discuss the concerns or issues impacting your area of expertise and/or the population (s) you were representing? Yes No

Did you receive a copy of the draft plan? Yes No

Did you review the draft plan? Yes No

Do you feel the primary needs were addressed in draft plan? Yes No

Did you offer feedback on draft plan? Yes No

Did you receive a copy of the state's final plan prior to submission to OVW? Yes No

Were you satisfied that the plan included any issues you may have asked be included? Yes No

If no, please explain I still have concerns about the sexual assault data section not talking about how using the term "rape" is not inclusive of all sexual assaults.

Marty Meltzer
Signature

Date: 5-25-17

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program

Maine Implementation Planning Process DOCUMENTATION OF COLLABORATION

Instructions: Please use this form to note your participation in either meetings or review processes for the Maine 2017-2020 STOP Implementation Plan

State/Territory: Maine

Administering Agency: Maine Department of Public Safety

Collaborating Agency: Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Category of collaborating agency (e.g., victim service provider, law enforcement, tribal, etc.):

victim services

Planning Team Meeting Date(s) or review dates: multiple + 5-21-17

The following questions should be answered by the Collaborating Agency:

Did you participate in planning meeting or review (please circle one): **Yes** No

If so, did you participate In-person attendance Via conference call

Did you have adequate opportunity to discuss the concerns or issues impacting your area of expertise and/or the population (s) you were representing? **Yes** No

Did you receive a copy of the draft plan? **Yes** No

Did you review the draft plan? **Yes** No

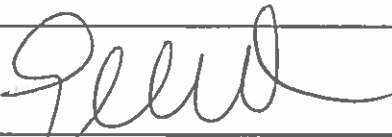
Do you feel the primary needs were addressed in draft plan? **Yes** No

Did you offer feedback on draft plan? **Yes** No

Did you receive a copy of the state's final plan prior to submission to OVW? **Yes** No

Were you satisfied that the plan included any issues you may have asked be included? **Yes** No

If no, please explain _____


Signature

Date: 5-21-17

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program

Maine Implementation Planning Process DOCUMENTATION OF COLLABORATION

Instructions: Please use this form to note your participation in either meetings or review processes for the Maine 2017-2020 STOP Implementation Plan

State/Territory: Maine

Administering Agency: Maine Department of Public Safety

Collaborating Agency: Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence

Category of collaborating agency (e.g., victim service provider, law enforcement, tribal, etc.):

State domestic violence coalition

Planning Team Meeting Date(s) or review dates: many, including May 2017 full review of draft

The following questions should be answered by the Collaborating Agency:

Did you participate in planning meeting or review (please circle one): Yes No

If so, did you participate In-person attendance Via conference call

Did you have adequate opportunity to discuss the concerns or issues impacting your area of expertise and/or the population (s) you were representing? Yes No

Did you receive a copy of the draft plan? Yes No

Did you review the draft plan? Yes No

Do you feel the primary needs were addressed in draft plan? Yes No

Did you offer feedback on draft plan? Yes No

Did you receive a copy of the state's final plan prior to submission to OVW? Yes No

Were you satisfied that the plan included any issues you may have asked be included? Yes No

If no, please explain _____

Francine Stark
Signature

Date: 5/21/17

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program

Maine Implementation Planning Process DOCUMENTATION OF COLLABORATION

Instructions: Please use this form to note your participation in either meetings or review processes for the Maine 2017-2020 STOP Implementation Plan

State/Territory: Maine

Administering Agency: Maine Department of Public Safety

Collaborating Agency: **Wabanaki Women's Coalition**

Category of collaborating agency (e.g., victim service provider, law enforcement, tribal, etc.):

Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalition

Planning Team Meeting Date(s) or review dates: Between email communications (giving feedback, edit suggestions, etc) and meetings there were at least 20+

The following questions should be answered by the Collaborating Agency:

Did you participate in planning meeting or review (please circle one): **Yes** ~~No~~

If so, did you participate ____ In-person attendance **X** Via conference call

Did you have adequate opportunity to discuss the concerns or issues impacting your area of expertise and/or the population (s) you were representing? **Yes** ~~No~~

Did you receive a copy of the draft plan? **Yes** ~~No~~

Did you review the draft plan? **Yes** ~~No~~

Do you feel the primary needs were addressed in draft plan? **Yes** ~~No~~

Did you offer feedback on draft plan? **Yes** ~~No~~

Did you receive a copy of the state's final plan prior to submission to OVW? **Yes** ~~No~~

Were you satisfied that the plan included any issues you may have asked be included? **Yes** ~~No~~

If no, please explain _____



Signature

Date: May 19, 2018

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program

Maine Implementation Planning Process DOCUMENTATION OF COLLABORATION

Instructions: Please use this form to note your participation in either meetings or review processes for the Maine 2017-2020 STOP Implementation Plan

State/Territory: Maine

Administering Agency: Maine Department of Public Safety

Collaborating Agency: US Attorney's Office: District of Maine

Category of collaborating agency (e.g., victim service provider, law enforcement, tribal, etc.):

prosecutorial / law enforcement

Planning Team Meeting Date(s) or review dates: _____

The following questions should be answered by the Collaborating Agency:

Did you participate in planning meeting or review (please circle one): Yes No

If so, did you participate In-person attendance Via conference call

Did you have adequate opportunity to discuss the concerns or issues impacting your area of expertise and/or the population (s) you were representing? Yes No

Did you receive a copy of the draft plan? Yes No

Did you review the draft plan? Yes No

Do you feel the primary needs were addressed in draft plan? Yes No

Did you offer feedback on draft plan? Yes No

Did you receive a copy of the state's final plan prior to submission to OVW? Yes No

Were you satisfied that the plan included any issues you may have asked be included? Yes No

If no, please explain _____

Doct Pitman
Signature

Date: 6/6/17

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program

Maine Implementation Planning Process DOCUMENTATION OF COLLABORATION

Instructions: Please use this form to note your participation in either meetings or review processes for the Maine 2017-2020 STOP Implementation Plan

State/Territory: Maine

Administering Agency: Maine Department of Public Safety

Collaborating Agency: Maine Criminal Justice Academy - Dir. John B. Bogos

Category of collaborating agency (e.g., victim service provider, law enforcement, tribal, etc.):

JAC Board Member

Planning Team Meeting Date(s) or review dates: NA

The following questions should be answered by the Collaborating Agency:

Did you participate in planning meeting or review (please circle one): Yes No

If so, did you participate ___ In-person attendance ___ Via conference call

Did you have adequate opportunity to discuss the concerns or issues impacting your area of expertise and/or the population (s) you were representing? Yes No

Did you receive a copy of the draft plan? Yes No

Did you review the draft plan? Yes No

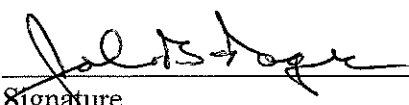
Do you feel the primary needs were addressed in draft plan? Yes No

Did you offer feedback on draft plan? Yes No

Did you receive a copy of the state's final plan prior to submission to OVW? Yes No

Were you satisfied that the plan included any issues you may have asked be included? Yes No

If no, please explain _____


Signature

Date: 05/18/17

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program

Maine Implementation Planning Process DOCUMENTATION OF COLLABORATION

Instructions: Please use this form to note your participation in either meetings or review processes for the Maine 2017-2020 STOP Implementation Plan

State/Territory: Maine

Administering Agency: Maine Department of Public Safety

Collaborating Agency: MAINE STATE POLICE

Category of collaborating agency (e.g., victim service provider, law enforcement, tribal, etc.):

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Planning Team Meeting Date(s) or review dates: scheduled JAC meetings throughout year

The following questions should be answered by the Collaborating Agency:

Did you participate in planning meeting or review (please circle one): Yes No

If so, did you participate In-person attendance Via conference call

Did you have adequate opportunity to discuss the concerns or issues impacting your area of expertise and/or the population (s) you were representing? Yes No

Did you receive a copy of the draft plan? Yes No

Did you review the draft plan? Yes No

Do you feel the primary needs were addressed in draft plan? Yes No

Did you offer feedback on draft plan? Yes No

Did you receive a copy of the state's final plan prior to submission to OVW? Yes No

Were you satisfied that the plan included any issues you may have asked be included? Yes No

If no, please explain _____

M. C. [Signature]

Signature

Date: 6/05/17

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program

Maine Implementation Planning Process DOCUMENTATION OF COLLABORATION

Instructions: Please use this form to note your participation in either meetings or review processes for the Maine 2017-2020 STOP Implementation Plan

State/Territory: Maine

Administering Agency: Maine Department of Public Safety

Collaborating Agency: Farmington Police Department

Category of collaborating agency (e.g., victim service provider, law enforcement, tribal, etc.):

LAW Enforcement

Planning Team Meeting Date(s) or review dates: 6/6/2017

The following questions should be answered by the Collaborating Agency:

Did you participate in planning meeting or review (please circle one):

Yes **Not yet**

If so, did you participate In-person attendance Via conference call

Did you have adequate opportunity to discuss the concerns or issues impacting your area of expertise and/or the population (s) you were representing?

Yes No

Did you receive a copy of the draft plan?

Yes No

Did you review the draft plan?

Yes No

Do you feel the primary needs were addressed in draft plan?

Yes No

Did you offer feedback on draft plan?

Yes No

Did you receive a copy of the state's final plan prior to submission to OVW?

Yes No

Were you satisfied that the plan included any issues you may have asked be included?

Yes No

If no, please explain _____

Signature Jack Perle, Jr

Date: May 30, 2017

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program

Maine Implementation Planning Process DOCUMENTATION OF COLLABORATION

Instructions: Please use this form to note your participation in either meetings or review processes for the Maine 2017-2020 STOP Implementation Plan

State/Territory: Maine

Administering Agency: Maine Department of Public Safety

Collaborating Agency: MAINE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Category of collaborating agency (e.g., victim service provider, law enforcement, tribal, etc.):
CORRECTIONS

Planning Team Meeting Date(s) or review dates: 5.22.2017

The following questions should be answered by the Collaborating Agency:

Did you participate in planning meeting or review (please circle one): Yes No

If so, did you participate ___ In-person attendance ___ Via conference call REVIEW EMAIL

Did you have adequate opportunity to discuss the concerns or issues impacting your area of expertise and/or the population (s) you were representing? Yes No

Did you receive a copy of the draft plan? Yes No

Did you review the draft plan? Yes No

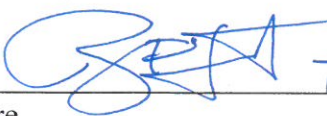
Do you feel the primary needs were addressed in draft plan? Yes No

Did you offer feedback on draft plan? Yes No

Did you receive a copy of the state's final plan prior to submission to OVW? Yes No

Were you satisfied that the plan included any issues you may have asked be included? Yes No

If no, please explain _____


Signature RYAN F. THORNELL

Date: 5.22.2017

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program

Maine Implementation Planning Process DOCUMENTATION OF COLLABORATION

Instructions: Please use this form to note your participation in either meetings or review processes for the Maine 2017-2020 STOP Implementation Plan

State/Territory: Maine

Administering Agency: Maine Department of Public Safety

Collaborating Agency: UNITED SOMALI WOMEN OF MAINE

Category of collaborating agency (e.g., victim service provider, law enforcement, tribal, etc.):

Victim Services - Domestic & Sexual Abuse

Planning Team Meeting Date(s) or review dates: Multiple dates: 1/25/17, 3/1/17 and other

The following questions should be answered by the Collaborating Agency:

Did you participate in planning meeting or review (please circle one):

Yes No

If so, did you participate In-person attendance Via conference call

Did you have adequate opportunity to discuss the concerns or issues impacting your area of expertise and/or the population (s) you were representing?

Yes No

Did you receive a copy of the draft plan?

Yes No

Did you review the draft plan?

Yes No

Do you feel the primary needs were addressed in draft plan?

Yes No

Did you offer feedback on draft plan?

Yes No

Did you receive a copy of the state's final plan prior to submission to OVW?

Yes No

Were you satisfied that the plan included any issues you may have asked be included?

Yes No

If no, please explain We had an additional meeting at our office to discuss victim services to underserved populations - immigrant victims/survivors through the plan

Johnson H. Hussein

Signature

Date: _____

Appendix B – Letters of Support

KATHERYN SLATTERY
DISTRICT I

STEPHANIE P. ANDERSON
DISTRICT II

ANDREW ROBINSON
DISTRICT III

MAEGHAN MALONEY
DISTRICT IV

STATE OF MAINE



R. CHRISTOPHER ALM
DISTRICT V

JONATHAN LIEBERM
DISTRICT VI

MATTHEW J. FOSTER
DISTRICT VII

OFFICES OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEYS

TODD R. COLLINS
DISTRICT VIII

March 1, 2018

Nadine M. Neufville, Deputy Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N. St, NE, Suite 10W.121
Washington, DC 20530


RE: STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program

Dear Ms. Neufville,

I write on behalf of the Maine Prosecutor's Association in support of Maine's application and 2017-2020 Implementation Plan.

STOP funds have supported technology and data collection for the District Attorney's offices, the court and law enforcement agencies. As a result of STOP funds critical information such as bail conditions and protective orders can be electronically transmitted and immediately accessed by law enforcement personnel throughout the state. Prosecutors have also used STOP funds to access and populate law enforcement data "live" into our case management databases and advance our ability to electronically receive and transmit documents, videos, and photographs. Currently, we have completed year one in a multi year project to standardize the business practices of the various District Attorney offices to capture, collect and report data as it applies to domestic violence and sexual assault cases. The data we are now collecting allow us to capture and analyze many more categories of domestic violence and sexual assault cases than are currently reported under the UCR. These projects will increase our ability to be more effective and targeted in our response to violence against women. Without STOP funds, we would not be able to develop these capabilities.

Sincerely,


Stephanie Anderson
President, Maine Prosecutor's Association



The Maine Coalition
to End Domestic Violence

One Weston Court, Box 2, Augusta, ME 04330

January 25, 2018

STOP Grant Administrator
Office on Violence Against Women
US Dept. of Justice

To whom it may concern:

The Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV) is comprised of the 8 domestic violence resource centers and the Immigrant Resource Center of Maine/United Somali Women (IRCM) that together serve all of Maine's 16 counties with hotline, advocacy, support, shelter, and legal services. The five federally recognized tribes in Maine each have an OVW Tribal Program funded domestic and sexual violence center in place that together comprise the Wabanaki Women's Coalition (WWC). MCEDV and WWC, along with their members provide training and education programs for our communities, including criminal justice system professionals, to enhance their understanding of domestic violence, to establish and deepen collaborative responses to domestic violence, all while assuring culturally appropriate interventions that hold perpetrators accountable and increase victim safety.

STOP Grant funds are essential in achieving the mission of MCEDV, particularly as they both encourage and fund collaborative initiatives that will continue to make Maine a safer place for everyone. STOP Grants have resulted in many critical advances, including the establishment of Domestic Violence Investigator positions in law enforcement agencies, improved accessibility of the court system for domestic violence survivors to petition for protection from abuse orders, and the development of multi-disciplinary partnerships to better assess and manage high risk offenders.

All those entities that receive STOP Grants provide reports to the Maine Dept. of Public Safety on at least a quarterly basis, demonstrating the use of grant funds to achieve grant goals and produce grant deliverables. The Justice Assistance Council that oversees the management of these grants includes and values the participation of MCEDV and all other key community partners.

Maine is a state whose demographics include a predominantly white and older adult/elderly population. The five federally recognized tribes in Maine each have an OVW Tribal Program funded domestic and sexual violence center in place that together comprise the Wabanaki Women's Coalition. The Immigrant Resource Center of Maine/United Somali Women provides language and culturally specific services for immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees from several African and Mideastern countries. MCEDV collaborates

closely with both the WWC and IRCM to ensure that all persons are able to access culturally appropriate services across our state.

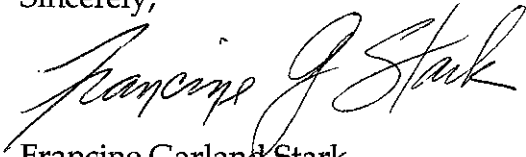
Maine is a rural state with much of the population distributed across a large geographic area, with limited financial and community resources. STOP Grants fund work for which there are no alternative sources readily at hand. STOP funds have been essential in supporting programs that reach out to remote areas, bring training to rural law enforcement officers, and make it possible for advocates to reach out to people living in geographic isolation.

MCEDV partners with the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault as part of the LGBTQI Advisory Council that supports the programs of both coalitions to be safe spaces for all persons. Our Coalitions have been leaders in addressing the needs of underserved populations in our state, often accessing STOP funds to support related initiatives.

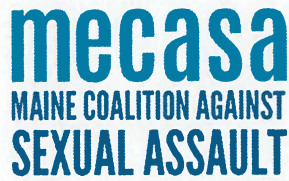
The Dept. of Public Safety has been a true partner in the administration of the STOP Grant Program in Maine. MCEDV and all community partners are invited and welcomed into the planning and implementation process.

If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. I can be reached at 207-430-8334 x2 (office), 207-356-7245 (cell), or francine@mcedv.org. Thank you for your part in making these vital resources available.

Sincerely,



Francine Garland Stark
Executive Director



February 1, 2018

Tracy Poulin, Senior Planner/STOP Grant Administrator
Maine Department of Public Safety
45 Commerce Drive, Suite One
Augusta, ME 04330

Dear Tracy:

As Executive Director of the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault, I am writing to express full support for the State of Maine 2017-2020 STOP Implementation Plan on behalf of MECASA and Maine's sexual assault support centers. STOP funds have been critical over the past 20 years to both statewide and local efforts to prevent and respond to sexual violence in Maine and will be a critical part of maintaining core services.

STOP grant funding has enabled MECASA to lead/coordinate/facilitate projects in many of the Maine STOP Plan priority areas but particularly victim services maintenance and expansion. With the support of STOP grant funding, local sexual assault support center providers have been able to take concrete steps to meet the needs for sexual violence prevention and intervention efforts in their communities. STOP grant funding has also made it possible for MECASA to engage in statewide projects which have tangible outcomes and are critical to building sustainable programs to address sexual violence in Maine. It is critical that these funds continue to be available to Maine's victim service providers.

A few of the projects for which MECASA and its sexual assault member centers have received STOP funding include:

- Expansion of the statewide sexual assault crisis and support line to include 2 full time advocates who offer live answer to callers during business hours. These same advocates will be offering text and chat services within the next month; we anticipate that this new form of communication will expand our current services to survivors between the ages of 13-24.
- Support for the Immigrant Resource Center of Maine to provide culturally competent domestic violence and sexual assault services to Middle Eastern and African immigrants and refugees.
- A formal partnership with Survivor Speak USA (a Maine-based advocacy organization for sexually exploited or trafficked survivors) to jointly offer My Life, My Choice training, a nationally recognized initiative designed to stem the tide of commercial sexual exploitation of girls in the United States.

45 Memorial Circle Suite 302, Augusta, ME
(207) 626 0034 • mecasa.org

- Another formal partnership with MaineTransNet to jointly offer support groups to survivors of sexual violence who identify as transgender. The project involves cross-training and co-facilitation by staff of MaineTransNet and local sexual assault centers.

Continued funding and support from the STOP grant program over the next three years will ensure that MECASA and its member centers are able to engage formally and intentionally, in community partnerships and projects which seek to reduce the incidence of sexual violence in Maine while also providing services and support to survivors. In particular, STOP grant funding will make it possible for MECASA to focus on the needs of traditionally marginalized survivors, including culturally specific, including people with limited English ability, LGBTQ, rural and elders.

Finally, this past summer and fall, MECASA performed its second statewide underserved needs assessment to gauge needs, current services and areas for new or expanded services for underserved populations in Maine. The first Underserved Needs Assessment was done in 2015 to gather information about Maine's underserved communities and identify of strengths and gaps in the service provision for these communities. The needs assessment included ten recommendations to inform MECASA's work plan for programming, training, and technical assistance. After MECASA hired our first Underserved Programs Coordinator and implemented many of the recommendations.

The 2017 Underserved Needs Assessment was designed to measure the impact of MECASA and member center's efforts and to gauge if culturally-specific providers feel supported by their partnerships with MECASA and local sexual assault support centers. Although the 2017 data has not been fully analyzed, it will be used to measure the work sexual assault providers have done, assess progress on previous recommendations and prioritize needs for training, coalition building, policy and practice.

It has been MECASA's experience that culturally specific services are most effective when created by and for specific cultural communities with an emphasis on the voices and experiences of survivors of sexual violence. Direct support and/or partnerships with culturally specific organizations, such as the Immigrant Resource Center of Maine, have proven effective in addressing the needs of Maine's underserved populations. Maine's STOP grant program offers tangible financial support for these efforts.

Please feel free to contact me for further information on any of these subjects.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Ward Saxl
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Julia Miller, Chair

Aroostook Band of Micmac

Jessica Huff, Treasurer

Houlton Band of Maliseet

Angel Gilberti, Secretary

Aroostook Band of Micmac

Desiree Tyrrell *Passamaquoddy,*

Indian Township

Nancy Soctomah

Passamaquoddy, Pleasant Point

Clarissa Sabattis

Houlton Band of Maliseet



www.WabanakiWomensCoalition.org

Jane Root, Executive Director

123 Richards Road

Mailing: P O Box 365

Lincolntonville, ME 04849

207.763.3478 Office

207.538.0858 Cell

WabanakiWomensCoalition@gmail.com

February 5, 2018

Tracy J. Poulin

Senior Planner

Maine Department of Public Safety

RE: Maine Stop Implementation Plan

Dear Tracy:

We are writing in support of the Maine STOP Implementation Plan. The relationship between your office and particularly you as STOP coordinator for the State of Maine and the Wabanaki Tribes as well as the Wabanaki Women's Coalition has been one of mutual respect and much improved understanding on both sides.

We want to acknowledge that you have been very responsive to our invitations to attend our gatherings to explain the STOP grant process and how Tribes can apply for funding. Your presentations at both the Wabanaki Women's Coalition Advocate Retreat in July and the Weaving a Braid of Safety: Maine Tribal-State VAWA Training Conference in September helped forge a trusting relationship with your office and the Tribes. We both gained in that you have a much better understanding of our Coalition and the Tribal Advocacy Programs and we have an increased understanding of the STOP program, what its purpose is and how we can apply for funding.

Sincerely,

Jane Root

Executive Director

The Mission of the Wabanaki Women's Coalition (WWC) is to increase the capacity of tribal communities to respond to domestic and sexual violence and influence tribal, national and regional systems to increase awareness, safety, justice, and healing for all our relations.



Administrative Office of the Courts

James T. Glessner
State Court Administrator
125 Presumpscot Street (zip 04103)
P.O. Box 4820
Portland, Maine 04112-4820

Telephone: (207) 822-0710
FAX: (207) 822-0781
711 Maine Relay

January 29, 2018

Nadine M. Neufville, Deputy Director
Office of Violence Against Women
145 N St., NE, Suite 10W.121
Washington, D.C. 20530

Re: Letter of Support-State of Maine STOP Grant

Dear Ms. Neufville:

On behalf of Chief Justice Leigh Saufley and the State of Maine Judicial Branch, I write this letter in support of the State of Maine's Application for STOP formula grant funds. The funds provide much needed financial support for the State of Maine to fight the epidemic of domestic and sexual assault in Maine.

For background, I serve as the State Court Administrator for Maine's single unified court system. Our Courts handle over 56,000 criminal cases a year many of which are charges relating to domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault and the physical, sexual and financial exploitation of our new immigrants, women and the elderly. Additionally, we handle, on average, over 5,000 petitions per year filed by individual victims seeking civil orders for protection from abuse and protection harassment.

For more than twenty years, I have served as the Maine Judicial Branch representative to the Justice Assistance Council, our statewide multi-jurisdictional advisory group. The JAC is composed of law enforcement, judicial, prosecution and victim advocacy groups and representatives that provide a comprehensive analysis and statewide coordinated response and strategic plan for addressing domestic violence and sexual assault. Funds are strategically managed and targeted towards Maine specific problems, programs and trainings that need to be addressed and that would not occur absent the availability of these federal funds.

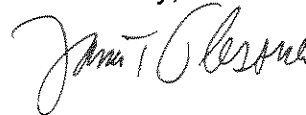
For example, in 2017, the Maine Judicial Branch, in coordination with the Maine State Bar Association, trained 349 lawyers and judges, (the largest gathering ever at such a meeting), on the dynamics of domestic violence, the impact of witnessing violence on the lifelong physical, emotional and psychological development of children, and taught these lawyers and judges to identify and appropriately respond to elderly victims of physical and sexual abuse. All of Maine's judges, from all three levels of our courts, were required to attend. They participated in an additional judges-only session at which they learned from national experts the latest developments and research in domestic violence dynamics, victim issues and appropriate individualized sentencing.

Additionally, over 179 other court officials and partners (court clerks, CASA volunteers, interpreters and mediators), were separately trained on the dynamics of abuse and trauma informed practices. This training was the first of its kind to bring together these various professionals and to have them engage in in-depth training and discussions concerning trauma, their responses to the trauma they deal with in these cases and to address the culturally specific challenges when handling DV or sexual assaults involving many of our new neighbors from across the globe.

If the JAC strategic plan is released, and this year's funds are sent to Maine, the Maine Judicial Branch intends to engage national training and technical experts to undertake comprehensive analysis and review of our Domestic Violence courts, draft a set of best practices and related materials and implement a strategic set of plans and programs that will strengthen the work of our courts, enhance victim safety and hold offenders accountable. Without the availability to access these STOP funds, this plan of action simply will not occur.

STOP funds are vital to our ability to provide the best services and responses we can. The Maine Judicial Branch wholeheartedly endorses the work being done in Maine and respectfully requests that the US Department of Justice approved Maine's strategic plan .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James T. Glessner".

James T. Glessner
State Court Administrator

PINE TREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE, INC.

P.O. Box 547
Portland, ME 04112-0547
(207) 774-4753 V/TTY: 711 FAX (207) 828-2300

Nan Heald
Executive Director

January 26, 2018

Augusta Office
39 Green Street
P.O. Box 2429
Augusta, ME 04338-2429
(207) 622-4731

Tracy Poulin, Senior Planner
Maine Department of Public Safety
104 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0104

Bangor Office
115 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Bangor, ME 04401
(207) 942-8241

Dear Tracy:

I am writing in support of Maine's STOP Implementation Plan for 2017-2020.

Lewiston Office
95 Park Street, Suite 301
P.O. Box 398
Lewiston, ME 04243-0398
(207) 784-1558

As Maine's oldest and largest state-wide legal aid organization, Pine Tree Legal has been the recipient of STOP funding for several projects since 2009. Each project has allowed Pine Tree to enhance our programming for survivors of sexual and domestic violence.

Machias Office
13 Cooper Street
P.O. Box 278
Machias, ME 04654
(207) 255-8656

Pine Tree hired Maine's first full-time attorney focused on domestic violence services in 1978. Continuing funding such as that provided by the STOP program supported expansion of those services over time, allowing Pine Tree attorneys to develop expertise in issues of interpersonal violence based on the length and volume of our experience litigating these matters in Maine's courts. Pine Tree has continued to prioritize civil legal aid to victims of domestic and sexual violence with the assistance of STOP funding, including prioritizing projects focusing on the most vulnerable populations of victims across the state.

Portland Office
88 Federal Street
P. O. Box 547
Portland, ME 04112-0547
(207) 774-8211

The need for grant funds

STOP funding has served as an important source of funding for civil legal aid to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. STOP grants have played a key role in providing strategic support in areas in which the program identified the great need, for example:

Presque Isle Office
373 Main Street
Presque Isle, ME 04769
(207) 764-4349

**Farmworker and
Native American Units**
115 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Bangor, ME 04401-6374
(207) 942-0673

KIDS LEGAL
88 Federal Street
P.O. Box 547
Portland, ME 04112-0547
(207) 774-8246

Beginning in 2009, STOP grants piloted a project focused on providing legal aid to young victims of dating violence. Initial funding from STOP for the first three years of the project helped implement services that were eventually sustained through other funding sources, including a drop in legal clinic at the Preble Street Teen Center. These services are now a core element of Pine Tree's overall services to victims.

From 2013-16, STOP grants provided supplemental funding for civil legal aid in the mid coast region to prevent a gap in services when Pine Tree experienced a dip in funding for that region, allowing Pine Tree to identify the highest-need sexual assault and domestic violence cases, ensuring that relationships with the courts and local victim services agencies continued until Pine Tree was able to secure long-term funding from another source.

In 2017, Pine Tree used STOP-grant funding to establish a program to provide civil legal aid to survivors of sexual assault in Washington County, a population and region previously underserved. This grant was key to supporting an areas of the state with the largest Native American population, a high percentage of poverty, and a lack of other resources available for survivors of sexual assault.

The availability and flexibility of the STOP grant programs allows for a comprehensive network of victim services in Maine that is responsive to the immediate needs of the community.

The intended use of grant funds

The grant funds have been used to provide civil legal aid to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in areas where other funding is not available. The current STOP funding at Pine Tree Legal is intended to establish a project supported by Pine Tree's current statewide project for victim/survivors of sexual assault. The special focus on Washington County takes into account the historical barriers to reporting sexual assault and accessing remedies in that area. By placing an attorney supported by Pine Tree's specialized Family Law and Victim Rights Unit in Washington County, the grant funds allow sexual assault agencies and other community partners to have a dedicated referral source to address the unique civil legal needs of sexual assault survivors.

The expected result of the grant funds

Stop grant funds have, and will continue to, provide critical civil legal services to victims of violence. Since 2009, Pine Tree Legal has used STOP funding to address the most pressing needs of vulnerable victims of domestic violence and sexual assault across Maine. STOP funding has allowed Pine Tree to establish relationships and develop expertise in areas otherwise inaccessible. The projects have allowed us to sustain existing services until other funding can be secured, to reach into new areas and emerging areas that we are then able to sustain as on-going projects, and to address areas of need for particularly vulnerable populations by increasing awareness of available remedies.

The demographic characteristics of the population to be served including age, disability, race, ethnicity, and language background

Pine Tree's current STOP grant exclusively serves victims of sexual assault. The project also focuses on Native American victims and seasonal agricultural workers, many of whom do not speak English. These two populations are historically underserved and experience higher levels of victimization than the population at large. Without STOP funding, targeted outreach and specialized services for these populations would not be possible.

Past STOP funding has allowed Pine Tree to reach out to young victims, including homeless youth, and develop a strong referral relationship with the Preble Street Anti-trafficking Coalition because of the relationships established initially through the STOP-funded work at the Teen Center.

Almost half of Pine Tree client households include someone with a disability, including the particularly vulnerable population of sexual assault victims who have a disability. STOP funding in the Mid Coast allowed Pine Tree to continue representing victims with disabilities at a time when no other funding was available in that region.

Continued STOP funding is essential to the network of support available to victims of sexual and domestic violence in Maine. The proposed STOP Implementation Plan will provide targeted support to the most vulnerable victim/survivors in Maine.

I hope you will let me know if I can provide further information in support of the Plan.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nan Heald', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nan Heald
Executive Director



Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services

Serving Oxford, Franklin and Androscoggin Counties

www.sapars.org

January 30, 2018

Tracy Poulin, Senior Planner
Maine Department of Public Safety
104 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Tracy:

I am writing in regard to the S*T*O*P Violence Against Women Act grants in the State of Maine. We have been the beneficiary of several different STOP Grants to expand our services to people affected by sexual assault. Our very first grant was to create a Sexual Assault Response Team—a multidisciplinary team working together to improve response to victims of sexual assault. That grant allowed us to create the very first SART in Maine, and that model has been replicated at other centers throughout the state. The grant rose out of an expressed need from survivors to have one Advocate to work with as they moved through the medical/legal systems, and to have a better, more trauma informed response from those systems. Our second grant helped us to create drop in programs at our area high schools to be able to provide services to adolescent survivors within their school day. This helped create access for those teens and eliminated barriers to their seeking services. This program was developed because of our understanding of the rates of sexual assault among adolescents and the assessment that we really did not get many requests for service from teenagers. A third grant helped us to expand our SART program by adding a half time SART Coordinator.

Then we had a series of grants that helped us develop and provide services to underserved populations—people with developmental disabilities, people with mental illness, people who identify as LGBTQ+, people who are homeless, people from immigrant communities, and people who are serving/have served in the military. This grant series was developed by talking with service providers in these various fields and learning that there were no specific services for survivors in any of those areas. The grant series allowed us to work with agencies and survivors to create and deliver culturally relevant and meaningful services. Finally, we received a grant that allowed us to expand our services into the northern and western parts of Franklin County...a hugely underserved county where the largest town is in the southern part of the county. This grant allowed us to meet the needs of survivors in the more remote parts of that county, and was developed because we knew they were not travelling to the largest town (Farmington) for services.

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY

182 Webster St. | Lewiston, ME 04240
207-784-5272

FRANKLIN COUNTY

227 Main St. | Farmington, ME 04938
207-778-9522

OXFORD COUNTY

1 East Main St. | S. Paris, ME 04281
207-743-9777

24 HOUR RESPONSE SERVICES

1-800-871-7741
1-888-458-5599 (TTY)

For each of these grants, we were eventually able to find other funding to support the work. This underscored the importance of the S*T*O*P funding in Maine....to allow a sexual assault service

organization to develop programming to meet a need, expand its reach, or serve an underserved population. The funding allows us to solidify and stabilize those programs, and then work toward securing other funding to support the work. There is no other funding source in Maine that allows this degree of development, stability and then transition, and it is vitally important to the sexual assault centers.

The VAWA Implementation plan provided by the State of Maine takes these factors into account and allows the flexibility to fund new, developing projects as well as sustain existing projects that are getting good results. As a member of the justice Assistance Council (which oversees, reviews and awards the S*T*O*P VAWA money), I can say that the process strives to maximize the impact of the S*T*O*P* funding and ensure that it is creating opportunities for funding of core services as well as new and innovative projects.

I am happy to provide additional information if needed.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Marty McIntyre
Executive Director



MAINE CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 2431 • South Portland, Maine 04116-2431

Robert M. Schwartz, Executive Director, Tel: (207) 799-9318 FAX: (207) 767-2214
E-mail: mcopa@maine.rr.com Web site: www.mainechiefs.com

OFFICERS 2017-2018

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Director Brian MacMaster
Office of Attorney General

Immediate Past President
Chief Edward Tolan
Falmouth Police Dept.

Chaplain
Father Gregory Dube
Diocese of Portland

January 30, 2018

Nadine M. Neuville, Deputy Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N St., NE, Suite 10W.121
Washington, D.C. 20530

Re: Letter of support for State of Maine's FY 2017 application for
STOP Violence against Women Formula Grant Program.

Dear Ms. Neuville:

On behalf of the Maine Chiefs of Police, I am writing in support of
the Maine Department of Public Safety's S*T*O*P Violence
against Women formula grant application.

Funds from this program are providing much needed statewide
services for both law enforcement agencies and for the victims of
violent crimes. Benefits include development and provision of
regional specialized training for officers and the promise of
complete, timely information regarding such issues as bail
conditions and protective orders resulting from ongoing
computerization efforts. The program has also provided an
opportunity for collaboration and cooperation between all the
components of the system with which the victims come in
contact.

We anticipate continued involvement in the program's planning
and implementation to enhance the effectiveness of the criminal
justice system in responding to crimes of violence against
women.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert M. Schwartz". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Chief Robert M. Schwartz, Ret.
Executive Director



Maine Sheriffs' Association

"One Team, One Mission"

Sheriff Kevin Joyce, President

Sheriff Troy Morton, 1st Vice-President, Sheriff William King, 2nd Vice-President – Sheriff Barry Curtis, Secretary –
Sheriff Todd Brackett, Treasurer – Sheriff Joel Merry, Immediate Past President –
Sheriff Donna Dennison, Executive Board Member-at-Large - Mary-Anne LaMarre, Executive Director

January 24, 2018

Ms. Tracy J. Poulin
Maine Department of Public Safety
104 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0104

Dear Ms. Poulin,

On behalf of the Maine Sheriffs' Association, we are pleased to support the State of Maine, Department of Public Safety's application for the STOP Grant which in Maine, positively impacts Maine citizens by accomplishing the following:


- ✦ Funds are used to pay for Domestic Violence Investigators in two counties; Aroostook & Waldo
- ✦ Over the years, multiple county sheriffs' offices have used the funds to pay for domestic violence investigators, and have gone on to pick up the position after the funds ran out
- ✦ Cumberland County is served by Family Crisis Services EPIC program (Enhanced Police Intervention Collaboration)
- ✦ Sheriffs' offices across the state rely on the victim advocate services that are supported by STOP funds

One in five Maine citizens experiences rape or attempted rape in his or her lifetime. We know the first response to this horrific crime by law enforcement can significantly impact the investigation, prosecution, and healing of the victim. High quality tools can promote an effective, supportive, and humanitarian response.

We strongly support the State's application for this grant, and look forward to our continued partnership.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have about this application.

Sincerely,


Sheriff Kevin Joyce
President
Maine Sheriffs' Association

Appendix C – Survey and Results

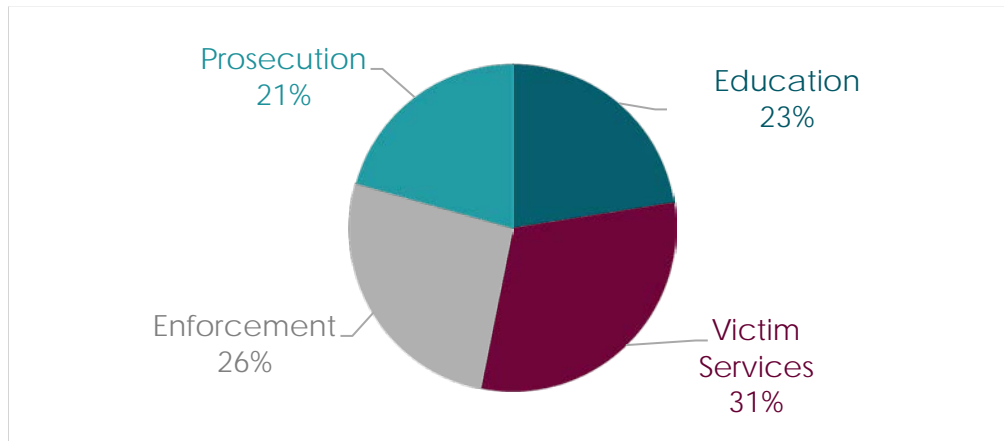
Appendix C: Stakeholder Survey Results

Part of this effort included a survey of key state stakeholders including law enforcement, court system employees, district attorneys, and domestic violence and sexual assault coalition/center staff. The survey was meant to capture key stakeholder opinions of the challenges in addressing violent crimes, drug crimes, domestic violence, and sexual violence, as well as stakeholders' awareness of strategies and promising practices related to these areas, and their opinions on how to prioritize and target funds to address them.

All respondents were asked to consider and rank (1 through 3) the categories of domestic violence services/support that need the most attention in Maine. Respondents (n=160) indicated that victim services need the most attention in Maine, followed by shelter/housing, then legal advocacy. This ranking was the same across all respondent types (e.g. law enforcement, judicial, and domestic violence/sexual assault (DV/SA) providers).

Respondents were asked how any available funds should be allocated to address domestic violence, and indicated that the largest proportion of available funds (31%) should be allocated to victim services, followed by enforcement (26%), education/outreach (23%), and prosecution (21%).¹

Chart 1: How State Funding Should Be Allocated to Address Domestic Violence



Law enforcement respondents indicated that the largest proportion of available funds should be split between enforcement and victim services (at 29% each), while judicial and DV/SA respondents indicated that the largest proportion should go to victim services (29% and 38%, respectively).

Promising Practices

When asked to share the single most promising practice they have heard about in Maine or

¹ Due to rounding up, percentage adds up to more than 100%.

elsewhere for addressing domestic violence, respondents most often reported themes related to offender accountability/monitoring, victim services, education, collaboration/coordinated community response, multidisciplinary high risk response teams (HRRT), shelter for survivors, training for law enforcement, and Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA).

Table 1: Promising Practices to Address Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence – Promising Practices	# of Responses/ Themes (N=180)
1. Batterer/Offender Strategies —including batterer intervention programs, mandatory counseling, electronic offender monitoring, aggressive prosecutions, stricter penalties for offenders	32 (23%)
2. Victims Services —including resources for victims, shelters that include substance abuse treatment, and direct victim services programs, for example: Next Step, Safe Voices, New Hope for Women, Family Crisis Services, Pine Tree Legal, Somerset House, Spruce Run/Woman Care, Hope and Justice Program	32 (23%)
2. Community Education —to raise awareness about domestic violence, including in schools and churches, and for sports teams and the public	23 (16%)
4. Cross Disciplinary Collaboration —especially between law enforcement, victim advocates, district attorney, and the court system, including high risk response teams; training for law enforcement; and risk assessment	16 (11%)

Challenges

When asked to share the biggest challenge Maine faces (other than lack of funding) in its efforts to address domestic violence, respondents provided a variety of important challenges, with no one specific challenge garnering a majority of responses. A summary of responses can be found below in Table 2.

Table 2: Challenges to Addressing Domestic Violence

DV - Challenges	# of Responses/ Themes (N=180)
1. Domestic Violence Services —need for more intervention and advocacy services especially for those survivors living in rural locations or in isolation	16 (9%)
2. Courts —need for improvements in the ways courts process DV cases, schedules them, and hands down decisions	13 (7%)
3. Education —training and education of various constituent groups (e.g., schools, community, law enforcement, and survivors) on healthy relationships, DV services, resources, etc.	13 (7%)
4. Prosecution —need more prosecutors and the desire for more aggressive prosecution	10 (6%)
5. Survivor Prosecution Issues —desire for survivors to be more cooperative in the prosecution of their abusers and not recant their earlier statements	10 (6%)

Other Domestic Violence Challenges Raised During the Planning Process

In addition to the challenges mentioned above there were others that were raised with less frequency. They were:

1. More shelter/housing services
2. Need for more community support
3. More law enforcement staffing
4. Offender accountability
5. Substance Abuse

Obviously addressing domestic violence requires a multi-systemic response. Recognizing that it had limited financial resources, the JAC opted to focus its energies on the challenges listed in Table 7 in large part because they were mentioned more frequently. Many of the other challenges require other justice and treatment system involvement. The JAC will take part in these longer term efforts as appropriate.

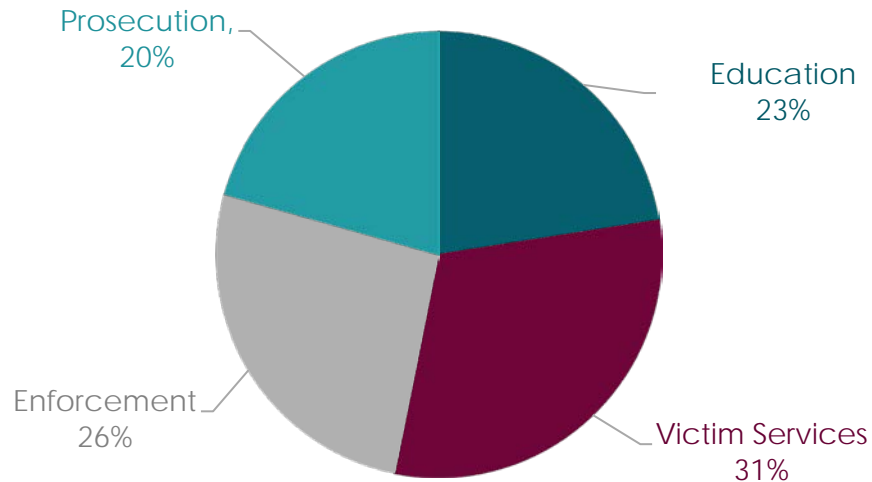
Sexual Assault

Respondents were asked to consider and rank (1 through 3) the categories of sexual violence services/support that needed the most attention in Maine, and they indicated that victim services need the most attention, followed by legal advocacy, then coordination (of cross-disciplinary teams). This ranking was the same across all respondent types.

Respondents were asked how any available funds should be allocated to address sexual

violence. Respondents indicated that the largest proportion of available funds (31%) should be allocated to victim services. This category was followed by enforcement (26%), education/outreach (23%), and prosecution (20%).

Chart 2: How State Funding should be allocated to Address Sexual Violence



While all respondents indicated that the largest proportion of funding should be allocated to victim services, there were differences by respondent type. Law enforcement respondents indicated that enforcement should be allocated an almost equal amount to victim services, with lesser amounts of funding for education/outreach and prosecution. Judicial respondents indicated nearly equal amounts for education/outreach, enforcement, and prosecution. DV/SA respondents indicated that education/outreach should receive the second largest proportion of funding, with smaller proportions for enforcement and prosecution.

Promising Practices

When asked to share the single most promising practice they have heard about in Maine or elsewhere for addressing sexual violence, respondents indicated a number of practices that fell within the categories of education and training, response services, and raising awareness. A summary of responses can be found below in Table 3.

Table 3: Promising Practices to Address Sexual Violence

Sexual Violence – Promising Practices	# of Responses/Themes (N=180)
1. Education and Training —including training school personnel and students, community members, law enforcement, and victims; and including training on specific topics such as consent, healthy relationships and human trafficking	35 (25%)
2. Response Services —including sexual violence response services and teams that entail collaboration between law enforcement and sexual violence and domestic violence groups	15 (11%)
3. Raising Awareness —promoting greater awareness and messaging around sexual violence and making victims aware of services	10 (7%)

Challenges

When respondents were asked to share the biggest challenge Maine faces (other than lack of funding) in its efforts to address sexual violence, the themes which emerged most often were problems with non-reporting by victims, lack of prevention and education, lack of prosecution, lack of victim services, lack of training for law enforcement, and lack of offender treatment. A breakdown of responses is included below in Table 4.

Table 4: Challenges to Addressing Sexual Violence

Sexual Violence – Challenges	# of Responses/Themes (N= 127)
1. Non-reporting by victims	37 (29%)
2. Lack of prevention and education	37 (29%)
3. Lack of prosecution	26 (20%)
4. Lack of victim services	14 (11%)
5. Lack of training for law enforcement	9 (7%)
6. Lack of treatment for offenders	4 (3%)

Other Sexual Violence Challenges Raised During the Planning Process

Unlike the other domestic violence challenges raised during the planning process, the sexual violence challenges summarized above reflect all the comments received by stakeholders. While the JAC intends to focus its limited grant resources on the top five challenges, the sixth one will be addressed as well.

1. From what agency (ies) did you receive services?

2. How important are the following resources for domestic and sexual violence survivors in Maine?

	Extremely Important	Very Important	Moderately Important	Slightly Important	Not Important
Permanent Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Affordable Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information on the Criminal Justice System	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information on the Child Welfare System	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Childcare	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural and Linguistic Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comprehensive Safety Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emergency Cell Phones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transitional Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. What do you consider to be the most critical area of need for survivors of interpersonal violence in Maine?

4. What do you see as the point where the criminal justice system fails survivors, if any?

5. What legislation to address domestic violence and sexual assault would you like to see brought up in the next four years?

6. Rank the following sexual violence resources in order of need (1-9):

Additional Advocates	<input type="text"/>
Increased Number of Forensic Nurse Examiners	<input type="text"/>
Additional Technology	<input type="text"/>
Follow-up medical services for sexual violence survivors	<input type="text"/>
Trauma-Informed Response Training for Prosecutors and Staff	<input type="text"/>
Therapeutic Services	<input type="text"/>
Trauma-Informed Response Training for Law Enforcement	<input type="text"/>
Training on Anonymous Reporting Protocol	<input type="text"/>
Other (_____)	<input type="text"/>

7. What do you consider to be the most critical area of need for survivors of interpersonal violence in Maine?

8. Additional comments?

Appendix D – Summary of Enacted Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Laws

Appendix D

2015-2016 Maine Legislative Summary of Enacted Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Laws

Priority Issue	Bill No.	Bill Title	Summary
Sexual Assault	LD 622	An Act To Require Training of Mandated Reporters under the Child Abuse Laws	Public Law 2015, chapter 407 requires all mandated reporters of suspected child abuse or neglect to complete training approved by the Department of Health and Human Services at least once every four years.
Sexual Assault	LD 1487	An Act To Amend the Laws on Protection from Abuse and Unauthorized Dissemination of Certain Private Images	<p>Public Law 2015, chapter 410 does the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In Part A it amends the laws concerning unauthorized dissemination of certain private images by providing that access to and dissemination of certain private images and any written information describing and directly pertaining to the images contained in court records are governed by rule or administrative order of the Supreme Judicial Court. 2. In Part B it amends the laws on protection from abuse by including in the definition of abuse the unauthorized dissemination of certain private images. It allows a court in ordering interim relief to enjoin a defendant from engaging in the unauthorized dissemination of certain private images. It allows a court in ordering relief to order the defendant to remove, destroy or return or to direct the removal, destruction or return of the private images or to cease dissemination, and to prohibit the defendant from disseminating the private images. It allows the court to enter any other orders determined necessary or appropriate in the discretion of the court, including but not limited to ordering the defendant to pay costs associated with removal, destruction or return of private images. It also provides that access to and dissemination of certain private images and any written information describing and directly pertaining to the images contained in court records are governed by rule or administrative order of the Supreme Judicial Court. 3. In Part C it amends the laws on protection from harassment by including in the definition of harassment the unauthorized dissemination of certain private images. It allows a court in ordering interim relief to enjoin a defendant from engaging in the unauthorized dissemination of certain private images. It allows a court in ordering relief to order the defendant to remove, destroy or return or to direct the removal, destruction or return of the private images or to cease dissemination, and to prohibit the defendant from disseminating the private images. It allows the court to enter any other orders determined necessary or appropriate in the discretion of the court, including but not limited to ordering the defendant to pay costs associated with removal, destruction or return of private images. It also provides that access to and

			dissemination of certain private images and any written information describing and directly pertaining to the images contained in court records are governed by rule.
Sexual Assault	LD 199	An Act To Improve the Reporting of Child Abuse	Public Law 2015, chapter 117 requires a mandated reporter of child abuse and neglect to acknowledge in writing that the mandated reporter has received confirmation that the report has been made by the institution, facility or agency to the department. If the mandated reporter does not receive that confirmation within 24 hours of notifying the institution, facility or agency, the mandated reporter is required to report directly to the department. An employer is prohibited from taking any action to prevent or discourage an employee from making a report. Chapter 117 adds similar requirements for reports that must be made to the appropriate district attorney's office.
Sexual Assault	LD 774	An Act To Assist Victims of Crime To Obtain Restitution	Public Law 2015, chapter 109 provides a civil remedy for victims of crime when restitution has not been paid as ordered. Chapter 109 requires that an order to make restitution be entered by the clerk in the same manner as a judgment in a civil action at the request of the attorney for the State or a person entitled to restitution under the order. After the order is entered in the same manner as a judgment in a civil action, the order is deemed a money judgment enforceable in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 14, chapter 502.
Sexual Assault	LD 1413	An Act To Allow an Attorney To Speak or Provide a Written Statement for a Victim at Sentencing	Public Law 2015, chapter 282 allows an attorney for a victim of a crime to submit a written statement or speak on the victim's behalf in the court sentencing procedure.
Sexual Assault	LD 150	Resolve, Requiring a Review of and a Report on Pretrial and Post-conviction Use of Batterers' Intervention Programs	Resolve 2015, chapter 15 directs the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse, as established in Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 74-C, to review pretrial and post-conviction use of batterers' intervention programs. The review must include best practices for batterers' intervention programs, including the length of successful programs and sanctions and incentives to encourage full participation and the potential for use before trial, during a period of deferred disposition and after conviction. The resolve requires the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety by January 1, 2016 on the results of the review. The report may include recommendations and suggested legislation. The resolve authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety to submit a bill on pretrial and post-conviction use of batterers' intervention programs to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.
Sexual Assault	LD 379	An Act To Create the Sex Offender Management and Risk Assessment Advisory Commission	Public Law 2015, chapter 86 moves the law establishing the Sex Offender Risk Assessment Advisory Commission from Title 17-A to Title 34-A and changes the name of the commission to the Sex Offender Management and Risk Assessment Advisory Commission. The law changes the commission's powers and duties by requiring the commission to study and offer amendments to the sex offender registration and notification laws and allowing the commission to accept funding.

Sexual Assault	LD 651	An Act To Amend Maine's Sex Trafficking and Child Welfare Laws	<p>Public Law 2015, chapter 360 adds the crime of aggravated sex trafficking to the list of prior offenses that are used to enhance a charge of sex trafficking from a Class D to a Class C crime if a defendant has been convicted of two or more of the offenses. The law amends the Child and Family Services and Child Protection Act by adding to the definition of "abuse and neglect" various criminal offenses relating to sexual exploitation, prostitution and sex trafficking of minors and by creating a rebuttable presumption of a parent's unwillingness or inability to protect a child from jeopardy in considering the termination of parental rights if a child for whom the parent was responsible is the victim of sexual exploitation, sex trafficking or aggravated sex trafficking.</p>
Sexual Assault	LD 679	An Act To Prohibit the Unauthorized Dissemination of Certain Private Images	<p>Public Law 2015, chapter 339 prohibits unauthorized dissemination of certain private images. The law prohibits the dissemination of images that show a person in a state of nudity or engaged in a sexual act or engaged in sexual contact if the dissemination is done:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In a manner in which there is no public or newsworthy purpose; 2. With the intent to harass, torment or threaten; and 3. The actor knows or should have known that the person depicted is an adult, is identifiable from the image or from information displayed with the image and has not consented to the dissemination, display or publication of the images. <p>Chapter 339 amends protection from abuse procedure to allow a complaint to be filed by a victim of unauthorized dissemination of certain private images without regard to whether a criminal prosecution has occurred. It designates unauthorized dissemination of certain private images as a Class D crime. It provides exceptions for lawful and common practices of medical treatment, images that involve voluntary exposure in a public or commercial setting and interactive computer and information services as defined in 47 United States Code, Sections 153 and 230(f)(2).</p>
Sexual Assault	LD 1112	An Act To Make Technical Changes to the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Acts of 6799 and 2013	<p>Public Law 2015, chapter 280 amends the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act of 1999 and the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act of 2013 to make technical changes. With respect to the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act of 1999, Chapter 280:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amends the Act to provide that, with respect to individuals convicted in other jurisdictions, only those individuals convicted before September 18, 1999 may apply for relief from the registration requirement, in order to parallel the provision applicable to registrants with Maine convictions. It also amends the law to require persons found not criminally responsible to be included in reinstating the registration requirement; 2. Amends the Act to require registration of a person sentenced after September 17, 1999 for a crime added after that date to the Act; 3. Amends the Act to not require verifications to be sent if the verification requirement has been suspended and to change the time period from 90 days to three months in order to require only four verifications a year. The bill also amends the law to clarify

			<p>that in-person verification should occur every five years on the anniversary of the initial registration;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Amends the Act to require verifications from lifetime registrants who move to Maine from other jurisdictions; 5. Amends the Act to begin the registration period only after the duty to register has occurred; 6. Amends the Act to allow the Department of Public Safety, State Bureau of Identification to suspend the verification requirement for a registrant who is incarcerated, incapacitated or hospitalized; and 7. Amends the Act to provide for notice if a custodian of records certification is challenged. <p>With respect to the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act of 2013, Chapter 280:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amends the Act to make the crime of gross sexual assault against a person with intellectual disabilities or autism receiving services from a program of the Department of Health and Human Services a Tier II offense regardless of the age of the victim; 2. Amends the Act to include incest with prior convictions as a Tier III offense; 3. Amends the Act to clarify that the bureau's duty to collect and post information occurs after the initial registration form is received; 4. Amends the Act to not require verifications to be sent if the verification requirement has been suspended, to change the time period from 90 days to three months for Tier III registrants in order to require only four verifications a year and to change the time period from 180 days to six months for Tier II registrants; 5. Amends the Act to allow the bureau to suspend the verification requirement for a registrant who is incapacitated or hospitalized; 6. Amends the violations section in the Act to include cross-references to relevant provisions of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act of 1999; and 7. Amends the Act to provide for notice if a custodian of record certification is challenged.
Sexual Assault	LD 1180	An Act To Require Education in Public Preschool Programs and Elementary Schools Regarding Child Sexual Abuse	<p>Public Law 2015, chapter 292 provides that the Commissioner of Education must develop a model policy on child sexual abuse prevention education and response for public preschool programs and elementary schools. The law requires the Department of Education to develop the model policy by July 1, 2016, to make the model policy available to school administrative units and to assist school administrative units in developing their own policies for child sexual abuse prevention education and response, based upon the model policy, which schools must develop for the 2017-2018 school year.</p>

Sexual Assault	LD 1275	An Act Regarding Notice to the Public Pertaining to a Resident Person Deported from Canada to the United States for Committing a Sex Offense against a Child	Public Law 2015, chapter 76 authorizes a law enforcement agency that obtains from the United States Customs and Border Protection written documentation that a person resident in the jurisdiction of the agency has been deported from Canada to the United States because the person was convicted in Canada of a sex offense against a child to provide notice to the public as determined by the agency to be appropriate to ensure the public safety. The law states that neither the failure to perform the actions permitted by the bill nor the taking of actions in compliance with the bill subjects any state, municipal or county official or employee to liability in a civil action.
Sexual Assault	LD 1114	An Act Regarding Sexual Exploitation of Children	Public Law 2015, chapter 394: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It amends the law on sexual exploitation of a minor by changing the applicable age of protected minors from under 18 years of age to under 16 years of age, except in cases of compulsion. It also provides that the law does not apply with respect to a minor who is 14 or 15 years old who is employed, solicited, enticed, persuaded or used to engage in sexually explicit conduct by a person who is less than 5 years older than the minor, unless the person is the minor's parent or legal guardian or has care or custody of the minor. 2. It amends the law on dissemination of sexually explicit material by changing the applicable age of protected persons from under 18 years of age to under 16 years of age. It also provides that the law does not apply with respect to a person depicted in such material if the person is 14 or 15 years old and the person disseminating the material is less than 5 years older than the depicted person. 3. It amends the law on possession of sexually explicit material to exempt from the law possession of material in which the depicted person is 14 or 15 years of age and the actor is less than 5 years older than the depicted person. 4. It amends the law on unauthorized dissemination of certain private images to remove the requirement that the depicted person be 18 years of age or older for the law to apply
Sexual Assault	LD 1526	An Act Regarding the Disclosure of Intelligence and Investigative Record Information	Public Law 2015, chapter 411 amends the law on disclosure of intelligence and investigative record information to a sexual assault counselor or an advocate for victims of domestic or family violence. Current law requires for disclosure that a specific agreement exist between the counselor or advocate and the agency and that the agreement contains terms provided in the statute. Public Law 2015, chapter 411 repeals these provisions and instead places into law a list of requirements that must be met by a sexual assault counselor or an advocate in order to receive intelligence and investigative record information from a criminal justice agency.
Sexual Assault	LD 1540	An Act To Protect All Students in Elementary or Secondary Schools from Sexual Assault by School Officials	Public Law 2015, chapter 509 removes the age limit on the victim of the crime of unlawful sexual contact, unlawful sexual touching or gross sexual assault when the victim is a student at an elementary, secondary or special education school and the actor is a person at the school who has authority over the student. Public Law 2015, chapter 509 also specifies that a parent

			convicted of the crime of unlawful sexual contact, unlawful sexual touching or gross sexual assault is subject to stricter scrutiny by the court when it determines residence for and contact with a child of the parent when the victim was a student at an elementary, secondary or special education school and the parent was a person at the school who had authority over the student.
Sexual Assault	LD 1497	An Act To Align the Child and Family Services and Child Protection Act with the Federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act	Public Law 2015, chapter 381 amends the Child and Family Services and Child Protection Act to comply with the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to disclose certain information on missing or abducted children or youth to the National Crime Information Center database of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and to a national information clearinghouse for missing and exploited children and to provide notification of the removal of a child from the custody of a parent or custodian to all parents of a sibling of the child who have legal custody of the sibling. It also requires that permanency plans for children who are 14 years of age and older must determine the services needed to assist the children to make the transition from foster care to independent living. Public Law 2015, chapter 381 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 1, 2016
Sexual Assault	LD 1477	An Act To Protect Victims of Sexual Assault	Public Law 2015, chapter 427 allows a court to terminate the parental rights of a person if the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the child was conceived as a result of an act of sexual assault by that person. It applies the same standard in the child protection laws.
Sexual Assault	LD 1518	An Act To Ensure Children in the Care of Caretaker Relatives and Other Surrogates Can Access Health Care	PUBLIC 444 A minor may consent to health services associated with a sexual assault forensic examination to collect evidence after an alleged sexual assault regardless of whether a surrogate exists.
Sexual Assault	LD 1531	An Act To Protect Victims of Human Trafficking	Public Law 2015, chapter 443 provides that victims of aggravated sex trafficking and sex trafficking are eligible to file for protection from abuse orders and protection from harassment orders. Public Law 2015, chapter 443 captures all provisions of the protection from harassment and protection from abuse laws to include protections for victims of both aggravated sex trafficking and sex trafficking. It amends the definition of "harassment" to include a single act or course of conduct that includes a violation of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 17-A, section 852, aggravated sex trafficking, or section 853, sex trafficking. The definition is important because it determines who can request a protection from harassment order. It amends the protection from harassment laws to include as prohibited conduct that an interim protection from harassment order issued ex parte may prohibit a defendant's destroying, transferring or tampering with a plaintiff's passport or other immigration document that is in the defendant's possession. It amends the protection from harassment laws to include as prohibited conduct that, after the opportunity for a hearing, a final protection from harassment order may prohibit

			<p>a defendant's destroying, transferring or tampering with a plaintiff's passport or other immigration document that is in the defendant's possession. It provides that violation of the final protection order provision prohibiting a defendant's destroying, transferring or tampering with a plaintiff's passport or other immigration document is treated as a violation of a court order, which may be pursued as contempt.</p> <p>Public Law 2015, chapter 443 amends the Maine Criminal Code to provide that sex trafficking is a crime for which probation may be included as part of a sentence.</p> <p>Public Law 2015, chapter 443 amends the protection from abuse laws to amend the definition of "abuse" to include the actions of engaging in aggravated sex trafficking and sex trafficking. It amends the protection from abuse laws to clarify that a victim of aggravated sex trafficking or sex trafficking may file a complaint seeking a protection from abuse order. It amends the protection from abuse laws governing the type of relief that may be included in an interim protection from abuse order to cover a defendant's destroying, transferring or tampering with the plaintiff's passport or other immigration document. It amends the protection from abuse laws to provide that, with regard to conduct described as aggravated sex trafficking or sex trafficking, the court may order the defendant to pay economic damages related to the return or restoration of the plaintiff's passport or other immigration document and any debts of the plaintiff arising from the trafficking relationship. It also provides that a defendant who violates this provision may be punished for contempt.</p>
Sexual Assault	LD 1689	An Act To Protect Children in the State from Possible Sexual, Physical and Emotional Abuse by Persons Who Have Been Convicted of Crimes	<p>Public Law 2015, chapter 497 directs the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt rules to require criminal background checks for all family child care providers and staff members of child care facilities and family child care providers, to be effective September 1, 2017. The required criminal background checks must meet the requirements of 42 United States Code, Section 9858f(b) for all family child care providers, all child care staff members whose activities involve the care or supervision of children for a child care facility or a family child care provider and all adults who have unsupervised access to children who are cared for or supervised by a child care facility or family child care provider. The rules are major substantive rules and must be provisionally adopted and submitted for legislative review by the joint standing committee of the 128th Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters by January 12, 2017.</p> <p>The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters may submit to the 128th Legislature a bill necessary to implement the criminal background check requirements. See also H.P. 1167, Joint Study Order To Establish a Working Group To Study Background Checks for Child Care Facilities and Providers.</p> <p>Public Law 2015, chapter 497 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 29, 2016.</p>

Domestic Violence	LD 600	An Act To Prohibit a Person Convicted of a Crime of Domestic Violence from Possessing a Firearm for a Period of 5 Years and To Better Align Maine Law with Federal Law Regarding Persons Prohibited from Possessing Firearms	<p>Public Law 2015, chapter 287 adds the following persons to the list of persons who may not possess firearms:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fugitives from justice; 2. Persons who are unlawful users of or are addicted to any controlled substance and as a result are prohibited from possession of a firearm under 18 United States Code, Section 922(g)(3); 3. Aliens who are illegally or unlawfully in the United States or who were admitted under nonimmigrant visas and who are prohibited from possession of a firearm under 18 United States Code, Section 922(g)(5); 4. Persons who have been discharged from the United States Armed Forces under dishonorable conditions; 5. Persons who have renounced United States citizenship; and 6. Persons who have been convicted or adjudicated of a Class D crime of domestic violence within the previous five year period, calculated from the date of the conviction or adjudication. The prohibition expires at the end of the five-year period unless the person is convicted of any subsequent crime during the five-year period.
Domestic Violence/ Sexual Assault	LD 431	An Act To Strengthen the Laws Prohibiting Stalking	<p>Public Law 2015, chapter 357 changes the laws on repeat offenses of stalking and expands the crime of stalking to include conduct directed at or concerning a group of persons. The law does the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expands the crime of stalking to include conduct directed at or concerning a group of persons, designating this crime as a Class C crime. In sentencing, the court is required to use a two-step process in which a base term of imprisonment of one year is imposed in step one and adjustment to that term is imposed in step two; 2. Designates as a Class B crime a repeat offense of stalking a group of persons and escalates that crime to a Class B crime, requiring the court to use a two-step process, first determining a base term of imprisonment of two years and then adjusting that term after considering the fact of the stalking and aggravating and mitigating factors, including the impact on the victim; and 3. Changes the escalation of criminal penalties for subsequent convictions of stalking, with one prior conviction for stalking or violation of a protective order now being

			sufficient to enhance penalties. Subsequent convictions are still Class C crimes, but the law adds a mandatory minimum sentence of one year.
Domestic Violence/ Sexual Assault	LD 861	An Act To Protect Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault or Stalking	Public Law 2015, chapter 293 amends the laws governing residential leases in instances where a tenant is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. It prohibits a landlord from evicting a tenant because of an instance of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. It also renders the perpetrator liable for certain damages.
Domestic Violence/ Sexual Assault	LD 921	An Act To Strengthen the Right of a Victim of Sexual Assault or Domestic Violence To Take Necessary Leave from Employment and To Promote Employee Social Media Privacy	Public Law 2015, chapter 343 , Part A changes the penalties that may be assessed for violations of the employment leave for victims of violence law, as follows. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It increases the fine from up to \$200 per violation to up to \$1,000 per violation and provides that the fine applies only to denials of leave in violation of the law. 2. It provides that, for denial of leave in violation of the law, the employer must pay the affected individual an amount three times the total assessed fines. 3. It provides that, for termination in connection with exercising a right granted under the law, the affected individual may choose either to receive an amount three times the total assessed fines or reemployment with the employer with back wages. Part B of chapter 343 protects the social media privacy of employees and applicants for employment. It provides that generally an employer cannot request or coerce an employee or applicant to disclose any personal social media account information. There is an exception for cases in which the employer reasonably believed the employee's personal social media account information to be relevant to an investigation of allegations of employee misconduct or a workplace violation of applicable laws, rules or regulations and when requiring the disclosure is not otherwise prohibited by law, as long as the information disclosed is accessed and used solely to the extent necessary for the purposes of that investigation or a related proceeding. Part B makes clear that an employer retains the right to promulgate and maintain lawful workplace policies governing the use of the employer's electronic equipment, including a requirement for an employee to disclose to the employer the employee's user name, password or other information necessary to access employer-issued electronic devices, including but not limited to cellular telephones and computers, or to access employer-provided software or e-mail accounts. An employer who violates this social media privacy law is subject to a fine imposed by the Department of Labor of not less than \$100 for the first violation, not less than \$250 for the second violation and not less than \$500 for each subsequent violation.

ABOUT THE MUSKIE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE

The Muskie School of Public Service is Maine's distinguished public policy school, combining an extensive applied research and technical assistance portfolio with rigorous undergraduate and graduate degree programs in geography-anthropology; policy, planning, and management (MPPM); and public health (MPH). The school is nationally recognized for applying innovative knowledge to critical issues in the fields of sustainable development and health and human service policy and management, and is home to the Cutler Institute for Health and Social Policy.

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ABOUT THE MAINE STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER

The Maine Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) informs policy development and improvement of practice in Maine's criminal and juvenile justice systems. A partnership between the University of Southern Maine Muskie School of Public Service and the Maine Department of Corrections, SAC collaborates with numerous community-based and governmental agencies.

SAC conducts applied research; evaluates programs and new initiatives; and provides technical assistance, consultation and organizational development services. The Maine Statistical Analysis Center is funded by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and supported by the Justice Research Statistics Association.

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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