

FY 2019 STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program Summary

The following grants were awarded under this program

Award period: July 01, 2019 to June 30, 2021

Federal Award \$1,095,362

Allocation Category	Agency	Contact	Purpose
Law Enforcement	Lewiston Police Department	Detective Sergeant Roger Landry 171 Park Street Lewiston Maine, ME 04240 https://www.lewistonmaine.gov/828/Police-Department	<p>The Lewiston Police Department is dedicated to the safety and wellbeing of victims and families of domestic violence. From the time of initial contact with a victim and through the court process, the Lewiston Police Department continues to check-in with victims and their families by conducting "Victim Safety Checks" during which we provide information about local resources, safety plan, and inform of any restrictions the abuser may have. This is also an opportunity to collect further information or evidence which may strengthen a case. Additionally, to hold the abuser accountable, we can also use these check-ins as a means to ensure that abusers with conditions either by way of Conditions of Release, Probation, or Protection from Abuse Orders are not in violation (typical conditions for Domestic Violence Crimes include not to have contact with their victim, this often continues when the abuser is sentenced to Probation). These Victim Safety Checks are mainly accomplished by the Domestic Violence Coordinator (DVC).</p> <p>Based on the size of our city and the number of very violent domestic-related incidents, we believe there is a great need for victims to feel supported and protected in Lewiston. We realize that a proactive and meaningful approach to this problem needs to reach beyond the traditional role of Law Enforcement, and involve the community and local Victim Service Organizations</p> <p>With the use of the Proactive Response Team, we will be able to reach more victims by allowing the PRT officers to focus their time exclusively on Victim Safety Checks. The PRT will work to connect victims with existing community resources and support systems such as Safe Voices, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, Immigrant Resource Center of Maine, and the Department of Health and Human Services to help them break away from their abusers. PRT Officers will speak with the victim(s) to determine if violations of court orders or violations of conditions of probation have occurred. Neighbors are instructed on how to report and encouraged to do so immediately if a violation is occurring. If the PRT develops probable cause to believe that a violation has occurred, the abuser(s) will be arrested promptly and brought before the court.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">LE-01-19 \$42,271.00</p>
Law Enforcement	Westbrook Police Department	Captain Steven Goldberg 570 Maine Street	The Westbrook Police Department, Through These Doors, and law enforcement departments of Brunswick, Cape Elizabeth, Cumberland, CCSO,

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		Westbrook, ME 04092 http://www.westbrookmaine.com/294/Police	<p>Falmouth, Gorham, South Portland, Windham, and Yarmouth will provide follow-up support and advocacy services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and/or sex trafficking after a call of service for law enforcement has been made. The EPIC Coordinator will work with the ten law enforcement departments to ensure reports are being shared with Through These Doors' EPIC team. The advocates will work with the departments on providing follow-up services immediately. Victims/Survivors will be asked for feedback after contact with the EPIC advocate to ensure that their needs are being met and they know more about community resources. This data will be tracked in TTD's Empower database with the desired outcome of 90% of victims/survivors report their knowledge has enhanced.</p> <p>The Coordinator will also facilitate seven high-risk case review teams throughout Cumberland County (six individual departments and one larger Cumberland Countywide team). Each department's team will include 2-3 officers/supervisors to participate in the monthly or bi-monthly meetings. These teams will look at cases to enhance responses to victims, hold offenders accountable, and identify training issues and/or gaps in systems. The First Responder Program will provide training each quarter with a multi-disciplinary team on enhancing responses to non-fatal strangulation. The Coordinator will oversee the training team that consists of law enforcement, medical personnel, advocates, and assistant district attorneys. The program will also provide one non-fatal strangulation training for the Department of Correctional Women's Services Staff during the grant cycle. Evaluations will be completed by participants to measure the effectiveness of the training.</p> <p>The First Responder Program will also partner with the Violence Intervention Partnership Director in holding work sessions with criminal justice partners to lessen the gaps in firearm relinquishment in domestic violence cases. The Coordinator will also hold two other work sessions with criminal justice partners to identify other gaps in the systems to enhance responses for victims while holding the offender accountable.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">LE-02-19 \$65,173.00</p>
Law Enforcement	Caring Unlimited	Susan Giambalvo, Executive Director PO Box 590 Sanford, ME 04073	Caring Unlimited requests VAWA STOP Formula Grant funds to help ensure that up to 600 low-income and rural victims of abuse in York County can get the legal help they need to establish safety from their abuser during the grant period. The services to be provided to survivors of domestic violence, sexual

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		https://www.caring-unlimited.org/	<p>assault, dating violence, and stalking fall under FY2019 STOP VAW Priority Area 5 and Maine Program Priority Area 2.</p> <p>The funds will help to maintain and strengthen our program, especially providing specialized domestic violence court advocates and attorneys to assist victims with protection orders and other civil matters, maintain core victim services, and further our efforts to offer legal services to underserved populations.</p> <p>The project will provide free civil legal services, especially assistance with protection from abuse orders, parental rights and responsibilities, and divorce proceedings, to victims of domestic violence, dating abuse, sexual assault, and stalking. Services will be provided by two full-time attorneys and two full-time legal advocates who are trained in the dynamics of domestic violence.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">LE-03-19 \$25,165.00</p>
Law Enforcement	York Police Department	Deputy Chief Owen Davis 9 Hannaford Drive York, ME 03909 https://www.yorkmaine.org/163/Town-of-York-Police-Department	<p>Domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence has terrible effects on victims and their families. The York Police Department is requesting funding to combat the devastating effects. It is our goal to secure funding for our Domestic Violence Investigator (DVI) and Bail Check/Protection Order positions. This is a two-prong approach to immediately address the needs of victims and to develop the strongest prosecutable cases. The main objective of this program will be to give each domestic violence case the specialized attention it deserves. The Case Coordinator will oversee the program by assigning an investigator to a domestic violence case within 24-hours after it happens. The DVI will be responsible for contacting the victim within those 24-hours. The DVI will take over the responsibility of the case to bridge the gap that currently exists between the police and domestic violence victims. Assigning a DVI to a case ensures continuity, trust, and safety for the victim. It allows for a more thorough investigation from start to finish by one investigator with personal contact with the District Attorney's office, Victim Advocates Services, and Caring Unlimited.</p> <p>The York Police Department request funding for a multi-agency training for our DV Investigators. The training will involve the York County Superior Court Judges, the York County District Attorney's Office, and Caring Unlimited. The hope is to get input from the judges on how to better prosecute cases and</p>

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			<p>how to better investigate these cases for better prosecution. We will also obtain feedback and education on the court process from the District Attorney's office including up to date training on the ODARA risk assessment and scoring scale. York officers have training in domestic violence, bail and safety checks, and the like.</p> <p>This proposal for specialized training is to ensure the assigned investigators and bail/safety check teams are trained by the specific prosecutors involved in our domestic violence cases. The training is intended to ensure they perform investigative tasks that the Assistant District Attorney would prefer. Training would include, evidence that should be collected, better victim statements, third-party witness statements, use of audio recordings when confronting suspects, and other aspects of domestic violence cases that will lead to a more successful prosecution. Specialized training will also include specific strangulation evidence collection, reporting specifics, and non-conventional domestic violence cases. Having all the officers trained in the same way and then oversight by the coordinator to ensure consistency of investigation, evidence collection, and report writing.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">LE-04-19 \$41,322.00</p>
Law Enforcement	Scarborough Police Department	Chief Robert Moulton 246 US Rt 1 Scarborough, ME 04074 https://www.scarboroughmaine.org/departments/police/	<p>Domestic Violence and Sex Trafficking are two of the areas here in the State of Maine that require diligent police work. This grant project will allow for Scarborough Police Department to implement funding into both the Criminal Investigations Division and the Special Enforcement Unit, allowing a greater focus into these cases, while ensuring victims of these vulnerable crimes are supported by local resources. Additionally, this project increases the training opportunities officers of the Scarborough Police Department to receive information on DV and Sex Trafficking as up to date legislation, national/state trends, and current resources are critical for solid investigations.</p> <p>Over the past 3 years, officers and the Special Enforcement Unit of Scarborough Police Department, have conducted and taken part in an array of details that have focused on sex trafficking, in the Southern Maine area, specifically South Portland and Scarborough. These details have included conducting multi-jurisdictional operations targeting the demand for sex trafficking, routine traffic stops where a trafficker and victim were identified, and undercover operations where officers posed as "clients" and targeted prostitutes advertising in online advertisements. In each of these operations,</p>

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			<p>law enforcement arrested or identified at least 1 person for sex trafficking or prostitution, and in several cases, a victim was identified.</p> <p>The need for a greater number of these operations is crucial, as victims of sex trafficking may never escape until they are found or offered help. Between 2017-2019, Scarborough Police Department was involved in 9 operations. This project will allow for the Scarborough Police Department and the Special Investigation Unit to implement a greater number of sex trafficking operations, increasing from 9 details over 36 months to at least 5 details in 12 months.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">LE-05-19 \$50,633.00</p>
Law Enforcement	Cumberland County Sheriff's Office	Captain Craig Smith 36 County Way Portland, ME 04102 https://www.cumberlandso.org/	<p>To purchase several state-of-the-art portable alarm and communication systems to provide a safer environment for victims of domestic violence in Cumberland County. The rapid response to scenes of potential repeat violence will reduce the number and severity of domestic violence calls. The alarms will replace an existing VARDA system that is beyond its life expectancy and unable to be repaired. The outcome is to provide victims of domestic violence the means to detect potential intruders and to alert law enforcement providing additional peace of mind.</p> <p>This project is designed to reduce the number of victims of domestic violence in Cumberland County, through a better response to victims of past violence. Once the Scout 2 systems are purchased and received, they will be deployed to victims of domestic violence as needed.</p> <p>The objective of this project is to provide better communication options and safety to victims of domestic violence. Data will be collected on the outcomes of each deployment of the system to include if there was any repeat violence.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">LE-06-19 \$15,510.00</p>
Prosecution	Prosecutorial District IV (Kennebec and Somerset Counties)	Maeghan Maloney 95 State Street Augusta, ME 04330 https://www.kennebecda.com/	<p>Prosecutorial District IV proposes to add a part-time Sexual Assault Domestic Violence Investigator. The scope of the SADV Investigator's work is to focus on addressing high lethality cases with the use of evidence-based risk assessment tools such as OD ARA and Campbell, which identify both risk and protective factors for domestic violence homicide. These risk assessment scores demonstrate that the escalation of domestic violence to lethal levels follows predictable patterns. The SADV unit together will continue to innovate the prosecution of domestic violence and sexual assault cases to bring about more efficient, successful accountability of offenders through the criminal justice system. The central tenet of this effort is the belief that DV homicide is</p>

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			<p>predictable enough that it can be preventable. Arriving from this operating principle is a critical re-examination of a system that we take for granted, a system in which 3 to 4 women a day are killed by their intimate partners in this country. With the development and implementation of the best practice of domestic violence and sexual assault prosecution, the SADV prosecutor and unit will be a model of successful, effective prosecution in cases of violence against women.</p> <p>Often it is asked how this can happen in cases where "She did everything right?" However, we know from far too many cases that an abused woman can do everything "right" and still become the victim of her abuser's lethal violence. It is, unfortunately, the case that the current system is not set up to prevent DV homicides effectively, and this is the major problem area these specialized positions hope to address.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">PR-01-19 \$38,687.00</p>
Prosecution	State of Maine Judicial Branch, Administrative Office of the Courts	Katharine Wiltuck, Director of Court Process, Planning, and Services 125 Presumpscot Street, Unit 20 PO Box 4820 Portland, ME 04112 https://www.courts.maine.gov/maine_courts/admin/index.shtml	<p>Victim Witness Advocates (VWAs) have been employed by OAG since 1990. In general, VWAs are responsive to the needs of victims of crime by providing support around the inconvenience and anxiety of going to court and understanding the often-confusing procedures of the criminal justice process. The VWAs who work at the Office in the Criminal Division differ in that they provide support to surviving family members of victims of homicide.</p> <p>To enhance prosecution throughout Maine, this project will utilize STOP Program funds to support the establishment of a statewide Maine Victim Witness Advocate Coordinator position. The Coordinator would be a non-supervisory position, and the services provided by the Coordinator are intended to directly support and benefit Victim Witness Advocates (VWAs) statewide. The OAG will hire, house, and support the Coordinator. The Coordinator will be supervised by the Chief of the Criminal Division, who is also designated as the Project Director.</p> <p>The Coordinator will provide technical assistance and training, as well as statewide representation for VWAs in Maine. For this project, the term "Victim Witness Advocates" is intended to include the current 64 people statewide who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VWAs and Trial Assistants employed at District Attorneys' Offices (52) • VWAs and Victim Compensation Program Specialists employed at the Maine Office of the Attorney General (6)

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victim Advocates employed at the Maine Department of Corrections (4); and • A Victim Witness Coordinator and Victim Witness Specialist employed at the U.S. Attorney's Office - District of Maine (2) <p>The overarching goal of the project is to improve prosecution statewide by supporting VWAs' ability to effectively and consistently assist and support victims in navigating the criminal justice system and ensuring that victims understand their rights within that system. The project will achieve this through several goals that will guide this person's work activities. The Coordinator will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build capacity for ongoing support and representation for Maine's VWAs • Ensure that victims of crime receive consistent best practice response from VWAs • Avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts at the local level, including training and the creation of materials; and • Protect and enhance the rights of all victims of crime through engagement at public policy tables and with statewide stakeholders <p style="text-align: right;">PR-02-19 \$134,014.00</p>
Prosecution	Maine Prosecutor's Association	Andrew Robinson, District Attorney 55 Lisbon Street, 2 nd Floor Lewiston, ME 04240	<p>To strengthen Maine District Attorneys skills around prosecuting sexual assault cases, the Maine Prosecutor's Association seeks to bring a national expert to provide training during their annual conference. This training will increase the skills of Maine prosecutors to make determinations about the prosecution of sexual assault cases and build those cases in trial. This project has one objective: to increase the skills of 70 percent of the participants at the Maine Prosecutor's Association Conference to prosecute sexual assault cases. As a result of this project, prosecutors will be better prepared to respond to the new laws and expand victim's access to justice.,</p> <p>To meet this need, the Maine Prosecutor's Association has identified a national expert to be the keynote presenter at their annual conference. Julie Germann is a former prosecutor in Minnesota where she worked on sexual assault, child abuse, and domestic violence cases. Julie offers specialized training on prosecuting sexual assault cases that offers both context for the challenging nature of these cases and concrete tools to improve the decision-making process for prosecutors and the way they approach trial. Staff from the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault, an advisor on this initiative,</p>

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			<p>attended her training and was struck by the potential impact that these new tools could have for justice and survivors.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">PR-03-19 \$3,569.00</p>
Prosecution	Androscoggin County District Attorney's Office	<p>Andrew S. Robinson 55 Lisbon Street, 2nd Floor Lewiston, ME 04240 https://www.androscoggincountymaine.gov/DA/DA.htm</p>	<p>The purpose of this grant proposal is to fund a trial assistant position that would allow two trial assistants to focus on victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking. Due to this grant, we can designate two trial assistants (one for each litigation team) to specifically provide services to domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking victims. The project required hiring a new trial assistant and reconfiguring how cases were assigned within the office. Because of this grant our office has been able to be more supportive and responsive to victims of these horrific crimes. We also have a growing New Mainer population in Androscoggin County with an inconceivably low amount of reported crimes involving domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. We are using this grant to try to establish better communication and training with the New Mainer Community.</p> <p>Each DV/SA/ITT trial assistant is designated to a litigation team. The DV/SA/ITT trial assistant is responsible for providing both the support and clerical work for these specific cases. The DV/SA/ITT trial assistant does the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures that DV/SA/ITT victims are advised and educated regarding the Criminal Justice and Legal Processes/Procedures pertinent to the case. • Maintains communication with DV/SA/ITT victims to notify them about court dates, bail hearings, sentencing, plea agreements, perpetrator release dates, and other circumstances as appropriate. • Conducts pre-trial and post-trial meetings with DV/SA/ITT victims when requested or appropriate. • Accompanies DV/SA/ITT victims to all hearings, Grand Jury proceedings, and other court proceedings related to the crime. • Provides DV/SA/ITT victims with routine updates on court proceedings. • Ensures that DV/SA/ITT victims are advised of all opportunities to participate in the criminal justice and legal processes/procedures related to the case. • Provides DV/SA/ITT victims with advocacy and accompaniment through each step of the criminal justice and legal processes/procedures concerning the case.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures that DV/SA/ITT victims meet with the prosecutor for hearing or trial preparation. • Assists DV/SA/HT victims with the completion of victim impact statements. • Assists DV/SA/HT victims with completing the application for victims' compensation. • Coordinate services with representatives from local DV/SA/ITT support agencies. • The DV/SA/ITT trial assistant will also engage in programming in the local community to provide information and education for New Mainers. <p style="text-align: right;">PR-04-19 \$28,489.00</p>
Victim Services	Through These Doors	<p>Jen LaChance, Director of Advocacy & Victim Services PO Box 704 Portland ME 04104</p> <p>https://throughthesedoors.org/changethis/</p>	<p>Enhancing Safety for Women Who Are Incarcerated provides and expands victim advocacy services to women incarcerated at the Maine Correctional Center in both the Women's Center and Southern Maine Women's Re-Entry Center, provides opportunities for correctional center staff to better understand and respond to the effects of domestic violence on women who are incarcerated particularly the effects and best practice response to non-fatal strangulation and engages other advocates across the State of Maine to learn more about how to support victims and survivors of abuse who are incarcerated. This project moves forward with its ambitious and achievable goals of enhancing the safety of women who have experienced victimization and have been incarcerated for criminal activity by expanding the network of resources and support in the community to improve their safety and reduce the likelihood of future trauma and incarceration.</p> <p>Details of these activities follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide victim advocacy services for victims/survivors incarcerated at the Women's Center and SMWRC. • Provide structured group services for victims/survivors incarcerated at the Women 's Center and SMWRC. • Provide Peer Parenting programs for victims/survivors incarcerated at the Women's Center and SMWRC. • Implement Assessment and Training on Non-Fatal Strangulation for women who are incarcerated and correctional staff. • Work from a multi-disciplinary team approach. • Develop/provide training and support for correctional staff.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect, focus, and collaborate with other community partners. • Solicit and incorporate Feedback <p style="text-align: right;">VS-01-19 \$41,024.00</p>
Victim Services	Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault	Destie Sprague 45 Memorial Circle, Suite 302 Augusta, ME 04330 https://www.mecasa.org/	<p>One in five adult Maine residents has been the victim of rape or attempted rape during their lifetime; 35.7% of females and 10.1 % of males have experienced sexual assault in their lives. 1 Sexual violence is the most chronically underreported violent crime in the US. Each year 14,000 Mainers experience some type of sexual violence.2 However, in Maine in 2017, only 448 rapes or attempted rapes were reported to law enforcement. 3 Survivors often do not report for fear of not being believed, safety concerns, ability, and concerns about the criminal justice process. Sexual violence is a profound public health concern, with ramifications across social, economic, and health-related spheres in every community.</p> <p>Many victims fully recover from the emotional, physical, and psychological effects of the assault. For most of these, talking through the trauma is key to healing. Sexual violence is a complicated, multi-layered issue that requires specially trained advocates and specialized services for the best quality response.</p> <p>This project will continue to provide an immediate response to survivors of sexual assault who seek support through Maine's statewide helpline during business hours. It will provide a third and final year of funding for two advocates whose job it is to answer the phone as well as provide text and chat to callers 8 am-5 pm Monday through Friday. MECASA proposes to shift management of the funds and the project so that both aspects of this statewide service are provided by the statewide coalition representing all sexual assault service providers in Maine. Although we will contract with SARSSM for office space and direct supervision of these advocates, the other objective of transferring the program for management to MECASA is to ensure the sustainability of this service. We will continue to collaborate with all the sexual assault service providers in Maine to codify the training, policies, protocols, and technical requirements into a manual for this service. It will include job descriptions and supervision practices to improve retention for these staff positions.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">VS-02-19 \$89,000.00</p>
Victim Services	Caring Unlimited	Susan Giambalvo, Executive Director	The project will provide free civil legal services, especially assistance with protection from abuse orders, parental rights and responsibilities, and divorce

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		PO Box 590 Sanford, ME 04073 https://www.caring-unlimited.org/	<p>proceedings, to victims of domestic violence, dating abuse, sexual assault, and stalking. Services will be provided by two full-time attorneys and two full-time legal advocates who are trained in the dynamics of domestic violence.</p> <p>York County has a high rate of domestic violence assaults and a high rate of PFA filings. In 2018, York County courts filed 814 Protection from Abuse and 466 Protection from Harassment orders. These numbers are on par with Cumberland County despite a difference in the population of over 80,000 people.</p> <p>For those trying to get and stay safe from domestic abuse, access to legal assistance from attorneys and advocates who are knowledgeable about the dynamics of domestic violence is a critical resource. Without professional support and representation, victims of intimate violence face insurmountable obstacles to effectively navigate the legal system. It is high-cost, time-consuming, and potentially dangerous for a person to pursue legal action against their abuser even though such action may be necessary to extricate themselves and their children from an abusive relationship. The legal system is confusing and people may not understand their rights or options. These barriers are only heightened for people with disabilities. Caring Unlimited is the only provider of these services in York County.</p> <p>The program expects to serve over 600 victims of abuse annually. Services will include assistance with safety planning, referrals to internal and external resources, information and education about court processes- especially filing Protection from Abuse Orders, legal advice, and representation. The program goals are to increase the safety of victims and ensure victims have access to legal services.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">VS-03-19 \$26,501.00</p>
Victim Services	Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine	Arian G. Clements, Executive Director 124 Maine Street, Suite 213 Brunswick, ME 04011 https://www.sassmm.org/	Sexual violence is a profound problem within our community; one in five Mainers will experience rape or attempted rape in his or her lifetime. Child sexual abuse and rape are the costliest of all crimes, with rape alone totaling estimated costs to our nation at \$127 billion a year. ³ Our community continues to work to build systems that are as trauma-informed and victim-centered as they can be. However, many survivors, as they access those systems, aren't aware of the options or choices available to them following a sexual assault. Sexual assault advocates who focus on systems improvements and accompaniment work to alleviate both of these challenges.

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			<p>The project we propose is to fund the continued employment of a full time Knox/Waldo (K/W) SART Advocate to further establish comprehensive SART services in Knox and Waldo Counties. The KJW SART Advocate (to be hired), will continue to build, coordinate, and enhance relationships with individuals and organizations across various systems that respond to sexual violence - law enforcement, prosecution, civil legal systems, health care, partner providers, and more - as well as provide advocacy and accompaniment to survivors as they move through these systems following an incident of sexual violence. Also, because the SART Advocate is employed outside of those systems, and sometimes clients have complicated feelings about law enforcement, the criminal justice system, or medical providers, the support of a confidential, 'outside the system', the advocate can feel more accessible to clients.</p> <p>As a result of this effort, SASSMM will enhance the collaborative relationship and protocols between the systems responding to sexual assault (specifically law enforcement, medical, criminal justice, and victim advocacy organizations</p> <p>Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KJW SART Advocate will conduct at least 4 outreach/introductory meetings and 4 coalition-building meetings with leadership and/or detectives at law enforcement agencies in Knox and Waldo Counties; • KJW SART Advocate will conduct at least 4 coalition-building meetings with Emergency Department leadership or medical service providers at Knox and Waldo County hospitals; • K/W SART Advocate will meet quarterly with prosecutorial victim-witness advocates in the counties, for information sharing and case coordination; • KJW SART Advocate will offer 4 training opportunities for 40 multidisciplinary partners and professionals related to effective response and referral for sexual assault. • 65% of trainees will report that that sexual violence response services are victim-centered and trauma-informed • 80% of trainees will report there is a strong possibility of developing shared goals on the response to sexual violence across key agencies <p>Additionally, SASSMM will support clients as they navigate those systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The K/W SART Advocate will provide accompaniment hours (with hospitals, law enforcement, civil and criminal courts) for clients;

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct advocacy (pre & post accompaniment prep, court outreach, one to one meetings/calls, follow-up and check-ins, support groups, ongoing support services, and advocacy); • 90 percent of clients receiving SART services will report knowing more about the options and community resources available to them. <p style="text-align: right;">VS-04-19 \$44,798.00</p>
Victim Services	Maine Transgender Network	Quinn Gormley, Executive Director 511 Congress St, #107, Portland, ME, 04101 https://www.mainetrans.net/	<p>MaineTransNet is seeking to develop targeted, and culturally competent services to survivors of sexual and domestic violence who identify as transgender.</p> <p>Statistics documenting transgender people's experience of sexual and domestic violence indicate shockingly high levels of abuse and assault. One in two transgender individuals is sexually abused or assaulted at some point in their lives. Some reports estimate that transgender survivors may experience rates of sexual assault up to 66 percent, often coupled with physical assaults and relationship abuse. This indicates that the majority of transgender individuals are living with the aftermath of trauma and the fear of possible repeat victimization.</p> <p>With nearly 15 years of experience providing peer support services to transgender Mainers and acting as a primary source of service referrals for transgender Mainers in need, MaineTransnet knows that finding systems of support is a major struggle for many transgender people. Specifically, accessing services for survivors of sexual and domestic violence can be uniquely difficult as, despite recent efforts to improve this, many agencies working on these issues have long and difficult histories of denying services to, or mistreating transgender survivors. As such, MaineTransNet advocates for culturally specific services for transgender survivors to be created in partnership with existing systems of support. 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. For that reason, we have developed a project which will center transgender specific support services within MaineTransNet, while creating and deepening relationships of technical assistance, referrals, and professional support between MaineTransNet, MECSA, MCEDV, and their respective member centers.</p>

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			<p>This project offers an innovative approach to providing culturally competent sexual assault and domestic violence support services that will build upon recent work completed by MaineTransNet and MECASA. MaineTransNet will work with MECASA, MCEDV, and their respective member centers to offer support groups specifically for transgender survivors, and to expand access to, and referral relationships between the aforementioned agencies for transgender Mainers.</p> <p>As a result of this project, we anticipate the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local sexual assault and domestic violence centers will increase their capacity to serve survivors of sexual and/or domestic violence who identify as transgender. • MaineTransNet support group facilitators will increase their capacity to support transgender survivors of sexual and/or domestic violence. • Transgender survivors of sexual assault or domestic violence who attend targeted support groups will report that the staff respected their background and increased their knowledge of resources available to them. <p style="text-align: right;">VS-05-19 \$48,580.00</p>
Victim Services	Family Violence Project	Pamela Morin, Executive Director PO Box 304. Augusta. ME 04332-0304	<p>Family Violence Project has historically worked alongside two local homeless providers. Year after year, we would strive to provide persons we serve with all the resources available in our communities. In 2016, supported by a Maine STOP Violence Against Women funds, we came together with the two homeless providers and incorporated our combined resources and skills to reach our most vulnerable community members. We at Family Violence Project knew that we were not reaching all the people who needed our help, for myriad reasons, with the most common being that our shelter spaces were full or our services were located in places where many of our survivors could not meet us at. We also knew we were not reaching those living in unstable and perilous situations. In partnering with the homeless shelters, we saw that it was important that we expand to include a population that came to their shelters fleeing or experiencing domestic violence. We needed to reach populations who were finding it difficult to reach out to us, whatever the reason.</p> <p>For many years there was a gap in services, although we responded to any requests for advocacy made by these partners, the services were provided along with the services provided to all other agencies. We did not have a</p>

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			<p>program geared toward the specific needs of clients of homeless shelters. Family Violence Project has found that by partnering in this program we can reach community members utilizing homeless shelters regularly. The population, which included homeless individuals and families or residents with specific mental health needs, can access services that may have been unattainable due to transportation, limited technology access, or simply lack of knowledge of the services we provide.</p> <p>In 2010 75% of homeless families were headed by single women with children and approximately 36% of women seeking services at homeless shelters are victims of domestic violence. In our catchment area, many of these families have often fallen through the cracks, as our beds are often full and because we sat outside the confines of those homeless shelters, our services were not prioritized.</p> <p>When these high-risk persons sought services at homeless shelters, their basic needs were the priority. Homelessness, poverty, food insecurity, and violence are so prevalent in the lives of homeless families that meeting the most substantial needs - a place to sleep and food often overrides the need for safety. Families fleeing domestic violence may have an array of trauma-related mental health and safety needs that are not met at homeless shelters. With our collaboration, these safety needs are being met successfully.</p> <p>The advocate can meet these victims/survivors and provide information about the impact of domestic violence, services Family Violence Project offers, and assist to identify community supports that might be available to them. One unique population that need our services are persons, 18-21 Our program provides vital information and support for these young people. So many young victims of domestic violence are perpetuating an intergenerational cycle of abuse. The only way to end this cycle is through information and intervention. Our collaboration with New Beginnings was limited because the only program in our catchment area is a transitional housing program with three apartments. They typically stayed for two to three years, participated with training or education in the community, and had a case manager on site. We did not receive referrals for the most part, and the advocate would assist when needed, which will continue. We will focus more on the Mid Maine</p>

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			<p>Homeless Shelter's Youth Empowerment Supports Program. The advocate spends regularly scheduled time there.</p> <p>Domestic violence, homelessness, and poverty are so intricately entwined it seems that they aren't different issues, but one all-encompassing issue. The advocate's information and support increasing safety for victims and in turn improve the response of shelter staff to this issue.</p> <p>The homeless shelters serve their clients exceptionally well, providing support and solutions to homelessness and the issues surrounding that. The Family Violence Project provides specialized services and safety planning to victims of domestic violence living in the shelters. These services include support for the victim, education around domestic violence, and ways to break the cycle, referral processes, and groups needed to share information regularly.</p> <p>This project has allowed us to reach particularly marginalized populations such as LGBTQ, human trafficking victims, veterans, men, and young people. The shelters furnish a safe place to hold groups, and private spaces to ensure confidentiality to help with PF As or one on one advocacy support. Shelter staff has been very responsive to attending in-service information sessions to gain knowledge on how best to respond to unique individual safety concerns and provide timely referrals to Family Violence Project when appropriate.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">VS-06-19 \$58,213.00</p>
Victim Services	Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault	Destie Sprague 45 Memorial Circle, Suite 302 Augusta, ME 04330 https://www.mecasa.org/	<p>One in five adult Maine residents has been the victim of rape or attempted rape during their lifetime; 35.7% of females and 10.1% of males have experienced sexual assault in their lives. Sexual violence is a profound public health concern, with ramifications across social, economic, and health-related spheres in every community. Over 25 million U.S. residents--almost 9%--identify as someone who speaks English as a foreign language. And while Maine's limited-English proficiency rate is closer to 1%, the diversity of our state is growing, and sexual assault services providers continue to find ways to engage with and make their services accessible to all members of their communities. In addition to being the right thing to do, language accessibility is also legally required of federally funded programs.</p> <p>Non-English speakers may be particularly vulnerable to sexual assault. Being a non-English speaker and immigrant also confers significantly increases vulnerability to recurring sexual assault. Individuals who do not speak English</p>

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			<p>face great challenges accessing services following traumatic or violent experiences. While service providers may be equipped with resources for clients who speak languages other than English, it is important to guarantee that staff members are comfortable in utilizing these resources, and that family members of the victim or other potentially biased parties will not be relied upon for interpretation responsibilities. Even if a person is normally proficient in English, they may experience lapses in language ability in the aftermath of a violent or traumatic event.</p> <p>Challenges to accessing services are even greater if survivors don't know they exist. In 2017 Maine's sexual assault support centers provided services to eight survivors with limited English proficiency. That number went up to 20 in 2018, but the majority of that was provided by one center that has the state's biggest city in its catchment area. By comparison, IRCM, the one Culturally-specific center with multi-lingual staff members served 61 non-English speaking clients in 2017.</p> <p>Using community partners and national resources, this project will increase awareness of sexual assault support services for non-English speakers through outreach materials and ensure accessible and appropriate services through ongoing language access training.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">VS-07-19 \$21,600.00</p>
Victim Services	Safe Voices	Rebecca Austin, Director of Advocacy 484 Main Street Lewiston, Maine 04240 https://safevoices.org/	The Safe Voices Franklin County Advocate currently provides civil and criminal court advocacy and accompaniment, general and crisis advocacy, housing support services, high-risk response advocacy, and meeting facilitation, individualized safety plans, resource navigation, support group, access to emergency shelter, 24/7 helpline. We also offer school-based prevention work, community awareness efforts, and Batterer Intervention Programming in Franklin County. Maine is one of the most rural states in America and Franklin County specifically is extremely geographically expansive which causes those experiencing domestic violence to have increased isolation and a lack of resources to receive support and domestic violence services. The reality is that because of the increased barriers associated with rural residency, many individuals in rural Franklin County are currently unserved or inadequately served. Also, our county and surrounding areas continue to experience heightened levels of domestic violence and stalking cases which present extraordinarily high risk and potentially lethal tactics being used against victims of domestic violence. According to a study

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Victim Services	Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services	Meagan Davis, Executive Director P.O. Box 6 Auburn, ME 04212-0006 http://www.sapars.org/#	The Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Advocate (STEA) will be working with people who are identified as being survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation, and with people who are identified as possibly currently being sex trafficked or exploited. Women who have been sex trafficked or exploited have been continually forced to engage in sexual acts through force, fraud, or coercion. This is not an activity of choice, but one that is dictated to them by

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			<p>the trafficker. They do this under threat of serious harm if they do not, or because the trafficker may have intentionally gotten them hooked on drugs and they need the trafficker to support this addiction. Trying to get out of this life takes an enormous effort and a coordinated community response. The STEA will be able to focus specifically on providing crisis intervention and support, case management and safety planning, and coordination with other community resources (such as mental health treatment and substance abuse treatment) to help the survivor to be safe and to find the resources to escape the life and move in a different direction.</p> <p>Overall this proposal's objective is to help victims of sex trafficking and/or sexual exploitation safely escape this dangerous life and provide them with resources, skills, and safety to be able to move on with confidence and healthy future goals.</p> <p>With a foundation established with our STEA, we are looking to continue our objective progress that has been made in this current grant cycle. One objective to keep on increasing is the number of sex trafficking victims being supported in a residential setting. Since the opening of the Safe House at the end of 2018, we can provide continuity of care through regular scheduled drop-in times. A continuation of services for medical, support group facilitation, law enforcement accompaniment, and safety planning is anticipated to be provided to many more residents.</p> <p>Another objective is to continue to collaborate with community partners to improve identification of, and response to, sex trafficking and exploitation. With the STEA regularly working within an MDT capacity or one-to-one with community members, the more ongoing training needs are recognized. The STEA will help to identify, create, and facilitate more training in the surrounding areas.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">VS-09-18 \$30,011.00</p>
Victim Services	The Next Step	Dorathy Martel, Executive Director PO Box 1466 Ellsworth, ME 04605 https://www.nextstepdvproject.org/	<p>The purpose of this grant request is to fund victim safety and abuser accountability efforts that reduce the risk of domestic violence-related homicide and serious injury and are responsive to survivor input.</p> <p>Next Step serves Hancock and Washington Counties, which are both very rural (except for the greater Ellsworth area). People have long distances to travel for services, and there is little in the way of public transportation. The</p>

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			<p>population is spread out over a relatively large area. Many people live in poverty, and there is a high percentage of people under age 65 who have a disability. Most of the population of Hancock County-95%-identifies themselves as White, vs. 89% in Washington County and 93% statewide. Washington County is home to two Passamaquoddy communities and has a significant Spanish-speaking population.</p> <p>Domestic violence remains prevalent throughout the two counties, although the rates have dropped in the past few years. In 2017, there were 73 reported domestic violence assaults in Hancock County (down from 117 the year before), 58 in Washington County (down from 102), and 4,178 (down from 4,675) statewide. It is important to note that survivors and perpetrators may live in different counties, and the services we are providing cross county lines.</p> <p>In the course of an assessment of the impact of family court proceedings on victims of domestic violence (and their children), we interviewed survivors in Washington and Hancock Counties. (The assessment was funded by an OVW Rural Grant.) The primary takeaway was that a coordinated community response, led by Next Step and with the active participation of local law enforcement, is critically important in the effort to hold abusers accountable for the violence they perpetrate. Victim safety cannot be considered separately from abuser accountability. Survivors identified two issues that we will address in this project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lack of a batterer intervention program (BIP) in Washington County is a significant problem; judges cannot sentence perpetrators to BIP if there is no BIP available. In response, the Next Step is working toward establishing a BIP ourselves. We have secured start-up funding from a private foundation, and we will use part of the foundation money as a match for the STOP grant if our application is successful. • Seeing an increase in arrests of abusers who violate bail conditions and/or have outstanding warrants is a high priority for many survivors. The Hancock County High-Risk Offender Task Force was formed in 2018 with STOP funding for this purpose, and if awarded funding in this round, we will help the Sheriff's Office continue to staff it. <p>Next Step has created the position of Violence Intervention Program Coordinator to oversee this work.</p>

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			<p>The primary measurable outcomes of this project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To see a large percentage of violent DV offenders sentenced to BIP in Washington County (starting from a baseline of virtually zero, since judges are aware that the nearest BIP is in Ellsworth, approximately 65 miles from the county seat of Machias, and that there is no way for many perpetrators to get there); and • To sustain the High-Risk Offender Task Force and encourage arrests of DV offenders who have outstanding warrants and/or are not in compliance with bail conditions. <p style="text-align: right;">VS-09-19 \$51,825.00</p>
Victim Services	United Somali Women of Maine (aka Immigrant Resource Center of Maine)	Fatuma Hussein, Executive Director PO Box 397 Lewiston, ME 04243 https://www.ircofmaine.org/	<p>United Somali Women of Maine (USWM) requests funding for two .75 FTE Multilingual Domestic Violence Victim Advocates (One in Portland/Westbrook & One in Lewiston/Auburn/Augusta). USWM is a refugee-led organization initially formed in 2001 to respond to a significant influx of Somali refugees and secondary migrants. In contrast to long-standing "host" agencies, USWM is led and staffed by its stakeholders; its programs are created through community participation. This program will continue to build a network of services specific to refugee and immigrant victims and survivors which will help them find their voices, become self-sufficient, raise healthy families, and be SAFE.</p> <p>The project will continue to build on existing collaborations and partnerships to address domestic violence in the New Mainers community by providing culturally and linguistically specific direct victim services while addressing the unique barriers they face. Also, the project seeks to continue to work with and educate the broader community about the needs of New Mainers by building more solid bridges between social services, faith-based organizations, criminal and civil justice systems, and the New Mainers community.</p> <p>Project Objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand and continue working with state, legal systems, local governments, and social service agencies to develop and enhance effective strategies to provide culturally and linguistically specific services to victims of domestic violence. • Expand and enhance current services to victims in the New Mainers communities by providing culturally responsive and linguistically specific resources, advocacy and direct services that address the

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			<p>safety, economic, housing, and workplace needs of victims of domestic violence including emergency assistance to 50 victims</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to partner and collaborate with the community to provide 4 service awareness forums and 150 outreach services highlighting culturally and linguistically specific issues and resources regarding victims of domestic violence. <p style="text-align: right;">VS-11-19 \$32,562.00</p>