

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program

Purpose

Administered through the Maine Department of Public Safety, the STOP Program supports communities in their efforts to develop and strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat violent crimes against women and to develop and strengthen victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women. Violence against women crimes includes sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.

The STOP Program promotes a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to enhancing advocacy and improving the criminal justice system's response to violent crimes against women. It encourages the development and improvement of effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to address violent crimes against women and the development and improvement of advocacy and services in cases involving violent crimes against women. The Maine Department of Public Safety has been the state administrative agency (SAA) for the U. S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program since 1995.

Recognizing that most victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking are women, this grant opportunity is named the Violence Against Women STOP Formula Grant. However, services can also be provided to male victims of these crimes.

Allocation of Funds

The STOP Program Funds are to be distributed to public and nonprofit agencies to carry out programs and projects specified under the eligible statutory purposes. States must allocate at least 25 percent of each year's grant award to law enforcement programs, at least 25 percent to prosecution programs, at least 5 percent for court programs, and at least 30 percent to nonprofit, nongovernmental victim service programs of which at least 10 percent is to be distributed to culturally specific community-based organizations. The remainder of the funds may be spent at the discretion of the state to address the statutory program purposes of this program.

Federal Statutory Purpose Areas

- Training law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women
- Developing, training, or expanding units of law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors specifically targeting violent crimes against women

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- Developing and implementing more effective police, court, and prosecution policies, protocols, orders, and services specifically devoted to preventing, identifying, and responding to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault and domestic violence
- Developing, installing, or expanding data collection and communication systems to identify and track arrests, protection orders, violations of protection orders, prosecutions, and convictions for violent crimes against women;
- Developing, enlarging, or strengthening victim services programs;
- Developing, expanding, or strengthening programs addressing stalking;
- Supporting formal and informal statewide, multidisciplinary efforts to coordinate the response of agencies to violent crimes against women;
- Training of sexual assault forensic medical personnel examiners in the collection and preservation of evidence;
- Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs to address the needs and circumstances of older and disabled women who are victims of domestic violence or sexual assault;
- Aiding victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in immigration matters.

Maine Priority Areas

- 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.
- Victim Service Maintenance and Expansion. This priority area emphasizes upholding key victim services as well as expanding services to underserved areas and populations.
- Enhanced Adjudication Process. These programs support the management of offender behavior and ensure victim safety
- Training. The JAC provides funding to victim services providers, law enforcement, prosecution, medical services personnel, and other first responders
- Policy, Procedures, and Planning. Funding in this priority area is geared toward

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developing evidence-based policies and practices in responding to domestic violence and sexual violence

- 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

Match Requirements

State and Local units of government must provide 33% of the total project cost in cash or in-kind match. Tribes and victim service providers under the victim services allocation category are not required to provide match. This provision does not relieve the State from providing the full match.

Subgrantee Organization Eligibility Requirements

- Be a public or nonprofit organization, or a combination of such organizations.
- Comply with the applicable provisions of STOP, the Program Guidelines, and the requirements of the OJP Financial Guide.
- Maintain statutorily required civil rights statistics on victims served.
- Grantees and subgrantees shall develop a plan for implementation.
- Applicants and grantees must certify that its laws, policies, and practices do not require that the victim bear the costs associated with the filing of criminal charges against the offender, or the costs associated with the filing, issuance, registration, or service of a warrant, protection order, petition for a protection order or witness subpoena, whether issued inside or outside the state.
- Applicants are discouraged from proposing projects that include activities that may compromise victim safety.

Eligible Subgrantee Organizations

State and local units of government and public and private nonprofit organizations are eligible to receive STOPfunds.

Allowable Services

In general, STOP Program funds may support personnel, training, technical assistance, evaluation,

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data collection, and equipment costs to enhance the apprehension, prosecution, and adjudication of persons committing violent crimes against women, and enhance services that meet the needs of women victimized by violence.

Website Links Disclaimer

The website links below are made available as a public service and reliance on any such information is at the user's own risk. The State of Maine, its agencies, officers and employees do not warrant the accuracy, reliability, completeness or timeliness of any information on these websites and may not be held liable for any losses caused by any person's reliance on the information available on these websites.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About STOP Formula Grants

The United States Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women has an excellent website with many of the frequently asked questions about STOP. This page is updated regularly.

<https://www.justice.gov/ovw/page/file/1008816/download>

Links to Additional Information

Office of Justice Programs Uniform Guidance

<https://ojp.gov/funding/Part200UniformRequirements.htm>

"General Conditions" for OJP Awards in 2017

<https://ojp.gov/funding/Explore/SolicitationRequirements/MandatoryTermsConditions.htm>