

NORTH DAKOTA

STOP

IMPLEMENTATION

PLAN

2014-2016

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I. INTRODUCTION

The 2014 - 2016 North Dakota (ND) STOP Implementation Plan builds on new and current long and short-term projects to continue development of strong statewide infrastructures and partnerships with and among agencies responding to the needs of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking victims. The plan provides a detailed overview of the agency managing the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Program Grant in ND (STOP grant); a description of the way the plan was developed with participating agencies or organizations in ND that respond to domestic and sexual violence, stalking and dating violence; data reflecting the number of victims affected by violent crimes in ND and the challenges facing professionals responding to such crimes; the changing landscape of ND's population; the identified goals to be accomplished by funding specific projects and programs; descriptions of the grant-making strategies for awarding STOP funds; how underserved victims will be served and the monitoring and evaluation processes used to determine the success of STOP-funded projects.

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) is the designated agency to administer the STOP grant. The NDDoH is committed to promoting the prevention of and intervention of both intentional and unintentional injuries in ND. The grant is managed through the Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis Program located in the Division of Injury Prevention and Control under the Community Health Section.

NDDoH Mission Statement:

The mission of the North Dakota Department of Health is to protect and enhance the health and safety of all North Dakotans and the environment in which we live.

Community Health Section Mission Statement:

The Community Health Section supports families and communities working to improve the health and safety of North Dakotans by providing education and services, advocating healthy behaviors, assuring quality programs, developing policies, and engaging in statewide partnerships.

Division of Injury Prevention and Control Mission Statement:

The Division of Injury Prevention and Control is dedicated to reducing the frequency and severity of intentional and unintentional injuries to North Dakotans.

Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis Program Mission:

The overall goal of the Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis Program is to reduce domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking crimes in North Dakota by:

- Supporting coordinated community response to strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking crimes and to develop and strengthen victim services.
- Emphasizing implementation of comprehensive strategies that are sensitive to the needs and safety of victims and hold offenders accountable for their crimes.
- Supporting intervention measures for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking.
- Collecting and analyzing domestic violence and sexual assault data.
- Funding projects specifically addressing domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.
- Monitoring and providing technical assistance to funded agencies.

- Partnering with stakeholders to develop and implement policies, advocate, provide training and technical assistance and evaluate projects or programs.

The ND STOP Implementation Plan for 2014 – 2016 was developed to address implementation of victim-centered strategies that encourage partnerships among police, prosecutors, the judiciary, victim advocates, health care providers, faith leaders, culturally-specific programs, underserved populations and others, to help provide victims with the protection and services they need to pursue safe and healthy lives, and to enable communities to hold offenders accountable.

The Deputy State Health Officer of the North Dakota Department of Health reviewed and officially approved the plan on March 18, 2014.

II. OVERVIEW OF PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process for the state plan began with the STOP Advisory Committee members who are appointed by the governor and responsible for reviewing and approving STOP grant applications, developing the state plan and advising the STOP administrator on funding issues. The committee is multidisciplinary with members representing law enforcement, prosecutorial, domestic violence/rape crisis, judicial, human services, American Indian, parole and probation and health agencies. During the prosecution, discretionary/judicial and law enforcement subcommittee meetings prior to reviewing the 2013 grant applications the members were given the opportunity to discuss and make recommendations regarding continuation of projects in the current plan and additions to the new state plan. The majority recommended continued funding of the current projects and programs. New recommendations included training on working with recanting victims, providing information on the Prison Elimination Act to domestic violence/rape crisis (DV/RC) agencies and training on the new state law requiring all medical and mental

health professionals or personnel who provide healthcare or other services to report possible abuse, neglect and exploitation of a vulnerable adult to the N.D. Department of Human Services' Adult Protective Services Program or other partner agencies.

Input was solicited from eleven dual domestic violence/rape crisis (DV/RC) agencies and the executive directors of the state and tribal coalitions through a face-to-face facilitated discussion with specific questions related to their own programs, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) statutory purposes and funding concerns. The nine agencies not in attendance were emailed the same questions with a request to provide their feedback. A short survey was sent to the 20 DV/RC agencies with 12 responding to it. Input was also solicited through informal one-on-one discussion, at meetings, and during site visits with the DV/RC agencies. (Appendix A: List of DV/RC Agencies; Appendix B: Map of DV/RC Agencies)

ND has seven safe exchange and visitation centers located throughout the state. Five of the centers are located within their DV/RC agencies and two are located in other nonprofit agencies. One of the centers is located on a tribal reservation. The safe exchange and visitation centers are supported with state and federal funds including the STOP grant. A survey was sent to the seven centers with four of them responding to provide their feedback regarding the funding.

Solicitation from law enforcement officers was done through a survey that was sent to 53 sheriff departments and approximately 55 police departments through the Chief of Police's and Sheriffs' Associations. They provided their input as to what type of projects would allow them to improve their investigations of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking crimes. Forty-two law enforcement individuals responded to the survey.

On January 30, 2014, the ND Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) Advisory Committee held a meeting per conference call. The STOP administrator was invited to be a part of the call to discuss the STOP grant. Many of the SANE programs either are receiving or have received STOP funds to support on-call costs for the sexual assault nurse examiners, equipment, supplies or trainings.

The STOP administrator and the Family Violence Prevention & Services Act (FVPSA) administrators collaborated with a large local DV/RC agency to host a discussion with members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community from across the state regarding domestic and sexual violence, stalking and dating violence. We were interested in learning how to improve the response to victims from the LGBT communities from victim service programs, law enforcement, prosecution and courts.

An important informal discussion was held with a group of survivors representing and organization called Life After Fear (LAF). The group started under the umbrella of the Council on Abused Women's Services-ND (CAWS-ND) and late in 2013 decided to move forward on their own. Our discussion was focused on one question – “What have you seen around the state that can be improved for victim services?” The results of the discussions and surveys are located in the Needs and Context section of this plan.

The final draft plan was sent to the ND STOP Violence Against Women Advisory Committee (STOP Advisory Committee) with guidance to review the plan and provide input to their subcommittee chairperson. The full committee was invited to participate either in-person or per conference call if they wished. Others invited to review and provide recommendations for revisions or additions to the plan were the 20 DV/RC directors including tribal agencies, the SANE Coordinator at CAWS-ND, a member of LAF and a member of the LGBT community

The prosecution, discretionary/judicial, and law enforcement subcommittee chairpersons, the First Nation's Women's Alliance (FNWA) director (American Indian state domestic violence/rape crisis coalition) and the DV/RC committee representative participated in a meeting on March 12, 2014, to review and provide recommendations for the ND STOP Implementation Plan for 2013– 2016. Recommendations received were incorporated into the final document. The individuals who reviewed the plan were requested to complete and submit a document of collaboration provided by the STOP Administrator. The document indicated their involvement in participating and providing input into the state plan. Appendix C: STOP Advisory Committee Membership and Subcommittee Membership; See Appendix D: Signed copies of the collaboration documents submitted to the NDDoH.

The STOP administrator and the FVPSA administrator coordinated and facilitated various meetings and surveys to gather input for both the STOP and FVPSA plans, as well as using state funds to support some of the same programmatic work. Although the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant does not have a written plan the funds are used support many of the same DV/RC agencies providing services to domestic and sexual violence victims. The Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) administrator provided a recommendation as to how the prevention funds in the STOP grant could enhance work of the primary prevention of sexual violence occurring in ND. The FVPSA and VOCA administrators are members of the STOP Advisory Committee who reviewed the plan and provided input prior to submission to OVW. Coordinating the STOP plan with the FVPSA and VOCA grants allowed for some additional support to all three programs. Because of the changes in the VAWA 2013, STOP funds can now be used to support RPE grant efforts on primary prevention of sexual assault.

III. NORTH DAKOTA'S NEEDS

ND has been in the national spotlight the past few years due to the “oil boom” in the western part of the state. The changes have been dramatic for sixteen western counties although the impact of oil production has started to spread across the rest of the state. The effect of the economic development has changed the human landscape of the state. To describe what the needs are for victims of violence the changes to the state’s population and way of life must be presented first.

Population Changes

According to the United States (U.S.) Census Bureau, in 2010 ND had 672,591 people living in a large geographic area (69,000 square miles). The 2012 estimated population was 701,345 and the 2013 estimated population is 723,393. The 2013 estimate is an all-time high population for ND spurred by the economic growth. According to ND’s Census Office the population has also been getting younger. Census data shows that the median age of ND residents continued to climb between 2000 and 2008, reaching about 37.3 years of age. Since 2008, the median age of ND residents has declined to 36.1 years of age.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2012 estimates North Dakota had a number of areas ranked as some of the fastest growing in the nation. A Metropolitan (Metro) area contains a population of 50,000 or more, while a Micropolitan (Micro) area contains at least 10,000 people, but less than 50,000. The Williston Micro area ranked first and the Dickinson Micro area ranked third among the nation's fastest-growing areas. The U.S. Census Bureau reported that the Williston Micro area gained 2,281 residents (9.3 percent growth) between July 1, 2011 and July 1, 2012. The Dickinson Micro area population increased by 1,624 residents (6.5 percent increase) in the same period. The Minot area ranked as the 25th fastest growing Micro area up

862 residents or 1.2%. The U.S. Census Bureau also reported annual population increases in areas throughout the state, including central North Dakota and eastern North Dakota. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the state's metropolitan statistical areas increased in annual population, including: the Bismarck Metro area with 2,776 residents; the Fargo Metro area gained 3,726 residents and the Grand Forks Metro area gained 827 residents. According to the ND Census Office it is important to remember that these U.S. Census estimates refer to residents and not temporary workers or others who view their home residence in another state. This is especially important in western North Dakota where town sizes are rapidly increasing and that growth does not seem to be captured in the U.S. Census figures. A survey of county officials in 2012 estimated the State had 24,000 crew camp beds; which likely are housing in excess of 30,000 workers.

Although many of the counties have gained new residents, ND continues to have very rural or “frontier” counties with populations of 9.7 persons per square mile. There are five federally recognized Tribes and one Indian Service Area located at least partially within the State of ND. These include the Mandan, Hidatsa, & Arikara Nation (Three Affiliated Tribes), the Spirit Lake Nation, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Nation, and the Trenton Indian Service Area. American Indians are ND’s largest minority at 6% of the state's population in 2012. The largest population group is Caucasian with 90%, leaving approximately four percent for African American, Asian Americans, and Hispanics. Appendix E - K: ND People QuickFacts and Other Required

Demographics

Oil Development

Since oil was discovered in the western part of the state in 1951, North Dakota has experienced boom and bust cycles with the oil industry. Advanced technology has allowed more oil to be recovered than ever before. Fracking and horizontal drilling technology is used in the western part of the state to help extract oil from the shale formations.

<http://www.history.nd.gov/nhdinnd/turningpoints/NaturalResourcesofND.html>. ND is now the second-biggest oil-producing state in the nation. In 2008, the number of barrels of oil produced was 138,618 and production rose to 757,305 barrels in 2013.

<http://www.legis.nd.gov/files/resource/finance-facts/2013ndfinancefacts>.

The most recent “oil boom” has allowed ND to experience a healthy economy with low unemployment rates (2012 – 3.2%), expand or create new businesses, revival of small communities, increased residential and business construction, new residents with diverse backgrounds moving here and former residents returning to be a part of the progressive movement in ND.

With growth of any form there is change and the way of life in the “oil patch” communities has been challenged to move forward to meet the changes. The energy development has burdened local infrastructures with housing shortages affecting oil workers and permanent residents, increased crime rates (including drugs and human trafficking), increased homelessness, insufficient child care, increased response to medical care from ambulance and emergency rooms, overcrowded schools and difficulty maintaining roads and water systems and lack of qualified workers. The cost of homes increased statewide, but none more so than in Williston and Dickinson, ND. In 2010, homes averaged approximately \$150,000 to \$160,000 and in 2012, homes in those communities were inching toward \$250,000.

<http://www.legis.nd.gov/files/resource/finance-facts/2013ndfinancefacts> The state is working

hard to address many of the issues; it will take not only funding, but time to bring a balance back to the communities.

Economic Development and Violence Against Women

ND has twenty dual DV/RC agencies providing services to victims in the fifty-three counties. The larger agencies in more urban areas have nearly 30 specialized staff members and often serve as many as eight counties. The smallest agency, located in a rural area, has two employees that serve two counties. The DV/RCs located in the “oil patch” are being affected with increased numbers of domestic violence and sexual assault victims seeking services and shelter. These agencies are located in Williston, Stanley, Dickinson, Minot and New Town. New Town is located on the Fort Berthold Reservation. It has become difficult for these DV/RC agencies to shelter victims in local hotels when that is the usual source of protected living or when their own shelters are full. Victims ready to leave shelter are often forced to return to live with their perpetrator due to lack of housing. The DV/RC agencies located near and across the state are feeling ripple effects from the “oil patch”. Eight of the nine shelters have been operating at full-capacity the past year. The DV/RC programs are having difficulty keeping up with the rising complexity of cases and in some instances sheer numbers. One of the agencies in the western part of the state has had victims seeking services who are unable to speak English. Access to interpreters in many areas of the state is non-existent and language lines are expensive. After some research the agency was able to find a software application to use on Apple i-Pads to successfully communicate with the victims.

Economic security is difficult to attain for victims in the state, but even more so in western ND. On February 17, 2013, the Bismarck Tribune had an article regarding results of a national study from an apartment renting guide indicating the highest rents in the U. S. are in

Williston, ND. An example is a 700-square-foot, one-bedroom apartment in Williston rents for an average of \$2,394/month compared to \$1,504/month in the New York area. Dickinson ranked fourth in the nation for high rent with an average of \$1,733/month. Although construction of housing continues in both communities the rents remain high. Lack of sufficient childcare is a statewide issue, but especially in western ND where the average cost is in a licensed family or group childcare varies from \$7,655 - \$8,048/yearly depending on the age of the child. Licensed childcare centers average costs are from \$10,634 – \$11,154/yearly again depending on the age of the child. <http://www.ndchildcare.org/data-pub/county.html> Anecdotal information indicates the cost of food is higher for some items in the grocery stores in Williston. A search of Job Service ND indicated on February 18, 2014, there were 437 jobs within a ten mile radius of Williston and 473 jobs within a ten mile radius of Dickinson, ND. The lack of jobs is not a concern; it is the hourly salary that often cannot meet the cost of living in these and surrounding communities to allow victims to become survivors.

Crimes in the “Oil Patch”

As with any community experiencing an increase in population there is more crime. The western area of the state has become more vulnerable to human trafficking, prostitution, gangs, homicides, assaults and illegal drug sales.

The crime of human trafficking has received significant attention during the past two years in ND. United States Attorney Office of ND’s (USAOND) Anti-Violence Strategy for Tribal Communities in North Dakota reported the following “... in response to law enforcement concerns about possible human trafficking on the Fort Berthold Reservation, the USAOND, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and multiple tribal organizations created a Human Trafficking Working Group to address the abuse of women and children through prostitution on the Fort

Berthold Reservation. The work of this group resulted in the April 2012 conviction of a New Town man on 16 counts of sex trafficking, sexual abuse, drug trafficking, and witness tampering. The facts revealed at trial established that the defendant had conspired to distribute marijuana around the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation. As part of this conspiracy the defendant recruited minors and young adults to be part of a gang. According to testimony at trial the defendant also used physical force and coercion to cause an adult female he had recruited for the gang to engage in commercial sex acts on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation and in Williston and Minot. USAOND believes that innovative, cooperative efforts like the investigation that led to this conviction are a key to battling organized criminal activity on the reservations.” The reservation and the two communities affected by this crime are located in the “oil patch”, but human trafficking is not isolated to that area of the state. ND lacks the statistics and a coordinated effort to address this issue statewide.

It is important to note that ND Century Code 12.1-40-01 and 12.1-40-01 – 02 does address sex trafficking and labor trafficking. Recently CAWS-ND received a state oil impact grant to provide training to law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and advocates in oil country. They will be working with the Office of the Attorney General of ND and the Bureau of Criminal Investigation to provide the trainings.

Needs across the state

Below is a summary of the discussions and surveys completed by the NDDoH to gather input from various partners, responders, subgrantees and underserved populations.

During a meeting in November 2013, with the DV/RC agencies they discussed how the various programs they run have improved services to victims, such as Coordinated Community Response Teams, support groups, adding a survivor on their agency’s board and Sexual Assault

Response Teams. They identified several gaps such as, the inability of staff and outside agencies to help victims with substance abuse and/or mental illness, lack of affordable housing along with high transportation costs, increased responsibilities for directors of small programs in the “oil patch” who fill dual roles as both advocate and program administrator. Barriers for the DV/RC agencies to deliver services were lack of sufficient staff at shelters, matching up client needs with services and partners who are stretched thin. Working with the judicial system statewide brings the following challenges: lack of victims being referred to the DV/RC agencies, low prosecution rates, backlog of cases due to increase number of crimes being committed in the western part of the state and difficult relationships between tribal, county and federal law enforcement agencies. Several agencies expressed success in working with the underserved populations including New American communities and reaching out to partners working with older adults. Some agencies have experienced difficulties in finding interpreters for victims and lack of resources for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) population. The DV/RC agencies have had few if any requests to provide services to victims in correctional facilities.

A short survey was sent to the 20 DV/RC agencies with 12 responding to it. A summary of the survey indicated the following information.

- Retaining core services was identified as the highest priority by the agencies
- Availability of legal services was recognized as a service necessary for victims
- Best practice guidelines to assist with the development of policies and procedures was determined to be necessary for their agency
- Trauma-informed was requested as the important area for technical assistance
- Attending trainings was chosen as the best method to provide technical assistance

The LAF recommended training for clergy, law enforcement officers and prosecutors regarding domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking. The group offered to provide assistance with trauma-informed work.

Below is a summary of the law enforcement survey.

- Training on interviewing child witnesses and victims were ranked as the number one and two trainings law enforcement officers would find most valuable
- Officers prefer four hour classroom trainings in their own law enforcement facility with Post Board credits.
- Officers want more training on how to handle transporting victims for forensic medical examination, strangulation and head injury
- 83% of the officers want more training on responding to elder abuse followed by 57% wanting training regarding abuse of individuals with disabilities
- Digital cameras and recorders are the most valuable investigative tool for law enforcement investigation of violent crimes
- 97% of the survey participants indicated a domestic violence/sexual assault investigator would be beneficial to their agency

Four of the seven safe visitation and exchange centers responded to a survey. The centers try to accommodate clients' needs and schedules; be culturally-sensitive and provide a safe and comfortable environment for children and their parents. Some of the challenges centers face are insufficient available/feasible time slots for parents and their children to have a meaningful parenting time; lack of funding to provide appropriate staffing and a large enough facility to meet all of the requests; need for additional safety and security for victims and children in high-risk cases and lack of understanding by judges regarding the benefits of having exchanges done

at the centers rather than public parking lots. When asked how they would recommend the STOP Advisory Committee distribute the STOP funds to the safe exchange and visitation centers the majority recommended a base amount be provided and the opportunity to apply for additional funds competitively.

The STOP SANE Advisory Committee attendees were informed of the new statutory purpose areas. To date none of the programs have been requested to do forensic medical examinations on same-sex sexual assaults. There was interest expressed by several of the programs to expand into doing examination on patients seeking care for a domestic violence assault. The nurses do not feel victims of either sexual or domestic assault are receiving sufficient assessment for strangulation by the emergency department physicians. Suggestions for possible funding from the STOP grant include: payment for a nurse's time to do the domestic violence assessment; training on trauma-informed care to emergency department and clinic staff and training on how to recognize a victim of human trafficking to emergency department staff.

ND Data

ND has several sources of data that describe the needs of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking victims and the needs of communities. Included in this section of the plan are highlights from various data collection resources.

CAWS-ND Data

Domestic Violence Data

- 5,020 incidents of domestic violence were reported to crisis intervention centers in North Dakota.
- 4,624 new victims (new = unduplicated for calendar year) received services from crisis intervention centers in North Dakota.

- 13% of the new victims were disabled. Of those disabled, 17% were developmentally delayed, 34% were physically disabled and 50% suffered from mental illness.
- At least 4,513 children were directly impacted by these incidents.
- Law enforcement officers were called to respond in 52% of the incidents. In at least 43% of those incidents, an arrest was made.
- Domestic violence programs provided victim assistance with 675 emergency protection orders.

Sexual Assault Data

- 919 primary victims and 416 secondary victims were served by 18 sexual assault crisis centers throughout North Dakota.
- At least 9,434 services to primary victims were provided by crisis center advocates.
- At least 355 (46%) of primary victims were under the age of 18 years old at the time of the assault.
- At least 84% (776) of the cases were male assailant/female victim.
- At least 11% (99) of the cases were male assailant /male victim.
- At least 22% of adult victims contacted a sexual assault center about the crime within 2 days of the assault. 12% of adult victims contacted a sexual assault center within 3-30 days after the assault.
- 76% of the crimes were reported to law enforcement.

(Appendix L: 2012 Fact Sheets about Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in North Dakota)

Law Enforcement Data

For the period 1993-2012, 50 percent of deaths due to homicide involved domestic violence.

- There were six homicides in 2012 resulting from domestic violence incidents.
- In 2012, 243 forcible rapes were reported to local law enforcement in North Dakota. This is an increase of 17.4 percent from the 2011 total of 207 offenses. A total of 222 forcible rapes were reported in 2010.
 - Forty-five arrests for forcible rape were reported in 2012. More than 62 percent of those arrested were adults. In 2011, 31 arrests for rape were reported. In 2012, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center’s hotline received 36 calls from ND.
- In 2013, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center’s hotline received 63 calls from ND.

<http://www.ag.nd.gov/Reports/BCIReports/CrimeHomicide/Crime12.pdf>

<http://www.ag.nd.gov/Reports/BCIReports/CrimeHomicide/Murder12.pdf>

Legislation

The 2011 and 2013 ND Legislature completed their biennial sessions prior to the submission of the 2014 -2016 ND STOP Implementation Plan. The CAWS-ND completed a 2011 CAWS-ND Legislative Report. CAWS-ND initiated six bills that all passed during this session and include changing the stalking law, enhancements to the fair treatment standards, establishing a domestic violence fatality review commission, adding a penalty for discriminating against victims that terminate their residential lease, and adding language that makes victims eligible for unemployment compensation benefits. \$425,000 in state general funds was added to the NDDoH’s budget to be allocated to the visitation and exchange centers.

The 2013 ND Legislative Session highlights from CAWS-ND indicate the following law changes.

- Sexual assault victims now have up to 96 hours to report to law enforcement and still be eligible to file a claim with crime victims compensation
- An \$80,000 “trigger amendment” to replace Family Violence Prevention and Services funds lost due to sequestration (these state funds were allow to be utilized to replace funds reduced in the STOP and Sexual Assault Services grants)
- Victims are allowed to opt out of notification under Statewide Victim Information and Notification system
- Misdemeanor domestic violence offenders can be put on supervised probation.
- ND Job Service and ND Attorney General’s Office can share records in order to ensure sex offenders are registering when they arrive in ND looking for work.

Bills that failed

- Would have prevented local and state law enforcement the ability to enforce federal firearms laws.
- Would have allowed victims to change their locks in residential rental properties
- Would have increased protections for victims from housing discrimination

See Appendix M for 2011 CAWS-ND Legislative Report and 2013 CAWS-ND Legislative PowerPoint

Other ND Grants

The 2014 - 2016 STOP Implementation Plan will link to other Office of Violence Against Programs funded projects. Currently, the NDDoH administers the Sexual Assault Services Program

(SASP) grant and is completing the 2011 – 2012 Grants to Encourage Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program grant.

Under the 2013 SASP grant eleven DV/RC agencies elected to apply for these funds to provide direct services to victims of sexual assault. The agencies are utilizing the SASP funds to enhance the sexual assault services they offer with the STOP victim services funds.

The NDDoH and Minot State University's Rural Crime and Justice Center collaborated in 2011 - 2013 to successfully obtain the Grants to Encourage Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program (Arrest Grant). The grant is focused on establishing appropriate and effective advocacy, law enforcement, prosecutorial, and judicial response to domestic violence in six counties in northwest ND (Divide, Williams, Burke, Mountrail, McKenzie, and Ward counties; including the Three Affiliated Tribes). It is also used to implement and evaluate the Model Law Enforcement Policy on Sexual Assault Investigation. The University of ND's Tribal Justice Institute received funding from the Arrest Grant to hold two roundtables with tribal leaders. The second roundtable was held in January 2014, and from the discussions it was recommended that a tribal bench book for tribal judges be created. The institute is interested in requesting STOP court funds to create the bench book.

The Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) grant is utilized in ND to do primary prevention of sexual violence utilizing the public health approach to address sexual violence prevention and the effect on the social ecological model. Currently, two DV/RC agencies receive the limited amount of RPE funding to do this work within their service areas. In order to re-engage other DV/RC agencies at their level of ability and time the NDDoH proposes to utilize the prevention funds from the STOP grant to complete and provide training on the ND Prevention Toolkit.

The FVPSA grant has several focuses including providing information through written materials and webinars to the DV/RC agencies on elder abuse, trauma informed services and working with the LGBT population. These focuses are incorporated into this plan.

IV. PLAN PRIORITIES AND APPROACHES

A. Identified Goals

ND has a long list of needs and as with every other state, a lack of sufficient money to address the concerns. The STOP Advisory Committee will need to prioritize the importance of each grant application whether an agency is requesting funds to continue their project or program and/or want to offer new services. The lack of affordable housing, high transportation costs and increased drug crimes are issues the NDDoH is not responsible for solving. Other concerns brought forward such as judges' decisions and low prosecution rates are deep seeded issues that will take time to find resolutions and cannot be fully responded to in this plan.

The 2014-2016 ND Implementation Plan will focus on retaining core services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking with the victim services funds; continue trainings to personnel responding to victims, safe visitation and exchange centers, SANE programs, child victim advocates, culturally-specific programs, and batterer's treatment programs; and fund specialized units in the criminal justice system. The plan will support new projects and programs to increase support to underserved populations including tribal, LGBT, immigrant, disabled and elderly. STOP funds will not be used to support the Crystal Judson statutory purpose. Under a GTEA grant the *ND Model Law Enforcement Involved Domestic Violence Policy* (January 2006) was created for use by law enforcement agencies. The STOP Advisory Committee will review and update the plan at their annual meeting.

The NDDoH will engage state and local agencies and organizations to determine what efforts can help improve the needs of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. Following is an initial list of collaborations the STOP Administrator will begin forming over the next three years.

1. Work with LGBT organizations, state coalitions, DV/RC agencies and law enforcement agencies to improve the response to victims from the LGBT community.
2. Engage in a discussion with the STOP Training and Education Committee and an expert in elder abuse to work with the committee to consider developing and implementing a training on the investigation and prosecution elder abuse.
3. Collaborate with the ND Protection and Advocacy Project, the ND Department of Human Services, state coalitions, law enforcement and DV/RC agencies on how to respond and provide services to individuals with disabilities who have been physically or sexually assaulted.
4. Work with the ND Department of Human Services, state coalitions and DV/RC agencies regarding training to increase the knowledge and skills of DV/RC agencies and shelters to respond to victims suffering from mental health illnesses and/or addiction issues. Also, training on the new state law regarding reporting abuse of vulnerable adults.
5. Collaborate with the law enforcement liaison from the ND Indian Affairs Commission regarding the working relationships between DV/RC agencies and the Bureau of Indian Affairs and county law enforcement and tribal law enforcement.

The STOP Administrator will continue to participate on the ND Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission. The commission was created by the 2011 ND Legislative Assembly and established with the Office of Attorney General of ND under N.D.C.C. 14-04.1-20. The

Commission is charged with reviewing domestic violence deaths that have occurred in the state, recommending policies and protocols to prevent the incidence of domestic violence and resulting fatalities, and providing consultation and coordination for agencies involved in the prevention and investigation of domestic violence. Jon Byers, Assistant Attorney General, and Janelle Moos, Executive Director of CAWS-ND co-chair the commission. The commission began reviewing cases in 2012 and to date has completed three. One more case will be reviewed in 2014 and then the commission will begin the review of the issues common to all the cases and develop recommendations for proposed legislation, policies, and procedures with a view to preventing the incidence of domestic violence fatalities. At this time it is too preliminary to include specific goals and objectives in the 2014-2016 STOP plan on how reduce domestic violence homicides in ND. Once the commission releases the recommendations the STOP Advisory Committee will determine what activities can be funded to reduce these deaths.

B. Priority Areas

This section details ND's plan to respond to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking crimes against women. It is based on the needs identified through various data sources and input numerous partners, subgrantees and the STOP Advisory Committee. The new requirements from the 2013 VAWA have been addressed in the goals, objectives and activities to be supported with STOP funds. Letters have been received from a state's attorney, police department, DV/RC agency and the ND Supreme Court describing the needs within their service areas for STOP funds. See Appendix N: Letters of Need

FY14-16 VICTIM SERVICE PLAN

GOAL: To strengthen or enhance the twenty Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis agencies by building infrastructure, improving and maintaining quality services, providing training opportunities, and networking.

OBJECTIVE 1: October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2016, distribute 90% of the victim service portion of STOP funds equitably to non-tribal Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis agencies whose primary purpose meets the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) definition of service agencies.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Offer the seventeen non-tribal Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis agencies the opportunity to apply for funds to provide quality direct services including shelter to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and to children who witness domestic violence.
2. Identify and fund projects designed to provide services to children who have witnessed domestic violence, especially those residing in shelter with the victim.
3. Support projects which focus on collaborative efforts to provide direct services to victims with disabilities.
4. Support projects which focus on collaborative efforts to provide direct services to elderly victims.
5. Support projects or programs that will support PREA compliance in ND. Examples: Providing advocates from rape crisis centers to accompany victims during forensic exams and investigatory interviews; and providing crisis intervention, support, and referrals; funding outside victim advocates to provide emotional support services for inmate victims. **PREA**

OBJECTIVE 2: October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2016, distribute 10% of the victim service portion of STOP funds equitably to the Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis programs or projects meeting the OVW definition of culturally-specific community based organizations.

1. Recognized Tribal Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis agencies will be offered the opportunity to apply for funds to provide quality direct services including shelter to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and to children who witness domestic violence.
2. The seventeen non-tribal Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis agencies will be offered the opportunity to apply for funds to provide quality direct services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and to children who witness domestic violence through culturally specific projects.
3. Support projects which address victim service needs of immigrant and refugee populations.
4. Support projects or programs that will support PREA compliance in ND. Examples: Providing advocates from rape crisis centers to accompany victims during forensic exams and investigatory interviews; and providing crisis intervention, support, and referrals; funding outside victim advocates to provide emotional support services for inmate victims. **PREA**

FY14-16 DISCRETIONARY PLANS

GOAL: Strengthen and enhance domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking services by supporting the continuation, expansion, or creation of appropriate projects.

OBJECTIVE 1: October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2016, competitive funding opportunities will be provided for eligible agencies to maintain and enhance a strong statewide infrastructure of safe visitation and exchange centers.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Support current and new safe family visitation and exchange centers that are in compliance with the *Standards for Supervised Parenting Time and Exchange Centers in North Dakota*.

OBJECTIVE 2: October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2016, competitive funding opportunities will be provided to develop or maintain and enhance SANE programs.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Support the development, implementation, and maintenance of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Programs.
 2. Provide funding to purchase appropriate equipment, including colposcopy and other medical equipment to use during sexual assault forensic examinations.
-

OBJECTIVE 3: October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2016, competitive funding opportunities will be provided to appropriate agencies to enhance or strengthen existing programs addressing domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking issues.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Support LGBT non-profit organizations to collaborate with the NDDoH, state coalitions, DV/RC agencies, law enforcement agencies and other appropriate agencies to improve the response for victims from the LGBT community by law enforcement agencies along with creating accessible services and shelter by DV/RC agencies.
2. Support projects or programs that will support PREA compliance in ND. Examples: Hiring a PREA Coordinator; training for employees, contractors, and volunteers of correctional facilities on prevention and response to sexual abuse; educating inmates on sexual abuse; providing emergency and ongoing medical and mental health care for inmate victims; conducting PREA compliance audits of facilities; providing advocates from rape crisis centers to accompany victims during forensic exams and investigatory interviews; and providing crisis intervention, support, and referrals; funding outside victim advocates to provide emotional support services for inmate victims; providing Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners for victims; developing policies

for outside law enforcement responsible for investigating prison rape and training the law enforcement personnel; providing staff in an agency outside the correctional agency for inmates to report sexual abuse; developing a plan for internal coordination in the event of a sexual abuse incident (such as a Sexual Assault Response Team) **PREA**

3. Support the multidisciplinary STOP Training Committee to develop and implement multidisciplinary trainings in rural areas of the state on domestic violence, sexual assault stalking.
4. Identify and fund projects designed to provide services to children who have witnessed domestic violence, especially those residing in shelter with the victim.
5. Support agencies providing trauma-informed trainings to professionals providing services to victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.
6. Support direct services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence on campus.
7. Support three years of stable funding to a local domestic violence/rape crisis program or other appropriate agency with expertise in elder abuse to pilot a project to assess the needs of elderly victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking crimes; assess the working relationships between adult protective services and advocates, law enforcement officers and state's attorneys; coordinate and provide training to the aforementioned professionals to improve collaborative responses to older victims of abuse.
8. Support use of American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter services, language interpretation and translation services, or the purchase of adaptive equipment to ensure individuals with disabilities and deaf individuals and persons with limited English proficiency have meaningful and full access to programs. Grant funds may be used by agencies to create

websites, videos and other materials must ensure that they are accessible to persons with disabilities.

9. Support training to increase the knowledge and skills of DV/RC advocates and shelter staff on how to work with and refer victims with mental health illness and/or substance abuse.
10. Support batterer's treatment programs if such programs can establish they are a part of a graduated range of sanctions used by judges to hold abusers accountable for their criminal actions and for changing their behavior. The treatment programs shall either be in compliance or in the process of working towards compliance with the *ND Adult Batterer's Treatment Standards*.
11. Support appropriate projects to enhance services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking.

OBJECTIVE 4: October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2016, provide competitive funding opportunities for legal organizations to provide legal assistances to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Support legal assistance agencies to provide legal assistance to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence related to protection orders, housing, family law, public benefits and other similar matters.

FY14-16 PROSECUTION PLAN

GOAL: Strengthen and enhance the prosecution of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking cases.

OBJECTIVE 1: October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2016, provide competitive funding opportunities to prosecutorial agencies to enhance effective prosecution and sentencing of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking cases.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Continue funding or establish specialized prosecution units to prosecute domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking crimes.
2. Implement appropriate projects that will improve the prosecution of violent crimes against women including domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

OBJECTIVE 2: October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2016, provide competitive funding opportunities to prosecutorial agencies to assure victim advocacy is provided during the criminal justice proceedings and follow-up services.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Establish or enhance victim advocacy programs within prosecutorial agencies or in collaboration with domestic violence/rape crisis agencies.

OBJECTIVE 3: October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2016, competitive funding opportunities shall be provided to support SANE programs.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Support the development, implementation, and maintenance of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) programs.
2. Provide funding to purchase appropriate equipment, including colposcopy and other medical equipment to use during sexual assault forensic examinations.
3. Support projects or programs that will support PREA compliance in ND. Example: providing Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners for victims. **PREA**

OBJECTIVE 4: October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2016, provide competitive funding opportunities for prosecutorial agencies to receive training on sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence issues.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Support the multidisciplinary STOP Training Committee in developing and implementing multidisciplinary trainings in rural areas of the state on domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence.
2. Support training from the Sexual Violence Justice Institute (MN) on effective Sexual Assault Response Teams.

FY14-16 LAW ENFORCEMENT PLAN

GOAL: Strengthen and enhance law enforcement response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking crimes.

OBJECTIVE 1: October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2016, provide competitive funding opportunities to law enforcement agencies to improve the response and investigation of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking crimes.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Continue or establish specialized domestic violence law enforcement units to respond to and investigate domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking crimes.
2. Purchase appropriate equipment, such as camera and audio equipment, for law enforcement departments to investigate domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking crimes against women. Also, fund the purchase of computers, printers, and software to collect data on domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking investigations conducted in the local areas.
3. Implement appropriate projects to improve the law enforcement response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking crimes.
4. Support the multidisciplinary STOP Training Committee to develop and implement multidisciplinary trainings in rural areas of the state on domestic violence, sexual assault,

stalking, and dating violence.

5. Continue or establish victim witness assistants within law enforcement agencies and/or in collaboration with Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis agencies to serve as liaisons between victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking and personnel in local law enforcement agencies in order to improve the enforcement of protection orders.
6. Support training from the Sexual Violence Justice Institute (MN) on effective Sexual Assault Response Teams.
7. Support the cost of training law enforcement officers on recognition and response to human trafficking.
8. Support face-to-face or on-line training from health care providers to law enforcement officers on how to appropriately assess and transport victims to the hospital when victims have been sexually assaulted, strangled or experienced a head injury.
9. Support projects or programs that will support PREA compliance in ND. Examples: providing Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners for victims; developing policies for outside law enforcement responsible for investigating prison rape and training the law enforcement personnel; providing staff in an agency outside the correctional agency for inmates to report sexual abuse; developing a plan for internal coordination in the event of a sexual abuse incident (such as a Sexual Assault Response Team - to the extent they are involved). **PREA**

OBJECTIVE 2: October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2016, North Dakota will maintain and expand a strong statewide infrastructure of safe family visitation and exchange centers.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Support current and new safe family visitation and exchange centers that are in compliance with the *Standards for Supervised Parenting Time and Exchange Centers in North Dakota*.

FY14-16 COURT PLAN

GOAL: Strengthen and enhance the judicial response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking crimes.

OBJECTIVE 1: October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2016, provide funding opportunities to the judicial system to enhance the judicial response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking crimes.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Develop a bench book for tribal judges on domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.
2. Support judges, court clerks, and other court personnel attending trainings on domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking issues, such as use of interpreters, referring to safe visitation and exchange centers, removal of firearms in misdemeanors, referring offenders batterer's treatment programs rather than anger management classes and other relevant topics.
3. Implement appropriate court-related projects that will improve the judicial response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking crimes.

Annually, the STOP Advisory Committee will continue to review the needs of ND from both a local and statewide perspective to determine the priorities to effectively enhance and implement the goals of the state implementation plan. The successes and impact of past and currently funded projects will assist the committee in determining what projects/programs should be funded during each year.

The selected projects/programs are reviewed yearly prior to awarding of the STOP funds to requesting agencies. When reviewing the grant applications, the STOP Advisory Committee looks at the following:

- the need for the project/program within the geographical location,
- the requesting agency's ability to successfully implement the project/program,
- effectiveness of collaborations with other agencies,
- sustainability of the project/program, and
- what impact the project/program will have on victim safety and offender accountability within that community.

Listed below is a summary of how the funds will be distributed across victim service, discretionary, prosecution, law enforcement, and court allocation categories.

Victim Service Funds:

North Dakota has twenty dual DV/RC agencies providing services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in the fifty-three counties. There are four tribal nations in addition to a Service Area within the state's borders. Three tribal programs serve victims on their reservations, and victims on the fourth reservation are served by a non-tribal program in Bismarck and a tribal program with offices in South Dakota. Nine of the DV/RC agencies manage their own shelters with the other agencies utilizing hotel/motels and occasionally safe homes to provide emergency shelter to victims. One of the shelters is located on an American Indian reservation.

The victim service funds are allocated through a formula based on the population of each DV/RC agency's service area and the number of sexual assault and domestic violence victims served in the previous year. Each agency also receives a base amount that is dependent on the population in their service areas. The agency with the lowest populated areas receives the higher base and the highest populated areas receive the lower base. Since 2007, ten percent of the victim service funds were removed and separately distributed to the three tribal programs using

the same formula method. This allocation process for awarding of the victim service funds meets the VAWA requirement of distributing ten percent of the victim service funds to culturally specific community-based organizations.

Discretionary Funds:

Discretionary funding shall continue to support many of the projects as in the past state plan, such as supporting SANE programs, multidisciplinary trainings, safe visitation and exchange centers and other projects. In the 2014-2016 ND Implementation Plan new work will be funded to address the needs of the LGBT community, trauma-informed trainings, a pilot project on elder abuse, increased access to services to individuals with disabilities, deaf individuals and persons with limited English proficiency. For the first time primary prevention of sexual assault can be supported with STOP funds.

Prosecution Funds:

The prosecution funds will be used to support current and new special domestic violence prosecution units, victim witness advocates, trainings, and SANE programs. Members of the STOP Advisory Committee representing state's attorneys feel there is value in funding the SANE programs to ensure proper collection of evidence to prosecute sexual assault cases. The committee gives priority to appropriate project/program requests from prosecution agencies.

Law Enforcement Funds:

The law enforcement funds will be used to continue supporting current specialized law enforcement investigators and developing new units. Equipment for investigation of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking crimes will continue to be funded, as will trainings for officers. Trainings of officers on responding to and investigating these violent crimes are important to the committee. Law enforcement funds to support the safe family

visitation and exchange centers will continue as these centers provide increased safety to victims and reduce this burden on law enforcement agencies. The committee gives priority to appropriate project/program requests from law enforcement agencies.

Court Funds:

The court funds will continue to support specialized court projects responding to victims of interpersonal violence, materials to assist judges in court proceedings, trainings and other appropriate projects to improve the judicial response to victims of violence. The change in the 2013 VAWA allowing only court funds to be granted courts may present some difficulties in awarding the funds. The STOP Advisory Committee and STOP administrator will discuss possible projects with the ND Supreme Court administrator who is a member of the committee.

Although there are numerous projects and programs focused on sexual assault services ND may not at this time meet the 20% sexual assault set-aside that was added to the 2013 VAWA. The NDDoH shall request the directors of CAWS-ND (including the SANE coordinator and Sexual Assault Program coordinator) and FNWA along with representatives from law enforcement agencies, state's attorneys, LGBT and disabilities communities, LAF, two – three local DV/RC advocates (tribal and non-tribal) and advocates working with immigrants and elderly to participate in a task force to determine the needs of sexual assault victims; assess the capacity of the DV/RC agencies to provide core sexual assault services and assess the training needs of law enforcement officers and state's attorneys to investigate and prosecute sexual assault crimes. The task force's goal shall be to recommend programs or projects that will meaningfully address sexual assault utilizing two or more allocations (victim services, law enforcement, court and prosecution) to meet the required 20% sexual assault set aside in FY2015. The STOP Administrator will seek assistance from the Sexual Violence Justice Institute

at Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault to gather ideas on how STOP funds can be used to strengthen sexual assault response teams.

C. Grant-Making Strategy

It is important to the STOP Advisory Committee that Requests for Proposals (RFP) are solicited from all regions of the state including the tribal nations. Since 1995, the STOP funds have been awarded to several DV/RC agencies on American Indian reservations both through the non-competitive victim service funds and the competitive funds. The STOP RFP is promoted at rural trainings held throughout the state to encourage small law enforcement and prosecution agencies to submit applications. The use of STOP funds for sexual assault services has increased with the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Programs and Sexual Assault Response Teams being implemented in ND. In reviewing continuation and new applications, the STOP Advisory Committee is cognizant of the need to ensure STOP funds are distributed to underserved areas of the state based on the requests and in an equitable manner to provide a balance of services throughout the state.

As indicated earlier the STOP administrator collaborates with the STOP Advisory Committee to develop the goals, objectives and activities for the ND STOP Implementation Plan. The activities section of the plan is included in the STOP RFP. The committee yearly makes recommendations to the administrator on improvements to the RFP. The discretionary, law enforcement, prosecution, and court funds are distributed on a competitive basis. As previously described, the victim service funds are distributed using a formula.

Postal or email notices of the available STOP RFP is released statewide to city and county law enforcement agencies, city and county state's attorneys, DV/RC agencies, campus police, victim witness programs, human service centers, hospital emergency department managers,

district courts, tribal agencies, county social services and other appropriate agencies addressing violence against women. Agencies submitting the application must include an original signed copy of the Certification of Consultation form indicating the applicant agency consulted their DV/RC agency regarding their proposed activities promote the safety, confidentiality and economic independence of victims. The STOP applications are received and reviewed by the STOP administrator for eligibility and completeness. The STOP administrator works with applicant agencies to submit additional information or revise their application prior to review by the subcommittees. Applications, budgets, reimbursement requests, and progress reports are now submitted through a web-based program. Appendix O: STOP Certification of Consultation Instructions and Form

The STOP Advisory Committee is responsible for reviewing and awarding the funds. The committee is divided into three subcommittees: discretionary, prosecution, and law enforcement. The appropriate subcommittee reviews applications.

- The Law Enforcement Subcommittee reviews law enforcement applications.
- The Prosecution Subcommittee reviews prosecution applications.
- The Discretionary Subcommittee reviews applications that cannot be supported with law enforcement, court, or prosecution funds. This subcommittee reviews the court applications.
- The appropriate subcommittees review multidisciplinary applications.

The subcommittees evaluate applications using the Grant Review Form, Grant Distribution Guidelines, past success of the project, sustainability of the project, need or continued need for the project, and duplication of services within the service area covered in the application. The STOP administrator and an assistant to the chairperson of the STOP Advisory Committee act as advisors to the subcommittees and are nonvoting members. The advisors

gather additional information at the request of the subcommittee chairpersons prior to the full committee reviewing and awarding the funds. The full STOP Advisory Committee reviews the recommendations of the subcommittees and makes the final funding awards to applicant agencies.

The CAWS-ND executive director, VOCA and FVPSA administrators, review the applications from the DV/RC agencies for the victim service funds. The STOP Advisory Committee reviews the victim service allocations and approves them at their annual meeting.

Listed below is the STOP grant cycle timeline:

- The STOP RFP is released in June each year
- The STOP Advisory Committee annually awards the funds in September
- Yearly contract cycle is October 1 – September 30
- Reporting Period is: January 1 – December 31 with reports due February 1 each year.

D. Addressing the Needs of Underserved Victims

The primary underserved population in the State of North Dakota is comprised of American Indians residing on four reservation communities encompassing four separate tribal nations: the Standing Rock Sioux; the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nations; the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa; and the Spirit Lake Sioux. The Trenton Indian Service Area is located in Northwest ND. Three of the domestic violence/rape crisis agencies are located on reservations: The Coalition Against Violence located on the Fort Berthold Reservation, the Spirit Lake Victim Assistance Program located on the Spirit Lake Reservation, and Hearts of Hope located on the Turtle Mountain Reservation. The Standing Rock Reservation is provided services by the DV/RC agency in Bismarck located approximately 75 miles to the north. The agencies collaborate with nearby domestic violence/rape crisis agencies and the FNWA to coordinate

additional services, such as housing in shelters, safe visitation and exchange centers, and other services unavailable on the reservations. Ten percent of the victim service funds are removed and separately distributed to the three tribal programs formula method to meet the VAWA requirement of distributing ten percent of the victim service funds to culturally specific community-based organizations. The STOP Administrator will continue to work with and through the FNWA to maintain contact with their membership and determine how to best support services with the tribal DV/RC programs and their victims.

Another significant underserved population is comprised of those individuals residing in the rural areas of North Dakota. Two-thirds of North Dakota's population resides in the eastern part of the state. The western third of the state has many frontier counties with fewer than nine persons per square mile. The rural communities are served both by small DV/RC agencies located within the rural areas of ND and by the urban agencies providing outreach services. The outreach services may be specific office hours, meetings with other professionals, such as law enforcement, health care professionals, state's attorneys, and others, and presentations or materials to promote awareness of services available to victims.

There continues to be a growth in the immigrants and refugees populations which have resettled particularly in the urban areas of the eastern part of the state. In recent years in Fargo, for example, the population of Cass County has grown dramatically, changing from homogeneous to culturally diverse. According to Cass County Social Services, Fargo has the fourth highest per capita rate of refugee resettlement in the nation. Not only is the rate of resettlement high, but the number of different countries and cultures represented is staggering...nearly 30 different languages are now spoken in the area. Cultural differences in attitudes toward women and sexual assault and domestic violence have complicated developing

services that are appropriate to and accepted by the various communities. The Rape and Abuse Crisis Center in Fargo has partnered with an agency called Cultural Diversity Resources to develop culturally competent strategies to serve people in these communities. Funding programs to assist immigrants and refugees will be continued during the next three years.

According to the ND Census Office 14.4% of ND's population is age 65 and older. In 2012, only 1.5% received services from the twenty DV/RC agencies in ND. The DV/RC agency in Fargo currently has a federal grant to specifically provide services to older victims. The DV/RC agency in Grand Forks previous had the same federal grant (2009 – 2012) and noted an increase in new victims over age 50 seeking services. Here is a review of the number of new clients age 50 and older during and after the grant period: 2009 – 93, 2010 – 109, 2011 – 128, 2012 – 164 and 2013 – 130. In 2013, the FVPSA and STOP Administrators partnered with the Clay County Social Service office in MN to offer a presentation to DV/RC agencies on reaching out and providing services to older victims. In this plan one of the proposed funded projects is to pilot a three year project to assess the needs of elderly victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking crimes; assess the working relationships between adult protective services and advocates, law enforcement officers and state's attorneys; and coordinate and provide training to the aforementioned professionals to improve collaborative responses to older victims of abuse.

The DV/RC agencies do not collect data on the sexual orientation or gender identity of victims seeking services. In the ND Youth Risk Behavior Survey for 2013, of the 7th and 8th grade students who took the survey 3.1% described themselves as gay, lesbian or bisexual. Of the 9th through 12th grade students who took the survey 6.2% described themselves as gay, lesbian or bisexual. The 2012 ND Behavioral Risk Factor Survey included a state added sexual

orientation question asking individuals to describe themselves as heterosexual, homosexual or bisexual. The question was answered by individuals 18 and older with 98.4% describing themselves as heterosexual, 0.5% as homosexual and 1.1% as bisexual. Those individuals who either did not know or refused to answer the question were removed from the calculations and the data was weighted to the ND population. This question was asked from 2004 – 2012 with the percentages remaining fairly similar in those years.

On February 20, 2014, the FVPSA and STOP Administrators collaborated with a local DV/RC agency advocate to facilitate a discussion with representatives from the LGBT community, university staff working with gay and lesbian college students, CAWS-ND staff, and a gay military advocate to identify what problems they feel exist to prevent victims of their community to seek services. Barriers included victims not realizing that they are being abused, a history of lack of respect from law enforcement, victims being uncertain if domestic violence and rape crisis services exist, and if they would be welcomed, and lack of protection under the state laws based on a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. They provided several suggestions for DV/RC agencies to reach out and be welcoming to LGBT individuals. The small group discussed next steps on how to begin to address the issues brought forward and are committed to working with the NDDoH. One of the activities to be funded with the STOP grant is to provide financial support to LGBT non-profit organizations to collaborate with the NDDoH, state coalitions, DV/RC agencies, law enforcement agencies and other appropriate agencies to improve the response for victims in the LGBT community from law enforcement along with creating accessible services and shelter from DV/RC agencies.

PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT (PREA)

ND has three adult correctional facilities and one juvenile facility. The ND Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (NDDOCR) have a policy in place regarding sexual assault and harassment of inmates. The NDDOCR anticipates receiving an audit from the American Correctional Association in August 2014 to determine if they are in compliance with PREA. The NDDOCR is developing a memorandum of understanding with a local DV/RC to provide a toll-free crisis line for inmates from the three adult correctional facilities to call and receive services if they have been sexually assaulted or harassed. The juvenile facility will be working with child protective services for a crisis line since the residents do not have access to telephones. The NDDOCR has requested to utilize 4.75% of the total STOP funds to support the crisis line. One of the supported projects within this plan will be to fund the crisis line. The NDDOCR is also contemplating using some of the grant funds to contract with advocates to work with victims of sexual assault within their facilities, train Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners to perform the exams on alleged victims of sexual assault within their facilities and train investigators how to investigate alleged PREA incidents.

G. CONCLUSION

There have been many improvements to addressing domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking crimes in ND during the past nineteen years using STOP funds. Although many victims have received services, there are many others who have not been reached due to their isolation on rural farmsteads; fear of the small town's response to a battered wife; limited services on reservations and in rural communities; urban areas unable to meet the needs of the large number of victims; and the overwhelming unmet needs of elderly, immigrant and special needs victims and those with mental health illnesses and drug addiction.

The STOP Advisory Committee has attempted to address the needs of victims by writing the ND STOP Implementation Plan using the Statutory Program Purposes as a guide to funding projects. The 2014 - 2016 ND STOP Implementation Plan reflects new collaborations, improved responses and services to victims of violence, and policy and legislative changes supported with the STOP Violence Against Women funds. The STOP Advisory Committee continues to support development and implementation of local and statewide infrastructures to assist communities to respond to interpersonal violence through a coordinated approach.

The committee feels the process for awarding the STOP funds has been fair and impartial and will continue to use this method in the future. The committee continually seeks to improve this process through discussion at annual meetings, with their peers and funded agencies. There has been continued collaboration among the committee members as they see the need to support projects with the available funding sources within the STOP grant. Information from the STOP administration's evaluation of the projects through site visits and desk audits will allow the STOP Advisory Committee to view the overall impact of the plan and determine future initiatives to respond to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking crimes in ND communities. The committee and the NDDoH are committed to developing comprehensive strategies to address violence against women that are sensitive to needs and safety of victims and hold offenders accountable for their crimes.

Appendices