

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety & Security
Office of Grants & Research
Justice and Prevention Division**



**Violence Against Women Act
STOP Grant Program
FFY2022–2025 Implementation Plan**

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Table of Contents

I. Introduction	3
II. Needs and Context	5
III. Description of Planning Process	19
IV. Documentation from Prosecution, Law Enforcement, Court, and Victim Services Programs	23
V. Plan for the Four-Year Implementation Period.....	23
VI. Conclusion	35
VII. Appendices	36
Appendix A: Advisors to the Massachusetts 2022 Implementation Plan.....	36
Appendix B: Documentation of Planning Committee Collaboration	37
Appendix C: Documentation from Prosecution, Law Enforcement, Court, and Victim Services Programs	37
Appendix D: FFY2021 Subgrantee Listing	38

I. Introduction

The previous 2017–2020 Implementation Plan, submitted by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) as part of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors (STOP) Formula Grant Program, sought to strengthen and enhance partnerships between the criminal justice system and victim advocacy organizations. During the previous funding period, Massachusetts encouraged the development and strengthening of effective law enforcement, prosecution, and judicial strategies to combat violent crimes against women as well as the enhancement of victim services throughout the Commonwealth.

In building on this work, the priorities outlined in Massachusetts' 2022–2025 STOP Implementation Plan (henceforth known as Plan), as required by the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW), serves as a framework for how the STOP Grant funds will be allocated in accordance with the VAWA 2013 mandate to: (1) improve the criminal justice system's response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking; and (2) enhance services for victims of intimate partner violence over the next four years.

The STOP Grant continues to be a vital resource that supports a variety of specialized and innovative projects within the Commonwealth. These funds will enhance the provision of victim services, and the response from law enforcement and the court system to victims of intimate partner violence. For example, the funding enables public and private organizations to employ dedicated, well-trained staff to assist victims navigating the complex justice, human services, and compensation systems.

The EOPSS will continue to build upon the existing network of federal, state, and privately funded services, allowing for the development of new initiatives and identification of emerging trends surrounding domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking victims to effectively administer funding in accordance with OVW priorities. The Plan will also continue to encourage communities to foster partnerships with traditional and non-traditional community-based partners to provide culturally specific services through community, population, and faith-based organizations, to respond more vigorously to these violent crimes.

During the Plan's four-year timeline, it is important to note that the priorities outlined may be subject to modification relating to changes in grant funding amounts and/or conditions set forth in federal awards issued to the EOPSS. Additionally, emerging trends have the potential to impact the goals and objectives identified. The EOPSS Office of Grants and Research (OGR), the State Administering Agency (SAA), will conduct an annual review of the Plan to ensure all outlined priorities are met or adjusted accordingly.

A. Approved Plan Date

This 2022–2025 Implementation Plan was approved by Kevin Stanton, Executive Director of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Office of Grants & Research (OGR), on behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on June 10, 2022.

B. Time Period Covered by the Plan

This four-year Plan outlines the needs and funding priorities of the Commonwealth to support the next competitive STOP grant funding cycle from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2026.

C. Key Findings from Domestic and Sexual Assault Related Assessments

To identify key service gaps and create a strategic plan to address these gaps, numerous state-specific resources provided the foundation for this Plan. Primary resources included assessments and reports published by the EOPSS; the Massachusetts Department of Public Health; the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance; the Executive Office of Health and Human Services; the Governor's Council to Address Sexual and Domestic Violence; and Jane Doe Inc., the Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence. With this information, the state analyzed findings to identify goals and objectives to respond to the needs and gaps in service delivery.

The following are areas of need related to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking in the Commonwealth:

- Increase access to services (such as providing adequate transportation services) in rural areas or where there are current gaps, for victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault that are provided by community-based domestic violence and sexual assault programs.
- Trauma-sensitive services for victims with mental health issues.
- Legal counseling and representation, including applications for restraining orders and assistance with family law matters (particularly for refugee and immigrant victims).
- Linguistic and culturally appropriate services for victims with limited English proficiency
- Shelter beds and community-based services (including services for elder victims).
- Accessible services (physical, cultural, audio/visual, American Sign Language) for D/deaf and hard of hearing victims and for victims with disabilities.
- Increase cross-training, cross-referral and coordination between child, adult, and elder protective services, and sexual assault and domestic violence programs.
- Services for children impacted by sexual and/or domestic violence.
- Economic advocacy and opportunities for rural victims.
- Teen dating violence prevention and intervention services.
- Services for victims who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer/questioning, or transgender (LGBQ/T).
- Training for law enforcement, judges and court staff regarding domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, and dating violence.
- Training of law enforcement, judiciary, and probation around identifying and understanding risk factors to improve the respective systems' response to these high-risk cases.

II. Needs and Context

A. Data and brief description of the State's population demographics and geographical information.

Demographics Overview

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has 6,984,723 residents living in 351 cities and towns¹. The 351 cities and towns vary in population ranging from cities such as Boston, Worcester, and Springfield to small rural towns with only several hundred residents such as Gosnold and Monroe. Based on this size diversity, the average number of persons per square mile is 839.4.

SUBJECT	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Total Population (7/1/2021 Estimate)	6,984,723	100.0%
Sex and Age		
Female		51.5%
Male		48.5%
18 years and under		19.6%
Under 5 years		5.2%
65 years and over		17.0%
Race and Hispanic Origin		
White Alone		80.6%
Black or African American Alone		9.0%
American Indian and Alaskan Native Alone		0.5%
Asian Alone		7.2%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander		0.1%
Hispanic or Latino		12.4%
Two or More Races		2.6%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino		71.1%
Educational Attainment		
High school graduate or higher (% of persons age 25+)		90.8%
Bachelor's degree or higher (% of persons age 25+)		43.7%
Language Spoken at Home		
Language other than English		23.8%
Median Household Income (in 2019 dollars)		\$81,215

¹ Census QuickFacts data are derived from: Population Estimates, American Community Survey, Census of Population and Housing, Current Population Survey, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, State and County Housing Unit Estimates, County Business Patterns, Nonemployer Statistics, Economic Census, Survey of Business Owners, Building Permits.
<http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045219> Retrieved 11/29/21.

POPULATION CONCENTRATIONS: Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevalence Fact Sheet²

Black residents:

20+%	Boston (largest number in Dorchester), Brockton, Randolph
10-19.99%	Avon, Cambridge, Chicopee, Everett, Malden, Springfield, Stoughton, Worcester
8-9.99%	Holbrook, Lynn, Milton
5-7.99%	Bridgewater, Canton, Chatham, Dedham, Florida, Framingham, Harvard, Lowell, Medford, New Bedford, Norfolk, Oak Bluffs, Pittsfield, Shirley, Somerville, Waltham, Wendell, West Boylston

Largest numbers of Black residents reside in Boston (highest in Dorchester), Brockton, Cambridge, Lynn, Randolph, Springfield, and Worcester.

Hispanic residents:

20+%	Chelsea, Chicopee, Everett, Fitchburg, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, Methuen, New Bedford, Revere, Southbridge, Springfield, Worcester
10-19.99%	Boston, Brockton, Clinton, Dudley, Fall River, Framingham, Gardner, Lancaster, Leominster, Salem, Waltham, Nantucket, Malden, Marlborough, Milford, Randolph, Shirley, Somerville, Webster, West Springfield, Winthrop
8-9.99%	Amherst, Attleboro, Cambridge, Dedham, Great Barrington, Greenfield, Ludlow, Northampton, Peabody, Pittsfield, Saugus, Spencer, Westfield
5-7.99%	Agawam, Andover, Aquinnah, Ashland, Athol, Auburn, Avon, Ayer, Barnstable, Beverly, Brookline, Deerfield, Dracut, Easthampton, East Longmeadow, Egremont, Hadley, Harvard, Holbrook, Hudson, Lee, Leicester, Lincoln, Lunenburg, Maynard, Medford, Middleton, Montague, Newton, Norfolk, Northbridge, North Andover, Norwood, Oxford, Palmer, Paxton, Provincetown, Quincy, Sheffield, Shutesbury, South Hadley, Stoughton, Sunderland, Swampscott, Taunton, Ware, Watertown, Wellesley, Westborough, West Boylston, Wilbraham, Williamstown, Winchendon, Woburn.

Asian/Pacific Islander Residents:

20+%	Acton, Boxborough, Lexington, Lowell, Malden, Quincy, Sharon, Shrewsbury, Westborough, Westford
10-19.99%	Amherst, Andover, Arlington, Ashland, Bedford, Belmont, Boston, Braintree, Brookline, Burlington, Cambridge, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Dover, Hopkinton, Medford, Natick, Newton, Northborough, Randolph, Somerville, Southborough, Sunderland, Waltham, Wayland, Wellesley, Weston, Winchester
8-9.99%	Billerica, Canton, Grafton, Littleton, Needham, Sudbury, Tyngsborough, Watertown, Westwood, Woburn

² SDV Procurement Data in Commbuys. Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevalence Fact Sheet, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Office of Statistics and Evaluation (2016, October). 2013–2015 Massachusetts Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (MA BRFSS) data. The MA BRFSS is administered by the Health Survey Program, Office of Data Management and Outcomes Assessment, DPH. <https://www.mass.gov/doc/sdv-prevalence-fact-sheet/download>

5-7.99% Ayer, Boylston, Concord, Dracut, Everett, Framingham, Franklin, Groton, Hadley, Harvard, Holliston, Lincoln, Longmeadow, Lynn, Lynnfield, Mansfield, Marlborough, Melrose, Milton, North Andover, North Attleboro, Norwood, Reading, Revere, Sherborn, South Hadley, Stoneham, Stoughton, Walpole, West Springfield, Weymouth, Williamstown, Wilmington, Worcester

*Immigrants*³: The largest populations of immigrant residents are in the following areas: Boston, Waltham/Arlington, Worcester, Somerville/Everett, Malden/Medford, Lawrence/Methuen, Revere/Chelsea, Lowell, Newton/Brookline, Lynn/Saugus, Cambridge, New Bedford/Dartmouth, Fall River/Somerset, Framingham/Natick. Fifty percent of immigrants in Massachusetts live in these metro areas. Emerging immigrant communities are in Hampshire, Hampden, Barnstable, Plymouth, and Berkshire counties.

Languages: The most common languages in Massachusetts include: English, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Cape Verdean Creole, Khmer, Haitian Creole, Vietnamese, Russian, Arabic, and Korean⁴. Spoken foreign languages in MA that are emerging and/or are underserved include: Somali, French, Arabic, and indigenous Central American languages⁵.

Native American/American Indian residents:

According to the most recent available census data, 33,972 people in the state identified themselves as American Indian/Alaska Native (see footnote 1, page 5). A large majority live in central and eastern Massachusetts, including cities and towns with large Native populations such as Boston, Worcester, New Bedford, Lawrence, Brockton, Mashpee, Cambridge, Lynn, Lowell, Barnstable, and Fall River; in recent years, Springfield has seen a burgeoning Native population as well.

The state is currently home to 11 federally recognized, state-recognized and/or historically acknowledged tribes: Aquinnah Wampanoag; Assonet Band of Wampanoag; Mashpee Wampanoag; Pocasset Wampanoag; Nipmuc Nation; Chappaquiddick Wampanoag; Natick Nipmuc; Herring Pond Wampanoag; Massachusetts at Ponkapoag; Seaconke Wampanoag; and Chaubunagungamaug Nipmuck.

³ Clayton-Matthews, A., Watanabe, P. (2012). MA immigrants by the numbers: second edition demographic variable and economic footprint. Institute for Asian American Studies Publication. Boston, MA: UMass Boston. http://scholarworks.umb.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1027&context=iaas_pubs

⁴ <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/health-equity/05-06-flne-report.pdf>

⁵ Freiwirth, J. (2016). Voices of Survivors, Providers and Stakeholders: Findings and Recommendations in Commbuys [file:///C:/Users/Judy%20Freiwirth/Downloads/READ%20DPH%20Voices%20Final%20Report1%20\(2\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Judy%20Freiwirth/Downloads/READ%20DPH%20Voices%20Final%20Report1%20(2).pdf)

Demographic data on the distribution of underserved populations within the state.

The data below demonstrates that the populations that experience the highest rates or poorest outcomes from sexual and domestic violence are: (1) individuals with disabilities; (2) Black women; (3) immigrants; and (4) LGBTQ/T individuals.

Individuals with Disabilities

Table 1: Massachusetts Statistics on the Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Sexual Violence (SV) by Disability Status from the 2005 CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Annual Report⁶

Type of Victimization and Gender of Respondent	Individuals with disabilities	Individuals without Disabilities
IPV men and women	28.5%	15.4%
IPV women	37.3%	20.6%
SV women in MA ⁷	25.5%	18.8%
SV men in MA	13.2%	6.3%

From 2017 to 2019:⁸

- Persons with disabilities were victims of 26% of all nonfatal violent crime, while accounting for about 12% of the population.
- The rate of violent victimization against persons with disabilities (46.2 per 1,000 age 12 or older) was almost four times the rate for persons without disabilities (12.3 per 1,000).
- One in three robbery victims (33%) had at least one disability.
- Persons with cognitive disabilities had the highest rate of violent victimization (83.3 per 1,000) among the disability types measured.
- Nineteen percent of rapes or sexual assaults against persons with disabilities were reported to police, compared to 36% of those against persons without disabilities.

Percentage of MA population 2014⁹: 25%¹⁰ identify as having a disability. Disabilities include the following: Psychiatric Disabilities (44.3%), Learning Disabilities (24.8%) Orthopedic Disabilities (8.4%), Substance Abuse (6.6%), Deaf and Hard of Hearing (5.5%), Other Disabilities (4.6%), Developmental/Intellectual Disabilities (2.3%), Neurological Disabilities (2.2%), and Traumatic Brain Injury (1.4%)¹¹

⁶ Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Office of Statistics and Evaluation analysis of CDC 2005 BRFSS data. http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/annual_data/annual_2005.htm

⁷ SV rates from Table 6.3 A Profile of Health Among MA Adults, 2019: Results from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

⁸ Harrel, E. (2021). Crimes against persons with disabilities, 2009-2019 statistical tables. US Dept. of Justice. [Crime Against Persons with Disabilities, 2009–2019 – Statistical Tables | Bureau of Justice Statistics \(ojp.gov\)](https://www.ojp.gov/bjs/articles/crimes-against-persons-with-disabilities)

⁹ MA Rehabilitation Commission (2016).

¹⁰ MA BRFSS ^, Pg. 9 weighted percentage

¹¹ Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission 2020 Annual Report <https://www.mass.gov/doc/mrc-2020-annual-report/download>

Where Population is Concentrated:

The cities and towns with the highest numbers of people with disabilities are¹²:

72,000+	Boston
25,000+	Springfield, Worcester
12-17,000	Brockton, Fall River, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, New Bedford
7-9,000	Quincy, Haverhill, Framingham, Cambridge, Pittsfield, Peabody.

Western Massachusetts was identified as a region with high need for sexual and domestic violence (SDV) services by the Disabled Persons Protection Commission, the Department of Developmental Services, and by a D/deaf and Hard of Hearing RFR focus group in the report: *“Voices of Survivors, Providers and Stakeholders: Findings and Recommendations”*.¹³

Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration

Table 2: National Statistics on Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence by Race-Ethnicity from the National Crime Victimization Survey

Race/Ethnicity	Nonfatal IPV National 2002-2013 rate per 100,00 ¹⁴	Sexual Violence National 2005-2010 rate per 100,00 ¹⁵
Black	4.7	2.8
Hispanic	2.8	1.4
White	3.9	2.2
American Indian/Alaskan Native	(included in the “Other Race” category)	4.5
Asians/Pacific Islanders	(included in the “Other Race” category)	0.7
Other Race	2.3	N/A
Two or More Races	16.5	5.1

¹² SDV Procurement Data on Commbuys. Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Office of Statistics and Evaluation (2016, October). 2013–2015 MA BRFSS data.

¹³ Freiwirth, J. (2016). *Voices of Survivors, Providers and Stakeholders: Findings and Recommendations*, in Commbuys

[File:///C:/Users/Judy%20Freiwirth/Downloads/READ%20DPH%20Voices%20Final%20Report1%20\(2\).pdf](File:///C:/Users/Judy%20Freiwirth/Downloads/READ%20DPH%20Voices%20Final%20Report1%20(2).pdf)

¹⁴ Truman, J. & Morgan, R. (2014).

¹⁵ Planty, M. & Langton, L. (2013).

Table 3: Risk of IPV Homicide by Race-Ethnicity and Immigrant Status among Massachusetts Residents, 1997-2007¹⁶

Risk of IPV homicide compared to non-Black/Hispanic/Immigrant victims of IPV	
Black	4x
Hispanic	3x
Immigrant/Foreign Born	2x

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer/Questioning, and Transgender

Sexual violence affects every demographic and every community – including lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer/questioning, and transgender people. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), lesbian, gay and bisexual people experience sexual violence at similar or higher rates than heterosexuals.¹⁷ The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Projects (NCAVP) estimates that nearly one in ten LGBTQ/T survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) has experienced sexual assault from those partners. Studies suggest that around half of transgender people and bisexual women will experience sexual violence at some point in their lifetimes.¹⁸

Studies documenting domestic violence in LGBTQ/T communities unfortunately remain relatively scarce. Given this, in 2016, numerous focus groups were held by the Department of Public Health in preparation for their competitive procurement process. LGBTQ/T survivors were identified in numerous focus groups and provider sessions as one of the key marginalized groups for sexual and domestic violence services. LGBTQ/T providers, survivors and stakeholders were asked what meaningful access meant for them. Below, LGBTQ/T survivors cited the specific challenges they have had in accessing services¹⁹:

“The experience of accessing DV services isn’t safe. I have PTSD from accessing DV services.... They [domestic violence program] talk to you for 30 minutes to see if you’re a “good enough victim” even just to talk to you on the hotline. [Another program] makes you wait for two clinicians to be available to make sure you’ve never been abusive. So you have to jump through those hoops, and it is a big turn off for me.” - Survivor

“Not just the LGBT community experience domestic violence, also transgender people. For me as a transwoman and a lesbian, I have seen friends of mine who are lesbians where the police go to their house and the two women are blown over as just being a squabble as opposed to a straight couple. It is similar for trans people; if a transman is in a relationship with a transwoman, they are treated similarly to a cis woman and cis man, but two lesbians or two

¹⁶ Chen, I (2011). Chronological and comparative trends in intimate partner homicide: Massachusetts 2003-2009. Yale University: New Haven, CT.

¹⁷ https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/cdc_nisvs_victimization_final-a.pdf

¹⁸ <https://www.hrc.org/resources/sexual-assault-and-the-lgbt-community>

¹⁹ Freiwirth, J. (2016) The Voices of Providers, Survivors, and Stakeholders: Findings and Recommendations. For the Department of Public Health’s Sexual and Domestic Violence RFR Procurement Process. www.bidnet.com/bneattachments/?420552586.pdf

transwomen are treated as if it's just a squabble or mutual. We have this political chorus of what domestic violence should look like and shouldn't look like and we have to change that." - Survivor

"Having a designated [LGBT] liaison or expert...doesn't sit right with me. We have to change the entire culture of the agencies; it can't just be one person in the agency who's LGBT and it's not good enough. Because we have a tendency if we don't understand someone, we make them the other and we can't afford to do that." - Survivor

Massachusetts is comprised of a diverse landscape of populations, varying across the cities and towns throughout the state. Service providers strive to meet the needs of victims, with hopes to ensure that all survivors receive domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking services. There are approximately 35 domestic violence programs throughout the state, in addition to three statewide organizations and 11 transitional living programs. Despite the multitude of services, there are still pockets of underserved communities which the EOPSS aims to support.

B. State/Territory criminal justice and court data pertaining to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking (e.g., incidence of sexual assault, domestic violence-related crimes, violations of protection orders, domestic violence homicides, stalking, dual arrests; issuance of ex parte and final domestic violence, dating violence, and sexual assault protection orders, and stalking orders).

Domestic Violence Crime Statistics

The true scope of domestic violence in Massachusetts cannot be fully measured. This is attributable in large part to the absence of an individual tool or system for tracking all criminal charges specific to domestic violence-related incidents which results in underestimating the number of incidents and limited crime data about the nature and context of domestic violence-related incidents. For purposes of this report, the statistics contained in this section represent aspects of domestic violence related crime as collected by the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) and Uniform Crime Reports (UCR). It is important to note that not all incidences of sexual and domestic violence are reported to law enforcement. Therefore, this data may not necessarily reflect a complete depiction of the problem.

Furthermore, crime data is even more likely to be underreported in communities where large immigrant populations have settled. Victims from refugee and immigrant populations may under-report domestic violence incidents to law enforcement for a variety of reasons (e.g., lack of a relationship between law enforcement and local communities, language barrier, fear of deportation, and experiences with law enforcement in their native countries). The lack of data specific to cultural communities hinders the ability to truly understand the prevalence of domestic violence within these specific underserved populations.

Crimes Against Persons Involving an Intimate Partner or Family Member

Per data reported by approximately 95% of Massachusetts police departments to NIBRS, from 2017 to 2020 there were a total of 99,289 victims of “crimes against persons” where the perpetrator was an intimate partner or family member.²⁰ There was a 7% increase from the 24,529 victims in 2017 to 26,179 victims in 2020 (Figure 1).

When broken down by individual “crimes against persons” offenses, the data show that from 2017 to 2020 aggravated and simple assaults accounted for 84% of all such offenses committed by an intimate partner and/or family member. Incest, statutory rape, rape, sodomy, sexual assault with an object, and fondling accounted for a combined 3% of offenses committed by an intimate partner and/or family member.

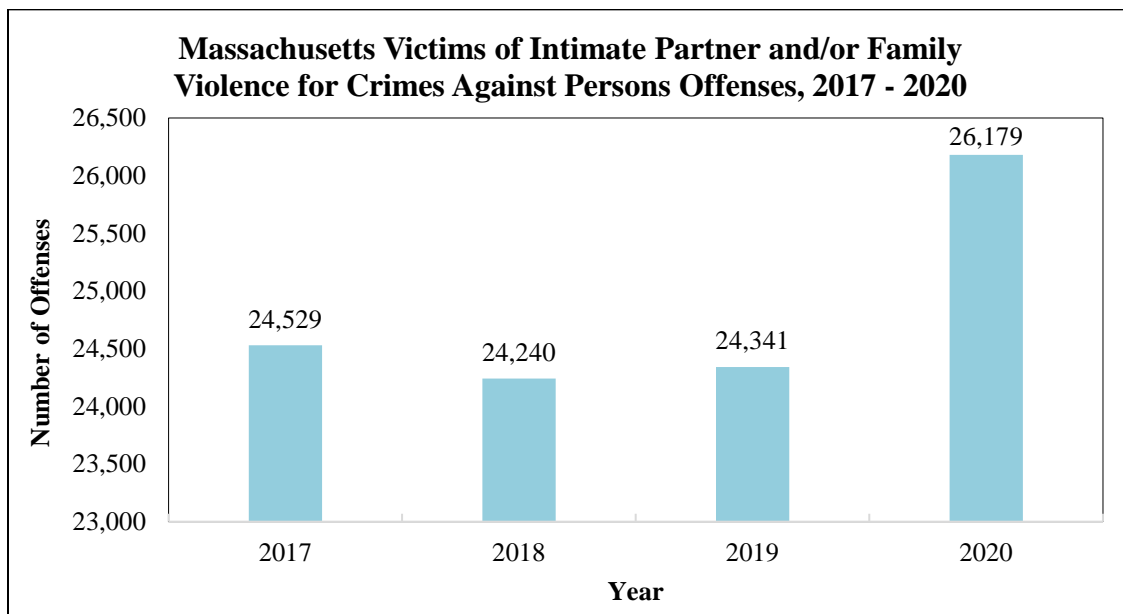


Figure 1: Data extracted from Massachusetts State Police Crime Reporting Unit, CrimeSOLV, on 12/2/2021.²¹

Domestic Violence Fatalities

Per the UCR Supplemental Homicide Reports, between 2017 and 2020, a total of 94 individuals were murdered in Massachusetts by intimate partners and/or family members.²² The number of homicides resulting from domestic violence over this period has fluctuated, from a low of 18 victims in 2018 to a peak of 28 victims in 2019 (Figure 2). In addition to the UCR homicide data

²⁰ “Crimes against persons” include the follow thirteen types of offenses: murder and non-negligent manslaughter; negligent manslaughter; justifiable homicide; aggravated assault; simple assault; intimidation; kidnapping/abduction; incest; statutory rape; forcible rape; forcible sodomy; sexual assault with an object; and forcible fondling.

²¹ This data does not include victimizations that occurred in the cities of Boston and Lawrence until October 2020 when they began submitting NIBRS data to the Massachusetts State Police Crime Reporting Unit. Until October 2020, the Boston police department submitted UCR data. Only NIBRS data captures details on each single crime incident—as well as separate offenses within the same incident—including information on victims, known offenders, relationships between victims and offenders, arrestees, and property involved in the crimes.

²² This figure includes a total of 12 cases where the victim – offender relationship was unknown.

for Massachusetts, Jane Doe Inc. (JDI)²³ tracks fatalities²⁴ resulting from domestic violence incidents. For calendar year 2021 (January – December 1), JDI reported that a total of 15 individuals were murdered during domestic violence incidents. There are also two deaths or suicides of domestic violence perpetrators.

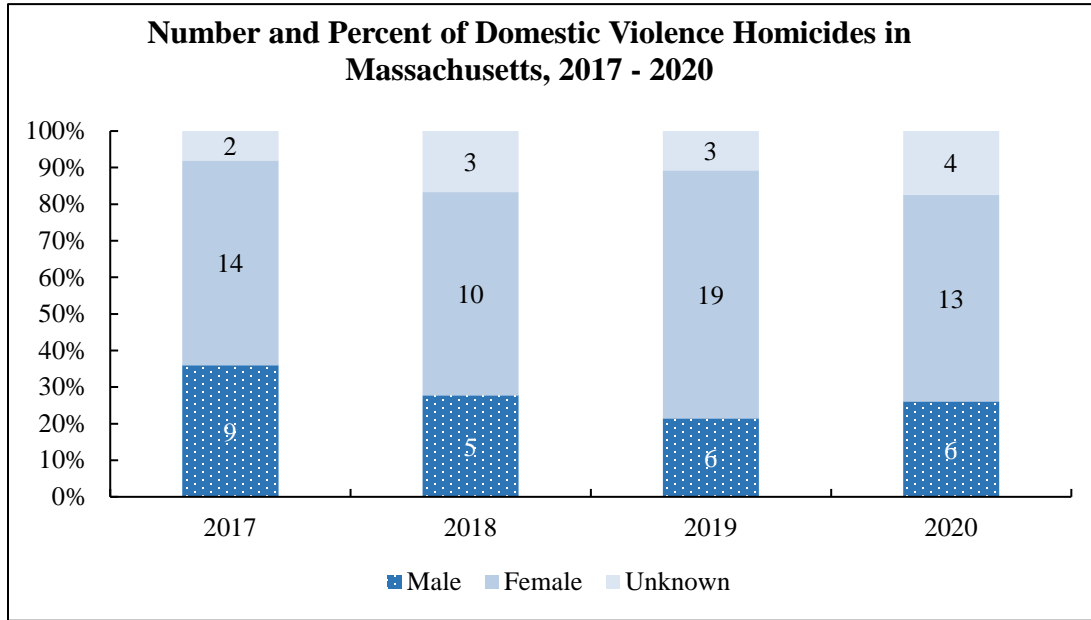


Figure 2: Data provided to the Research and Policy Analysis Division, Office of Grants and Research, by the Data Information Manager at the EOPSS on 12/6/2021.

²³ The Massachusetts Statewide Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence. JDI identifies cases of domestic violence homicide in Massachusetts through a combination of media reports, alerts from JDI members, and notification by the district attorneys' offices. <http://www.janedoe.org/>

²⁴ From JDI reports, intimate partner violence related homicide is defined as any homicide event in which a death occurred in the context of an intimate partner relationship. A homicide of one intimate partner by a current or former partner is by definition an act of violence, thus counting as IPV and included in this report. In cases where others were killed, the study considered the case an IPV related homicide if there was an intimate relationship among two of the involved parties with a known history of IPV. <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/SD162.pdf>

Sexual Violence Statistics²⁵

Figure 3 represent aspects of sexual violence-related crime data as reported to the FBI's UCR and NIBRS. According to NIBRS data submitted to the Massachusetts State Police,²⁶ there were a total of 6,904 incidents of rape from 2017 to 2020. Reported incidents of rape increased 13% in 2018 from the previous year. However, there was a 23.5% decrease in 2020 from the peak of 1,943 victimizations in 2018.

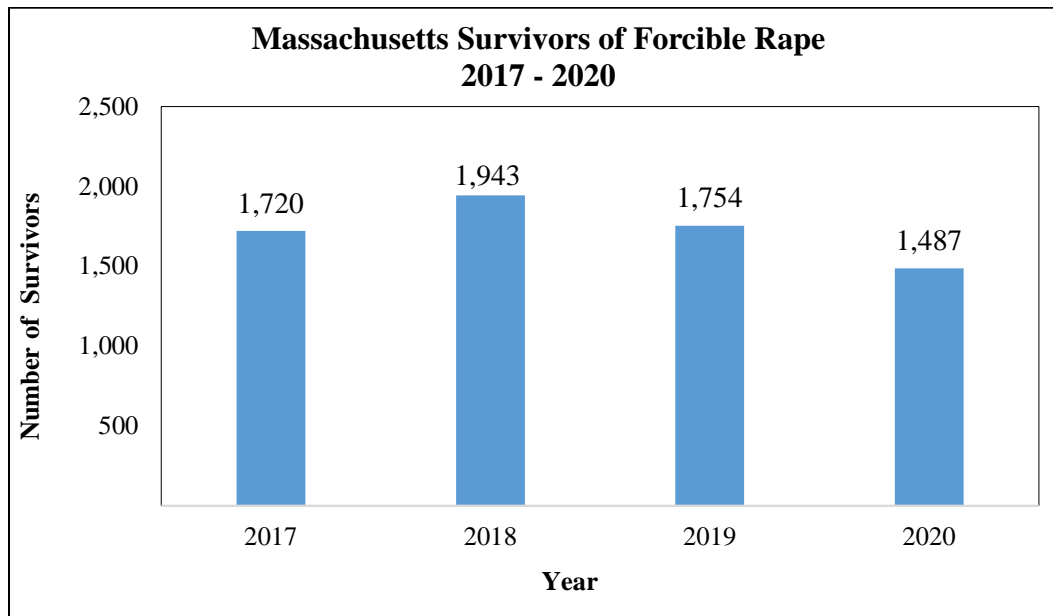


Figure 3: Data extracted from Massachusetts State Police Crime Reporting Unit, CrimeSOLV, on 12/2/2021.

From 2017 to 2020, Suffolk County²⁷ had the highest number of rapes in Massachusetts, 1,221 (17.7%), followed by Middlesex (980) and Worcester (846) counties, representing 14.2% and 12.3% of the total number of rapes, respectively. Please note that Figure 4 shows counts of rape in Massachusetts and therefore cannot be used to compare one county to the next, as these figures do not control for population.²⁸

²⁵ Previously, offense data for forcible rape were collected under the legacy UCR definition: the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Beginning with the 2013 data year, the term “forcible” was removed from the offense title, and the definition was changed. The revised UCR definition of rape is penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim. Attempts or assaults to commit rape are also included in the statistics presented here; however, statutory rape and incest are excluded.

²⁶ This data does not include victimizations that occurred in the cities of Boston and Lawrence until October 2020 when they began submitting NIBRS data to the Massachusetts State Police Crime Reporting Unit. Until October 2020, the Boston police department submitted UCR data. Only NIBRS data captures details on each single crime incident—as well as separate offenses within the same incident—including information on victims, known offenders, relationships between victims and offenders, arrestees, and property involved in the crimes.

²⁷ The number of rape victimizations for Suffolk County is obtained from NIBRS reporting via CrimeSOLV, a law enforcement database for all towns, excluding Boston. Boston rape victimization data is obtained from the FBI Uniform Crime Reports, 2017–2019, Table 8 (Offenses Known to Law Enforcement).

²⁸ The rape victimization data from Essex County excludes the city of Lawrence because crime data is not reported to NIBRS and the Uniform Crime Report in 2017-2019. Lawrence began reporting crime statistics in 2020.

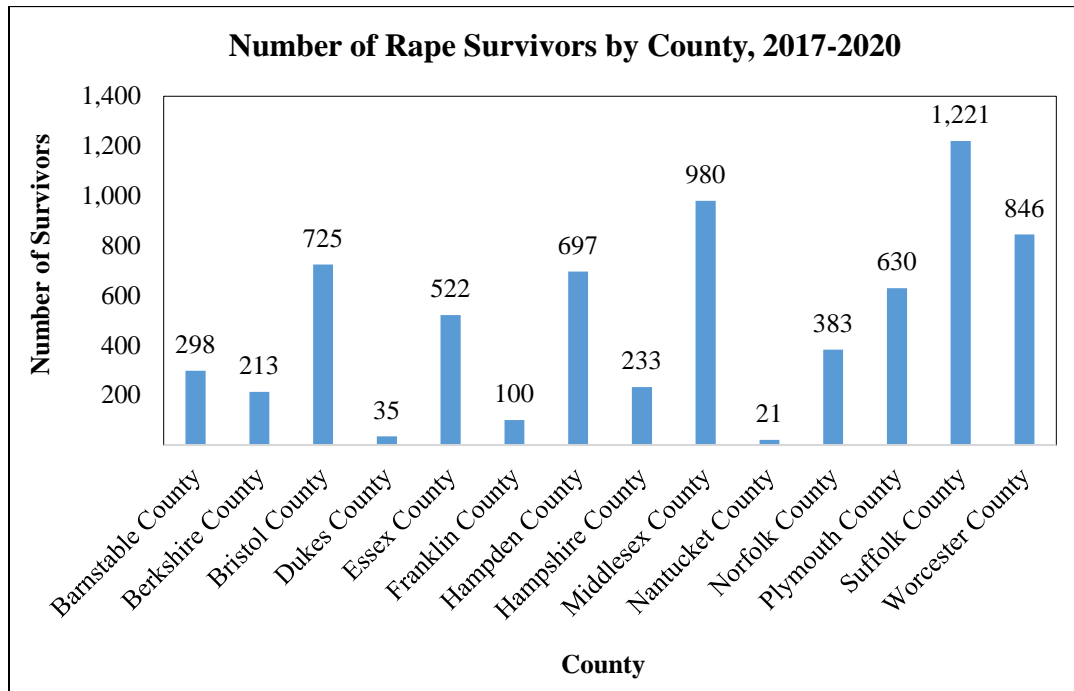


Figure 4: Data extracted from Massachusetts State Police Crime Reporting Unit, CrimeSOLV, on 12/2/2021

Beginning in 1999, Massachusetts instituted a separate crime reporting tool (*Massachusetts Provider Sexual Crime Report*) to capture the nature and characteristics of rape and sexual assault in Massachusetts. The *Provider Sexual Crime Report* (PSCR) was implemented to collect information about rapes and sexual assaults of victims who seek medical treatment. Massachusetts General Law c.112 §12 ½ requires medical providers who treat rape or sexual assault victims to report details of the crime to local law enforcement and to the EOPSS. According to the EOPSS PSCR database, during 2016–2021, providers reported 7,875 incidents where victims sought treatment at a medical facility because of a rape or sexual assault (Figure 5).

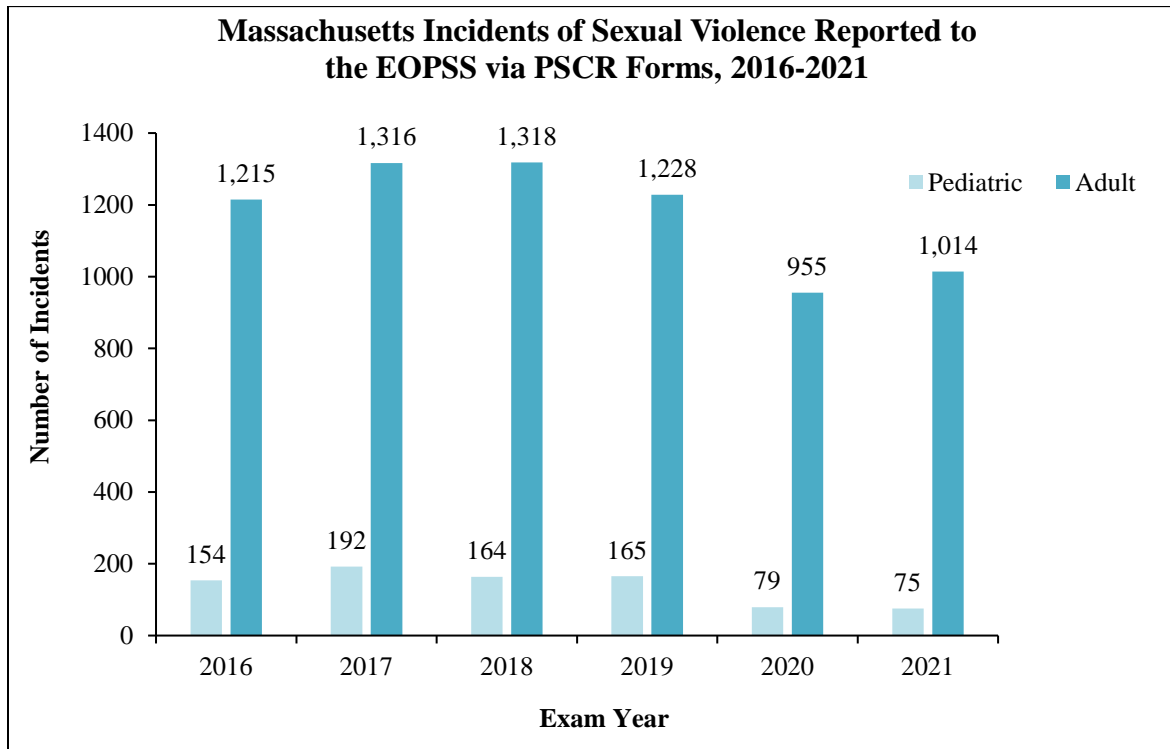


Figure 5: Data extracted from the EOPSS PSCR database on 1/24/2022.

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Survivors' Safety Trust Fund established by Chapter 227 of the Acts of 2020 Section 102

The following data is provided by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention and Services.

Intimate partner homicide (IPH) data from Massachusetts from the years 1994-2014 show large disparities by race and immigration status²⁹. Black people in Massachusetts were at four times greater risk for homicide due to domestic violence than white people. Hispanic people, Asian people, and immigrants experience twice the intimate partner homicide rate of white, non-Hispanic, and US-born individuals. The Massachusetts cities and towns with the highest rates of IPH are Boston (Dorchester, Mattapan, Roxbury), Springfield, Brockton, Lawrence, Worcester, Lowell, New Bedford, Waltham, Chelsea, Pittsfield.

Experiences of intimate partner violence (IPV) during Covid-19 were reported two to four times more frequently by respondents who identified as:

- LGBTQ/T
- Of transgender experience and non-binary gender
- Multi-racial non-Hispanic/Latinx, American Indian/Alaska Native, Black non-Hispanic/Latinx, Asian Non-Hispanic/Latinx, and Hispanic/Latinx
- Having a disability

²⁹ Sabri, Greene, Dang, Weiner, Stack. (2021). *Characteristics Incidents and Trends of intimate partner homicides in Massachusetts: Patterns by birthplace, race, and ethnicity*.

Experiences of IPV during Covid-19 were reported 1.5 to three times more frequently by respondents identifying as:

- Residing in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, Plymouth, Hampden, or Suffolk County
- Younger (25-34 years old, and 35-44 years old)
- Of lower income (earning less than \$35K)
- Having educational attainment less than an associate's degree
- Speaking a language other than English

Adult residents in rural areas of Massachusetts were more likely than residents in urban areas to report having experienced IPV in the first 6-8 months of the Covid-19 pandemic.

People who experienced IPV also experienced greater negative economic impacts during the first 6-8 months of the pandemic. Survivors were more likely than non-survivors to have experienced job loss, loss of hours worked, and change of employment due to childcare needs. Survivors were more than twice as likely than non-survivors to worry about paying for basic needs such as housing, utilities, vehicle, insurance, childcare. Among IPV survivors, the groups most vulnerable to this economic impact and more likely to worry about at least one expense were:

- Women
- Non-binary gender
- Parents
- Having a cognitive, mobility, and/or self-care/individual living disability
- Younger
- Of lower income

Sexual Violence:

The 2019 Massachusetts Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) found that among Massachusetts residents, the groups that reported the highest lifetime prevalence of sexual violence were³⁰:

- Women and girls
- Hispanic
- People with disabilities
- Lower income

³⁰ MA Department of Public Health. (2019). *A Profile of Health Among Massachusetts Adults, 2019*. retrieved from <https://www.mass.gov/doc/a-profile-of-health-among-massachusetts-adults-2019/download>

The 2019 Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) report found that Massachusetts high school students with higher rates of sexual violence were³¹:

- Hispanic
- Multiracial
- Black

According the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), people at greater risk for sexual violence are³²:

- People with disabilities
- Multi-racial
- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Black
- White
- Younger (children and youth)

^g

The Massachusetts Women of Color Network (MAWOCN) published a report in July 2021 called “Keeping Black Women Alive: Responding to Intimate Partner High Risk in Black Communities³³”. This report was cited during the recent DPH Trust Fund listening sessions. The MAWOCN report’s primary recommendations to address the IPV homicide disparity for Black women were focused on developing more effective responses to domestic violence in Black communities by increasing the meaningful involvement of Black women and Black transgender women in designing and implementing the response, including in leadership roles. Responses that include Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) women-led organizations with longstanding relationships in Black communities and those that support organizations working with people who have used violence in their relationships, including faith-based services and men’s groups, are recommended to curtail DV more effectively in Black communities.

³¹ MA Dept of Elementary and Secondary Education and MA Dept of Public Health. (2019). *Health and Risk Behaviors of MA Youth*. Retrieved from: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/health-and-risk-behaviors-of-massachusetts-youth-2019/download>

³² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2017). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010-2012 State Report*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS-StateReportBook.pdf>

³³ MA Women of Color Network, (2021). *Keeping Black Women Alive: Responding to Intimate Partner High Risk in Black Communities*

III. Description of Planning Process

A. Brief Description of Planning Process

As the SAA for the STOP funds, OGR guided a four-phase planning process:

Phase 1

- a. OGR staff reviewed the 2017–2020 Plan and identified potential stakeholders for inclusion and drafting of the 2022–2025 Plan.
- b. Selected committee members received an invitation from the OGR to participate in this process which outlined the following responsibilities:
 - Review of the previous 2017–2020 Plan;
 - Provide feedback and recommendations for the 2022–2025 Plan developed by OGR staff;
 - Participate in one or more reconciliation conference calls regarding Plan revisions; and
 - Submit final comments on the 2022–2025 Plan prior to EOPSS approval.

Phase 2

- a. Consultation with domestic and sexual violence service providers, tribes, law enforcement, prosecutors, and court officials. This review provided an opportunity to assess service needs and gaps and develop priority recommendations. Current STOP subrecipients were also consulted.
- b. Review and assessment of literature related to Massachusetts state and local agency domestic violence and sexual assault type reports.

Phase 3

- a. Final Plan submitted to EOPSS for approval.
- b. Approved Plan distributed to Advisory Committee Members and posted on the EOPSS and OGR websites for public.

The activities conducted within these phases ensure that the development of the Plan is reflective of the needs of: (1) domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking service providers; (2) state and local units of government; and, most importantly, (3) victims and survivors. Furthermore, integrating findings from domestic violence and sexual assault reports produced by state and local agencies ensures the priorities outlined in the Plan build upon current service delivery needs and to respond to emergent trends developing throughout the Commonwealth.

Additionally, non-profit, and non-governmental victim service providers, including culturally specific organizations, participated throughout the development of the Plan. Their invaluable input is critical to assure that the needs of all survivors are appropriately represented and service gaps specific to vulnerable populations were identified.

B. Documentation from the Advisory Committee

Stakeholders from the EOPSS Implementation Advisory Committee include representation of the following agencies:

- Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
- Boston Police Department
- Braintree Police Department
- Disabled Persons Protection Commission
- Executive Office of the Trial Court
- Executive Office of Public Safety & Security
- Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe
- Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence
- Jane Doe Inc., Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence
- Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
- Massachusetts Department of Children and Families
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health
- Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance
- Massachusetts Disabled Persons Protection Commission
- Massachusetts District Attorneys Association
- Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance
- RIA, Inc.
- Safe Harbor - Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)
- The Network/La Red
- The Fletcher School at Tufts University

Appendix A provides a complete list of advisors. **Appendix B** contains the documentation from each member of the Advisory Committee outlining their participation in the planning process.

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

As mentioned above, OGR distributed the Plan to current STOP subrecipients for additional feedback and comment. Aside from distributing the plan electronically, OGR did not convene additional working groups with agencies who were not members of the planning committee. However, advisory group members were encouraged to distribute and share the draft Plan with their colleagues and partners in their disciplines, including non-profit, law enforcement, prosecution, courts, as well as tribal members, to reach as many stakeholders as possible. Advisory board members were encouraged to share and discuss all feedback they obtained during the meetings. OGR subsequently incorporated the feedback and discussion points in the final Plan. Advisory board members, their partners and colleagues, and current STOP subrecipients represent sexual assault and domestic violence victim service providers; population specific organizations; representatives from underserved populations; and culturally specific organizations.

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

OGR contacted representatives from the following state and federally recognized tribes: Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe, and Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah). OGR was committed to receiving input from both State and Federally recognized tribes in Massachusetts for The Plan. OGR also contacted Jim Peters, Executive Director, Massachusetts Commission on Indian Affairs as a resource toward connecting with local Victim Service Advocates from both state and federal tribes. OGR contacted two state recognized tribes: Nipmuc Nation and Herring Pond as well as two federally recognized tribes: Safe Harbor/Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah and Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. In total, three tribes and their representatives were included as members of the Advisory Board.

The representatives (see **Appendix A**) from the tribes were invited by e-mail to participate in three virtual/teleconference meetings on different dates between November 2021 and February 2022. Follow-up correspondence was provided if any member of the planning committee was not able to attend and participate in virtual meetings. In addition to participation during the meetings, tribal representatives received access to shared drafts of the Plan to provide feedback and comments. All planning committee members were provided the opportunity to review the final draft of the STOP Plan prior to submission to EOPSS and OVW.

E. Summary of Major Concerns

The majority of feedback regarding the Plan came from the planning committee, although we disbursed the plan through multiple mechanisms (i.e. the plan was disseminated to not only the planning committee, but also to the statewide domestic and sexual violence funders grantee network, as well as the FFY21 VAWA STOP subgrantees (see **Appendix D**). Based on the feedback received from the planning committee, along with our data analysis, we concluded that the needs of underserved and/or marginalized victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking in particular, LGBTQ/T individuals and Black women,

have unique needs that are not being met with existing services in the Commonwealth. In addition, there is a continued need for outreach and data collection with Tribes to appropriately address the needs, cultural gaps, and professional knowledge that is required to serve this population. The data (See Section II) reflects these populations are at the greatest risk for victimization.

Moving forward, we will make a concerted effort to solicit feedback from advisory board members to ensure that all populations have an opportunity to review and voice their questions and/or concerns. The following is a summary of these concerns that and how they were addressed in the Implementation Plan:

- 1. Include prevention programs to address domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking:** This primary need was addressed by creating Goal 4: Strengthen the Commonwealth's capacity to reduce or prevent intimate partner violence and related fatalities, and hold offenders accountable. Additional goals and objectives address this need as well including Objective 5(d) within Goal 5: Enhance the courts' ability to handle and respond to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking cases through multi-disciplinary trainings with the judiciary, court, and probation personnel on various topics, including: proper identification of high-risk cases; recognizing risk factors for both lethality and re-offense; improving abuse prevention order proceedings; the benefits of intimate partner abuse education programs; harassment prevention law; and effective management of sexual violence cases.
- 2. Address underserved populations within the plan, specifically Black women, and LGBTQ/T survivors:** While all goals are based on developing and or improving services—we further incorporated objectives to address these populations. Specifically, within Goal 2: Enhance and expand the Commonwealth's victim services systems to respond to the identified needs of underserved and/or marginalized victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking. Goal 3 also addresses these specific needs through efforts to improve the Commonwealth's linguistic and culturally appropriate services for persons with limited English proficiency and underserved culturally specific victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking and human trafficking. Culturally specific organizations are those serving racial and ethnic minority groups as defined in the Public Health Service Act at 42 U.S.C. 300u-6(g) (i.e., American Indians including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts; Asian Americans; Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders; Blacks; and Hispanics. Hispanic" is defined as an individual whose origin is Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or any other Spanish-speaking country).

F. Coordination with FVPSA, RPE, SASP, and VOCA

As funders of domestic violence and sexual assault programs and initiatives, the VAWA Administrator and Grant Manager regularly meet with various state agencies to ensure collective communication to (1) help identify gaps in services and, best practices and innovations; (2)

problem solve; (3) provide technical assistance; (4) evaluate programs and policies; and (5) share information. The state funders' group includes administrators for the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, the Rape Prevention Education Program, the Sexual Assault Services Program, and the Victims of Crime Act Program. These strong collaborations and partnerships have identified areas where the VAWA STOP Grant Program can enhance service delivery to victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking.

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

This documentation may be found in **Appendix C** which provides the required letters of documentation from court, law enforcement, prosecution, and victim services programs.

V. Plan for the Four-Year Implementation Period

A. Identified Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives outlined in the section below were developed by the advisory board members utilizing survey results, in coordination with other state and federal funding streams, the data outlined in Section III: Needs and Context, and information contained in former implementation plans.

Goal 1: Increase the capacity of the Commonwealth's criminal justice and victim services systems to respond to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking.

Objectives

1(a). Fund state and tribal courts to continue to sustain, develop, restore and/or expand court services addressing domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking.

1(b). Fund law enforcement agencies to support hiring specially trained civilian advocates to work directly with victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking.

1(c). Fund law enforcement detectives and/or investigators to conduct follow-up investigations of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking.

1(d). Fund community-based/victim service providers to maintain and/or enhance core domestic and sexual violence services.

1(e). Fund the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program to continue to enhance forensic medical services for victims

of sexual assault and human trafficking

1(f). Fund programs that enhance community-based as well as criminal justice system-oriented responses/partnerships.

Goal 2: Enhance and expand the Commonwealth's victim services systems to respond to the identified needs of underserved and/or marginalized victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking.

Objectives

2(a). Fund domestic violence and sexual assault service providers to evaluate and address the needs of, but not limited to, the homeless, elderly, mentally ill, justice-involved, sexually exploited, immigrants, gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer/questioning, transgender, adolescent, tribal, Black women, D/deaf and hard of hearing, and individuals with disabilities.

2(b). Fund sexual assault service providers to develop and/or implement programs providing services to address sexual assault against all adults and children/youth in correctional and detention settings.

2(c). Fund existing community-based/victim service providers of underserved and marginalized survivors to support training and technical assistance on culturally specific services as well as cultural competency and sensitivity in working with underserved, marginalized and/or oppressed communities and Tribal Nations.

Goal 3: Improve the Commonwealth's linguistic and culturally appropriate services for persons with limited English proficiency and underserved culturally specific victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking and human trafficking.

Objectives

3(a). Fund select culturally specific community-based programs to respond to the needs of limited English proficient and underserved culturally specific victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking.

3(b). Fund select culturally specific community-based programs to collaborate with domestic and/or sexual violence service providers, with a history of providing services to sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, or human trafficking victims in developing its capacity to provide services to persons with limited English proficiency and underserved culturally specific victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking.

Goal 4: Strengthen the Commonwealth's capacity to reduce or prevent intimate partner violence and related fatalities and hold offenders accountable.

Objectives

4(a). Fund prosecution entities to support hiring specialized victim witness advocates and/or prosecutors dedicated to handling domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking cases.

4(b). Fund prosecution entities to develop and/or participate in high-risk and/or sexual assault response teams, in coordination with a local victim service program, child/adult protective services and/or law enforcement agency.

4(c). Fund law enforcement agencies to allow officers to participate in high-risk and/or sexual assault response teams, in coordination with a community-based sexual and/or domestic violence service provider, child/adult protective services and/or district attorney's office.

4(d). Fund domestic violence service providers to develop and/or participate in high-risk and/or sexual assault response teams, including but not limited to coordination with child/adult protective services, sexual violence providers, law enforcement and/or district attorney's office.

Goal 5: Increase statewide training and capacity building to programs providing domestic and sexual violence, dating violence and/or stalking services, and criminal justice agencies to enhance their response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking issues.

Objectives

5(a). Support the Violence Against Women Training and Policy Institute in the continuation of their efforts to design and implement trainings and develop resources, materials, and manuals for prosecutors, victim witness advocates, and criminal justice personnel, as well as disseminate pertinent information such as court decisions, case law summaries, and legal updates.

5(b). Support training for law enforcement personnel in the areas of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and/or stalking in collaboration and/or provided by community-based domestic and/or sexual violence service provider.

5(c). Increase the capacity of prosecution entities to effectively respond to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking through specialized trainings, communitywide events, and/or system improvements.

5(d). Enhance the courts' ability to handle and respond to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking cases through multi-disciplinary trainings with the judiciary, court, and probation personnel on various topics, including: proper identification of high-risk cases; recognizing risk factors for both lethality and re-

offense; improving abuse prevention order proceedings; the benefits of intimate partner abuse education programs; harassment prevention law; and effective management of sexual violence cases.

5(e). Support training opportunities for victim service agencies to prioritize and develop survivor leadership and meaningful engagement in shared decision making, cultural responsiveness, integration of social justice issues, policy, and use of technology and social media for survivor services, education, and training. Convene specialized staff from marginalized populations for support, professional development, and capacity building.

5(f). Support current, effective, and victim-centered training of sexual assault nurse examiners to enhance forensic nursing within designated SANE and tele-SANE sites.

B. Priority Areas

1. The priorities set forth in the 2022–2025 Implementation Plan will address the VAWA 2013 statutory program purpose areas as required by OVW as outlined below. **Please note:** The Commonwealth of Massachusetts does not plan to address the “Crystal Judson” purpose area.

VAWA 2013 Purpose Areas	Plan Goal	Program/Project Types
Training law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women as well as including the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; including the appropriate use of nonimmigrant status under subparagraphs (T) and (U) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)).	Goal 5	Trainings for personnel including, but not limited to, judiciary, court, probation, law enforcement, civilian police advocate, prosecutor, criminal justice, and victim service advocates.
Developing, training, or expanding units of law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors specifically targeting violent crimes against women; including the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.	Goals 1, 4, 5	Employing/maintaining civilian police advocates, domestic violence/sexual assault investigators, specially trained prosecutors, victim witness advocates, sexual assault nurse examiners, and a program coordinator within the Trial Court system.
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 domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, as well as the appropriate treatment of victims.	Goals 1, 4, 5	Judiciary and court personnel trainings, updating/translating of court documents, law enforcement and civilian police advocacy trainings, prosecutor and victim-witness advocate trainings, development of judicial bench books, revision, and law enforcement training curricula.

Developing, enlarging, or strengthening victim services and legal assistance programs, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking programs, developing or improving delivery of victim services to underserved populations, providing specialized domestic violence court advocates in courts where a significant number of protection orders are granted, and increasing reporting and reducing attrition rates for cases involving violent crimes against women, including crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.	Goals 1–5	Culturally specific services for limited English proficient and underserved culturally specific populations, crisis and intervention services, education, outreach and training initiatives, legal services, mental health services, individual and group counseling services, court-based civilian advocates, specially trained prosecutors, victim witness advocates, and sexual assault nurse examiners.
Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing the needs and circumstances of Indian tribes in dealing with violent crimes against women; including the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.	Goals 1–5	Culturally specific services for tribes, crisis and intervention services, education, outreach and training initiatives, legal services, mental health/ substance abuse treatment services, individual and group counseling services.
Training of sexual assault forensic medical personnel examiners in the collection and preservation of evidence, analysis, prevention, and providing expert testimony and treatment of trauma related to sexual assault.	Goals 1, 5	Training for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner and forensic services.
Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs to assist law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and others to address the needs and circumstances of older and disabled women who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking; including recognizing, investigating, and prosecuting instances of such violence or assault and targeting outreach and support, counseling, and other victim services for older and disabled individuals.	Goals 1, 2, 5	Services specific for elder victims, and individuals with disabilities, who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking such as crisis and intervention services, education, outreach and training initiatives, legal services, mental health/ substance abuse treatment services and individual and group counseling services.
Providing assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault on immigration matters.	Goals 1–5	Employing and/or maintaining bi-lingual, bi-cultural advocates, legal services, supporting culturally specific services, education, outreach and training initiatives, court-based civilian advocates, specially trained prosecutors, and victim-witness advocates.
Maintaining core victim services and criminal justice initiatives, while supporting complementary new initiatives and	Goals 1–5	Domestic and sexual violence advocate positions, legal services, training and education initiatives, technical assistance and capacity building projects, judicial and

emergency services for victims and their families.		law enforcement policy development, and implementation.
Supporting the placement of special victim assistants in local law enforcement agencies to serve as liaisons between victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and personnel in local law enforcement agencies in order to improve the enforcement of protection orders.	Goals 1, 5	Civilian police advocacy programs, creation of policies and procedures on responding and development of training to improve enforcement.
Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing sexual assault against men, women, and youth in correctional and detention settings.	Goals 1, 2, 5	Sexual assault advocate positions, creation of policies and procedures on responding and development of training to improve response.
Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs and projects to provide services and responses targeting male and female victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, whose ability to access traditional services and responses are affected by their sexual orientation or gender identify, as defined in section 249(c) of title 18, United States Code.	Goals 1, 2, 5	Population specific services provided to LGBTQ/T victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking including telephonic or web-based hotlines, legal advocacy, economic advocacy, emergency and transitional shelter, accompaniment, and advocacy through medical, civil, or criminal justice, immigration, and social support systems, crisis intervention, short-term individual and group support services, information, and referrals.

2. In addition to the types of projects eligible (shown above), the following are brief descriptions of programs currently receiving STOP funds from the EOPSS:

Courts

The VAWA STOP funds support the Domestic Violence (DV) Coordinator within the Executive Office of the Trial. This position staffs the Trial Court's Domestic and Sexual Violence Education Task Force, supports the District Court Domestic Violence Committee, coordinates several domestic violence-related trainings offered by the Trial Court, and facilitates trainings developed by the Judicial Institute. The DV coordinator ensures court employees are trained on domestic violence related topics including the dynamics of intimate partner violence, the impact of domestic violence on victims, childhood exposure to domestic violence, risk assessment in domestic violence cases, and bail issues in domestic violence cases. In FY 2021³⁴ there were 260,286 criminal charges filed, with approximately 70,000 charges related to crimes involving a victim, 4,486 of which were for sex offenses and 5,586 of which were for violations of restraining orders. The numerous points of interaction with victims of domestic and sexual violence make the need imperative to provide quality training opportunities for court personnel as they respond to the needs of victims appearing for restraining orders or as victims/witnesses to crime.

³⁴ <https://www.mass.gov/doc/fy-2021-annual-report-for-the-court-system/download>

Law Enforcement

The Bedford Police Department, along with their contracted community-based agency, the Domestic Violence Services Network, Inc. (DVSN), and their collaborative law enforcement colleagues work to end domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking with their unique service model. The DVSN collaborative includes the Town of Bedford, Massachusetts (MA), twelve neighboring police departments, Hanscom Air Force Base, the Concord District Court, and Emerson Hospital. DVSN advocates follow-up on all reported domestic violence incidents in collaboration with its 13 police departments, including Hanscom Air Force Base, and provide outreach and direct support to victims of domestic violence. These 13 communities comprise more than 170,000 residents in 203 square miles. Additional DVSN programs include support groups, court support, legal assistance, and a high-risk offender monitoring team.

Prosecution

The Massachusetts District Attorneys Association (MDAA), through the Violence Against Women Training and Policy Institute, provides trainings, resource materials and policy development for the 11 District Attorney Offices within the Commonwealth. MDAA offers high quality training, resources, and technical assistance to support the prosecution of violence against women cases across the Commonwealth. Annually, MDAA offers more than 20 trainings annually that are attended by more than 1,000 prosecutors, advocates and both state and local law enforcement officials. MDAA also assists prosecutors, advocates, and criminal justice professionals by summarizing and distributing court decisions that are related to domestic violence and sexual assault prosecutions.

Additionally, the Norfolk District Attorney's Office provides services to victims of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking through their Family Violence/Special Victims Unit (FV/SVU). The FV/SVU aggressively prosecutes cases with specialized Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault (DV/SA) prosecutors and victim-witness advocates in a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach. As of mid-November 2021, the FV/SVU handled five hundred and nineteen (519) adult cases involving crimes against elders, disabled persons, and adult sexual assault cases. The primary goals are to enhance victim safety and decrease incidents of domestic violence and sexual assault through the rigorous prosecution of offenders.

Victim Services

VAWA STOP funds have enabled the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC) to develop and launch a survivor-advised, multi-lingual, and mobile-friendly surviverape.org website and toll-free Forensic Information & Toxicology Alert line. BARCC's Access to Forensic Information (AFI) program increases survivors' and service providers' access to accurate forensic information to assist them in making informed decisions. BARCC also works with the Massachusetts Department of Correction to provide services, mandated under the Prison Rape Elimination Act, to inmates who allege that they have been the victims of sexual abuse either before or during their incarceration.

The Network/La Red is nationally recognized for best practices in addressing LGBTQ/T partner abuse on a community level. They have provided training and technical assistance across the Commonwealth and the country on LGBTQ/T battering to domestic violence programs, victim service providers, state and federal agency staff, and LGBTQ/T groups and organizations. STOP funds have helped to support the Visibility Campaign, expanding The Network/La Red's capacity to provide outreach, education, and training to improve system and community responses to LGBTQ/T domestic violence.

3. The EOPSS strictly adheres to the federally mandated formula for allocating STOP funding:

30%	Victim Services (10% awarded to culturally specific community-based organizations)
25%	Law Enforcement
25%	Prosecution
15%	Discretionary
5%	Courts

4. The EOPSS plans to meet the 20% set aside for programs that meaningfully address sexual assault. This set-aside will ensure that the funds are distributed from two or more allocations (courts, discretionary, law enforcement, prosecution, and victim services). The EOPSS will meet this requirement through continued support of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program which provides expert forensic nursing services to sexual assault patients, and various victim service providers throughout the Commonwealth.

C. Addressing the Needs of Underserved Victims

To identify key service gaps and create a strategic plan to address these gaps, numerous resources were evaluated to provide the foundation for the Plan. Primary resources can be found on page 4 and are also cited throughout this report. As mentioned, these resources include assessments and reports published by numerous agencies. The state analyzed findings from these reports to further identify underserved and/or marginalized populations, and how to better respond to their unique needs.

The EOPSS will continue to structure its competitive grant application in a manner that ensures it will receive proposals from qualified organizations that address the needs of underserved populations. The underserved populations, for purposes of the STOP Grant Program continue to be identified in consultation with leaders, and subject matter experts within the court, law enforcement, prosecution, and victim service systems, and in systematic review of the data on demographics, and sexual and domestic violence.

The data outlined in Section II: Needs and Context, represents a sampling of large representative studies and does not reflect all the populations that may experience inequities. With that said, the underserved and/or marginalized populations the EOPSS looks to identify as a ‘priority’ are the following: (1) individuals with disabilities; (2) Black women; (3) immigrants; and (4) LGBTQ/T individuals.

The types of projects to be funded may include bi-lingual, bi-cultural advocacy services, hotline and crisis intervention, legal services, civil and legal advocacy, support groups, mental health counseling, training, education, outreach, and collaborative projects in coordination with traditional partners such as law enforcement, intimate partner abuse education programs, medical institutions, and non-traditional organizations including faith-based organizations, and council on aging groups. All organizations funded within this category will be required to demonstrate their capacity and proficiency in developing programs that improve service delivery to the underserved populations identified.

Throughout the lifetime of the Plan, the VAWA team will connect with underserved populations, specifically those identified above to ensure that this Plan continues to improve the systems supported by this funding as well as integrate a victim-centered and culturally sensitive approach to address domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking throughout the Commonwealth.

Finally, as part of the AGF solicitation the VAWA team will specify that funding will be equitably distributed based on applicant’s capacity to address the needs of underserved victims with culturally specific services and activities. The results from the various forms of outreach will help to the scoring process which give potential preference to underserved agencies and their relevant populations.

D. Grant-making Strategy

The EOPSS released a competitive grant opportunity in August 2017 resulting in 37 programs receiving funds across the five allocation areas (courts, discretionary, law enforcement, prosecution, and victim services). The EOPSS intends to release a new competitive grant opportunity in Fall 2022. The EOPSS VAWA team will sponsor regional informational sessions prior to the release of this opportunity to inform existing grantees and interested organizations about the STOP program.

These sessions will provide an opportunity for organizations to become better acquainted with: (1) the VAWA STOP Grant Program financial and programmatic requirements; (2) currently funded initiatives in each region; (3) the competitive application process; and the ability to obtain technical

assistance from the VAWA team. Resources on how to develop a strong grant application, identifying research and promising practices, and links to grant writing workshops will also be made available to all who attend the sessions.

This competitive opportunity will be posted publicly and made available to include state agencies, culturally specific community-based organizations, tribes, local domestic violence and sexual assault service providers, law enforcement, judiciary, district attorneys' offices, county sheriff, and other criminal justice organizations. Additionally, the EOPSS will solicit the assistance of key stakeholders and professional networks such as the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, Massachusetts Sheriff's Association, Jane Doe Inc., Massachusetts District Attorneys Association, and others in promoting this opportunity within their respective disciplines as to reach as many organizations and systems as possible serving victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking.

1. A description of how the state will address the needs of sexual assault victims, domestic violence victims, dating violence victims, stalking, and human trafficking victims, as well as how the state will hold offenders accountable.

The goal of the Plan is to strengthen the Commonwealth's ability to respond to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, human trafficking, and related homicides by: (1) evaluating and improving assessment, planning, coordination and program implementation efforts, (2) assisting communities in their ability to respond effectively and efficiently to the needs of victims; and (3) fostering collaboration on all levels of policy planning and protocol development designed to keep victims safe and hold perpetrators accountable throughout the state of Massachusetts.

The Commonwealth will continue to promote collaboration and a multidisciplinary response to violence against women and holding perpetrators accountable by supporting the work of the VAWA Advisory Committee and other statewide efforts. The VAWA Advisory Committee will meet annually to oversee the implementation of the STOP Implementation Plan goals and objectives. While the Plan may be in its final form, the VAWA team and VAWA Advisory Committee are cognizant of the fact that victims' needs are ever changing and are prepared to ensure that the diverse population of the state is represented throughout its' implementation.

2. A description of how the state will give priority to areas of varying geographic size with the greatest showing of need based on the availability of existing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking programs.

The EOPSS via a peer review process will consider the following criteria in distributing funds across the various geographic locations within the Commonwealth:

- State and local domestic violence and sexual crime data (where available).
- Size of the target population to be served.
- Demographics of the target population.

- Geographic area served by the applicant (rural or urban, which may also include considering the ratio of the region's population, crime data and funding resources currently allotted to the region).
- Number of victim services programs within the catchment area to be served.
- Existence of similar services within the caption area to be served.
- Distribution of other domestic violence and sexual assault related state and federal funded services in proposed region; and
- Amount requested and availability of funds within each category.

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

Refer to question (2) above.

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

Refer to question (2) above.

5. A description of methods to be used for solicitation/review of proposals and selection of sub-grant projects and for which sectors these methods apply.

Proposals will be assessed based on eligibility requirements, purpose areas and qualifications required by the category of funding (e.g., courts, discretionary, law enforcement, prosecution, and victim services). Subject matter experts in the areas of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking as well as within the criminal justice system will be recruited to review and score each proposal.

Proposals will be evaluated based on how the applicant meets the following criteria:

- Demonstrated proven need for proposed services.
- Size of target population and/or region to be served.
- Demographic characteristics of the target population to be served (if available).
- Capacity of applicant to implement proposed program.
- Soundness of proposed initiative.
- History of providing effective services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking.
- Number of domestic violence/sexual assault incidents/victims responded to or served within a one-year period; and
- Coordination of services and collaboration with key partners within the community.

6. Proposed timeline for the VAWA STOP grant cycle.

Estimated Timeline	Proposed Milestones
December 2021 – January 2022	VAWA STOP FFY21 Grant funds distributed to sub-grantees for final year of funding.
May 2022 – July 2022	Conduct informational sessions across the Commonwealth to provide interested parties with an opportunity to learn more about the VAWA STOP Grant Program.
August 2022 – September 2022	Release new competitive VAWA STOP grant opportunity for applicants.
October 2022 – November 2022	Accept proposals. Facilitate review teams to score proposals. Submit award recommendations to Secretariat and Governor's Office. Announce awards in November/December 2022.
December 2022 – January 2023	Finalize contracts for January 2023 start date.

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

Per OVW, the Plan encompasses four years, FFY22 applicants securing a VAWA STOP grant award from the EOPSS will be eligible for three additional years of continuation funding, resulting in up to four years of funding for sub-recipients. After year one, sub-grantees will be required to annually submit a continuation application for funding. Funding over the four-year contract period will be based on sub-grantee adherence to the project's goals and objectives, federal and state financial and reporting requirements, as well as availability of federal funds.

8. A description of how the state will ensure that any sub-grantees will consult with victim service providers during developing their grant applications to ensure that the proposed activities are designed to promote the safety, confidentiality, and economic independence of victims.

Applications received from court, law enforcement, and prosecution-based agencies are required to consult with victim service providers while developing their grant applications to ensure the proposed activities are designed to promote the safety, confidentiality, and economic independence of victims. Applicants must submit certification that they consulted with a victim service provider to be eligible for funding.

E. Sub-grantee Management, Monitoring, and Assessment

All sub-grantees funded by the EOPSS are subject to monitoring by the VAWA grants team. Sub-grantees will be required to perform the activities below throughout their contract period. For example:

- All sub-grantees will be required to submit quarterly progress and financial reports as well as an annual progress report to reflect the services and number of victims served.
- Internally, the VAWA team will conduct a risk assessment of sub-recipients to monitor for programmatic and financial compliance.
- Staff will conduct a site visit and/or desk review on funded recipients to closely monitor the sub-grantee's progress in meeting their goals and objectives, and address areas of need or concern in respect to the VAWA STOP funded initiative, and grant adherence.
- Sub-grantees will submit an annual application and request for funding through a non-competitive process in Years 2, 3, and 4. This will include demonstration of project progress and how proposed initiatives will build upon previous accomplishments. Resources on how to develop and maintain performance measures are provided to help programs monitor their project's success. Further resources and guidance regarding programmatic evaluation is provided at the annual Technical Assistance Workshop referred to below; and
- All sub-grantees will participate in an annual Technical Assistance Workshop which provides an opportunity for all VAWA STOP Grant funded programs to network, exchange best practices, identify issues and concerns, and discuss possible solutions.

VI. Conclusion

The Plan aims to address and improve services for domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking victims across the Commonwealth. The key focus will be to build upon the existing infrastructure created since the inception of the VAWA STOP programming, while allowing for new initiatives that address gaps and emerging needs. This plan will also serve as a tool for the EOPSS, advisors to the VAWA STOP Grant Program, and many other organizations utilizing the OVW grant funds to serve victims. Throughout the duration of the Plan's four-year timeline, Massachusetts will strive to ensure strategies are implemented to strengthen the coordination of systemic responses to victims of sexual and domestic violence and create sustainable and productive partnerships.

VII. Appendices

Appendix A: Advisors to the Massachusetts 2022 Implementation Plan

Name	Organization / Title	E-Mail
Stephanie DeCandia	Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, Interim Client Services Compliance Officer	SDecandia@barcc.org
Jenna Savage	Boston Police Department, Deputy Director Office of Research and Development	Jenna.Savage@pd.boston.gov
Mark DuBois	Braintree Police Department, Chief of Police	MDubois@braintreema.gov
Susan Hubert	Department of Children & Families (DCF) - Domestic Violence Unit, Director	Susan.Hubert@mass.gov
Sue English	DCF, Domestic Violence Unit	Sue.English@mass.gov
Janice Mirabassi	Department of Public Health (DPH) - Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention Services, Contract Manager Rape Crisis Programs	Janice.Mirabassi@mass.gov
Crystal Jackson	Department of Transitional Assistance - Domestic Violence Unit, Director	Crystal.Jackson@mass.gov
Nancy Alterio	Disabled Persons Protection Commission, Executive Director	Nancy.Alterio@mass.gov
Chris Newman	DPH - Division of Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention and Services, Domestic Violence Specialist	Christopher.Newman@mass.gov
Judy Benitez Clancy, M.Ed.	DPH, Division Director	Judy.Benitez.Clancy@mass.gov
Josh Lubbers	DPH, Program Coordinator	Josh.Lubbers@mass.gov
Bethany Stevens	Executive Office of the Trial Court, District Court Director of Legal Policy	Bethany.Stevens@jud.state.ma.us
Jessica Fix	Executive Office of the Trial Court, Grant Manager	Jessica.Fix@jud.state.ma.us
Kelly Dwyer	Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, Executive Director	Kelly.Dwyer@mass.gov
Melissa (Harding) Feretti	Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe, Chairwoman	Melissa@herringpondtribe.org
Debra Robbin	Jane Doe Inc., Executive Director	DRobbin@janedoe.org
Hema Sarang- Sieminski	Jane Doe Inc., Policy Director	HSarang-Sieminski@janedoe.org
Charles Foster	Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe OVC TVS	Charles.Foster@mwtribe-nsn.gov
Joanne Frye	Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe OVC TVS, Coordinator	Joanne.Frye@mwtribe-nsn.gov

Tara Maguire	Massachusetts District Attorneys Association (MDAA), Executive Director	Tara.Maguire@mass.gov
Kristin Nguyen	Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA), Director Grants Administration	Kristin.Nguyen@mass.gov
Jennifer Franco	MDAA, Legal Counsel	Jennifer.Franco@mass.gov
Stephanie McCarthy	MOVA, Director of Policy	Stephanie.I.McCarthy@mass.gov
Jenny Barron	Office of Grants & Research (OGR), VAWA STOP Administrator	Jenny.Barron@mass.gov
Beth Flynn	OGR, Division Manager	Elizabeth.M.Flynn@mass.gov
Kevin Stanton	OGR, Executive Director	Kevin.Stanton@mass.gov
Robert Smith	OGR, Program Coordinator	Robert.J.Smith1@mass.gov
Heather Wightman	RIA, Inc., Executive Director	HWightman@readyinspireact.org
Jennifer Randolph	Safe Harbor / Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah	Wcm@wampanoagtribe-nsn.gov
Christina Bain	The Fletcher School at Tufts University, Visiting Research Fellow	Christinaarcherbain@gmail.com
Beth Leventhal	The Network/La Red, Executive Director	Director@tnlr.org

Appendix B: Documentation of Planning Committee Collaboration

The documentation of planning committee collaboration is available upon request from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Office of Grants & Research (OGR) Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Administrator of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Appendix C: Documentation from Prosecution, Law Enforcement, Court, and Victim Services Programs

The following documentation was received from current grantees of the VAWA STOP Grant Program in support of the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's (EOPSS) ability to effectively utilize the VAWA STOP funding for current and proposed programming and support the Commonwealth's stakeholders in meeting the needs of victims and survivors that are contained within the Plan.



THE TRIAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE TRIAL COURT

John Adams Courthouse
One Pemberton Square, 1M
Boston, MA 02108

Jeffrey A. Locke
Chief Justice of the Trial Court

John A. Bello
Court Administrator

June 8, 2022

Allison Randall
Principal Deputy Director
U.S. Department of Justice
Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)
145 N Street, NE, Suite 10W.121
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Ms. Randall:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Massachusetts Trial Court to support the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's (EOPSS) application for the FFY 2022 – 2025 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) STOP Grant Program. We serve as the authorizing officials of a VAWA grant awarded to the Executive Office of the Trial Court. This grant has funded critical work in the courts, and the EOPSS team has provided invaluable assistance and guidance to ensure the success of these endeavors.

Courts play an essential role and hold a key responsibility in maximizing both victim safety and offender accountability in cases of domestic and sexual violence. The Trial Court has continued to prioritize addressing domestic and sexual violence, working to ensure that coordination and communication across all seven Trial Court departments on these complex cases occurs so that knowledge and experience is shared and cultivated. The Trial Court also recognizes and adapts to the changing demographic makeup in Massachusetts, which includes a commitment to ensuring access to justice across socioeconomic divides. Following the withdrawal of U.S. troops in August 2021, nearly 2,000 Afghan evacuees, all of varying ages, education levels, skillsets, occupations, and needs, resettled in Massachusetts. Further, over the last three years, Massachusetts has seen an influx of non-English speaking populations across the Commonwealth, and this has necessitated an expansion of services offered by the Office of Language Access. Court certified interpreters are critical to those with limited or no English proficiency, particularly for those seeking Abuse Prevention (Restraining) and Harassment Prevention Orders as these case types may pose unique challenges when family members or friends may attempt to assist in the process. Additionally, though geographically one of the smallest states, Massachusetts is comprised of disparately urban and rural areas, and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, courts adapted to provide remote access, addressing both transportation and internet challenges.

During State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2021, 11.6 percent of the lead charges filed in Massachusetts' District/Municipal Courts, where all new arrests are arraigned, were assault and battery on a household or family member or abuse prevention order violations. In SFY 2021, court users filed 41,007

applications for Abuse Prevention (Restraining) and Harassment Prevention Orders across all court departments having jurisdiction in these matters. In FY 2021 there were 260,286 criminal charges filed, 4,486 of which were for sex offenses and 5,586 of which were for violations of Abuse Prevention (Restraining) or Harassment orders. It is also important to note that while these numbers represent the incidents of domestic and sexual violence known to the courts, the actual prevalence is much greater and both victims and offenders intersect with the justice system in far more ways than just as either a plaintiff or defendant. The numerous points of interaction within the Trial Court with those impacted by domestic and sexual violence make it imperative to provide quality training opportunities for all judges and court personnel as they respond to the needs of all those seeking assistance from the court, whether in civil or criminal proceedings.

Most significantly, since 2014 the Trial Court has utilized VAWA grant money to fund the Domestic Violence (DV) Coordinator position. This position works alongside the Chair of the Trial Court's Domestic and Sexual Violence Education Task Force to develop a comprehensive training curriculum ensuring a baseline knowledge of matters relating to domestic and sexual violence across all Trial Court departments. The DV Coordinator is also responsible for facilitating cross-departmental communication on domestic and sexual violence issues and serve as a resource to attorneys, advocates, and judges. Throughout the COVID-19 public health crisis, it became clear that the role of the DV Coordinator was vital in ensuring concerns and issues arising in court, particularly in sensitive restraining order matters. The ability to have a dedicated Trial Court voice at the table in meetings and on committees has been instrumental in bridging the gap between key community stakeholders and was lauded as a best practice in 2019 during a federal VAWA audit.

Programming managed by the DV Coordinator, and thus supported by the Trial Court's VAWA STOP funding, provides training to all judges and employees in accordance with statutory education requirements outlined in Chapter 260: An Act Relative to Domestic Violence, which was passed by the Massachusetts Legislature in 2014. A heightened understanding of the complex dynamics of domestic and sexual violence is fundamental to being able to best assist those who come to the Trial Court having been impacted by some of the most intimate crimes seen in the criminal justice system. All Trial Court judges and employees are required to complete the online Domestic Violence Curriculum as well as an in-person experiential exercise known as *Comings and Goings: An Interactive Look at Domestic Violence*. Additionally, all Trial Court judges are required to attend *DV 201: Domestic Violence Issues in the Trial Court* and *Orientation to the Judicial Response System*, both of which address policies, procedures, and practices for Abuse Prevention (Restraining) Orders and Harassment Prevention Orders both on the bench during regular business hours and on-call when courts are closed. Throughout 2020 and into 2021, with COVID requiring perpetual flexibility and changes, judges beginning their week of on-call service were also offered regular Zoom sessions to provide real-time information regarding trends and issues arising in emergency matters handled outside of court business hours.

The completion of another significant initiative was also realized with the promulgation of the updated *Guidelines for Judicial Practice: Abuse Prevention Proceedings* (<https://www.mass.gov/doc/guidelines-for-judicial-practice-abuse-prevention-proceedings>) in November 2021. As the DV Coordinator was point on this project, VAWA STOP funds made possible a complete overhaul of dated guidance to ensure clear and smooth processing in Abuse Prevention (Restraining) Order proceedings. The District Court Domestic Violence Committee, with assistance from the DV Coordinator, is now working alongside the Task Force to devise and conduct trainings on the revised *Guidelines*. The Task Force will also turn its attention to Harassment Prevention proceedings and will draft Trial Court guidelines geared towards providing protection to victims of sexual violence, stalking, and criminal or civil harassment.

Though STOP grant funding sustains the Trial Court's efforts, in addition to monetary support, the EOPSS's Office of Grants and Research regularly provides indispensable feedback, guidance, and support to the Chair of the Trial Court's Domestic and Sexual Violence Education Task Force, the DV Coordinator, and the Trial Court in general. Namely, Jenny Barron, the VAWA Administrator for EOPSS, is always available to assist the DV Coordinator and the Trial Court's Senior Grant Manager as they organize the quarterly and annual goals, maximizing flexibility, while ensuring Trial Court projects stay on course in the face of unanticipated challenges, such as the COVID-19 public health crisis.

The work supported by the VAWA STOP grant has and will continue to serve the thousands of individuals throughout the Commonwealth who turn to the courts seeking assistance. EOPSS remains a critical partner in the court's work to ensure access to justice for all who are impacted by domestic and sexual violence in Massachusetts. Thank you for this opportunity to offer our support for the EOPSS' application for a VAWA STOP grant. Should you require additional information or have questions related to this submission, please contact Jessica Fix, Senior Grant Manager, at (617) 878-0394, or at jessica.fix@jud.state.ma.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Locke".

Jeffrey A. Locke
Chief Justice of the Trial Court

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John A. Bello".

John A. Bello
Court Administrator



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR THE NORFOLK DISTRICT

MICHAEL W. MORRISSEY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

45 SHAWMUT ROAD
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March 31, 2022

Allison Randall
Principal Deputy Director
U.S. Department of Justice
Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)
145 N Street, NE, Suite 10W.121
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Ms. Randall:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Norfolk District Attorney's Office in strong support for the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's administration of STOP VAWA Grant Program funding. The Norfolk District Attorney's Office (NDAO) has been a fortunate recipient of this funding for many years. Domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault continue to be serious issues in Norfolk County, and STOP VAWA grant funding has been crucial in helping our office maintain core victim services and criminal justice initiatives, as well as support new initiatives and services for victims and their families. The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) has been an essential partner in these endeavors.

Norfolk County's target population includes all victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. The Norfolk District incorporates 28 cities and towns located southwest of Boston with a population of 725,981, one-tenth of the Massachusetts population. There is increasingly diverse racial/ethnic representation as well as socio-economic disparities throughout Norfolk County; Quincy has a population of 101,636 (the eighth (8th) largest city in Massachusetts), while the town of Avon has a population of only 4,637. The median annual household income for a family living in Quincy is \$77,562, approximately one-third of the median annual household income for a family living in Dover (\$250,000+), a suburban "bedroom" community (Census Bureau, 2020). The racial makeup within Norfolk County also varies: the town of Randolph, for example, is quite diverse, with a population of 44.7% Black or African American, 13.2% Asian, 8.8% Latino, 29.4% White alone and 3.2% two or more races. On the other end of the spectrum, the town of Cohasset has a homogeneous population of 95.4% White alone (Census Bureau, 2020).

In calendar year 2020, notwithstanding the pandemic, the two (2) VAWA grant-funded prosecutors handled three hundred and four (304) new arraignments involving domestic

violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The VAWA prosecutors handled those new cases in addition to the hundreds of ongoing cases which had begun in the previous year. Victims were the primary concern and served on all pending and new cases. Many of the cases involved the use of a weapon, strangulation, threats to kill, and violations of restraining orders. In calendar year 2020, the Family Violence/Special Victims Unit (FV/SVU) handled more than four hundred and sixty five (465) adult cases including crimes against elders, disabled persons and adult sexual assault cases. As of mid-November in calendar year 2021, the FV/SVU had handled five hundred and nineteen (519) adult cases involving crimes against elders, disabled persons and adult sexual assault cases.

Safe integration of victims into a prosecution strategy increases the rate of successful prosecutions and improves victims' experiences with the criminal justice system. The NDAO accomplishes this work through the coordinated efforts of VAWA-funded personnel; specifically, specially trained Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault (DV/SA) prosecutors and DV/SA victim witness advocates (VWA), as well as a part-time High Risk Coordinator.

Our VAWA-funded DV/SA prosecutors, victim witness advocate and high risk coordinator work in a specialized unit to target violent crimes against women including crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

VAWA-funded personnel work with victims collaboratively and continuously from arraignment to disposition, to empower them to safely and confidently participate in the criminal justice system, and maintain a safe environment. The DV/SA VWA informs and prepares victims for all pre-trial court dates, trial dates, probation violations, parole hearings, and all other opportunities for victim involvement in the criminal justice process while considering all safety concerns.

Funding also enables NDAO to identify high risk offenders and vigorously prosecute their cases. The VAWA-funded DV/SA staff members are an integral part of the Norfolk County High Risk Team whose participants include law enforcement, victim service agencies, probation, batterer intervention programs, rape crisis counseling centers, and social service agencies. The VAWA-funded DV/SA VWA provides referrals, works collaboratively with the Norfolk High Risk Team to identify high risk situations, represent victims' interests, and look for opportunities to connect victims with the appropriate service providers. VAWA grant funding enabled the NDAO to hire a part time High Risk Coordinator. The VAWA-funded High Risk Coordinator gathers all data for the team. The team meets monthly to review cases with high-risk factors to determine levels of danger to victims and develop strategies to keep victims safe and hold offenders accountable. The High Risk Coordinator has been able to collect additional information for the team, recruit additional members and follow up on tasks identified at the meetings.

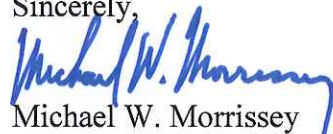
The expected results of STOP VAWA Grant funding are to identify 100% of offenders that satisfy the high risk criteria and advance their prosecution; increase communication with victims by ensuring that DV/SA prosecutors (a) meet with a minimum of two victims each week, (b) ensure that each victim is notified of every court event and provide opportunities for victim input during the course of a case, and (c) adequately prepare each victim to testify when they are

willing to do so; evaluate all cases from pretrial through final disposition to ensure efficiency and effective prosecution; and hold offenders accountable for their behavior through strict probation supervision, batterer intervention programs, and incarceration where warranted, and promptly return to court all offenders who do not adhere to court orders or threaten continued violence toward their victims.

The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) has been an invaluable partner in the NDAO's efforts to provide effective prosecution and victim assistance throughout the long, and often confusing, court process. Jenny Barron, EOPSS' Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Administrator, in particular, has provided exceptional assistance and guidance to the NDAO in the implementation and management of STOP VAWA Grant funding.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our strong support for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women for the crucial funding it has provided to the Norfolk District Attorney's office throughout the years.

Sincerely,


Michael W. Morrissey
Norfolk District Attorney



RIA, Inc. – ready•inspire•act
330 Cochituate Road #1784
Framingham, MA 01701
info@readyinspireact.org
www.readyinspireact.org

March 21, 2022

Allison Randall
Principal Deputy Director
U.S. Department of Justice
Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)
145 N Street, NE, Suite 10W.121
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Ms. Randall,

In my role as Executive Director of RIA, Inc., I write to support the Executive Office of Public Safety Programs Division's application for a VAWA Stop formula grant. STOP funds continue to be critical to Massachusetts' ability to respond effectively to the needs of victims and survivors, and to improve the response of systems to a myriad of issues presented in the aftermath of being commercially sexually exploited, trafficked, and/or prostituted. The funds have been used to implement innovative short and longer-term initiatives and as a stable source of support for critical ongoing services. In fact, these funds are more important than ever given the instability of the pandemic and all forms of racial and economic injustice and deprivation.

The intended use of the funds and the expected results include funding local direct services and supports, such as RIA, Inc., for victims, funding local law enforcement and criminal justice responses that improve victim safety and perpetrator accountability, and building community-based support for victims and ensure steady improvements to systems.

RIA, Inc. is one of the few organizations across the Commonwealth whose mission is to stand with and support women with experience in the commercial sex trade, and its associated exploitation, trafficking and prostitution, by providing a range of community-based services. Founded in 2014, RIA has grown from a team of volunteers and one part-time staff person working out of our cars, cafes, libraries, and other borrowed spaces, serving five women, to a growing organization with eight staff members that work out of two offices (Framingham and Worcester) and serve more than 120 women each year. We were recognized by the Massachusetts Non-Profit Network as one of five finalists for the 2019 Excellence in Innovation Award, and in 2020 we were one of only 33 organizations nationwide selected to receive federal funding from the Department of Justice to provide specialized services to survivors of sex trafficking. We have become a key service provider across the state and in part to the critical funds that the VAWA STOP grant have provided us. RIA has grown from serving 22 survivors in 2015 to 213 survivors in 2020 (providing individualized care and several in-person groups), and another 118 in 2021 (providing individualized care only with no in-person groups because of the pandemic). Further, during these years over 100 survivors and growing, have worked with RIA for more than a year, which speaks volumes with a population that traditionally does not stay engaged in services for more than a few months.

Thank you for your consideration of the STOP Application from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security.

Sincerely,

Heather Wightman

Heather Wightman, MSW, MPH
Founder & Executive Director
hwightman@readyinspireact.org



Yarmouth Police Department

Excellence in Policing

March 21, 2022

Allison Randall
Principal Deputy Director
United States Department of Justice
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N Street, NE, 10 W. 121
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Randall:

Please accept this letter, on behalf of the Yarmouth Police Department, in support of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) application with respect to the FFY 2022 VAWA STOP Grant Programs. Our department is proud to be a recipient of the STOP funding for law enforcement agencies, since 2017, and cannot express our gratitude for how much this award has taken our department into the future of victim services. I can strongly say that without this grant award we would not be able to financially support the full-time Victim Advocate and all of the incredible work that she has done over the past four years.

The Town of Yarmouth has 25,000 residents year-round, which doubles to 50,000 in the summer. The Yarmouth Police Department is the second largest police force on Cape Cod, with more than 60 full-time officers and civilian staff. The department recognizes that crimes of domestic and sexual violence have a unique impact on victims, therefore require extensive specialized training for officers and investigators. Domestic violence calls are the most frequent high risk calls we receive. Last year our department responded to more than 400 calls for incidents of domestic or sexual violence or stalking, which is consistent over the past several years. Before we had an advocate those 400 victims did not receive any kind of follow-up to safety plan or get connected to services. More than half of our population identifies as female, 33% of our total population is over 65 years of age, and about 10% of our residents have a disability. Additionally, 87% identify as Caucasian, with 5% African American, 4% Hispanic, and 11% identify as immigrants.

Based on our demographic data and the needs we have seen over the years, our Advocate further focuses on the following three targeted populations: elders, those with disabilities, and those with substance use disorder. Our Advocate partners with our Council on Aging and serves on the Elder Abuse Coalition to bring awareness to the community and connect elders experiencing

abuse or neglect with support services. Our Advocate has been in contact with our many group homes for people with disabilities in the community and provides trainings and information, as well as, her support in dealing with their clients who are experiencing neglect or abuse. She also identified a need and created a partnership with our local community health center, and incorporated additional support from the board of health, to connect victims with a recovery support navigator who can offer a variety of treatment options for substance use disorder.

The funding provided us the ability to hire a full-time advocate to create daily follow-up with victims of domestic and sexual violence as well as stalking. Our advocate has also created a Special Victims Unit within the department to maintain regular communication and connection to support services for victims going through the criminal justice system. Additionally, our Advocate has created numerous partnerships throughout the community and the county to provide comprehensive support to victims. She has also conducted several trainings with our officers and local social service providers, around trauma-informed practices and victim-centered interviewing.

Our Advocate also tracks an extensive amount of data for all the victims that our department comes in contact with and the referrals she makes to those who are seeking services. Prior to her position we did not have the staffing or ability to complete follow-up. Our officers are not experts in social service referrals, and in the past would not know where to refer a victim for help. She implemented new strangulation worksheets that were developed by the Governor's Council to address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence. She also sits on the Cape & Islands Domestic Violence High Risk Task force to address safety concerns for high risk victims. She attends all forensic interviews at our local Child Advocacy Center to build rapport with the child and their family, and strength the relationship with our multi-disciplinary team. She coordinates with the other four Victim Advocates in Barnstable County for monthly meetings and is always finding trainings and conferences to attend for the Advocates to increase their skills. She often partners with the local domestic and sexual violence agency to not only connect victims to their services, but also to sponsor events to raise awareness in the community. She works closely with the court personnel to accompany victims to hearings, trials, and to apply for protection orders.

Despite all the barriers and challenges that we have faced during the pandemic, our Civilian Advocate Program and Special Victims Unit has maintained its mission the entire time. In lieu of in-person events, our Advocate utilized social media to get information and resources out to the general public about her position, as well as, local resources for victims to get the support they needed.

Thank you for this opportunity to show our gratitude for the VAWA STOP grant and for EOPSS. Our department and our entire community have tremendously benefited from our Advocate Program, which we could not have without the STOP Grant Award. EOPSS has continued to

support our Civilian Advocate Program, and is always available to answer questions about use of funds, programming reports, and reallocation of funds to be able to best support our Advocate and the Special Victims Unit. Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions or would like to further discuss our program.

Sincerely,



Frank Frederickson
Chief of Police





ASIAN TASK FORCE

Against Domestic Violence

March 30, 2022

Allison Randall
Principal Deputy Director
U.S. Department of Justice
Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)
145 N Street, NE, Suite 10W.121
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Deputy Director Randall -

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence expressing our strong support for the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) application related to the VAWA STOP Grant Program. The VAWA STOP Grant provides critical funding for ATASK's Legal Advocacy and Representation Program, which provides services to highly underserved limited-English Asian victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and intimate partner trafficking across the state.

Founded in 1992, Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK) was established as a statewide, multilingual, and multicultural organization to specifically address the lack of accessible services to Asian victims of domestic violence (DV) who do not fit the Model Minority Myth. *ATASK's mission is to empower Asian survivors of domestic violence and abuse to rebuild their lives. Our work bridges language and cultural gaps for Asian communities and advocates for social change.* ATASK serves a range of Asian ethnic populations through targeted, linguistically, and culturally specific assistance such as community-based case management and advocacy, 24/7 multilingual helpline, emergency shelter, transitional housing, comprehensive legal services, life skills and English language programs, community engagement and outreach, and culturally responsive provider trainings. *ATASK Legal Advocacy and Representation Program's mission is to bridge the gap in mainstream legal services and institutions that leave Asian immigrant ethnic communities behind, and to provide holistic legal services centered on a victim's linguistic and cultural needs.*

ATASK's Legal Program emerged in 2008 and is the only program of its kind in New England dedicated to providing free multidisciplinary legal services specifically calibrated to meet the needs of Asian ethnic communities. We use a multidisciplinary, multilingual and multicultural model to empower Asian immigrant survivors who may never see their linguistic and cultural norms reflected in any other provider during their journey to emancipation from violence. We provide free holistic legal services that range from comprehensive counseling and case management to full representation in the following areas: emergency and extensions of abuse prevention restraining orders, divorce, custody, child/spousal support, immigration relief, consumer rights, economic justice and poverty law. The program is multi-disciplinary and trauma-informed and collaborates with linguistically and culturally competent non-VAWA funded ATASK DV Advocates/Case Managers.

24-hour multilingual
helpline: 617.338.2355
www.atask.org

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Boston, MA 02112
tel 617.338.2350
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Lowell, MA 01852
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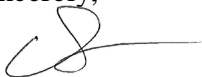
ATASK Legal Advocacy and Representation Program serves low-income, LEP Asian survivors who experience pervasive language and cultural barriers to accessing justice and mainstream legal services. Our target population and service area is linguistically and culturally driven by the needs of Massachusetts' Asian population. We serve 6 regions and 14 counties of Massachusetts. As of 2021, Asians represent nearly 8% of the overall state population while 42.9% of the Asian population is LEP. Asian languages are highly distinct, spanning over 60 languages and dialects, of which ATASK clients have spoken over 40 since our founding, including Arabic and Farsi. Presently, ATASK's multicultural and multilingual staff provide services in over 22 Asian languages and dialects including Bangla, Hindi, Manipuri, Urdu, Nepali, Bhojpuri, Cantonese, Taishanese, Chiuchow, Shanghainese, Hakka, Cantonese, Taiwanese, Mandarin, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Filipino, Indonesian, Khmer, Thai, and Lao.

Massachusetts continues to be one of the top ten states with both the largest Asian and LEP populations. US Census data indicate that in the last ten years, the Asian population in Massachusetts grew nearly 38%, making it the fastest-growing racial group in our state. Our own institutional data indicate that over 95% of our clients are LEP, nearly 25% are undocumented, and approximately 78% of our clients in the legal program over the last 5 years live below the poverty line. Our target population and geographic focus is informed by the growing and changing linguistic and economic needs of Asian communities and survivors in Massachusetts.

Within the last 12 months, our Legal Advocacy Program served 215 victims on 422 legal cases. Additionally, through our bi-weekly Legal Roundtable created in April 2020 to meet pandemic-related demand for urgent remote legal assistance, over 200 clients received assistance on public benefits, workers' rights, Unemployment Insurance (UI), abuse prevention, child custody, child support, and immigration. Asian victims' legal cases reflected approximately 19% immigration matters, 15% restraining orders, 33% divorce, child support or custody cases, 6% public benefit and tenant rights concerns, 6% consumer rights and education rights, and 3% other issues including victim-witness rights, guardianship and property disputes. Not surprisingly, over half of our clients had more than one legal matter and our legal caseload grew by 7%. During the same time period, nearly 60% of victims served in the Legal Program were recent Asian immigrants or of Asian heritage, 63% were LEP speakers, 91% spoke English as a second language and approximately 75% lived at the Federal poverty level. As a result, Asian victims across diverse and complex cultural norms experience systemic linguistic and cultural barriers that exacerbate isolation, marginalization, and victimization.

Our work, supported by VAWA STOP funds, provides critical safety and stabilization services to hundreds of Asian limited-English victims and their children every year. Thank you for the opportunity to offer our strong support of the VAWA STOP Grant and the team at VAWA. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any additional assistance.

Sincerely,



Dawn Sauma, LICSW
Co-Executive Director
Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence

Appendix D: FFY2021 Subgrantee Listing

Organization / Name	Award	Brief Program Description
Adams Police Department	\$28,300.00	Civilian Advocate Program combines law enforcement and victim service response to effectively to maximize the odds of success for safety and recovery for victims of violence.
Administrative Office of the Trial Court	\$146,538.00	Training for judges and court staff on domestic violence issues; to design an educational training program/video on sexual violence; and to begin to revise harassment prevention order (c. 258E) guidelines.
Alianza DV Services, Inc.	\$48,500.00	Specialized needs advocate programming for survivors of domestic violence who traditionally face barriers to receiving services, such as those with limited English, mobility and hearing challenges, substance misuse, mental health challenges and those who have been exploited.
Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence	\$83,200.00	ATASK's Legal Program dedicated to providing free multidisciplinary legal services specifically calibrated to meet the needs of Asian ethnic communities. Program uses a multidisciplinary, multilingual, and multicultural model to empower Asian immigrant survivors.
Assumption College Police Department	\$33,000.00	Assures access to a Civilian Campus Sexual Assault Advocate through providing confidential, coordinated, accessible resources for victims.
Bedford Police Department	\$35,700.00	Partnership with Domestic Violence Services Network, Inc. (DVSN), and 12 additional law enforcement departments that make up the DVSN Collaborative which seeks to expand DVSN's unique, volunteer-based service model to provide appropriate and compassionate outreach to victims of domestic violence, dating, and stalking of all ages and ethnicities.
Behavioral Health Network, Inc.	\$43,600.00	Civilian Police Advocacy partnerships with Ware, Hardwick, New Braintree, and Warren Police Departments on all domestic and sexual violence related calls. CP Advocate will also handle community-based referrals and provide advocacy and support services.
Boston Area Rape Crisis Center	\$48,500.00	The Access to Forensic Information (AFI) Project is a Massachusetts-based initiative which consists of the survivorape.org website, containing vetted information for survivors of sexual violence and on-line question submission; direct victim services through phone-based information lines; and training, collaboration, and referrals among the AFI Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee members.
Boston Medical Center Domestic Violence Program	\$122,000.00	Safety and Support Advocacy Services and BMC's Domestic Violence Program providing accessible, multi-lingual, comprehensive DV advocacy services to victims of domestic/dating violence and sexual assault.
Boston Police Department	\$125,000.00	The Boston Police Department (BPD) civilian DV Advocate provides services for victims in Jamaica Plain, East Boston and Charlestown and expand services to be made available in districts that currently lack dedicated coverage.
Bristol District Attorney's Office	\$108,197.00	Funding for two specialized domestic violence victim witness advocates to provide dedicated DV services and serve as their district court's representatives on the DV High Risk Team.
Cambridge Police Department	\$46,000.00	Implementation of trauma-informed approach for police and semi-annual training for all department officers as well as community partners.
De Novo Center for Justice and Healing, Inc	\$68,000.00	The Limited English Proficiency Legal Support Project provides free legal assistance in the areas of immigration law and family law and ancillary mental health and social services for 55 LEP survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Massachusetts Department of Corrections	\$88,000.00	In accordance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), provide victim services to inmates who are in the custody of the Massachusetts Department of Correction and are victims of sexual abuse.
Massachusetts Department of Public Health	\$120,000.00	Support the MA Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program through training and certification of MA SANEs. The SANE Program Training/Operations Coordinator (PTOC) role and the Program's Training and Outreach Coordinator (POC) role coordinate SANE Certification Trainings, the annual SANE Update Training, and ensure that the MA SANE Certification Curriculum, and MA SANE Protocols are current and reflective of best practices of forensic nursing.
DOVE (Domestic Violence Ended)	\$76,328.00	DOVE provides three (2.4 FTE) Civilian Domestic Violence Advocates to assist victims of domestic violence. The CDVA staff will provide services for a total of eight police departments, conducting outreach, danger assessments and safety planning, providing supportive counseling and information as well as providing virtual court accompaniment for victims/survivors.
Elizabeth Freeman Center, Inc.	\$67,000.00	The Domestic/Sexual Violence (SDV) Homelessness Response Program provides dynamic and increasingly intensive services to support homeless and at-risk survivors within shelters and the community to obtain and sustain safe housing and economic stability.
Fitchburg Police Department	\$62,097.00	The Fitchburg Police Department Civilian Advocate Program to assist under-served victims and families of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and/or stalking.
Hampden County Sheriff's Office	\$46,000.00	Provide support and direct services under the Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking Program; provide assessment, treatment, and support reentry with long term follow up of incarcerated women who self-identify or are identified as survivors of sexual exploitation or trafficking.
Independence House, Inc.	\$125,000.00	Independence House, Inc. Survivors Empowered Program serves residents of Barnstable County and provides free and confidential, trauma informed services which include crisis intervention, safety planning, advocacy, training, group, and individual counseling.
Jewish Family & Children's Service	\$35,720.00	Journey to Safety (JTS) program provides culturally and linguistically responsive services to Russian-speaking victims of domestic violence throughout Greater Boston. Direct services include comprehensive DV advocacy provided by a Russian-speaking advocate plus wrap-around supports that promote the wellbeing of Russian-speaking survivors and their children.
Martha's Vineyard Community Services	\$30,400.00	CONNECT to End Violence (CONNECT), a program of Martha's Vineyard Community Services, as project lead in collaboration with Martha's Vineyard Law Enforcement Council (MVLEC). CONNECT works with MVLEC to streamline the coordinated response to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking, provides support and training opportunities for law enforcement and offers on-going supports and advocacy.
Mashpee Police Department	\$54,000.00	Support the Mashpee Police Department's Domestic Violence Advocate in assisting victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Specifically, efforts are focused on two populations, the Elderly, and Native Americans of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. The DVA will strengthen the relationship between MPD and the Wampanoag Tribe, through the collaboration with the Tribal Police Chief, Tribal Victim Services and Tribal Health and Human Services.
Massachusetts District Attorneys Association	\$126,000.00	The VAWA Training & Policy Institute program provides trainings, resource materials, and legislative and policy development for the eleven District Attorney offices. MDAA assists prosecutors, advocates, and criminal justice professionals by summarizing and distributing court decisions and legislative summaries. MDAA also publishes trial notebooks that include sample motions and arguments.

Middle District Attorney's Office	\$129,000.00	Support the Middle District Attorney's Domestic Violence Unit through funding an Assistant District Attorney and two Victim Witness Advocates to handle cases and provide direct services on domestic violence related cases. The staff will carry-out program activities and provide a supportive environment for victims of domestic violence, increasing their sense of trust in the court and prosecution system.
Norfolk District Attorney's Office	\$230,440.00	The Norfolk District Attorney's Office (NDAO) supports the coordinated efforts of specially trained Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault (DV/SA) prosecutors and DV/SA victim witness advocates, who work with victims collaboratively and continuously from arraignment to disposition, to empower them to participate in the criminal justice system safely and confidently.
Northeast Legal Aid	\$48,400.00	Northeast Legal Aid program focuses on assisting survivors of domestic violence in underserved Southeast Asian-American communities. Specifically, staffing a Khmer-speaking lawyer as well as a Khmer-speaking paralegal to serve victims and conduct outreach.
Northwestern District Attorney's Office	\$130,000.00	The Domestic Violence Intervention Project (DVIP) is an early intervention model, spanning two counties and forty-seven towns, that provides an immediate law enforcement and advocacy response for victims of domestic and sexual violence. In addition, provide outreach and trainings for police officers on trauma informed response and risk assessment at the scene, including identification of non/near-fatal strangulation and utilization of the police strangulation worksheet.
Our Deaf Survivors Center	\$46,300.00	Our Deaf Survivors Center's (ODSC) Advocacy Services Program provides advocacy services to Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf Blind, and Late-Deafened female and male survivors of DV/SV across Massachusetts. The program serves as a liaison between ODSC and existing DV/SV agencies state-wide; provides education and resources to improve existing agencies' cultural and linguistic awareness; facilitates Deaf survivors' access to existing victim services.
Pathways for Change	\$130,150.00	The Deaf Survivors' Program provides free and confidential direct supportive services and counseling to Survivors of sexual violence who are d/Deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened, and deaf/blind and consultation/ technical assistance throughout the Commonwealth.
Pittsfield Police Department	\$56,000.00	The Civilian Advocate Program combines law enforcement and victim service response to maximize safety and recovery for violence survivors in our community. The civilian advocate provides counseling, advocacy, safety planning, shelter, emergency services, referrals to community resources.
RESPOND, Inc.	\$48,086.00	Placement of an experienced full-time High-Risk Specialist across three Police Departments (PDs): Malden, Melrose, and Wakefield. In particular, the Specialist will work across partnering PD and legal personnel to ensure victims receive access to timely victim services.
RIA, Inc.	\$88,000.00	The Sisters Leading Sisters program provides clinical therapy, case management, peer & survivor advocacy, accompaniment, and recovery support group services to women who have experienced sex trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, and prostitution in Massachusetts. The program is run by a dedicated team of clinical and survivor professional staff who have training in trauma-informed care
Safe Passage, Inc.	\$141,000.00	Project Enhanced Access allows Safe Passage to provide culturally and individually responsive services to individuals experiencing elevated risk of domestic violence (DV), limited access to services, and/or disproportionately negative outcomes. Specifically, programming and services are tailored to LatinX, immigrant, and rural survivors including counseling/advocacy and legal services.
The Network/La Red	\$46,300.00	The Outreach and Education Program maintains and expands The Network/La Red's capacity to provide outreach and information to improve system and community responses to LGBTQ+ domestic violence survivors.

Worcester Police Department	\$62,000.00	The Worcester Intervention Network (WIN), in partnership with the YWCA Central MA, will provide enhanced response to victims of domestic/dating violence who may also be victims of sexual assault and/or stalking that foster victim safety and increases access to services.
Yarmouth Police Department	\$62,000.00	The Yarmouth Police Department Victim Services Specialist/ Advocate reviews all incoming calls and reaches out to victims of domestic and sexual violence, stalking, and dating violence to offer them support and services. The Advocate has also formed a Special Victims Unit, within the Detective Division, to address victim's needs more comprehensively in high-risk cases.