

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of Grants & Research**



**Notice of Availability of Grant Funds (AGF)
FFY 2026 STOP Violence Against Women Act Grant Program
Competitive Opportunity**

Posted: September 24, 2026

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Governor

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Lieutenant Governor

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I. Introduction

The **Office of Grants and Research (OGR)**, a state agency that is a part of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS), is the responsible State Administering Agency (SAA) for the **STOP (Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program (STOP Program)**, a program originating from the United States Department of Justice (DOJ), Office on Violence Against Women (OVW).

Per 34 U.S.C. § 10446(a), this program provides grants to states and territories for use by state, local, and Indian Tribal governments, courts, and victim service providers for the more widespread apprehension, prosecution, and adjudication of persons committing violent crimes against women and for the protection and safety of victims and to develop and strengthen effective responses to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

Funding dedicated to this grant opportunity is contingent upon OGR receiving the FFY 2026 STOP Formula Grant award from OVW. Please thoroughly review this Availability of Grant Funds (AGF) document and all related attachments before developing your application.

II. Applicant Eligibility

The 2026 STOP VAWA AGF is a competitive grant program. Entities eligible to apply include: Massachusetts state agencies; local and tribal law enforcement; nonprofits; public and/or private non-governmental agencies; or federally recognized Indian tribes with experience providing services and/or technical assistance to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking. Faith-based and culturally specific community-based organizations are also eligible to apply.

III. Key Dates

Activity	Key Date
AGF Posted	Thursday, September 24, 2026
Application Assistance Webinar	October 1, 2026
Deadline for Questions	October 14, 2026, 4:00 p.m.
Application Due Date	October 23, 2026, by 4:00 p.m.
Award Notification (tentative)	December 2026
Performance Period (tentative)	January 1 through December 31, 2027

Application Assistance Webinar:

OGR will be hosting a webinar that will include an overview of this AGF and provide an opportunity for applicants to ask questions on **October 1, 2026, at 10:00am**.

Click on the link below to register:

[Violence Against Women Act 2026 - Application Assistance Webinar | Join meeting in Teams | Microsoft Teams](#)

Although interested applicants are encouraged to join us, webinar participation is strictly voluntary and **NOT** mandatory to be considered for a grant award.

Questions and Answers

Application Questions: OGR will accept written questions pertaining to this AGF through October 14, 2026. Questions must be submitted via email to Jenny.Barron@mass.gov. The responses to all questions will be routinely updated with final responses posted no later than October 16, 2026, at: [Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\) STOP Grant Program | Mass.gov](#)

OGR will **NOT** respond to questions about this opportunity after October 14, 2026.

IV. Purpose

The STOP Formula Grant Program contains 24 purpose areas of which 12 are applicable to Massachusetts. These funds are intended to support programs that serve victims of all ages who have experienced sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking. In FFY 2026, funds under the STOP Formula Grant Program may be used for the following purposes, pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 10441(b):

1. Training law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, 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)).
2. 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 sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.
3. 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;
4. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening victim services and legal assistance programs, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking programs; developing or improving delivery of victim services and legal assistance 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.
5. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing the needs and circumstances of Indian tribes in dealing with violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.
6. 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.
7. 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.

8. Providing assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in immigration matters.
9. Maintaining core victim services and criminal justice initiatives, while supporting complementary new initiatives and emergency services for victims and their families.
10. Supporting the placement of special victim assistants (also known as "Jessica Gonzales 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.
11. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing sexual assault against men, women, and youth in correctional and detention settings.
12. 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 is affected by their sexual orientation or gender identity, as defined in section 249(c) of title 18, United States Code.

V. Funding Overview

OGR expects to award approximately **\$3.4 million** through this AGF. OGR is federally mandated to allocate STOP VAWA funding in the following manner:

Allocation ⁽¹⁾	Funding Categories
30%	Victim Services: nonprofits, public and/or private non-governmental agencies (of which 10% must be awarded to culturally specific community-based organizations)
25%	Law Enforcement: local and tribal law enforcement and state agencies with criminal justice nexus
25%	Prosecution: prosecution entities
15%	Discretionary: (OGR will distribute funds among categories based on need and demand)
5%	Courts: state and tribal

Note: When completing the online application, applicants must ensure they select the appropriate funding category (listed above), regardless of whether funds are being sub-contracted out to a separate agency/organization. For example, a victim services applicant sub-contracting to a law enforcement agency cannot apply under the law enforcement category. One must select the category of the primary applicant.

OGR expects that applicant requests will far exceed the amount of funding available. Only request what is critical to ensuring the success of your program. In an effort to fund the greatest number of successful programs, OGR anticipates awarding partial funds to the majority of

⁽¹⁾ Pursuant to VAWA 2026, at least 20% of the total amount awarded will be allocated to projects in two or more categories (prosecution, victim services, etc.) that meaningfully address sexual assault.

successful applicants. Smaller requests are often more likely to be funded in full. **Any costs deemed excessive or less than critical to the program's success will not be funded.**

a. Parameters and Project Duration

- Applicants may request up to \$150,000 in federal funding for a 12-month grant period. Funding requests should be reasonable and appropriate to the proposed project scope and activities.
- Eligible applicants may only submit **ONE** application on behalf of their agency/organization. Agencies submitting more than one application will be disqualified.
- All applicants (except non-profit victim service providers* and federally recognized tribes) are required to submit a **25%** non-federal cash or in-kind **match**. **(See Match details below)**
- The project period will begin on or about **January 1, 2027 and end December 31, 2027.**
- Successful applicants selected for funding will be eligible for an additional three years of continuation funding, essentially making this a four-year grant award. Continuation funding will be contingent upon OGR receiving additional STOP VAWA formula funding, a sub-recipient's success in meeting their project deliverables, and ability to adhere to all state and federal rules and regulations.

b. Federal Out-of-Scope Activities

Please see Appendix 1 for SFY2026 Violence Against Women Act STOP Formula Grant Out-of-Scope Activities.

VI. Application Instructions

The application must be completed as outlined in this section. All attachments will be submitted through the online application via the link below.

[FFY2026 Violence Against Women Act STOP Formula Grant Program Application](#)

Project Narrative

Section I. Applicant Information

- Agency Contact and Fiscal Information.
- Applicant Eligibility Confirmation: attest to applicant eligibility requirements.
- Non-Supplanting: attest to non-supplanting of federal dollars for the stated project.
- UEI: Entities who are registered with the System for Award Management (SAM) are assigned a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). The UEI is assigned by and viewable within SAM, but Grants.gov users can also find it listed under their organization profile. (Grants.gov retrieves the UEI from SAM). To view your organization's UEI, follow instructions by clicking [here](#).
- Purpose Area(s): select which purpose areas will be addressed with your program funds.
- Project Summary: provide a brief summary of the STOP program to be funded (250 words). Applicants should be clear and concise in their summary.

Section II. Application Narrative

The application narrative section is composed of three sections: Needs Assessment; Program Description; and Goals, Objectives, Activities, Timeline and Performance Measures/Evaluation.

Needs Assessment

This section should clearly identify the problem and provide relevant data to support the issues and justify the request for the programs, services, or activities being proposed. All statements should be supported with up-to-date statistical, other factual information/data, or relevant literature.

- Identify and provide a description of the communities to benefit from this award, including:
 - Identification of counties served.
 - Description of targeted population(s) this program will serve, using demographic data wherever possible.
- Describe the need, nature, and extent of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking within the proposed community, region, and/or population to be served.
 - At a minimum, responses should include the number of victims served or who are seeking services from the applicant, incidents responded to and/or investigated, and/or cases prosecuted by the applicant within the last 12 months.
- Identify and describe the sources or methods used for assessing the domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and/or stalking problem in the community.
- Describe any negative effect, potential consequences, or impact on the department and/or community if not funded.

Program Description

This section should address both the scope and intent of the program, strategy, or activity and how it will address the problem and needs previously identified. The following items must be addressed in your response:

- Identify the percentage of funding that is allocated to prevent crime in the areas of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.
- Clearly describe the evidence-based STOP program, including the types of services and/or activities to be provided by the proposed project.
- Describe how the proposed project will address the problem and needs previously identified.
- Provide a summary of the agency's capacity, qualifications, and history providing services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking. All applicants should include a description of the agency's experience serving the identified population, experience of staff in working with said population, language proficiency, and integration of staff within the target community(ies). Current STOP VAWA awardees need to also include proof of success data for funded STOP VAWA programs.
- Provide a detailed description of applicant and/or project's collaboration with victim service, criminal justice, and community-based partners that reflect a regional and coordinated approach to addressing domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking. Please include the names of collaborating agencies or partners.

For Law Enforcement Applicants Only

- Has your agency implemented the following:
 - [2025 MA Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Guidelines](#)
 - Protocol for informing victims of their rights under MGL ch.209A
- How will confidentiality be handled if a civilian advocate is not an employee of a victim service provider (if applicable)?
- Does your agency have a public website where information and referral services for community-based domestic violence and sexual assault programs can be accessed?
- How does your agency respond to requests for U Visa certificates (supplement B of Form I-918)?

For Prosecution Applicants Only

- How will your agency utilize the Massachusetts Prosecutors' Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Trial Notebooks for prosecutors and the Victim-Witness Advocate Reference Manual for training victim witness advocates supported with STOP funds?
- How does your agency respond to requests for U Visa certificates (supplement B of Form I-918)?
- How will confidentiality be handled if a civilian advocate is not an employee of a victim service provider (if applicable)?

Goals, Objectives, Activities, Timeline and Performance Measures/Evaluation

Applicants must clearly state the goals and objectives for the agency and community as a result of receiving VAWA funding. The online application will allow for up to four (4) Goals.

- **Goals**: Goals are broad statements that describe the program's intentions and desired outcomes. They suggest the desired end to which the program is directed. The goals of your program should be clearly stated, realistic, attainable, and measurable. In stating your goals, be careful to describe the desired end and not the means to the end.
- **Objectives**: Objectives describe the purpose of the program activities that support the goal(s). They describe intermediate results or accomplishments to be achieved by the program in pursuing its goal(s). The event or program activity must answer the questions: Who or what will change? Where will change occur or the event take place? When (period of time) will the event occur? How will the change happen? Objectives may change due to program progression. The more specific your objectives are, the easier it will be to determine if your program has achieved them. Use numbers wherever possible.
- **Activities and Timeline**: Provide the primary activities to be carried out within the proposed program period. Please include:
 - List of major tasks/activities, and
 - Start and end dates of each activity.
- **Performance Measures/Evaluation**: All applicants must continuously evaluate their programs, services, and activities to monitor success. Realistic and adequate performance measures must be developed at the outset of the project. This section should describe the process that will be implemented to help identify how you will know whether you are meeting each of your objectives. This section should describe how you

will know whether your project is:

- Serving the population it was intended to serve,
- Accomplishing what it was intended to accomplish, and
- Experiencing obstacles.

For example, how will you know that the STOP VAWA funded position is serving the domestic violence victims your agency intended to serve? What strategies will you put in place to ensure that victims receive the proposed services?

Finally, this section should include a description of how you will collect data about your project. For example, how will you know the number of victims you have assisted? Will you track this information in an Access database, in an Excel spreadsheet, in hard copy documents, or in some other way? Who will be responsible for tracking this information and who will review it? How will you make use of the data?

Section III. Budget Narrative and Budget Excel Worksheet

Applicants, other than nonprofits* and federally recognized tribes, **must** also include their **match contribution**. To calculate the minimum match requirement, divide the requested amount by three (3). For additional information, please refer to the match requirement section of this AGF (p. 11-12)

The Budget Narrative should outline the budget requested and itemize the expenses by cost category as described in this application. For each cost category that has an associated funding request in the Budget Excel Worksheet (Attachment A), please provide an overall description and justification of that cost category. The budget category narratives should describe what the budget entails, why the items in that category are needed, and how the budgeted amount was determined. Please include any hires under personnel, a particular training, supplies needed, vendor information, or process for selecting a vendor where applicable.

Applicants may submit a twelve (12) month budget that covers expenses from January to December 31, 2027. Please identify which budget items are most critical to your program's success. This is your opportunity to identify which elements of your request are of highest priority, as OGR expects that the majority of successful applicants will be partially funded due to limited available funds.

The completed **Budget Excel Worksheet** (refer to Attachment A) is to be uploaded to the online application as an Excel document (not converted to PDF or other format). Please refer to the Excel document for further instructions, an overview of allowable costs, and additional match information.

Please note: State Agency applicants will be asked to use a State Agency Budget Workbook, in which they will need to select the "Object Class" for each line item. Please refer to the "Object Class" tab in the Excel Budget Worksheet for definitions and guidance.

Allowable Cost Categories	Definitions and Required Documentation
	• Full or part-time regular salaried employees working on the grant.
Overtime	• Allowable for all personnel working on the grant with adequate training and experience in responding to domestic and/or sexual violence incidents. • Allowable costs are limited to costs associated with investigating cases; court appearances; attending trainings; and/or participating in high-risk/sexual assault teams are allowable. • Please review OGR Overtime Policies for subrecipients receiving federal funds
Fringe and Payroll Tax	• Based on federally negotiated rate agreement or established formula by sub-recipient's accountant, comptroller, or human resource unit. Costs are limited to the employer's share of life insurance, health insurance, social security, pension, unemployment, and workers compensation costs. • Include copy of approved or audited rate with the application. • If applicant does not have a federally approved or audited rate, actual known costs must be itemized by type and include rate computation in the appropriate section of the budget form.
Indirect	• Federally negotiated and approved rate agreement from the federal cognizant agency for costs that are not readily assignable to a particular project, but necessary to the operation, maintenance of the organization, and performance of the project. Copy of approved rate agreement must be included with the application. • Any non-federal entity, except for state, local units of government, or Indian tribes, that has never received a negotiated indirect cost rate may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 15% of modified total direct costs (MTDC) which may be used indefinitely. If chosen, costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs, but may not be double

Allowable Cost Categories	Definitions and Required Documentation for Grant Application Submission
	charged or inconsistently charged as both. Once elected, this methodology must be used consistently for all federal awards until such time as a non-federal entity chooses to negotiate for a rate, which the non-federal entity may apply to do at any time. • All departments or agencies of the governmental unit desiring to claim indirect costs under federal awards must prepare an indirect cost rate proposal, and related documentation to support those costs. The proposal and related documentation must be retained for audit in accordance with the records retention requirements contained in §200.333 Retention Requirements for Records. If a governmental unit receives more than \$35 million in direct federal funding, the indirect cost rate proposal must be submitted to the federal cognizant agency for approval.
Consultants	• The maximum rate for consultants is \$650 per an eight hour day or \$81.25/hour (excluding travel and subsistence costs). Any request for compensation over \$650 per day requires prior approval by OGR.
Contracts	• A competitive process based on the organization's procurement policy should be followed when procuring sub-contracted services.
Travel	• Travel directly related to the purpose of the grant. • In-state travel costs associated with the grant should be charged at your agency's rate, but not to exceed the state rate (currently \$0.70 per mile) as well as the actual costs of tolls and parking. • No grant funds may be spent on out-of-state conference fees, out of state travel, or out of state lodging without prior written approval from OGR.
Equipment & Technology	• Tangible, non-expendable items; cost based on classification of equipment.

Allowable Cost Categories	Definitions and Required Documentation for Grant Application Submission
	Applicants should follow their organization's own procurement policy.
Supplies	General supplies required for project or office (pens, pencils, postage, training materials, copying paper, and other expendable items such as books, ink, etc.).
Other	Costs listed in this category may include direct and/or support service costs relevant to the proposed project and/or organization that cannot be listed within the aforementioned cost categories. Costs in this category can include: - Direct costs such as rent, phone, printing, utilities, etc. - Support costs such as executive director's time on project, administrative staff salaries, etc.

Unallowable Activities

OVW has determined the activities listed below to be unallowable, and they will not be supported by STOP Formula Grant Program funding.

1. Lobbying, except with explicit statutory authorization;
2. Fundraising;
3. Purchase of real estate property;
4. Physical modifications to buildings, including minor renovations (such as painting or carpeting); and
5. Construction, office furniture;
6. Moving Costs; and
7. Food and Beverages.

Match Requirement

Grantees Excluded from Providing Match: Grants to Tribes and to victim service providers for victim services are not subject to this requirement. To qualify for this exclusion, victim service providers must submit their IRS Determination Letter with their application to verify their IRS 501(c)(3) status (unless they are Tribal governmental organizations or governmental rape crisis centers not in territories).

***Note:** If you are a nonprofit victim service provider applying for a project under purpose areas 2 and/or 10, the law enforcement agency you are collaborating with is responsible for providing the required 25% match.

For all applicants submitting an application (excluding non-profit victim service providers* and tribes), the federal share of a STOP VAWA grant may not be more than 75% of the total costs of the project. Therefore, a 25%, non-federal, cash or in-kind match is required.

The grantee may satisfy the match requirement with either cash (e.g., funds contributed from private sources or state and local governments) or in-kind services (e.g., services or goods donated by the applicant organization or other entities).

In-kind match may include:

1. Equipment.
2. Office supplies, workshop, or classroom materials.
3. Work space.
4. Value of time contributed by professional and technical personnel, and other skilled and unskilled labor if the services they provide are a necessary part of the funded project.
5. Match expenditures must be committed for each funded project and cannot be derived from other federal funds.
6. Fringe benefits may be included as match.
7. Match funds are restricted to the same uses as the STOP VAWA grant funds, and must be spent within the designated grant period.
8. Applicants must ensure that their match is identified in a manner that guarantees its accountability during an audit.
9. Each applicant must list in the budget form the source and type of match funding being provided.
10. Funds or in-kind resources used as match must be directly related to the project goals and objectives.
11. Sub-recipient grant activity may be applied to match, with the commitment of the sub-awardee.
12. Grantees must maintain records which clearly show the source, the amount, and the timing of all matching contributions.
13. Sources of match are restricted to the same requirements as funds allocated under the STOP Formula Grant Program and must be documented in the same manner as STOP Formula Grant Program funds, including within financial and programmatic

Calculating Match

- There is a 25% match requirement imposed on grant funds under this program for Law Enforcement, Prosecution and Courts.
 - **Please Note:** To assist applicants in determining the 25% match requirement, the funding request can be divided by three. The resulting figure will equal 25% of the total project cost as the grantor (DOJ) requires that the match be at least 25% of the TOTAL grant AND match funds. An example is provided below.

Grant Funds (75%)	\$60,000.00	Amount of Funds Requested
Match Funds (25%)	\$20,000.00	= \$60,000.00 / 3
Total Project Cost (100%)	\$80,000.00	(\$80,000.00 x 25% = Match Funds)

VII. Application Submission

[FFY2026 Violence Against Women Act STOP Formula Grant Program Application](#)

Submit your online application no later than **October 23, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.**

Emailed submissions will not be accepted. Please submit all application questions prior to October 14th by email to jenny.barron@mass.gov. Responses to questions will be posted on the STOP VAWA webpage by October 16th.

The online application must be completed and submitted with the following attachments uploaded to the online application. All attachments and document can be found at [Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\) STOP Grant Program | Mass.gov](#).

Required for all applicants:

- **Attachment A:** Budget Worksheet
 - Applicant will select the appropriate Budget Worksheet from the workbooks posted:
 - All applicants except State Agencies
 - State Agencies
- **Attachment B:** Sub-recipient Risk Assessment
- All Applicants must acknowledge within the online application that they have read the **Notice of Statutory Requirements to Comply with the Confidentiality and Privacy Provisions of VAWA**. This document should be kept with all VAWA award documents at your organization.

If Applicable:

- **Attachment C/D:** Certification of Consultation/MOA with Victim Service Providers to be signed by the victim service provider partner with the court, prosecution, or law enforcement applicant
- **Attachment E:** Certification Letter for Applicants Proposing to Provide Legal Assistance
- **Federally Approved Indirect Cost Rate:** Required for all State Agency applicants; other applicants need to provide if indirect costs are included in the budget
- **Fringe Rate Agreement/Breakdown:** Required if fringe costs are included in budget
- **IRS Letter of Determination for 501(c)(3) nonprofit applicants**

Please ensure that all attachments are uploaded to the online application as individual documents. The document name should include the applicant and attachment name.

VIII. Application Review Process

All applications will be reviewed on following:

- **Applicant/Project Information (5 points):** Applicant must provide agency contact and fiscal information, identify the purpose area(s) for the project, provide a brief project summary, and attest to eligibility and non-supplanting of funds.
- **Needs Assessment (20 points):** This section should clearly identify the problem and support the stated issues with relevant data to justify the request for the programs, services, or activities being proposed. All statements should be supported with up-to-date statistical, other factual information/data, or relevant literature.
- **Program Description (25 points):** This section should address both the scope and intent of the program, strategy, or activity and how it will address the problem and needs previously identified.

- **Law Enforcement/Prosecution Applicants** must also address additional questions about implementation of relevant guidelines, resources, and confidentiality requirements.
- **Project Goals, Objectives, Activities, Timeline, and Performance Measures (25 points):** Applicants must clearly state the goals, objectives, and performance measures for the agency and community as a result of receiving VAWA funding. The online application will allow for up to four (4) Goals.
- **Reasonable and Cost-Effective Budget (25 points):** Expenses should clearly align with the project being implemented and be realistic. Unallowable budget items, vague requests and failure to complete the budget workbook in its entirety, may result in a loss of points.

In addition to the reviewer scores, other factors that are taken into consideration when making award decisions are past performance of a previous STOP VAWA funding recipient, geographic location of services, and overall cost effectiveness of the project being proposed. In an effort to support as many requests for funding as possible, OGR reserves the right to partially fund requests.

Reviewers will make recommendations for which portions of an application should or should not be funded; any items deemed excessive or less than critical to the success of the project will not be funded.

IX. Award Information

a. Award Notification

All final decisions are at the discretion of the OGR Executive Director, It is anticipated that grant awards will be announced in December 2026.

b. Subrecipient Requirements

If awarded funds, subgrantees will be required to abide by state and federal award conditions (provided at time of contracting) including the grant requirements outlined below which include OGR Requirements as well as Office of Violence and Women (OVW) requirements.

- Subgrantees must protect the confidentiality and privacy of persons receiving services. Subgrantees are prohibited from disclosing personally identifying information collected in connection with services requested, utilized, or denied through the subgrantee's project, to any third party or third-party database without informed, written, and reasonably time-limited consent of the person, unless required by statutory or court mandate.
- Submission of satisfactory and timely quarterly progress reports, financial reports, and annual progress report is required of subgrantees.
- Cooperation during OGR monitoring endeavors, including site visits and desk reviews, is required of subgrantees.
- If overspending occurred or expired funds have not been de-obligated from a previous grant from OGR, no additional grant funds will be made available to the subgrantee until the funds have been collected and recorded in the Massachusetts Management Accounting and Reporting System, as approved by both the Office of the State Comptroller and OGR.

- Grant funds are subject to federal accounting and audit requirements including the prohibitions on co-mingling funds. Organizations that receive STOP funding along with other federal funds must treat the funds independently with separate cost and reporting centers. An audit trail is required for the federal and matching portions of the project each year and is expected to be accessible upon the request of OGR. The sources of receipts, expenditures, and disbursements for each portion of funding are to be accounted for separately.
- Supplanting of funds is prohibited. Funds for projects and services provided through this grant are intended to supplement, not supplant, other state or local funding sources.
- Units of local government and nonprofit subgrantees that expend \$750,000 or more in a year in federal awards shall have a single or program-specific audit conducted for that year in accordance with the provisions of the [2 CFR 200 Subpart F: Audit Requirements](#). OGR's local government and nonprofit subgrantees will be required to submit a Single Audit (formerly A-133) summary to OGR annually upon request.
- Subgrantees must submit Equal Employment Opportunity Plans (EEO) information electronically via the [EEO Reporter Tool](#) to the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), and U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), as required upon receipt of Federal funds.
- In accordance 34 U.S.C. § 12291(b)(2), subgrantees are required to meet the terms with regard to nondisclosure of confidential or private information, which includes creating and maintaining documentation of compliance, such as policies and procedures for release of victim information.
- Subgrantees must ensure that, as part of the hiring process for any position within the that is or will be funded (in whole or in part) with award funds, the subrecipient properly verifies the employment eligibility of the individual who is being hired, consistent with the provisions of 8 U.S.C. § 1324a(a)(1) and (2). Details of the subrecipient's obligations under this condition are posted on the [OVW website](#) (Award Condition: Employment eligibility verification for hiring under award).
- All publications (e.g., written, visual, or sound), published or produced with the use of STOP grant funds must contain the following statement:

"This project is awarded by the Office of Grants and Research for the STOP VAWA Formula Grant Program. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the state or the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women."

- Subgrantees must comply with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act and will receive further instruction by OGR upon award.
- Nonprofit agencies may not sub-contract to state agencies. However, state agencies may sub-contract to nonprofit agencies or local units of government, and local units of government may sub-contract to nonprofit and state agencies.
- Subgrantees are expected to attend all STOP-related trainings, as requested by OGR.
- Subgrantees choosing to further sub-grant all or any part of the amount of the STOP award to an implementing agency or an independent contractor shall enter into a written contract or memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the implementing agency or independent contractor. At a minimum, the contract or MOA must include the provisions of the OGR standard subgrant conditions and explicitly outline the expected deliverables, timeframes/hours, and rates. A copy of the contract or MOA must be submitted to OGR for the subgrantee grant folder.

- Procurement of services, equipment, and supplies must follow MGL ch.30B for local units of government and nonprofit entities and Operational Services Division Purchasing Guide for state agencies. Local units of government must ensure that subcontracts with private organizations have provisions ensuring any goods and services provided by the subcontractor are consistent with MGL ch.30B procedures.
- In accordance with civil rights laws and regulations, all subgrantees of federal funds, regardless of the type of entity or the amount of money awarded, must certify that they will not discriminate against any person on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability in any program or activity funded, in whole or in part by federal financial assistance. Additional civil rights compliance and reporting requirements will be addressed with subgrantees upon award.
- The Anti-Lobbying Act 18 U.S. Code § 1913 prohibits the use of federal funds for “grassroots” campaigns that encourage third parties, members of special interest groups, or the general public to contact members of Congress or a State or local legislature, or an official of any government in support of or in opposition to a legislative, policy, or appropriations matter. This applies to activities both before and after the introduction of legislation.
- OGR’s selection of subgrantee agencies does not guarantee reimbursement. Funding is subject to appropriation and is contingent upon compliance with all grant conditions and eligibility requirements. If the federal government determines that a subgrantee agency is not in compliance with federal eligibility requirements, OGR cannot guarantee alternative sources of funding. It is the obligation of the subgrantee agency to ensure compliance with all eligibility requirements.
- In addition to the requirements set forth above, successful applicants are required to agree to and abide by all state and federal rules, regulations, and conditions pertaining to the receipt, administration, and management of federal funds.

Special Conditions for Law Enforcement Entities

Law Enforcement applicants must agree to the following special conditions:

- a. In accordance with the Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 209A (MGL ch.209A), each law enforcement agency is required to have adopted a policy consistent with Chapter 403, Section 15 of the Acts of 1990;
- b. MGL ch.209A, Section 6(4) instructs departments responding to domestic abuse incidents to provide victims with a written copy of the language set forth in 209A. Applicants must document their provision for and use of such written notice in their application.
- c. Submit all Uniform Crime Report (UCR) data (i.e., offense, arrest, hate crime, LEOKA, and SHR, as necessary) to the Massachusetts State Police (MSP) Crime Reporting Unit (CRU) on a monthly basis using the forms and procedures proscribed by the CRU. This condition does not apply to departments submitting National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data.
- d. Submit NIBRS extracts to the MSP CRU and implement a monthly process to do so no later than the conclusion of the grant period. This condition applies to departments with a records management system whose vendor is capable of creating NIBRS extracts.
- e. Law enforcement sub-recipients will be required to demonstrate compliance with UCR or NIBRS submissions as a condition of receiving grant funds.

- f. Police departments applying must speak to the policy in place for responding to requests for U visa certificates (supplement B of Form I-918).
- g. Departments will also be required to collect and submit to OGR on a quarterly basis, the number of reports concerning an incident, offense, or alleged offense, investigated or made, on a form provided by the department as per Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 41, Section 98G.
- h. Applicants must adhere to the [2025 Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Guidelines](#) standards of practice.
- i. If applicable, applicants must define the screening method(s) within the project narrative of the application that will be used to determine that the incarcerated or formerly incarcerated women and men being served through this grant are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking. Allowable services within this purpose area include mental health counseling, personal economic planning, parenting skills, safety planning, etc. A copy of the screening method(s) must be included with the application as an attachment.

Special Conditions for Prosecution Entities

Prosecution applicants must agree to the following Special Conditions:

- a. Prosecutorial type agencies must attest to their use of the *Massachusetts Prosecutors' Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Trial Notebooks* for VAWA funded prosecutors, and the *Victim-Witness Advocate Reference Manual* for training victim witness advocates supported with VAWA funds; and
- b. District Attorney's Offices must speak to the policy in place for responding to requests for U visa certificates (supplement B of Form I-918).

Reporting Alleged Waste, Fraud, and Abuse

It is the responsibility of the subgrantee to report alleged Waste, Fraud, or Abuse including any alleged violations, serious irregularities, sensitive issues or overt or covert acts involving the use of public funds in a manner not consistent with federal statutes, related laws and regulations, and appropriate guidelines for purposes of the grant. Reports may be made to any of the entities below.

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of the Inspector General
Investigations Division
ATTN: Grantee Reporting
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20530
(202) 616-9881 (fax)
[Submit a Grant Complaint](#)

Office of the Inspector General
John W. McCormack State Office Building
One Ashburton Place, Room 1311
Boston, MA 02108
800-322-1323
IGO-FightFraud@state.ma.us

Office of the State Auditor
Massachusetts State House, Room 230
Boston, MA 02133
617-727-2075
Auditor@SAO.state.ma.us
[Report Waste and Abuse](#)

OVW Guidelines and Requirements

As mandated by the [VAWA and subsequent legislation](#), applications **must** include and/or address the following:

Accommodations and Language Access

Recipients of OVW funds must comply with applicable federal civil rights laws, which, among other things, prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability and national origin. Applicants are encouraged to allocate grant funds to support activities that help to ensure individuals with intellectual, developmental, mental health, and physical disabilities, D/deaf individuals, and persons with limited English proficiency (LEP) have meaningful and full access to their programs. Applications that include the use of grant funds to create websites, videos, and other materials must ensure that they are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Legal Assistance

Applicants proposing to provide legal assistance with STOP funds must submit a Legal Assistance for Victims Certification Letter. Applicants will not be allowed to use funds for legal assistance without a signed certification letter, signed and dated by the applicant's authorizing official. All sub-recipients proposing to provide legal assistance must certify in writing they meet the criteria as outlined by OVW. Please refer to **Attachment G** for a sample letter outlining the statutory requirements.

Consultation with Victim Services Providers

OVW requires that all STOP VAWA funded state, local, and tribal court, law enforcement, and prosecution related applicants certify that they have consulted with victim services providers during the course of the development of their application.

- **Law Enforcement Applicants:** If sub-contracting with a victim service provider, a law enforcement applicant must submit a MOA certifying that consultation with a qualifying local domestic violence and/or sexual assault victim service provider took place in developing the application. Additionally, the MOA must include details regarding an agreement between the law enforcement agency and the qualifying victim service provider in implementing the proposed project. Please refer to **Attachment D (Sample 1)** for a sample MOA/Certification of Consultation form.

Note: Victim service applicants looking to sub-contract or partner with law enforcement to establish and/or maintain a civilian police advocacy program must include an MOA with their application. Applicants are encouraged to use Attachment D as a reference when developing their MOA.

If a law enforcement applicant is not sub-contracting with a victim service provider, a Certification of Consultation with a qualifying local domestic violence and/or sexual assault victim service provider took place in developing the application must be included with your application. Please refer to **Attachment D** for a sample Certification of Consultation form.

The MOA should, at a minimum, include the following:

1. Summary of each agency's role and responsibilities for the proposed project;

2. Clear outline of expected deliverables, timeframes, hours and rates of compensation; and
 3. Must be signed by the authorizing official of *both* agencies.
- **Court or Prosecution Applicants:** If not sub-contracting with a victim service provider, a court or prosecution applicant must consult with a victim service provider during the planning and development of this AGF to ensure that any proposed activities are designed to improve the safety, confidentiality, and economic independence of victims. For additional information regarding victim service providers in Massachusetts, please visit the Jane Doe, Inc., Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence website at [JDI | Jane Doe Inc., The Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence](#).

The consultation must take place between the STOP VAWA grant applicant and the victim service provider, and may include the following activities: (1) planning meeting(s) held prior to submission of the application to discuss the outline of the STOP VAWA grant application; (2) ongoing phone and/or in-person meetings to discuss progress of the STOP VAWA grant funded project; and (3) coordination of referrals and services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking. Please refer to **Attachment E** for a sample Certification of Consultation Form.

The Certification of Consultation should, at a minimum, include the following:

1. An outline as to how and when the consultation took place;
2. An outline of continued collaboration; and
3. Signed by the authorizing official of *both* the applicant and victim service provider.

Note: Applicants proposing to develop, continue, restore, and/or expand a High Risk Response Team must submit a detailed MOA with a minimum of three collaborating partners, one of which must be a victim service provider.

X. Application Checklist

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the application is complete and submitted by the deadline. Failure to submit all required documents may result in a delay in access to funds. Applicants should refer to the checklist below to ensure that all required documentation is included as requested.

Please do not mail your application. Hard applications are NOT required.

This AGF along with all other required documents can be found on our website: [Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\) STOP Grant Program | Mass.gov](#).

All Applicants:

- ☐ Submitted [Online Application](#) – Please Notify OGR immediately if applicant is unable to utilize the online application.
- ☐ Excel Budget Worksheet uploaded to the online application (see **Attachment A**).

- ☐ Risk Assessment Form uploaded to the online application (see **Attachment B**).

If applicable, the following documents must be uploaded to the online application:

- ☐ Certification of Consultation/MOA with Victim Service Providers, if applicant consulted with Victim Service Provider in creating this application (see **Attachment C/D** for sample letters for law enforcement and courts and prosecution applicants).
- ☐ Certification Letter for Applicants Proposing to Provide Legal Assistance (see **Attachment E** for sample).
- ☐ **Federally Approved Indirect Cost Rate**, required for all State Agency applicants; other applicants need to provide this if indirect costs are included in the budget.
- ☐ **Fringe Rate Agreement/Breakdown**, if fringe costs are included in budget.

Documents for Review Only (posted on the [STOP VAWA webpage](#))

- Notice of Statutory Requirement to Comply with the Confidentiality and Privacy Provisions of the Violence Against Women Act
- Overtime Policies

APPENDIX 1

FFY 2026 STOP Violence Against Women Act Formula Grant Out-of-Scope Activities

This Appendix recites the out-of-scope activities included in the OVW Fiscal Year 2026 STOP Formula Grant Program notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) governing OGR's receipt of funds. The applicant certifies grant funds will not be used for the out-of-scope activities listed in the NOFO, except for those stayed by order of the court in *Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence, et al., v. Pamela Bondi, et al.* The stayed out-of-scope activities are listed as #2-5, #7-9, and #11 on pages 5-6 of the court's opinion. These out-of-scope activities are not enforceable as to any OVW FY 2025 or FY 2026 awards unless and until the preliminary stay is lifted.

Certification will be required for any out-of-scope activities when subrecipients submit their contracting documentation.

1. Promoting or facilitating the violation of federal immigration law.
2. Inculcating or promoting gender ideology as defined in Executive Order 14168, *Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government*.
3. Promoting or facilitating discriminatory programs or ideology, including illegal DEI and "diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility" programs that do not advance the policy of equal dignity and respect, as described in Executive Order 14173, *Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity*. This prohibition is not intended to interfere with any of OVW's statutory obligations, such as funding for HBCUs, culturally specific services, and disability programs.
4. Activities that frame domestic violence or sexual assault as systemic social justice issues rather than criminal offenses (e.g., prioritizing criminal justice reform or social justice theories over victim safety and offender accountability).
5. Generic community engagement or economic development without a clear link to violence prevention, victim safety, or offender accountability.
6. Programs that discourage collaboration with law enforcement or oppose or limit the role of police, prosecutors, or immigration enforcement in addressing violence against women.
7. Awareness campaigns or media that do not lead to tangible improvements in prevention, victim safety, or offender accountability.
8. Initiatives that prioritize illegal aliens over U.S. citizens and legal residents in receiving victim services and support.
9. Excessive funding for consulting fees, training, administrative costs, or other expenses not related to measurable violence prevention, victim support, and offender accountability.
10. Research projects.
11. Any activity or program that unlawfully violates an Executive Order.

Note: Nothing prohibits recipients and subrecipients from serving all eligible victims as required by statute, regulation, or award condition.