



Implementation Plan 2013-2015

STOP VAW Funds

2012-WF-AX-0029

December 28, 2012

GOBIERNO DE PUERTO RICO

Oficina de la Procuradora de las Mujeres



Clada Wanda Vázquez Garced
Procuradora

December 28, 2012

Ms. Bea Hanson
Acting Director
U.S. Department of Justice
Office on Violence Against Women (OWV)
145 N Street, NE, Suite 10W.121
Washington, D.C. 20530

ATTENTION: Mr. Omar Mohammed
FY 2013-2015 STOP VAW Formula Grant
Program Women's Advocate Office

Dear Ms. Hanson:

The Women's Advocate Office of Puerto Rico enclosed the Implementation Plan for STOP VAW funds 2013-2015.

As a grantee is our responsibility to participated in WAO's National Commission for the Eradication of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence and Stalking Against Women (CNEV). As an active member of Commission we have to attend victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking to improve new training and new strategies in order to resolve the victim's snags as a result of aggression.

On October 23 and 24, 2012 , we celebrated in collaboration with non-government and government organizations to elaborated the Puerto Rico's Women Advocate Office (WAO) STOP VAW Implementation Plan for 2013-2015.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff at (787) 289-2857, if you require further information.

Sincerely,



Wanda Vázquez Garced, Esq.
Women Advocate



Department of Justice
Office on Violence Against Women

[Handwritten Signature]
9/18/12

August 30, 2012

4-14-12-01-0001

Mrs. Wanda Valquez
Office of the Women's Advocate
P.O. Box 11362
Sanchez, Puerto Rico
San Juan, PR 00910-1362

Dear Mrs. Valquez:

On behalf of Attorney General Eric Holder, it is my pleasure to inform you that the Office on Violence Against Women has approved your application for funding under the STOP Violence Against Women Patriotic Grant Program in the amount of \$1,738,417 for Office of the Women's Advocate. This award provides the opportunity for recipients to develop and strengthen effective responses to violence against women.

Enclosed you will find the award package. This award is subject to all administrative and financial requirements, including the timely submission of all financial and programmatic reports, resolution of all inter-agency findings, and the maintenance of a program level of cash-on-hand. Should you not adhere to these requirements, you will be in violation of the terms of this agreement and the award will be subject to termination for cause or other administrative action as appropriate.

If you have questions regarding this award, please contact Omar Mohammed at (202) 305-2381. For financial grant management questions, contact the OYW Grants Financial Management Division at (202) 514-8536, or by e-mail at owg-fmd@doj.gov. For payment questions, contact the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (national services center) at (SC) 347(203) 458-0786, or by email at usa.owv@doj.gov.

Copies attached, and as had, forward to working with you

Sincerely,

[Handwritten Signature]

Ben Hanson
Acting Director

Enclosures

[Handwritten Signature]



Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Office for Civil Rights

Washington, DC 20531

August 30, 2012

Mrs. Wanda Vazquez
Office of the Women's Advocate
P.O. Box 11382
Fernandez Juncos Station
San Juan, PR 00919-1382

Dear Mrs. Vazquez:

Congratulations on your recent award. In establishing financial assistance programs, Congress linked the receipt of Federal funding to compliance with Federal civil rights laws. The Office for Civil Rights (OCR), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice is responsible for ensuring that recipients of financial aid from OJP, its component offices and bureaus, the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), and the Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services (COPS) comply with applicable Federal civil rights statutes and regulations. We at OCR are available to help you and your organization meet the civil rights requirements that come with Justice Department funding.

Ensuring Access to Federally-Assisted Programs

As you know, Federal law prohibits recipients of financial assistance from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or disability in funded programs or activities, not only in respect to employment practices but also in the delivery of services or benefits. Federal law also prohibits funded programs or activities from discriminating on the basis of age in the delivery of services or benefits.

Providing Services to Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Individuals

In accordance with Department of Justice guidance pertaining to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 20006d, recipients of Federal financial assistance must take reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to their programs and activities for persons with limited English proficiency (LEP). For more information on the civil rights responsibilities that recipients have in providing language services to LEP individuals, please see the website at <http://www.lea.gov>.

Ensuring Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations

The Department of Justice has published a regulation specifically pertaining to the funding of faith-based organizations. In general, the regulation, Participation in Justice Department Programs by Religion Organizations: Providing for Equal Treatment of all Justice Department Program Participants, and known as the Equal Treatment Regulation 28 C.F.R. part 38, requires State Administering Agencies to treat these organizations the same as any other applicant or recipient. The regulation prohibits State Administering Agencies from making award or grant administration decisions on the basis of an organization's religious character or affiliation, religious name, or the religious composition of its board of directors.

The regulation also prohibits faith-based organizations from using financial assistance from the Department of Justice to fund inherently religious activities. While faith-based organizations can engage in non-funded inherently religious activities, they must be held separately from the Department of Justice funded program, and customers or beneficiaries cannot be compelled to participate in them. The Equal Treatment Regulation also makes clear that organizations participating in programs funded by the Department of Justice are not permitted to discriminate in the provision of services on the basis of a beneficiary's religion. For more information on the regulation, please see OCR's website at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ocr/leap.htm>.

State Administering Agencies and faith-based organizations should also note that the Safe Streets Act, as amended, the Victims of Crime Act, as amended, and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, as amended, contain prohibitions against discrimination on the basis of religion in employment. Despite these nondiscrimination provisions, the Justice Department has concluded that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) is reasonably construed, on a case-by-case basis, to require that its funding agencies permit faith-based organizations applying for funding under the applicable program statutes both to receive DOJ funds and to continue considering religion when hiring staff, even if the statute that authorizes the funding program generally forbids considering of religion in employment decisions by grantees.

Questions about the regulation or the application of RFRA to the statutes that prohibit discrimination in employment may be directed to this Office.

Enforcing Civil Rights Laws

All recipients of Federal financial assistance, regardless of the particular funding source, the amount of the grant award, or the number of employees in the workforce, are subject to the prohibitions against unlawful discrimination. Accordingly, OCR investigates recipients that are the subject of discrimination complaints from both individuals and groups. In addition, based on regulatory criteria, OCR selects a number of recipients each year for compliance reviews, and/or that require recipients to submit data showing that they are providing services equitably to all segments of their service population and that their employment practices meet equal employment opportunity standards.

Complying with the State Streets Act on Program Requirements

In addition to these general prohibitions, an organization which is a recipient of financial assistance subject to the non-discrimination provisions of the Civil Rights Act and State Streets Act (State Streets Act) of 1968, 42 U.S.C. § 3789d(c), or other Federal grant program requirements, must meet two additional requirements: (1) complying with Federal regulations pertaining to the development of an Equal Employment Opportunity Plan (EEO Plan), 28 C.F.R. § 42.301-.308, and (2) submitting to OCR Findings of Discrimination (see 28 C.F.R. §§ 42.205(f) or 31.202(f)).

1) Meeting the EEO Plan Requirement

In accordance with Federal regulations, Assurance No. 6 in the Standard Assurances, COPS Assurance No. S.B. or certain Federal grant program requirements, your organization must comply with the following EEO Plan reporting requirements:

If your organization has received an award for \$200,000 or more and has 50 or more employees (counting both full- and part-time employees but excluding political appointees), then it has to prepare an EEO Plan and submit it to OCR for review within 60 days from the date of this letter. For assistance in developing an EEO Plan, please consult OCR's website at <http://www.op.usdoj.gov/eo/eeop.htm>. You may also request technical assistance from an EEO Plan specialist at OCR by dialing (202) 616-3288.

If your organization received an award between \$25,000 and \$200,000 and has 50 or more employees, your organization still has to prepare an EEO Plan, but it does not have to submit the EEO Plan to OCR for review. Instead, your organization has to maintain the EEO Plan on file and make it available for review on request. In addition, your organization has to complete Section B of the Certification Form and return it to OCR. The Certification Form can be found at <http://www.op.usdoj.gov/eo/eeop.htm>.

If your organization received an award for less than \$25,000, or if your organization has less than 50 employees, regardless of the amount of the award, or if your organization is a medical institution, educational institution, nonprofit organization or Indian tribe, then your organization is exempt from the EEO Plan requirement. However, your organization must complete Section A of the Certification Form and return it to OCR. The Certification Form can be found at <http://www.op.usdoj.gov/eo/eeop.htm>.

2) Submitting Findings of Discrimination

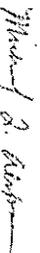
In the event a Federal or State court or Federal or State administrative agency makes an adverse finding of discrimination against your organization after a due process hearing, on the ground of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex, your organization must submit a copy of the finding to OCR for review.

Ensuring the Compliance of Subrecipients

If your organization makes subawards to other agencies, you are responsible for assuring that subrecipients also comply with all of the applicable Federal civil rights laws, including the requirements pertaining to developing and submitting an EEO Plan, reporting findings of Discrimination, and providing language services to LEP persons. State agencies that make subawards must have in place standard grant assurances and review procedures to demonstrate that they are effectively monitoring the civil rights compliance of subrecipients.

If we can assist you in any way in fulfilling your civil rights responsibilities as a recipient of Federal funding, please call OCR at (202) 307-4500 or visit our website at <http://www.op.usdoj.gov/eo/>.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Alston
Director

cc: Grant Manager
Financial Analyst



Department of Justice
Office on Violence Against Women

Grant

Page 1 of 2

1. THIS BUREAU HAS AWARDED YOUR BUREAU'S APPLICATION FOR A GRANT TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES, 8601 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, Maryland 20814. The award is for \$50,000.00.

AWARD NUMBER: 2012A1 58 0029
 BUDGET FISCAL YEAR: 2012
 PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: 07/01/2012 to 06/30/2014

2. YOUR BUREAU'S AWARD NUMBER IS:

AWARD DATE: 05/29/2012
 AGENCY: DOJ

3. YOUR BUREAU'S AWARD NUMBER IS:

PERIODIC AWARDS REPORTING: 50
 REPORTING PERIOD: 07/01/2012 to 06/30/2014
 REPORTING DATE: 06/30/2014

4. SPECIAL CONDITIONS:
 THE AWARD GRANTS SUPPORT FOR A RESEARCH PROJECT ON THE IMPACT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ON THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN.

5. SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
 THIS GRANT IS SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

6. SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
 NONE

7. SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
 NONE

8. SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
 NONE

[Signature]
 Date: 2/21/12

9. SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
 NONE

10. SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
 NONE



Department of Justice
Office on Violence Against Women

AWARD CONTINUATION
SHEET
Grant

PAGE 2 OF 3

PROJECT NUMBER 2012-OVA-A-6979

AWARD DATE 08/26/2012

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. The recipient agrees to comply with the financial and administrative requirements set forth in the current edition of the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) Financial Grants Management Guide.
2. The recipient acknowledges that failure to submit an acceptable Equal Employment Opportunity Plan (if recipient is required to submit one pursuant to 28 C.F.R. Section 42.302), that is approved by the Office for Civil Rights, is a violation of its Certified Assurances and may result in suspension or termination of funding, with such home as the recipient is in compliance.
3. The recipient agrees to comply with the organizational audit requirements of OMB Circular A-133, Audit of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations, and further understands and agrees that funds may be withheld, or other related requirements may be imposed, if outstanding audit issues (if any) from OMB Circular A-133 audits (and any other audits of DOJ grant funds) are not satisfactory and promptly addressed as further described in the current edition of the OVW Financial Grants Management Guide.
4. Recipient understands and agrees that it cannot use any federal funds, either directly or indirectly, in support of the enactment, repeal, modification or adoption of any law, regulation or policy, at any level of government without the express prior written approval of OVW. In order to avoid violation of 18 USC § 1543. The recipient may, however, use federal funds to collaborate with and provide information to Federal, State, local, tribal and territorial public officials and agencies to develop and implement policies to reduce or eliminate domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking (as these terms are defined in 42 USC 13925(a)) when such collaboration and provision of information is consistent with the services otherwise authorized under this grant program.
5. The recipient must promptly refer to the DOJ OIG any credible evidence, that a principal, employee, agent, contractor, subgrantee, subcontractor, or other person has either (1) submitted a false claim for grant funds under the False Claims Act, or (2) committed a criminal or civil violation of laws pertaining to fraud, conflict of interest, bribery, gratuity, or similar misconduct involving grant funds. This condition also applies to any subrecipients. Potential fraud, waste, abuse, or misconduct should be reported to the OIG by:

mail:

Office of the Inspector General
U.S. Department of Justice
Investigations Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Room 4705
Washington, DC 20530

e-mail: oig.hwh@gusdoj.gov

hotline (contact information in English and Spanish) (800) 899-4499

or hotline fax (202) 616-0881

Additional information is available from the DOJ OIG website at www.usdoj.gov/oig
6. Recipient understands and agrees that it cannot use any federal funds, either directly or indirectly, in support of any contract or subaward to either the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) or its subsidiaries, without the express prior written approval of OVW.



Department of Justice
Office on Violence Against Women

AWARD CONTINUATION
SHEET
GRANT

PAGE 3 OF 7

PROJECT NUMBER 2012-WF-A2-0029

AWARD DATE 09/30/2012

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

- 7 The recipient agrees to comply with any additional requirements that may be imposed during the grant performance period if the agency determines that the recipient is a high-risk grantee. Cf. 28 C.F.R. parts 69, 70.
- 8 The recipient agrees to comply with applicable requirements regarding Central Contractor Registration (CCR) and applicable restrictions on subawards to first-tier subrecipients that do not acquire and provide a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. The details of recipient obligations are posted on the Office on Violence Against Women web site at <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/decree-award-terms.pdf> (Award Condition, Central Contractor Registration and Universal Identifier Requirements), and are incorporated by reference here. This special condition does not apply to an award to an individual who received the award as a natural person (i.e., unrelated to any business or non-profit organization that he or she may own or operate in his or her name).
- 9 Pursuant to Executive Order 13113, "Federal Leadership on Reducing Text Messaging While Driving," 74 Fed. Reg. 51725 (October 1, 2009), the Department encourages recipients and sub-recipients to adopt and enforce policies banning employees from text messaging while driving any vehicle during the course of performing work funded by this grant, and to establish workplace safety policies and conduct education, awareness, and other outreach to decrease crashes caused by distracted drivers.
- 10 The recipient understands and agrees that any training or training materials developed or delivered with funding provided under this award must adhere to the OVV Training Guiding Principles for Grantees and Subgrantees, available at <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/grantees.html>.
- 11 The recipient agrees to comply with all applicable laws, regulations, policies, and guidance (including specific cost limits, prior approval and reporting requirements, where applicable) governing the use of Federal funds for expenses related to conferences, meetings, trainings, and other events, including the provision of food and/or beverages at such events, and costs of attendance at such events. Information on pertinent laws, regulations, policies, and guidance is available at <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/grantees.html>.
- 12 The grantee agrees to comply with all relevant statutory and regulatory requirements which may include, among other relevant authorities, the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, P. L. 103-322, the Violence Against Women Act of 2000, P. L. 106-386, the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, 42 U.S.C. 3711 et seq., the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005, P. L. 109-162, and OVV's implementing regulations at 28 CFR Part 90.
- 13 The grantee must be in compliance with specifications outlined in the solicitation under which the approved application was submitted. The program solicitation is hereby incorporated by reference into this award.
- 14 The recipient understands and agrees that misuse of award funds may result in a range of penalties, including suspension of current and future funds, suspension or debarment from federal grants, repayment of monies provided under an award, and civil and/or criminal penalties.
- 15 The Director of OVV, upon a finding that there has been substantial failure by the grantee to comply with applicable laws, regulations, and/or the terms and conditions of the grant or cooperative agreement, will terminate or suspend until the Director is satisfied that there is no longer such failure, all or part of the grant or cooperative agreement, in accordance with the provisions of 28 C.F.R. Part 18, as applicable mutatis mutandis.
- 16 The grantee agrees that if they receive any funding that is duplicative of funding received under this grant, they will notify their OVV grant manager as soon as possible and a Grant Adjustment Notice (GAN) will be issued changing the budget to eliminate the duplication, and the grantee agrees and understands that any duplicative funding will be deobligated from its award and returned to OVV.



Department of Justice
Office on Violence Against Women

AWARD CONTINUATION
SHEET
CPAWB

PAGE 1 OF 7

PROJECT NUMBER 7913-WF-A6409

AWARD DATE 08/10/2012

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

17. The recipient agrees to provide OVW with specific information regarding subgrants made under this program. The recipient agrees to submit an annual report that includes (a) an assessment of whether stated goals and objectives were achieved, (b) information on the effectiveness of the activities carried out with the amounts made available to carry out the program, including number of persons served and the numbers of persons seeking services who could not be served, (c) information on each subgrant awarded, and (d) such other information as the Attorney General may prescribe. Grantees are required to submit this report after the end of each calendar year but no later than March 30 each year. Grantees are required to submit this information on the Annual STOP Administrator Report form (which is to be completed by State Administrator) and the Annual Progress Report for STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program form (which is to be completed by subgrantees).
18. Under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) and VAWA 2000, grantees are required to collect and maintain data that measure the effectiveness of their grant funded activities. Accordingly, the grantee agrees to submit an annual electronic progress report on program activities and program effectiveness measures. Information that grantees must collect under GPRA and VAWA 2000 includes, but is not limited to: 1) number of victims receiving requested services, 2) number of persons seeking services who could not be served, 3) number and percentage of arrests relative to the number of police responses to domestic violence incidents, 4) number of sexual assault nurse examiners trained, and 5) number of victim advocates supported by grant funding.
19. A final report, which provides a summary of progress toward achieving the goals and objectives of the award, significant results, and any products developed under the award, is due 90 days after the end of the award. The Final Progress Report should be submitted to the Office on Violence Against Women through the Grants Management System with the Report Type indicated as "Final".
20. The recipient agrees that it will submit quarterly financial status reports to OVW on-line at <https://grants.eplanning.gov> using the SF-425 Federal Financial Report form (available for viewing at www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/standard_forms/fp_report.pdf), not later than 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter. The final report shall be submitted not later than 90 days following the end of the award period.
21. The recipient agrees to comply with applicable requirements to report first-tier subawards of \$25,000 or more and, in certain circumstances, to report the names and total compensation of the five most highly compensated executives of the recipient and first-tier subrecipients of award funds. Such data will be submitted to the FTA FA Subaward Reporting System (FSRS). The details of recipient obligations, which derive from the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA) are posted on the Office on Violence Against Women web site at <http://www.ovw.nvdoj.gov/docs/flana-award-term.pdf> (Award condition: Reporting Subwards and Executive Compensation), and are incorporated by reference here. This condition, and its reporting requirement does not apply to grant awards made to an individual who received the award as a natural person (i.e., unrelated to any business or non-profit organization that he or she may own and/or operate in his or her name).
22. The grantee agrees to attend and participate in OVW-sponsored technical assistance. Technical assistance includes, but is not limited to, national and regional conferences, audio conferences, peer-to-peer consultations, and workshops conducted by OVW-designated technical assistance providers. The recipient's participation is critical for effective administration of the STOP Formula Grant program and to ensure adherence to statutory prerequisites.
23. Approval of this award does not indicate approval of any consultant rate in excess of \$650 per day. A detailed justification must be submitted to and approved by the Office on Violence Against Women prior to obligation or expenditure of such funds.



Department of Justice
Office on Violence Against Women

AWARD CONTINUATION
SHEET
Grant

PAGE 5 OF 7

PROJECT NUMBER: MW-VA-0432 AWARD DATE: 08/30/01

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

- 24 The recipient agrees to submit one copy of all required reports and any other written materials or products that are funded under the project to OYW not less than twenty (20) days prior to public release. If the written material is found to be outside the scope of this program, or in some way to compromise victim safety, it will need to be revised to address these concerns or the grantee will not be allowed to use project funds to support the further development or distribution of the materials
- 25 All materials and publications (written, visual, or sound) resulting from award activities shall contain the following statements: "This project was supported by Grant No. _____ awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. 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 Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women"
- 26 All materials and publications (written, visual, or sound) resulting from subgrant award activities shall contain the following statements: "This project was supported by program No. _____ awarded by the state administering office for the STOP 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"
- 27 The grantee agrees to comply with the applicable requirements of 28 C.F.R. Part 38, the Department of Justice regulation governing "Equal Treatment for Faith Based Organizations" (the "Equal Treatment Regulation"). The Equal Treatment Regulation provides in part that Department of Justice grant awards of direct funding may not be used to fund any inherently religious activities, such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytization. Recipients of direct grants may still engage in inherently religious activities, but such activities must be separate in time or place from the Department of Justice funded program, and participation in such activities by individuals receiving services from the grantee or a sub-grantee must be voluntary. The Equal Treatment Regulation also makes clear that organizations participating in programs directly funded by the Department of Justice are not permitted to discriminate in the provision of services on the basis of a beneficiary's religion
- 28 The grantee agrees that grant funds will not support activities that compromise victim safety and recovery, such as procedures or policies that exclude victims from receiving safe shelter, advocacy services, counseling, and other assistance based on their actual or perceived sex, age, marital status, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental health condition, physical health condition, criminal record, work in the sex industry, or the age and/or sex of their children, pre-trial diversion programs not approved by OYW or the placement of offenders in such programs, mediation, couples counseling, family counseling or any other manner of joint victim-offender counseling, mandatory counseling for victims, penalizing victims who refuse to testify, or promoting procedures that would require victims to seek legal sanctions against their abusers (e.g., seek a protection order, file formal complaint), the placement of perpetrators in anger management programs, or any other activities outlined in the solicitation under which the approved application was submitted



Department of Justice
Office on Violence Against Women

AWARD CONTINUATION
SHELF
Grant

PAGE 6 OF 7

PROJECT NUMBERS 2012 W-VA-AW-029

AWARD DATE 08/30/12

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

20 Pursuant to 28 CFR §66.34, the Office on Violence Against Women reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish or otherwise use, and to authorize others to use, in whole or in part (including in the creation of derivative works), for Federal Government purposes:

- (a) any work that is subject to copyright and was developed under this award, subaward, contract or subcontract pursuant to this award; and
- (b) any work that is subject to copyright for which ownership was purchased by a recipient, subscriber or a contractor with support under this award

In addition, the recipient for subaward, contractor or subcontractor must obtain advance written approval from the Office on Violence Against Women program manager assigned to this award, and must comply with all conditions specified by the program manager in connection with that approval before: 1) using award funds to purchase copyright of, or a license to use, a copyrighted work; or 2) incorporating any copyrighted work, or portion thereof, into a new work developed under this award

It is the responsibility of the recipient (and of each subrecipient, contractor or subcontractor as applicable) to ensure that this condition is included in any subaward, contract or subcontract under this award

30 The recipient understands and agrees that compliance with the statutory certification requirements is an ongoing responsibility during the award period and that, at a minimum, a hold may be placed on recipient's funds for non-compliance with any of the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 3796gg-4 (regarding rape exam payments), 42 U.S.C. 3796gg-4(c) (regarding judicial notification), 42 U.S.C. 3796gg-5 (regarding certain fees and costs), and 42 U.S.C. 3796gg-8 (regarding photographing of sexual assault victims). Non-compliance with any of the foregoing may also result in termination or suspension of the grant or other remedial measures, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations

31. The recipient agrees to submit either a new or updated 13 year Implementation Plan developed in consultation and coordination with nonprofit, nongovernmental victim services programs, including sexual assault and domestic violence services programs in accordance with the following guidelines:

- (a) If the grantee has not submitted a new implementation plan within the last year, one must be submitted to OVAW within 120 days after the date of the award; or
- (b) If a new implementation plan was submitted in the last year, the grantee may elect to submit either an update of the most recent implementation plan, an entirely new implementation plan, or a letter indicating there was no change to the implementation plan within 120 days of the date of the award

Regardless if changes were made to the three year implementation plan, all states and territories must submit a copy of the state's or territory's most recent census data relating to undervictimized populations and submit this information along with the letter, new or revised implementation plan, as applicable. The recipient acknowledges that it may not obligate, expend, or draw down more than 10 percent of the award amount until it has submitted a letter, revised or new Implementation Plan, and a Grant Administration Notice has been issued removing this special condition

32. The recipient agrees that no amount of the 10% Administrative funding of this grant will be used for dues or membership fees to an organization conducting any type of lobbying, including advocating with government agencies for policy change.



Department of Justice
Office on Violence Against Women

AWARD CONTINUATION
SHEET
Grant

PAGE 7 OF 7

PROJECT NUMBER: 2012-VT-AV-0029

AWARD DATE: 08/30/2013

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

33. The recipient acknowledges that the federal share of a grant made under the state formula program may not exceed 75 percent of the total costs of the total projects described in the application, including administrative costs. The recipient further acknowledges that non-profit, non-governmental victim services programs receiving STOP subgrants under the victim services allocation cannot be required by the State to provide matching dollars. The State, however, must provide no less than 25 percent matching funds unless granted a waiver or partial waiver by OVVW.
34. The grantee agrees to provide OVVW, within ten (10) days of release, a copy of its announcement of the availability of funding under the program (e.g., the request for applications, announcement of general funding availability, or announcement of program priorities issued in connection with this program).
35. The recipient agrees in making subgrants under this award to give priority to areas of varying geographic size with the greatest demonstration of need to take into consideration the population of the geographic area to be served, to distribute monies equitably on a geographic basis, including northern and rural areas of various geographic sizes, and to identify and address the needs of underserved populations.
36. The grantee agrees that of the 30 percent of funds allocated to victim services, 10 percent will be distributed to culturally specific community-based organizations. Further, the grantee agrees to recognize and respectfully respond to the needs of underserved populations and ensure that monies set aside to fund linguistically and culturally specific services and activities for underserved populations are distributed equitably among those populations.
37. The grantee agrees that grant funds will not be used to support the purchase of law enforcement equipment, including uniforms, safety vests, shields, weapons, batons, and armor, or to support chemical dependency or alcohol abuse programs that are not an integral part of a court-mandated batterer intervention program.
38. The grantee agrees that grant funds will not be used to support the development or presentation of a domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and/or stalking curriculum for primary or secondary schools. The grantee further agrees that grant funds will not be used to teach primary or secondary school students from an already existing curriculum.
39. The grantee agrees that grant funds will not be used to conduct public awareness or community education campaigns or related activities. Grant funds may be used to support, inform, and outreach to victims about available services.
40. The recipient understands and agrees that it has a responsibility to monitor its subrecipients' compliance with applicable Federal civil rights laws. The recipient agrees to submit written Methods of Administration (MOA) for existing subrecipients' compliance to the Office of Justice Program's Office for Civil Rights at CVRightsMOA@usdoj.gov within 90 days of receiving the grant award, and to make supporting documentation available for review upon request by the Office of Justice Programs, Office for Civil Rights or any other authorized persons. The required elements of the MOA are set forth at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/funding/other_requirements.htm, under the heading, "Civil Rights Compliance Specific to State Administering Agencies."



Department of Justice

Office on Violence Against Women

Washington, DC 20531

Memorandum To: Official Grant File

From: Marnie Shields, Attorney Advisor

Subject: Categorical Exclusion for Office of the Woman's Advocate

The STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program implements certain provisions of the Violence Against Women Act, which was enacted in September 1994 as Title IV of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 and reauthorized in the Violence Against Women Act of 2000. The Program encourages the development and implementation of effective, victim-centered law enforcement, prosecution, and court strategies to address violent crimes against women and the development and enhancement of victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women.

None of the following activities will be conducted under the OVW federal action:

1. New construction.
2. Any renovation or remodeling of a property either (a) listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or (b) located within a 100-year floodplain.
3. A renovation which will change the basic prior use of a facility or significantly change its size.
4. Research and technology whose anticipated and future application could be expected to have an effect on the environment.
5. Implementation of a program involving the use of chemicals. Consequently, the subject federal action meets the criteria for a categorical exclusion as contained in paragraph 4 (b) of Appendix D to Part 61 of the Code of Federal Regulations (adopted by OVW at 28 CFR § 0.122(b)).



Department of Justice
Office on Violence Against Women

**GRANT MANAGER'S MEMORANDUM, PT. I:
PROJECT SUMMARY**

Grant

PROJECT NUMBER

2013AFVA-0029

PAGE 1 OF 1

This project is supported under 42 U.S.C. 3796gg-1 through 3796gg-10 (OVCW - Stop Females)

<p>1 STATE CONTACT (Name & telephone number) Center Mobilization (902) 305-2581</p>	<p>2 PROJECT DIRECTOR (Name, address & telephone number) Nehal Madhoo? Director, Development And Monitoring P.O. Box 11362 Fairwinds Justice Center San Juan, PR 00910-1182 (787) 231-7716 ext 344</p>
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<p>3A TITLE OF THE PROGRAM OVCW FY 12 STOP Violence Against Women Female Grant Program</p>	<p>3B PONS CODE (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE)</p>
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<p>4 TITLE OF PROJECT PR Women's Advocacy Office 2012 STOP Female Grant</p>	<p>6 NAME & ADDRESS OF SUBGRANTEE</p>
---	---

<p>5 NAME & ADDRESS OF GRANTEE Office of the Attorney General, P.O. Box 11821 Education Justice Services 550 Ave. PR 00910-1182</p>	<p>6 NAME & ADDRESS OF SUBGRANTEE</p>
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<p>7 PROGRAM PERIOD FROM 07/01/2012 TO 06/30/2014</p>	<p>8 BUDGET PERIOD FROM 03/01/2012 TO 06/30/2014</p>
<p>9 AMOUNT OF AWARD \$1,728,417</p>	<p>10 DATE OF AWARD 03/06/2012</p>

<p>11 SECOND YEAR'S BUDGET</p>	<p>12 SECOND YEAR'S BUDGET AMOUNT</p>
<p>13 THIRD YEAR'S BUDGET PERIOD</p>	<p>14 THIRD YEAR'S BUDGET AMOUNT</p>

15. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT (See instruction on reverse)
The STOP Violence Against Women Female Grants Program (STOP Program) was reauthorized and started on January 5, 2006 by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005 (VAWA 2005). The STOP Program continues to encourage the development and implementation of effective, victim-centered law enforcement procedures, and legal strategies to address violent crime against women and the development and enhancement of victim services in cases involving violent crime against women. It encourages a partnership among law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and victim services organizations to enhance victim safety and hold offenders accountable for their crime against women.

The Office on Violence Against Women (the Office) U.S. Department of Justice will award \$13,103,588 in Fiscal Year 2012 STOP Female grants. Each state, territory, and the District of Columbia will receive a total award of \$600,000 and a portion of the remaining funds in amounts determined by the size of the state's population. In compliance with VAWA 2005, each STOP grant recipient must allocate not less than 20 percent of its STOP funding to projects that meet the following criteria:

within services programs, not less than 23 percent to law enforcement, not less than 25 percent to justice, and not less than 5 percent to courts. The remaining 15 percent may be provided at the state territory's discretion with a the statutory parameters of VAWA, VAWA 2000, and VAWA 2005

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I. THE OFFICE OF THE WOMEN ADVOCATE

Mission

The Office of the Women Advocate's mission is to guarantee women's full development, promote equality and equity, eradicate all manifestations of discrimination and violence, to promote and enforce public policies that guarantee women human rights and educate the community for proactive and affirmative decisions in defense of the women rights.

Legal Background

The law No. 20-2001, as amended, "Ley de la Oficina de la Procuradora de las Mujeres" (Office of the Women's Advocate Act) created and established the Office of the Women's Advocate (**OPM**, Spanish acronym) as well as the Advocate's job position. This Act, cited above, gives broad powers to the **OPM** in order to strengthen and enforce public policies that guarantee women human rights and promote equity by gender. The office focuses on real and proactive actions that will eradicate any discrimination towards women and to safeguard their human rights. **OPM** develops public policies aimed at ensuring gender equality in areas where discrimination, oppression and prejudice persists, such as the violence against women in all its manifestations.

In addition, the **OPM** has the responsibility to oversee the compliance of laws which benefit all women. Also, to join efforts in order to prevent violation of civil and human rights ensuring that public and private institutions and agencies do not discriminate by gender and that women are treated equally.

The Law # 20-2001 provides functions that must comply by Women's Advocate Office:

♀ Carry out and promote studies and research, as well as collect and analyze statistics on women's issues. Analyze the factors affecting women's rights in every aspect of their social, political, economic, cultural and civil life. Also, the causes of not equal treatment, access and participation in education and training, health, employment, self-management, including participation in decision-making at all levels, among others.

♀ Oversee the compliance of the public policy established in this act. To ensure women rights and guarantee that state government agencies comply and adopt programs of corrective and/or affirmative action, promote private entities to incorporate them, as well as evaluate existing programs, in order to achieve the eradication of women's discrimination and inequality and promote the fuller participation into society.

♀ File (at the women's discretion), at courts, administrative forums and at any Government division, by itself or on behalf of the interested party, whether a class or individual women, the actions that it deems appropriate for violations of public policy established in this Act.

Review and evaluate the activities carried out by government public agencies and private entities in order to prevent violations of women rights and enable systematic processes of consultation with women non-governmental and private entities with the purpose of ensuring that the Office activities always responds to women needs, demands and aspirations island wide.

- ♀ Consider the effect that may have new developments on the methods used in the promotion and defense of women rights and to provide corrective and appropriate actions to be implemented.
- ♀ Coordinate orientations to communities regarding women rights and other related issues, and to carry out awareness campaigns nationwide. Also to provide guidance and education on the results of discrimination against women and to promote the values and practices that is the foundation of equality among human beings.
- ♀ Promote actions that contribute to the problem of violence against women in all its manifestations with collaborative agreements, allocating funds to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and facilitating funding to first response government agencies through STOP VAW, SASP, and State funds.
- ♀ Cooperate and establish working networks with state, municipal and federal agencies dedicated to the development and promotion of women's rights, related to information exchange and experiences with private entities, non-governmental women's organizations island wide and abroad, with the State, municipal and federal.
- ♀ Evaluate any covenants, standards and international guidelines related to women's rights and investigate approaches to specific issues of overall importance, and recommend solutions aimed at ensuring gender equality and the participation of women in all aspects of their social, political, economic and cultural life.

♀ Propose relevant legislation for the effective development of the public policy established in this law and the Puerto Rico Constitution, as within those laws that recognize women rights. Also, to ensure that public policy is guided by a gender perspective and that initiatives, declarations and projects especially targeting women are evaluated and implemented with a non-sexist and non-paternalistic view.



Leda. Wanda Vázquez Garced
Women's Advocate
December 15, 2012

II. Introduction

From the previous implementation Plan for the 2010-2012 period, the Office of the Women's Advocate has faced situations of great complexity, coupled with a period of economic recession and social changes that have represented a major challenge. Be able to maintain the level of services that best suits the needs of women victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, violence in appointment and harassment, has been a very difficult task.

As a result of our local elections a new government administration will start on January 2, 2013 through 2016. Since the OWA is a ten year appointment no change or government transition is expected.

During these past four years, the State government implemented a new administrative structure for the office. This consisted in staff transfer, redistribution and assignment of new responsibilities, consolidation and establishment of new divisions, and the restructuring of some divisions.

The OPM represents the only governmental agency that addresses all its efforts to the protection of women and specifically to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and violence in appointment. The office aims to provide funding and collaboration in order to assist state and non-governmental, and faith based organizations. We have established working networks with government and non-government organizations (NGO's) receiving federal funds from STOP VAW (Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors Violence Against Women Formula Grants and State funds. These funds are allocated through a fair and open competition process (RFP) with the objective of improving the rapid response services to women survivors of domestic violence at the judicial and courts system to services. And final mission is to ensure that victims are well served.

Today more than ever, women in Puerto Rico are aware about the availability of direct and support services in order to strengthen their security for addressing domestic violence, harassment, violence in appointment and sexual assault, this as a result of the intense media campaign, and training to government and private sectors.

During 2011 and 2012 we have extended and strengthened services related to the emergency hot line, which offers orientation services 24 hours, 7 days a week. Also, we have established the “*Centro de Respuesta Integrada de Apoyo y Servicios para la Mujer*” (CRIAS). Through this last project the OPM oversees the quality and effectiveness of these services in compliance with the procedures and laws that safeguard women’s rights in cases of domestic violence, stalking, dating violence and sexual assault. During the year 2011 a total of 4,302 cases were served through the emergency hot line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Of this total, 37% are victims/survivors of some kind of violence. Below the population breakdown:

- ♀ 1,454 domestic violence cases,
 - ♀ 19 sexual assault victims ,
 - ♀ 65 stalking cases,
 - ♀ 60 gender discrimination cases,
 - ♀ and 11 victims of other type of violence
- Of the total number of cases attended 23% are collateral victims, such as family members, friends, support professionals, or any component of the justice system. These quantified a total of 1,002 collateral victims.
 - A total of 1,116 women with other situations or problems such as housing, legal representation for civil or criminal cases, business consultations, handling of minors, among others. Of these 529 served women requested services not related to domestic violence, sexual assault, violence in appointment and stalking.

- A total of 1,116 women with other situations and/or problems such as housing, legal representation for civil or criminal cases, business consultations, minors supervision, among others.
- Of these 529 women served requested services not related to domestic violence, sexual assault, violence in appointment and stalking.
- Of the total of calls served, 427 cases were attended and initially interviewed personally, 1,993 during working hours, 1,152 at night, and 730 on holidays and weekends. This is fundamental to the dynamics of interaction between a victim and a perpetrator.
- A total of 48 victims/survivors or relatives of fatalities were accompanied to the Court.

During March 2011 was opened the third domestic violence specialized court room in the Judicial Region of Utuado. This adds up to three additional domestic violence specialized court rooms already implemented in San Juan and Bayamón. This new court room serves the towns of Adjuntas, Jayuya and Utuado and Lares. It is expected that other specialized court rooms in Arecibo and Humacao will inaugurate for the 2013.

(Annex # 1)

Every woman that has been victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, violence in dating and/or stalking is received and offered integrated services at the specialized court rooms through an interagency effort between governmental agencies and NGO's. With the creation and implementation of these specialized court rooms we guarantee more security for the victims. It reduces the process time to complete a petition for a protection order. This court room had also made a huge difference in the way these cases are handled and the treatment towards the victims. These specialized courts decreases the intimidating court effect on victims, by creating friendly spaces like the children's salon which benefit them and the minors who accompany her.

In addition, OPM has strengthened this initiative with STOP VAWA funds and with Puerto Rico's state legislature special allocations. The organizations that provide services to victims receive funds from other federal and State resources in order to meet those needs, which are not supported by STOP funds, allowing a more integrated and comprehensive victims' and survivors services.

All the specialized courts have the "Ordenes de Proteccion Automatizada" system (OPA), which consists of an electronic protection orders record system. Also a State Guidebook on Protection orders has been created which describes and states the steps to be taken in order to grant and issue a protection order for domestic violence incident.

In 2011-2012 the OPM was allocated \$1,500,000.00 by the Government of Puerto Rico, (the same amount was allocated for fiscal year 2012-2013) for the implementation of the Global Positioning System (GPS) technology or the offenders monitoring system through a satellite. This system allows us to have knowledge of the location of the defendant at all times for victim's safety and security. Since its establishment in year 2011 until August 31, 2012, OSAJ has 422 accused with electronic shackles and already installed GPS systems, whose cost is assumed by our agency with the source of funds mentioned above.

In our continuous search for effective partnerships that will benefit victims of domestic violence, we have strengthen and overseen the Department of Justice, the law enforcement (Puerto Rico Police) and the Courts Administration in the use of STOP VAW funds, granted by formula, verifying that they are used according with the appropriate judicial mechanisms.

The Courts Administration continues with trainings in order to raise awareness and educate all staff attending domestic violence cases, sexual assault, and violence in dating and stalking, specifically the municipal judges assigned to regular court rooms.

We have trained law enforcement officers in Puerto Rico in order to strengthen the prevention mechanisms from a personal perspective, couples attention and conflict management. This trainings called "Building the prevention from our space" aimed at the prevention and handling of domestic violence within the Puerto Rico law enforcement, impacting over 4,000 participants.

The Puerto Rico Justice Department reinforced the recruitment of specialized prosecutors and stenographers in those regions with no specialized court rooms. The Agency continues its efforts in order to establish more domestic violence specialized court rooms, island wide.

In the legislative area, we proposed two amendments (2) which will benefit women. One is to **article 106 of the Criminal Code** in order to provide that the murder of a person as result of domestic violence be automatically count as a first degree murder and another to **Rule 131 of Criminal Procedure** so that victims of domestic violence, particularly by **article 3.1 of the Law # 54** declare in the absence of public. We also work in conjunction with the legislative bodies in relation to more than 12 projects that became laws to benefit women. One of the most outstanding is the penalty and recognition in Puerto Rico for the first time the crime against women.

In relation to the **National Commission for the Eradication of Domestic Violence, Sexual assault and stalking towards Women** (CNEV) eight (8) meetings were held in 2011 and six (6) meetings were held in 2012 involving organizations, coalitions and agencies recipients of funds, as well as other stakeholders related to the scope and attention of victim's cases. (**Annex #2**)

As part of the new strategies driven by the federal and state governments which establishes collaborative agreements between the private sector and State Government, the Office of the Women's Advocate has managed to strengthen this area by establishing

eight 8 agreements with various private companies and government agencies. These agreements will help strengthened and increase accessibility in areas such as prevention, education and domestic violence, among others. These are some of the collaborative agreements already reached:

- **ASSMCA** - To respond adequately to victims and/or survivors with domestic violence cases. Also in order to comply with the civil rights specifications which establishes, that every man who request help based on gender violence shall be assigned to this agency's staff.
- 9-1-1 Emergency System- Trains operators with in order to ensure a proper care and handling of domestic violence, sexual assault, violence in dates and stalking.
- The "Drug Enforcement Administration" (DEA) personnel were trained, on cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, violence in dates and harassment impacting approximately 75 employees.
- Protocol design for handling and referring the virtual medical insurance cover for victims/survivors of domestic violence, their offspring, who are housed sheltered in an organization for these purposes, or hosted at a particular residence. This is part of a collaborative agreement with the Department of health.
- Among these alliances are included collaborative agreements with private companies like: Walmart, Avon, Best Buy, the Builders Association, Ice Industrials Association of PR, in order to spread the message of: *No More Domestic Violence*.
- A collaborative agreement with the municipalities of Yauco, Maricao, Moca, Lares, San Sebastián, OSAJ (Office of Pre Trail Services) and our Office in order to achieve the Protocol implementation of Supervising the Protection Orders (PSORP), this is a pilot program that consists in providing preventive rounds by the Municipal police to each of the victims and survivors with a current protective order. They were also trained in rapid response in order to locate victims and/or survivors in cases where the abuser violates the restrictions of the protection order.

- 250 immigrant women were trained in collaboration with the Center of the Dominican Women, on the existing services for immigrant women victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.
- An Alliance with one of Puerto Rico's coalitions "**Coordinadora Paz para la Mujer**" was achieved. This agreement consisted in training legal advocates in how to handle sexual assault cases.
- The office of Violence Against Women (OVW) sponsored a series of trainings held by the Alliance Local Services Organization (ALSO), on how to handle domestic violence complaints. Close to 1,000 law enforcement officers participated.

We reinforced the active media campaigns by giving a greater emphasis to direct services. We have accomplished that more women seek for help. The following are the details:

- The 2011 media campaign had the free support of the internationally renowned singer Gilberto Santarosa with the phrase 'Being a gentleman never becomes out of fashion' each ad set clear a "call to action" and provides the information phone number for all domestic violence victims. This campaign was transmitted island wide through advertisements in the press, cinema, radio and television. (**ANNEX #3**).
- In 2012 the "Enfria tus Impulsos" (Cool your impulses) campaign was launched in collaboration with a private company: the Ice Industrialist Association. This campaign was designed to carry a message against domestic violence on every ice package. Every pack will include the campaign slogan and emergency hot line number. (**ANNEX #3**)

During 2011 opened the first Regional Office of the OPM in the municipality of Ponce, with a collaborative agreement between the State and municipal governments. This office was meant to facilitate the access of services to women victims and survivors, of domestic violence, sexual assault, violence in date, and stalking of this region and surrounding areas.

In the year 2011, 26 women were murdered. As a result of all the media campaign and the community involvement 2012 incidents were reduced. Up to November 19 women were killed. That represents 7 less than last year. All of these women were killed in domestic violence incidents by their husbands, former husbands or person who has lived with her, or have had sons or daughters with the perpetrator.

We believe that the attitude and perception are fundamental in the service provision, but if somehow the staff fails to understand the complexity of violence against women, we will fail in our efforts.

III. Description of Planning Process

Since the beginning of the planning and development process for the 2013-2015 Implementation Plan a Committee constituted by OPM's employees and consultants was established. The team was composed as follows: Attorney. Wanda Vázquez Garced, Women's Advocate, Mr. Dixon Escalante Rivera, Assistant Women's Advocate for Administration, Ms. Jacqueline Padilla Muñoz, Assistant Women's Advocate for education and support services, Mr. Nelson I. Márquez Mercado, Director of the Division of Monitoring and Development, Ms. Janet Santana federal programs consultants, Ms. Georgina Serrano and Ms. María T. Pacheco Program Consultants. All of them worked in the handling and processing of the cases victims / survivors of violence domestic.

In general terms the process includes the following tasks:

1. Revision of the current Implementation Plan and the financial strategies
2. Gather information on unmet needs and suggestions in the criminal justice process.
3. Planning and tasks distribution.
4. Data gathering, update and analysis
5. Analysis of new proposals.

The Committee determined that the most suitable in this case was to establish an open discussion process, through which we promote the integration and participation of all non-governmental organizations, faith base organizations, and Government which are directly or indirectly related to the victim's/survivors response

Prior to the Summit activity the Office of the Women's Advocate developed a questionnaire to non-governmental and faith base organizations, and state agencies requiring them information regarding the needs, priorities and the direct services offered to domestic violence, date violence, sexual assault and harassment victims. **(Annex #4).**

The questionnaire was had two parts the first consisted of (7) seven questions and the second had the same number of empty spaces (7) to answer the questions. The following questions were included in the form:

1. Mention the services offered with the federal funds received by OVW.
2. Which services could not be completed?
3. Mention the reasons why the planned activities could not be completed.
4. List the coalition's needs in order to comply with 54 Act and related laws.
5. Mention important situations confronting when serving victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence.
6. Alternatives or recommendations to resolve these situations.
7. Which you understand are the most significant aspects to improve service to the surviving victims in order to strengthen the response of the criminal justice system. (Police of Puerto Rico, Department of Justice and Office of administration of courts. **(Annex #4)**)

This activity was held on October 23 and 24 2012, were NGO, faith based organizations and government agencies convened for two days for a working meeting. The following attended: (6) six government agencies, (2) two educational institutions, y (10) ten non-government organizations, (1) one Coalition. Also attended representation from the PR Police Department; Justice Department , Courts Administration Office; (CAVV) Centro de Ayuda a Víctimas de Violación, UPR Medical Center, Office of the Women's Advocate; Casa de la Bondad; Casa Pensamiento de Mujer del Centro; Casa Protegida Julia de Burgos; Casa la Providencia, Inc.; Centro de la Mujer Dominicana, Inc.; Envejecer en Armonía; Law school Eugenio M de Hostos; Hogar Clara Lair; Hogar Nueva Mujer Santa Maria de la Merced; Hogar Ruth; Travelers Aids and Coordinadora para la Paz. (**Annex#4**)

As part of the planning process, the participants were oriented on the program's national goals, priorities and needs recognized by STOP VAW funds. Each government agency and non-governmental agency mentioned their achievements. This activity concluded with the development of activities through working groups constituted by various non-governmental organizations and Government agencies working and sharing their experiences, opinions, suggestions and discussion of the victims/survivors needs and priorities.

At the end these organizations in common agreement raised a list of needs that will be included in the next Implementation Plan. As part of the populations served by these organizations we must highlight the presence of organizations that provide to the sub populations served among these:

Once the exercise was concluded each working table brought up a list of their common needs in order to attend victims. The list was discussed with the rest of the group in a plenary session. The product of this discussion was included as the priorities for this Implementation Plan.

As part of the populations served by these organizations we must highlight the presence of organizations that attend the underserved populations among these are:

- ♀ **Centro de la Mujer Dominicana**, This organization is responsible for addressing the sector of immigrant women victims of domestic violence.
- ♀ **Envejecer en Armonía**, represented the elderly women victims of domestic violence.
- ♀ **Casa Pensamiento de Mujer del Centro**, serving in rural areas. Also provides shelter to women survivors of domestic violence.
- ♀ **Hogar Clara Lair**, serving in rural areas. Also provides shelter to women survivors of domestic violence.
- ♀ **Hogar Ruth**, serving in rural areas. Also provides shelter to women survivors of domestic violence.
- ♀ **Casa La Providencia**, It attends women victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and violence in appointment with recurrent situations of drugs or alcohol addictions.

From this exercise, we could identify the needs, establish priority areas and corresponding activities of the programmer for the next three years so that we can combat violence against different areas to impact.

From this exercise, we had the opportunity to identify the organizations and agencies' needs in order to provide victims the appropriate services. Establish the program's priority areas and corresponding activities for the next three years in order to combat violence against women.

IV. Needs and Context

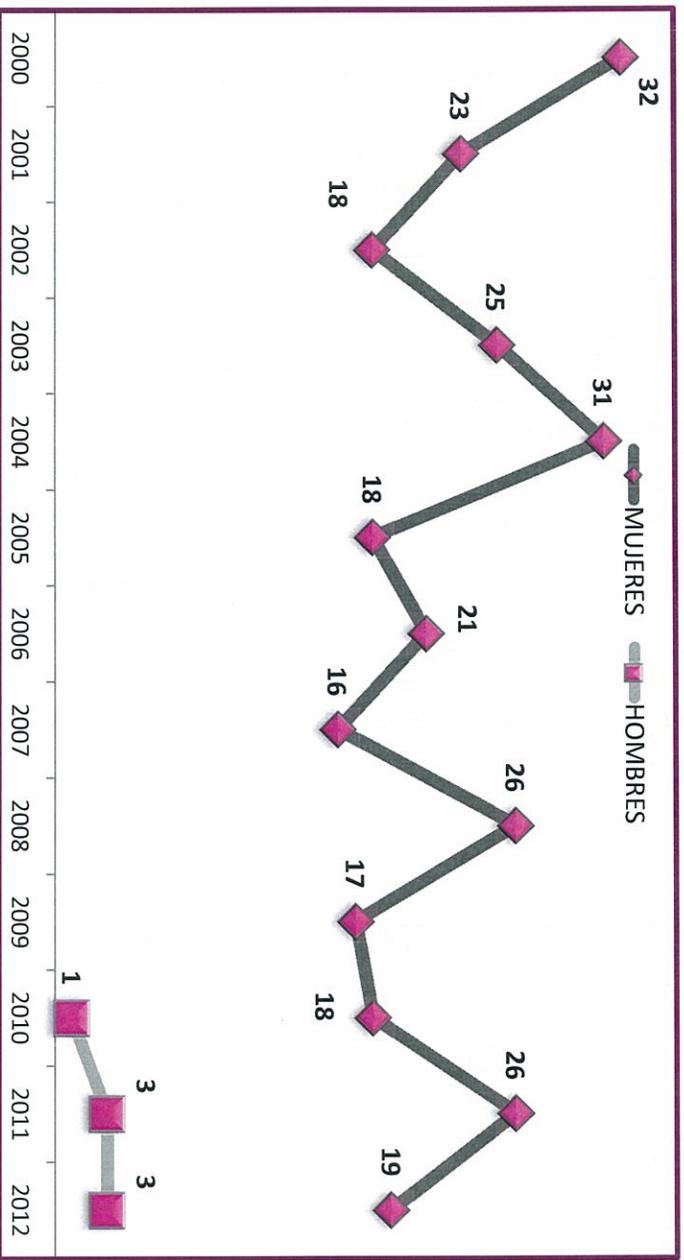
The Office of the EEUU Census reported that 41.2% of all the families living in Puerto Rico live under the poverty level. This number increased to 50.9% when we count minors 18 years of old. From the total population of 3,725,789, 52% or 1,940,618 are women 36.9 years old, while 75.7% of the total population are 18 years old or more. From there 1,319,448 homes in Puerto Rico 43.8% are family homes. From this total 311,397 (23.6%) are single women and 184,815 or 59.4% are single women with children 18 years old or less. The family composition range is 3.96 people, as same as the housing units. From the total of homes 29.2% have an annual gross income of \$10,000 and 12.6% receive between \$10,000 and \$14,999. The Per Capita income is \$10,700.

If we compare this statistics with the rest of the states we can conclude that Puerto Rican women head of households, under all the categories, are not the most needed population, but their quality of life and their economic situation is under the average level of any state.

Women constitute 50.8% (percent) of the population of the USA and 52% of the Puerto Rico's population. The average home in PR is 2.58 however, the family composition is 3.96. Single women head of households constitute 24.6% of the total population, and 12.2% have children 18 years of old or less. The unemployment rate in the States is 10.8% however in Puerto Rico is 15.7%. The economic variables like the unemployment, low income, lack of economic activity and welfare are high risk factors for domestic violence.

Between January and December 2011, twenty six (26) women were killed by their spouses, ex-spouses, roommates, and boyfriends having an intimate relation or where children were conceived. When we compare 2011 with the previous six years, we can see an increase in domestic violence fatalities. By November 2012 19 women were killed in DV incidents.

Victims killed by gender



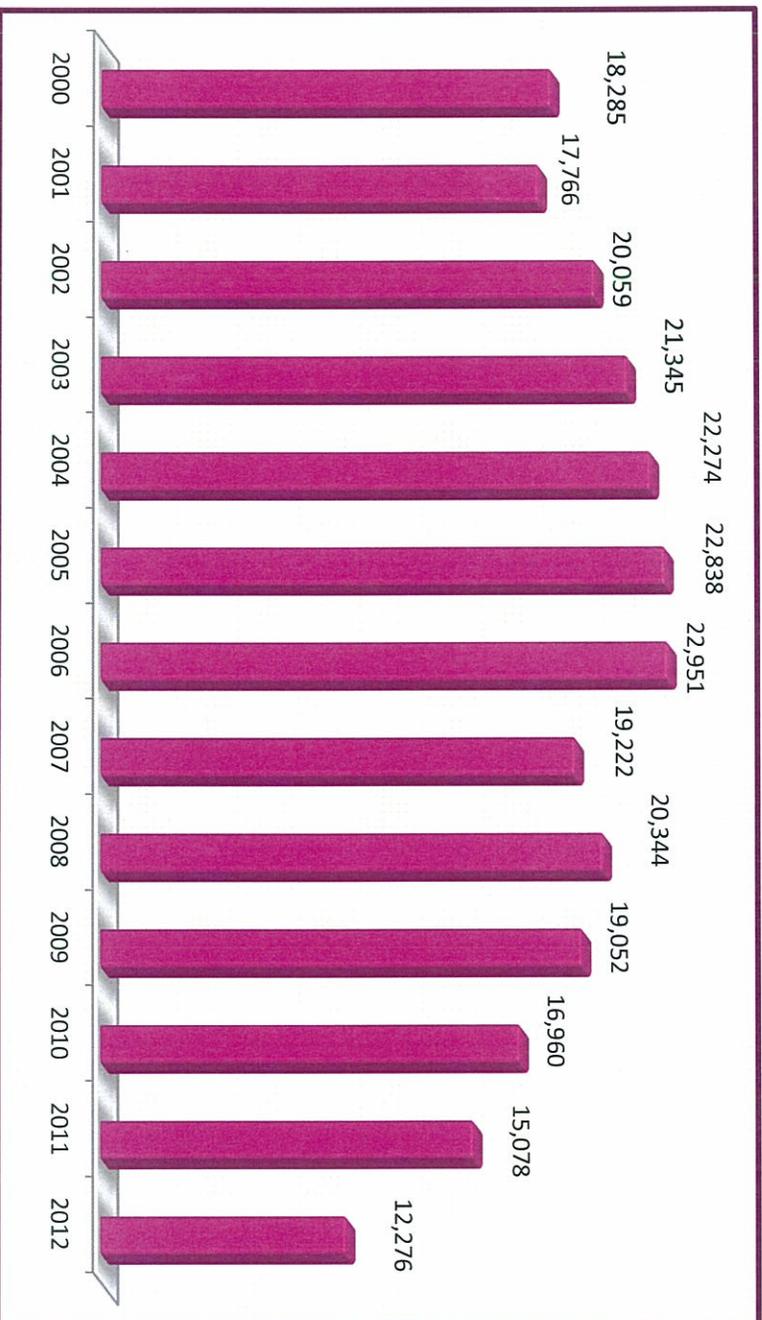
Source: Puerto Rico Police Department, Statistics Division

(Mujeres) = Women

(Hombres) = Men

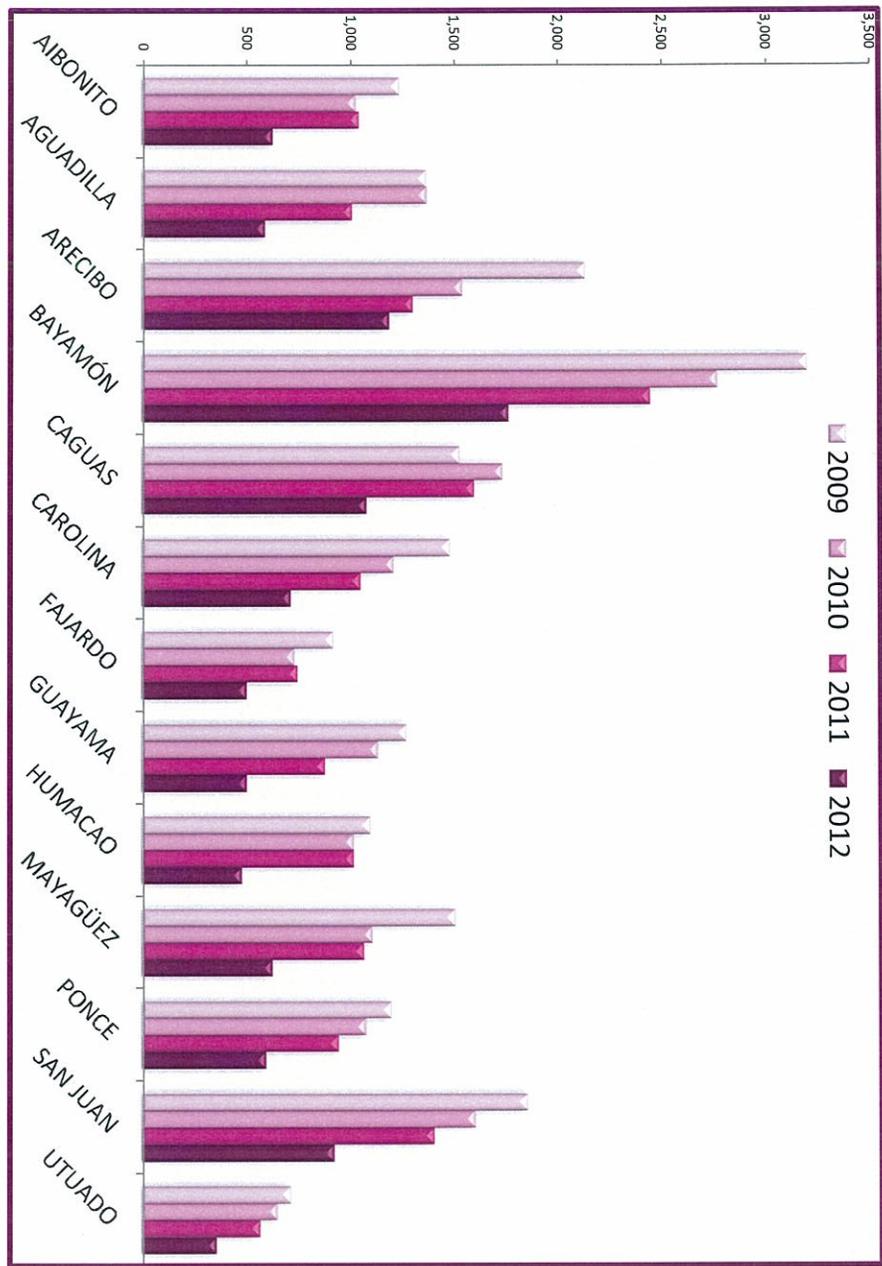
Between January and December 2011, 15,078 incidents of Domestic Violence were reported, among these 83% against women; 70% of the victims' ages go between 20 and 39 years old. 69% of the perpetrators reflect the same age range. The fact that women are in their reproductive age means that many children will be directly affected by the violence, turning them in secondary victims. This statistics do not reflect those women that did not report their DV incidents.

Percent of victims by gender



Source: Puerto Rico Police Department, Statistics Division, Nov 2012

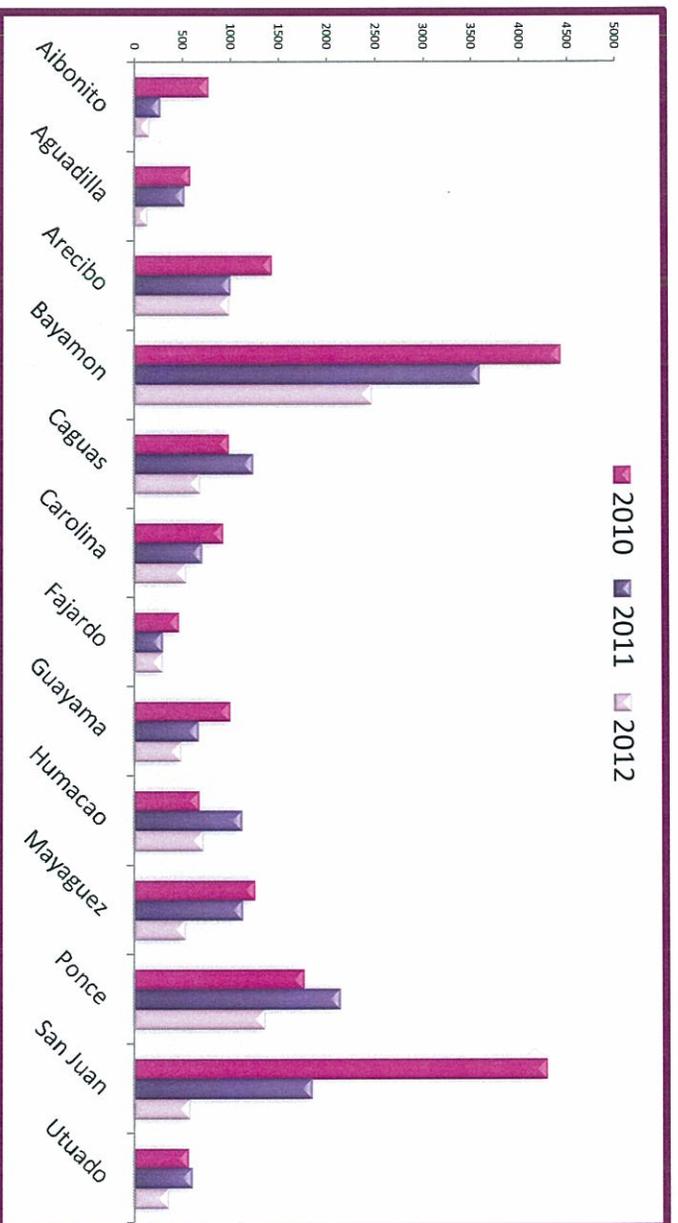
Domestic Incidents Reported by Region



Source: Puerto Rico Police Department, Statistics Division

During years 2010-2012, the response to the protection orders petitions decreased from 76%. Between 2011 y 2012, the percent increased from 61% to 66%. The municipalities of San Juan and Bayamon reported a significantly increase in protection orders granted.

Protection Orders Granted by Region



Source: Courts Administration Office, Statistics Division

Sexual assault in Puerto Rico is covered by the criminal code, chapter III, and includes rape, sodomy, lewd acts and incidents, obscene acts and proposals, among other sexual acts. Article 3-5 of the Act 54, provides protection for women who are raped by their spouses or partners in fact.

On the other hand, the Puerto Rico Police Department reported 1,641 cases of sexual assault from January to November 2012, these are broken down as follows: 3% rape, 2% of those were sodomy, 51% lewd acts, 1% incest and 43% technical violation.

Stalking in Puerto Rico, contrary to the States' experience, usually occurs in an intimate relationship and not by an unknown individual .

Therefore, it falls within our definition of domestic violence and thus stalked women are protected by the law against domestic violence. These victims / survivors are attended by non-governmental organizations equally with domestic violence victims / survivors. However, in order to protect citizens against stalking, the State legislature enacted in 1999 Law 284, this law provides for the issuance of protection orders for harassment victims. As domestic violence, harassment is a felony in our jurisdiction although it is not a serious social problem, if considered separately from an intimate relationships.

OPM Services and Activities Addressed to Victims

CRIAS is a division within the OPM, provided information, advocacy, crisis intervention, guidance, references and coordination services to women through the emergency hotline. The Information and orientation emergency hotline serves 24 hours 7 days a week. In 2011 4,302 calls were received of which 44% of them were during nights and weekends. The services provided include 121 interventions in crisis; 1038 calls for services coordination; 2,222 follow-ups and 1668 legal orientations.

The response of the criminal justice system to violence against women is fragmented because of persistent cultural resistance to the changes in the paradigms of male dominance. The lack of sufficient economic and human resources, in comparison with the magnitude of gender-based violence motivated, the difficulties to establish inter-agency coordination and the improper attitude of some so-called official to serve in the

judicial system, are elements that play an important role. These critical sectors include institutional components, such as judges, law enforcement officers, sheriffs, Attorneys and prosecutors with responsibilities and even senior officials, heads of government departments and agencies.

Cultural patterns, the creation of stereotypes about violence against women, the inadequacies of current practices to protect and intervene in domestic violence incidents are factors that impede on some occasions the feasibility. We consider that it will take some time make changes in perceptions and attitudes, but we also take into account that we are managing our priorities in the right direction and that, together, all efforts will generate results.

In general, women victims / survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence have four (4) types of needs, (1) socio-economic and security / protection, (2) socio-economic (3) mental and physical health (4) to strengthen the rapid response to immediate multi-sector response to cases of domestic violence, sexual assault and harassment cases.

Women need legal advocates to accompany them to court, housing, income, training and formal education for their children, medical emergency services, shelters with special services and other types of emotional assistance for them and their children.

Women with disabilities need specialized services that can respond to their needs. On the other hand, women that live in rural areas need services within their communities otherwise the lack of economic resources, transportation and confidentiality could affect being able to receive services. Immigrant women need to count on skilled resources with broad knowledge of the legal provisions in force that protect their rights and ensure the sensitivity in handling their cases. Moreover, the officials called for rapid response also need to know the rights and resources for this population.

Identified Necessities

Puerto Rico Law enforcement

Personnel

- a. Payment of salary differential to agents of specialized divisions.
- b. Pay the salaries of the statistics, photographers staff, and 13 Secretaries at the regional level.
- c. Retain and recruit specialized personnel for sexual assault victims specialized units with a view to streamlining the procedures of the case.
- d. Recruit additional agents for cases of domestic violence and sexual assault.
- e. Hire a social worker for each sexual assault and domestic violence specialized unit.

Training

- a. Training for municipal law enforcement officers
- b. Continuous trainings on domestic violence, sexual assault, violence in appointment and stalking.
- c. To train workers on the recovery and management of forensic medical evidence, especially by sexual assault.
- d. Training activities for police officers in cases discussions with professionals involved in research.

Procedures / Intervention Strategies

- a. Develop and implement strategies to make protection orders be handled quickly under the law.
- b. Identify strategies to properly view cases of internal domestic violence so that they can be prosecuted criminally.
- c. Check the movement of personnel in specialized divisions.

Equipment / operational costs

- a. Office equipment
- b. Equipment to help in the recovery of evidence.
- c. Printing and reproduction of forms and training manuals.

Justice Department

Personnel

- a. Keep eight (8) prosecutors with STOP funds and the possibility of increasing up to 13 in order to have one in each judicial district.
- b. Increase the use of experts testimony in domestic violence cases.
- c. Hire more prosecutors
- d. Hire psychology experts

Training

- a. Continuous training for prosecutors in domestic violence and sexual assault matter in and out of Puerto Rico.
- b. Train prosecutors and children protectors through courses offered in the United States.

Procedures / Intervención Strategies

- a. Establish a process for getting the victims written statement taking into consideration their special needs.
- b. Shelters that accept victims with special needs.
- c. Expand 24/7 availability of prosecutors and judges for the corresponding queries in all judicial districts.
- d. Establish coordination and define responsibilities of the NGOs and the personnel assigned to Victims and Witnesses Assistance Program through a written document.

- e. Document the established practice of accompaniment to all victims of sexual assault, adults and minors.
- f. Ensure at least two addresses and telephone numbers of the victims and inform them of the existence of the Victim's Committee of Department of Correction and Rehabilitation.
- g. Extend weekends and night services hours for prosecutors specializing in DV available 24/7.
- h. Streamline the scheduling of cases for Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Violence in date y Harassment.

Equipment / Operational Costs

- a. Necessary equipment: digital recorders and cameras for specialized units.
- b. Office Materials

Courts Administration

Personnel

- a. Maintain human resources providing secretarial services.
- b. Maintain legal advocates in the specialized courts.
- c. Hire two staff in order to provide trainings, one for judges and another for prosecutors.
- d. Hire a project manager responsible for domestic violence and sexual assault Protocol.
- e. Administrative officer
- f. Administrative Assistant
- g. Hire Stenographer
- h. Legal Adviser to the judicial Academy.
- i. Sheriff's recruitment with sensitivity in cases of gender-based violence.
- j. Hire psychologists

Procedures / Intervention Strategies

- a. Evaluate the implementation of the domestic violence special courts in the 10 remaining districts.
- b. Develop a uniform intervention and Protocol for the handling of sexual assault cases.
- c. Physical spaces in the courts that do not have specialized court rooms
- d. Standardize protection orders format
- e. Provide training in sign language
- f. Training on stalking cyber crimes
- g. Training to Department of the Family personnel on Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, dating violence and stalking.

Trainings

- a. Train judges and non-judicial staff, about forensic medical and sociological aspects of domestic violence.
- b. Train social workers family court rooms social workers on issues pertaining sexual assault
- c. Trainings on sign language.
- d. Working session, trainings and /or conference for court sheriffs

Equipment / Operation Costs

- a. Assign or expand available spaces for victims' advocates in the judicial regions Guayama, Aibonito and Aguadilla
- b. Office materials
- c. Technological supplies / or equipment to facilitate the judicial response in favor of the victims.
- d. Implement the Protection Order Registry (OPA) in the 13 judicial regions.

Victims-Service organizations (related organizations non-governmental, non-governmental organizations)

Personnel

- a. Legal advocates (2 per judicial region), counselors and social workers.
- b. Legal representation in family law in matters related to domestic violence, custody, divorce, alimony.

- c. Psychologists for individual therapy and groups, as well as support groups, for primary and secondary victims.
- d. Psychiatric services for the primary victims.
- e. Forensic Doctor
- f. Psychological services to empower survivors of domestic violence during the process.
- g. Staff specialized services for children as victims of domestic violence.
- h. Interpreter

Training

- a. New approaches of intervention against domestic violence, sexual assault, assault in appointment and harassment.
- b. Intervention strategies for underserved populations, especially to immigrants, elder people and women with disabilities.
- c. Victims' intervention procedures and processes as established by each of the components of the criminal justice system.
- d. Training and certification of legal advocates in cases of sexual assault and assistance to victims.
- e. Training on crisis intervention techniques for legal advocates.
- f. Continuing education / training in intervention with women of different populations. Former immigrants, prostitution, homeless woman, / issues related to alcohol problems, women with disabilities and hearing impairments, and with diagnosis of mental health's (bipolar disorder)
- g. Legal support for lawyer in nicknames procedures with respect to decisions on cases of protection orders.
- h. Legal support for lawyer in appealing processes related to decisions on protection orders protection orders.
- i. Sign language training for women with hearing impairments.

Procedures / Intervention Strategies

- a. Development of protocols of intervention for legal advocates.
- b. Identify support resources for revisions and appeal processes.
- c. Media Campaigns to announce direct services
- d. identify physical spaces for legal advocates
- e. Define the concept of **stalking** for purposes of increasing education about the subject.
- f. Emergency transportation for victims

- g. Special funds to cover costs of food and necessities
- h. Transitional Housing for victims and survivors

Equipment / operational costs

- a. The costs for support services to secondary victims
- b. Office space in judicial regions.
- c. Computer and office supplies.
- d. Transportation costs
- e. Communications networks
- f. Telephone costs

Office of the Women's Advocate

Interagency coordination

- a. Continue with the National Commission for the eradication of domestic violence, Sexual assault and harassment against women (CNEV) meetings
- b. Integrate the 911 and legal services of Puerto Rico to the meetings of the CNEV.

Training

- a. Train in SART and SANE - create an Interagency Committee that includes the law enforcement (specialized units of sexual assault and domestic violence 911), prosecutors, the courts, forensic medicine and social services).
- b. Institute of Judicial training for the Judicial Branch by the OPM staff
- c. other courses related to direct services.

Support Services

- a. Greater funding allocations
- b. Continue to support the emergency hot line orientation services.
- c. Continue strengthening the communications network system.
- d. Print posters with information and references island wide.
- e. Create booklet on available legal representation services.
- f. Create brochures with responsibilities and duties with regard to the Criminal justice system.

Administrative Issues

- a. Develop a Request for Proposal for STOP funds, for a one year period.
- b. Monitor and evaluate programs that receive STOP funds.
- c. Assess the effectiveness of services received by victims in shelters and organizations which receive funds from STOP VAWA.
- d. Offer technical assistance to sub-recipients related to data management, specialized training and intervention, among other procedures.
- e. Develop and implement a uniform program for the compilation of statistics on domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking crimes related to gender violence, which may include information agencies related to the security services, and victims and survivors of gender-based violence protection, PR police, Department of Justice, Department of correction and rehabilitation, management of the courts, the NGOs and OPM.

V. Priorities and Approaches

A. Identified Goals:

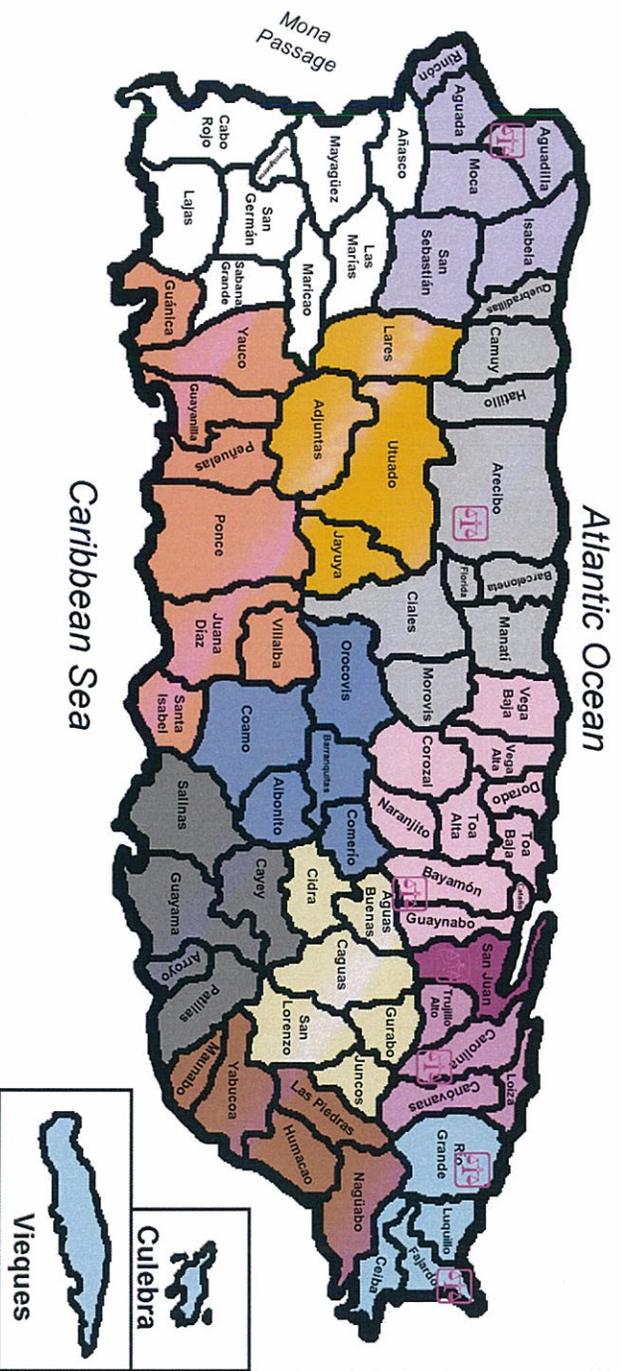
1. Achieve the active participation of all the components that provide services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment and dating violence.
2. Identify needs, as well as viable and effective strategies related to the service provided by the sectors, including NGOs, the police, Prosecutor's Office, the courts and the OPM.
3. Identify the specific needs of women victims / survivors of underserved populations, such as immigrants, rural communities, elderly, disabled people, people without a home, assaulted sexually women and child victims.
4. Identify the needs of each sector, non-governmental organization, police, prosecution, courts and OPM, since they provide services to victim women and give support to new complementary initiatives.
5. Establish work priorities for each of the sectors.
6. An integrated action and coordinated plan by 2012-2015.
7. Identify relevant activities for the period of three years. The meeting consisted in:
 - a) Explain the priorities and purpose of the STOP VAWA program for 2013-2015,
 - b) Facilitate dialogue between women who represent the sub populations served
 - c) Identify the overall needs of women victims and survivors.
 - d) Establish priorities and identify activities for a period of three years.

B. Relation to Prior Implementation Plan

STOP 2010 was implemented from July 2011 to June 2012

With the purpose of extending the alternatives of specialized services, the Courts Administration opened in March 2011 a specialized room of domestic violence in the Court of Utrado, promoting accessibility of the services to women in rural areas. This specialized court room is the third created in Puerto Rico, for the purpose of streamlining the procedures of law, protection and security of victims. This room responds and has the ability to serve victims / survivors of the municipalities of Adjuntas, Jayuya and Lares which their geographical location is rural.

Service distribution of advocacy and legal representation by Region



The Office of the Women's Advocate continued supporting the community based organizations through Legal Advocates services and guidance and legal representation by lawyers. This empowers the offer of support, guidance and assistance in procedures of law. During this period, economic resources for law enforcement agents were granted for specific salary compensations, supervisor's shifts, Assistant Directors, directors of

divisions, Office Coordinator, and project manager. A photography technician was hired and special equipment and materials was purchased the purpose of preserving the cases evidence and its handling. Also, administrative services such as statistics, Secretaries, evaluator and project monitor, and support resources for victims / survivors of psychologists and social worker.

The Justice Department used its funds for the salaries of regular, temporary and auxiliary prosecutors, as well as the Administrative Assistant and legal translator. Similarly courts support the availability of legal advisors, legal advocates and experts for training and specialized training.

STOP funds 2011 was implemented from July 2012 to June-2013

The utilization of these funds was directed to continue strengthening the outreach of citizens to the victims / survivors orientations, as legal representation from community-based organizations. This service promotes attention and applicability of procedures in accordance with existing legislation, as well as the proper accompaniment and assistance from the legal advocates in the procedures of the protection order for victims of domestic violence. These funds also promote the economic sustenance of temporary prosecutors, court transcribers, and salary compensations for temporary prosecutors, assigned to the Department of justice.

Stop VAWA funds seek to ensure immediate, coordinated and effective response to victims / survivors of domestic violence in Puerto Rico. Recognizing its importance, has been identified various strategies that maximize the reach through the combination with other state funds sources.

The Office of the Women's Advocate is continuously complementing STOP VAWA funds with State funds in order to expand the availability of specialized services that ensure the provision of the community service. Through these funds

the State has supported other administrative functions, preventive and emotional support of victims of violence living in all regions of the island.

The Office of the Women's Advocate will continue its efforts to train all State and municipal police officers and the Division of Sexual Crimes agents in the handling of medical-forensic evidence, such as attention to victims / survivors.

An allocation of \$1,906,981.00 of STOP VAWA 2010-WF-AX-0070 funding, of which \$514,700.00 were assigned to 7 NGO's; \$429,070.00 for the P.R. police; \$429,070.00 for the Department of Justice; and \$85,814.00 for the courts administration. Of these totals, \$190,698.00 is for administrative costs, and \$257,442.00 for discretionary spending. These funds will help support the services of legal advocates for victims in the judicial regions, for underserved populations and outpatient services.

- Coordination, advocacy and legal representation for the victims provided through 13 judicial regions.
- The amount of \$51,488.00 (equivalent to a 10%) was allocated to non-profit organizations that provide services to the underserved populations such as: immigrants, disabled and the elderly.
Outpatient services to expand and strengthen services for victims, such as:
Sexual assault, domestic violence and violence in appointment.
- Domestic violence advocates in Special courts in order to increase the granting of protection orders, as well as the reduction of the deflection of the process.
- Expanded the statistical base and created a new record of sexual offences and cases of domestic violence for the Puerto Rico police.
- We have done 11 program and administrative monitoring reviews in several ONGs. Technical assistance was provided through 150 program and fiscal technical assistances, 20 ONG and government agencies

professional interventions supported with federal funds received from OVV.

Received OVV's STOP VAW 2011-WF-AX-0024, funding approval for the amount of \$1,852,400.00.

2011-WF-AX-0024 STOPVAW	
<i>Administrative (10%)</i>	\$185,240.00
<i>Discretionary (15%)</i>	\$250,074.00
<i>Justice (25%)</i>	\$416,790.00
<i>Police (25%)</i>	\$416,790.00
<i>Courts Adm (5%)</i>	\$83,358.00
<i>ONG'S-Culturally Specific Community (30%)</i>	\$500,148.00
	<hr/>
	<u>\$1,852,400.00</u>

In reviewing the implementation Plan 2010-2012, we report that 78% of the activities were met and the resting 22% is ongoing. We continue reviewing and strengthening the criminal justice response and provide a safe environment for the benefit of women affected by domestic violence.

C. Priority Area

With the new 2012-WF-AX-0029 grant we will continue supporting the Puerto Rico Police Department with more special agents in order to provide more protection and services to women and to the Department of Justice of Puerto Rico with eight prosecutors. In addition, we will continue with our efforts to raise awareness among the components of the judicial system through intensive

trainings. Furthermore will support non for profit organizations which provide direct services through Legal advocacy and we will continue to provide special attention to underserved populations, immigrants, elderly and rural, according to the special conditions established by STOP funds.

The following priorities and related activities were chosen and are presented in prioritized order. We understand that activities and trainings should be focused on the following:

- ♀ to increase the amount of legal advocates,
- ♀ to develop training for the court sheriffs specifically directed to work with gender-based violence victims,
- ♀ to expand and enhance services for immigrant and elderly women,
- ♀ to develop transportation and food emergency to victims / survivors as needed, and,
- ♀ to give special emphasis on available services for women victims of sexual assault.

The following priorities and related activities were chosen and are presented in prioritized order:

Priority 1. Train 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, and dating violence.

- ♀ Perform a needs assessment in the government agencies that provide direct services to victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, violence in appointment and stalking in order to work with the identified shortcomings.
- ♀ Raise awareness about the danger position of the services providers when dealing with domestic violence cases.
- ♀ Create trainings aimed to sensitize judges and prosecutors in the proper handling of cases, so the victims/survivors of domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault and violence in appointment feel that they are receiving a fair and decent service.
- ♀ Increase the sensitivity in these officials in terms of attention that they deliver on Civil and criminal proceedings as well as issues or family cases.

- ♀ Expand the educational scope in the field of sexual assault and stalking.
- ♀ Develop partnerships with entities that can train the staff that provides service to the victims and survivors in the use of sign language.
- ♀ Train domestic violence law enforcement officers on the proper handling of cases of sexual assault (article 3.5) and protection of evidence.
- ♀ Promote the institutionalization of trainings, raise awareness and develop trainings for government agencies involved with gender-based violence and make their participation a compulsory.
- ♀ Reach a collaborative agreement with the Judicial Academy in order to used OPM's specialized professionals to provide continuing education on domestic violence and sexual assault.
- ♀ Facilitate the access of the organizations and agencies that provide services to women victims/survivors to webinars and trainings offered by the federal Government and other organizations.
- ♀ Create interactive modules on domestic violence and sexual assault topics for the law enforcement officers that are not part of the specialized units.
- ♀ Train Municipal law enforcement officers on monitoring protocols and protection orders (PSORP) in order to reinforce victims' safety.
- ♀ Collaborative agreements with organizations that provide sign language interpreting services to agencies involved with criminal justice rapid response so they will be available for victims with disabilities as needed.
- ♀ Establish a domestic violence academy in order to educate, raise awareness and train staff of the criminal justice system so they could provide proper and efficient services to victims and survivors.
- ♀ Train the entire criminal justice system in order to strengthen the proper handling of stalking cases with protection orders.
- ♀ Train on the problem of stalking and cyber stalking in Puerto Rico.

Priority 2. Develop training, or expand units of law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors specially targeting violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault and domestic violence.

- ♀ Establish additional domestic violence specialized court rooms in 6 regions, to complete a total 9 rooms by the end of 2015.
- ♀ Increase the working hours of law enforcement officer, prosecutors and judges who offer services at the domestic violence specialized court rooms at non-traditional hours.
- ♀ Due to the limitations and/or difficulties to expand specialized courts, we propose to place specialized prosecutors in those courts where there are no specialized court rooms that deal with cases of victims/survivors of domestic violence.
- ♀ Design protocols that expedite the care of sexual assault cases.
- ♀ Oversee the rapid response and coordination of the services to be provided to victims.
- ♀ Strengthen the uniformity between the judicial and police regions.
- ♀ Include job compensation payment to agents assigned at the Sexual assault Division.
- ♀ Train staff responsible of scheduling domestic violence, sexual assault, violence in appointment and stalking cases in order to program views within 24 hours.
- ♀ Carry out a pilot plan in order to pay court sheriffs who attend court rooms where domestic violence, Sexual Assault, violence in dates, and stalking cases are addressed, a job compensation payment.

♀ Train court sheriffs were specialized court rooms does not exist in order to raise awareness, and be able to provide victims the necessary support.

♀ Restructure or centralize the law enforcement (negociados) so that they can respond to specific domestic violence, sexual assault, violence in appointment and stalking victims' needs.

Priority: 3. Develop and implement more effective police, court, and prosecution policies, protocols, orders, and services specifically devoted to preventing, identifying, and respond to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault and domestic violence.

♀ Standardize the State stalking law with the federal dispositions, in order to achieve that the specialized unit can manage and handle cases of stalking as established.

♀ Review the final granting of the Protection Order, quarrels, the submission of cases and its resolution.

♀ Train in order to respond to situations such as: case management with existing protection orders and non-compliance with sexual assault and domestic violence protocols in hospitals.

♀ Train sheriffs on techniques that will drive them to help victims/survivors, pursue and proceed with attaining a protection order.

♀ Review and amend current legislation on stalking and consider include cyber stalking.

♀ Amend the law of Crime Victim's Compensation in order to reassess the compensation for forensic medical services in cases where the expert test has to be repeated and can include up to four (4) follow-up visits.

- ♀ Create legislation to ensure that the courts safeguard the victim's right to receive from the perpetrator an emergency compensation for food, clothing, etc.

Priority: 4. Develop, install or expand data collection and communication systems, including computerized systems, linking police, prosecutors, and courts or for the purpose of identifying and tracking arrests, protection orders, violations of protection orders, prosecutors, and convictions for violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault and domestic violence.

- ♀ Evaluate the scope of the services offered to victims.
- ♀ Establish the electronic protection order registry between police and courts.
- ♀ Establish a pilot project in order to create and employ a quality control system where you can monitor the service offered for victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, violence in appointment and stalking by the criminal justice system.

Priority: 5. Develop, enlarge or strengthen victims services programs, including sexual assault, domestic violence, and dating violence programs, developing or improving delivery of victim services to underserved populations, proving 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 sexual assault an domestic violence.

- ♀ Extend compensation law for victims of crime to include accompanying services in the run-up to the police station or court.
- ♀ Expand the legal advocates' services by assigning two advocates for Judicial Region.

Priority: 6. Develop, enlarge or strengthen programs addressing stalking.

- ♀ Research on the problem of cyber stalking in Puerto Rico.
- ♀ Develop a brochure in order to provide orientation about the services offered to victims of stalking and their rights.

Priority: 7. 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 and domestic violence.

♀ Does not apply to Puerto Rico

Priority: 8. Support formal and informal Statewide, multidisciplinary efforts, to the extent not supported by State funds, to coordinate the response of State law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts, victim services agencies, and other State agencies and departments to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, and dating violence.

♀ Develop, strengthen and enhance services to victims to optimize care of sub populations served as: immigrants, old people, mental health patients, pregnant women and children under the age.

♀ Identify and expand services available to meet the referrals of men victims / survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking.

♀ Establish a collaborative agreement with an agency, organization or private enterprise in order to provide food and basic necessities to the victims/survivors in cases of emergency.

♀ The administrative agency shall establish a procedure to monitor the use and appropriate management of the collaborative agreement for food and necessities to victims / survivors.

♀ In order to support multidisciplinary efforts and expand coordination and response services, as well as formal and informal efforts island wide, we will included in the regional meetings of the CNEV those agencies and organizations that are not directly subsidized with STOP funds in order to provide coordinated and effective services for victims/survivors.

♀ Increase the number of sheriffs and law enforcement officers available for processing protection orders.

- ♀ Increase the amount of available qualified personnel in order to reduce the time on the collection of corresponding evidence.
- ♀ Create a centralized directory of services and needs.
- ♀ Coordinate collaborative efforts with municipal and state police in order to facilitate transportation to victims in case of an emergency.

Priority: 9. Training of forensic medical staff in the collection and preservation of evidence, analysis, prevention and providing specialized testimony and treatment of trauma related to sexual assault.

- ♀ In order to safeguard the collected evidence and maintain control of Rape Kits that arrive to the Institute management protocols will be evaluated and a record will be developed.
- ♀ Encourage the development of new initiatives that address and reinforce the attention of sexual assault in Puerto Rico.
- ♀ Continue with training on the topic of sexual assault to medical staff and nurses working in emergency rooms in order to educate them about these cases proper handling.

Priority: 10. Developing, enlarging or strengthening programs to assist law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and other to address the needs and circumstances of older and disabled women who are victims of domestic violence or sexual assault, including recognizing, investigating, and prosecuting instances of such violence or assault and targeting outreach and support, counseling, and other victim services to such older and disabled individuals.

- ♀ Support services offered by “Envejecer en Armonía” program addressed to the underserved population of elder women in the rural areas.
- ♀ Analyze the data of domestic violence, violence in appointment, sexual assault and stalking victims served at the OPM in order to identify which percent of them are elder and their particular needs.

Priority: 11. Provide assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in immigration matters.

♀ Coordinate with the *Center of the Dominican Woman* to ensure attention to the special needs of victims / survivors of domestic violence and sexual aggression with immigration situations.

♀ Coordinate with the Office of legal services to meet the needs of the victim/survivors of domestic violence and sexual aggression with immigration situations.

♀ Assign two of the legal advocates located in the courts to pay particular attention to situations of immigrant women victims / survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, violence in appointment and stalking.

Priority: 12. Maintain core victim services and criminal justice initiatives, while supporting complementary new initiatives and emergency services for victims and their families.

♀ Support in the criminal justice system to the right and access to victims/survivors compensation by the perpetrator in cases Domestic violence.

♀ Develop an information brochure on the victims' rights in order to be distributed at agencies such as: police, health, justice, Office of courts administration, Office of victims and witnesses.

Priority: 13. Support the placement of special victim assistants (to be known as "Jessica Gonzalez 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. Jessica Gonzalez Victim Assistants shall have expertise in domestic violence dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and may undertake the following activities:

♀ Develop in collaboration with prosecutors, courts and victim service providers, standardized response policies for local law enforcement agencies, including triage protocols to ensure that dangerous or potentially lethal cases are identified and prioritized.

- ♀ Notifying persons seeking enforcement of protection orders as to what responses will be provided by the relevant law enforcement agency.
- ♀ Referring persons seeking enforcement of protection orders to supplementary services (such as emergency shelter programs, hotlines, or legal assistance service).
- ♀ Taking other appropriate action to assist or secure the safety of the person seeking enforcement of protection order.
- ♀ Offer training in order to expand and strengthen the knowledge of the legal advocates with regard to the special needs of victims/survivors of sexual assault with some disability.
- ♀ Identify physical space in courts where there is no specialized court room for legal advocates in order to protect and safeguard the privacy of the victims/survivors.

Priority: 14. Providing funding to law enforcement agencies, nonprofit nongovernmental victim services providers, and State, Tribal, Territorial, and local governments (which funding stream shall be known as the Crystal Judson Domestic Violence Protocol Program) to promote:

- ♀ The development and implementation of training for local domestic violence victim services providers, and to fund victim services personnel, to be known as “Crystal Judson Victim Advocates”, in order to provide supportive services and advocacy for victims of domestic violence committed by law enforcement personnel.
- ♀ The implementation of protocols within law enforcement agencies to ensure consistent and effective responses to domestic violence by personnel within such agencies, such as the model policy promulgated by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (“Domestic Violence by Police Officers: A Policy of the IACP, Police Response to Violence Against Women Project” July 2003)
- ♀ The development of such protocols in collaboration with State, Tribal, Territorial and local victim services providers and domestic violence coalitions

- ♀ Develop a collaboration agreement with the “Coordinadora Paz para la Mujer” coalition in order to provide training and develop educational materials.

Description of funds distribution

2012-WF-AX-0029 STOPVAW	
<i>Administrative (10%)</i>	\$ 177,841.70
<i>*Discretionary (15%)</i>	240,086.30
<i>Justice (25%)</i>	400,143.82
<i>Police (25%)</i>	400,143.82
<i>Courts (5%)</i>	80,028.77
<i>ONG'S-Culturally Specific Community (30%)</i>	480,172.59
	<u>\$1,778,417.00</u>

- ❖ Discretionary funds have traditionally been used to complement the non-governmental organizations budget, in addition to maintain the training of domestic violence, sexual assault, job compensation payments.

Our Office proposes the utilization of these funds to meet the needs of underserved populations such as immigrants, elderly women with physical and mental health problems, addiction, rural economically disadvantaged victims. This effort will take place through the allocation of 10% of the budget assigned to non-governmental organizations which direct their efforts to serve this population.

The Office of the Women’s Advocate established priorities concurred with stakeholders priorities as identified for this Plan.

D. Grant-making Strategy

The implementation Plan 2013-2015 has as starting point the priorities identified by governmental and non-governmental organizations during the meetings held on October 23 and 24, 2012 within the framework of programmatic areas laid down for the granting of funds STOP VAWA for the services they offer to women victims of domestic violence, stalking, rape in appointment. It is important to point out that without these funds organizations may not have the resources to provide assistance and service to the victims.

Having identified the organizations and agency's priorities, the OPM will prepare the request for proposals (RFP) for STOP VAWA funds addressed to the NGO's complying with the established requirements. The aforementioned RFP will be published in a local newspaper with general circulation, informing about the program's requirements in order apply for funding. Once the RFP is published, the OPM appoints an Evaluation Committee so they evaluate the received proposals. All government and non-government entity interested in receiving STOP VAWA funds, must comply with the posted RFP notice in a timely manner. It is important to point out that the OPM as well as in previous years, will continue to provide technical assistance for the preparation of the proposals.

The proposal evaluation will be fair and base on the Implementation plan priorities which includes but not limited to the following: training for judges, prosecutors, police officers, sheriffs and other personnel of the Government of Puerto Rico justice system; Develop, strengthen and increase service programs for victims of domestic violence, violence in appointment and sexual assault in order to optimize underserved populations care; increase the legal advocacy in the courts; provide assistance for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in situations of immigration issues and support criminal justice services and

initiatives, while it will continue supporting the development of new initiatives and emergency services for the victims and their families. As well as advocacy services as a link between the victim/survivor and the justice system and the protection order process.

Once identified the proposals that comply with the Implementation Plan, the Evaluation Committee shall draw up its recommendations which will be evaluated by the Women's Advocate and a final decision will be issued as to which organizations will be recipients of the funds. Then we will proceed with the assigning the budgets and contract process with the selected organizations.

As in previous years, the distribution of funds to the selected organizations will be for a period of one year and renewable subject to the annual monitoring and compliance review results. Therefore, OPM will continue with the strategy of requesting working plans and budget revisions to the sub grantees and thus oversee compliance with the conditions imposed for the use of the granted funds.

This strategy has been very useful since it ensures that the sub grantees are strictly governed by established work plans so that the OPM is in a position to fulfill the goals of the programmatic areas that sets STOP VAWA.

Timetable

DATE PLANNED	TASK
August 2012	Determine the amount of available funds
October 2012	Implementation Plan Meeting- Establish Priorities
January 2013	Review and Edit Request for Proposal (RFP)guidelines
January 2013	Publish RFP in general circulation newspaper
January 2013	Establish Evaluation Committee
February 2013	Distribute Proposal Guidelines
February 2013	Questions and clarification period regarding proposal guidelines
February 2013	Review and Edit proposal evaluation instrument, if required
February 2013	Final date for proposals submission
March 2013	Evaluate Proposals
March 2013	Clarify programmatic information
March 2013	Elaborate budget for accepted proposals
March 2013	Submission of approved budgets by Finance Division
April 2013	Submissions of recommendations for Women's Advocate approval
April 2013	Approve Grants
April 2013	Announce Grants to entities
May 2013	Write contracts and certifications, Legal Division
May 2013	Sign contracts between Women's Advocate Office and sub grantees
March 2014	Re authorize project continuation
July 2013-July 2014	Submit monthly required reports
October 2013-March 2014	Monitor, site visits all NGO's and government agencies
June 2014	Grant Period Ends
June 2014	Submit final financials and programmatic reports

E. Addressing the Needs of Underserved Victims

Puerto Rico has manifested a Variant trend in terms of the population diversity of its residents. Between these diversities can be noted the increase in the number of the elder population as well as the foreign populations that legal or non-legal have immigrated to our country. This diversity added to the diverse geographical features of the country, increases the amount of needs faced to have access to fundamental services that women specifically require. Difficulties in transportation, no access to the special institutions, and the lack of knowledge about the particularities of these populations, increases the difficulties and areas of need to be considered to strengthen the attention of populations that are underserved in Puerto Rico.

Taking into account the experience in the care and support of older women, immigrants, those with disabilities, pregnant women, adolescents, women with conditions of mental health, and residents in rural areas, it identifies the need for lead following efforts as a priority in the Implementation Plan 2013-2015 that will optimize care and provision of services for this population. These are:

- ♀ Expand the training of judges, police officers, sheriffs and other personnel of the justice system, in order to sensitize their attention and response to the needs of the population and eradicate prejudice.
- ♀ Evaluate and update procedures and protocols to respond to the different characteristics and needs of underserved populations.
- ♀ Increase and diversify partnerships and collaborations between sectors (public and private), with the purpose of extending the range of services in response to the needs and the agility in providing the

services. Among these the availability of transportation, food, coordination of educational, medical, services among others.

♀ Strengthen the communication skills of the / Professional ACE with the purpose of closing the communication gap with audio impaired populations.

♀ Expand the availability of domestic violence specialized court rooms, as well as its functionality in non-traditional schedules, so that they can serve the underserved populations and monitor compliance with procedures for victims in order to minimize the tendency to these victims to withdraw their interest in continuing with the procedures.

♀ Continuous training to the organizations' staff such as the legal advocates and other specialized resources, work with underserved victims and diversify the models of intervention, the development of innovative strategies, and the implementation of new approaches that assist in the eradication of violence, non-discrimination of the same, and surveillance in auditing in compliance with processes.

♀ Develop and promote the increase and variety of services for victims in geographic areas that present lack of services.

F. Barriers to Implementation

The biggest challenges to carry out a successful and comprehensive implementation plan are economic barriers, the Administration, compliance and STOP program regulations.

Among these are the following:

♀ The funds are limited in orders to expand services and protection.

♀ To be able to reprogram the funds not used by government agencies that receive STOP formula sub-grants so they could be reassign within the established term by:

- Re-distribute the funds to non-profit organizations.
- Expand services schedules of prosecutors in night hours and weekends.
- Establishment of more shelters with space availability for mothers with children over 12 years of age and any health condition.
- Create a confidential space for victims and survivors who are in the judicial process in the court rooms where there are no domestic violence specialized court rooms.
- Lack of access to medical services.
- Transportation to access services for victims and survivors residing in rural areas.

These barriers could be minimized if we achieve a greater allocation of funds and so would then have a substantial impact on being able to concentrate resources actively and without interruptions..

G. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Development and monitoring Division is composed by a division Director, two monitors, and an Administrative Secretary. Also has two consultants.

This division is responsible of providing technical assistance to sub grantees, perform monitor reviews and evaluate federal monthly, quarterly and annual reports requested by OVW.

An annual training is held in order to explain sub grantees how to complete the required federal reports and which documents should be included.

The itinerary for filing the reports is as follows, (**Annex #5**):

- ✓ Monthly and must file during the first 10 days of the expired month.
 - Fiscal Report with their respective annexes
 - Statistical report of the cases attended new and follow-ups during the month
- ✓ Quarterly, the first 10 days of the expired quarter
 - Sub grantee's work plans reviewed
- ✓ Annual report to OVW
- ✓ Documents that requested semestrally
 - Physical inventory of fixed assets
 - Desk Review
 - Site Visits including monitoring reviews and OCR reviews
- ✓ At the end of each contract period each sub grantee should submit the following:
 - Final fiscal report
 - Program Review

VI. Conclusion

The Office of the Women's Advocate is engaged to eradicate domestic violence, sexual assault, violence in dates, and stalking by establishing partnerships and collaboration efforts as stated in this plan with NGOs, community based organizations, faith base organizations and other stakeholders. The priorities set in our plan reflect the victims' services needs as well as the first and second hand providers.