

Funding Recommendations for VAWA Special Projects 2015-2016

Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women

(OFP Project Focus)

\$90,000 to create a database to organize and track protective order information, provide training on protective orders to increase capacity of those working on protective order issues, and provide technical assistance statewide.

Dakota County Sheriff's Office

(OFP Project Focus)

\$200,000 to hire an additional person for the Dakota County Electronic Crimes Unit to specifically target domestic violence cases with an emphasis on women who have Orders for Protections (OFPs) or Domestic Violence No Contact Orders. The grant will also help the implementation of a GEO-fence process, using new technology, to create greater safety for victims with OFPs. The focus will be on improved tracking of offenders who violate OFPs.

Casa de Esperanza

\$130,000 to work with the 3rd and 5th precincts in South Minneapolis by providing Casa staff at the Midtown Community Safety Center, to provide culturally relevant services to Latinos experiencing violent crime, provide training and technical assistance to police officers and other criminal justice professionals, and provide education outreach and crime prevention for the Hispanic population.

St. Paul Domestic Abuse Intervention Project

\$130,000 to further work on the evaluation of Blueprint partner initiatives and activities in Ramsey County. The grant will also create a History of Domestic Violence Summary to improve case coordination, charging enhancements, appropriate bail levels and conditions of release, lethality and risk-danger assessments, victim safety and offender accountability.

Ramsey County Attorney's Office

\$98,000 to develop a Joint Prosecution Legal Advocate position, working with Maplewood and White Bear Lake to address enhance-able domestic violence offences and evidence-based prosecution, to improve prosecution of domestic violence cases.

Central Minnesota Sexual Assault Center

\$75,000 to strengthen and enhance the advocacy and criminal justice response to women with disabilities experiencing sexual violence, especially focused on reducing or preventing multiple victimizations. Project includes working with community partners to enhance and increase coordination, increase knowledge about the victimization of women with disabilities, develop stronger response skills, and increase awareness and skills of women with disabilities to empower them to utilize available community services.

Kandiyohi County Attorney's Office

\$78,300 for their Forensic Investigation Project – training on identifying and documenting incidences of stalking and strangulation, including the purchase of 9 forensic cameras with alternate light sources, to better document strangulation evidence on victims with darker skin tone.

Hope Center

\$135,000 to implement a Blue Print Project for Rice County to especially address risk assessment with victims and closer monitoring of cases through DAIN software, with a focus on repeat offenders.

Southwest Crisis Center

\$16,432 to purchase Domestic Abuse Intervention Network (DAIN) software to strengthen the response to domestic violence as well as provide training and technical assistance to law enforcement and prosecution on the occurrence and outcome of domestic violence cases in Cottonwood, Jackson, Nobles, Rice and Pipestone counties.

VAWA STOP Funding Overview

The funding for these special projects comes from the U.S. Dept. of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). The STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program, awarded to states and territories, enhances the capacity of local communities to develop and strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat violent crimes against women and to develop and strengthen victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women. Each state and territory must allocate 25 percent for law enforcement, 25 percent for prosecutors, 30 percent for victim services (of which at least 10 percent must be distributed to culturally specific community-based organizations), 5 percent to state and local courts, and 15 percent for discretionary distribution. S.T.O.P. grant program (Safety, Training, Officers, Prosecutors).

VAWA funding in Minnesota is administered through the Minnesota Dept. of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs, through their Crime Victim Services Grants Unit. Minnesota receives approximately \$2.4 million each year in STOP funds.

In Minnesota, the portion of funding designated for law enforcement and prosecutors is distributed through competitive 2 or 3 year special project grants. Applications must be a collaborative effort between criminal justice system partners and local sexual or domestic violence advocacy programs to address the VAWA program purpose areas, with response to domestic violence, sexual violence, stalking and/or dating violence.

Each state and territory must develop a state plan for the administration of STOP funds. Minnesota's plan is here: <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/forms-documents/Documents/CSVVAWAImplementationPlan.pdf>