

Wisconsin Department of Justice Office of Crime Victim Services
VAWA STOP Victim Services 2015
Frequently Asked Questions

Please refer to the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) [*Frequently Asked Questions About STOP Formula Grants*](#) for additional information.

The OVW STOP FAQs can be found here:

<http://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/ovw/legacy/2014/02/06/consolidated-stop-faqs-bla.pdf>

Are Child Advocacy Centers eligible to submit an application for this funding?

Yes. However, VAWA funding can only serve children 11 years and older. Please refer to the funding announcement for more information and details regarding proposals eligible under the VAWA STOP Victim Services program.

Under *Anticipated Funding Amount* it says “Total funding available for this grant program is \$585,000 per year.” Does this refer to the amount of funding for the whole state or to each organization funded? If this refers to the whole state, what is the average amount of funding given to each organization?

\$585,000 is the total amount allocated for the VAWA STOP victim services grant program. Applicants may apply for any reasonable amount they feel will cover the cost of their proposal.

Should we submit letters of collaboration or MOU with the grant application?

Letters of support or MOUs are not required as part of your application. However, if awarded the grant, you will be asked to submit any relevant MOUs at that time.

Under *Problem or Needs Description*, you must answer the following questions as part of the narrative:

- Are significant partnerships required to successfully provide these services? List partners and their roles. What is the history of this partnership? How have they been involved in planning this project?

We have an existing domestic violence program that is NOT receiving local government or state funding. Would we be able to apply for VAWA funds to cover these existing expenses (i.e., salary and benefits of existing staff)?

VAWA provides that, "[a]ny Federal funds received [under an OVW grant] shall be used to supplement, not supplant, non-Federal funds that would otherwise be available for [OVW grant] activities. . . ." 42 USC 13925(b)(4). This means that a grantee may not reduce State, local, Tribal or other non-Federal funds that have been allocated for an

OVW-permissible activity because Federal funds are available (or expected to be available) to fund that same activity. Rather, Federal funds must be used to supplement existing State, local, Tribal or other funds for OVW program activities.

For more information regarding supplanting:

- http://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/ovw/pages/attachments/2014/12/17/ovw_2014_fgmg_final_1.pdf
- <http://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/ovw/legacy/2009/10/28/supplanting-examples.pdf>

We currently have a full time advocate funded with non-federal funds. The position will be moving to another department within the agency. Can we apply for VAWA funds to pay for this position?

If you will lose the position (due to lack of funding) when it moves to a new department, you are able to apply to fund the position with VAWA dollars. If there is funding designated for the position in the new department, VAWA would not be able to pay for the existing position.

Can we apply for the VAWA SASP Culturally Specific and the VAWA STOP Victim Services? And is it possible that both would be funded?

Yes. You may apply for both the SASP and STOP grant opportunities. There is no rule prohibiting an agency from being awarded multiple VAWA grants. You will find the SASP FAQs on the WI DOJ website: <http://www.doj.state.wi.us/grants/grants-home>

Can VAWA funds be used for working with incarcerated victims in prison?

Yes. There is now a specific VAWA purpose area for “developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing sexual assault against men, women, and youth in correctional or detention settings.” The services provided may only address the domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking victimization experienced by the incarcerated individual, including crimes experienced before and during incarceration. (See page 2 of the OVW STOP FAQs for more information)

Can VAWA funds be used for providing support for women leaving prison and entering the community?

VAWA STOP funds can be used if the services are related to the sexual assault, domestic violence, or stalking experienced by the individual. VAWA STOP cannot be used to provide rehabilitative services related to the crime committed by the individual.

If I have an advocate who I would like to move from part time to full time, will VAWA funds cover the benefits for the percent increase requested? I.E. going from 24 to 36 hours with 22 hours covered by VAWA. Would the grant cover 61% of the benefits with the other 39% covered elsewhere?

Yes. STOP funds can pay for a percentage of an employee's salary and benefits. Keep in mind that the percentage of benefits must be equal to or less than the percentage of salary. For example, STOP funds would not pay for 61% of an employee's benefits and only 50% of their salary.

On page 5 of the RFP there are instructions for a Basic Services Outline. At first it appeared to me that this section was supposed to be narrative written by the applicant. Then I looked at the form and thought that the form was what we needed to complete with our narrative. Please clarify do we need to complete the form as well as a narrative in word? Also the form refers to "typical client served by "project/agency" – do you want information on the entire agency with the project's typical client information highlighted or just the population that will be served with this grant money?

The purpose of the Basic Services Outline is to get a picture of the services provided by your agency. Data should reflect agency-wide numbers and services, not just the services you propose to provide with VAWA funds.

This section of the application should also include the following information:
"In addition to service data provided, applicants should report how the population identified as the target of the proposed project was involved in the development of the application including meetings, application production, etc; how the populations is represented within the agency: Board membership, staff and volunteer component; and how the population will be involved in on-going project evaluation and development."

You may include this information on the Basic Services Outline document or as a separate narrative document.

We are a dual agency. We have been fortunate enough to employ a full time family law attorney who works specifically with victims on a variety of family law issues including but not limited to divorce, separation, child support, custody and placement, etc. Would these be eligible services through VAWA STOP?

Yes. VAWA STOP subgrantees can now provide a full range of legal services, such as housing, family law, public benefits, and other similar matters.

Any subgrantee providing legal assistance must certify that:

- 1) any person providing legal assistance with STOP funds
 - a. has demonstrated expertise in providing legal assistance to victims of domestic violence dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking in the targeted population; or b. i. is partnered with an entity or person that has such demonstrated expertise and
 - ii. has completed or will complete training in connection with domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual assault, and related legal issues, including training on evidence-based risk factors for domestic and dating violence homicide;

(See page 5 of the [OVW Frequently Asked Questions About STOP Formula Grants](#) for more information.)

Please remember that VAWA funds must be used to supplement, and not supplant, existing state, local, tribal or other funded program activities. If there are designated funds to pay for the attorney, VAWA STOP cannot fund this existing position.

What percent of the grant request can be used for training other agencies related to the grant issue?

VAWA STOP does not set a percentage cap for training. As long as the training is related to VAWA and the goals of your grant program, it is allowable.

Can we apply for VAWA funds to send non-VAWA funded staff to trainings or professional development opportunities?

Yes. As long as they provide direct services and the training or professional development is relevant to violence against women.

If we change the job description of a position that is currently funded by non-VAWA dollars can we apply for VAWA funds to pay for this position?

It does not matter if the position description changes if the position is already paid for with other funds. If you plan to create a new position, you may apply for VAWA to fund that position.

For example, you have an advocate that you would like to transition into more of a therapist role. If you plan to transition her into a new position as therapist and hire a new advocate, it would be possible for VAWA to fund the new position. If you plan to transition her into a therapist role but will not be adding a new position, VAWA would not be able to fund the existing position.

We have a 24-hour crisis line. Can we apply for VAWA funds to pay for on-call staff coverage?

Yes.