STOP Violence Against Women Act

STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

FY 2026 – FY 2029



Ohio

Department of Public Safety

Office of Criminal Justice Services

Ohio STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program

FFY 2026-2029 Implementation Plan

Ohio Department of Public Safety

Office of Criminal Justice Services

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I. Introduction

A: Implementation Plan Approval Date

Approved Plan Date: July 13, 2026

B: The time period covered by the plan. (28 C.F.R. 90.12(a))

The period covered by the plan: Federal Fiscal Years 2026, 2027, 2028 and 2029.

Overview

Formerly an independent cabinet-level agency, the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) became a part of the Ohio Department of Public Safety in 2005. By statute, OCJS is the lead criminal justice planning and assistance office for the state and is responsible for administering roughly $43 million in state and federal criminal justice funding annually.

OCJS also evaluates programs and products, develops training, resources, and best practices for criminal justice professionals and communities. OCJS has been designated by the Governor of Ohio to administer Ohio's federal STOP (Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funding.

The state's efforts in administering STOP VAWA funding include working with Regional Planning Units (RPUs), which oversee Ohio's major metropolitan counties including Cuyahoga (Cleveland), Franklin (Columbus), and Lucas (Toledo). Agencies within these counties receive STOP VAWA funding through the respective RPU. RPUs promote and foster cooperation and coordination amongst governmental units and agencies, and improve the justice system through planning, analysis, technical assistance, and information management. RPUs conduct criminal justice assessments, including violence against women and family violence issues to determine the best use of justice funds at the local level. Information gleaned from these assessments is used to project spending trends for current and future grant cycles.

The goal of the of the 2026-2029 Implementation Plan is to identify and fund programs that increase the awareness of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence, and to facilitate and enhance collaborative efforts among courts, law enforcement, prosecution, and victim service agencies to foster a stronger coordinated response toward the elimination of violence against women. The 2026-2029 Implementation Plan is organized as follows:

- A summary of Ohio geographic and demographic characteristics, crime in Ohio, and the needs of victims and providers as identified through multiple structured collaborative processes.
- Description of the planning process and partnerships throughout the state that inform grant funding.
- An outline of Ohio's STOP VAWA program priorities and strategies to address the needs identified and those that meet the statutory funding areas.

II. Needs and Context

A. Demographic Information (28 C.F.R. 90.12(g)(1))

Ohio's Geographic Characteristics

Home to approximately 11,799,448 individuals, Ohio has the seventh largest population out of all other states in the Unites States.[1] Ohio's land area covers just over 40,952 square miles[2] and is divided into 88 counties with the 10 largest counties accounting for 53% of the state's total population.[3] The majority of Ohioans—82%—live in metropolitan areas, and three of the largest metropolitan areas are Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Columbus.[4] A total of 32 of Ohio's 88 counties are designated as Appalachian, accounting for more than one-third of all Ohio counties, and nearly 17% of Ohio residents live in the Appalachian regions which are located along the Ohio River and southeastern hill counties.[5] Figure 1: This map of Ohio



Figure 1

[1] *U.S. Census Bureau Quickfacts: Ohio.* United States (U.S.) Census Bureau, 1 Apr. 2020, U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Ohio
[2] Ohio Department of Development, Office of Research. (n.d.). Statewide Profile. https://development.ohio.gov/about-us/research/county/all
[3] *Population Counts for Governmental Units: 2020, 2010, 2000*. Ohio Department of Development, Aug. 2021, https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/development.ohio.gov/research/census/Census-2020-Population-Counts-for-Governmental-Units.pdf
[4] Ohio Department of Development, Office of Research. (n.d.). *Ohio Population Snapshot: 2024 American Community Survey*. https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/v1767622572/development.ohio.gov/research/population/2024/Final_Snapshot_Ohio_Population_2024.pdf
[5] Ohio Department of Development, Office of Research. (2025). Ohio County Profiles: Appalachia. https://development.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/21f81533-2fba-4bd5-a8a9-9c5a5b18cad9/Appalachia.pdf?MOD=AJPERES

shows the counties that designated as Appalachian located along the Ohio River and southeastern hill counties.[6]

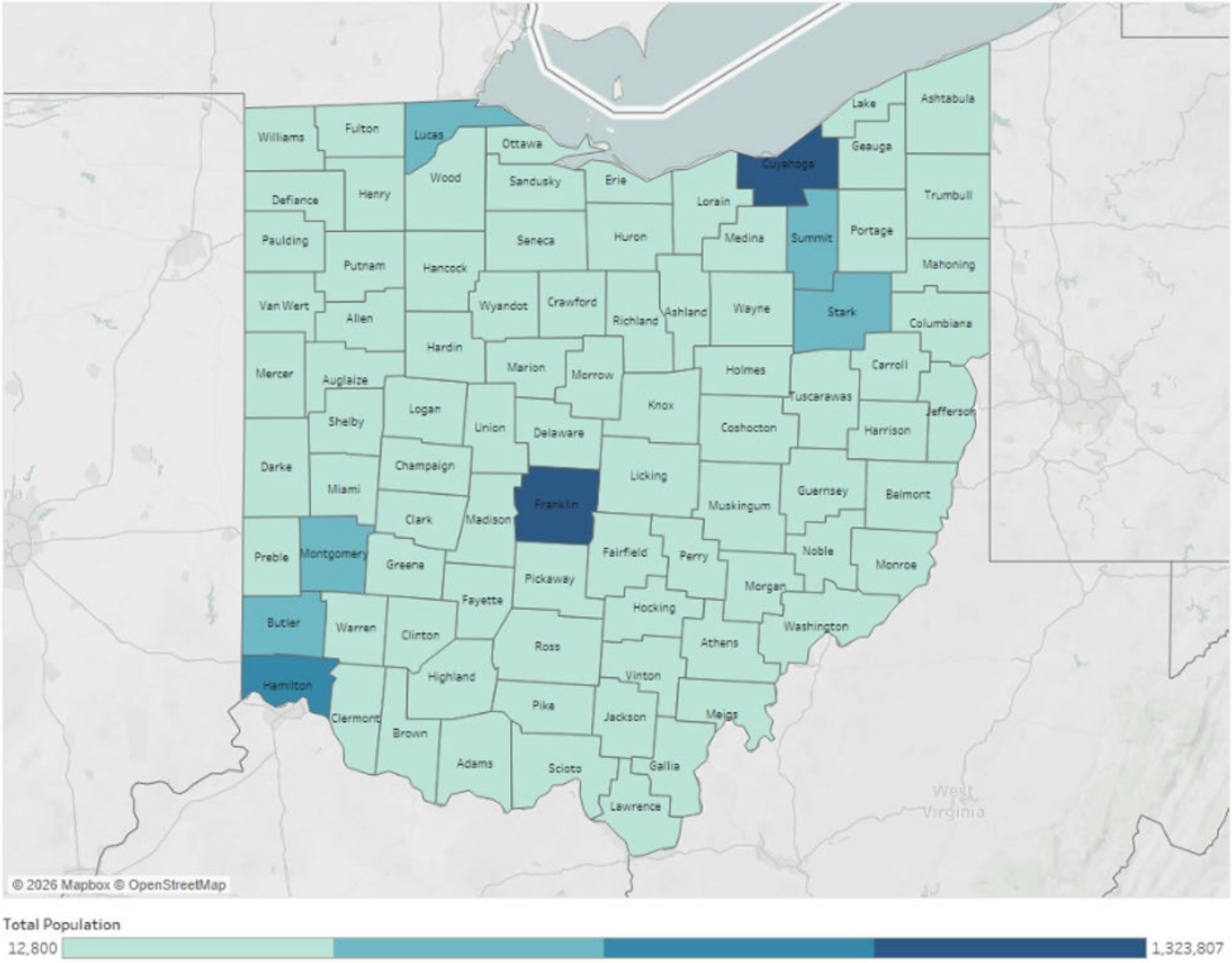


Figure 2

Figure 2: This map of Ohio shows the population in shades from light teal (lower number of people) to a deep blue (higher number of people).[7]

[6] Ohio Department of Development, Office of Research. (2025). Ohio County Profiles: Appalachia. https://development.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/21f81533-2fba-4bd5-a8a9-9c5a5b18cad9/Appalachia.pdf?MOD=AJPERES

[7] U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census, "Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics" (Table DP1), https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALDP2020.DP1?g=040XX00US39$0500000&y=2020&d=DEC+Demographic+Profile. Map created in Tableau using Mapbox and OpenStreetMap basemap.

Ohio's Residents-Demographic Information

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 51% of Ohio's population is female and 20.2% of the residents are age 65 or older. The Race and Hispanic Origin demographics for Ohio are as follows:[8]

- 78.6% of the population is White
- 74.5% of the population is White alone (not Hispanic or Latino)
- 13.4% of the population is Black or African American
- 5.5% of the population is Hispanic or Latino
- 4.5% of the population identifies as Two or more Races
- 3.1% of the population is Asian
- 0.4% of the population is American Indian or Alaskan Native
- 0.1% of the population is Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.

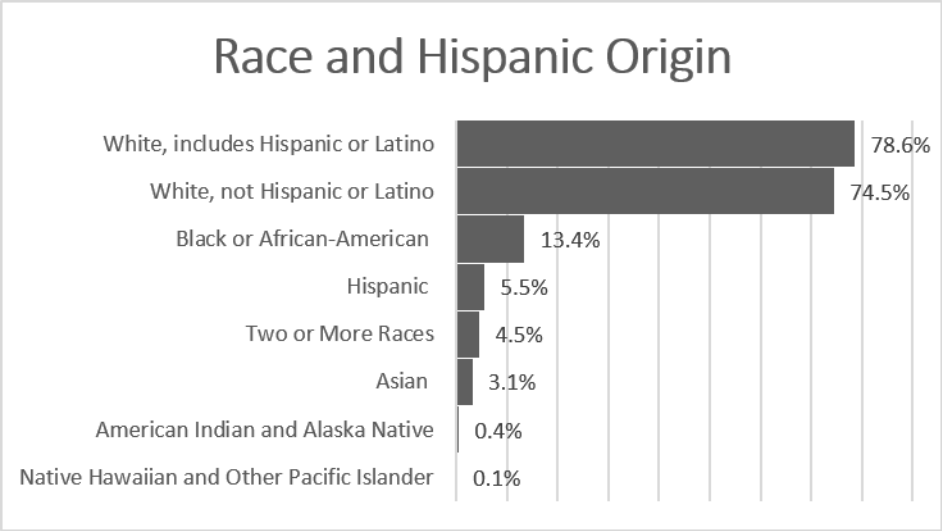


Figure 3

Figure 3: This bar chart shows Ohio's racial and ethnic composition based on U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts.[9]

[8] U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). QuickFacts: Ohio [Data table]. Retrieved July 9, 2026, from https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/OH/RHI325220
[9] U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). QuickFacts: Ohio [Data table]. Retrieved July 9, 2026, from https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/OH/RHI325220

Consistent with the U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts reporting, residents who are White alone, not Hispanic or Latino compromise 74.5% of Ohio's population. Accordingly, residents who are not White alone, not Hispanic or Latino compromise 25.5% of the state's population. The minority population represented 18.9% of Ohio's residents in 2010 and 24.1% in 2020. This reflects an overall increase of approximately 31% in 2020 with the share of Ohioans identifying as a minority population since 2010. During the same period, the white, non-Hispanic population experienced a 5.2% decrease. The Hispanic population has grown by 47% since 2010, while the Asian population has more than doubled. Contextualizing these trends nationally, minorities comprise 42.2% of the population, up from 36.3% in 2010.[10]

Ohio's Black or African American population is comprised of 1.8 million people which accounts for 14.9% of Ohio's population. The majority of African Americans in Ohio live in urban areas. More than one of three African Americans in the state live in the cities of Cincinnati, Cleveland, or Columbus. In Columbus, there are 294,000 African American residents, in Cleveland there are 188,000; and in Cincinnati there are 128,000.[11]

Black Population by County: 2024

Largest Total Black Population			Largest Percent of County Population	
Cuyahoga	399,902		Cuyahoga	32.2%
Franklin	383,380		Hamilton	28.7%
Hamilton	240,653		Franklin	28.3%
Montgomery	130,912		Montgomery	24.4%
Lucas	100,860		Lucas	23.7%
Summit	94,278		Mahoning	17.8%
Butler	50,569		Summit	17.5%
Stark	40,116		Allen	15.1%
Mahoning	40,107		Fairfield	12.9%
Lorain	37,354		Butler	12.7%
Fairfield	21,694		Clark	12.6%
Trumbull	21,627		Erie	12.1%

Figure 4

[10] Census 2020 Demographic Profile: Charting the Changes. (n.d.). https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/development.ohio.gov/research/census/20230829-census-2020-demographic-profile-charting-the-changes.pdf

[11] Ohio Department of Development, Office of Research. (n.d.). *Ohio African Americans Snapshot: 2024 American Community Survey*.https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/development.ohio.gov/research/population/2024/Final_Snapshot_Black_Population_2024.pdf

Figure 4: This chart has two columns which show where the largest total population lives based on their county and compares those rates with the largest percentage of the county's population.[12]

Most Asian American Ohioans live in the state's metropolitan areas. According to research from the Ohio Department of Development "generally, Asian Americans in Ohio are more likely to live in the suburbs than the central city, but Columbus is an exception with more Asian Americans living in the city because of the influence of The Ohio State University". Nearly 73,000, or 19%, of Ohio's Asian population live in Columbus. There are 34% of Asian American Ohioans living in the 10-county Columbus metropolitan area. The combination of the Cleveland/Akron metropolitan areas is comprised of 25% of the Asian American population.[13]

Asian Population by County: 2024				
Largest Total Asian Population			Largest Percent of County Population	
Franklin	98,098		Delaware	11.4%
Cuyahoga	56,704		Warren	9.4%
Hamilton	32,616		Union	8.1%
Summit	30,268		Franklin	7.2%
Delaware	27,189		Butler	6.3%
Butler	25,023		Summit	5.6%
Warren	23,951		Licking	5.4%
Montgomery	19,539		Greene	4.6%
Lucas	11,226		Fairfield	4.6%
Licking	10,010		Cuyahoga	4.6%
Greene	7,891		Athens	4.1%
Fairfield	7,668		Hamilton	3.9%

Figure 5

Figure 5: This chart has two columns which show where the largest total population lives based on their county and compares those rates with the largest percentage of the county's population.[14]

[12] Ohio Department of Development, Office of Research. (n.d.). Ohio African Americans Snapshot: 2024 American Community Survey. https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/development.ohio.gov/research/population/2024/Final_Snapshot_Black_Population_2024.pdf

[13] Ohio Department of Development, Office of Research. (n.d.-a). *Ohio County Indicators: Asian Population Snapshot (2024 American Community Survey).* https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/development.ohio.gov/research/population/2024/Final_Snapshot_Asian_Population_2024.pdf

[14] Ohio Department of Development, Office of Research. (n.d.-a). *Ohio County Indicators: Asian Population Snapshot (2024 American Community Survey).* https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/development.ohio.gov/research/population/2024/Final_Snapshot_Asian_Population_2024.pdf

The majority of Hispanic Ohioans live in urban areas of the state. Approximately 30% of the Hispanic population in Ohio live in one of the four cities of Cleveland, Columbus, Lorain and Toledo. In Columbus there are 75,700 Hispanic residents, in Cleveland there are 49,500, in Toledo there are 25,500 and in Lorain there are 16,800 Hispanic residents. Note the Hispanic population makes up a higher proportion of county populations in the North and Northwest sections of Ohio, many of which are rural in nature.[15]

Hispanic Population by County: 2023				
Largest Total Hispanic Population			Largest Percent of County Population	
Franklin	99,891		Defiance	11.3%
Cuyahoga	88,370		Lorain	11.2%
Hamilton	40,317		Sandusky	11.1%
Lorain	35,567		Fulton	9.4%
Lucas	33,928		Henry	8.4%
Butler	27,513		Lucas	8.0%
Montgomery	22,985		Franklin	7.5%
Mahoning	15,926		Huron	7.4%
Summit	14,976		Cuyahoga	7.2%
Lake	12,621		Mahoning	7.1%
Stark	11,611		Butler	7.0%
Warren	8,997		Putnam	6.7%

Figure 6

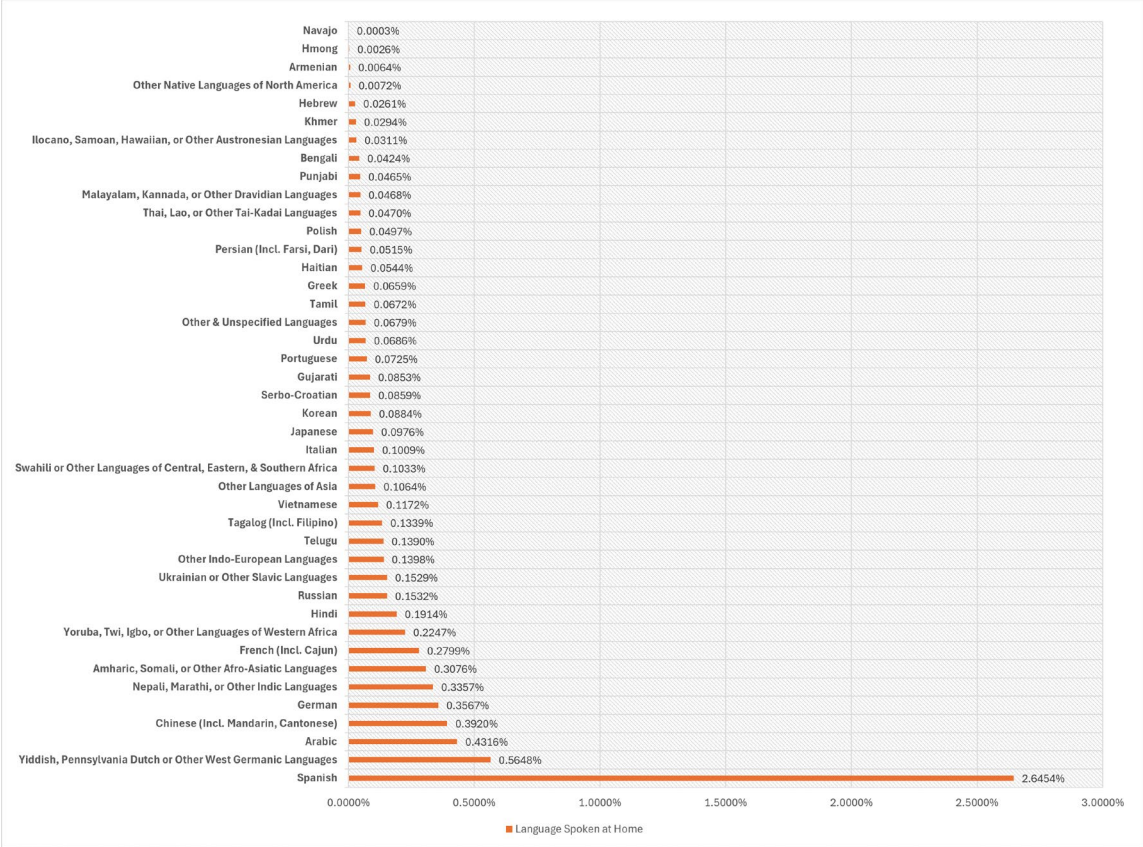
Figure 6: This chart has two columns which show where the largest total population lives based on their county and compares those rates with the largest percentage of the county's population.[16]

Foreign-Born Population including Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

Roughly 654,800 foreign-born persons live in Ohio, accounting for 6% of the total population. Of Ohio's foreign-born residents approximately 40% are from Asia, 11% are from India, .05% are from China, and 7% are from Mexico.[17] Asian Americans are overrepresented in Ohio's foreign-born population due to the influence of The Ohio State University as discussed

[15] Ohio Department of Development. (2025). *Ohio Hispanic Americans*. https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/development.ohio.gov/research/Final_Snapshot_Hispanic_Population_2023.pdf
[16] Ohio Department of Development. (2025). *Ohio Hispanic Americans*. https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/development.ohio.gov/research/Final_Snapshot_Hispanic_Population_2023.pdf
[17] Ohio Department of Development. (n.d.). *Office of Research Ohio County Indicators Ohio Population Snapshot from the 2024 American Community Survey*. https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/v1767622572/development.ohio.gov/research/population/2024/Final_Snapshot_Ohio_Population_2024.pdf

previously.[18] According to the U.S. Census, about 7.3% (858,192 people) of Ohio's population exclusively speak a language other than English at home with 2.7% (297,000 people) of this population being considered Limited English Proficiency (LEP).[19] The languages that are spoken in Non-English Households are as follows[20]:



Education

Approximately 91.8% of Ohioans aged 25 and older have at least a high school degree or higher; and of that approximately 31.5% have obtained a bachelor's degree or higher.[21]

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[18] Ohio Department of Development, Office of Research. (n.d.). *Ohio County Indicators*. https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/development.ohio.gov/research/population/2024/Final_Snapshot_Asian_Population_2024.pdf

[19] *Ohio: Language Access - National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC)*. (2026, August 7). National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC). https://www.google.com/goto?url=CAESYwHrOzAVVe4ARBmQL8YrMDxZRbuestbdUnSXAbiZVZ1_BuKolISgrgZb7haw4-ULq5cHciS6tk1uGC5ASOm_rmLDxn0fwTTgMQiuNuNpNyr6Mi-u6vYKiyg0FPiIBK8SbdJXLA

[20] *Ohio: Language Access - National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC)*. (2026, August 7). National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC). https://www.google.com/goto?url=CAESYwHrOzAVVe4ARBmQL8YrMDxZRbuestbdUnSXAbiZVZ1_BuKolISgrgZb7haw4-ULq5cHciS6tk1uGC5ASOm_rmLDxn0fwTTgMQiuNuNpNyr6Mi-u6vYKiyg0FPiIBK8SbdJXLA

[21] U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). *2020 Population Census* [Data file]. Retrieved from https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/OH/RHI325220#qf-headnote-a

Poverty

The average poverty rates for Ohio are approximately 12.7%[22]; however, the highest rates of poverty occur in Ohio's Appalachian counties. Ohio's 32 Appalachian counties have an overall poverty rate of 16.07%, with 12 counties classified as at risk of decline and 3 counties designated as distressed; placing them among the poorest 10% of counties nationally.[23]

Age

According to the United States Census, 21.3% of the population of Ohio are under the age of eighteen.[24] This means that there are about 2.57 million children. The median age for Ohio is 39.8 years. The median age for the nation is 39.2 years.[25] Ohio has more than 2.8 million residents age 60 or older, who account for nearly one-quarter of Ohio's total population

Ohioans with Disabilities

The prevalence of Ohioans with disabilities was determined by a 2024 needs assessment completed by the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities office, from which the following chart was excerpted.[26]

Table. Estimated Prevalence for Specific Categories of Disabilities in Ohio

Disability Category	Prevalence Estimate	Source
Blindness and Low Vision Disabilities	1.9%	U.S. Census Bureau - 2022 American Community Survey - ages 16 to 64 (disabilitystatistics.org)
Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Communicative Disabilities	2.1%	U.S. Census Bureau - 2022 American Community Survey - ages 16 to 64 (disabilitystatistics.org)
Physical Disabilities	4.9%	U.S. Census Bureau - 2022 American Community Survey - ages 16 to 64 [Ambulatory Disability] (disabilitystatistics.org)
Psychosocial Disabilities	6.4%	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA, 2024)
Cognitive Disabilities	6.0%	U.S. Census Bureau - 2022 American Community Survey - ages 16 to 64 (disabilitystatistics.org)

[22] U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). *2020 Population Census* [Data file]. Retrieved from https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/OH/RHI325220#qf-headnote-a
[23] Oppalachia. (n.d.). *Appalachian Ohio Economic Data Dashboard*. https://www.oppalachia.com/economic-data
[24] U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts, https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/OH/AGE775225
[25] Ohio Department of Development, *Ohio County Indictors, Ohio Population, Snapshot from the 2024 American Community Survey*
[26] Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment, https://ood.ohio.gov/about-us/reports-and-statistics/vr-csna-2024

Ohio's Crime

Ohioans experience crimes throughout the state, with some populations experiencing elevated levels of victimization. Crime and victimization affect communities across Ohio differently depending on geographic location, socioeconomic conditions, age, race, and other demographic factors. While some offenses are more prevalent in urban areas, others disproportionately impact vulnerable populations such as older adults, marginalized communities, and individuals experiencing economic hardship. Understanding these trends is important for identifying service needs, allocating resources, and developing effective prevention and intervention strategies throughout the state.

Elder Abuse

Given that Ohio's elderly population is increasing and is at an elevated risk for some crimes, more attention is needed to protect them. According to the Ohio Attorney General's Elder Abuse website:

> An estimated 1 in 10 Ohioans age 60 or older will experience some type of abuse – financial, physical, emotional, etc. The cases we know about are troubling and sometimes horrifying. Even more chilling: We have seen estimates that only 1 in 5 of the crimes committed against our elders are reported.

Similarly, according to the Ohio Attorney General's Office:

> In the past seven years, Ohio has seen a 400% increase in cases of elder abuse, which includes neglect as well as physical, emotional and sexual abuse, and financial exploitation. Even more astounding: In the vast majority of cases, the abuser knows the victim well.[27]

The Sexual Assault in Ohio, 2016-2023 report that OCJS published using Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS)[28] data showed that the rate of victimization of those over the age of 65 increased by 23.7%. In the same report, the age of sexual assault suspects showed that 6.9% were ages 56-65 and 4.4% were over the age of 65.[29]

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[27] Ohio Attorney General's Office. (2026). *AG's campaign to end elder abuse targets growing problem*. Criminal Justice Update, Winter 2026. https://ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/Newsletters/Criminal-Justice-Update/Winter-2026/AG-s-campaign-to-end-elder-abuse-targets-growing-p

[28] Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System at the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services OIBRS is a voluntary crime reporting program in which Ohio law enforcement agencies can submit crime statistics directly to the state and federal government in an automated format.

[29] Ohio Department of Public Safety, Office of Criminal Justice Services. (2024). *Sexual assault in Ohio, 2016–2023*. https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/ocjs.ohio.gov/links/sexual-assault-report.pdf

Hate Crime

Over the past decade, hate crimes in the United States have increased. According to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), the number of hate crime incidents recorded by law enforcement rose from 6,628 to 7,314 from 2010 to 2019, a 10% increase.[16] By comparison, the total volume of reported crime-including both hate and non-hate incidents-decreased 22% during the 10-year period. Bias against race, ethnicity, or ancestry accounted for more than half of all hate crime incidents recorded by law enforcement in 2019. More than half (54%) of hate crime incidents reported to the Hate Crime Statistics Program (HCSP) were motivated by bias against the victim's race, ethnicity, or ancestry, as determined by a law enforcement investigation of the incident. Anti-black or anti-African American bias was the motivation for nearly half (49%) of hate crime incidents motivated by race, ethnicity, or ancestry bias between 2015 and 2019.[30] During the 5-year period of 2015-19, law enforcement recorded increases in the number of hate crime against black or African-Americans (from 2,201 to 2,391 victims), Asian Americans (from 136 to 215) and Americans of Arab descent (from 48 to 126).[31] In Ohio, hate crimes have remained consistently above the national average in the same 5-year period, with an incidence of 5.3 per 100,000 people,[32] as compared to the national average of 2.6 per 100,000 people.[33]

Sexual Assault in Ohio

"More than 1 in 5 women and 1 in 31 men have experienced completed or attempted rape in their lifetimes."[34] A review of 2016-2023 data collected through the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS) found that the sexual assault crime rate decreased by 4.3% from 121.7 to 116.4 per 100,000 people. These incidents were reported at a rate of 116 per 100,000 population (in 2023). While most victims of sexual assault were female, White and under the age of 18,

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[30]Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2021, September). Hate crime recorded by law enforcement, 2010–2019 (p. 4). U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. https://bjs.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh236/files/media/document/hcrle1019.pdf

[31] Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2021, September). *Hate crime victimization, 2005–2019*. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. https://bjs.ojp.gov
Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2021, September). *Hate crime recorded by law enforcement, 2010–2019*. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. https://bjs.ojp.gov
Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2021). *Enhancing the measurement of hate crime in the NCVS: Developing and testing improvements to the survey questions*. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. https://bjs.ojp.gov
[32] Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services. (n.d.). *Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System: Hate crime statistics for 2015–2019*. https://ocjs.ohio.gov/law-enforcement-services/ohio-incidentbased-reporting-system
[33] U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2021). *Hate Crime Statistics, 2019*. https://ucr.fbi.gov/hate-crime/2019/resource-pages/hate-crime-summary.pdf/at_download/file
[34] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). *About sexual violence*. Sexual Violence Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/about/index.html

victimization rates were nearly 2 times higher for Black individuals. Victimization rates were higher for females than males across all age groups and were higher for Black victims compared to White and Other races across all age groups.[35] Most suspects of sexual assault were male, White, and between 26-35 years of age. The rates for Black males were, on average, 4 times higher than White males, and 10 times higher than Other males. It is important to keep in mind that OIBRS data is from sexual assaults reported to law enforcement. Other key findings:

- 48.2% of sexual assault victims knew the suspect but were not friends with the suspect.
- 28.4% of sexual assault victims were a family member of the suspect.
- 8.7% of sexual assault victims were an intimate partner of the suspect.
- 8.1% of sexual assault victims were a stranger to the suspect.
- 6.5% of sexual assault victims were a friend of the suspect.

Sexual Violence in the Developmental Disabilities Population

While it can also be challenging to determine the rate of sexual assault with other populations, including those with developmental disabilities due to under-reporting, there is some relevant data. Nationally, "nineteen percent of rapes or sexual assaults against persons with disabilities were reported to police, compared to 36% of those against persons without disabilities."[36]

According to the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, in 2025, the following Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs) were reported: 416 total incidents involving "sexual abuse;" of those, 23% were substantiated (or "a preponderance of evidence that the alleged incident occurred"). In this case, "sexual abuse" includes both unlawful touch and penetration, as well as incidents of public indecency, voyeurism, importuning, etc. In the MUIs that were substantiated, 47% of the victim/perpetrator relationship were defined as "other," 27% were family members, and 21% were unknown to the victim. The number of sexual abuses MUIs increased in 2025, with an increase in allegations starting from 2022, as well.[37]

[35] Ohio Department of Public Safety, Office of Criminal Justice Services. (2024). *Sexual assault in Ohio, 2016–2023*. https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/ocjs.ohio.gov/links/sexual-assault-report.pdf
[36] U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2021, November). *Crime against persons with disabilities, 2009–2019: Statistical tables* (NCJ 301367). https://bjs.ojp.gov
[37] Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. (2026, June 26). OhioITMS MUI trend summary report [Internal data report]. Ohio Incident Tracking & Monitoring System.

Domestic Violence in Ohio

In their lifetimes, nearly 1 in 3 women and about 1 in 8 men experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking and at least one related impact.[38] Some impacts included physical injury, missing work or school, safety concerns, medical care needs, and filing a police report.[39]

According to the Ohio Attorney General's Domestic Violence Reports 2025, law enforcement received 59,029 calls concerning domestic violence incidents. Forty-three percent of these calls resulted in the filing of domestic violence charges. There are a reported 48,081offenders. Within each category there are meaningful trends to note. Males account for 69% of reported offenders while females account for 71% of all victims. While African Americans comprise 13.1% of the state's population, they account for 34% of all victims of domestic violence, a representation more than double their population share. Ages 18-40 account for 61% of offenders, and 59% of victims; by far the largest age group represented in calls, with more calls than the remaining age group combined.[40]

Data from the Ohio Incident Based Reporting System (OIBRS) shows that since 2019, about 14% of homicides in Ohio were domestic violence related with the exception of 2024, when the percentage rose to 17%. The Ohio Domestic Violence Network reports, "the number of domestic violence fatalities rose 37% over the previous year in Ohio – from 114 fatalities in 2023-2024 to 157 fatalities in 2024-2025."[41]

Teen Dating Violence (or Dating Violence)

Dating Violence is an issue that may occur in-person, online, or through technology and affects many youths. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (or CDC) "Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) in 2021 indicated that among U.S. high school students who reported dating during the 12 months before the survey:

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[38] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2026, February 11). About intimate partner violence. Intimate Partner Violence Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/intimate-partner-violence/about/index.html

[39] Zhang Kudon, H., Zhu, S., Chen, B., Breiding, M. J., Leemis, R. W., Zhang, X., Schwank, A., & Basile, K. C. (2026). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2023/2024 data brief – Intimate partner violence. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

[40] Ohio Attorney General's Office, Bureau of Criminal Investigation. (2026). *Domestic Violence Reports 2025*. https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Files/Reports/Domestic-Violence-Reports/Domestic-Violence-Reports-2025

[41] Ohio Domestic Violence Network. (2025, October 7). 2025 the most lethal year for DV homicides in Ohio, according to 10th annual fatality count [Press release]. https://www.odvn.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/PressRelease_DVAM2025.pdf

- About 1 in 12 experienced physical dating violence.
- About 1 in 10 experienced sexual dating violence.

Related, in a 2023 survey of Ohio high school students:

- 9% reported having experienced some form of relationship violence in the 12 months prior to the survey.
- About 3.7% students reported someone they were dating forced them "to do sexual things" they did not want to do. This rate was down from 9.1% in 2021.
- More generally, 5.7% of female students and about 1.8% of male students had experienced unwanted sexual acts (e.g., kissing, touching, sexual intercourse, etc.).[42]

Stalking in Ohio

Nearly one in three women (31.2%) and one in six men (16.1%) in the United States reported stalking victimization at some point in their lifetime during which they felt fearful, threatened, or concerned for the safety of themselves or others.[43] Not only do we know that stalking may be part of a scenario involving other VAWA crimes, but it can also be deadly on its own. Like many other states, Ohio professionals have not had as much training on stalking as they have other issues. As part of our needs assessment process, we heard from Ohio's victim service providers and members of the FVPC's Advisory Council that stalking trainings, especially cyber-stalking, in non-DV scenarios are needed. According to data collected through the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System between 2016 and 2025, most stalking victims (51.9%) knew the suspect but were not friends with them. Current or former intimate partners accounted for 34.3% of

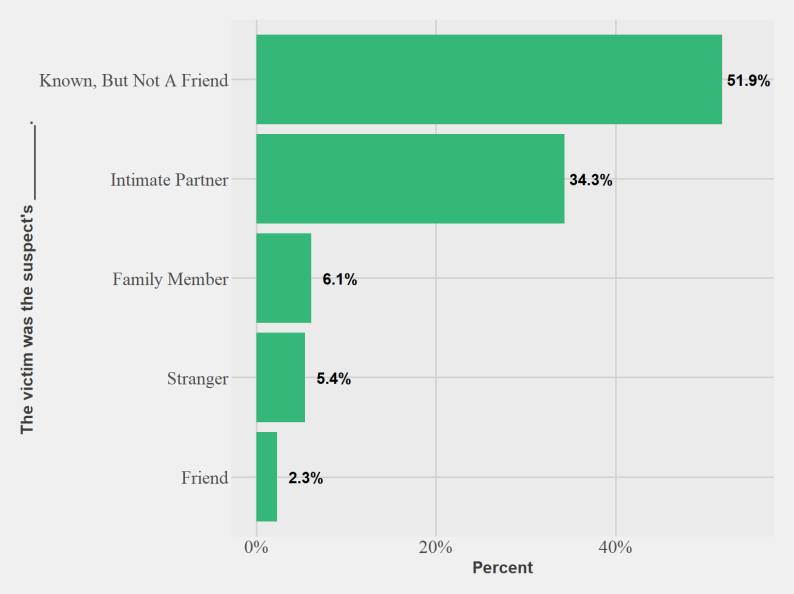
[42] Ohio Department of Health. (2023). *YRBS/YTS High School Sexual Behavior 2023*. Ohio Youth Surveys. https://youthsurveys.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/youthsurveys/reports-and-insights/yrbs-yts-reports/2023/yrbs-yts-high-school-sexual-behavior-2023

[43] Smith, S. G., Basile, K. C., & Kresnow, M.-J. (2022, April 1). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2016/2017 report on stalking — Updated release*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. https://www.cdc.gov/nisvs/documentation/nisvsStalkingReport.pdf

stalkingincidents, while 6.1% of victims were family members, 5.4% were strangers, and 2.3% were friends of the suspect.

Victim Characteristics (2016–2025):

- 77.5% of stalking victims were female, while 22.5% were male.
- Most victims were White, female, and between 26–35 years old.
- The highest victimization rate occurred among individuals aged 26–35 (28.6%), followed by 36–45 (24.5%) and 18–25 (19.4%).
- The stalking victimization rate increased from 20.1 per 100,000 in 2016 to 24.9 per 100,000 in 2025, reflecting a 28.1% rise.



- Black victims were over-represented, making up 33.1% of all victims compared to their share of the statewide population, while White victims accounted for 65.8% and 1% were classified as "Other."[44]

Stalking in Ohio has increasingly involved the misuse of modern tracking technologies, including Bluetooth devices, GPS units, and other digital tools that allow an offender to monitor a victim's movements without their knowledge[45]. As these technologies have become more common and accessible, they have created new opportunities for offenders to facilitate stalking

[44] Ohio Department of Public Safety, Office of Criminal Justice Services. (2025). Stalking in Ohio, 2016–2025. https://ocjs.ohio.gov/research-and-data/data-reports-and-dashboards/stalking-in-ohio/stalking-in-ohio-2016-2025

[45] Ohio Domestic Violence Network. (2024, November). *Combatting car monitoring* [PDF]. https://www.odvn.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/CombattingCarMonitoring_web.pdf?_rt=MnwxfHRyYWNraW5nfDE3ODM2OTM0ODc&_rt_nonce=3d06f8a818

in ways that are harder to detect and easier to conceal. These patterns reflect a growing trend statewide, with more victims reporting incidents involving electronic tracking devices[46]. In response to these emerging concerns, Ohio has created legislation to address the misuse of tracking technology in stalking situations. [47] While Ohio does not have an official state-level organization that solely focuses on stalking, other state organizations have worked to promote training on this issue. This demonstrates Ohio's effort to keep up with emerging stalking trends, particularly the growing misuse of modern tracking technologies. As offenders adopt new tools to monitor victims, the state is taking steps to update its legal protections and enforcement responses.

Human Trafficking in Ohio

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 define two primary forms of human trafficking, including sex trafficking and forced labor.[48] Over the last decade, recognition of and response to human trafficking in Ohio has grown substantially, in part due to trafficking in persons being formally criminalized through Ohio statute in 2011.[49] Through this codification, public awareness of the issue has increased, as has the availability of training and identification protocols put in place within both state systems and local agencies, with an ever-growing response throughout the state.[50]

From a state-systems perspective, five state agencies have reported identifying 2,437 survivors of human trafficking between January 2021 and March 2026.[51] Reporting state agencies include the Ohio Departments of Behavioral Health, Children and Youth, Developmental Disabilities, Rehabilitation and Corrections, and Youth Services. The individuals identified by these agencies are primarily female (87.5%), with most individuals (65.5%) experiencing some form of sex trafficking. This state system data also highlights that human trafficking impacts Ohio citizens in both rural and urban areas, and in almost every (97.7%) Ohio county.

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[46] Ohio Domestic Violence Network. (2024, March). *S.B. 100 fact sheet: Prohibit installing tracking devices or apps without consent* [PDF]. https://www.odvn.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/ODVN_SB100_FactSheet.pdf
[47] Ohio Rev. Code § 2903.216 (2025). https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-2903.216
[48] 22 U.S.C. § 7102(11)
[49] *Ohio Rev. Code § 2905.32 (retrieved July 2026).* Available at *https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-2905.32*

[50] Governor's Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force Report (November 2021) Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force available at https://www.humantrafficking.ohio.gov/links/OhioHumanTraffickingTaskForceReport1121.pdf
[51] *Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force Summary* Data Dashboard available online at https://data.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/data/view/ohio-human-trafficking-task-force-summary?visualize=true

The Ohio Attorney General Office's Human Trafficking Initiative also reports that in 2024, 243 Ohio law enforcement agencies reported a total of 117 potential victims of human trafficking, with 102 of those individuals experiencing sex trafficking and 15 experiencing both labor and sex trafficking.[52] While reporting agencies identified drug, alcohol, or other dependency most frequently as a contributing factor to trafficking victimization in identified cases, other factors included an unsafe home, prior victimization/abuse, homelessness, poverty, and immigration status.

B. Identifying Underserved Populations (34 U.S.C. 10446(i(2)(E); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(e))

The needs assessment conducted during this planning cycle focused on survivor experiences, barriers to accessing services, and emerging needs, rather than re-identifying underserved populations. OCJS receives ongoing feedback from community based organizations that work directly with underserved groups, who affirm that these needs for the identified populations remain accurate. The identified populations and needs remain consistent with input that has been received from the STOP VAWA Implementation Planning committee. Thus, input ensures that the state's understanding of underserved populations remains current and well-informed. Since STOP VAWA applications reflect serving these populations, therefore, we are confident that we are upholding the requirements outlined in section *34 U.S.C. 10446(i(2)(E); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(e)).*

Thus, OCJS has determined the following to be underserved populations in Ohio:

- Rural / Appalachian / Dense Population Areas
- Hispanic / Asian / Black or African American
- Limited English Proficiency
- Ohioans with Disabilities
- Older (60+) and Younger (18 and under)

The breakdown of Ohio's underserved population can be found in the Needs and Context section. Based on Ohio's existing demographic, crime, and underserved populations data, the Ohio STOP VAWA Implementation Plan will support a comprehensive service delivery approach for all victimized Ohioans.

[52] *2024 Human Trafficking Annual Report* (2025). https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Files/Reports/Human-Trafficking-Commission-Annual-Reports/2024-HT-Stats

III. Description of Planning Process

A. Brief Description of the Planning Process

As the state-designated agency to administer Ohio's STOP VAWA funding, OCJS assumed the lead role to prepare the Federal Fiscal year 2026 to 2029 Implementation Plan for Ohio. The Family Violence Prevention Center (FVPC), housed within OCJS, serves as an information clearinghouse for public and private organizations that aid victims. The center also includes a multi-disciplinary advisory body, the Ohio FVPC Advisory Council, comprised of stated experts and community leaders on domestic, sexual, family violence, stalking, and human trafficking prevention and intervention. The Advisory Council conducts work primarily through committees, one of which is the STOP VAWA Implementation Planning Committee (Planning Committee). Membership for this committee is expanded beyond the Advisory Council membership to ensure broad representation in the planning process and to promote improved services for population specific, underserved, and culturally specific populations in the state.

The Implementation Plan was informed and developed along with meetings that occurred over the course of this planning process. The Planning Committee's needs assessment process incorporated information using a three-pronged approach using needs assessment surveys, focus groups, and survivor engagement. In 2025, needs assessment surveys were administered by OCJS in partnership with the Advisory Council and entities such as the Supreme Court of Ohio, Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association, state chapters of Chiefs of Police and Sheriff's Association.

<u>Ohio's Family Violence Needs Assessment</u>

In 2025, the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) collaborated with members of the Ohio STOP VAWA Implementation Planning Committee to identify priorities, as well as needs and gaps in serving survivors of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking. In addition to the collaborative work with the Family Violence Prevention Center's Advisory Council (FVPC AC), OCJS also funded to the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (OAESV), the state's sexual assault coalition, and the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN), the state's domestic violence coalition to ensure survivor voices were incorporated in the development of Ohio's plan. These agencies conducted needs assessments within specific

underserved communities and with victims of VAWA crimes. This was completed in three parts:

- Part I: Needs Assessment Survey Results
- Part II Needs Assessment; Determining New Priorities:
- Part III: Assessments which focused on services to underserved populations

Part I: Needs Assessment Survey Results

To inform the needs assessment survey, data was gathered directly from providers throughout the state. Participants included 241 individuals representing the fields of victim service providers, law enforcement agencies, sexual assault nurse examiners, prosecutors, court personnel, and civil legal service providers. The following provides an overview of key findings of the survey.

Courts

In general, court-specific respondents identified the following as being a priority for victims with court-involved cases:

- Responding to needs of victims with co-occurring disorders (99%)
- Holding offenders accountable through referrals to Batterer Intervention Programs (92%)
- Responding to needs of victims with brain injury (87.5%)
- Promoting access to childcare (82%)

Most court-specific respondents noted that they recognized the need for offender accountability programming, batterer's intervention services, and specialized DV programs and/or courts. Additionally, they identified several resources that would be beneficial for court staff including: the use of protection order enforcement practices, Bench Books on VAWA topics, and validated lethality and/or risk assessment tools.

Civil Legal Services

The following were identified as having the highest needs in client representation, and were identified as not currently being met:

- Assistance in domestic court (100%)
- Legal representation for victims (95%)
- Assistance related to housing, including transitional housing (95%)
- Social workers and advocates housed within the agency for victims (85%)

- Availability of pro bono attorneys for legal referrals (71%)

Additional victim needs identified include:

- Transportation
- Care of pets during transitional periods (e.g., housing changes)
- Assistance with VAWA petitions for citizenship
- Economic issues (e.g., coerced debt, foreclosures, bankruptcy, wills, trusts)
- Using civil legal attorneys in Marsy's law cases when there are concurrent cases pending
- Pilot programs for legal services. For example, keeping a case open for a year after their case has concluded to provide survivors with enforcement of orders legal representation, modifications for parenting/custody and child support, other legal representation, assistance accessing benefits, ensuring mental and physical health stability
- Programming for the children and their legal needs, particularly education-related needs
- DV hubs/departments in courts with attorneys and advocates and social workers
- Consumer literacy training for clients

Law Enforcement

Law enforcement identified the following partnerships as going well:

- Quick access to advocates at the scene or by phone and follow-up (93%)
- Lethality assessments paired with survivor referrals to DV programs (84%)
- Specialized DV units/officers with an advanced understanding of DV (69%)

Law enforcement identified the goal to improve or establish:

- Effective interpretation services for LEP and Deaf victims (77%)
- Expansion/co-location of unit for VAWA crimes (75%)
- Partnerships with CS service providers (72%)

Prosecution

When asked for the most important resources and human capital needs, prosecutors identified:

- Systems based advocates (100%)
- Participation in DV task forces (92.5%)

- Trauma informed techniques (87.5%)

Additional priorities included:

- Improved victim involvement and decreased recantation (90%)
- Increased collaboration with content experts, including expert witnesses (87%)
- Enhance and/or create specialized units (51%)

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners

When asked about the most serious issues facing agencies that serve victims, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner respondents, using open-ended responses, predominantly identified the following issues:

- A lack of funding for full-coverage staff, meaning 24/7 staff availability for survivors in emergencies.
- A need for specialized training for nurses to serve DV/IPV patients and provide comprehensive screening.
- A need for funding after-care services and follow-up medical care.
- Staffing time needed to participate in SARTs, CCRTs, MDTs and other meetings.
- Equipment needed to complete sexual assault exams which can run between three thousand to thirty thousand dollars per item. This equipment may be basic, like a specialized camera to document injuries, or advanced to allow for telehealth.
- A lack of training for emergency department staff on completing the Sexual Assault Forensic Examination and related kit collection. Currently, no such training is required for hospitals, although the requirement to collect the kit exists in Ohio statute.

Victim Service Providers

In general, victim service respondents identified the following as resources either "insufficient to meet needs" or "unavailable" within the community for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking:

- Affordable trauma therapy (87.5%)
- Emergency/Transitional housing (both 75%)
- Forensic Nursing/SANE Programs (50%)

- Childcare (50%)
- Transportation (50%)
- Affordable substance abuse services (62.5%)

These needs were further validated through a review of recent years' VOCA reports that a member of our STOP IP Committee (Deputy Director, Ohio Attorney General's Office) completed.

Training needs identified by Victim Services Respondents included:

- Becoming an expert witness in the areas of – dynamics of DV recantation, impact of DV on children.
- Technology and abuse
- Evidence-based practices
- Cross-systems trainings for community and prosecutor-based victim advocates
- Stalking outside of IPV/SA
- Continued training on Safe and Together Child Protective Services (CPS) model

When asked about the most serious issues facing agencies that serve individuals who have experienced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, victim service providers repeatedly identified:

- A lack of funding or funding cuts from state and federal funders in their open-ended responses, which were tied to the inability to serve survivors adequately, inability to maintain proper staffing levels to meet the needs of survivors who contact agencies, inability to provide referrals for resources that are external to the serving agencies, inability to coordinate services, and more.
- Limited accessibility and inaccessibility of funding for serving underserved populations.
- Increased basic living costs (e.g., housing) and lack of additional resources have affected community social service support and has led to longer length of stay in domestic violence shelters.

OVWA 2025 Victim Services Survey

The Ohio Victim Witness Association (OVWA) worked with Dr. Wendy Regoeczi and surveyed victim service providers, criminal justice agencies, policymakers, government agencies, and community partners between May 19 - June 23, 2025. The survey focused on "services offered, critical service gaps, organizational capacity, barriers to providing holistic services, agency and program closures, impacts of lack of services." The following is excerpted from that report:

> However, the reality in 2025 is that most victim services providers are doing more with less. Since 2018, distributions to Ohio from the Crime Victims Fund ("CVF") through the Victims of Crime Act ("VOCA") grant have decreased by nearly 77%. Over 320 VOCA-funded programs in Ohio assist more than 320,000 Ohioans a year. These Ohioans have experienced crimes ranging from domestic violence to child abuse to the homicide of a loved one to physical assault. Essential services like notification, crisis counseling, court accompaniment, assistance in applying for crime victims' compensation, and other services, are increasingly being carried out by smaller staff sizes and slimmer budgets.
>
> Approximately one-third of respondents were from organizations serving all types of victimizations. Of those that serve specific types of victimizations, the most common were domestic and/or family violence (58%), child sexual abuse/assault (50%), adult sexual assault (44%), stalking/harassment (42%), teen dating victimization (40%), human sex trafficking (38%), adults sexually abused/assaulted as children (35%) and child physical abuse or neglect (31%). A total of 26 victimization-specific types were represented among the organizations that responded to the survey.
>
> The majority of responding organizations offered the criminal/civil justice assistance services of criminal advocacy/accompaniment (76%), victim impact assistance (71%), prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment (69%), notification of criminal justice events (64%), and civil legal assistance in obtaining a protection or restraining order (53%) (Table 6). Other related services offered include assistance with restitution (40%), other emergency justice-related assistance (38%), civil legal assistance with family law issues (33%) legal assistance to protect and enforce crime victims' rights (31%), and immigration assistance (22%).

Seven themes emerged from the OVWA survey related to lack of resources: Housing and Shelter, Lack of Services, Financial Assistance for Victims, Transportation, Legal Assistance, Funding, Childcare, Other (e.g., prevention).

Part II Needs Assessment; Determining New Priorities:

Prior to deploying the survey, the STOP VAWA IP Committee discussed new/additional priorities that should be considered. The synopsis of common themes and topics are consistent with the OVWA survey results, as well as the survey that was completed.

Themes that emerged from Committee discussions:

- Funding & Staffing Challenges: Decreased funding, high staff turnover, burnout, low pay, and difficulty hiring qualified personnel.
- Access Issues: Reduced accessibility for people with disabilities, concerns around sexual minorities, digital divide, and barriers to care due to staffing shortages.
- Workforce & Organizational Changes: Increased remote work, retention issues, and loss of collaboration between agencies (e.g., members of SARTs who left).
- Social & Economic Concerns: Housing insecurity, lack of affordable housing, societal division, and increased mental health treatment need/demand.
- Positive Shifts: There is greater comfort with technology (e.g., telehealth), more virtual outreach (e.g., social media), and improved efficiency in statewide collaboration.

<u>Language Access, Interpreter Services</u>

Language access and interpreter services were identified as a significant gap across the state and across systems. Challenges were identified not only with general availability of interpreters, but also in the quality of interpreters that are available and how accountability is present in situations where interpreters break code of ethics (e.g. breaking confidentiality, providing advice and services when they are not licensed to do so, providing opinion, etc.). Relatedly, in many systems, policies and protocols for creating language access and ensuring that the quality of interpreter services is missing, but also accountability within the agency if accessible services, specifically language services, are not provided.

Part III: Assessments which focused on services to underserved populations

The primary concern discussed during the previous planning and needs assessment process was the large turnover in each area of the field, plus a lack of outreach and engagement with underserved communities and agencies. To help address this through the needs assessment process, ODVN and OAESV were funded given their expertise and existing relationships with

community partners. Given their work with programs throughout the state, strong relationships with local programs, the state coalitions were able to create a space for survivors to share their experiences and to help inform priorities for funding based on their needs directly. Though survivors had the opportunity to engage in the needs assessment process directly, there is still work to be done to ensure that services are adjusted to address those needs.

Fortunately, the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (OAESV) and the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) are members of the FVPC AC and the STOP VAWA IP committee. Independent of this effort, OAESV and ODVN are the state's coalitions that are comprised of, respectively, rape crisis and domestic violence programs. OCJS had confidence that they could reach victims/Survivors for their input, as they have done similar projects over the years, using their member networks.

OAESV used mixed-methods qualitative research which included: "two 90-minute trauma-informed virtual listening sessions (November13-14, 2025), 108 survivors completing an online survey, "systemic coding and thematic analysis of all responses, approximately 187 total survivors engaged across methods." The victims/survivors had a range of experiences around reporting to law enforcement, working with advocates or navigating systems without one.[53]

The Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) has seventy-six member agencies that helped to disseminate a survey to determine DV victims/Survivors' experiences, as well as their experiences accessing support services. They were able to reach 439 victims/Survivors and shared the results in a report that helped identify needs and gaps in services. [54]

Additionally, as mentioned above, the plan also was informed by a qualitative survey independently conducted by the OVWA, which they graciously allowed to be used. These findings of the assessment can be found in Part I: Needs Assessment Survey Results.

Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (OAESV)

To increase the effectiveness and quality of support services for survivors of sexual assault in Ohio, OAESV along with Ubuntu Research Evaluations, conducted a needs assessment from

[53] Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence. (2025). *Annual report 2025*. Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence. https://oaesv.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/OAESV_Annual-Report-2025_Digital.pdf
[54] Ohio Domestic Violence Network. (2025). *ODVN statewide needs assessment 2025*. https://www.odvn.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/ODVN_NeedsAssessment2025_full.pdf

sexual assault survivors about their experiences with Ohio's criminal justice system. They used a mixed methods qualitative process which included: Two 90-minute trauma-informed virtual listening sessions (November 13-14, 2025), 108 survivors completing an online survey, with approximately 187 total survivors engaged across methods.[55]

- Survivors Don't Know What's Available - Survivors consistently reported not knowing about basic services and resources until months or years after their assault or never finding out at all. 61% of survey respondents did not work with victim advocates, and of those, the most common reason was "I didn't know they existed".
- Trauma-Informed Practices Are Inconsistent Not Universal - While some individual practitioners (specific detectives, prosecutors, advocates) demonstrated exceptional trauma-informed care, these were exceptions rather than the rule. Survivors encountered vastly different responses depending on which officer, prosecutor, or judge they interacted with
- When Systems Don't Talk to Each Other Survivors Fall Through Cracks - Law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and advocates operate in isolation. Survivors reported having to repeat their story multiple times to different people who seemed unaware of information already shared. When survivors moved from one system to another (police to prosecutor to court), they often didn't know where to go or what to expect.
- Multiple Barriers Trap Survivors in Cycles of Abuse - Survivors faced intersecting barriers, financial (can't afford to miss work for court dates), geographic (rural survivors driving hours to courthouse), childcare (single parents unable to Access services), transportation, language, and disability accommodations. For survivors of color, concerns about discrimination and bias added another layer."
- Even When Survivors Do Everything "Right," System Failures Enable Perpetrators to Reoffend - Evidence delays (some taking 12 weeks), inadequate protective measures (perpetrators with ankle monitors still accessing survivors), and cases being dismissed created situations where perpetrators could assault additional victims. One survivor asked, "Why does the perpetrator get to walk around with an ankle monitor while I have

[55] Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence. (2025). *Annual report 2025*. Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence. https://oaesv.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/OAESV_Annual-Report-2025_Digital.pdf

to fear for my safety?" Conversations also brought to light the social norms around violence, guns, poverty and the need for survivors to be treated as individuals with complex experiences and for trust-building to be facilitated by community-led initiatives."

Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN)

ODVN conducted a statewide survey and focus groups with 439 domestic violence survivors to better understand their experiences when seeking help from law enforcement, courts, child welfare, and social services systems. ODVN worked with 26 of their 76 domestic violence service providers to cover service areas throughout the state. Key findings are excerpted below.[56]

Experiences in Seeking Assistance

80% of survey respondents called an Ohio domestic violence program within the last five years and reached out for services after the most recent incident of domestic violence. The top needs that callers had included:

- 49% were seeking emergency shelter, 43% were seeking counseling/mental health assistance, 41% were seeking housing assistance, 36% were looking for legal/court assistance, 30% wanted general advocacy/case management, and 27% were looking for a support group.
- 83% of survey respondents had not ever been denied access to Ohio's domestic violence services, while 12% of total survey respondents had been denied services.
- Almost 60% of those survivors who entered domestic violence shelter were provided shelter immediately (130 of 220 respondents).
- Almost one-third of all survey respondents reported having a disability.
- 73% of total survey respondents had children and 74% of those with children were seeking services with their children.
- Of the 305 survivors who said they had been victims of strangulation, 70% reported repeated strangulations.
- Of the 337 survivors who reported head trauma, 82% reported repeated incidents.

[56] Ohio Domestic Violence Network. (2025). *ODVN statewide needs assessment 2025*. https://www.odvn.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/ODVN_NeedsAssessment2025_full.pdf

Serving Survivors with Disabilities

Almost one-third of 439 total survey respondents reported having a disability, underscoring the importance of accessible programming and facilities. Those with disabilities were asked to share the type of their disability or disabilities. The 142 survivors with disabilities reported the following, often co-occurring disabilities: mental health (80%), physical health/mobility (49%), cognitive (17%), developmental (15%), and substance use (12%).[57]

Substance and Alcohol Use

While 81% of total survey respondents shared that they were not actively using drugs or alcohol while working with the program, 7% of total survey respondents (30 people) were actively using drugs or alcohol. Survivors were asked: Did you feel safe sharing your use of drugs or alcohol with domestic violence program staff? Of the 46 responses to that question, 64% said yes, indicating that staff were good listeners, non-judgmental, open, supportive, and offered clear and direct help to address addiction. However, 34% of respondents said they did not feel safe disclosing their use to staff, citing lack of trust, and concerns about being denied services. That only 7% of respondents shared they were actively using drugs, or alcohol suggests survivors feared disclosing their substance use.

In 2023, ODVN developed three resources for survivors dealing with addiction or substance use issues—Safer Use Plan, Recovery Safety Plan, and Recovery Readiness Questionnaire. Between 16% and 21% of the 439 total survey respondents shared that they had been given one or more of these resources.

Survivors' Life-Threatening Experiences

Domestic violence perpetrators subject survivors to dangerous, escalating, and dehumanizing violence and abuse. Across the country, thousands of survivors are killed each year by current or former intimate partners. ODVN's 10th annual Ohio Domestic Violence Fatality Report (2025) found that there were 157 intimate partner relationship fatalities in 108 cases from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025—a 37% increase over the previous year. Understanding survivors' experiences

[57] The percentages add up to more than 100% because respondents could select multiple answers.
Of the 142 survivors with disabilities, 85% shared that the building they needed to use to access services was physically accessible.

of life-threatening violence helps programs tailor their services and helps ODVN target its advocacy and training.

- Physical Assault. Of the 439 survey respondents, 79% shared that they were physically assaulted or physically abused by a current or former partner or family member.
- Strangulation. Survivors were asked about their experience being strangled by a current or former intimate partner or family member. Of those 305 respondents who had been strangled, 70% reported either "a few times" (45%) or "too many times to count" (25%). Less than 30% of survivors reporting strangulation reported it happening only once.
- Head trauma. Of the 337 survivors whose current or former partner, or a family member, has hit or hurt them in the in the head, neck, or face, 82% reported the frequency of violence as "a few times" (46%) or "too many times to count (36%)."
- Seeking help. After experiencing life-threatening abuse and symptoms, survivors sought help from police, hospitals, advocacy/social services, medical centers, and courts.

While the need for services to support survivors of domestic and sexual violence remained consistent, revenue streams for programs have decreased since the beginning of the pandemic. For example, Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants are the largest funding source for most of Ohio's domestic violence and sexual assault response programs but were cut by more than $20 million from FY20 to FY21.[58] In addition to the decrease in VOCA funds, during the pandemic many fundraising events were canceled, putting non-profit providers in a strained financial condition, directly related to an urgent need for emergency funding. In a 2020 survey of 32 Ohio rape crisis centers, the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence found that 89% of rape crisis centers need emergency stimulus funding to respond to survivor requests.[59]

In Ohio, federal ARPA funding was provided to offset some of these deep cuts, but despite the infusion of federal grants, funding challenges remain. In 2023, OCJS completed an external survey related to a Justice Assistance Grant Strategic Plan which revealed, among other things, how staff turnover was a problem in each role/profession. As a result, a strained support network

[58] Ohio Domestic Violence Network. (2020, September 25). Serious funding cuts threaten Ohio's domestic violence programs [Press release]. https://odvn.org/Press-Release_VOCA-cuts_V3-3.pdf
[59] Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence, Sexual Violence in Ohio: The Effects of COVID-19, 26, 2020. Retrieved from https://www.odvn.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Press-Release_VOCA-cuts_V3-3.pdf

has had to be rebuilt by new people, in new roles. VAWA funding is essential to help strengthen the safety network of victim service providers, as well as the systems that address these crimes.

B. Documentation from Each Member of the Planning Committee

The Planning Committee is a multidisciplinary group of stakeholders whose purpose is to assist with strategic planning related to STOP VAWA criminal justice projects, policies, and practices throughout the state including[60]:

1) State sexual assault coalition;
2) State domestic violence coalition;
3) ~~Dual domestic violence and sexual assault coalition;~~ N/A
4) Law enforcement entity or state law enforcement organization;
5) Prosecution entity or state prosecution organization;
6) A court or the state Administrative Office of the Courts;
7) ~~Representatives from tribes, tribal organizations, or tribal coalitions;~~ N/A
8) Population specific organizations representing the most significant underserved populations and culturally specific populations in the state other than tribes (which are addressed separately);
9) Other individuals or entities, if relevant (including survivors, probation, parole, etc.).

C. Consultation and Coordination with Other Collaboration Partners Not Included in the Planning Committee

To inform the needs assessment survey, data was gathered directly from providers throughout the state. Participants included 241 individuals representing the fields of victim service providers, law enforcement agencies, sexual assault nurse examiners, prosecutors, court personnel, and civil legal service providers. Refer to Part I: Needs Assessment Survey Results for more on this requirement.

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

Ohio does not have any federally recognized tribes. However, OCJS is committed to strengthening engagement with tribal communities whose members reside in the state. OCJS continues to seek out learning opportunities on effective tribal engagement.

[60] Documentation for each Planning Committee member is provided in Appendix A.

E. Major Concerns (28 C.F.R. 90.12(c)(2)(i))

During the planning process, all members of the Implementation Planning Committee were actively engaged through a series of structured meetings held at each stage of developing the plan. These meetings provided consistent opportunities for members to offer feedback, raise concerns, and recommend additions. Following the completion of the initial draft, the committee members were given one month to review the document and submit any comments or concerns. Responses were saved to a dedicated folder and documented in an Excel spreadsheet to ensure accurate tracking, transparency, and follow-through.

Throughout this period, there was ongoing communication between OCJS staff and committee members to address questions, clarify information, and incorporate suggested revisions. No major concerns were raised during the review process. Feedback primarily consisted of requests to add or clarify information, improve organization, and correct grammar. All applicable suggestions were addressed and integrated into the final implementation plan.

F. Coordination with the State Plan for FVPSA, VOCA, and RPE (34 U.S.C. 10446(c)(3); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(b)(6) and (g)(6))

OCJS administers both the STOP VAWA and FVPSA grant programs. Planning efforts for STOP VAWA are closely coordinated with FVPSA, including the facilitation of a shared implementation planning committee. OCJS also partners with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), which administers Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) funding, and the Ohio Attorney General's Office (OAG), which administers Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding. ODH and OAG collaborate through the Family Violence Prevention Advisory Council and also participate on the OCJS planning committee for the STOP VAWA state plan.

OCJS maintains strong relationships with partner agencies that share the mission of preventing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, and family violence, and of providing comprehensive services for survivors. This cross agency involvement strengthens alignment of statewide priorities, supports coordinated funding strategies, and promotes consistent communication across systems serving survivors.

OCJS participates in the Interagency Victims Assistance Coordinating Committee (IVACC), a collaborative body composed of state agencies that administer victim-assistance funding. IVACC

was established to strengthen interagency coordination and improve statewide service delivery for victims of violence. Although the IVAAC members have not met recently due to scheduling challenges, the majority of members have participated in other forums that cover relevant and timely topics. Members included, and their related funding streams:

- **Office of Criminal Justice Services**
    - STOP VAWA
    - Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA)
    - Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVP Fund) State Shelter Funds
- **Ohio Department of Health**
    - Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Prevention Program (SADVPP)
    - Rape Prevention Education (RPE) Program
    - Sexual Assault Service Program (SASP)
- **Ohio Attorney General's Office**
    - Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)
    - State Victims Assistance Act (SVAA)
    - Ohio Victims of Crime Compensation Program
- **Ohio Department of Education and Workforce**
    - Campus Safety - Changing Campus Culture
- **Ohio Children's Trust Fund**
    - Sole public funding source dedicated to child abuse and neglect.

Despite the lack of formal IVAAC meetings, OCJS, ODH, and OAG continue to collaborate through other routine meetings, including the Family Violence Prevention Center's Advisory Council as well as the planning committee. There is an effort underway to resume the regularly scheduled meetings for IVACC-specific purposes, to further strengthen interagency coordination and shared statewide priorities.

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

Need and Use for Grant Funds:

- Each state is required to provide information from each of the disciplines (prosecution, law enforcement, court and victim services programs) that describes the following:
- The need for grant funds;
- The intended use of the grant funds;
- The expected result of the grant funds; and
- The demographic characteristics of the population to be served including age, disability, race, ethnicity, and language background.

(34 U.S.C. 10446(i)(2)(C))

Refer to Appendix for letters from Prosecution, Law Enforcement, Court, and Victim Service Programs.

V. Plan for the Four-Year Implementation Period

A. Goals and Objectives

The following long-term Goals and Objectives have been identified for the FY 2026-2029 implementation plan and were initially identified based on results from a needs assessment implemented in 2013 and incorporated into subsequent implementation plans. Continuing to focus on the same long-term goals and objectives is important to sustaining progress that has been made on the objectives since 2014.

The goals and objectives are outlined on the next page.

Goal 1: Multidisciplinary and program specific projects will meaningfully address and ensure coordinated community responses for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This includes promoting the use of expert witnesses in VAWA court cases, and other strategies to better address VAWA crimes.		
Objective 1 Provide training for multidisciplinary and program specific agencies to ensure a coordinated community response, promotion of expert witnesses, and best practices.	**Objective 2** Coordinate resources, address barriers, and advocate for increased access to economic justice needs.[61]	**Objective 3** Increase access to resources for underserved populations and limited English proficient victims.

Goal 2: Address homicide risk connected to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by building capacity to prevent across the state. This includes addressing nonfatal strangulation, and strategies to better address potential homicides.			
Objective 1 Provide training to multidisciplinary and program specific agencies to ensure a coordinated community response.	**Objective 2** Provide technical assistance for the provision of countywide fatality risk identification and intervention.	**Objective 3** Coordinate resources, address barriers, and advocate for increased access to economic justice needs.	**Objective 4** Increase access to resources for underserved populations and limited English proficient victims.

Goal 3: Meaningfully address services for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This includes supporting SANE/forensic nursing programs, SAFE kit collection, and other identified strategies to better address these crimes.		
Objective 1 Provide training to multidisciplinary and program specific agencies to ensure a coordinated community response.	**Objective 2** Coordinate resources, address barriers, and advocate for increased access to economic justice needs.	**Objective 3** Increase access to resources for underserved populations and limited English proficient victims.

[61] "Research indicates that financial abuse is experienced in 98% of abusive relationships and surveys of survivors reflect that concerns over their ability to provide financially for themselves and their children was one of the top reason for staying in or returning to a battering relationship." National Network to End Domestic Violence, *Economic Justice Project*, Retrieved from https://nnedv.org/content/about-financial-abuse/

Distribution of Funds for Core Categories

Federal requirements mandate the VAWA funding distribution within Ohio's justice system. OCJS determines funding categories for projects based on the agency implementing the project and the services most directly supported by the project. All allocation categories identified below are disbursed based on the type of organization that benefits from the VAWA program, and the type of services supported by the program. Discretionary funding may be used for any of the categories as deemed appropriate by OCJS.

- Law Enforcement 25%
- Prosecution 25%
- Victim Services 30%[62]
- Court 5%[63]
- Discretionary 15%

State Priority Areas

The FY2026-FY2029 implementation plan identifies and gives priority to the following programs areas to meet the Ohio goals and objectives.

Program Priorities for Culturally Specific and Underserved Populations

Capacity Building Priority Areas:

- Language access and culturally and linguistically accessible services.
- Improving access for culturally specific and underserved populations.
- Cross-disciplinary training for professionals responding to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking.
- Assessing organizational and community capacity to identify gaps and strengthen accessibility of services for all victims.
- Enhancing culturally and linguistically appropriate practices across systems, including multilingual materials and interpreter access.

[62] Pursuant to the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (H.R. 3402), STOP VAWA funding decisions must take into consideration that 10% of the 30% that is allocated to victim services must be distributed to community-based organizations that provide culturally specific services.
[63] Funds awarded from the court allocation are required to be awarded "to" courts rather than "for" courts.

Training Priority Areas:

- Ongoing training for all disciplines on responding to violence, including considerations for individuals with communication or access needs.
- Cross-systems training for community-based and systems-based advocates.
- Prevention and healthy relationship education within underserved communities.

Partnerships and Collaboration Priority Areas:

- Strengthening partnerships with culturally specific service providers to expand coordinated responses.
- Increasing collaboration with organizations serving underserved populations.
- Building connections between Developmental Disabilities (DD) providers and victim service providers to improve access and coordination.

Priority Areas for Court-Based Programs

Training and Education Priority Areas:

- The use of protection orders when physical violence is not apparent
- Protection order enforcement best practices
- Bench Books on VAWA topics
- Validated lethality and/or risk assessments

Judicial Resources and Protocols that Promote Innovative Practices Priority Areas:

- Programs that promote access to childcare for victims through partnerships with local providers or reassessing court resources
- Effective and consistent judicial responses that promote offender accountability
- Referral programming to hold offenders accountable through effective Batterer Intervention Programs that adhere to standards for Ohio programs
- Programs that respond to the needs of victims with co-occurring disorders related to mental health and/or substance abuse
- Programs that respond that respond to needs of victims who have experienced brain injury to ensure access to services.[64]

[64] Ohio has a collaborative dedicated to this work (see https://www.odvn.org/brain-injury/)

- Evidence-based risk assessments designed for intimate partner violence offenders, including those on parole or probation and dangerousness/lethality assessments designed to enhance victim safety
- Programs that utilize the services of the Domestic Violence Program of the Supreme Court of Ohio

Language Access Priority Areas:

- Programs that promote access to the courthouse through signage in other languages
- Programs that use certified court interpreters, who have received training in domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking
- Programming to make quality translated material readily available
- Programs that provide in-person and remote (audio and/or video) accessibility
- Consult the Supreme Court of Ohio Rules of Superintendence related to language access
- Programs that work with the Language Services Program of the Supreme Court of Ohio

Specialized Dockets for Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, and Human Trafficking Program Priority Areas include dockets that:

- Promote intensive supervision of high-risk offenders
- Hold regular status review of offenders
- Adopt practices and protocols that ensure victim safety
- Order appropriate interventions for offenders
- Adopt practices and protocols that encourage, prioritize, and incorporate victim input
- Contact the Specialized Docket Section of the Supreme Court of Ohio
  Priority Areas for Prosecutor-Based Programs

Specialized Units Priority Areas:

- Systems-based advocates
- Trauma informed techniques
- Participation in DV task forces
- Programs that enhance and/or create specialized units for sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and/or human trafficking
- Provide prosecutor-based legal advocacy

- Collaborate with community-based victim advocates

Training Program Priority Areas:

- Building an effective evidence-based prosecution for domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking cases
- How to continue prosecution despite reluctant or recanting victims
- Improved victim involvement and decreased recantation
- Increased collaboration with expert witnesses
- Enhance and/or create specialized units
- Trauma informed practices for prosecution to improve service to and interviews with victims.
- Use and implementation of lethality or risk assessments in case evaluation
- Informing courts of lethality factors pursuant to O.R.C. 2919.251
- Firearms disability and protection orders trainings for law enforcement and prosecution to address the relationship and specific laws surrounding these issues as well as the intersection between federal and state.
- Determining admissible evidence and the use of experts, DNA, and toxicology
- Child Sex Abuse cases/Training that addresses how to identify and prosecute cases and to better understand victim behavior
- Coordinated Community Response (CCR) training regarding healthcare's role in the prosecution of these cases
- Training and capacity building on addressing strangulation including creating a list of strangulation experts and involvement of health care professionals (e.g., forensic nurses)
- Cross training and collaboration with other agencies to expand and enhance capacity of all collaboration team members for the benefits of victims needing services whether they are working with prosecution
- Addressing the needs of clients from diverse populations through culturally and competent services, including what to expect from and how to utilize qualified interpreters

Capacity Building Program Priority Areas:

- Providing safe and accessible childcare options for victims presenting for court while they are conducting court business
- Acknowledging poly-victimization and intersectionality of crimes
- Increasing collaboration with content experts (i.e. rape crisis providers, domestic violence providers, law enforcement, and forensic nurses)
  Priority Areas for Law Enforcement-Based Programs

Training Priority Areas:

- Updates on new laws related to VAWA crimes
- Evidence collection for VAWA crimes
- Enforcement of protection orders
- Neurobiology of trauma training
- Culturally specific and underserved populations
- Developing and implementing protocols and best practices on social media and maintaining boundaries while using technology

Capacity Building Priority Areas:

- Specialized units that expand/co-locate units for domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking.
- Develop and/or increase collaboration by:
    - Establishing or increasing collaboration with sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE), forensic nurses, victim services, prosecutors, probation, and children protective service agencies.
    - Establishing or increasing partnerships with culturally specific service providers to ensure all populations are referred to culturally appropriate services.
- Provide quality interpreter services that:
    - Provide effective interpretation services for limited English proficient and Deaf victims.
    - Incorporate co-advocacy, training and technical assistance with local and community-based, state and national professionals.

P*riority Areas for Victim Service Programs*

Housing Priority Areas:

- Emergency shelter support services
- Transitional supportive housing services
- Training for landlords on domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking and victim rights

Training Priority Areas:

- Evidence-based practices, including trauma-informed care and providing culturally and linguistically appropriate services
- Medical advocacy
- Safe and Together model for child protection cases in which domestic violence is present
- Stalking both as part of intimate partner violence and outside of intimate partner violence and sexual assault
- Cross-systems trainings for community-based advocates and systems-based advocates to encourage engagement and collaboration for improved survivor interactions

Capacity Building Priority Areas:

- Recruitment and retention efforts of personnel that reduce burnout
- Provide quality interpreter services that:
- Provide effective interpretation services for limited English proficient and Deaf victims
- Incorporate co-advocacy with culturally specific agencies, training and technical assistance with local and community-based, state and national professionals.
- Long-term mental health services from licensed professionals
- Affordable trauma specific counseling and therapy
- Group support services
- Responding to the needs of victims with co-occurring disorders related to mental health and/or substance abuse.
- Transportation accessibility within systems that victims/survivors interact with
- Access to childcare within systems that victims/survivors interact with
- Access to affordable substance use disorder treatment services

Priority Areas for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner and Forensic Nurse Programs

Capacity Building Priority Areas:

- Access to sexual assault nurse examiners and forensic nurses
- Provide quality interpreter services that:
    - Provide effective interpretation services for limited English proficient and Deaf victims
    - Incorporate co-advocacy with culturally specific agencies, training and technical assistance with local and community-based, state and national professionals.
- Address sexual assault kit testing, storage, and protocol.
- Increase collaboration with hospitals and accessibility of advocates within hospitals

Training Priority Areas:

- Trauma-informed care and victim-centered models
- First responder training for trauma-informed evidence collection
- Ongoing comprehensive screening when victims present and available resources
- Relationship development and working with multi-disciplinary teams

Priority Areas for Civil Legal Services

Direct Services Priority Areas:

- Civil legal assistance and legal service funds
- On-site social workers, client support specialists, and advocates for victims
- Assistance with public benefits such as access to medical benefits, childcare, SNAP, OWF, and transportation
- Assistance provision around housing (e.g. evictions, assertion of VAWA rights in public housing, fair housing, utilities)
- Legal assistance in domestic relations/family court, including protection orders, divorce, custody, child support alimony, access to property, and more.

Training Priority Areas:

- Cyberstalking
- Child welfare litigation involving DV, SA, dating violence, and stalking

- Ohio's "Safe at Home" Program[65]
- Strangulation and Marsy's Law in the civil court system context[66]
- Misuse of technology in domestic violence and stalking cases
- Education and training on becoming an expert witness that includes the dynamics, recantation, and impact of DV on children
- Available community resources beyond the justice system

B. Statutory Priority Areas

State Planning to Meet Sexual Assault Set-Aside

Per STOP VAWA requirements, no less than 20 percent of funds granted to a state shall be allocated for programs or projects in two or more allocations (victim services, courts, law enforcement, and prosecution) that meaningfully address sexual assault, including stranger rape, acquaintance rape, alcohol or drug-facilitated rape, and rape within the context of an intimate partner relationship. Ohio plans to meet the set-aside requirement through the following initiatives.[67]

Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (OAESV)- State Sexual Assault Coalition

OAESV is a critical to ensure funding is allocated to support programming that meaningfully addresses sexual assault. As a STOP VAWA implementation planning committee member OAESV will continue to serve an important role in the following processes:

- Provider of Resources:
    - Culturally responsive and trauma informed direct services.
    - Training resources for programming across the federal allocation categories (Victim Services, Law Enforcement, Prosecution and Courts).
    - Sexual Assault Response Team development.
- Statewide Needs Assessments – OAESV's role is important to the development and implementation of the STOP VAWA implementation planning needs assessment process,

[65] Ohio Secretary of State. *Safe at Home Ohio: Address confidentiality program*. https://www.ohiosos.gov/public-integrity/safe-at-home
[66] Supreme Court of Ohio. Marsy's Law and crime victim rights. https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/marsy-s-law-and-crime-victim-rights/
[67] Congress.gov. *S.47 — Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (113th Congress)*. https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/47

as well as other relevant data gathering processes throughout the state. As described in the Needs Assessment process, OAESV's role as the state's recognized sexual assault coalition has been crucial to prioritizing the inclusion of survivor feedback particularly through the lens of resource access for underserved and/or culturally specific populations.

The Sexual Assault Advisory Board of Ohio (SAABO)

SAABO is co-convened by the Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, and Ohio Attorney General's Office. SAABO's mission is to ensure all victims (patients/individuals/survivors) of sexual assault or sexual abuse have consistent access to quality medical care in the collection of evidence that meet the standards set forth in the Ohio Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical and Forensic Examination. SAABO helps ensure that OCJS is aware of current trends, issues, and needs as this is part of quarterly meeting and subcommittees' discussions. Information shared can help during grant application review periods, in particular.

State Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinator

OCJS houses the State Anti-Trafficking Coordinator and is the lead agency of the Governor's Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force. OCJS provides resources for programs seeking to serve victims of sex and labor trafficking who are often victims of sexual violence (and/or domestic violence and dating violence). While there are similarities between the service needs of survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence, dating violence, and sexual assault, it is also important for programs to be familiar with the service considerations unique to human trafficking survivors. OCJS has developed resources and trainings for programs who serve and house this under-served population.

Goals And Objectives for Reducing Domestic Violence-Related Homicides

As outlined in Goal #2, Ohio seeks to reduce domestic-violence–related homicides by strengthening its capacity to prevent lethal and near-lethal harm connected to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, including nonfatal strangulation. This work focuses on building a coordinated community response through multidisciplinary and program-specific training; providing technical assistance to support countywide fatality-risk identification and intervention; coordinating resources to address barriers and improve access to economic

supports; and increasing access to culturally responsive and linguistically appropriate services for underserved populations and victims with limited English proficiency.

C. Addressing the Needs of Underserved Victims

OCJS implements a competitive application process (refer to Grant Making Strategy) that includes a peer review component. Important to this component is ensuring experts from the field of sexual assault are participants. OCJS continues to include peer reviewers who create and implement programming by and for culturally specific and underserved populations to ensure culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate services are provided for victims/survivors.

The FY 2026 – FY 2029 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan will continue to enhance the current grant making strategy through the release of a separate solicitation intended for culturally specific community-based organizations whose purpose is to provide culturally specific services for racial and ethnic communities. Utilizing the three-tier matrix in the review process will assist OCJS in determining culturally specific programs and projects to be funded from the required 10 percent victim service set aside. Additional criteria will be evaluated to determine if the applicant is eligible to receive funding from the culturally specific set aside such as whether the primary role of the applicant is to provide services to racial and ethnic populations, or whether it has demonstrated competency to provide services to culturally specific targeted populations.

Culturally Specific Set-Aside Subrecipients

Pursuant to the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (H.R. 3402), STOP VAWA funding decisions must take into consideration that 10% of the 30% that is allocated to victim services must be distributed to community-based organizations that provide culturally specific services.

> The term ‘culturally specific’ means primarily directed toward racial and ethnic minority groups (as defined in section 1707(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u–6(g)). ‘‘(7) CULTURALLY SPECIFIC SERVICES. —The term ‘culturally specific services’ means community-based services that include culturally relevant and linguistically specific services and resources to culturally specific communities.

OCJS will announce a separate funding solicitation via traditional resources and through venues specifically focused on providing services for culturally specific populations. OCJS will continue to release a separate request for proposal (RFP) tailored specifically for culturally specific victim

service applicants. OCJS releases the separate RFP following the traditional grant application cycle (refer to Grant-making strategy).

D. Grant-making Strategy

STOP Grant Cycle Timeline

OCJS posts a Grants Calendar that provides constituents with Request for Proposal release dates; due dates; notification dates, and project start dates for all OCJS federal grants. STOP VAWA request for proposals are released in June and due in July. STOP VAWA Culturally Specific Request for proposals are released in July and due in August. Notification of funding recommendations for both application processes are typically made in December.

Methods Used to Release the Solicitation

OCJS provides subrecipients and other interested constituents information about the availability of grant funds in several manners. Information about funding streams, including a grants calendar and the actual solicitation, are available online at www.ocjs.ohio.gov. Notice of funding availability also is provided via the OCJS Criminal Justice Bulletin, an electronic newsletter distributed to a broad range of constituents that include criminal justice organizations and service providers.

Application Assistance

OCJS hosts a Bidder's Training following the release of the VAWA Request for Proposal. This conference serves a dual purpose as it provides an overview of the STOP VAWA application requirements and provides a forum for prospective grantees to ask questions about the grant writing process. OCJS also provides a virtual grant writing workshop, available at no cost. Applicants are encouraged to contact OCJS staff for assistance with any part of the proposals and solicitation process.

Consultation with Victim Service Providers

OCJS requires a collaboration board component with all applications. This component must include a list of the collaboration board members, the goals of the collaboration board and a description of how the agencies/organizations work together to achieve the goals of the collaboration board. OCJS also requires all non-victim service provider applicants to submit letters of participation that detail both the involvement and role of the victim service providers during the development of applications. The purpose is to promote safety, confidentiality, and

economic independence for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Application Review Process

- OCJS implements a 3-tiered competitive grant application review process:
- Pre-risk assessments are conducted by OCJS Fiscal Monitors to ensure fiscal compliance with state and federal guidelines.
- Peer reviewers participate in the review of submitted applications. Peer review teams are comprised of state and local professionals representing law enforcement, prosecution, victim services (to include culturally specific representation), and court personnel.
    - A virtual orientation training is provided.
    - All peer reviewers are required to submit conflict of interest disclosure forms.
    - Reviews are completed in the online grants system using a grant review matrix to score applications and to provide narrative.
- Finally, grant applications are reviewed with the OCJS Director, the STOP VAWA program planner, the OCJS Family Violence Prevention Director and management staff to make final funding recommendations. While projects are not given preference based on their geographic area, final funding decisions are reviewed to foster an even distribution of funds throughout Ohio. Organized by discipline, recommendations and scores are included in the funding plan for the OCJS Director's review. Once the review is completed, the funding plan and the Director's recommendations are forwarded to the Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety for final review and approval.

Length of Funding

Projects are funded for one year typically beginning January 1 of the calendar year. OCJS is in the process of determining the timeline for the 2026 grant cycle.

Distribution of Funds Based on Population and Geographic Areas

OCJS is committed to the equitable distribution of funding throughout the state. For grant administration purposes, all of Ohio's counties are served directly by OCJS, except for three large metropolitan counties served by Regional Planning Units (RPU): Cuyahoga, Franklin, and Lucas. A formula, consisting of 1-part crime to 1-part population, is used to determine the amount of funds each RPU receives each year. The RPUs are responsible for planning and

distributing funds to their communities based on local needs and conditions. Additionally, the RPUs administer and evaluate VAWA-funded initiatives consistent with this Implementation Plan. The Family Violence Prevention Center at OCJS and its Advisory Council (FVPC AC) also play a pivotal role in providing leadership for coordinated state and local efforts to reduce and prevent family violence in Ohio. The FVPC AC also informs OCJS around current issues and needs related to their fields of expertise.

To maximize the number of projects that may be funded, OCJS caps most STOP VAWA application budget requests at $60,000.

Types of Programs and Projects

OCJS implements a competitive review process, and it is unknown which programs throughout the state will receive funding prior to the release of a Request for Proposal. Applicants for STOP VAWA funding must specify the purpose area(s) that will be addressed within the proposed project and how the project will impact the goals and objectives of the FY 2026 - FY 2029 Implementation Plan.

STOP VAWA funding requests must meet one or more of the following applicable federal statutory purpose areas:

1. Training law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence, including the use of nonimmigrant status under subparagraphs (U) and (T) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a) (15);
2. Developing, training, or expanding units of law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors specifically targeting violent crimes against women, including the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking;
3. Developing and implementing more effective police, court, and prosecution policies, protocols, orders, and services specifically devoted to preventing, identifying, and responding to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and domestic violence, as well as the appropriate treatment of victims including implementation of the grant conditions in section 40002(b) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291(b)).;

4. Developing, installing, or expanding data collection and communication systems, including computerized systems, linking police, prosecutors, and courts or for the purpose of identifying, classifying, and tracking arrests, protection orders, violations of protection orders, prosecutions, and convictions for violent crimes against women, including the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking;
5. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening victim services and legal assistance programs, including sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence programs, developing or improving delivery of victim services to underserved populations, providing specialized domestic violence court advocates in courts where a significant number of protection orders are granted, and increasing reporting and reducing attrition rates for cases involving violent crimes against women, including crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking;
6. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing the needs and circumstances of Indian tribes in dealing with violent crimes against women, including the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking;
7. Supporting 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 domestic violence, dating violence and stalking;
8. Training of sexual assault forensic medical personnel examiners in the collection and preservation of evidence, analysis, prevention, and providing expert testimony and treatment of trauma related to sexual assault;
9. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs to assist law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and others to address the needs and circumstances of individuals 50 years of age and over, individuals with disabilities, and Deaf individuals who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, including recognizing, investigating, and prosecuting instances of such violence or assault and targeting outreach and support, counseling, legal assistance and other victim services to such individuals.;
10. Providing assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in immigration matters;

11. Maintaining core victim services and criminal justice initiatives, while supporting complementary new initiatives and emergency services for victims and their families, including rehabilitative work with offenders;
12. Supporting the placement of special victim assistants (to be known as "Jessica Gonzales Victim Assistants") in local law enforcement agencies to serve as liaisons between victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and personnel in local law enforcement agencies to improve the enforcement of protection orders. Jessica Gonzales Victim Assistants shall have expertise in domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and may undertake the following activities:
    - developing, in collaboration with prosecutors, courts, and victim service providers, standardized response policies for local law enforcement agencies, including the use of evidence-based indicators to assess the risk of domestic and dating violence homicide and prioritize dangerous or potentially lethal cases;
    - 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 services); and;
    - taking other appropriate action to assist or secure the safety of the person seeking enforcement of a protection order.
13. 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 victim domestic violence service providers, and to fund victim services personnel, to be known as "Crystal Judson Victim Advocates," 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 the commission of 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); and

- the development of such protocols in collaboration with State, Tribal, Territorial and local victim services providers and domestic violence coalitions.
- **Note:** Any law enforcement, State, Tribal, Territorial, or local government agency receiving funding under the Crystal Judson Domestic Violence Protocol Program shall, on an annual basis, receive additional training on the topic of incidents of domestic violence committed by law enforcement personnel from domestic violence and sexual assault nonprofit organizations and, after a period of two years, provide a report of the adopted protocol to the Department, including a summary of progress in implementing such protocol(s) to the Department of Justice, including a summary of progress in implementing such protocol(s). Note: States and territories must notify and provide OVW with a list of subrecipients awarded STOP funds under the Crystal Judson Domestic Violence Protocol Program and ensure that all such subrecipients satisfy the requirements above.;

14. Developing and promoting State, local, or tribal legislation and policies that enhance best practices for responding to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking;
15. Developing, implementing, or enhancing Sexual Assault Response Teams, or other similar coordinated community responses to sexual assault;
16. Developing and strengthening policies, protocols, best practices, and training for law enforcement agencies and prosecutors relating to the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases and the appropriate treatment of victims;
17. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing sexual assault against men, women, and youth in correctional and detention settings;
18. Identifying and conducting inventories of backlogs of sexual assault evidence collection kits and developing protocols and policies for responding to and addressing such backlogs, including protocols and policies for notifying and involving victims;
19. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs and projects to provide services and responses targeting male and female victims of domestic violence, dating violence,

sexual assault, or stalking, whose ability to access traditional services and responses is affected by their sexual orientation or gender identity, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 249(c).; and

20. Developing, enhancing, or strengthening prevention and educational programming to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, with not more than 5 percent of the amount allocated to a State to be used for this purpose.
21. Developing, enhancing, or strengthening programs and projects to improve evidence collection methods for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, including through funding for technology that better detects bruising and injuries across skin tones and related training.
22. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening culturally specific victim services programs to provide culturally specific victim services and responses to female genital mutilation or cutting.
23. Providing victim advocates in state or local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices, and courts to provide supportive services and advocacy to Indian victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
24. Paying any fees charged by any governmental authority for furnishing a victim or the child of a victim with any of the following documents: a. A birth certificate or passport of the individual as required by law. b. An identification card issued to the individual by a state or Tribe, that shows that the individual is a resident of the state or a member of the Tribe.

The FY 2026 – FY 2029 Implementation Plan will also continue to require that applicants who request funding in support of visitation centers clearly demonstrate the following eligibility criteria to be considered for funding:

- A secured and adequate space for the location and hours of operation
- Type of supervision
- Frequency and type of domestic violence training project staff receive
- Demonstration of need/uniqueness of the service area
- Procedures to address liability issues
- Letters of participation from the court and Jobs and Family Services

- Means of referrals
- Target population

Ohio does not plan to use the “Crystal Judson” purpose area.

VI. Conclusion

Ohio’s 2026 through 2029 STOP Implementation Plan represents a solid and ongoing collaborative effort to identify and address violence against women. OCJS will continue to work with its STOP VAWA Committee and the Family Violence Prevention Center Advisory Council to monitor and implement this broad-based strategy.

Priorities established for the FY 2026 - 2029 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan strive to meet the immediate needs for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking while holding offenders accountable. With the support of a wide range of stakeholders throughout the state, Ohio’s STOP Implementation Plan will ultimately enhance the effectiveness of system-wide initiatives for truly effective, long-term change.

APPENDIX

CANTON LAW DEPARTMENT

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Kate M. Lukosavich
D.V. Prosecutor

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Amanda F. Hathaway
Magdalana M. Wallace
Assistant Prosecutors

June 12, 2026

Ginger Baran Lyons - Deputy Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N. Street NE Suite 10 W. 121
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Deputy Director Lyons:

Re: Ohio Criminal Justice Services Grant Proposal

Ohio Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) is applying under the FY2026 VAWA grant funds. The Canton Prosecutor's office has received grant funding since 1998. The Canton Prosecutor's office and the Stark County Domestic Violence Collaborative (SCDVC) strongly supports OCJS's request for funds. Without VAWA grant funding from OCJS, the DV Prosecutor position at the Canton Prosecutor's office would be eliminated, in addition to two others with the SCDVC network.

Stark County's population is getting older and more impoverished. We continue to see an increase in the Hispanic population in Stark County from the local farms and factories. With that increase in population intimate partner violence also increases with added stresses of the language barrier. Within Stark County, there are five college/universities that continue to have problems with dating violence and sexual assaults. The assistance of the SCDVC and the VAWA grant funding is more important than ever to help alleviate these issues within Stark County.

Since the inception of this grant, the SCDVC has collaborate with the community, the Massillon Law Department, and the Stark County Prosecutor's office for prosecution enhancement. We work hard to train all police officers in the county. As part of the training, we teach officers about lethality assessments. They also learn how to improve their documentation skill that result in more fully developed cases with better DV prosecution and more convictions.

Without the collaborative intervention and a designated DV Prosecutor, we would lose the momentum and the progress that SCDVC has made for successful prosecutions. For example, some tasks the SCDVC worked on are: 1) enhancing a coordinated response to victims of domestic violence, adult sexual assault and stalking; 2) improving offender accountability; 3) developing and presenting prevention training for courts, related agencies and the community at large; 5) and planning and developing an annual training each year for the Stark County criminal justice community (social workers, probation and parole officers, nurses, school personnel, police officers, etc.).

The Canton Prosecutor's office has assisted in scoring VAWA grant applications for OCJS. In many counties throughout the state of Ohio, the funding received from OCJS is the only service for victims of domestic violence. Without funding, there would be no options for the victim to receive services or for the specialization of prosecution of domestic violence.

The Canton Prosecutor's office as part of the SCDVC have developed a coordinated community approach to reduce violence against women and to create mutually respectful partnerships between the justice system and victim services. This collaboration is a great benefit to the victims of Stark County that would be lost if OCJS FY2026 grant funding was not approved.

Sincerely,

Kristina M. Lockwood
City Prosecutor
Canton Prosecutor's Office

Kate M. Lukosavich
Domestic Violence Prosecutor
Canton Prosecutor's Office

Demographic Characteristics of the Populations to be Served with *Law Enforcement* Funds

The following chart provides the demographic characteristics of the State/Territory to be served with STOP funds:

Demographic Factor	Total Population	% of Total Population
Canton, Ohio	70,872	100%
Age		
Persons under 5 years, percent	4607	6.5%
Persons under 18 years, percent	18,001	25.4%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	11,127	15.7%
Disability		
With a disability, under age 65 years, percent, 2020-2024	9496	13.4%
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years, percent	7229	10.2%
Race and Ethnicity		
Black or African American	16,797	23.7%
Hispanic or Latino	4,748	6.7%
White, Not Hispanic or Latino	4748	59%
Asian	425	0.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	71	0.1%
American Indian and Alaskan Native	142	0.2%
Two or More Races	9922	14%
Other		N/A

Sexual Orientation		
Percent of Adults who are LGBT (in Ohio, not specific to Canton)	649,700	6.2% *
Gender Identity		
Female persons, percent	37,137	52.4%
Language Background (in Ohio, not specific to Canton)		
Speak Only English	10,251,620	91.3%
Speak a Language Other than English	979,442	3.4%
Spanish	327,084	2.9%
Other Languages	132,941	1.2%

CITY OF ATHENS POLICE DEPARTMENT

NICK MAGRUDER, CHIEF OF POLICE

June 9, 2026

Ginger Baran Lyons
Office on Violence Against Women
U.S. Department of Justice
145 N Street NE
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Deputy Director Lyons:

I am writing as a representative of a Law Enforcement/Victim Services program to provide information associated with the Ohio FY 2026 application for STOP Formula Grant funds. What follows is a description of the need for Law Enforcement/Victim Services funds, the intended use of the grant funds for this allocation, the expected results of the use of Law Enforcement/Victim Services grant funds, and demographic characteristics of the populations to be served with Law Enforcement/Victim Services funds.

Need for the Grant Funds

We have identified multiple needs in Athens County, Ohio related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking, and the ability of Law Enforcement/Victim Services to address the safety needs of victims and accountability of offenders. These are:

- Having a victim advocate on staff that can assist victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and other types of relationship based crimes. The advocate can also assist victims whose cases don't rise to the level of a criminal offense. She may be able to identify other avenues of relief such as other civil remedies – protection orders, custody or visitation modifications, or additional evidence collection and/or safety planning.

Intended Use of Grant Funds and Expected Results

The following chart summarizes the intended use of STOP Grant funds by Athens City Police Department, along with the expected results.

Intended Use of Funds	Expected Results
Maintain having an advocate on staff that provides services to victims and assists officers with cases.	Increased safety for victims, increased rate of convictions, lower incidents of violence, increased education of victims.
Provide safety planning for victims.	Increase safety, self awareness, knowledge of services that are available.

Demographic Characteristics of the Populations to be Served with Law Enforcement/Victim Services Funds

The following chart provides the demographic characteristics of the State/Territory to be served with STOP funds:

Demographic Factor	Total Population	% of Total Population
Total Population of Athens County		
Population	63,197	100%
Age		
Under 18	11,439	18.1%
Over 18	51,758	81.9%
Disability		
Hearing	2,941	
Vision	1,310	
Cognitive	4,892	
Ambulatory	4399	
Race and Ethnicity		
Black or African American	1,895	3%
Hispanic or Latino	1,516	2.4%
White, Not Hispanic or Latino	57,193	90.5%
Asian	2,085	3.3%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	6	.01%
American Indian and Alaskan Native	25	.4%
Two or More Races	1,706	2.7%
Other	385	.61%
Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity for Ohio		
LGBT adults (From Williams Institute)	39,368	
Transgender adults (From Williams Institute)	84,000	

Female (From Census Bureau ACS data)	31,788	50.3%
Male (From Census Bureau ACS data)	31,409	49.7%
Gender Nonbinary	Unknown	
Language		
Limited English Proficiency (LEP)	1,788	2.8%

Law enforcement is very fortunate to receive VAWA funding in order to better serve victims of domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault and other relationship based crimes. Without this funding, the State of Ohio would struggle to serve and support these victims.

The Athens City Police Dept. relies heavily on the advocate and the services she provides. She has served the community in so many ways. She assists with civil and criminal cases as well as investigations and interviews.

Sincerely,



Molly Burchfield, LSW
Athens VAWA Unit
Athens City Police Dept.
11 N. College St.
Athens, Ohio 45701
740-592-3315

The Supreme Court of Ohio

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR
65 SOUTH FRONT STREET, COLUMBUS, OH 43215-3431

CHIEF JUSTICE
SHARON L. KENNEDY

JUSTICES
PATRICK F. FISCHER
R. PATRICK DEWINE
JENNIFER BRUNNER
JOSEPH T. DETERS
DANIEL R. HAWKINS
MEGAN E. SHANAHAN

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR
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TELEPHONE 614.387.9500
supremecourt.ohio.gov

June 12, 2026

Ginger Baran Lyons, Deputy Director
Office on Violence Against Women
U.S. Department of Justice
145 N Street NE
Washington, DC 20530

Re: S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Formula Grant Funds

Dear Deputy Director Lyons:

Please accept this letter indicating how S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women (VAWA) Formula Grant funds, which are managed by the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Office of Criminal Justice Service (OCJS), have benefitted and would continue to benefit the judiciary and court system in Ohio should the OCJS application for the 2026 S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women (VAWA) Formula Grant Program be awarded.

The Supreme Court of Ohio's Domestic Violence Program works with Ohio's courts to encourage promising and proven practices in domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking cases. Domestic and sexual violence affect every court at every level, and every court member – the 721 judges, 894 magistrates, and myriad of court staff – have an essential role in fostering an effective response. The task is broad. Despite being the 34th largest state, it is the 7th most populous, and the 10th most densely populated in the country. Collectively, Ohio's courts touch the lives of more than 11.9 million Ohioans. Ohio's population is 80.1% white, 13.6% black, 2.8% two or more races; 3.1% Asian; 0.4% Native American; and 0.1% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. Slightly less than 21.7% of the population is under 18 years old; 19.1% are over 65. More than 10% of Ohioans live with a disability. Ohio courts continue to adjust to the ever-changing needs of the population.

Data on domestic, dating, and sexual violence and stalking in Ohio is imperfect, but the numbers illustrate the continued need for awareness raising and improved response. The Ohio Domestic Violence Network reported from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, there were 157 domestic violence fatalities in 108 cases. This was the highest historical number of fatalities recorded over a single 12-month period. This was a 37.7% increase over state fiscal year 2024 and a 40.2%

increase over state fiscal year 2023. These fatalities occurred across 36 counties (40.9% of Ohio's 88 counties) with the following characteristics:

- 12% of perpetrators had a history of a strangulation offense;
- 16% of perpetrators had a history of stalking; and
- 36% of perpetrators had a previous or current protection order against them.

In 2025, petitioners sought domestic violence civil protection orders in 24,625 cases. This is an increase of 7.7% over 2021. Additionally, the Office of Criminal Justice Services analysis of the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System data indicated law enforcement agencies reported 3,934 incidents of rape in 2025.

While we recognize not every victim will contact law enforcement, the Ohio Attorney General's Office *2025 Domestic Violence Incidence Report* indicates law enforcement arrested or charged offenders in nearly 43.4% percent of the 59,029 domestic abuse calls to which officers responded.

An informed judiciary remains a critical component of holding offenders accountable and increasing victim safety. For several years ago, the Court was the recipient of some of the 5% of the state's S.T.O.P. VAWA funds set aside for courts. This, in turn, was used for a number of innovative programs and capacity-building for enhanced court response on these issues across the state. This funding stream allowed the Domestic Violence Program to elevate the number of high caliber, relevant courses and programs on domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking for Ohio's judiciary. The funds also delivered technical assistance for the certified specialized domestic violence substance use courts and provided learning events for justice partners statewide on diverse issues such as battering intervention programs, risk assessment pre-trial and postconviction for domestic violence offenders, partner-inflicted brain injury, domestic abuse in mediation, and understanding the trauma experienced by domestic violence and human trafficking victims. Additionally, these funds supported local courts to implement innovative and evidence-based practices across Ohio.

Looking forward, S.T.O.P. VAWA monies may support the following important initiatives for local courts:

- Deepen the judiciary's understanding of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking through court-specific resources and protocol, such as children exposed to domestic violence, elder abuse, firearms disability, cyber-stalking, the effects of partner-inflicted brain injury, and procedural justice;

- Identify and highlight effective pretrial services for domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking cases that incorporate victim safety considerations;

- Promote the fair administration of justice, increase victim safety, and offender accountability by supporting evidence-based batterers intervention standards and programs;

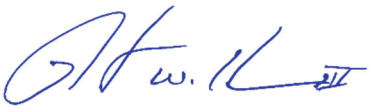
- Improve access to justice by promoting civil and criminal domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking dockets; and

- Improve domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking victim' s experience in courts by promoting evidence-based protocol and policies.

The staff of the Supreme Court of Ohio commits to continue to work with OCJS to enhance victims' safety and hold offenders accountable, as well as purposefully participating in the initiatives in accordance with the state's implementation plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Horner, III
Administrative Director

cc: File
Stephanie Nelson, Director, Court Services

Summit County
Domestic Relations Court
Administrative Judge Katarina Cook
Judge Kani H. Hightower

Hon. Katarina Cook
Administrative Judge

Hon. Kani H. Hightower
Judge

Court Administrator
Thomas McLaughlin

Chief Magistrate
Elisa Hill

Magistrates
Jason Adams
Stephan Collins
Cynthia Curtin
Diane Dougherty
Cara Ford
Rebecca DiDonato Heimbaugh
Sarah L. Jackson
Darci Jay
Julie King
David Lombardi
Kimberly Smith Rivera
Lynn Seifert
Richard J. Stahl

Court Mediator/ Community Outreach Director
Paul M. Henry

Family Court Services Evaluators
Randy Flick, Director
Cortney Crew
Jean Dietz
Alissa Endicott
Lisa Radaker
Joan Shaffer

Grant Writer
Christine Lindeman

Child Life Specialist
Gracie Nielsen

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

Ginger Baran Lyons
Office on Violence Against Women
U.S. Department of Justice
145 N Street NE
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Deputy Director Lyons:

I am writing as a representative of a Court program to provide information associated with the State of Ohio FY 2026 application for STOP Formula Grant funds. What follows is a description of the need for Court funds, the intended use of the grant funds for this allocation, the expected results of the use of Court grant funds, and demographic characteristics of the populations to be served with Court funds.

Need for the Grant Funds

We have identified multiple needs in Summit County, Ohio related to domestic violence, and/or dating violence, and the ability of Courts to address the safety needs of victims and accountability of offenders. These are:

- Enhancement of civil protection orders involving minor children, including improved safety planning and better safe exchange and/or visitation options
- Enhanced respondent accountability through standardized requirements for anger management and intervention programs in civil protection order modifications
- Understanding why petitioners appear for ex parte hearings but do not attend evidentiary hearings, including barriers related to safety, transportation, communication, and legal support
- Dedicated Court magistrates assigned specifically to civil protection order dockets to improve consistency, efficiency, and trauma-informed handling of cases

Intended Use of Grant Funds and Expected Results

The following chart summarizes the intended use of STOP Grant funds by Summit County Domestic Relations Court, along with the expected results.

Intended Use of Funds	Expected Results
Enhancing civil protection order practices involving minor children	More protective and clearer court orders involving minor children and improved safety outcomes for children and caregivers
Develop and implement standardized procedures for anger management intervention in civil protection order modifications	Increased consistency in modification decisions, improved verification of program participation and compliance, enhanced respondent accountability, and better-informed judicial determinations that prioritize victim safety.
Conducting a focused review and analysis of ex parte vs. evidentiary hearing attendance in CPO cases, including barriers to participation	Improved understanding of petitioner non-appearance patterns, leading to targeted interventions that increase evidentiary hearing participation and strengthen due process outcomes
Hiring dedicated magistrates assigned to civil protection order dockets and supporting specialized docket operations	Increased consistency and efficiency in CPO case handling, improved judicial responsiveness, and more trauma-informed proceedings for petitioners and respondents

Demographic Characteristics of the Populations to be Served with Court Funds
The following chart provides the demographic characteristics of the State/Territory to be served with STOP funds:

Demographic Factor	**Total Population**	**% of Total Population**
Total Population of Total Population of Summit County, Ohio	537,864	100%
Age (From Census Bureau ACS data)		
Under 18	~118,000	~22%
18-64	~331,000	~62%
65+	~88,000	~16%
Disability (From Census Bureau ACS data)		

Persons with disability	~79,000	~14.5%
Race and Ethnicity (From Census Bureau ACS data)		
Black or African American	~74,000	~13.8%
Hispanic or Latino	~15,000	~2.8%
White, Not Hispanic or Latino	~398,000	~74%
Asian	~22,000	~4.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	~70	~.01%
American Indian and Alaskan Native	~600	.1%
Two or More Races	~32,000	6%
Other		
Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity		
LGBT adults (From Williams Institute)	25,000-30,000	5-6%
Transgender adults (From Williams Institute)	2,500-3,500	.5-.7%
Female (From Census Bureau ACS data)	~275,000	~51%
Male (From Census Bureau ACS data)	~263,000	~49%
Gender Nonbinary		
Language		

Limited English Proficiency (LEP)	10,000-12,000	2-3%

STOP VAWA funds are essential to strengthening the Court's ability to respond effectively to civil protection order cases involving domestic and dating violence. Funding will support efforts to improve the quality and clarity of protection orders involving minor children, enhance understanding of petitioner participation patterns between ex parte and evidentiary hearings, and strengthen overall court practices to reduce barriers to participation and improve case outcomes.

Sincerely,

Hon. Katarina Cook
Administrative Judge
Summit County Domestic Relations Court

OAESV
Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence

There's power and strength in a collective oaesv.org

June 1, 2026

Ginger Baran Lyons
Office on Violence Against Women
U.S. Department of Justice
145 N Street NE
Suite 10W.121
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Deputy Director Lyons,

I am writing as a representative of the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence to provide information regarding the Ohio FY 2026 application for STOP Formula Grant funds. What follows is a description of the need for Victim Services funds, the intended use of the grant funds for this allocation, the expected results of using Victim Services grant funds, and the demographic characteristics of the populations to be served with Victim Services funds.

We have identified multiple needs in Ohio related to sexual assault and to the ability of Victim Services to address victims' safety needs and ensure offender accountability. These are:

- Developing and promoting state legislation and policies that enhance best practices for responding to sexual assault, including sexual assault forensic exams
- Developing, implementing, or enhancing Sexual Assault Response Teams or other coordinated community responses to sexual assault through statewide outreach, training, and technical assistance
- Supporting formal and informal multidisciplinary efforts to coordinate law enforcement responses to sexual assault and to carry out sexual assault investigations

The following chart summarizes the intended use of STOP Grant funds by Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence, along with the expected results.

Intended Use of Funds	Expected Results
Maintaining Director of Coordinated Community Responses and Coordinator of Coordinated Community Responses, to provide technical assistance and resources to increase capacity of Sexual Assault Response	Increasing collaboration among Sexual Assault Response Teams in Ohio.

Teams in Ohio.	
Providing training to Sexual Assault Response Teams in Ohio.	Increasing collaboration among Sexual Assault Response Teams in Ohio.
Maintaining a Statewide Director of Forensic Nursing to improve statewide policies for sexual assault forensic exams, and providing training on updates and implementation statewide.	Increased knowledge on updated sexual assault forensic nursing exam protocols.

Demographic Characteristics of the Populations to be Served with Victim Services Funds

The following chart provides the demographic characteristics of the State/Territory to be served with STOP funds:

Demographic Factor	Total Population	% of Total Population
Total Population of Ohio		
	11,900,510	100%
Age		
Persons under 5 years	654,528	5.5%
Persons under 18 years	2,582,410	21.7%
Persons 65 years and over	2,272,997	19.1%
Disability		
With hearing difficulty	460,321	3.8%
With a vision difficulty	291,125	2.5%
With cognitive difficulty	714,487	6.5%
With ambulatory difficulty	776,525	7.0%
Race and Ethnicity		

Black or African American	1,618,469	13.6%
Hispanic or Latino	618,826	5.2%
White, Not Hispanic or Latino	9,532,308	80.1%
Asian	368,915	3.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	11,900	0.1%
American Indian and Alaskan Native	47,602	0.4%
Two or More Races	333,214	2.8%
Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity		
LGBQ adults (From Williams Institute)		
Female (From Census Bureau ACS data)	6,033,558	50.7%
Male (From Census Bureau ACS data)	5,866,951	49.3%
Language		
Limited English Proficiency (LEP)	352,200	2.9%

The Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence acknowledges the importance of STOP Grant funds in ensuring comprehensive, coordinated responses to sexual assault in Ohio. This funding is crucial for sustaining Ohio Rape Crisis Services, ensuring that sexual assault survivors have access to crisis intervention, individual advocacy, and legal advocacy across the state. Additionally, this funding at the statewide coalition level allows OAESV to provide training, technical assistance, and resources, and to improve systems responses to increase coordination of Sexual Assault Response Teams. OAESV's statewide work with local and state partners ensures that survivors receive trauma-informed, survivor-centered, and responsive services across disciplines to access justice and accountability.

Sincerely,



Rosa Beltré (She, Her, Ella)
President & Chief Executive Officer
Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence

Ohio Domestic Violence Network
ODVN

1855 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Suite 301
Columbus, Ohio 43229
Phone: 614-781-9651
www.odvn.org

June 12, 2026

Ginger Baran Lyons
Office on Violence Against Women
U.S. Department of Justice
145 N Street NE
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Deputy Director Lyons:

The Ohio Domestic Violence Network is pleased to provide this letter of support to the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) in support of its application for STOP funding and submission of the VAWA state plan. The VAWA STOP formula grant is the core component of effective coordinated community response and a critical resource for domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence and stalking services in Ohio. This funding is essential for our shelters and non-residential programs because Ohio provides limited state funding for DV services.

These grant funds support specialized units in law enforcement and prosecutor's offices as well as justice systems advocacy to reach survivors of domestic violence. Grant funds also are used to enhance outreach and services to underserved populations and expand SANE services to underserved areas of the state. These funds do much to enhance safety and access to services for victims, most of whom are low income with limited options.

Ohio's population is estimated at 11.78 million, according to the 2020 census. The population is 78.4% white alone, 13.1% Black or African American, 4% Hispanic or Latino, 2.5% Asian, 2.4% two or more races and .3% American Indiana and Alaskan Native. A total of 10% of the population under 65 has a disability, 12.6% are poor and 7.2% of them speak a language other than English in their homes.

These demographics are reflected in the survivors we serve although it is very likely that a higher percentage of them are nonwhite, poor and disabled. Funding is competitive thus the characteristics of the precise populations served may change from year to year. However, the

grant making process strives to ensure geographic diversity and the provision of services to underserved populations throughout the state.

ODVN worked closely with OCJS in the development of the FY 2026-29 VAWA state implementation plan, and I served on the committee that guided the process, which involved extensive data gathering, surveys and focus groups of survivors and conversations with key stakeholders.

ODVN conducted a needs assessment to support the planning process in 2025 with support from OCJS. ODVN surveyed 439 survivors across the state to evaluate how Ohio's domestic violence hotlines and programs are serving survivors and their families. The survey identified barriers to services, and priorities for additional resources, systems advocacy, technical assistance and training. We are using the survey findings to shape our training and technical assistance work.

If I can answer any questions, please contact me at maryo@odvn.org or call me at 502 592-7856.

Sincerely,



Mary O'Doherty
Executive Director

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program
Implementation Planning Participation

Please send back to Katie Fenwick *at* KLfenwick@dps.ohio.gov *by* 06/12/2026.

State/Territory: Ohio

Administering Agency: Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services

Participant Agency: Athens City Police Dept.

Type of Agency: Law Enforcement

If population specific organization, please specify which population: _____

Other: _____

Planning Team Meeting Date(s): 7/2025, 8/2025, 10/2025, 11/2025, 1/2026, 5/2026, 7/2026

Did you receive notification of meeting dates at least one month in advance? ◉ Yes ○ No

How were you notified? (check all that apply)

☑ Email ☐ In-person ☐ Phone call ☐ Website post ☐ Letter ☐ Other:_____

Were you able to participate in the meetings? ◉ Yes ○ No

If yes, how many meetings did you attend? ○ All ◉ Some

Meeting format: (check all that apply) ☑ Teleconference ☑ Video conference ☐ In-person

If no, please explain: _____

During the meeting(s), were you able to freely provide input, ask questions, share concerns, and propose goals? ◉ Yes ○ No ○ Partially

Did you receive a draft of the Implementation Plan *and* a list of major concerns raised during the planning process? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Were you given at least one month to review the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Were the major concerns raised during the planning process included in the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Did you provide comments or recommended changes to the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

Did you receive a copy of the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

If applicable, do you believe your recommended changes to the draft plan were adequately addressed in the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No ○ Not applicable

If no, please explain: _____

Overall, were the feedback, concerns, recommended goals, etc. of planning group participants adequately reflected in the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Do you have any concerns with the content of the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If yes, please explain: _____

Name Molly Burchfield, LSW
Signature _____
Date 06/12/2026

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program
Implementation Planning Participation

Please send back to Katie Fenwick *at* KLfenwick@dps.ohio.gov *by* 06/12/2026.

State/Territory: Ohio

Administering Agency: OCJS

Participant Agency: Legal Aid Society of Cleveland

Type of Agency: Choose one

If population specific organization, please specify which population: low income

Other: Legal Services

Planning Team Meeting Date(s): 4/11/2025, 10/29/2025, 01/28/2026, 05/21/2026

Did you receive notification of meeting dates at least one month in advance? ☒ Yes ○ No

How were you notified? (check all that apply)

☒ Email ☐ In-person ☐ Phone call ☐ Website post ☐ Letter ☐ Other: _____

Were you able to participate in the meetings? ☒ Yes ○ No

If yes, how many meetings did you attend? ☒ All ○ Some (I might have missed one)

Meeting format: (check all that apply) ☐ Teleconference ☒ Video conference ☐ In-person

If no, please explain: Zoom

During the meeting(s), were you able to freely provide input, ask questions, share concerns, and propose goals? ☒ Yes ○ No ○ Partially

Did you receive a draft of the Implementation Plan *and* a list of major concerns raised during the planning process? ☒ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Were you given at least one month to review the draft plan? ☒ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Were the major concerns raised during the planning process included in the draft plan? ☒ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Did you provide comments or recommended changes to the draft plan? ☒ Yes ○ No

Did you receive a copy of the Final Implementation Plan? ☒ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

If applicable, do you believe your recommended changes to the draft plan were adequately addressed in the Final Implementation Plan? ☒ Yes ○ No ○ Not applicable

If no, please explain: _____

Overall, were the feedback, concerns, recommended goals, etc. of planning group participants adequately reflected in the Final Implementation Plan? ☒ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Do you have any concerns with the content of the Final Implementation Plan? ○ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please explain: _____

Name Alexandria Rude

Signature _____

Date 06/12/2026

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program
Implementation Planning Participation

Please send back to Katie Fenwick *at* OCJS/DPS *by* 6/29/26.

State/Territory: Ohio

Administering Agency: Office of Criminal Justice Services

Participant Agency: Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction /

Type of Agency: Choose one

If population specific organization, please specify which population: N/A

Other: _____

Planning Team Meeting Date(s): 4/11/25; 7/30/25, 10/29/25

Did you receive notification of meeting dates at least one month in advance? ○ Yes ○ No

How were you notified? (check all that apply)

☑ Email ☐ In-person ☐ Phone call ☐ Website post ☐ Letter ☐ Other: _____

Were you able to participate in the meetings? ◉ Yes ○ No

If yes, how many meetings did you attend? ○ All ◉ Some

Meeting format: (check all that apply) ☐ Teleconference ☑ Video conference ☐ In-person

If no, please explain: I attended all but 1 meeting.

During the meeting(s), were you able to freely provide input, ask questions, share concerns, and propose goals? ◉ Yes ○ No ○ Partially

Did you receive a draft of the Implementation Plan *and* a list of major concerns raised during the planning process? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Were you given at least one month to review the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Were the major concerns raised during the planning process included in the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Did you provide comments or recommended changes to the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

Did you receive a copy of the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

If applicable, do you believe your recommended changes to the draft plan were adequately addressed in the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No ○ Not applicable

If no, please explain: _____

Overall, were the feedback, concerns, recommended goals, etc. of planning group participants adequately reflected in the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Do you have any concerns with the content of the Final Implementation Plan? ○ Yes ◉ No

If yes, please explain: _____

Name Chrystal Alexander
Signature _____
Date 6/29/26

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program
Implementation Planning Participation

Please send back to Katie Fenwick *at* Klfenwick@dps.ohio.gov *by* 06/12/2025.

State/Territory: Ohio

Administering Agency: Department of Public Safety

Participant Agency: Ohio Department of Health

Type of Agency: Other State Agency

If population specific organization, please specify which population: _____

Other: _____

Planning Team Meeting Date(s): 7/30/25, 10/29/25, 1/28/26

Did you receive notification of meeting dates at least one month in advance? ◉ Yes ○ No

How were you notified? (check all that apply)

☑ Email ☐ In-person ☐ Phone call ☐ Website post ☐ Letter ☐ Other:_____

Were you able to participate in the meetings? ◉ Yes ○ No

If yes, how many meetings did you attend? ○ All ◉ Some

Meeting format: (check all that apply) ☐ Teleconference ☑ Video conference ☐ In-person

If no, please explain: _____

During the meeting(s), were you able to freely provide input, ask questions, share concerns, and propose goals? ◉ Yes ○ No ○ Partially

Did you receive a draft of the Implementation Plan *and* a list of major concerns raised during the planning process? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Were you given at least one month to review the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Were the major concerns raised during the planning process included in the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Did you provide comments or recommended changes to the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

Did you receive a copy of the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

If applicable, do you believe your recommended changes to the draft plan were adequately addressed in the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No ○ Not applicable

If no, please explain: _____

Overall, were the feedback, concerns, recommended goals, etc. of planning group participants adequately reflected in the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Do you have any concerns with the content of the Final Implementation Plan? ○ Yes ◉ No

If yes, please explain: _____

Name Debra Seltzer

Signature Debra Seltzer Digitally signed by Debra Seltzer Date: 2026.05.29 09:12:34 -04'00'

Date 06/12/2025

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program
Implementation Planning Participation

Please send back to Katie Fenwick *at* KLfenwick@dps.ohio.gov *by* 06/12/2026.

State/Territory: Ohio

Administering Agency: Office of Criminal Justice Services

Participant Agency: Ohio Victim Witness Association, Inc.

Type of Agency: Other

If population specific organization, please specify which population: _____

Other: Statewide coalition

Planning Team Meeting Date(s): 4/11/25, 7/30/25, 1/28/26, 5/21/26

Did you receive notification of meeting dates at least one month in advance? ◉ Yes ○ No

How were you notified? (check all that apply)

☑ Email ☐ In-person ☐ Phone call ☐ Website post ☐ Letter ☐ Other: _____

Were you able to participate in the meetings? ◉ Yes ○ No

If yes, how many meetings did you attend? ○ All ◉ Some

Meeting format: (check all that apply) ☐ Teleconference ☑ Video conference ☐ In-person

If no, please explain: Team mate attended 10/29/25

During the meeting(s), were you able to freely provide input, ask questions, share concerns, and propose goals? ◉ Yes ○ No ○ Partially

Did you receive a draft of the Implementation Plan *and* a list of major concerns raised during the planning process? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Were you given at least one month to review the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Were the major concerns raised during the planning process included in the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Did you provide comments or recommended changes to the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

Did you receive a copy of the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

If applicable, do you believe your recommended changes to the draft plan were adequately addressed in the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No ○ Not applicable

If no, please explain: _____

Overall, were the feedback, concerns, recommended goals, etc. of planning group participants adequately reflected in the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Do you have any concerns with the content of the Final Implementation Plan? ○ Yes ◉ No

If yes, please explain: _____

Name Elyse McConnell

Signature Elyse McConnell Digitally signed by Elyse McConnell Date: 2026.06.30 12:02:19 -04'00'

Date 06/12/2026

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program
Implementation Planning Participation

Please send back to Katie Fenwick *at* KLfenwick@dps.ohio.gov *by* 06/12/2026.

State/Territory: Ohio

Administering Agency: Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services

Participant Agency: Forensic Nursing Network, Inc.

Type of Agency: Other

If population specific organization, please specify which population: _____

Other: Statewide Education and TA

Planning Team Meeting Date(s): 4/11/25, 7/30/25, 10/29/25, 1/28/26, 5/21/26

Did you receive notification of meeting dates at least one month in advance? ◉ Yes ○ No

How were you notified? (check all that apply)

☑ Email ☐ In-person ☐ Phone call ☐ Website post ☐ Letter ☐ Other: _____

Were you able to participate in the meetings? ◉ Yes ○ No

If yes, how many meetings did you attend? ◉ All ○ Some

Meeting format: (check all that apply) ☐ Teleconference ☑ Video conference ☐ In-person

If no, please explain: _____

During the meeting(s), were you able to freely provide input, ask questions, share concerns, and propose goals? ◉ Yes ○ No ○ Partially

Did you receive a draft of the Implementation Plan *and* a list of major concerns raised during the planning process? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Were you given at least one month to review the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Were the major concerns raised during the planning process included in the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Did you provide comments or recommended changes to the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

Did you receive a copy of the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

If applicable, do you believe your recommended changes to the draft plan were adequately addressed in the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No ○ Not applicable

If no, please explain: _____

Overall, were the feedback, concerns, recommended goals, etc. of planning group participants adequately reflected in the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Do you have any concerns with the content of the Final Implementation Plan? ○ Yes ◉ No

If yes, please explain: _____

Name Laura Kaiser

Signature _____

Date 06/12/2026

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program
Implementation Planning Participation

Please send back to Katie Fenwick *at* Klfenwick@dps.ohio.gov *by* June 5, 2026.

State/Territory: Ohio

Administering Agency: Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services

Participant Agency: Ohio Domestic Violence Coalition

Type of Agency: Domestic Violence Coalition

If population specific organization, please specify which population: domestic violence survivors

Other: _____

Planning Team Meeting Date(s): 7/30/25, 10/29/25 10/29/25, 1/28/26,

Did you receive notification of meeting dates at least one month in advance? ◉ Yes ○ No

How were you notified? (check all that apply)

☑ Email ☐ In-person ☐ Phone call ☐ Website post ☐ Letter ☐ Other: _____

Were you able to participate in the meetings? ◉ Yes ○ No

If yes, how many meetings did you attend? ○ All ◉ Some

Meeting format: (check all that apply) ☐ Teleconference ☑ Video conference ☐ In-person

If no, please explain: _____

During the meeting(s), were you able to freely provide input, ask questions, share concerns, and propose goals? ◉ Yes ○ No ○ Partially

Did you receive a draft of the Implementation Plan *and* a list of major concerns raised during the planning process? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Were you given at least one month to review the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Were the major concerns raised during the planning process included in the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Did you provide comments or recommended changes to the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

Did you receive a copy of the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

If applicable, do you believe your recommended changes to the draft plan were adequately addressed in the Final Implementation Plan? ○ Yes ○ No ◉ Not applicable

If no, please explain: _____

Overall, were the feedback, concerns, recommended goals, etc. of planning group participants adequately reflected in the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Do you have any concerns with the content of the Final Implementation Plan? ○ Yes ◉ No

If yes, please explain: _____

Name Mary ODoherety

Signature Mary ODoherty Digitally signed by Mary ODoherty Date: 2026.06.05 15:46:09 -04'00'

Date June 5, 2026

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program
Implementation Planning Participation

Please send back to Katie Fenwick *at* KLfenwick@dps.ohio.gov *by* 06/12/2026.

State/Territory: Ohio

Administering Agency: Ohio Department of Public Safety

Participant Agency: Ohio Attorney General's Office

Type of Agency: Other State Agency

If population specific organization, please specify which population: _____

Other: _____

Planning Team Meeting Date(s): 04/11/2025, 10/29/2025

Did you receive notification of meeting dates at least one month in advance? ◉ Yes ○ No

How were you notified? (check all that apply)

☑ Email ☐ In-person ☐ Phone call ☐ Website post ☐ Letter ☐ Other:_____

Were you able to participate in the meetings? ◉ Yes ○ No

If yes, how many meetings did you attend? ○ All ◉ Some

Meeting format: (check all that apply) ☑ Teleconference ☐ Video conference ☐ In-person

If no, please explain: _____

During the meeting(s), were you able to freely provide input, ask questions, share concerns, and propose goals? ◉ Yes ○ No ○ Partially

Did you receive a draft of the Implementation Plan *and* a list of major concerns raised during the planning process? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Were you given at least one month to review the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Were the major concerns raised during the planning process included in the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Did you provide comments or recommended changes to the draft plan? ○ Yes ◉ No

Did you receive a copy of the Final Implementation Plan? ○ Yes ◉ No

If no, please explain: Received a working copy with the a request to submit revisions by June 2026

If applicable, do you believe your recommended changes to the draft plan were adequately addressed in the Final Implementation Plan? ○ Yes ○ No ◉ Not applicable

If no, please explain: _____

Overall, were the feedback, concerns, recommended goals, etc. of planning group participants adequately reflected in the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Do you have any concerns with the content of the Final Implementation Plan? ○ Yes ◉ No

If yes, please explain: _____

Name Mischa D. Hitchcock

Signature Mischa Hitchcock Digitally signed by Mischa Hitchcock Date: 2026.06.17 14:01:16 -04'00'

Date 06/12/2026

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program
Implementation Planning Participation

Please send back to Katie Fenwick *at* KLfenwick@dps.ohio.gov *by* 06/12/2026.

State/Territory: Statewide

Administering Agency: _____

Participant Agency: Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence

Type of Agency: Sexual Assault Coalition

If population specific organization, please specify which population: _____

Other: _____

Planning Team Meeting Date(s): 07/30/25; 10/29/25,1/28/26, 05/21/26

Did you receive notification of meeting dates at least one month in advance? ◉ Yes ○ No

How were you notified? (check all that apply)

☑ Email ☐ In-person ☐ Phone call ☐ Website post ☐ Letter ☐ Other:_____

Were you able to participate in the meetings? ◉ Yes ○ No

If yes, how many meetings did you attend? ◉ All ○ Some

Meeting format: (check all that apply) ☐ Teleconference ☑ Video conference ☐ In-person

If no, please explain: _____

During the meeting(s), were you able to freely provide input, ask questions, share concerns, and propose goals? ◉ Yes ○ No ○ Partially

Did you receive a draft of the Implementation Plan *and* a list of major concerns raised during the planning process? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Were you given at least one month to review the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Were the major concerns raised during the planning process included in the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Did you provide comments or recommended changes to the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

Did you receive a copy of the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

If applicable, do you believe your recommended changes to the draft plan were adequately addressed in the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No ○ Not applicable

If no, please explain: _____

Overall, were the feedback, concerns, recommended goals, etc. of planning group participants adequately reflected in the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Do you have any concerns with the content of the Final Implementation Plan? ○ Yes ◉ No

If yes, please explain: _____

Name Rosa Beltre

Signature _____

Date 06/12/2026

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program
Implementation Planning Participation

Please send back to Katie Fenwick *at* KLfenwick@dps.ohio.gov *by* 06/12/2026.

State/Territory: Ohio

Administering Agency: OCJS

Participant Agency: DWAVE

Type of Agency: Dual Coalition

If population specific organization, please specify which population: _____

Other: _____

Planning Team Meeting Date(s): 4/11/25 9:58 am 7/20/25 9:59 am 10/29/25 10:06 am 10/08/2025, 01/21/2026/ 7/11/2026

Did you receive notification of meeting dates at least one month in advance? ○ Yes ○ No

How were you notified? (check all that apply)

☑ Email ☐ In-person ☐ Phone call ☐ Website post ☐ Letter ☐ Other:_____

Were you able to participate in the meetings? ○ Yes ○ No

If yes, how many meetings did you attend? ○ All ◉ Some

Meeting format: (check all that apply) ☐ Teleconference ☑ Video conference ☐ In-person

If no, please explain: _____

During the meeting(s), were you able to freely provide input, ask questions, share concerns, and propose goals? ◉ Yes ○ No ○ Partially

Did you receive a draft of the Implementation Plan *and* a list of major concerns raised during the planning process? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Were you given at least one month to review the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Were the major concerns raised during the planning process included in the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Did you provide comments or recommended changes to the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

Did you receive a copy of the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

If applicable, do you believe your recommended changes to the draft plan were adequately addressed in the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No ○ Not applicable

If no, please explain: _____

Overall, were the feedback, concerns, recommended goals, etc. of planning group participants adequately reflected in the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Do you have any concerns with the content of the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If yes, please explain: _____

Name Rose Larson

Signature Rose Larson

Date 06/12/2026

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program
Implementation Planning Participation

Please send back to Katie Fenwick *at* KLfenwick@dps.ohio.gov *by* 06/12/2026.

State/Territory: Ohio

Administering Agency: Department of Public Safety, Office of Criminal Justice Services

Participant Agency: Crime Victim Services

Type of Agency: Other

If population specific organization, please specify which population: _____

Other: Victim Services

Planning Team Meeting Date(s): 5/21/26, 1/28/26, 10/29/25, 7/30/25, 4/11/25

Did you receive notification of meeting dates at least one month in advance? ◉ Yes ○ No

How were you notified? (check all that apply)

☑ Email ☐ In-person ☐ Phone call ☐ Website post ☐ Letter ☐ Other: _____

Were you able to participate in the meetings? ◉ Yes ○ No

If yes, how many meetings did you attend? ○ All ◉ Some

Meeting format: (check all that apply) ☐ Teleconference ☑ Video conference ☐ In-person

If no, please explain: _____

During the meeting(s), were you able to freely provide input, ask questions, share concerns, and propose goals? ◉ Yes ○ No ○ Partially

Did you receive a draft of the Implementation Plan *and* a list of major concerns raised during the planning process? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Were you given at least one month to review the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Were the major concerns raised during the planning process included in the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Did you provide comments or recommended changes to the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

Did you receive a copy of the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

If applicable, do you believe your recommended changes to the draft plan were adequately addressed in the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No ○ Not applicable

If no, please explain: _____

Overall, were the feedback, concerns, recommended goals, etc. of planning group participants adequately reflected in the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Do you have any concerns with the content of the Final Implementation Plan? ○ Yes ◉ No

If yes, please explain: _____

Name Kathryn "Ryn" Wolfe Farmer

Signature Kathryn Wolfe Farmer

Date 06/12/2026

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program
Implementation Planning Participation

Please send back to Katie Fenwick *at* KLfenwick@dps.ohio.gov *by* 06/12/2026.

State/Territory: Ohio

Administering Agency: Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services

Participant Agency: Ohio Hispanic Coalition

Type of Agency: Population Specific Organization

If population specific organization, please specify which population: Latino/Hispanic

Other: N/A

Planning Team Meeting Date(s): 4/11/2025, 7/30/2025, 10/29/2025, 1/28/2026

Did you receive notification of meeting dates at least one month in advance? ◉ Yes ○ No

How were you notified? (check all that apply)

☑ Email ☐ In-person ☐ Phone call ☐ Website post ☐ Letter ☐ Other:_____

Were you able to participate in the meetings? ◉ Yes ○ No

If yes, how many meetings did you attend? ○ All ◉ Some

Meeting format: (check all that apply) ☐ Teleconference ☑ Video conference ☐ In-person

If no, please explain: N/A

During the meeting(s), were you able to freely provide input, ask questions, share concerns, and propose goals? ◉ Yes ○ No ○ Partially

Did you receive a draft of the Implementation Plan *and* a list of major concerns raised during the planning process? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: N/A

Were you given at least one month to review the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: N/A

Were the major concerns raised during the planning process included in the draft plan? ○ Yes ◉ No

If no, please explain: N/A

Did you provide comments or recommended changes to the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

Did you receive a copy of the Final Implementation Plan? ○ Yes ◉ No

If no, please explain: Final Implementation Plan has not been completed yet as of 6/11/2026

If applicable, do you believe your recommended changes to the draft plan were adequately addressed in the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No ○ Not applicable

If no, please explain: N/A

Overall, were the feedback, concerns, recommended goals, etc. of planning group participants adequately reflected in the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: N/A

Do you have any concerns with the content of the Final Implementation Plan? ○ Yes ◉ No

If yes, please explain: N/A

Name Sarah DeMeo

Signature Sarah DeMeo Digitally signed by Sarah DeMeo Date: 2026.06.11 12:44:04 -04'00'

Date 06/12/2026

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program
Implementation Planning Participation

Please send back to Katie Fenwick *at* KLfenwick@dps.ohio.gov *by* 06/12/2026.

State/Territory: Ohio

Administering Agency: Office of Criminal Justice Services

Participant Agency: Legal Aid of Southeast and Central Ohio

Type of Agency: Other

If population specific organization, please specify which population: _____

Other: Legal Aid

Planning Team Meeting Date(s): 04/11/2025, 07/30/2025, 10/29/2025, 1/28/2026, 05/21/2026

Did you receive notification of meeting dates at least one month in advance? ◉ Yes ○ No

How were you notified? (check all that apply)

☑ Email ☐ In-person ☐ Phone call ☐ Website post ☐ Letter ☐ Other: _____

Were you able to participate in the meetings? ◉ Yes ○ No

If yes, how many meetings did you attend? ○ All ◉ Some

Meeting format: (check all that apply) ☐ Teleconference ☑ Video conference ☐ In-person

If no, please explain: _____

During the meeting(s), were you able to freely provide input, ask questions, share concerns, and propose goals? ◉ Yes ○ No ○ Partially

Did you receive a draft of the Implementation Plan *and* a list of major concerns raised during the planning process? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Were you given at least one month to review the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Were the major concerns raised during the planning process included in the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Did you provide comments or recommended changes to the draft plan? ○ Yes ◉ No

Did you receive a copy of the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

If applicable, do you believe your recommended changes to the draft plan were adequately addressed in the Final Implementation Plan? ○ Yes ○ No ◉ Not applicable

If no, please explain: _____

Overall, were the feedback, concerns, recommended goals, etc. of planning group participants adequately reflected in the Final Implementation Plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Do you have any concerns with the content of the Final Implementation Plan? ○ Yes ◉ No

If yes, please explain: _____

Name Miranda L. Rentsch
Signature _____
Date 06/12/2026

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program
Implementation Planning Participation

Please send back to Katie Fenwick *at* KLfenwick@dps.ohio.gov *by* 06/12/2026.

State/Territory: Ohio

Administering Agency: Office of Criminal Justice Services

Participant Agency: _____

Type of Agency: Other State Agency

If population specific organization, please specify which population: developmental disabilities

Other: _____

Planning Team Meeting Date(s): 4/11/25, 7/30/25, 10/29/25, 1/28/26, and 5/21/26

Did you receive notification of meeting dates at least one month in advance? ◉ Yes ○ No

How were you notified? (check all that apply)

☑ Email ☐ In-person ☐ Phone call ☐ Website post ☐ Letter ☐ Other: _____

Were you able to participate in the meetings? ◉ Yes ○ No

If yes, how many meetings did you attend? ◉ All ○ Some

Meeting format: (check all that apply) ☐ Teleconference ☑ Video conference ☐ In-person

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Did you receive a draft of the Implementation Plan *and* a list of major concerns raised during the planning process? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Were you given at least one month to review the draft plan? ◉ Yes ○ No

If no, please explain: _____

Were the major concerns raised during the planning process included in the draft plan? ◉Yes ○No

If no, please explain: _____

Did you provide comments or recommended changes to the draft plan? ◉Yes ○No

Did you receive a copy of the Final Implementation Plan? ○Yes ◉No

If no, please explain: Plan still be finalized. However, a final copy of plan will be provided.

If applicable, do you believe your recommended changes to the draft plan were adequately addressed in the Final Implementation Plan? ◉Yes ○No ○Not applicable

If no, please explain: _____

Overall, were the feedback, concerns, recommended goals, etc. of planning group participants adequately reflected in the Final Implementation Plan? ◉Yes ○No

If no, please explain: _____

Do you have any concerns with the content of the Final Implementation Plan? ○Yes ◉No

If yes, please explain: _____

Name Vicki Jenkins
Signature Vicki Jenkins
Date 06/12/2026