



State of Colorado
STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant
Program
FFY 2022, 2023, 2024 & 2025 Implementation
Plan

Colorado Department of Public Safety

Division of Criminal Justice

Office for Victim Programs

700 Kipling St. Denver, CO 80215

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I. Introduction

A.

The state of Colorado has developed a new four-year State Implementation Plan 2022 - 2025. This plan follows the recommended outline of the *STOP Formula Program Implementation Plan Checklist* that was distributed to STOP Administrators.

Colorado's State Implementation Plan was prepared by the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ). DCJ is the agency appointed by the Governor's Office to apply for and administer the STOP VAWA funds and is one of six divisions within the Colorado Department of Public Safety. The five internal offices within DCJ include:

- the Office of Adult and Juvenile Justice Assistance (OAJJA),
- the Office of Community Corrections (OCC),
- the Office of Research and Statistics (ORS),
- the Office for Victims Programs (OVP),
- the Office of Domestic Violence and Sex Offender Management (DVSOM)

OVP currently administers four federal formula grant programs:

- Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Compensation
- VOCA Victim Assistance
- STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and
- Sexual Assault Services Program funds (SASP)

As well as three discretionary grants:

- Anti-terrorism Emergency Assistance Program (AEAP)
- Improving Criminal Justice Response Grant and
- Improving Outcomes for Child and Youth Victims of Human Trafficking Grant.

The OVP administers the State Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement (VALE) grant program. For calendar year 2022, over \$49 million in federal and state victim grant funds have been allocated to 232 subgrantees from the funds administered by OVP.

OVP also develops and implements standards and public policy and monitors the local VALE and Victim Compensation Boards that operate in the twenty-two judicial districts in Colorado. OVP staffs the Colorado Human Trafficking Council, which has statutory responsibilities for policy recommendations to the General Assembly. Finally, OVP reviews and resolves victim complaints regarding non-compliance with the requirements of the state's Victims' Rights Act. OVP is committed to the physical and emotional

recovery of crime victims and to the restoration of victims' confidence in the criminal justice system.

STOP VAWA Implementation Plan:

The context for Colorado's 2022-2025 STOP VAWA Implementation Plan is established by looking at the state's demographics, undeserved populations, crime statistics as well the needs of victims and gaps in services. Based on needs and context, the Implementation Planning Committee developed goals and objectives to strategically and effectively administer STOP VAWA funds, with particular emphasis on using the grantmaking process to address the needs of underserved victims of domestic/dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. The process of developing the STOP VAWA Implementation Plan built upon and expanded relationships with service providers across the state, spanning various disciplines and populations.

- B.** The 2022-2025 VAWA Implementation Plan was approved by the state on February 28, 2022.
- C.** Colorado's STOP VAWA Implementation Plan covers the years 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.

II. Needs and Context

A. Colorado Demographics

According to the most recent complete U.S. Census Bureau information, Colorado’s estimated population in 2019 was 5,758,736, representing a 14.5% population increase from 2010.

Colorado’s population includes, but is not limited to, the following groups:

1. African American (4.6%)
2. American Indian or Alaska Native (1.6%)
3. Asian (3.5%)
4. Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander (0.2%)
5. Hispanic or Latino (21.8%)
6. White alone - not Hispanic or Latino (67.7%)
7. Identify as two or more races (3.1%)
8. Speak a language other than English in the home (17%)
9. Elderly - over age 65 (14.6%)
10. With a disability, under age 65 years (7.2%)
11. Female (49.6%)
12. Persons in poverty (9.6%)

Urban/Rural Areas

Urban Areas

	CITY	POPULATION		CITY	POPULATION
1	Denver	729,239	2	Colorado	477,975
3	Aurora	379,859	4	Fort Collins	170,318
5	Lakewood	158,410	6	Thornton	142,672
7	Arvada	120,898	8	Westminster	113,191
9	Pueblo	112,251	10	Centennial	111,096

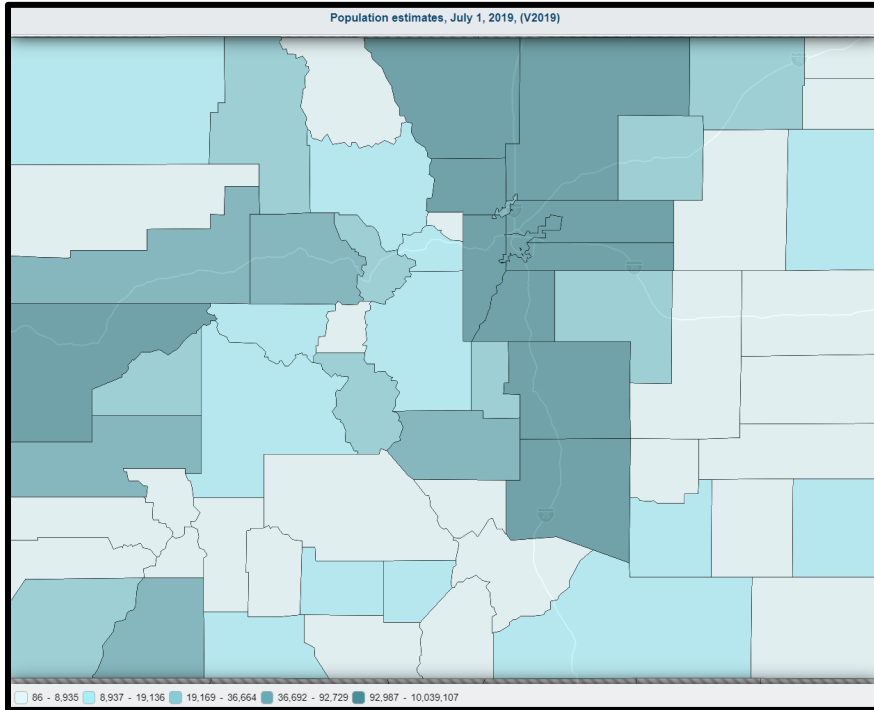
Rural Areas The most rural cities in Colorado range in population from 4 – 75 people. In order to provide a clearer picture of the rural areas of Colorado, county, rather than city, data is provided in the chart below.

	COUNTY	POPULATION		COUNTY	POPULATION
1	San Juan	726	2	Mineral	764
3	Hinsdale	819	4	Jackson	1,383
5	Kiowa	1,395	6	Cheyenne	1,825
7	Dolores	2,037	8	Sedgwick	2,229
9	Baca	3,556	10	Costilla	3,872

Approximately 85% of Colorado’s population lives along the I-25 corridor that stretches north from Cheyenne, Wyoming to Pueblo, Colorado. The rural population

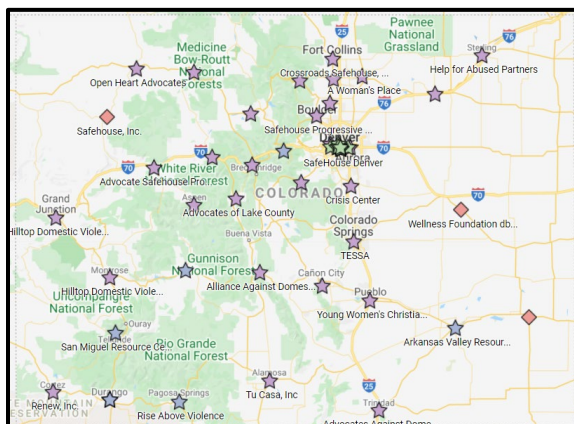
of Colorado is concentrated primarily in the southwest and northeast regions of the state, but is also scattered around the southeast and northwest areas of the state.

Colorado Population Estimates by County



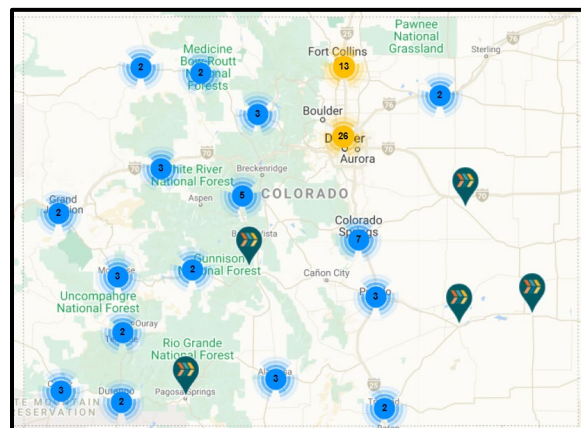
Community-Based Domestic Violence Services

(source Domestic Violence Program)



Sexual Assault Services Available

(source You Have the Right)



The maps demonstrate that the availability of services generally aligns with population density and is spread around the state. However, despite serving areas with smaller populations, rural programs must deal with long distances to provide services and an overall lack of transportation options for survivors. Additionally, rural survivors tend to only have one option for services in their small communities.

B. Underserved Populations

Underserved populations were identified through a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods. The US Census provides information on race/ethnicity throughout the state. The highest concentration of Colorado's Latino population, which is the state's largest racial/ethnic minority group, is in the 12th Judicial District, also known as the San Luis Valley, and the 3rd, 10th and 16th Judicial Districts – all of which are in the southern/southeastern portion of the state. In five of the six counties in the 12th Judicial District, the Hispanic/Latino population comprises between 36% and 61% of the population. This is a rural part of the state, and is an area that is financially under-resourced; the median household income of the counties in the 12th Judicial District range from \$30,965 to \$39,123, compared to the state median of \$72,331. Geography, such as mountain passes, creates barriers or challenges to service accessibility.

The highest concentration of Colorado's Asian population is in urban areas, primarily along the I-25 corridor. The highest concentration of Colorado's Black or African American population is in the Denver metro area, specifically Denver and Arapahoe counties. The highest concentrations of Colorado's Native population are in the Denver-metro area, followed by the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute reservations in the southwestern part of the state.

In addition to census data, the STOP Implementation Planning Group, which includes representatives from a wide variety of agency types and locations across the state, provided anecdotal feedback about underserved populations in the state. The group identified the following as underserved in Colorado: victims with substance abuse concerns, Indigenous survivors, Latinx community, immigrants, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders, Black/African Americans, rural BIPOC, non-English speaking survivors, people w/ disabilities, LGBTQIA+ survivors, rural communities, homeless populations, male victims, young people and the elderly.

OVP has adopted the use of the term communities impacted by inequity defined as communities and its members who by virtue of language, ethnicity, race, culture, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion, gender, gender identity, immigration status or geographic location may face barriers in accessing and using victim services. OVP is utilizing this term in application and review materials in order to encompass a broad range of underserved populations and encourage subgrantees to identify and address the needs of communities impacted by inequity in their service areas.

C. Needs

Beyond looking at statistical data, information about unmet needs and gaps in services was collected and analyzed. The following trends were identified from the Annual STOP Subgrantee Reports, survey responses from the Implementation Planning Group and survey responses from CVS grantees regarding funding priorities (Attachment D):

Limited Resources – Victims and agencies are both struggling from a lack of resources. It was highlighted that victims need more access to resources to help build safety and security,

the most noted resource that clients need and that is most lacking is affordable housing. Most agencies noted that they and partner agencies are stretched thin and cannot meet all of the needs of victims. COVID exacerbated this as financial situations for clients became more severe. Rural organizations face even greater issues with limited resources available in their communities and high poverty rates. Inadequate transportation options were noted as a significant barrier in rural and Tribal communities for victims to access services and/or seek safety. Additionally, there is a need for culturally and linguistically appropriate services. Finally, it can be difficult for victims and offenders to access the mental health and substance abuse supports they need.

In conversations with the Southern Ute Tribe and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, they expressed that limited resources are a significant barrier in being able to meet the needs of victims. Victims do not have access to adequate housing, transportation, childcare, food, mental health supports and more. Advocates are managing high case loads with minimal staff and paying for items out of pocket to aid victims. Many departments are short staffed and/or closed for part of the week, making it challenging to provide a timely response to victims.

Culturally/Population Specific Services – Culturally specific and population specific organizations need additional funding as well as capacity building to manage federal funds. Mainstream, rural and system-based organizations would also benefit from training and accountability for providing high-quality services to marginalized populations. Organizations need to develop meaningful partnerships and collaborations to better understand and serve their communities. Language justice is tied to culturally/population specific services, and ensuring all victims have access to bilingual services and/or quality interpretation has been noted as a need.

Staff Turnover – The victim services field is facing high levels of turnover, which has been heightened by COVID. High turnover has a negative impact on the quality of services, collaboration and organizational stability. Vicarious trauma, burnout and compensation are noted as contributing factors to the high turnover.

D. Crime Statistics

The [Colorado Crime Statistics Report](#) outlines violent crimes in the state. Of the 302 murders in Colorado in 2020, 12.9% involved an intimate relationship and of the 16,773 cases of aggravated assault, 21.3% involved an intimate relationship. These statistics do not capture the non-violent crimes related to domestic violence nor incidents that are not reported to police. According to the Domestic Violence Program's (DVP) [2019 Annual Report](#) and [2020 Annual Report](#), the 45 DVP-funded programs served 24,275 individuals in 2019 and 18,616 individuals in 2020. The discrepancies between numbers served by community-based victim service providers and the Colorado Crime Statistics report demonstrates that many victims do not report to law enforcement. The Implementation Planning Committee noted that in particular, crime statistics do not capture the experiences of underserved populations, who are often less likely to report to law enforcement. One Planning Committee member stated that in a survey of the clients they serve, 65% indicated they do not feel safe calling the police.

The Colorado Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board (CDVFRB) examines all of the DV-related homicides in the state on an annual basis. According to the [CDVFRB 2019 Annual Report](#), in 2018, there were 37 incidents that resulted in fatalities and 43 people died as a result. These deaths involved:

- 26 primary victims of domestic violence,
- 2 collateral children,
- 4 collateral adults, and
- 11 primary perpetrators of domestic violence.

The [CDVFRB 2020 Annual Report](#) indicates that in 2019, Colorado had 60 incidents of domestic violence resulting in 70 fatalities. Of the individuals who died:

- 39 were primary DV victims,
- 3 were collateral adults,
- 1 was a child, and
- 27 were the primary perpetrators.

Colorado has had an average of 49.6 DV-related deaths per year between 2015 and 2019. Data for Colorado aligns with national statistics indicating that firearms were involved in 56.6% of the incidents in 2019. The table below indicates that a majority of fatalities occurred in the most populated counties in the state along the I-25 corridor.

3. Fatal DV-Related Incidents by County		
County	(n)	% of incidents
Adams	6	10.0%
Arapahoe	3	5.0%
Archuleta	1	1.6%
Boulder	1	1.6%
Broomfield	2	3.3%
Denver	15	25.0%
Douglas	3	5.0%
El Paso	5	8.3%
Jefferson	6	10.0%
Kit Carson	1	1.6%
La Plata	1	1.6%
Larimer	2	3.3%
Logan	1	1.6%
Mesa	5	8.3%
Montezuma	1	1.6%
Morgan	1	1.6%
Otero	1	1.6%
Park	1	1.6%
Pueblo	2	3.3%
Weld	2	3.3%

Colorado’s law enforcement agencies provide data on sexual assault victimizations using the National Incident-Based Reporting System. According to a special report [Sexual Assaults Recorded by Law Enforcement](#), there were 6,872 sexual offenses in 2019 and 6,018 cases in 2020. For the 2019 data, the rate of female victimization was 7 times the rate for males. Black females experienced the highest rate of sexual assault victimization, with a rate 3 times as great as the Colorado average. Teens between the ages of 14 and 17 experienced sexual assault at a rate 5 times the overall rate for Colorado. Only 16% of the incidents resulted in arrest, and this number does not capture the number of incidents that were not reported. Again, the Implementation Planning Committee noted that quality data related to sexual violence is lacking, which in turn is also reflected in insufficient services dedicated to specifically addressing sexual violence.

III. Description of Planning Process

- A. Initial steps for the current Implementation Plan began at the end of 2019 by identifying potential members for the Planning Committee and engaging in outreach to Colorado's two federally recognized Tribes with other funders. Potential Planning Committee members received an invitation via email in February of 2020 to join the Implementation Planning Committee and responses were tracked utilizing the STOP Consultation Worksheet. Due to COVID, the planning process was put on hold until early 2021.

In February of 2021, the Planning Committee members who had previously agreed to serve on the Planning Committee were contacted to verify if they were still able to participate in the planning process. The STOP Consultation Worksheet was updated to reflect the responses. In order to diversify the Planning Committee to include more members from rural parts of the state and from organizations that work with underserved and/or culturally specific populations, the STOP Administrator invited additional people to serve on the Planning Committee beyond the required groups.

Planning Committee members completed a questionnaire regarding the following:

- Unmet needs of survivors of the four VAWA crime areas and gaps in responses
- Training needs for victim service providers, law enforcement, prosecution, courts and other service providers
- Underserved populations
- Promising practices in sexual assault services and domestic violence homicide reduction

The first meeting with the Planning Committee occurred virtually on April 26, 2021. During this meeting, Planning Committee members were provided information about STOP VAWA funding parameters and the Implementation Planning process. The Planning Committee discussed the responses to the questionnaire and elaborated on the needs of survivors and service providers in Colorado. In reviewing the notes from the meeting, three themes emerged as priorities for the Implementation Planning Group to examine further:

- culturally specific services,
- the grantmaking strategy, and
- staff turnover.

Planning Committee members were sent a survey to sign up for a task group to focus on one of the three priority areas. All committee members were notified of when the task groups would be meeting and sent an invite to participate virtually. The Culturally Specific Service task group met on July 26th, the Grantmaking Strategy task group met on July 29th, and the Staff Retention task group met on August 4th. Discussion from the first whole group meeting and the three task group meetings provided the foundation for an initial draft of goals and objectives for the Colorado Implementation Plan.

A second Implementation Planning Group meeting occurred on October 27, 2021. In preparation for the meeting, Planning Committee members received draft sections of the goals and objectives as well as the draft sections addressing sexual assault services and domestic violence homicide reduction. During the meeting, the group discussed the needs identified so far in the planning process (See Section II.C) and provided feedback on how the goals address the needs. Based on discussion at the meeting, an additional task group to dedicate more attention to sexual assault services was formed and met on November 5, 2021. Feedback from the Implementation Planning Committee meeting and the additional task group was incorporated into the draft plan.

A draft of the Implementation Plan was sent to all Planning Committee Members on November 12, 2021 to provide feedback.

Several of the Planning Committee members provided feedback about the plan, which included additional input about the needs of and services for underserved populations. This additional information has been embedded throughout the plan and the updates were communicated to the Planning Committee members who provided the feedback.

The final draft of the Implementation Plan was sent to the CVS Advisory Board for approval in advance of the February 28, 2022 Board Meeting, and it was approved during this meeting. The final and approved Implementation Plan was sent to all of the Planning Committee Members as well as the administrators of FVPSA, RPE, VOCA and SASP.

B. Documentation of participation in the planning process is included in Attachment B.

The Planning Committee included the following representatives from the required groups:

1. State sexual assault coalition
 - a. Agueda Morgan, Director of Programs, Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault
 - b. Gina Lopez, Rural & Indigenous Communities Specialist, Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault
2. State domestic violence coalition
 - a. Roshan Kalantar, Associate Director, Violence Free Colorado
- ~~3. Dual domestic violence and sexual assault coalition—N/A~~
4. Law enforcement entity or State law enforcement organization
 - a. Chief George Dingfelder, Monte Vista Police Department
5. Prosecution entity or State prosecution organization
 - a. District Attorney Seth Ryan, 7th Judicial District
 - b. Linda Johnson, Project Director, Ending Violence Against Women Project, Colorado District Attorneys' Council
6. A court or the State Administrative Office of the Courts
 - a. Lisa Rowe, Court Executive, 11th Judicial District
 - b. Andy Maikovich, Education Specialist, Judicial Education, Office of the

Colorado State Court Administrator

7. Representatives from tribes, tribal organizations, or tribal coalitions
 - a. Lisa Manzanares, Victim Service Program Coordinator, Southern Ute Indian Tribe
 - b. JoAnn Gomez, Victim Advocate, Southern Ute Indian Tribe
8. Population specific organizations representing the most significant underserved populations and culturally specific populations in the State other than tribes (which are addressed separately)
 - a. Flora Archuleta, Executive Director, San Luis Valley Immigrant Resource Center
 - b. Lisa E. Jenkins, Executive Director, Kingdom Builders Family Life Center
 - c. Ashlee Lewis, Executive Director, The Initiative (previously known as Domestic Violence Initiative for Women with Disabilities)
 - d. Kristiana Huitron, Executive Director, Voces Unidas for Justice
 - e. Nhu-Minh Le, Victim Assistance Director, Asian Pacific Development Center
 - f. Angela Cesena, Executive Director, Latina Safehouse
 - g. Lucia Guillen, Executive Director, Centro de la Familia
 - h. Victoria Ybanez, Executive Director, Red Wing Consulting, Inc.
9. Other if relevant (including survivors, probation, parole, etc.)
 - a. Nicki Johnson, Executive Director, Help For Abused Partners
 - b. Paula Bragg, Executive Director, Sexual Assault Response Advocates (S.A.R.A. Inc)
 - c. Meghan Francone, Director, Open Heart Advocates

At a minimum, this documentation must include the following for each planning committee member (34 U.S.C. 10446(i)(2)(B); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(c)(2)(ii)):

1. Which category the participant represents of the entities listed in 34 U.S.C. 10446(c)(2), such as law enforcement, State coalition, population specific organization, etc.;
 2. Whether they were informed about meeting(s);
 3. Whether they attended meeting(s);
 4. Whether they were given drafts of the implementation plan to review;
 5. Whether they submitted comments on the draft;
 6. Whether they received a copy of the final plan and the summary of major concerns; and
 7. Any significant concerns with the final plan.
- C.** A wide variety of partners were included in the Planning Committee rather than having separate consultations. See Section III. B. and Attachment B to see the additional partners that were included on the Planning Committee beyond the required groups.
1. Sexual assault victim service providers. (34 U.S.C. 10446(c)(2)(H); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(b)(1))

A representative from SARA, Inc. (see Section III.B.9) was included on the Implementation Planning Committee. Also, Maura Doherty Demko, the former Executive Director of Sexual Assault Services Organization (SASO) participated in the initial survey and first Planning Committee Meeting, providing important foundational information for the plan. Both organizations provide services specifically for sexual assault survivors.

2. Domestic violence victim service providers (34 U.S.C. 10446(c)(2)(H); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(b)(1))

The Implementation Planning Committee included the director of Help For Abused Partners, a domestic violence service provider and the director of Open Heart Advocates, a dual domestic violence and sexual service provider. Both organizations are located in rural parts of the state, bringing an important perspective to the committee.

3. Population specific organizations, representatives from underserved populations, and culturally specific organizations. (34 U.S.C. 10446(c)(2)(G); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(b)(2))

- a. How the State selected and meaningfully consulted with the included organizations, and
- b. how the State considered both demographics and barriers/historical lack of access to services for each population.

See Section III.B.8 for a list of the population specific and culturally specific organizations included in the Implementation Planning Committee. These organizations provide services that are tailored to the specific needs of underserved populations including Indigenous survivors, Latinx community, immigrants, refugees, Asian Americans, Black/African Americans, non-English speaking survivors, and people with disabilities.

The OVP has over 200 grantees, creating connections with service providers located across the state and that serve specific populations. Additionally, the grantees are frequently invited to share information with OVP about barriers facing survivors in regular programmatic reports. In reviewing reports from grantees as well as demographics on an annual basis, OVP considers the needs of underserved populations during the regular grantmaking process, subgrant administration as well as the development of the Implementation Plan. Using connections with current and previous grantees, the STOP Administrator was able to invite many population and/or culturally specific service providers to participate in the Implementation Planning Committee.

4. Information on any others that were consulted but not part of the planning committee.

The District Attorney from the 18th Judicial District and the Executive Director from

Deaf Overcoming Violence through Empowerment (DOVE) were initially included as members of the Implementation Planning Committee. However, due to scheduling and staffing changes, these two individuals were not able to continue participating on the Planning Committee. They did complete the questionnaire and participate in the first Planning Committee meeting, which provided the foundation for the plan.

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))

1. A description of efforts to reach tribes.

Increased consultation and coordination with Colorado's Tribes has been an ongoing effort for the OVP. As a result of the previous Implementation Plan, the CVS Advisory Board, which makes the funding recommendations for all CVS funding sources, has two designated spots for the two federally recognized tribes in Colorado. OVP staff traveled to meet with the Southern Ute Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in June of 2017, September of 2017 and February of 2018. These initial meetings were designed to build a relationship with the Tribes.

More recently on October 4, 2019, OVP staff met with representatives from the Southern Ute Tribe. Participants from the following Southern Ute Tribal Departments attended: Victim Services, Police, Contracts & Grants, and the Tribal Court. The meeting covered continuing needs of the tribe and how CVS funds might be able to address these needs, an explanation of the upcoming STOP VAWA Implementation Planning process and next steps in terms of in-person meetings and assistance with the CVS grant application process. As an outcome, the Southern Ute Tribe is a current recipient of a STOP VAWA subaward with goals tied directly to the unmet needs discussed on October 4, 2019. Additionally, representatives from Ute Mountain Ute Victim Services and Social Services, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Administrator, the Rape Prevention Education Administrator, OVP staff including the VAWA administrator, the Tribal Liaison with Colorado Department of Human Services and a representative from Montezuma County Housing Authority convened at the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation on Tribe in January 28, 2020. The purpose of this meetings was to gain a better understanding of the needs of tribal crime victims and to discuss opportunities to access not only CVS funding, but also how the other agencies present could best support the Tribe. COVID has put in-person meetings with the Tribes on hold, but communication is being maintained through phone calls and virtual meetings.

As a current subgrantee, the STOP Administrator has ongoing communication with the Southern Ute Tribe about the needs they are seeing in their community and how their STOP funding can or cannot help address those needs. These conversations contributed to the incorporation of a goal in this plan to set aside a certain percentage of the discretionary funds for the Tribes and to establish a more flexible funding method tailored to their processes. In continued efforts at consultation and coordination, tribal members were included on the STOP VAWA Planning Committee and continuing to fund tribes is embedded in the plan's goals.

2. Which tribes were consulted and which tribal official(s) for each tribe was contacted.

OVP staff have consulted with representatives from the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and the Southern Ute Tribe over the past few years, and representatives from the Southern Ute have served on the previous and current Implementation Planning Committees.

As stated previously, the Lisa Manzanares, the Victim Service Program Coordinator for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and JoAnn Gomez, a Victim Advocate for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe participated in the Implementation Planning Committee. Lisa Manzanares also sits on the CVS Advisory Board as the Tribal Government Representative for the Southern Ute Tribe. Additionally, the STOP VAWA Administrator consulted with Jennifer Clark, the Court Information Analyst for the Southern Ute Tribe and with Angie Juárez-Monger, the Court Administrator for the Southern Ute Tribe. Jennifer Clark, Angie Juárez-Monger and Lisa Manzanares met with the STOP VAWA Administrator on February 1, 2022 to discuss the Implementation Plan.

The STOP VAWA administrator contacted Ute Mountain Ute Executive Director John Trocheck as a follow up to the initial invitation to meet in November, and he requested Norma Peabody from Ute Mountain Ute Victim Services and Lori Laner from Ute Mountain Ute Social Services respond to the request for information. The STOP VAWA Administrator met with Norma Peabody and Lori Laner on January 31, 2022 to discuss the needs they are seeing for tribal victims as well as the Implementation Plan.

The following Ute Mountain Ute Tribe representatives were contacted via email on November 30, 2021 and January 27, 2022 to discuss the Implementation Plan, but did not receive a response to schedule a time to meet.

- Toniee Lewis, White Mesa advocate
- Darwin Whiteman, UMUT Councilman

3. The means by which tribes were given the opportunity to offer their opinion.

The two representatives from the Southern Ute Tribe have had the opportunity to offer their opinion through the questionnaire sent to all Planning Committee members, participation in the Planning Committee meetings as well as reviewing and providing feedback on the draft Implementation Plan. There is a position designated for each Tribe on the CVS Advisory Board, which provides the opportunity for ongoing feedback about the distribution and management of CVS funds. Ms. Lisa Manzanares is currently a Tribal Government Representative on the board, and Ms. Christine Sage currently holds the position of Community Member Representative on the board, but is the form Chairman of the Tribal Council for the Southern Ute Tribe.

In meetings with representatives from Ute Mountain Ute Tribe on January 31, 2022 and with representatives from Southern Ute Tribe on February 1, 2022, the STOP Administrator reviewed the three areas of need that presented as trends throughout the planning process: limited resources, culturally/population specific services and staff turnover. Meeting participants confirmed these are areas of need for the Tribes and provided specific information that has been incorporated into the needs section of the plan. The STOP VAWA Administrator also reviewed Goal 2, Objective D of the plan, which states: The OVP will explore options to set aside a percentage of STOP VAWA discretionary funds to exclusively support Colorado's federally recognized Tribes and to tailor a funding process to align with the Tribe's needs. Meeting participants agreed this could help the Tribes access CVS funds since current application cycles and processes do not always align with the decision making hierarchy of each Tribe. Meeting participants received a copy of the draft plan with updates based on these meetings on February 3, 2022.

- E. A summary of major concerns that were raised during the planning process and how they were addressed or why they were not addressed, which should be sent to the planning committee along with any draft Implementation Plan and the final plan. (28 C.F.R. 90.12(c)(2)(i))

During the early phases of the planning process, needs and trends emerged from the Planning Committee's survey responses and initial meetings. The areas of need included additional resources for victims and agencies, culturally/population specific services and staff retention. The Planning Committee formed task groups to further discuss these needs and how the grantmaking process can help address them.

To dig deeper into the topic of resources for programs and victims, all current CVS grantees were provided the opportunity to respond to a survey asking about funding priorities so that the types of expenses and types of projects that are most beneficial for grantees and survivors are prioritized in the grant making process. OVP received 137 responses (Attachment D), and the respondents represented the wide variety of programs funded, with approximately 60 percent of the responses coming from nonprofit organizations, almost 38 percent from systems-based agencies and 1.5 percent from tribal government. The CVS Advisory Board's Funding Philosophy (Attachment E), grant application and this STOP Implementation Plan were updated to reflect these priorities. Through the consolidated funding process, CVS funds will be directed towards the projects and direct expenses that are most needed by programs and victims.

A concern that was raised from survey responses, implementation planning meetings and meetings with the tribes that cannot be addressed in this plan is restrictions on funding for certain expenses that victims need. They are restricted either by being unallowable expenses or having overly burdensome documentation requirements. Agencies are often not able to access enough discretionary funding to be able to meet these needs either, and therefore often express frustration over restrictive government funding.

The importance of funding culturally specific and population specific services was highlighted throughout the Implementation Planning process as well as the CVS grantee survey. Increasing outreach to culturally specific and populations specific organizations as well as prioritizing projects that address the needs of underserved victims are embedded into the goals of the Implementation Plan. Acknowledging and addressing the needs of underserved populations is important for all disciplines and will be taken into consideration in funding decisions for all of the allocations. For example, with respect to specific judicial training, the importance of educating judicial officers on how cultural and/or ethnic traditions can affect the courtroom behavior of domestic abuse and human trafficking victims was identified as an important objective. Understanding the role that complex trauma plays on sexual assault and domestic violence victims will assist judges in assessing credibility beyond possible first impressions. The consolidated grant application has been modified in hopes of obtaining more detailed information about an organization's ability to identify the needs of underserved populations, provide specific services to address these needs and develop meaningful partnerships to address these needs. Additionally, the CVS Advisory Board's Funding Philosophy has been updated to reflect these priorities. OVP is consulting with Community Organizing for Radical Empathy (CORE) to review our new materials and provide feedback utilizing a diversity, equity and inclusion lens.

Staff retention was harder to address in the Implementation Plan as it typically falls within the locus of control of individual programs. However, the application instructions and application trainings for prospective grantees will encourage programs to pay staff a living wage and incorporate additional staff retention strategies. The CVS Advisory Board's Funding Philosophy also reflects that expenses to support staff salaries and cost of living increases will be prioritized. Finally, OVP will explore developing special projects that build capacity for current and potential STOP VAWA grantees.

During the second Implementation Planning Committee meeting, the group raised the lack of access to quality data on all of the four VAWA crime types as an additional concern. The Implementation Plan states that the CVS Advisory Board will utilize data to inform funding decisions. However, the Planning Committee noted that available data often excludes the experiences of underserved populations, especially crime statistics. It was important to the committee that the Implementation Plan acknowledge the challenges around data collection and incorporate ongoing efforts to gather more comprehensive data, which has been embedded in Goal 1.

A concern that was raised during the review of the draft of the Implementation Plan was the inadequacy of the criminal justice system in meeting the needs of victims. It was noted that many victims fear reporting to law enforcement, which can be a risk factor for domestic violence homicide. Additionally, concerns about the allocations dedicated to law enforcement, prosecution and courts being contradictory to addressing the needs of victims when many do not feel supported, but rather victimized by the system. While this plan has no authority to make changes to percentages, it does relay this concern to OVW. OVP also recognizes that the state budget does not provide another funding source to support system-based programming. In order to partially address this concern,

OVP emphasizes collaboration in its review criteria for grantees. Responses to how system-based agencies consulted with community-based victim service providers during the development of their application will be scrutinized.

- F. A description of how the State coordinated this plan with the State plan for the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act and the programs under the Victims of Crime Act and section 393A of the Public Health Service Act (Rape Prevention Education), including the impact of that coordination on the contents of the plan. (34 U.S.C. 10446(c)(3); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(b)(6) and (g)(6)).

As discussed earlier, in addition to STOP VAWA funds, the OVP administers VOCA and SASP funds. The application and funding process are consolidated, which allows the OVP to efficiently and effectively ensure that services to victims of crime are available throughout the entire state as well as address priority areas with the most appropriate funding source. It also allows for almost daily coordination between the VOCA, SASP and STOP VAWA programs. Feedback elicited during the Implementation Planning process resulted in adjustments to the OVP's outreach about available funds and the application and Funding Philosophy, which in turn affect the distribution of all CVS funding sources. The VOCA Administrator attended both STOP Implementation Plan meetings and received a copy of the plan in March 2022.

The Office for Victims Programs works closely with the state's Domestic Violence Program (DVP), which administers Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) dollars, as our federal programs fund many of the same agencies. Additionally, a representative from the OVP serves on the funding committee that makes the FVPSA awards. Representatives from DVP and OVP met in December of 2019 to discuss the mechanisms that each office could use to fund the Tribes, and the offices continue to work together to engage with the Tribes. Funding the Tribes is incorporated into the Implementation Plan's goals and objectives. Moreover, the STOP VAWA Administrator and a representative from DVP met on March 31, 2021 to discuss STOP VAWA and FVPSA funding priorities and strategies. Both offices want to explore how to make their grantmaking process more equitable and ensure the needs of underserved populations are being met. Prioritizing these needs by adjusting the grantmaking process is included in this plan's goals and objectives. Finally, DVP will be receiving funds to address sexual assault for the first time, and the majority of this funding will be dedicated to direct services over the next three years. During the sexual assault services task group meeting on November 5, 2021, the group discussed how to prioritize VAWA funds dedicated to sexual assault services given the focus on direct services of other funding for sexual assault available in the state. A DVP representative attended both STOP Implementation Plan meetings and received a copy of the plan in March 2022.

For the Rape Prevention Education (RPE) program, the STOP VAWA Administrator met with the Sexual Violence Prevention Program Manager with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment on April 23, 2021 to discuss funding priorities for RPE funds as well as strategies for increasing accessibility in the grantmaking process. This consultation contributed ideas for increasing outreach, capacity building and embedding

equity into grantmaking that have been incorporated into the Implementation Plan's goals and objectives. The Sexual Violence Prevention Program Manager was also present at the December 2019 meeting to discuss funding strategies for the Tribes, at both STOP Implementation Plan meetings, and at the sexual assault services task group meeting. The manager received a copy of the plan In March 2022.

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

This documentation may be in the form of letters from current grantees or State- or Territory-wide organizations representing prosecution, law enforcement, courts and victim services able to comment on the current and proposed use of grant funds. The documentation must describe:

1. the need for the grant funds;
2. the intended use of the grant funds;
3. the expected result of the grant funds; and
4. 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))

Letters from some current STOP VAWA subgrantees are included in Attachment C. Please note, when communicating about these letters, the STOP VAWA Administrator was using the time frame October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2026 stated in the 2021 STOP Solicitation. The plan has since been updated to state the plan covers 2022-2025, but the subject line on most letters reflect 2023-2026.

V. Plan for the Four-Year Implementation Period

This section should describe how the State will address the needs of sexual assault victims, domestic violence victims, dating violence victims, and stalking victims, as well as how the State will hold offenders who commit each of these crimes accountable. (28 C.F.R. 90.12(g)(3))

A. Goals and Objectives

1. Concise description of the State's goal and objectives for the implementation period. 28 C.F.R. 90.12(a)).

The goals and objectives established in this Implementation Plan reflect the needs and priorities identified by the Implementation Planning Committee and current CVS grantees. Because Colorado conducts a competitive grant application process and allows for any of the STOP purpose areas, our goals and objectives are necessarily broad.

Goal 1: The goal of the Crime Victim Services (CVS) Advisory Board is to support Colorado communities in their efforts to develop and strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence and to strengthen victim services and judicial response in these cases.

Objective A: The STOP Administrator will work with with Planning Committee Members and existing collaborative efforts in the state on an ongoing basis to collect and distribute more comprehensive data related to domestic/dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. These efforts at data collection and distribution will take into consideration the impact of systemic racism and oppression on available data and on the experiences of victims.

Objective B: Each funding year during 2022-2025, the CVS Advisory Board will take this data into consideration when making funding decisions for STOP VAWA funds, within the context of our consolidated funding process.

Objective C: Each funding year during 2022-2025, the CVS Advisory Board will review applications to ensure that they address at least one federal purpose area and align with the office's funding philosophy. Funds will be allocated according to the federal requirements established by OVW.

Objective D: Each funding year during 2022-2025, the CVS Advisory Board will ensure the effective use of VAWA funds by requiring programs to include measurable outcomes and to demonstrate meaningful community collaboration to address domestic/dating violence, sexual assault and/or stalking in their communities.

Objective E: During the 2022-2025 time period, the CVS Advisory Board will prioritize projects that seek to specifically address the needs of underserved communities and will give special consideration to projects that focus on sexual assault services or reduce domestic violence homicides.

Goal 2: The goal of the CVS Advisory Board is to address and prioritize the needs of underserved victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and/or dating violence.

Objective A: The OVP will increase outreach to organizations that address the needs of underserved and culturally specific victims in order to build relationships.

Objective B: The OVP will contract with members of and/or organizations led by underserved/culturally specific communities to examine and improve the inclusivity of the grantmaking process.

Objective C: In funding years 2022-2025, the CVS Advisory Board will prioritize projects that demonstrate an understanding of the needs of underserved/culturally specific victims and an ability to address those needs through services and/or meaningful partnerships.

Objective D: The OVP will explore options to set aside a percentage of STOP VAWA discretionary funds to exclusively support Colorado's federally recognized Tribes and to tailor a funding process to align with the Tribe's needs.

Goal 3: The CVS Advisory Board will seek to enhance the capacity and infrastructure of agencies/organizations in order to improve the responses and services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence.

Objective A: As funds are available, the CVS Advisory Board will explore funding special projects that build capacity for current and potential STOP VAWA grantees.

Objective B: Utilizing the solicitation, application trainings and funding philosophy, the OVP will encourage applicants to pay their staff a livable wage and consider other strategies to promote retention.

2. Description of how STOP funding will be used to meet the State's goal and objectives during the implementation period. (34 U.S.C. 10446(i)(1); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(a)).

The goals and objectives from the Implementation Plan are embedded into the CVS's consolidated grantmaking process. The goals and objectives address how STOP funds will be distributed based on needs and priorities established during the planning process. The Implementation Plan helps guide the CVS Advisory Board funding recommendations; therefore, the STOP funds will be utilized based on the goals and objectives from the plan.

3. A description of how the funds will be distributed across the law enforcement, prosecution, courts, victim services, and discretionary allocation categories. (See 34 U.S.C. 10446(c)(4)).

Using federal requirements, funds will be distributed as follows:

- 25% for law enforcement projects
- 25% for prosecution projects
- 30% for victim services projects (of which 10% will go to culturally specific organizations according to the VAWA definition)
- 5% to court projects
- 15% for discretionary purposes

Colorado has long used most of the discretionary dollars to support victim services projects; therefore, our support of victim services projects is usually closer to 40%. In all instances, the federal requirements for distributing funds will be the minimum amount allocated in each category, unless we do not receive enough applications for these allocation categories. In line with the goals and objectives, the CVS Advisory Board will seek to allocate more than the 10% set-aside of the victim services allocation to culturally specific projects. Additionally, the CVS Advisory Board will consider applications that would fall into the allowable 5% of discretionary funding for prevention activities. When looking at prevention/education projects, the Implementation Planning committee highlighted the importance of funding projects that have an intersectional lens and are responsive to the needs of culturally/populations specific communities.

Colorado will use the 10% allowed by OVW for administrative purposes to support staff members who work on eligible VAWA activities, including the grant application process, financial and program management of subgrantees, as well as oversight and monitoring of VAWA subgrantees.

B. Statutory Priority Areas

1. Information on how the State plans to meet the sexual assault set-aside, including how the State will ensure the funds are allocated for programs or projects in two or more allocations (law enforcement, prosecution, victim services, and courts). (34 U.S.C. 10446(c)(5)).

Colorado has consistently met the 20% threshold for sexual assault services through the law enforcement, prosecution, victim services and/or courts allocation categories. It is anticipated we will be able to continue to meet this threshold in the future as we have maintained our funding for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) programs and Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) around the state, and continue to fund specialized sexual assault prosecutors.

A task group of Implementation Planning Committee members met to discuss priorities for the 20% sexual assault set-aside. The group identified that having access to quality SANE programs is a significant challenge in the state, making continuing to provide

funding for SANE training and programs a priority use for the sexual assault set aside. The group also identified capacity building and training for dual domestic violence and sexual assault service providers to be able to better address the specific needs of survivors of sexual violence as a priority. The Implementation Planning group also acknowledged the continued need to gather quality data related to sexual violence to better inform the funding process and ensure sexual assault services are adequately supported.

As stated in Goal 1, Objective E, applicants will be able to indicate if and how their project addresses the specialized needs of sexual assault survivors, and these projects will be given special consideration in the grantmaking process. Additionally, the CVS Advisory Board will utilize the Implementation Plan and STOP VAWA funding requirements when making funding decisions to ensure that projects earmarked for the sexual assault set aside comprise at least 20% of the amount awarded and come from two or more allocations, excluding discretionary. The STOP VAWA Administrator will track the allocations during the funding process and inform the CVS Advisory Board.

2. Goals and objectives for reducing domestic violence-related homicides within the State, including available statistics on the rates of domestic violence homicide within the State and challenges specific to the State and how the plan can overcome them. (34 U.S.C. 10446(i)(2)(G); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(f)).

See Section II, D. Crime Statistics to see specific information on the rates of domestic violence homicide in Colorado from the Colorado Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board (CDVFRB). In addition to collecting and analyzing data on DV fatalities, the CDVFRB identifies measures to help prevent domestic violence fatalities. The most recent report stated some practices that could help reduce domestic violence homicides include:

- a consistent implementation of the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) in communities across Colorado;
- prohibiting the possession of firearms by domestic violence perpetrators;
- promoting economic stability for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence;
- improving the coordination between different court systems; and
- increasing public awareness of the dynamics of domestic violence and the resources available.

As part of the planning process, it was also noted that fear of contacting law enforcement can increase the risk of domestic violence homicide; therefore, another strategy that projects could employ to reduce domestic violence homicides would be to acknowledge this fear exists, seek to understand the root causes and build trust with communities.

Current projects funded by STOP funds to reduce Domestic Violence Homicides include: The Denver District Attorney's Collaborative Domestic Violence/Firearm Relinquishment Special Prosecutor, the Denver Domestic Violence Coordinating Council's multi-disciplinary fatality review team, and the 1st Judicial District Attorney's Domestic Violence and Training project, which participates in Jefferson County's High-

Risk Lethality Team. Furthermore, Colorado District Attorney's Council's STOP-funded project provides trainings across the state for law enforcement, prosecutors and victim services providers on various topics including the use of domestic violence lethality assessments and Domestic Violence Coordinated Community Response. The Colorado Judicial Department also provides training to judges on domestic violence dynamics and firearms relinquishment.

It is a goal of the CVS Advisory Board to reduce the rate of domestic violence related homicides within the state of Colorado. It will do so through the following actions:

A: Each funding year during 2022-2025, applicants will identify if and how their project will work to reduce domestic violence homicides in Colorado, and these projects will be given special consideration. Applicants may utilize methods identified by the CDVFRB to reduce DV fatalities or other evidence-based measures.

B: During the 2022-2025 time period, the STOP VAWA Administrator will collaborate with the Denver Fatality Review Team to gather information as to how the findings of the task force can be applied more broadly across the state, as appropriate, and to share this information with the Crime Victim Services Advisory Board and other stakeholder groups.

C. Addressing the Needs of Underserved Victims

Description of how the State will recognize and meaningfully respond to the needs of underserved populations as identified above in II.B. (34 U.S.C. 10446(e)(2)(D) and (i)(2)(F); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(d)(4)).

1. Description of how the State plans to meet the needs of the identified underserved populations, including, but not limited to, culturally specific populations, victims who are underserved because of sexual orientation or gender identity, and victims with limited English proficiency. (34 U.S.C. 10446(i)(2)(E); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(e))

As mentioned in Goal 2, funding projects that address the needs of underserved populations will be a priority for the CVS Advisory Board. The OVP will increase outreach to organizations not currently receiving CVS funding through connections with other funders and current grantees focusing on underserved populations. In the application process, all applicants will provide information about the underserved populations they work with and how their specific project will address the needs of underserved populations. During the funding process, the CVS Advisory board will use the review criteria to prioritize projects addressing the needs of underserved populations. Because OVP utilizes a consolidated funding process, the CVS Advisory Board can utilize all CVS funding sources to help address the needs of underserved populations.

Instead of underserved populations, OVP will utilize the term communities impacted by inequity in application materials, which is defined as communities and its members who by virtue of language, ethnicity, race, culture, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion, gender, gender identity, immigration status or geographic location may face barriers in

accessing and using victim services. The purpose of employing this language is to have a broader perspective and deeper understanding of the root causes of inequity in services when considering how to distribute CVS funds.

During the 2022-2025 time period, the OVP will seek continued education for staff and the Advisory Board regarding implicit bias, inclusivity in grantmaking and best practices in victim services for underserved populations so that we can continue improving the grantmaking and grant management process. Additionally, OVP will seek to have a staff and board that is representative of the organizations and victims served in Colorado.

2. A description of how the State will ensure that monies set aside to fund culturally specific services and activities for underserved populations are distributed equitably among those populations. (34 U.S.C. 10446(e)(2)(D) and (i)(2)(F); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(d)(4))

The OVP runs a competitive and consolidated process for the CVS funds, which results in receiving applications from a wide variety of agencies serving a vast spectrum of victims, including underserved victims and those that meet the VAWA definition of culturally specific. The CVS Advisory Board has members representing multiple disciplines and victims, and multiple areas of the state. Through the consolidated process, the OVP can more effectively and equitably distribute funds for culturally specific services and underserved populations by determining which funding source is the most appropriate. STOP VAWA funds alone cannot address all of the needs of culturally specific and underserved populations; therefore, utilizing all CVS funding sources to meet these needs allows the set-aside for culturally specific organizations within STOP VAWA to provide larger awards to fewer organizations. Prior to the application process, the OVP will facilitate meetings with potential grantees to explain eligibility for CVS funds, priority areas and the application process. The Office will utilize connections with other funders, board members, as well as with currently funded culturally specific service providers to outreach to potential grantees for these informational meetings.

3. Specifics on how the State plans to meet the set-aside for culturally specific community-based organizations, including a description of how the State will reach out to community-based organizations that provide linguistically and culturally specific services. This could include specific information as to which subgrantees met the required 10% set aside within the victim services allocation for culturally specific organizations during the prior funding cycle. (34 U.S.C. 10446(i)(2)(E); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(g)(2))

The OVP historically receives applications from a number of linguistically and culturally specific service providers, and through the consolidated process, is able to support these organizations through one of our funding sources. Currently funded organizations will receive information about the next funding cycle. The OVP also maintains an extensive outreach list to organizations/agencies that do not currently receive CVS funds to notify about upcoming funding opportunities. On an ongoing basis, this outreach list is updated to include more culturally specific organizations that serve victims of domestic violence,

sexual assault, stalking and/or dating violence based on internet searches and introductions at collaborative meetings. The OVP will host a training to explain eligibility for CVS funding sources as well as offer one-on-one meetings with potential grantees to discuss their projects.

In the upcoming grant cycle, the OVP will be using non-STOP VAWA funds to partner with the Latino Coalition for Community Leadership to serve as a passthrough entity that will fund smaller, grassroots victim service providers serving communities impacted by inequity that do not currently receive CVS funds. As part of this project, the Latino Coalition will provide additional capacity building and technical assistance to the subgrantees so they are better equipped to manage federal funds in future grant cycles. Through this process, the OVP will build relationships with new organizations providing linguistically and culturally specific services, which will increase the number of culturally specific victim services providers that can apply for CVS funds, including VAWA, in the future. While this project is not limited to Latinx-serving organizations, the OVP will also continue engaging in outreach to build relationships with leaders and organizations in other racial/ethnic minority communities as well. In particular, during the planning process, it was noted that culturally specific services for the Black/African American community are lacking.

For the CY21/22 grant cycle, the 10% set aside for culturally specific organizations within the victim services allocation funded Voces Unidas for Justice. Their Acceder, meaning “to access” 3.0 project provides culturally specific direct services, therapy and stability services to Latin@ survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence in Central Colorado. Volunteer Promotoras increase access, trust and relationships with victims and to address cultural barriers in seeking services which assisted in reaching more survivors in a culturally meaningful way.

The OVP also funds the Southern Ute Tribe. Although this subaward does not count towards the 10% culturally specific set aside as it is funded out of discretionary funds, ensuring funding is available for Colorado’s Tribes is an established goal in this Implementation Plan.

D. Grant-making Strategy

1. Timeline for the STOP grant cycle. (See 28 C.F.R. 90.12(g)(8)).

Colorado conducts its competitive funding process every two years. The next award cycles will be CY23/24 and CY25/26. In years when there is no funding process, the CVS Advisory Board meets to review the most recent funding process so that adjustments can be made, if necessary, to the next funding process and to discuss funding special projects that are needed to help Colorado meet the needs identified in grantee surveys, the Implementation Plan and from other sources and to set priorities for the next funding process.

As mentioned earlier, prior to the release of the solicitation, the OVP will conduct a training and offer one-on-one meetings so that programs not currently funded with CVS

funds can learn more about eligibility and the process. During funding years, the solicitation is distributed in the winter and applications are due four to six weeks after the announcement is released. Application workshops are conducted via webinar and throughout the state when possible to provide technical assistance to applicants on the STOP VAWA requirements, state priorities and the application requirements. Applicants may also contact grant managers at the OVP individually to get their questions answered regarding eligibility. The OVP also operates a helpline utilizing contractors to assist applicants with grant writing questions. Once received, applications are reviewed by staff and Board application review committees in the spring/summer. In July or August, the full Board convenes to review applications and make funding recommendations. Once the funding recommendations are approved, contracts are developed with the funded agencies in the fall for a grant start date of January 1. Program staff are available to new programs throughout this process to address questions.

Grant Program Managers (GPMs) will meet with programs within the first quarter of the project period to address any questions programs may have, and GPMs will maintain communication throughout the award period to ensure projects are on track. Financial and Programmatic reports will be due on a quarterly basis. Each program will receive an in-depth monitoring review and site visit covering one quarter during the project period. More frequent monitoring can occur if deemed necessary. Final reports will be due 15 days after the end of the project period, and all deliverables must be submitted within 45 days. GPMs will review all final reports and deliverables in preparation for closing out each award.

2. Description of how the State will ensure that eligible entities are aware of funding opportunities, including projects serving underserved populations. (28 C.F.R. 90.12(d)(5) and (g)(4))

Prior to launching the funding opportunity, the OVP staff identifies other entities, particularly population and culturally specific organizations who do not currently receive CVS funds, to develop an additional outreach mailing list. All of the organizations are invited to a webinar to learn about CVS funds and the application process. The OVP staff will also be available to potential grantees to discuss project specific eligibility following this introductory webinar. Hopefully, in-person outreach can be re-established and increase in future years if COVID risks can be mitigated.

When the funding opportunity launches, the OVP makes the solicitation available on the website and distributes the solicitation to the emailing list, which includes current grantees as well as other eligible entities that do not currently receive funding, partnering agencies, and other governmental and private funders for further dissemination. The OVP staff facilitate application workshops to further support applicants in understanding and completing the process.

3. Description of how the State will ensure that any subgrantees will consult with victim service providers during the course of developing their grant applications in order to ensure that the proposed activities are designed to promote the safety, confidentiality,

and economic independence of victims. (34 U.S.C. 10446(i)(2)(D))

As part of the application process, systems agencies are required to answer a question on the application as to their consultation process and partners and how their process meets this requirement. During grant application workshops for applicants, the consultation requirement is discussed. Once awarded, this requirement is also included as a special condition/program specific requirement in the agency's grant agreement.

4. Description of how the State will identify and select applicants for subgrant funding, including whether a competitive process will be used. If different selection methods will be used for each allocation category, describe the method. (28 C.F.R. 90.12(g)(8))

STOP VAWA funds are awarded via a competitive consolidated process. All applications are reviewed by staff and by the CVS Advisory Board within the context of the Board's Funding Philosophy (Attachment E). A subcommittee process is used by the Board, and each of the application review committees (ARCs) of the Board conducts an in-depth review of between 30 – 35 applications.

The STOP VAWA ARC considers the following elements:

- Federal Purpose Areas (each funded program must meet one or more of the 20 federal purpose areas)
- Distribution across the law enforcement, prosecution, courts, victim services, and discretionary allocation categories
- The STOP VAWA Implementation Plan
- The demonstration of community and/or victim-specific need and the ability to address this need
- The degree to which the project addresses the needs of communities impacted by inequity
- The availability of services throughout the state

Each ARC meets and comes to a consensus on their recommendation for each STOP VAWA application that they then present at the full Board funding meeting. Then, the full Board votes on a funding recommendation for each application presented. Applications recommended for denial are notified and have the opportunity to request reconsideration. Following the reconsideration meeting, these final recommendations are submitted to the Director of the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice and the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety (CDPS) for approval.

5. Whether STOP subgrant projects will be funded on a multiple or single-year basis. (See 28 C.F.R. 90.12(g)(8))

STOP subgrantees receive two-year awards.

6. Description of how the State will determine the amount of subgrants based on the population and geographic area to be served. (34 U.S.C. 10446(e)(2)(B) and

(i)(2)(F); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(d)(2))

Application requests must provide justification for the needs for the funds as well as describe how the proposed services will address these needs. Programs describe the geographic area and provide information on the numbers of victims to be served and/or activities to be carried out using grant funds. In the proposed budget, applicants must provide narrative explanations for the need and use of each budget line item. Taking all of this information into account, along with priorities set in the Funding Philosophy and Implementation Plan and available funds, the CVS Advisory Board makes recommendations on the funding amounts. All 22 Judicial Districts receive funding from at least one of the CVS funding sources, and this distribution is tracked during the funding process.

7. Description of how the State will give priority to areas of varying geographic size with the greatest showing of need based on the availability of existing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking programs. (34 U.S.C. 10446(e)(2)(A) and (i)(2)(F); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(d)(1))

The OVP continually solicits feedback from providers across the state to help establish funding priorities based on what programs and victims say they need. This information is used to update the Funding Philosophy (Attachment) to help guide the CVS Advisory Board in funding decisions.

Applicants provide information on the need in their communities, which includes the availability of services and unique geographic challenges. Additionally, the review criteria in the funding process includes location; therefore, the CVS Advisory Board specifically considers the distribution of services across the state to ensure direct victim services exist throughout the state.

Because the OVP uses a consolidated funding process, we are able to more effectively distribute STOP VAWA and other grant funds more equitably. Each of Colorado's 22 Judicial Districts receives either federal STOP VAWA or federal VOCA funds. For CY21/22 awards, eight of the 22 Judicial Districts and five projects that provide services from which the entire state benefits, received STOP VAWA funds.

8. Description of how the State will equitably distribute monies on a geographic basis including nonurban and rural areas of various geographic sizes. (34 U.S.C. 10446 (e)(2)(C) and (i)(2)(F); 28 C.F.R. 90.12(d)(3))

STOP VAWA funds are awarded to a variety of judicial districts around the state, including our highly populated metropolitan areas, and rural areas where services are limited and where populations are much smaller than in the metropolitan areas of the state. See Section II.A for information regarding the urban and rural populations in Colorado. The CVS Advisory Board factors this information regarding location, geography and population density into funding recommendations. CVS funds consistently fund programs that are the only service provider in a region. Additionally, because much of the state is considered rural, STOP funds are utilized to fund statewide

training programs that bring expertise to rural communities that may not be able to sustain a specialized unit or population/culturally specific services.

9. Information on projects that the State plans to fund, if known. (28 C.F.R. § 90.12(g)(5))

a. Crystal Judson. (34 U.S.C. § 10441(b)(13))

- i. If the If the State plans to address the “Crystal Judson” purpose area, include narrative on providing the required training.

Colorado allows grantees to apply for any of the 20 STOP purpose areas. In the past funding cycles, no programs have been funded that address the “Crystal Judson” purpose areas. The applicants must review and acknowledge that their project addresses one of the STOP Purpose areas; therefore, any potential applicant under this purpose area is aware of the required training. If an application is received and awarded for this purpose area, the STOP Administrator would work directly with the program to ensure the training requirement is met.

- ii. If the State does not plan to use the “Crystal Judson” purpose area, include a note to this effect.

VI. Conclusion

Colorado's Implementation Plan for the use of STOP VAWA funds is based on a comprehensive process designed to meet the intent of the STOP VAWA formula grants program in the most efficient and effective manner possible given available funds, while also adhering to the funding philosophy of the greater CVS Funding Process.

Input in developing the implementation plan was provided by representatives of multiple agencies and disciplines who were a part of the Planning Committee. The plan addresses the needs and priorities established throughout the planning process, and it provides direct guidance to the CVS Advisory Board in support of funding decisions that align with these identified needs and priorities.

VII. Appendix

Attachment	Title of Document
<i>Attachment A</i>	2022 CVS Advisory Board List
<i>Attachment B</i>	Documentation of Participation Forms from Planning Committee Members
<i>Attachment C</i>	Documentation from Prosecution, Law Enforcement, Courts and Victim Services Providers
<i>Attachment D</i>	CVS Funding Priority Survey Results
<i>Attachment E</i>	CVS Funding Philosophy