

STATE OF COLORADO
THREE-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
2014, 2015 AND 2016

S.T.O.P. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
ACT
FORMULA GRANT PROGRAM

SUBMITTED: MARCH 2014



Colorado Department of Public Safety
Division of Criminal Justice
Office for Victims Programs

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I. INTRODUCTION

The state of Colorado has developed a new three-year State Implementation Plan for 2014 - 2016. This plan follows the recommended outline of the *S.T.O.P. Formula Program Implementation Plan Checklist* that was distributed to S.T.O.P. Administrators in 2013 after the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

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 S.T.O.P. VAWA funds and is one of seven divisions within the Colorado Department of Public Safety. The seven 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 Sex Offender Management Board,
- the Office of Domestic Violence Management Board, and
- the EPIC (Evidence Based Practices Implementation for Capacity) Office.

OVP currently administers four federal formula grant programs:

- VOCA Victim Compensation
- VOCA Victim Assistance
- S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and
- Sexual Assault Services Program funds.

The OVP also administers a Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program discretionary grant from OVW. In addition, the OVP administers the State Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement (VALE) grant program. For calendar year 2014, over \$9.6 million in federal and state victim grant funds have been allocated to 159 subgrantees from the funds administered by OVP.

OVP also develops and implements standards and public policy, and monitors the local Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement and Victim Compensation Boards that operate in the twenty-two judicial districts in Colorado. Finally, OVP reviews and resolves victim complaints regarding non-compliance with the requirements of the state 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.

VAWA Implementation Plan: The 2014 – 2016 VAWA Implementation Plan was approved by the state on 3/17/14 and covers the three year time period of 2014 – 2016.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING PROCESS – *Required Element*

A. Brief description of planning process.

In Colorado, VOCA, VAWA, SASP and State VALE funds are distributed to grantees based on recommendations made by the twenty-six member Crime Victim Services Advisory Board (Attachment A) to the Colorado Department of Public Safety. This board uses a competitive application process to make its recommendations. The board is established in Colorado legislation and includes the following representatives: courts, law enforcement, prosecution, victim services, statewide domestic violence coalition, statewide sexual assault coalition, survivors of violent crimes, community members, non-metro domestic violence and sexual assault programs, statewide experts in victim issues, statewide expert in crimes against children, victim compensation, local victim assistance and law enforcement board, and post sentencing.

For previous Implementation Plans, Colorado would rely on an ad hoc subcommittee of the Crime Victim Services Advisory Board to create a needs assessment that was sent to grantees and other victim service professionals, including law enforcement, courts, prosecution, education professionals and agencies working with underserved populations. In addition to determining the needs assessment questions, the subcommittee would make recommendations for goals and objectives in the plan based on the review of the survey results.

As a result of the 2013 VAWA Reauthorization, Colorado expanded the committee that determines the needs assessment survey questions to include the additional disciplines listed in VAWA 2013 that are not represented on our Crime Victim Services Advisory Board. Although our legislatively determined board was already fairly representative of the entities listed in the Reauthorization, it did not include representatives from culturally specific populations, population specific organizations or tribal governments.

The VAWA administrator held three separate meetings with members of the VAWA Implementation Planning team. The first meeting was held on 10/18/13 with the following disciplines represented: courts, prosecutors, law enforcement, victim services, the statewide domestic violence coalition and the statewide sexual assault coalition. The second meeting was held on 11/20/13 with two representatives of population specific organizations. The planning team member representing culturally specific populations was unable to attend this meeting so input from this member was gathered on 1/7/14. The third meeting was held on 12/18/13 with two members representing the Southern Ute Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute tribe. All of the meetings, with the exception of the meeting on 10/18/13, were held via conference call.

Members of the team reviewed and revised the existing VAWA Needs Assessment Survey. Having an expanded Implementation Planning team ensured that our needs assessment survey was more comprehensive than in previous years and ensured that we asked more specific questions aimed at gathering information about services to underserved populations and about training needs at the local level.

The VAWA Needs Assessment Survey was emailed on 1/22/14 to the Office for Victims Programs mailing list and also to the Planning Team members, many of whom forwarded it to their member groups. The survey closed on 1/31/14 and a total of 74 responses were received.

On 2/7/14, the survey results were presented to the full Crime Victim Services Advisory Board who provided input on how to incorporate the results of the survey into both the plan and the goals and objectives. Consistent with the recommendation from OVW, and because our federal funds support the infrastructure of victim services in Colorado, the board decided that maintaining and strengthening victim services programs is the primary goal of the VAWA funds (and other federal funds administered by OVP).

The needs assessment survey results were emailed to the Implementation Planning Team on 2/13/14; a copy of the draft Implementation Plan was sent to the planning team on 2/21/13. Because the planning team had so much input at the beginning of the process, there were no additional comments received from the team members after they reviewed the draft plan.

B. Documentation from planning team members.

Documentation of participation in the planning process is included in Attachment B. Keep in mind that while the planning team was instrumental in creating the VAWA Needs Assessment survey and reviewing the draft plan, the participation of those providers who completed the survey was equally instrumental in developing the plan. The information they provided is what was used to identify the needs of victims in our state and the areas where we need to improve services to victims.

C. Description of how the state coordinated the state plan for Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, Victims of Crime Act and the Public Health Services Act (Rape Prevention Education), including how this implementation plan changed as a result of such coordination.

As is mentioned earlier in this document, the Office for Victims Programs administers several federal grant programs, one of which is the Victims of Crime Act funds, through a consolidated application and funding process. Consolidating the application and funding process allows the OVP to efficiently and effectively ensure that services to victims of crime are available throughout the entire state. It also allows for almost daily coordination between the VOCA and S.T.O.P. VAWA programs. The VOCA administrator was given a copy of the plan on 2/21/14.

The Office for Victims Programs works closely with the state's Domestic Violence Program (DVP), which administers FVPSA dollars, as our federal funding sources fund many of the same agencies. If there are concerns with particular agencies we often collaborate to resolve the problems. In addition, a representative from OVP serves on the funding committee that makes the FVPSA awards. For the purposes of the Implementation Plan, a copy of the plan was sent to the DVP director on 2/21/14 for input and feedback on the plan. The VAWA administrator and the DVP director plan on meeting in 2014 to further discuss collaboration efforts.

For the Rape Prevention Education (RPE) program, the Office for Victims Programs sent a copy of the plan to the director of the program on 2/21/14 for input and feedback on the plan. The Rape Prevention Education program sent a copy of their plan to the VAWA Administrator as well.

III. NEEDS AND CONTEXT

A. Colorado Demographics - Required Element

According to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau information, Colorado’s estimated population in 2013 was 5,268,367, making us the 22nd most populous state in the country. (Attachment C). This number represents a 4.8% population increase from 2010.

- Colorado’s population includes, but is not limited to, the following groups:
 1. 4.3% are African American
 2. 1.6% are American Indian or Alaska Native
 3. 3.0% are Asian
 4. 0.2% are Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander
 5. 21% are Latino
 6. 2.8% identify as two or more races
 7. 16.8% speak a language other than English in the home
 8. 11.8% are elderly (over age 65)
 9. 49.8% are female
 10. 9.8% are persons with disabilities, though 33.7% of the populations over 65 years of age are persons with disabilities. (Attachment D)

- Urban/Rural Areas (Attachment E)

Urban Areas

	CITY	POPULATION		CITY	POPULATION
<i>1</i>	Denver	634,619	<i>6</i>	Thornton	124,134
<i>2</i>	Colorado Sprgs.	431,710	<i>7</i>	Westminster	109,456
<i>3</i>	Aurora	339,331	<i>8</i>	Arvada	109,157
<i>4</i>	Fort Collins	148,167	<i>9</i>	Pueblo	107,682
<i>5</i>	Lakewood	146,064	<i>10</i>	Centennial	103,354

Rural Areas

The most rural cities in Colorado range in population from 14 – 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
<i>1</i>	San Juan	699	<i>6</i>	Cheyenne	1836
<i>2</i>	Mineral	712	<i>7</i>	Dolores	2064
<i>3</i>	Hinsdale	843	<i>8</i>	Sedgwick	2379
<i>4</i>	Jackson	1394	<i>9</i>	Costilla	3524
<i>5</i>	Kiowa	1398	<i>10</i>	Baca	3788

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 (Attachment E).

B. Underserved Populations – Required Element

- The highest concentration of Colorado’s Latino population is in the 12th judicial district, also known as the San Luis Valley, and the 3rd and 16th judicial districts – all of which are in the southern/south eastern portion of the state. Five of the six counties in the 12th judicial district are more than 40% Hispanic and one is 66% Hispanic. This is a rural part of the state and is an area that is financially under-resourced and in which geography, such as mountain passes, creates barriers or challenges to service availability.
- The highest concentration of Colorado’s Asian population is in urban areas, primarily along the I-25 corridor;
- The highest concentrations of Colorado’s Indian population are in the Denver metro area, followed by the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute reservations in the southwest corner of the state, and in the northwest corner of the state. (Attachment E)

C. Crime Statistics – Optional Element

- According to the 2012 *Crime in Colorado* report released by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, 2,055 forcible rapes were reported by Colorado law enforcement agencies in 2012; this is an 8.1% reduction over the 2011 figure. ([Attachment F](#))
- According to the 2012 *Crime in Colorado* Report, a total of 15,139 domestic violence-related incidents were investigated by Colorado law enforcement agencies, including 29 homicides, 452 forcible sexual offenses, 75 robberies, 1,973 aggravated assaults, 10,751 simple assaults, 923 intimidations, and 936 kidnappings (Attachment F).
- According to the 2012 *Domestic Violence Program Annual Report*, Colorado programs provided services to 26,619 domestic violence victims including 63,807 crisis calls and 119,017 nights of shelter. ([Attachment G](#))
- During 2012, 41 people died in domestic violence-related incidents, according to the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee which tracks and reviews direct and corollary deaths related to domestic violence ([Attachment H](#)).

D. Needs Survey - Optional Element

As mentioned above in the description of our planning process, our needs assessment survey was sent out in January 2014 to a wide variety of victim service programs, systems agencies, and agencies/organizations representing underserved populations. The survey was completed by 74 respondents. ([Attachment I](#))

The top findings of the survey were:

- Colorado does not have enough **affordable housing** for domestic violence victims.
- Colorado does not have enough **transitional housing** for domestic violence victims.
- Colorado does not have enough **civil legal services** for domestic violence victims.
- Colorado’s **law enforcement officers need training** in dual arrest issues, techniques for identifying primary aggressors and LGBTQ issues.
- There are **not enough resources** (funding/volunteers) for victim services programs.

- There are **not enough resources/services for underserved populations** by providers that understand the culture/population.
- There are **not enough specialized law enforcement officers/investigators** to work with DV, SA, Stalking and Dating Violence victims.

Other themes that emerged in the open-ended questions section of the survey are that we still have issues with maintaining SANE programs due to limited funding and maintaining an adequately trained number of SANE nurses; we need to consider more training of advocates to work with both DV and SA victims, victims need money for immediate needs such as housing deposits, food, transportation, etc.; and funding of victim services programs continues to be a significant issue.

Many of the identified issues are the same issues that have been identified in previous surveys, particularly with regard to a lack of resources for programs, transitional housing and civil legal services. Within the last two years, the Office for Victims Programs has contracted with two separate entities to study the status of transitional housing and civil legal services in Colorado because of these consistent findings in our needs assessment. Follow-up work is being done with regard to civil legal services through the Colorado Bar Association, the Denver District Attorney's Office and the University of Denver. A plan to address civil legal services in Colorado should be in place by the end of 2014. With regard to transitional housing, the Office for Victims Programs will develop a plan to address this issue with Colorado's homeless coalition and service providers, with the hope of applying for discretionary funds to help us address this issue.

These and other issues identified in the survey will be addressed through our funding of programs to maintain the infrastructure of core services to victims and through the funding of special projects – as funds are available. The board uses the results of the needs assessment survey, the implementation plan and the studies that have been conducted to make funding decisions.

IV. PLAN PRIORITIES AND APPROACHES

A. Identified Goals - *Required Element*

The goals and objectives established in this Implementation Plan reflect the needs identified in the needs assessment conducted in January 2014 and reviewed by the VAWA Implementation Planning Team, the Crime Victim Services Advisory Board, and the requirements of the 2013 VAWA Reauthorization.

Because Colorado conducts a competitive grant application process and allows applications for any of the twenty federal 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: Each funding year during 2014 – 2016, the CVS Advisory Board will review data related to the demography, geography, underserved populations and unmet needs of Colorado communities so that VAWA dollars are distributed equitably throughout the state, within the context of our consolidated funding process.

Objective B: Each funding year during 2014 – 2016, the CVS Advisory Board will review applications to ensure that they address at least one federal purpose area and one of the five categories listed in the funding philosophy. Funds will be allocated according to the federal requirements established by OVW.

Objective C: Each funding year during 2014 – 2016 the CVS Advisory Board will ensure the effective use of VAWA grant funds by requiring programs to include measurable outcomes and to demonstrate community collaboration to address domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and/or dating violence in their communities.

Objective D: Consistent with guidance from the federal Office on Violence Against Women, during the 2014 – 2016 time period, the CVS Advisory Board will support the maintenance of the victim services infrastructure for domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and/or dating violence the priority use of the victim services portion of the VAWA funds.

Goal 2: As funds are available, provide funding to special projects that address identified needs that are gathered from a variety of sources, including the needs assessment, Crime Victim Services Advisory Board members, Implementation Planning Team members, and other stakeholders.

Objective A: During the 2014 – 2016 time period, the Crime Victim Services Advisory Board and/or the Office for Victims Programs will provide funding for special projects to address the needs of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence identified by our stakeholders and that may not be met through the established funding process.

Goal 3: The Crime Victim Services Board will work to reduce the rate of domestic violence related homicides within the state of Colorado.

Objective A: During the 2014 – 2016 time period, the Crime Victim Services Advisory Board will provide funding to programs that work to identify offenders at high risk of committing homicide against their victim, such as the Denver Domestic Violence task force/coordinating committee, the Denver District Attorney's triage program and the 11th Judicial District Attorney's collaborative approach to working with high risk offenders.

Objective B: During the 2014 – 2016 time period, the S.T.O.P. VAWA Administrator will participate in the Denver Domestic Violence Task Force monthly meetings as she is able (approximately 6 meetings per year will be attended) to gather information as to how the recommendations of the task force can be applied more broadly across the state and to share this information with

the Crime Victim Services Advisory Board, which is responsible for making funding recommendations.

Objective C: During the 2014 – 2016 time period, the S.T.O.P. VAWA Administrator, along with staff from the Office for Victims Programs, will assess programs around the country that work to decrease the rate of domestic violence homicide and then determine if a special solicitation should be created to address this issue during the 2016 funding cycle in Colorado.

B. Priority Areas – Required Element

Priorities/Goals and description of projects to be supported with S.T.O.P. dollars:

Colorado will maintain its broad approach to distributing VAWA funds in that it will allow applicants to apply for funds as long as the project meets at least one of the twenty federal purpose areas and one of the five funding categories listed in the board’s funding philosophy. Colorado will not specifically set aside funds for the Crystal Judson Domestic Violence Protocol Program as we do not limit the purpose areas for which projects may apply and do not target individual purpose areas in our solicitation.

As indicated in our goals and objectives, Colorado will continue to use S.T.O.P. VAWA funds to support Colorado communities in their efforts to develop and strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat violent crimes against women and to strengthen victim services and judicial response in cases involving violent crimes against women. In addition, the CVS Advisory Board has prioritized the continued support of victim services programs for the 2014 – 2016 time periods. The services provided by these programs are primarily direct services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence victims. Other types of projects include programs for battered immigrants, underserved victims such as deaf and hard of hearing victims or victims with other disabilities, training programs for rural communities, programs providing civil legal services to victims and SANE/SART programs. Because much of our state is considered rural, the programs funded through S.T.O.P. VAWA are extremely important and in many cases are the only programs offering services in an entire region of the state.

Also during the 2014 – 2016 time periods, the CVS Advisory Board will consider funding special projects. Purpose areas may be limited if the board chooses to conduct a separate solicitation for special projects or if the state chooses to fund special projects. Based on the 2014 needs assessment survey, it is likely the focus of special projects will be around training for law enforcement on many victim-related issues (including LGBTQ issues), transitional housing, development and maintenance of SANE programs, further development of SARTs, crossover training for DV/SA victim advocates, and working with our two federally recognized tribes to identify gaps in services.

Distribution of funds:

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 be for underserved populations meeting the VAWA definition of culturally specific organization)
- 5% for courts 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.

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.

Sexual Assault Set Aside:

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 increased our funding to SANE/SART programs around the state and continue to fund specialized sexual assault prosecutors.

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA):

Colorado does not anticipate being in compliance with the PREA standards by FFY 2014; as such we anticipate using 5% of our funds (4.75% of eligible categories) for PREA purposes. Representatives from the Office for Victims Programs (including the VAWA and VOCA Administrators and the unit manager) have been in contact with officials from the Colorado Department of Corrections, Division of Youth Corrections and Community Corrections (this program is a part of the same state department that oversees the S.T.O.P. funds). As of the writing of this implementation plan, none of the corrections entities is ready to submit an application for PREA purposes. This means that any funding of a PREA project with S.T.O.P. VAWA funds will likely take place outside of our regular funding process. If an eligible project proposal is not received from the corrections departments, Colorado will return the 5% of funds allocated for PREA purposes to the Office on Violence Against Women, though we anticipate a proposal will be submitted sometime during calendar year 2014 or 2015.

Documentation from Prosecution, Law Enforcement, Courts and Victim Services:

Documentation from these entities is included in Appendix N.

C. Grant-Making Strategy- *Required Element*

1. *Crime Victim Services Advisory Board:*

The Crime Victim Services Advisory Board is established in legislation and is charged with reviewing applications for funding for Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funds, Sexual Assault Services Program funds (SASP) and Colorado's State Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement funds (State VALE). After reviewing applications, the CVS Advisory Board makes funding recommendations to the Director of the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice and the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety (CDPS). Members of Colorado's Crime Victim Services Advisory Board include 17 statutory members and 9 CDPS executive appointments, many of whom represent the disciplines referenced in the federal VAWA legislation (Attachment A).

- 2. *Solicitation/Grant Process and Equitable Geographic Distribution of funds:*** In January 2014, the Crime Victim Services Advisory Board distributed a widespread announcement (solicitation) for grant applications which elicited many applications from each of the targeted disciplines. The announcement, (Attachment J) describes the competitive application process and also that grant awards would be made for a two-year period of time: calendar years 2015 and 2016. The only exception to the competitive process is for the courts portion of the S.T.O.P. funds; the 5% allocated for the courts are distributed to the state judicial department as a pass-through grant. The judicial department must still complete an application that is reviewed by staff and the Crime Victim Services Advisory Board to ensure the proposed project meets all VAWA eligibility requirements.

All applications are reviewed by staff and by the CVS Advisory within the context of the Board's funding philosophy (Attachment K). A subcommittee process is used by the board and each of the five subcommittees of the board conducts an in-depth review of between 30 - 35 applications. Each subcommittee comes to the full board meeting to make its recommendations and then the full board discusses each application before voting on a funding recommendation.

The distribution of the solicitation and the grant review process result in funding recommendations that are sent to the Director of the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice and the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety for approval or revision. In addition to the Advisory Board's funding philosophy, the Board reviews applications and makes funding recommendations while considering the following elements:

- Federal Purpose Areas – Subgrants supported with 2014 – 2016 funds must meet one or more of the 20 federal purpose areas;
- State funding categories;
- This Implementation Plan;
- The perceived and expressed need for the proposed services;
- The degree to which the proposed services will address the needs of underserved populations;
- The availability of services throughout the state.

As is clear from the funding philosophy, the CVS Advisory Board places a high priority on considering **areas of varying geographic size with the greatest showing of need based on the availability of existing programs, the geographic area to be served and the administrative capacity of the program.**

In addition, because the Office for Victims Programs uses a consolidated funding process, we are able to more effectively distribute the S.T.O.P. VAWA and all other grant funds more equitably. Each of Colorado's 22 judicial districts receives either federal S.T.O.P. VAWA or federal VOCA funds. For calendar year 2014, 13 of the 22 judicial districts and 3 projects that provide services from which the entire state benefits, received VAWA funds. Analysis of our distribution of the VAWA funds for calendar year 2014 indicates that in most instances the rural, underserved areas of the state where services are more limited received a higher percentage of funds than the percentage of population in those areas. For instance, the 3rd judicial district has just 0.4% of the state's population, but VAWA provides funds to that district equaling 5% of the funds. The same is true for the other rural districts in the state that received funds (Attachment L).

- 3. *Determining the Amount of Subgrants Based on Population and Geographic Area:*** As described earlier in this Plan, Colorado conducts a competitive application process for awarding S.T.O.P. and other federal and state funds managed by the Office for Victims Programs at the Division of Criminal Justice. The Crime Victim Services Advisory Board makes funding recommendations to the Division of Criminal Justice that are approved by the Executive Director. When the actual contracts are being written, staff decides which funds will be awarded to which agencies, usually based on which funding sources can fund particular activities. For instance, if the board awarded funds to a district attorney's office to pay for a specialized sexual assault prosecutor, the grant would have to be funded by S.T.O.P. VAWA because prosecution would not be an eligible expense under any of the other funding sources.

As mentioned in the previous section, S.T.O.P. VAWA funds are awarded to a variety of 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.

- 4. *Timeline/Multiple Year Funding of Subgrants (Attachment M):*** Colorado conducts its competitive funding process every two years, which means when applicants apply for funds, they are awarded grants for a two year period. Our most recent solicitation was released in January 2014 for calendar year 2015 and 2016 funding. The Crime Victim Services Advisory Board meets annually, usually in February. In years when Colorado conducts their competitive application process, the focus of the board meeting is on the upcoming funding process. In years when there is no funding process, the Crime Victim Services 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 the VAWA Needs Assessment, Implementation Plan and from other sources and to set priorities for the next funding process.

During funding years, the solicitation is distributed in the winter and applications are due six weeks after the announcement is released. Application workshops are conducted throughout the state to provide technical assistance to applicants on the VAWA requirements, state priorities and on the application requirements. In addition, applicants can also attend application workshops by webinar and can contact grant managers at OVP individually to get their questions answered. Once received, applications are reviewed by staff and Board subcommittees in the spring/summer. In 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.

5. **Consultation:** During grant application workshops for applicants, the consultation requirement is discussed. As part of the application process, systems agencies are required to answer a question on the application as to their consultation process and partners. This requirement is also included as a special condition/program specific requirement in the agency's contract.

B. Addressing the Needs of Underserved Victims - Required Element

1. **Description of how state will recognize and address needs of underserved populations:** Input regarding the identification and needs of underserved victims is obtained in a variety of ways. First, representatives of underserved populations and agencies that work with underserved populations were a part of the planning process. Secondly, information about underserved populations was incorporated into the needs assessment survey that was sent to victim services and systems representatives around the state. Thirdly, information about underserved populations is received from applicants who are required in their application to identify diverse and underserved populations in their area, and to describe their agency's plan to address those needs. Colorado will address the needs of underserved populations by providing funding to agencies that serve underserved populations. These include populations such as battered immigrants, Hispanic victims, deaf and disabled victims, rural victims, and LGBT populations.
2. **Specifics on how Colorado will meet the set aside for culturally specific community based organizations:** Because Colorado's S.T.O.P. VAWA funds are distributed using a competitive application process in conjunction with VOCA, SASP and our state VALE funds, we receive requests for funding from over 170 agencies during each funding cycle from a wide variety of agencies. We will meet the set aside for culturally specific community based organizations by making sure that organizations that apply for funds and meet the definition of culturally specific community based organization are funded through S.T.O.P. The Office for Victims Programs, which manages all of these funding sources, currently funds several organizations that meet the VAWA 2013 definition of culturally specific community based organization.

3. ***A description of how Colorado will ensure that monies set aside to fund culturally specific services and activities for underserved populations are distributed equitably among those populations:*** As mentioned in earlier sections of the plan, Colorado's competitive application process elicits applications from a wide variety of agencies serving a wide variety of victims, including underserved victims that meet the VAWA definition of culturally specific. All of the funds awarded during the competitive process are distributed as equitably as possible through our 26-member board representing multiple disciplines and victims and multiple areas of the state. Programs in all twenty-two of our judicial districts receive funding from S.T.O.P. VAWA or one of the other sources of funding administered through our office.

4. ***Specific information as to which subgrantees meet the required 10% set aside for culturally specific organizations within the victim services allocation (if known):*** The announcement for S.T.O.P. VAWA funds was issued in January 2014 and applications were due February 26, 2014. The review of applications by the Crime Victim Services Advisory Board members will be completed in June 2014 and preliminary funding decisions will be made in August 2014. We will know at that time what agencies were funded that meet the culturally specific definition.

V. **CONCLUSION**

Colorado's Implementation Plan for the use of S.T.O.P. VAWA funds is based on a comprehensive process designed to address, in the most efficient and effective manner possible given the funds available, this state's ability to carry out the intent of the S.T.O.P. VAWA formula grants program.

Input in developing the implementation plan was provided by representatives of multiple agencies and disciplines who were a part of the planning team and/or the Crime Victim Services Advisory Board and from providers serving crime victims around the state through our needs assessment. Before final approval, this plan was reviewed by the Planning Team, the VOCA Administrator in the Office for Victims Programs, the FVPSA program, and the Public Health Services Act program (aka the Rape Prevention Education program).

VI. APPENDIX

Attachment	Title of Document
<i>Attachment A</i>	Crime Victim Services Advisory Board member list
<i>Attachment B</i>	Documentation of Collaboration Forms from Planning Committee Members
<i>Attachment C</i>	Colorado Population Ranking
<i>Attachment D</i>	Colorado Population Data by County/Race; Population over 65; Male/Female Population
<i>Attachment E</i>	Population Density Map, Population by Municipality, Hispanic Population
<i>Attachment F</i>	Colorado Bureau of Investigation 2012 Crime Statistics
<i>Attachment G</i>	Domestic Violence Program 2012 Statistics
<i>Attachment H</i>	Domestic Violence Fatality Review Report for 2012
<i>Attachment I</i>	2014 VAWA Needs Assessment Survey & Results
<i>Attachment J</i>	2014 CVS Announcement of Availability of Funds
<i>Attachment K</i>	Crime Victim Services Advisory Board's Funding Philosophy
<i>Attachment L</i>	Funding Distribution Map & Chart for Calendar Year 2014 STOP grants
<i>Attachment M</i>	FFY 2014 STOP Funds Timeline (for Calendar Year 2015 & 2016 Funding)
<i>Attachment N</i>	Documentation from Prosecution, Law Enforcement, Courts and Victim Services Programs