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Use of Violence Against Women Act STOP Funds for Courts

Results of a Survey to State Court Administrators

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Prepared for

CONFERENCE OF COSCA STATE COURT ADMINISTRATORS

Highlights

In December 2008, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) surveyed state court administrators to determine how Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) STOP funds were being allocated and used by the courts. Under the STOP block grant program, each state and territory must allocate at least five percent of the state STOP monies to court-based programs or initiatives. This report is based on survey responses from state court administrators from 29 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam. Three key findings are highlighted below.

1. **A domestic violence point of contact at the administrative office of the courts (AOC) is a popular means to ensure that STOP funds are allocated appropriately and used by the courts in an effective manner.**

The vast majority of respondents (22 of 31) indicated that they had a designated point person in the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) on family violence issues. The point of contact was particularly effective in identifying statewide projects for funding, developing budgets based on the allocation formula, procuring additional funding for court-based programs, representing the courts on multidisciplinary advisory committees, and managing and reporting STOP subgrant activities. The point of contact was also integral to the prioritization of violence against women issues in the judicial branch.

2. **The role of the AOC has a clear impact on the courts' perception of the effectiveness of the STOP set-aside program.**

Generally, the allocation and use of the STOP funds for the courts get high marks: 23 of 30 respondents (77 percent) felt that the state's current mechanisms for the distribution of STOP grants were effective. But there was a marked difference in the perception of the effectiveness of the distribution of funds according to the role of the AOC in the STOP grant program. Five of six AOCs with no role in the STOP distribution process deemed the current mechanism for distribution of the STOP set-aside for courts was **ineffective**. This is in contrast to nearly all (21 of 23) of the AOCs with some role in the STOP set-aside program who find the distribution mechanism to be **effective** in meeting the needs of the courts.

3. **Judicial and court staff training are the most common usage of STOP funds and the areas in greatest need of technical assistance.**

STOP funds were used for training for judges and judicial officials in 20 of the 31 responding states. Other common uses of STOP funds included training for court staff, and the review/assessment of policies and procedures. The greatest needs in the area of technical assistance were in training for judges and judicial officials, training for court staff, technology acquisition, and developing judicial resource guides, such as "benchbooks".

Survey Background

The STOP (Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Formula Grants Program is a formula grant program to states to develop and strengthen the justice system's response to violence against women and to support and enhance services for victims. Under the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, each state and territory must allocate at least five percent of the state STOP monies to court-based programs or initiatives.

In December 2008, NCSC surveyed state court administrators through the COSCA listserv to determine how these funds were being used (see Appendix A for the printed survey). The COSCA listserv is comprised of state court administrators from the 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and five territories (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands). Thirty-one responses were received, for a response rate of 55 percent (see Appendix B for a list of respondents).

AOC Points of Contact

> *The presence of an AOC point of contact is a vital component in ensuring that the needs of the courts are met, that a statewide perspective is considered, that the funds are distributed equitably, that the quality of the education and technical assistance is supported, that minimum standards are followed, and that issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking are given priority in the judicial branch.*
>
> —California

The vast majority of state respondents (22 of 31) indicated that they had a designated point person in the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) on family violence issues. Individuals who serve in this capacity are identified in Appendix D. In many cases, the point of contact is not a formal designation, but rather, has been informally assigned to AOC staff with interests and/or expertise in the subject matter.

Exhibit 1 provides a geographic map of the points of contact.[1] The 9 responding states that did not have a point of contact of the time of the survey include Alabama, Delaware, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, South Dakota, Texas, and Washington. Four of those states—Maine, Michigan, Texas, and Washington—have plans to add a point of contact in their offices within the next two years.

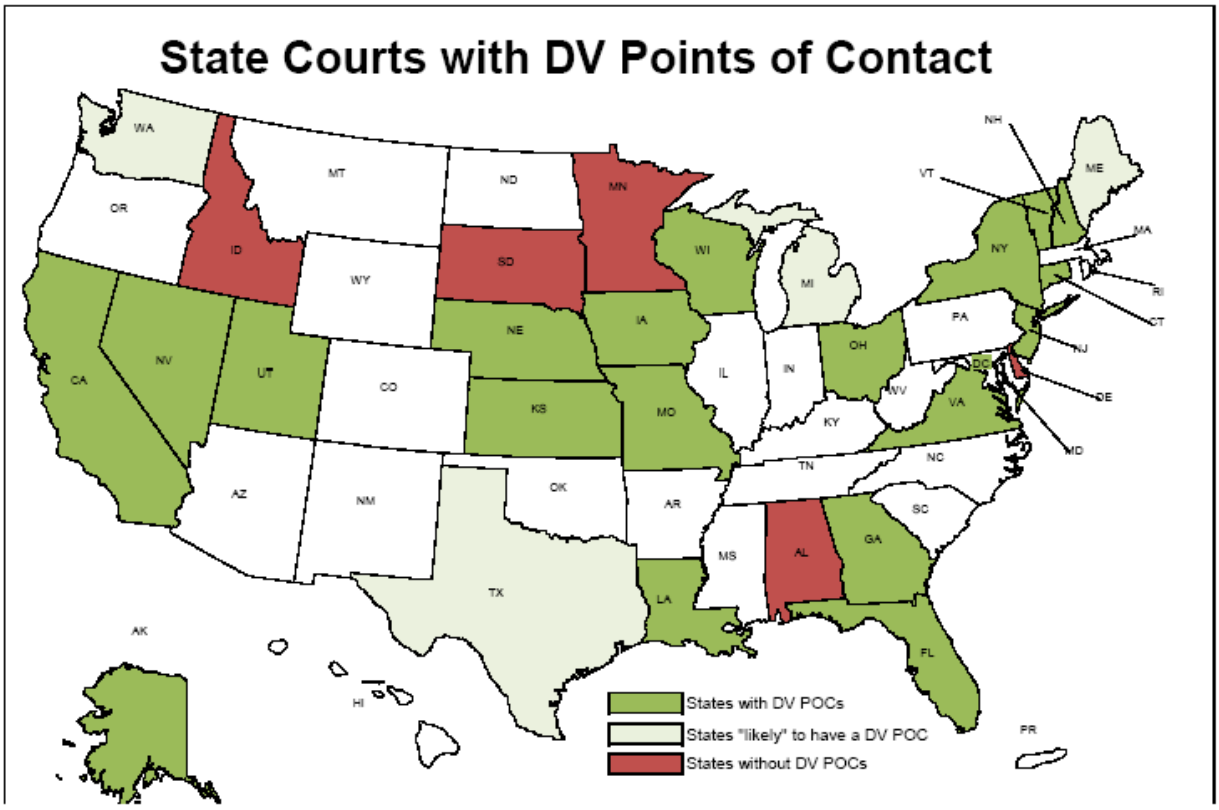
Those states and territories that have an AOC domestic violence point of contact were asked to describe how the presence of an AOC point of contact affects the distribution of STOP funds and the allocation of grant funds to the courts. Generally, the point of contact was particularly effective in the following areas:

- Identifying statewide projects for funding and developing a budget based on the allocation (Alaska, Florida, New York)

[1] Guam is the only territory to have responded to the survey. They have a Domestic Violence point of contact; however, Guam is not depicted on the map.

- Procuring additional funding to develop and implement programs for the courts (Iowa)
- Representing the courts on various boards and STOP advisory committees (Nebraska, New Jersey, Ohio, Utah, Vermont, Wisconsin)
- Managing and reporting STOP subgrant activities and developing utilization plans (New Hampshire, Wisconsin).

Exhibit 1: Distribution of STOP Funds for Courts



Allocation of STOP Funds for the Courts

Respondents were asked to identify how STOP grants are awarded to the AOC and individual courts. Three response categories were offered: (1) Grants are distributed to courts based on an allocation formula, (2) Grants are awarded through a competitive proposal process, and (3) Specific courts are designated STOP grantees based on some criteria other than competitive bidding. Respondents were also asked to comment on other ways in which the STOP grants were allocated to the courts. A handful of states noted more than one allocation mechanism.

The two most common means of allocation of funds were through a competitive proposal process and an allocation formula. In addition, five states noted that funds do not go directly to the courts (Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, and South Carolina). Respondents from four states (Alaska, California, District of Columbia, and Idaho) reported that funds go directly to the AOC, which then allocates the funds according to priorities and STOP requirements. The final tally is show in Exhibit 2.

Exhibit 2: Allocation of STOP Funds for Courts

	Number	Percentage
Competitive Proposal Process	12	39%
Allocation Formula	10	32%
Funds do not go Directly to Courts	5	16%
Funds go Directly to AOC	4	13%
Specific Courts Designated as Grantees	2	6%

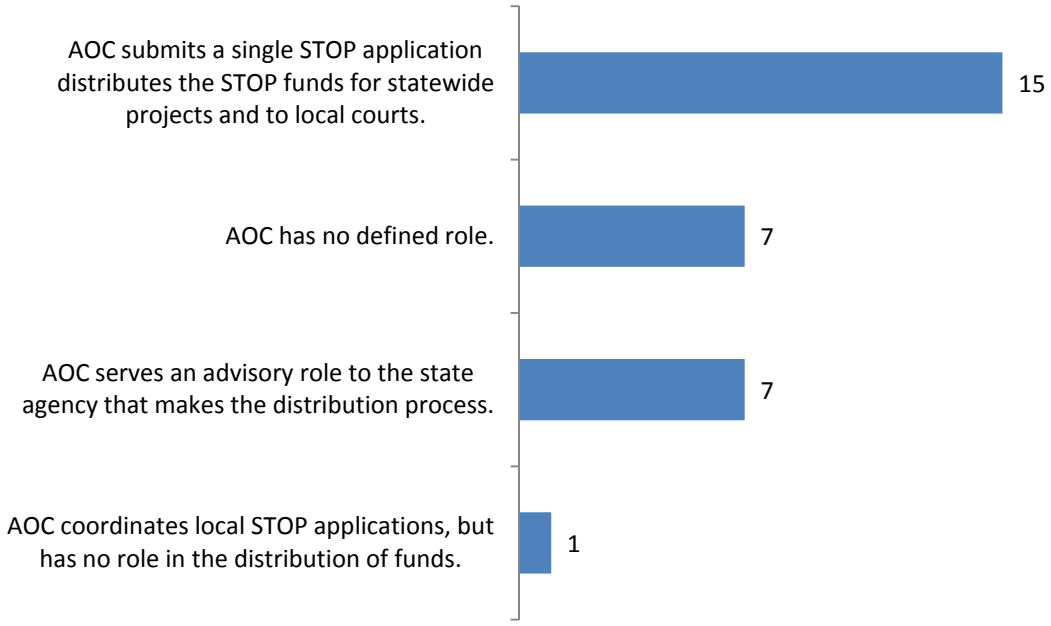
Respondents could select more than one category. The sum is greater than 100 percent.

Respondents were then asked if they were receiving all of the 5 percent set-aide designated for the courts. Approximately two of every three respondents (20 of 31) verified that the courts were receiving the 5 percent set-aside. Six states were not sure (Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin) and five states indicated they were not receiving the entire set-aside (Michigan, Missouri, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia). Among some of the issues noted by those who do not receive the full 5 percent set-aside: the state funding agency does not accept applications from the court, the state funding agency has a broad interpretation of "court" to include such entities as Legal Aid, and the lack of applications from individual courts.

Role of the AOC

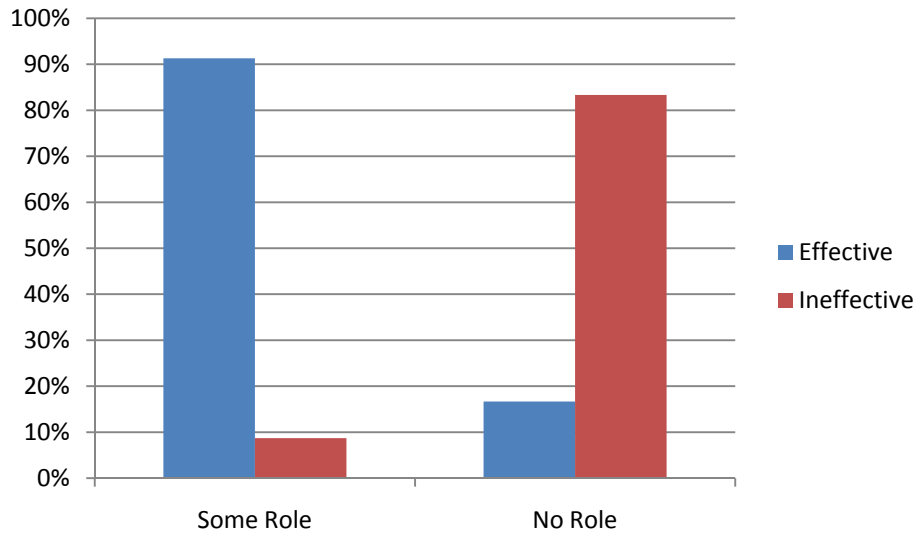
The role of the AOC in STOP grant distribution and the identification of court needs and priorities was the subject of a survey item. Results from thirty respondents are displayed in Exhibit 3. In half of the responding states, the AOC submits a single STOP application for the courts and distributes the STOP funds for statewide projects and to local courts. In seven states, the AOC primarily serves in an advisory capacity to the state funding agency in charge of the distribution process. The AOC plays no role in the distribution of STOP funds and the identification of court needs in seven states.

Exhibit 3: AOC's Role in STOP Grant Distributions and Identification of Needs



The role of the AOC has a clear impact on the courts' perception of the effectiveness of the STOP set-aside program. Generally, the allocation and use of the STOP funds for the courts get high marks: 23 of 30 respondents (77 percent) felt that the state's current mechanism for distribution of STOP grants was effective. But as Exhibit 4 demonstrates, there was a marked difference in the perception of the effectiveness of the distribution of funds according to the role of the AOC in the STOP grant program. Five of six AOCs with no role in the STOP distribution process deemed the current mechanism for distribution of the STOP set-aside for courts was **ineffective**. This is in contrast to nearly all (21 of 23) of the AOCs with some role in the STOP set-aside program who find the distribution mechanism to be **effective** in meeting the needs of the courts. Furthermore, the AOCs that do not have a role in the distribution of the STOP set-aside are less likely to have domestic violence points of contact (4 of 7 or 57 percent have a point of contact) when compared to the AOCs that play a more significant role in the STOP set-aside (17 of 23 or 74 percent have a point of contact).

Exhibit 4: Relationship between the Role of the AOC and Perceptions of Effectiveness of the Distribution of STOP Funds



The percentage is based on 23 AOCs that have some role in the STOP process and 6 AOCs that have no role in the STOP process.

AOC Level of Interest

Respondents were asked for their level of interest in working with STOP coordinating agencies to distribute the 5 percent set-aside for courts. Results are shown in Exhibit 5. The vast majority of respondents (26 of 31 or 84 percent) were either "very interested" or "interested" in working with STOP coordinating agencies. The five remaining respondents were neutral to the idea.

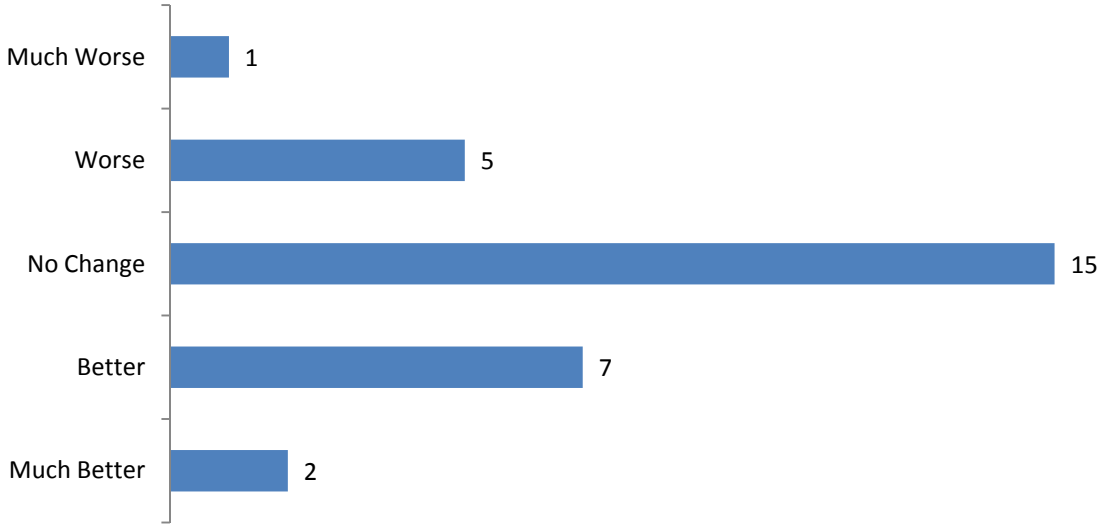
Exhibit 5: AOC Level of Interest in Working with STOP Coordinating Agencies to Distribute the 5 Percent Set-Aside for Courts

	Number	Percentage
Very Interested	21	68%
Interested	5	16%
Neutral	5	16%
Uninterested	0	0%
Very Uninterested	0	0%

Changes in the Funding Process

A two-part survey item explored how the funding process for the 5 percent STOP set-aside for the courts had changed over the last five years, with a follow-up question inquiring about why such changes may have occurred. As Exhibit 6 shows, the funding process has not changed for half of the respondents (15 of 30). For 6 respondents, the process has changed for the worse; while the process has changed for the better for 9 respondents.

Exhibit 6: Perceptions of Changes in the Funding Process for the STOP Program Court Set-Aside



For those AOCs that perceived the process as "worse" today than it was five years ago, the most frequent concern was the loss of funds available to the courts, rather than the process itself. In fact, the federal government has decreased the amount of monies available for the STOP grant program to states. The courts 5 percent share has dwindled in step. When reviewing other factors that have influenced perceptions in the funding process, there are two factors that impact both positive and negative changes: (1) the application process, and (2) communication. The table in Exhibit 7 outlines the ways in which these factors impact perceptions of change. Additionally, AOCs with a point of contact were more likely to note improvements in communication as a result of that designated position.

Exhibit 7: Factors that Influence Perceptions of Change

	Funding Process has Improved	Funding Process has Worsened
Application Process	The application process has become more streamlined with clear expectations from the courts.	The application process has become confusing and there has been some inconsistency over time.
Communication	There is a good working relationship between the STOP funding agency and the AOC; priority-setting is a joint activity.	The AOC has little to any role in the process and unilateral decisions have been made without consideration of court needs and priorities.

Respondents were asked to identify specific strategies that the AOCs have used to effectively advance the allocation of STOP funds to the courts. Three strategies are particularly promising:

1. The documentation of court needs and outcomes through data can be a convincing argument in procuring the STOP set-aside. For example, Alabama has improved their collection of electronic data and have been able to advance their causes by demonstrating basic caseload information and court needs. The data component is also critical to providing evidence that those programs that have been funded have had the desired impact.
2. Court planning committees can help the AOC identify and promote court needs to the funding agency. In Connecticut, the AOC established a planning team to work collaboratively with the funding agency. Wisconsin uses a court advisory committee to prioritize ways to use the STOP funding.
3. A number of AOCs have emphasized the need for collaboration with other agencies and entities to create an environment based on trust. In Iowa, the AOC, through their domestic violence point of contact, has built strong relationships with criminal justice agencies and service providers "so that there is no question that the courts should have the money and there is broad trust in the courts to use the money innovatively and wisely." The Nebraska AOC's point of contact participates regularly in multidisciplinary meetings and collaborations, and by doing so, assures court-related priorities will be addressed.

Use of STOP Funds and Ongoing Needs

The state courts use STOP funds for a variety of purposes. Rankings for the most popular use of funds are displayed in Exhibit 8. STOP funds were used for training for judges and judicial officials in 20 of the 31 responding states. This was followed by training for court staff, and the review/assessment of policies and procedures.

Exhibit 8: Use of STOP Funds for State Courts

	No. of States	Percentage
Training for judges and/or judicial officers	20	65
Training for court staff	14	45
Review/assessment of policies and procedures	10	32
Hiring court staff (e.g., clerks, coordinators, judicial officials)	8	26
Supporting court participation in coordinated community responses	8	26
Supporting programs for victims (e.g., advocacy programs, visitation centers)	8	26
Technology acquisition and/or data collection (e.g., protection order registries)	8	26
Developing judicial resource guides (e.g., "benchbooks")	7	23
Supporting problem-solving courts or dockets (e.g., domestic violence courts)	7	23
Funding an AOC point of contact	4	13
Supporting pre-trial services	2	6

Respondents could check more than one activity; the percentage exceeds 100 percent.

Respondents were asked to identify their current needs in terms of technical assistance in regard to the STOP program. Responses were scaled, with "3" representing a "high need" and a "0" representing no need. Results, shown in Exhibit 9, suggest that the greatest needs for technical assistance are training for judges and judicial officials, training for court staff, technology acquisition, and developing judicial resource guides (or "benchbooks"). Items that ranked lower on the scale include establishing pre-trial services and establishing an AOC domestic violence point of contact. Given the high number of respondents that have already established a point of contact, the relatively low score assigned to this item was anticipated.

Exhibit 9: Courts' Needs in Technical Assistance

Training for judges and judicial officers	2.3
Training for court staff	2.2
Technology acquisition and/or data collection	2.0
Developing judicial resource guides ("benchbooks")	2.0
Involving courts in community responses	1.9
Addressing security issues	1.9
Creating policies and procedures	1.7
Developing specialized courts or dockets	1.6
Developing offender-based programs	1.6
Developing victim advocacy programs	1.4
Establishing pre-trial services	1.2
Establishing an AOC point of contact on violence against women issues	1.2

Scores are ranked on a scale of 0 to 3, with a 3 referring to "high need" and a 0 as "low need."

Exemplary Court-Based Programs

Finally, respondents were asked to identify STOP-funded projects in their states/territories that appear to be exemplary. Specific contributions can be found in Appendix E. Generally, promising practices fell into the following categories:

1. **Training Programs**
    a. Domestic Violence Institute (California)
    b. Development of an interactive web-based training program for judges and court staff (Florida)
    c. Web-based simulation trainings (Iowa)
    d. Domestic violence summits (Washington)
    e. In-state training on domestic violence (Wisconsin)
2. **Protection Order Registries**
    a. Louisiana Protective Order Registry
    b. Court information system upgrades for protection order cases (Maine)
    c. Development of the Domestic Violence Central Registry (New Jersey)
3. **Problem-Solving/Coordinated Approaches**
    a. Domestic Violence Intake Center (District of Columbia)
    b. Domestic Violence Court (Kansas)
    c. Integrated Domestic Violence Courts and Youthful Offender Domestic Violence Courts (New York)
    d. Dual-diagnosis court that serves domestic violence victims with mental health issues (Washington)
4. **Judicial Resources**
    a. Benchbooks on the Adjudication of Sex Crimes and the Judges Guide to Domestic Violence (California)
    b. Domestic Violence Protocols (New Hampshire)

Appendix A

The STOP Set-Aside for Courts, 2008

Introduction

The STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grants Program funds states in the devlopment and strengthening of the justice system's response to violence against women, sexual assault, and stalking. Each state and territory must allocate at least 5 percent of the state's STOP allocation to courts. NCSC and COSCA have partnered to update a 2003 survey of court administrators in regard to the 5 percent set-aside for courts. We ask that you, or your designee, commit some time to respond to the survey. We will provide you with a summary based on our compilation of results. Due to the urgency of an upcoming conference with state STOP coordinators, we ask that you complete the survey no later than Tuesday, January 6. For questions and comments, please contact the project director, Brenda Uekert, at buekert@ncsc.org or 757-259-1861.

1. Please provide contact information

Name:

Title:

Telephone:

Email:

2. For which state or territory are you employed?

-- None --

AOC Point of Contact

3. Does your state AOC have a designated point of contact on family violence issues?

Yes No Not sure

AOC Point of Contact

4. In general, how does the presence of an AOC point of contact affect the distribution of STOP funds and the allocation of grant funds to the courts?

AOC Point of Contact

5. Please provide contact information for the AOC's family violence point of contact. If you are the point of contact, just note "same as above" after Name.

Name:

Telephone:

Email:

AOC Point of Contact

6. How likely is your state AOC to have a designated point of contact on violence against women issues in the next two years?

☐ Very Likely ☐ Likely ☐ Neutral ☐ Unlikely ☐ Very Unlikely

Allocation of STOP Funds for the Courts

This section of the survey explores the way in which courts receive STOP funds through the state administering agency.

7. How are STOP grants awarded to the AOC and individual courts? Please check all that apply.

☐ Grants are distributed to courts based on an allocation formula.

☐ Grants are awarded through a competetive proposal process.

☐ Specific courts are designated STOP grantees based on some criteria other than competitve biddng.

☐ Other, please specify

Allocation of STOP Funds for the Courts

8. Are the courts receiving all of the 5 percent set-aside designated for the courts in your state?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

Allocation of STOP Funds for the Courts

9. Approximately what percentage of the STOP funds are currently being allocated to the courts in your state?

-- None --

Allocation of STOP Funds for the Courts

10. What seems to account for the variance between the STOP funds actually RECEIVED by the courts and the 5 percent EXPECTED by the courts?

Allocation of STOP Funds for the Courts

11. What is the AOC's role in STOP grant distributions and the identification of court needs and priorities?
Please select the most pertinent role.

- ☐ The AOC submits a single STOP application for the courts and distributesd the STOP funds for statewide projects and to local courts.
- ☐ The AOC coordinates the local STOP applications, but has no role in the distribution of funds.
- ☐ The AOC serves an advisory role to the state agency that makes the distribution decisions.
- ☐ The AOC has no defined role.
- ☐ Other, please specify

12. How effective is the state's current mechanism for distribution of STOP grants in serving the needs of the courts?

- ☐ Very Effective
- ☐ Effective
- ☐ Ineffective
- ☐ Very Ineffective

Allocation of STOP Funds for the Courts

13. What is the AOC's current level of interest in working with STOP coordinating agencies to distribute the 5 percent set-aside for courts?

- ☐ Very Interested
- ☐ Interested
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Uninterested
- ☐ Very Uninterested

Allocation of STOP Funds for the Courts

14. Over the last five years, how has the funding process for the 5 percent STOP set aside for the courts changed?

- ☐ Much Better
- ☐ Better
- ☐ No Change
- ☐ Worse
- ☐ Much Worse

Allocation of STOP Funds for the Courts

15. What do you think accounts for this change in the funding process? Please be specific.

Allocation of STOP Funds for the Courts

16. What specific strategies, if any, has the AOC used effectively to advance the allocation of STOP funds to the courts?

Current Use of STOP Funds and Ongoing Needs

This section explores the courts' current use of STOP funds to address violence against women issues and inquires about current needs.

17. Generally, how are the VAWA funds used by the state courts in your state? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Training for judges and/or judicial officers
- ☐ Training for court staff
- ☐ Supporting problem-solving courts or dockets (e.g., domestic violence courts)
- ☐ Supporting programs for victims (e.g., advocacy programs, visitation centers)
- ☐ Supporting programs for offenders (e.g., batterer intervention programs)
- ☐ Supporting pre-trial services
- ☐ Technology acquisition and/or data collection (e.g., protection order registries)
- ☐ Review/assessment of policies and procedures
- ☐ Hiring court staff (e.g., clerks, coordinators, judicial officials)
- ☐ Funding an AOC state point of contact position
- ☐ Supporting court participation in coordinated community responses
- ☐ Developing judicial resource guides (e.g., "benchbooks")
- ☐ Other, please specify _____

18. Do you have any exemplary court-based programs funded through STOP funds that you would like to share?

Current Use of STOP Funds and Ongoing Needs

19. What are the courts' current needs in terms of technical assistance in regard to the STOP program?

	High need	Medium need	Low need	No need
Training for judges and judicial officials	☐	☐	☐	☐
Training for court staff	☐	☐	☐	☐
Developing specialized courts or dockets	☐	☐	☐	☐
Addressing security issues	☐	☐	☐	☐
Developing victim advocacy programs	☐	☐	☐	☐
Developing offender-based programs	☐	☐	☐	☐
Establishing pre-trial services	☐	☐	☐	☐
Technology acquisition and/or data collection	☐	☐	☐	☐
Creating policies and procedures	☐	☐	☐	☐
Involving courts in coordinated community responses	☐	☐	☐	☐
Developing judicial resource guides ("benchbooks")	☐	☐	☐	☐
Establishing an AOC point of contact on violence against women issues	☐	☐	☐	☐
	High need	Medium need	Low need	No need

20. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?

Appendix B

Responding States and Territories

Alabama
Alaska
California
Connecticut
Delaware
District of Columbia
Florida
Georgia
Guam
Idaho
Iowa
Kansas
Louisiana
Maine
Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
Nebraska
Nevada
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York
Ohio
South Carolina
South Dakota
Texas
Utah
Vermont
Virginia
Washington
Wisconsin

Appendix C

Responding States and Territories with Points of Contact in the AOC on Domestic Violence Issues

Alaska
California
Connecticut
District of Columbia
Florida
Georgia
Guam
Iowa
Kansas
Louisiana
Missouri
Nebraska
Nevada
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York
Ohio
South Carolina
Utah
Vermont
Virginia
Wisconsin

Appendix D

VAW Points of Contact

State	VAW Point of Contact
Alaska	Susanne DiPietro Judicial Education Coordinator 907-264-0785 sdipietro@courts.state.ak.us
California	Bobbie Welling Supervising Attorney Administrative Office of the Courts 415-865-7822 bobbie.welling@jud.ca.gov
Connecticut	Linda Cimino, Director, Office of Victim Services 860-263-2760 linda.cimino@jud.ct.gov
District of Columbia	Cheryl Bailey Deputy Executive Officer 202-879-1434 cheryl.bailey@dcsc.gov
Florida	Natalie Miller 850-617-4005 grandalj@flcourts.org
Georgia	Eden Freeman Assistant Director Grants and Project Management 404-463-0043 freemane@gaaoc.us
Guam	Perry C. Taitano Administrator of the Court (671) 475-3544 ptaitano@mail.justice.gov.gu

Iowa	Becky Kinnamon 515-725-8045 becky.kinnamon@iowacourts.gov
Kansas	Mark Gleeson Family and Children Program Coordinator 785-290-3224 gleeson@kscourts.org
Louisiana	Patsy Taylor Director, La. Protective Order Registry Judicial Administrator 504-568-5208 (desk) or 985-974-6401 (cell) ptaylor@lajao.org
Missouri	Norma Rahm Family Court Program Manager 573-526-8854 norma.rahm@courts.mo.gov
Nebraska	Toni Ahrendt Domestic Violence Programs Service Specialist 402-471-2125 toni.ahrendt@nebraska.gov
Nevada	Sheila MacDonald/John McCormick 775-687-9808/775-687-9813 smacdonald@nvcourts.nv.gov or jmccormick@hotmail.com
New Hampshire	Betsy Paine Domestic Violence Specialist 603-735-4467 epaine@courts.state.nh.us
New Jersey	Harry T. Cassidy Assistant Director AOC Family Practice Division 609-984-4853 Harry.Cassidy@judiciary.state.nj.us
New York	Judy Harris Kluger Deputy Chief Administrative Judge 212-428-2130 jkluger@courts.state.ny.us

Ohio	Diana Ramos-Reardon 614-387-9408 ramosd@sconet.state.oh.us
South Carolina	Tiffany Broome Raines Staff Attorney 803-734-1844 traines@sccourts.org
Utah	Brent Johnson 801-578 3800 brentj@email.utcourts.gov
Vermont	Sandra J. Seidel Deputy Director Court Improvement and Innovation Division 802-828-0576 sandra.seidel@state.vt.us
Virginia	Madelynn Herman Senior Domestic Violence Program Analyst 804-371-0937 mherman@courts.state.va.us
Wisconsin	Erin Slattengren Special Project Manager 608-261-0684 erin.slattengren@wicourts.gov

Appendix E

Exemplary Court-Based Programs

State	Do you have any exemplary court-based programs funded through STOP funds that you would like to share?
Alabama	We have one system called PASSPORT. This was developed and implemented back with Hurricane Katrina and has been put into effect to assist with issues pertaining to managing PFA's statewide.
California	The following court-based programs are worthy of note: 1. Domestic Violence Institute -- a skills based three-day program for judicial officers 2. Domestic Violence Safety Partnership -- a safety audit process in which courts can assess compliance with mandates and best practices and target local improvements or education to address issues. 3. Benchbooks – The Adjudication of Sex Crimes (Co9uzens and Bigelow) – one of the few such benchbooks nationally; The Judges Guide to Domestic Violence – includes sections on restraining orders, full faith and credit, firearms restrictions, and immigration issues.
Connecticut	The Branch's Offender-based EVOLVE program has proven to be successful.
District of Columbia	STOP funds support the satellite Domestic Violence Intake Center which provides services to domestic violence victims that live in the underserved communities of Wards 7 and 8. In the community based center victims can file a petition and receive a temporary protection order via teleconferencing without making a trip to the courthouse. The satellite DVIC also houses victim advocacy agencies that provide legal services, crime victim services, and referrals to shelters and medical services.
Florida	We are in the process of developing an interactive web based training program for judges and court staff focused on civil domestic violence cases. We are also developing and preparing to film a DVD for civil domestic violence case litigants.
Iowa	Our web-based simulation trainings and our advanced cultural competency trainings have been extremely successful.
Kansas	Johnson County Domestic Violence Court Wyandotte County - Staff person to screen Protection From Abuse applications

Louisiana	However, LPOR (protection order registry) has been acknowledged both within and outside of the state as an exemplary court-based registry. The program previously received the FBI Assistant Director's Award for Excellence in Public Safety, as a result of our work as the state's single point of contact for the examiners with the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). The goal of that FBI program is to keep guns and ammunition out of the hands of prohibited individuals who are the defendant of qualifying order of protection. LPOR is certainly not the only exemplary court program dealing with domestic abuse, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking in our state. However, it is the only one that I know about in detail.
Maine	Supported substantial court information system upgrades with respect to the docketing and management of protection from abuse and protection from harassment cases.
Michigan	Michigan has some court-based programs, but none receive STOP funds.
Nevada	In Nevada we have a number of innovative programs to increase access to justice for domestic violence victims.
New Hampshire	Our Domestic Violence Protocols are a comprehensive tool for judges and staff to use when processing VAW cases.
New Jersey	Our Domestic Violence Central Registry was developed in large part with VAWA funds. The DVCR captures all FRO and TRO cases active, pending and a historical record. An electronic Complaint/TRO process allows police, on a 24/7 basis to create a complaint and order that, if approved by a judge is immediately available on the DVCR and is sent to the Family Division electronically. This E-file is screened and then entered directly into the court's automated system without further data entry with a date for a final restraining order hearing. The original system design was supported by VAWA funds.
New York	The New York State Court System has supported numerous critical projects with the STOP funds. We are particularly proud of our Integrated Domestic Violence Court and Youthful Offender Court projects that have been implemented in conjunction with partners from the Center for Court Innovation and local domestic violence service providers. The Integrated Domestic Violence Courts bring criminal, family and matrimonial proceedings before a single judge in order to prevent conflicting orders, enhance victim safety and improve defendant accountability. The Youthful Offender Domestic Violence Courts identify defendants from 16-19 years old who have been charged with domestic violence offenses. In order to break the cycle of domestic violence before it escalates, both defendants and complaining witnesses are offered enhanced services.

South Dakota	We are only able to employ two full-time domestic violence coordinators, one in each of the two most populated counties in SD and the funding began paying 75% of their salaries and benefits, however, with increased salary and benefits and decreased funding amounts - the grant only provides approximately 55% of the total needed funds and general funds provides the remaining.
Vermont	We have developed a pre-RFA hearing program that has video and materials.
Washington	Several. AOC has funded: 1. A Dual-diagnosis court that serves domestic violence victims with mental health issues. 2. A coordinated response to domestic violence between district, superior, and family court 3. Domestic violence summits. These are a few.
Wisconsin	We've done quite a bit of in-state training on domestic violence that has been very well-received by judges. We developed a model of using judges who've attended national training on DV as the main faculty and localize each training to judicial districts. We've also created a scholarship fund to send judges to national training-NJIDV.