

STOP Violence Against Women Recovery Act Funds:

West Virginia will be applying for \$1,232,720 in STOP VAWA Recovery Act Funds. These funds will be utilized for the purpose of supporting communities in their efforts to hire and retain criminal justice and victim services personnel that respond to violent crimes against women as a way to develop and strengthen effective law enforcement, prosecution strategies, and victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women. To further the purposes of the Recovery Act, West Virginia will target Recovery Act funding to hiring and retaining criminal justice and victim services personnel who respond to violent crimes against women, as well as supporting other strategies that create and preserve jobs and promote economic growth while improving responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Sub-grantees funds will apply to the following purpose areas as well as requirements of the Recovery Act (hiring, retaining jobs, and stimulating the economy):

Purpose Areas:

Sub-grants supported through this Program must meet one or more of the following statutory purpose areas:

1. Training law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors to more effectively identify and respond to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, and dating violence.
2. Developing, training, or expanding units of law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors specifically targeting violent crimes against women, including sexual assault and domestic violence.
3. Developing and implementing more effective police, court, and prosecution policies, protocols, orders, and services devoted to preventing, identifying, and responding to violent crimes against women, including sexual assault and domestic violence.
4. Developing, installing, or expanding data collection and communication systems, including computerized systems linking police, prosecution, and the courts or for the purpose of identifying and tracking arrests, protection orders, violations of protection orders, prosecutions, and convictions for violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault and domestic violence.
5. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening victim services programs, including sexual assault, domestic violence, and dating violence programs; developing or improving the delivery of victim services to underserved populations; providing specialized domestic violence court advocates in courts where a significant number of protection orders are granted; and increasing reporting and reducing attrition rates for cases involving violent crimes against women, including sexual assault, domestic violence, and dating violence.
6. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing stalking.

7. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs addressing the needs and circumstances of Indian tribes in dealing with violent crimes against women, including sexual assault and domestic violence.

8. Supporting formal and informal statewide, multidisciplinary efforts, to the extent not support by state funds, to coordinate the response of state law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts, victim services agencies, and other state agencies and departments, to violent crimes against women, including the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, and dating violence.

9. Training of sexual assault forensic medical personnel examiners in the collection and preservation of evidence, analysis, prevention, and providing expert testimony and treatment of trauma related to sexual assault.

10. Developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs to assist law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and others to address the needs and circumstances of older and disabled women who are victims of domestic violence or sexual assault, including recognizing, investigating, and prosecuting instances of such violence or assault and targeting outreach and support, counseling, and other victim services to such older and disabled individuals.

11. Providing assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in immigration matters.

12. Maintaining core victim service and criminal justice initiatives, while supporting complementary new initiatives and emergency services for victims and their families.

13. Supporting the placement of special victim assistants (to be known as "Jessica Gonzales Victim Assistants") in local law enforcement agencies to serve as liaisons between victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and personnel in local law enforcement agencies in order to improve the enforcement of protection orders. Jessica Gonzales Victim Assistants shall have expertise in domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

14. To provide funding to law enforcement agencies, nonprofit nongovernmental victim services providers, and State and local governments, (which funding stream shall be known as the Crystal Judson Domestic Violence Protocol Program)