

Meeting Announcement

STOP Violence Against Women (STOP VAW) GRANT Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, November 20, 2013 and Thursday, November 21, 2013

The *State Office of Policy and Management, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division* will convene a meeting of the advisory committee for **STOP Violence Against Women (STOP VAW) federal grant program**.

Organizations and public members are invited to participate in a discussion of ways to address domestic violence and sexual assault in “under-served” populations and ethnically diverse communities.

Purpose of Meeting

The discussion will help state agencies and non-profit organizations develop services, policies and procedures that are responsive to needs of underserved communities. The discussion will also help determine funding objectives for **Connecticut’s Stop Violence Against Women (STOP VAW) Formula Grant Program**.

The discussion is sponsored by the Advisory Committee for the STOP VAW formula grant program. The committee consists of state agencies and non-profit providers. The committee assists state government in identifying and prioritizing policy issues and service needs regarding criminal justice system response to domestic violence and sexual assault crimes. The STOP VAW program provides grants to community service providers, victim advocates, police, prosecutors, courts and other criminal justice agencies.

STOP VAW Grant Program

The STOP VAW grant program is a federal grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence against Women. Each State is eligible to receive funding according to a formula, the funds are granted to a “State Administrative Agency” (SAA) which is responsible for oversight and management of the funds. **The SAA for Connecticut is the Office of Policy and Management (OPM).**

Organizations are invited to attend either of the following sessions:

<p>Wednesday, November 20, 2013 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM Training Room, Office of the Chief State’s Attorney 300 Corporate Place Rocky Hill, CT</p>	<p>Thursday, November 21, 2013 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM The Center for Women and Families of Eastern Fairfield County 753 Fairfield Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06604</p>
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Topics for Discussion

Meeting format will consist of “open” discussion on ways to provide outreach and advocacy service to specific communities and strategies to improve the criminal justice system response to underserved populations. Participants may share ideas and recommendations concerning issues such as:

- *What are the needs of victims and survivors in underserved populations with regard to domestic violence and sexual violence? What is the community's understanding of domestic violence and sexual assault; how are victims viewed?*
- *What are ways to provide "outreach" to underserved populations and ethnic communities to make them aware of advocacy services?*
- *How to develop leadership within ethnic communities to address domestic violence and sexual assault.*
- *What are ways to build expertise and capacity of "grass roots" organizations so that they may work on sexual violence and domestic violence issues within their community.*
- *How to involve organizations that represent the "underserved" populations in state-level planning and resource allocation discussion?*
- *Identify ways to improve the criminal justice agencies response to specific populations— police, prosecutors, courts, probation and parole. Includes how agencies address victims as well as offenders.*
- *Recommend ways to assist victims who want no involvement in the criminal justice system.*
- *How do language barriers impact police and court response to DV and SA within the underserved communities?*