2017 – 2020 VAWA Implementation Plan excerpts:

A link to Oregon’s 2017 2020 VAWA Implementation Plan. The plan includes details on the planning process with underserved, marginalized and oppressed communities (UMOC), Tribal Nations (TN) and culturally specific organizations.

The plan details how we enhanced/strengthened how Tribal Nations, UMOC, Culturally specific and population specific organizations are:

- included in the planning process;
- receive materials from all statewide VAWA Implementation Planning meetings and participate in scheduled meetings;
- have an opportunity to provide further comment on the draft IP during a 60-day public commenting period BEFORE the statewide board approves for final submission of the plan to OVW; and
- continue to build on goals and objectives on an annual basis through statewide meetings, VAWA monitoring visits, and individual technical assistance and training opportunities.

Refer to pages 10 – 12 in the plan for an example of how ongoing statewide activities over an 8 year period strengthened service provision for TN under Planning Process with Tribal Nations.

Relationship to prior plans:

As in the FY 2014 – 2016 Implementation Plan, this plan will continue to support programs that commit to collaborating with underserved, marginalized, and oppressed communities and/or Tribal Nations. CVSD and its planning subcommittee will focus on understanding and defining what “meaningful access to services” means to programs for UMOC and TN in their service areas. (also a focus on “meaningful access to sexual assault services and funding core services for each allocation category).

Funding Priorities:

**Funding Priority #1:**
Provide victims of domestic and sexual assault, stalking and dating violence meaningful access to services and support programs in stabilizing funding for:
- a) Victims’ services (includes non-profit, tribal and prosecution-based programs); and
- b) Law enforcement, prosecution and court projects.

**Funding Priority #2:**
- a) Support services to meet the needs of:
  - victims from underserved, marginalized and/or oppressed populations:
  - and/or Tribal Nations.
- b) To improve and enhance culturally specific services and increase cultural competency in the delivery of victim services as well as the cultural responsiveness of prosecution, law enforcement and courts.

**Funding Priority #5:** Facilitate consultation and planning among and between non-profit, government-based, and tribal victim service providers and law enforcement, prosecution and courts.
The VAWA RFA specifically addressed VAWA 2013 changes impacting sexual assault set aside funds as well as the states funding priorities that specify “meaningful access to services” and “improving and enhancing culturally specific services that increase cultural competency in the delivery of victim services”.

DOJ CVSD and its advisory committee and planning subcommittee direct all VAWA funded projects to demonstrate outreach activities and the meaningful provision of victim services to underserved, marginalized and oppressed communities and Tribal Nations. This will be accomplished with required solicitation questions, reporting requirements and ongoing monitoring of funded programs. The joint DV/SA non-competitive grant solicitation will include requirements and definitions as noted:

**Meaningful access** is an on-going process that embodies values, practices and policies that support the right of all survivors to obtain and make use of victim-centered services to meet individual needs stemming from domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking (and, as feasible, their family, friends, and loved ones), regardless of their status or identity.¹

**Access to Services:** To ensure meaningful access to services for all victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking, the program is at minimum able to appropriately respond to an initial crisis call and initial disclosure of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence or stalking with safety planning and support. In addition, the program is able to directly link victims whose needs may be beyond their expertise to the appropriate partner agency.

To do this well, an agency must:

- Have victim service staff/managers, and volunteers who are well trained in domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking, and in the dynamics of oppression and how to provide effective services in various populations.
- Understand the individual and systemic access barriers for the underserved, inadequately served, marginalized, and/or oppressed communities, and Tribal Nations in their region.
- Reach out and engage survivors and those from underserved, marginalized, and/or oppressed communities, and Tribal Nations in planning and feedback specific to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence or stalking services.
- Coordinate and collaborate with other local and statewide agencies to develop appropriate connections for victims.

**Training** for victim service staff/managers, and volunteers in domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking, and in the dynamics of oppression and how to provide effective services in various populations.

- The Joint Application requires comprehensive training for victim service staff/managers, and volunteers that includes the dynamics of oppression, the dynamics and effects of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking in various populations, and how to effectively provide services.
- The Joint Application requires a Sexual Assault lead staff member for those agencies receiving SA funds that are dual DV/SA programs or not entirely focused on SA services. The purpose of

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¹ Status or identity meaning language, literacy, race, ethnicity, physical and cognitive ability, age, gender identity, sexual and relational identity, geography, social status, economic status, immigration status, and any other defining cultural identity.
the lead staff is to facilitate increased expertise throughout their agency through information sharing and training.

Understand the **individual and systemic access barriers** for survivors from the underserved, inadequately served, marginalized, and/or oppressed communities, and Tribal Nations in their region.

- Barriers may include (but are not limited to) language, literacy, culture, transportation, logistical issues, and the ways oppression impacts these communities and Tribal Nations.

**Reach out and engage** survivors and those from underserved, marginalized, and/or oppressed communities, and Tribal Nations in planning and feedback specific to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence or stalking services.

- The Joint Application requires **outreach and community involvement** including survivors and those from underserved, marginalized, and/or oppressed communities, and Tribal Nations, in **planning and feedback** specific to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence or stalking services.
- The Joint Application requires programs to gather **survivor feedback** on common outcome measures.

**Coordinate** and collaborate with other local and statewide agencies to develop appropriate connections for victims.

- The Joint Application requires programs to demonstrate their community collaboration by indicating their involvement in coordinated community responses, councils, MDTs, SARTs, SARRCs, or other processes.
- The Joint Application requires confidentiality policies and procedures.

**The FY 2015 – 2017 VAWA Competitive solicitation** supported projects that included the following strategies as defined by the IP Subcommittee or the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW):

- Provide culturally-specific services and training to underserved communities based on factors such as race, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, or gender identity;
- Cultural competency and sensitivity in working with underserved, marginalized and/or oppressed communities and Tribal Nations
- Increase support for underserved populations, particularly communities of color, in a culturally appropriate manner, with a special emphasis on African-American, tribal and LGBTQ populations.
- Provide basic and advanced training to tribal law enforcement and tribal courts regarding services for victims in tribal communities;
- Support Full Faith and Credit training for Tribal Nations; and
- Implement evidence-based risk/danger assessments to identify and prioritize victims who are considered to be in relationships with a high risk of lethality.

**IV.F. ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF UNDERSERVED VICTIMS**

Oregon has made strides in reaching out to victims of DV/SA, stalking and dating violence by providing both state and federal funding for victim centered services. CVSD, its funding advisory committee and statewide collaborative partners share the same goals and are engaged in complementary work to strengthen the provision of services to underserved, marginalized and/or oppressed communities. In 2010,
the VAWA IP Planning Subcommittee brought together collaborative partners from various groups in an “Open Forum” discussion that led to an identification of underserved, marginalized and/or oppressed communities in Oregon (Appendix D-1) and the determination of the activities to accomplish funding priority #2 (Section IV.B. and C.).

The state and federal funds allocated to the joint noncompetitive application provide the following funds to support culturally specific services and/or previously underserved populations:

- A total of $3,594,565 of the “joint” funds was awarded in 2015 – 2017 for **underserved populations** within the state. This total includes the required 10% of the 30% allocated to victim services that are distributed to culturally specific community based organizations.
- A total of $57,207 or 22.9% of the 2016 STOP VAWA Formula Grant Program fund awards to non-profit, non-governmental victim service providers was distributed to **culturally specific community-based organizations**. An additional $70,000 supports 7 federally recognized tribes in Oregon (all culturally specific victim service programs).
- Since 2013, **Tribal Nations** are included in the formula allocation. For the 2015-2017 grant cycle, each Tribe was considered as an entity and $360,000 made available for their applications. A total of $180,000 from FY 2015 and 2016 VAWA and $180,000 from ODSVS state grant funds. Seven of the 9 tribes accepted the non-competitive grant funds to support tribal victim service programs. A total of $360,000 will be made available to 9 federally recognized tribes every grant funding cycle.

In 2010, the Culturally Specific Services subcommittee of the ODSVS Advisory Council assessed the effectiveness of the ODSVS Culturally Specific funding and confirmed two funding priorities: flexibility and providing meaningful access to services by addressing the SA as well as the DV needs of culturally specific survivors.

In 2013, the CVSD Advisory Committee made the historic decision to include Oregon’s nine federally recognized Tribes in the joint non-competitive application. Fund Coordinators consulted with each Tribe as the RFA guidelines were developed and provided technical assistance throughout the application process.

To encourage all grantee programs to incorporate culturally appropriate planning and services, five questions were included in the 2015-2017 joint noncompetitive application. Responses to these questions fuel discussion between the grantees and their fund coordinators. The current questions are:

- Identify the underserved, marginalized, and/or oppressed communities and Tribal Nations in your region that your program has specifically reached out to and engaged in planning and feedback in the last two years and plan to in the coming grant period. [followed by a checklist with explanatory fields]
- What is your outreach to the underserved, marginalized, and/or oppressed communities and Tribal Nations selected above? Give an example.
- Please describe how you involve survivors and the underserved, marginalized, and/or oppressed communities and Tribal Nations in planning for service delivery for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking? Give an example.
- Please describe how you get feedback on the impact and effectiveness of the services you provide from the underserved, marginalized, and/or oppressed communities and Tribal Nations selected above. Give an example.
- Describe how you are collaborating with your multi-disciplinary teams/members as well as other local, Tribal, and statewide agencies to develop appropriate service networks for survivors.
The responses to application questions and progress reports will inform the Fund Coordinator to the level of collaboration between UMOC and TN as well as population specific organizations. The Fund Coordinator will gain a better understanding of the co-advocacy partnership to effectively address barriers to service delivery for underserved victims.

**Oregon Statewide Coalition Focus on Underserved, Marginalized And/Or Oppressed Communities (UMOC)**

OCADSVs work on domestic and sexual violence services for underserved, marginalized and oppressed communities is deeply grounded in an [anti-oppression model](#). The coalition work seeks to build from concrete knowledge of historical and current disparities, existing at all levels from education to income to health, that result from unequal power dynamics between social groups – and to strive to remedy those dynamics within their own organizations and services. Survivors from communities that are underserved, marginalized and oppressed should have meaningful access to the full range of safety, self-determination and support services available in Oregon. It is understood that this effort will always be a work in progress.

Oregon’s domestic and sexual violence field implements anti-oppression work through several specific projects:

- Train-the-trainer workshops with ongoing support to shore up a wide base of expertise in programs and regions across the state.
- Partnership with [ODEAF: Oregon Deaf Empowerment and Advocacy for Families](#), a statewide nonprofit doing both direct service and systems advocacy in support of inclusive access to services for Deaf and hard of hearing survivors.
- The [Communities of Color Task Force](#), a long-standing statewide multiracial multidisciplinary workgroup meeting monthly and centering the voices and experiences of survivors and advocates of color.
- [Aspiring White Allies Oregon](#), a monthly workgroup that supports and develops mainstream/white advocates’ and programs’ ability, commitment and skill to engage in racial justice work within domestic and sexual violence services.
- [Queer Caucus](#), a monthly workgroup collaboration with Allison Cleveland and the Oregon Anti-Violence Project convening queer and trans advocates from around Oregon for peer support and policy/resource development and recommendation.
- Faith leaders convening on domestic and sexual violence, a listserv and quarterly phone call drawing together religious and spiritual leaders and faith-based advocates to support and strategize around the work of prevention and intervention from a faith perspective.
- Ongoing customized training for community-based programs, systems and partner organizations on anti-oppression, dismantling racism, LGBTQ survivors, and other equity and inclusion issues.
- Regular technical assistance with community-based programs and partner organizations regarding matters such as transgender inclusion, racial justice practices, immigrant survivor safety, and more.
- Marginalized communities’ gatherings at the OCADSV annual conference.