



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2015 STOP ADMINISTRATOR MEETING

Overview and Purpose of Annual Meeting

The 2015 STOP Administrators Meeting was held in Jacksonville, Florida on April 28-29, 2015, and was hosted by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), U.S. Department of Justice, in partnership with the Alliance of Local Service Organizations (ALSO). The meeting is typically held on an annual basis for STOP administrators; attendance to this meeting is mandatory for all grantee States and Territories, pursuant to grant Special Conditions. The purpose of the meeting is to provide a forum in which STOP administrators: 1) receive information that is essential for grantee compliance with grant requirements and applicable federal laws; 2) hear about best practices for effectively using STOP funds both programmatically and fiscally; 3) meet with Office on Violence Against Women Program Managers; and 4) network with administrators and experts in the field to support information dissemination and peer-to-peer learning.

Agenda Development and Meeting Structure

The meeting content was tailored to address topics in which STOP administrators indicated they were interested, as well as those raised by technical assistance providers and

OVW. The planning team, consisting of OVW and STAAR Project staff, examined input received during conference calls for STOP administrators, evaluations from past meetings, technical assistance requests, implementation plan reviews, the 20th Anniversary VAWA Tour and ranked information from meeting registration. The team looked at emerging and chronic challenges, as well as promising practices employed by STOP administrators and their subgrantees regarding protection of victim safety, holding offenders accountable, STOP planning processes, grant management, fiscal issues, and compliance-related topics.

The meeting was structured to include a combination of plenary sessions, breakout workshops, and roundtable discussions. For the past several years, administrators have requested opportunities to 1) hold critical conversations on specific topics; 2) hear in-depth descriptions of best practices and analyze how they may be adapted for another jurisdiction; and 3) discuss challenges that they and their subgrantees are facing in their State or Territory. Administrators have also responded positively to roundtable discussion formats during which they are able to engage with their peers and share challenges, successes, strategies, and tools with one another. In addition to a combination of breakout sessions and plenary sessions throughout the conference, the morning on Day 1 was structured to include a five part roundtable series on VAWA 2013 new and enhanced requirements wherein OVW presented on VAWA 2013 elements and provided an opportunity for tables consisting of new and seasoned administrators to discuss each topic with one another, OVW representatives, ALSO and other TA staff.

Topics

The meeting offered information to STOP administrators on the following specific topics:

- VAWA 2013 Changes to the STOP Formula Grants Program including --
 - 20% sexual assault set-aside
 - New STOP Grant statutory purpose areas
 - Domestic violence homicide reduction
 - Implementation planning
 - Funds allocation
 - Population-related definitions including culturally specific services, population specific services, and underserved populations
 - VAWA nondiscrimination provision
- PREA and use of STOP funds to work toward PREA compliance
- Consultation and coordination with Tribes in the context of STOP Grants
- Language Access to services, systems, and advocacy for limited English proficient individuals
- Outreach to and resourcing of underserved populations and culturally specific organizations
- Meaningful inclusion of sexual assault
- Changes to STOP Grants receipt and administration under the New Uniform Guidance
- Payment for and access to medical forensic exams
- Progress reporting forms and processes
- Available technical assistance

Participants and Presenters

The meeting participants included 56 STOP administrators from 49 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The participants heard from and networked with multi-disciplinary speakers, OVW and ALSO staff as well as other TA providers.

Feedback and Evaluations

The format of evaluations was changed this year to measure, not only overall satisfaction with the meeting, but also how much learning took place and its impact on future work. Participants were asked to assess their knowledge of presentation topics both before and

after each presentation. In addition, we asked participants to rate how likely they were, both before and after the meeting, to make adjustments to their implementation plans and/or other processes in their state. After all presentations, more than 50% of participants described their knowledge as either “Good” or “Excellent,” whereas before all presentations, 50% or less of participants described their knowledge before the presentations as either “Good” or “Excellent.”

By this same scale, some plenary presentations scored exceptionally well (i.e. 75% or more of participants rated these sessions as “Good” or “Excellent”) in terms of knowledge and understanding after the session. These presentations included *VOCA Remarks and Q&A*, *VAWA 2013 Presentation and Table Discussions – Parts 1-5*, *Prison Rape Elimination Act, Panel: Working with Tribes*, and *Forensic Exams*. Among these topics, the topic of the 20% set aside for sexual assault, a component of the VAWA 2013 presentation and table discussions, was mentioned very frequently in the qualitative portion of the evaluations as the most useful topic of the day.

Breakouts on the topics of language access, improving outreach to underserved and culturally-specific populations, meaningful inclusion of sexual assault programming and Q&A with OVW all received consistently high marks with over 50% of participants giving the highest score in terms of relevance to the participants’ work, content, presenter deliver and the presentation overall. All of these topics were also consistently mentioned in the qualitative portions of the evaluations as topics that participants’ realized needed further evaluation and/or development in their state.

Additionally, impact of the information shared at the meeting was also measured by asking participants to describe how likely they were to make modifications to their implementation plans and/or other processes in their state. **89% of participants will definitely or are very likely to modify their Implementation Plans** as a result of this meeting, up from 47% who anticipated making modifications prior to the meeting. In addition, **94% of participants will modify some other process(es)** in their state as a result of this meeting, up from 65% who anticipated making other modifications to state processes prior to the meeting.

Participants consistently shared that their favorite elements of the meeting were the formal and informal opportunities to network and learn from one another. This year, the meeting incorporated informal networking opportunities outside of meeting hours. In addition, the meeting featured intentional seating arrangements on Day 1 so that, during VAWA 2013 Presentation and Discussions, and throughout the day, both new and seasoned administrators had the opportunity to share with one another as well as with OVW staff, ALSO and other TA providers, about successes and challenges in their states related to the new and modified elements of VAWA Reauthorization. Participants also appreciated the opportunity to meet with their OVW Program Managers and the opportunity to have their voices heard, to hear from other participants successes and challenges and hear direct responses from OVW during the conferral session. In addition, participants appreciated learning more about ALSO's resources and capacity to offer individualized assistance as the comprehensive STOP technical assistance provider.

Highlights from the qualitative portion of the evaluations:

- “[Learned that] Help is out there if needed.”

- “Increased, renewed vigor and passion—thank you!”
- “[Learned that] that we are a dynamic group and that we can affect systemic change.”
- “[Learned that] Your work—no matter how much paper—MATTERS!”
- “A better implementation plan [is needed in my state]—I’m going to start with all the TA and ALSO resources.”
- “This was one of the best facilitated and well run STOP Administrator meetings I’ve attended. I learned new things (and I’m not “new”), met some great people and feel like this was a good use of my time. Thank you for all the work that ALSO and OVW staff put into organizing this event.”

Areas noted for improvement included revisions to the Progress Reporting session, for which one participant requested to focus on content that cannot be obtained via webinar and another requested highlights from the reports shared with Congress. In addition, participants stated more time was needed for New Uniform Guidance (i.e. Omni-Circular, Super-Circular) and indirect costs for sub-grantees as well as longer breakout sessions, where they wished presenters were able to go more in-depth.