

**Subpart A—General Provisions****§ 90.1 General.**

(a) This part implements certain provisions of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which was enacted by title IV of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, Pub. L. No. 103-322 (Sept. 13, 1994).

(b) Subpart B of this part defines program eligibility criteria and sets forth requirements for application for and administration of formula grants to States to combat violent crimes against women. This Program under the VAWA was enacted as a new “part T” of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (the Omnibus Act), codified at 42 U.S.C. 3796gg through 3796gg-5. Offices and agencies of State government, units of local government, Indian tribal governments, and nonprofit, nongovernmental victim services programs are eligible to apply for subgrants from this Program.

(c) Indian tribal governments are eligible to receive assistance as part of the State program pursuant to subpart B of this part. In addition, Indian tribal governments may apply directly for discretionary grants under subpart C of this part.

**§ 90.2 Definitions.**

(a) *Domestic violence.* (1) As used in this part, *domestic violence* includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence (including threats or attempts) committed:

(i) By a current or former spouse of the victim;

(ii) By a person with whom the victim shares a child in common;

(iii) By a person who is co-habiting with or has co-habited with the victim as a spouse;

(iv) By a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies; or

(v) By any other adult person against a victim who is protected from that person’s acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies. Section 2003(1).

(2) For the purposes of this Program, *domestic violence* also includes any crime of violence considered to be an

act of domestic violence according to State law.

(b) *Forensic medical examination.* The term *forensic medical examination* means an examination provided to a sexual assault victim by medical personnel trained to gather evidence of a sexual assault in a manner suitable for use in a court of law.

(1) The examination should include at a minimum:

(i) Examination of physical trauma;

(ii) Determination of penetration or force;

(iii) Patient interview; and

(iv) Collection and evaluation of evidence.

(2) The inclusion of additional procedures (e.g., testing for sexually transmitted diseases) to obtain evidence may be determined by the State, Indian tribal government, or unit of local government in accordance with its current laws, policies, and practices.

(c) *Indian tribe.* The term *Indian Tribe* means a tribe, band, pueblo, nation, or other organized group or community of Indians, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation (as defined in, or established pursuant to, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*)), that is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians. Section 2003(3).

(d) *Law enforcement.* The term *law enforcement* means a public agency charged with policing functions, including any of its component bureaus (such as governmental victim services programs). Section 2003(4).

(e) *Prosecution.* For the purposes of this Program, the term *prosecution* means any public office or agency charged with direct responsibility for prosecuting criminal offenders, including such office’s or agency’s component departments or bureaus (such as governmental victims services programs). Prosecution support services, such as overseeing or participating in State-wide or multi-jurisdictional domestic violence task forces, conducting training for State and local prosecutors or

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enforcing victim compensation and domestic violence-related restraining orders shall be considered *direct responsibility* for purposes of this program. Section 2003(5).

(f) *Sexual assault.* The term *sexual assault* means any conduct proscribed by chapter 109A of title 18, United States Code, and includes both assaults committed by offenders who are strangers to the victim and assaults committed by offenders who are known or related by blood or marriage to the victim. Section 2003(6).

(g) *State.* The term *State* means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

(h) *Unit of local government.* For the purposes of subpart B of this part, the term *unit of local government* means any city, county, township, town, borough, parish, village, or other general purpose political subdivision of a State, or Indian tribe which performs law enforcement functions as determined by the Secretary of Interior, or for the purpose of assistance eligibility, any agency of the District of Columbia government or the United States Government performing law enforcement functions in and for the District of Columbia and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

(i) *Victim services.* The term *victim services* means a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization, that assist victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault victims. Included in this definition are rape crisis centers, battered women’s shelters, and other sexual assault or domestic violence programs, such as nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations assisting domestic violence or sexual assault victims through the legal process. (Section 2003(8).)

(1) For the purposes of this Program, funding may include support for lawyer and nonlawyer advocates, including specialized domestic violence court advocates. Legal or defense services for perpetrators of violence against women may not be supported with grant funds.

(2) The definition also encompasses Indian victim assistance programs and Statewide domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions to the extent

they provide direct services to domestic violence and sexual assault victims.

(3) Governmental victim services programs attached to a law enforcement agency or a prosecutor’s office may apply for the portions of the State grant designated for law enforcement and prosecution. Governmental victim services programs contracting with nonprofit organizations (e.g., a county nonprofit shelter) are eligible to apply for the portion of the State grant designated for nonprofit, nongovernmental victim services. Governmental victim services programs that are not connected to a law enforcement agency or a prosecutor’s office and are not considered nonprofit organizations may apply for funding through the remaining portion of the State grant that is not designated for a specific program area.

**§ 90.3 Participation by faith-based organizations.**

The funds provided under this part shall be administered in compliance with the standards set forth in part 38 (Equal Treatment for Faith-based Organizations) of this chapter.

[Order No. 2703-2004, 69 FR 2841, Jan. 21, 2004]

**Subpart B—The STOP (Services • Training • Officers • Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program**

**§ 90.10 Description of STOP (Services • Training • Officers • Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program.**

It is the purpose of this Program to assist States, Indian tribal governments, and units of local government to develop and strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat violent crimes against women, and to develop and strengthen victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women. Section 2001(a).

**§ 90.11 Program criteria.**

(a) The Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs is authorized to make grants to the States, for use by States, Indian tribal