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U.S. Department of Justice
Office on Violence Against Women

Accomplishments of the Office on Violence Against Women January 2021 to January 2025

January 2025



U.S. Department of Justice

OVW

Office on Violence Against Women

Working Together to End the Violence

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This document highlights key achievements of the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) over the past four years. During this time, OVW made significant strides in advancing comprehensive services and support for survivors by issuing grants that strengthen Coordinated Community Responses (CCRs) to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking across all states, territories, and many Tribal nations.

Grant Funding

Over the last 30 years, OVW has administered over \$11 billion in grants through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) to support communities across the nation to improve services and support for victims and increase access to justice, safety, and healing in response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Between 2021 and 2025, OVW made 3,207 awards totaling more than \$2.2 billion. In Fiscal Year 2024 OVW awarded [over \\$690 million](#) in grant funding – the highest amount in its history and an increase of over 35% since 2021. These funds include both funding for communities and investments in national training and technical assistance (TTA), which enhances the capacity of professionals within the civil and criminal justice systems and victim service providers nationwide.

OVW also launched numerous new programs and initiatives because of the 2022 reauthorization of VAWA and appropriation acts. In addition, OVW restructured its grant administration, finance, and field engagement operations, alongside expanding its staffing in these areas, to effectively manage new and ongoing grants and better address the needs of grantees and the survivors and communities they serve.

VAWA 2022 and New Programs

In response to the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (VAWA 2022) and recent appropriations acts, OVW launched several new grant programs and initiatives and enhanced existing programs to incorporate these statutory updates. Listed below are some of the new grant programs:

- **Demonstration Program on Trauma-Informed, Victim-Centered Training for Law Enforcement on Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Program (known as the Abby Honold Program)**

In 2024, OVW [awarded grants](#) totaling \$3 million to support the development and evaluation of enhanced, trauma-informed training for law enforcement to improve their response to victims. This [new grant program](#), authorized by VAWA 2022, was championed by a former college student whose own experience as a survivor of sexual assault led her to want to improve the law enforcement response.

- **Enhancing Investigation and Prosecution of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Initiative**
In FY 2024, OVW launched [this new program](#) and [awarded](#) nearly \$15 million directly to 32 law enforcement agencies and prosecutors' offices to strengthen investigations and prosecutions of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. This program allows law enforcement agencies and prosecutors' offices to build capacity by funding additional positions, measure effectiveness through improving data collection, and enhance responses to these crimes by implementing training, policies, and practices that emphasize trauma-informed investigations and coordinated community responses. The ultimate purpose of this program is to support victim safety and autonomy, increase offender accountability, and promote agency trust within the surrounding community.
- **Restorative Practices Pilot Program**
In FY 2024, [OVW awarded grants](#) to 11 pilot sites totaling over \$16 million through [this new program](#) authorized by VAWA 2022 to support, strengthen, and expand existing restorative practice programs that address domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking through a trauma-informed and survivor-centered approach. Additionally, [OVW awarded](#) \$8 million to fund [research and evaluation of restorative practices](#) in collaboration with the pilot sites. In March 2024, [OVW awarded](#) \$6 million in grants to three entities to serve as national training and technical assistance providers on restorative practices and to work with the pilot sites.
- **Financial Assistance Grants for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program**
In FY 2024, [OVW launched a new program](#), authorized by appropriations acts, to support victim service providers, Tribal governments, and Tribal organizations in providing flexible financial assistance to survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, alongside other victim services. Flexible financial assistance supports survivors in achieving safety, stability, and healing by making funds available to address the needs of individual survivors that are not easily met by traditional victim services.
- **Local Law Enforcement Grants for Enforcement of Cybercrimes Program**
In FY 2024, [OVW awarded grants](#) totaling \$5.3 million [to support communities in preventing, investigating, and prosecuting cybercrimes](#) against individuals and providing training for law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, victim service providers, and judicial personnel to address such crimes, including cyberstalking, sextortion, and the nonconsensual distribution of intimate images.
- **National Resource Center on Cybercrimes Against Individuals**
In FY 2024, [OVW awarded a grant](#) totaling \$2.8 million to support the establishment of a [national resource center](#), authorized by VAWA 2022, to provide information, training, and technical assistance to improve the capacity of individuals, organizations, governmental entities, and communities to prevent, investigate, and prosecute cybercrimes against

individuals. This includes addressing technology-facilitated abuse, such as the non-consensual distribution of intimate images, and cyberstalking, among other crimes.

- Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction (STCJ) Reimbursement Program**
 Through the [Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction Reimbursement Program](#), authorized by VAWA 2022, OVW provided initial reimbursement funds in 2024 to 14 eligible Tribes. This new program reimburses federally recognized Tribes for expenses incurred while exercising STCJ over non-Indians who commit covered crimes within Tribal communities. Covered crimes include domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, sex trafficking, child abuse, and other offenses. Each calendar year, eligible Tribes receive initial allocations based on their past experience exercising STCJ to reimburse their current year expenses as they are incurred. These Tribes may then seek reimbursement at the end of the year for expenses exceeding their initial allocations, which are reimbursed proportionately to the amount of funds available for the program.
- Electronic Service Protection Order Court Pilot Program**
 In FY 2024, under this [pilot program](#), authorized by VAWA 2022, [OVW awarded \\$1.5 million](#) to implement a program for properly and legally serving protection orders through electronic communication methods, developing best practices relating to such electronic service, ensuring compliance with due process requirements and other procedures required by law or by a court, and implementing any related technology, such as technology to verify and track the receipt of a protection order by the intended party.
- Enhancing Support for Survivors**
 OVW implemented VAWA 2022 enhancements to existing grant programs designed to meet the needs of survivors more effectively. Key improvements include expanding the Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) Grant Program to encompass post-conviction relief for victims (i.e., if the conviction is relating to or arising from domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or sex trafficking of the victim), introducing new funding allocations to support underserved communities, launching initiatives aimed at addressing sexual assault, and enhancing access to services for culturally specific and underserved populations, among other significant updates to VAWA grant programs. Furthermore, VAWA 2022 authorized OVW to fund innovative projects that tackle emerging issues in improving responses to gender-based violence, ensuring a dynamic and responsive approach to addressing the needs of survivors.

Safety and Justice in Tribal Communities

Tribal Grants and the Tribal Affairs Division

From 2021 to 2024, OVW awarded over \$233 million in grants through its [Tribal Affairs Division \(TAD\)](#). In FY 2024 alone, the Division awarded more than [\\$86 million](#) – the largest amount ever awarded by TAD to specifically support American Indian and Alaska Native survivors and communities. This milestone was achieved through a significant expansion of TAD’s staff to 14

team members, many of whom are Tribal citizens, reside in Tribal communities (including two in Alaska to address the needs of Alaska Native villages), and bring extensive experience working with Tribes and Native peoples, ensuring a deep understanding of and commitment to the communities they serve.

Healing and Response Teams Special Initiative

In FY 2024, [OVW made an award](#) of \$2 million for [this special initiative](#). This initiative was created in response to recommendations made by the [Not Invisible Act Commission](#), on which OVW was honored to serve. It supports the creation, training, and sustainability of healing and response teams, including the funding of three pilot sites, using a Tribal-based model of care to respond to missing or murdered Indigenous persons cases related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sex trafficking. Other OVW responses to the findings and recommendations of the Commission are included in the DOJ and Department of Interior [response](#).

Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program: Strengthening Tribal Advocacy Responses Track (START)

In FY 2024, [OVW awarded](#) \$7.5 million in grants through [a new track under the Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program](#). This initiative is specifically designed for Tribal governments that have not recently or previously participated in the program, with a focus on capacity building in the first part of the project period. Awardees benefit from enhanced training, technical assistance, and ongoing support to successfully implement their programs and strengthen their capacity to serve their communities.

Targeted Support for the Muscogee Creek, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Seminole Nations in Oklahoma Special Initiative

In FY 2022, OVW awarded [\\$3.7 million](#) to Tribes in Oklahoma to support expanded project activities as they exercised criminal jurisdiction as a result of the Supreme Court's decision in *McGirt v. Oklahoma*. This funding specifically addressed cases involving sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sex trafficking, helping to strengthen Tribal responses in these critical areas. Funds available under this special initiative provided funding to support staffing, infrastructure, victim services, and Tribal justice system needs.

Restoration of Tribal Authority to Prosecute Non-Indians on Tribal Lands

OVW worked with Tribal leaders, advocates, and other DOJ components to implement VAWA 2022's expanded recognition of Tribal sovereignty. The 2013 reauthorization of VAWA included a historic provision that recognized the inherent authority of "participating Tribes" to exercise "special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction" (SDVCJ) over certain defendants, regardless of their Indian or non-Indian status, who commit acts of domestic violence or dating violence or violate certain protection orders in Indian country. In 2022, Congress amended this provision to recognize "special Tribal criminal jurisdiction" (STCJ) over an expanded list of "covered crimes" that includes assault of Tribal justice personnel, child violence, obstruction of justice, sexual violence, sex trafficking, and stalking in addition to the VAWA 2013 crimes. VAWA 2022 also specifically refers to participating Tribes as including those in Maine and establishes a pilot program under which the Attorney General may designate Alaska Tribes as participating Tribes to

exercise STCJ over non-Indians who commit covered crimes in the Tribe’s village. As part of these efforts, OVW implemented the [Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction Reimbursement Program](#) and developed initiatives to support Alaska Tribes in building their capacity to exercise STCJ. Moreover, OVW continues to support the Intertribal Technical Assistance Working Group (ITWG) through a technical assistance award to the Tribal Law and Policy Institute. The ITWG is a voluntary working group of Tribal representatives who meet on a quarterly basis to exchange views, information, advice, and peer-to-peer support on how Tribes may best implement STCJ.

Alaska-Specific Efforts

- **Violence Against Women Alaska Pilot Program**

On October 20, 2023, [DOJ announced](#) the launch of [a pilot program](#), required by VAWA 2022, under which Alaska Native Tribes can be designated by the Attorney General as “participating Tribes” to exercise STCJ over non-Indian offenders who commit covered crimes in their villages. The program is designed to include options for Tribes interested in STCJ but not ready to seek designation, including support from a federal liaison at DOJ and specialized technical assistance. OVW worked with other DOJ components to support the launch of the program, including through the funding and technical assistance opportunities described below. The program was developed in close consultation with Alaska Native Tribes and Tribal organizations and represents DOJ’s continued commitment to helping Tribal communities meet the most urgent public safety challenges they face.

- **STCJ: Targeted Support for Alaska Native Tribes Special Initiative**

In FY 2023 and FY 2024, OVW awarded \$4.5 million through the [STCJ: Targeted Support for Alaska Native Tribes Special Initiative](#). The funds support Alaska Tribes that are preparing to exercise STCJ to ensure that victims find safety and justice and that non-Indians who commit covered crimes within their communities, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sex trafficking, are held accountable.

- **Alaska Intertribal Technical Assistance Working Group**

DOJ established the Alaska Intertribal Technical Assistance Working Group (Alaska ITWG), using the successful model of the national ITWG described above, and OVW funded the Alaska Native Justice Center to lead a training and technical assistance collaboration to support the Alaska ITWG and Alaska Tribes interested in exploring STCJ through the Alaska Pilot Program. The Alaska ITWG met twice in 2024, in May and October, and is expected to meet again in April 2025.

- **Alaska Tribal Leader Listening Session**

In March 2022, OVW’s Tribal Governments Program hosted an Alaska Tribal Leader Roundtable as part of the Alaska Grant Project Implementation Workshop, which was held virtually. OVW Deputy Director for the Tribal Affairs Division, Sherriann Moore, provided welcome remarks and participated in the roundtable along with other senior DOJ leadership from the Office of Tribal Justice (OTJ), Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), and the COPS Office.

White House Native Women’s Symposium, Native Women Rising: Inspiring the Future

In conjunction with the White House Council on Native American Affairs and Gender Policy Council, OVW planned and spoke at the White House Native Women’s Symposium: Next Steps for Implementation of the New Provisions of VAWA panel in 2022.

Maintaining and Expanding Government-to-Government Relationships with Tribes.

Each year, OVW holds a [Government-to-Government Violence Against Women Tribal Consultation](#) (VAW Tribal Consultation), inviting the leaders of all Federally recognized Tribal governments to provide testimony and recommendations to assist DOJ and other federal agencies in gaining a better understanding of the challenges, needs, and successes in supporting American Indian and Alaska Native victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sex trafficking. OVW submits a to Congress on recommendations made during these government-to-government consultations. From 2021-2024 consultations were held in the following locations: virtually in 2021; in Anchorage, Alaska, in 2022; in Muscogee Creek Nation in 2023; and on the Tribal lands of the Pueblo of Pojoaque in 2024. in 2024.

Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women Tribal Leaders Council

OVW established the [Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women Tribal Leaders Council \(OVW TLC\) in 2024, in response to the recommendation of Tribal leaders during the 18th annual VAW Tribal Consultation](#). The OVW TLC provides an ongoing forum for discussion between OVW and Tribal government leaders on implementing intergovernmental responsibilities related to federal programs under the Tribal titles of VAWA reauthorizations since 2005. The OVW TLC consists of 12 Tribally elected or appointed leaders who will share recommendations and concerns from Tribes in their respective regions.

Task Force on Research on Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women

The [Task Force on Research on Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women \(904 Task Force\)](#) is administered by OVW pursuant to statute and was rechartered in 2022 and 2024. The Task Force provides advice and recommendations on the development and implementation of the National Institute of Justice’s program of research that examines violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women in Indian country and Alaska Native villages, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, murder, and sex trafficking, and evaluates the effectiveness of federal, state, Tribal, and local responses to these crimes.

Trilateral Working Group on Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls (TWG)

The United States, Mexico, and Canada held three convenings of the Trilateral Working Group on Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls. This engagement brought together Indigenous women leaders from across North America to gather their expertise and recommendations in discussions with government officials from all three countries, including OVW representatives. The TWG addressed the multi-faceted aspects of addressing the epidemic levels of violence faced by Indigenous women and girls, including addressing root causes that increase vulnerability to gender-based violence; improving access to safety, justice, and accountability; and providing

enhanced access to trauma-informed services and support for survivors. The convenings were held in [Washington, D.C. in 2022](#); Ottawa, Canada in 2023; and Mexico City, Mexico in 2024.

National Tribal Clearinghouse on Sexual Assault (NTCSA)

This [comprehensive resource hub](#) aims to increase access to information and support for issues related to sexual assault in Tribal communities, such as culturally appropriate training and technical assistance.

Honoring Our Spirit: Tribal College Campus Technical Assistance

At the 16th Annual Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation on Violence Against Women in August 2021, the then-Associate Attorney General announced the launch of [tribalcampus.org](#), an OVW grant-funded website that is dedicated to supporting Tribal colleges and universities. OVW also funds specialized technical assistance to all Tribal campuses for their sexual assault responses on campus so that they are holistic and culturally relevant.

Strategic Engagement with the Field

Policy, Communications, and Strategic Engagement (PCSE) Division

In 2022, OVW established a new division to enhance the dissemination of information and resources to communities, particularly those that have not previously accessed OVW grants. This division ensures that emerging issues, best practices, and challenges from the field are effectively communicated back to OVW, strengthening the impact and responsiveness of its grant-making and policymaking efforts. The division also manages OVW's responses to inquiries from Congress, the White House, and external stakeholders regarding OVW's grants and initiatives. Furthermore, it fosters collaboration with DOJ components and federal agencies to advance OVW's mission of supporting communities in addressing domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Community Engagement

From May 2022 through November 2024, OVW conducted more than 105 community site visits, meetings, listening sessions, and other types of engagement with the domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking field to learn about the landscape of services available for survivors, as well as trends in VAWA focus areas, emerging issues, challenges, and successes, among other issues communities were willing to share. In addition to meeting with current and former OVW grantees, PCSE outreach staff and OVW leadership also met with potential grantees and other organizations engaging with survivors in their communities. This community engagement helped build trust and raise awareness in communities that have not received OVW funding, and helped connect them to national [training and technical assistance](#), which is available to both grantees and potential grantees.

Observing the 20th Anniversary of National Stalking Awareness Month

OVW hosted a listening session and an awareness [event](#) on January 17, 2024 for the 20th Anniversary of National Stalking Awareness Month. Survivors of stalking, advocates, law enforcement professionals, and prosecutors gathered to share how victims of stalking encounter

barriers in seeking safety and support from community members, legal systems, and victim service providers. The survivors shared their lived experiences and critical insights with OVW, other components of DOJ, and partners in different federal agencies working to improve strategies in addressing stalking.

VAWA 30th Anniversary Commemoration

On September 12-13, 2024, OVW commemorated a significant milestone – the 30th anniversary of VAWA – by hosting a summit in Washington, D.C. On September 12, the summit provided a platform for a series of insightful panels that collectively explored the evolving, multifaceted landscape of preventing and addressing gender-based violence. These discussions emphasized the importance of comprehensive, inclusive, and survivor-centered approaches. At the heart of these discussions was centering the powerful role of survivor voices and leadership, which shaped the development of the original VAWA legislation in 1994 and has continually shaped its expansion, fostering a broader and more inclusive response to survivors’ diverse experiences and needs with each subsequent reauthorization of VAWA in 2000, 2005, 2013 and 2022. On September 13, OVW hosted hundreds of survivors, advocates, victim services professionals, community leaders, government officials, and partners from the criminal and civil justice systems in the Great Hall of the Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice Building [to commemorate the anniversary](#). The event, which was also broadcasted to over 1,000 viewers, featured remarks from Attorney General Garland, Deputy Attorney General Lisa O. Monaco, Principal Deputy Associate Attorney General Benjamin C. Mizer, and Jennifer Klein, the Director of the White House Gender Policy Council. The White House also hosted an event on September 12th to commemorate the 30th anniversary of VAWA and issued a [fact sheet](#) highlighting accomplishments and new commitments, including those from other federal agencies advancing efforts to prevent and address gender-based violence.

30 Years Under VAWA: A Legacy and Future of Safety and Justice

This report provides a snapshot of how VAWA shaped the nation’s response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. It highlights key insights gathered from survivors, advocates, and criminal justice partners through extensive community engagement between January 2023 and November 2024. Centered on the needs of survivors, it showcases innovative solutions developed by communities to address VAWA-related crimes while also shining a light on critical challenges, such as systemic barriers within the civil and criminal justice systems, resource limitations, and the evolving tactics of perpetrators. The report highlights opportunities and recommendations to continue advancing our nation’s commitment to prevent and address gender-based violence.

Listening Sessions and Roundtables

OVW hosted and participated in listening sessions at prominent national conferences, including the Crimes Against Women Conference, the National Conference on Domestic Violence, the National Network to End Domestic Violence Summit, the National Sexual Assault Conference, the annual conference of End Violence Against Women International, and many other major gatherings and convenings. In addition to participating in conferences, OVW hosted stand-alone listening sessions to ensure its grants align with the evolving needs of the field. The following list highlights some sessions but is not a comprehensive account of all those facilitated by OVW.

- **Justice Department Leadership Meeting with Members of the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence**
Attorney General Garland, Deputy Attorney General Monaco, and Associate Attorney General Gupta convened a [virtual listening session](#) on Oct. 1, 2021, with members of the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence to discuss the unmet needs of survivors and the ways in which the VAWA legislation could be improved and strengthened to help to meet those needs. The task force members emphasized the critical need for reauthorizing and enhancing VAWA. They also spoke about the importance of OVW’s work since its inception, including funding many of our nation’s first comprehensive rape crisis centers, recognizing Tribal jurisdiction over non-Indian perpetrators of domestic violence, dedicating resources to enhance culturally specific services and reach underserved communities, and reducing homicides through federal firearms prohibitions.
- **Rural Program Listening Sessions**
OVW’s Rural Program hosted a series of listening sessions in the fall of 2021 as an opportunity for grantees to share with OVW staff the challenges they experience in providing services and interacting with survivors, prior to and as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants also discussed ideas for overcoming challenges and maintaining victim services in a changing environment with evolving community needs. Grantees shared that the pivot to virtual legal services and court proceedings has had a positive impact, including by reducing barriers and stress on survivors when they are able to participate in virtual hearings.
- **State Formula Grant Listening Sessions**
OVW’s Formula Grants Unit held a series of listening sessions in 2021 and 2022 with state formula grant administering agencies, administering the [STOP](#) (Services Training, Officers, Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program, and the Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program ([SASP](#)). The focus of the listening sessions was to ensure subgrantees have improved access to OVW’s formula funds, while also helping state administrators better meet the diverse needs of all survivors in their states, territories, and the District of Columbia.
- **Bilingual Listening Sessions with the Field**
OVW convened listening sessions in English and Spanish in the spring of 2024 with frontline workers in VAWA-funded jobs. The purpose was to learn what VAWA means for their work, ask what they see as survivors’ most pressing needs, and find out about their hopes for the future of VAWA. Frontline workers have the most direct interaction with survivors, so their perspectives offer unique insight into what VAWA grants accomplish and what needs remain.

- **Roundtable Series on Expanding Survivor-Centered Justice Approaches**
In 2022, OVW hosted a series of five virtual roundtables to discuss key issues in survivor-centered justice approaches and explore current and emerging interventions beyond the standard criminal justice and victim services responses. The roundtables informed OVW how these programs and services can support survivors, particularly survivors from underserved populations who are looking for different or additional options to pursue justice, healing, and well-being. The roundtables were co-hosted by Ujima: The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community (Ujima), the Center for Justice Innovation (CJI), and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ). They focused on abusive partner intervention, community violence intervention, community responder/co-responder models, restorative justice practices, and bail reform and gender-based violence.
- **Roundtable on Implementing the Improving Law Enforcement Response to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence by Identifying and Preventing Gender Bias**
In partnership with the Police Executive Research Forum, OVW hosted a roundtable discussion in the fall of 2022 with law enforcement subject matter experts and leaders on how best to implement the updated DOJ guidance, [Improving Law Enforcement Response to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence by Identifying and Preventing Gender Bias](#). Participants shared challenges and successes in implementing the core principles outlined in the guidance, and they identified actionable steps for implementation, as well as key resources and support that law enforcement agencies need to strengthen their responses to gender-based violence.
- **Prosecution Roundtable**
OVW and the Office for Victims of Crime hosted a prosecutor roundtable in July 2023 to gather input and recommendations on how DOJ can better support prosecutors in addressing domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. Insights gathered from this listening session, as well as from other consultations with prosecutors and advocates, were incorporated into the [DOJ Framework for Prosecutors to Strengthen Our National Response to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Involving Adult Victims](#).
- **Online Abuse and Harassment Roundtable**
In alignment with the [White House Task Force on Online Abuse and Harassment](#), OVW organized a virtual listening session in April 2023. This session brought together representatives from law enforcement and prosecution to share information and insights into supporting victims of online abuse and harassment. Topics discussed included victim-centered prosecution strategies, challenges faced by law enforcement, and training recommendations for law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and judges.
- **Roundtable on Prevention of Staff Sexual Abuse in Adult Custodial Settings**
In response to the need for enhanced prevention and building on the ongoing work of the corrections field to improve implementation of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA),

including the work highlighted at the PREA 20th Anniversary event hosted by DOJ’s Office of Justice Programs in 2023, OVW hosted a roundtable focused on improving prevention efforts. In January 2024, OVW, in collaboration with other federal partners, brought together experts across multiple disciplines to discuss strategies for preventing sexual abuse perpetrated by corrections staff in adult custodial settings and identify opportunities for further research to inform these strategies.

- **Raising Awareness About Stalking**

On January 17th, 2024, OVW hosted two [National Stalking Awareness Month \(NSAM\)](#) events, a listening session with survivors and a Great Hall event, bringing together survivors of stalking, advocates, law enforcement professionals, and prosecutors. Participants highlighted the barriers victims often face in seeking safety and support, including minimization of their experiences, economic instability, and lifelong trauma from psychological and physical harm. They also emphasized the transformative impact of coordinated community responses, comprehensive training, and targeted resources.

- **Listening Session on Investigation and Prosecution of Online Abuse**

An OVW-funded technical assistance project, Investigation and Prosecution of Online Abuse (Just Tech), held a listening session in February of 2024 with participants from the project’s Underserved and Culturally Specific Consortium alongside the project’s Lived Experience Council to identify training, resources, and support needs essential for the investigation and prosecution of online abuse.

Research and Evaluation

Between FY 2021 and FY 2024, OVW’s Research and Evaluation Initiative awarded nearly \$13 million in grants to support research and evaluation projects. These efforts focused on innovative approaches to preventing and addressing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. By advancing evidence-based practices, these projects help VAWA-funded communities enhance their work with strategies proven to be effective.

Advancing a Federal Coordinated Community Response

U.S. National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence

The cornerstone of VAWA and of OVW’s work is the Coordinated Community Response (CCR), which fosters an approach that is survivor-centered and trauma-informed, bringing together victim service providers, criminal and civil justice systems, community-based organizations, health-care providers, and other partners at the local level to meet the diverse needs of survivors on their path to safety, justice, healing, and well-being. The [U.S. National Plan to End Gender-based Violence: Strategies for Action](#) was launched in May 2023 to further advance this concept by establishing a “federal coordinated community response.” This plan serves as a comprehensive blueprint for a whole-of-government approach that builds on the lessons learned and achievements made through the efforts of survivors, advocates, and others, aiming to enhance strategies to prevent and address gender-based violence effectively and more comprehensively. OVW participated with

agency leaders from across the federal government, incorporating input from survivors, advocates, and diverse stakeholders, in the development of this first-ever national plan, including co-chairing Pillar 5: Legal and Justice Systems.

Disaster Preparedness and Response Plans

OVW partnered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) by participating in the establishment of a National Advisory Council on Gender-Based Violence Subcommittee, leveraging interagency resources to improve responses to gender-based violence during and after natural disasters and emergencies. Additionally, in FY 2024, OVW introduced a new purpose area within the Training and Technical Assistance Initiative, focusing on disaster preparedness and response planning. Through this initiative, OVW awarded \$300,000 to support training and technical assistance for grantees in developing disaster and public health crisis response plans tailored to the needs of survivors.

Virtual Seminar on Impact of Crime-Free Programs and Nuisance Property Ordinances on Survivors and Other Protected Groups

The Domestic Violence and Housing Technical Assistance Consortium and National Housing Law Project presented a virtual seminar in June 2022 entitled “Crime-Free Programs and Nuisance Property Ordinances: Their Impact on Survivors and Other Protected Groups,” which featured experts discussing challenges and successes in empowering communities, including survivors and other protected groups, to prevent evictions and other penalties for help-seeking behaviors imposed on survivors under local nuisance ordinances and crime-free programs. OVW collaborated with the Department of Housing and Urban Development in addressing these issues.

Interagency Statement on the Violence Against Women Act’s Housing Provisions

Five federal agencies – the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Justice, the Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department of the Treasury, and the Department of Veterans Affairs – that administer housing programs covered by VAWA’s housing protections, issued a [new interagency statement](#) in September 2024 in support of implementation of these housing protections for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Feds at the Forefront Event

OVW partnered with the Office of Personnel Management to host the event, “Feds at the Forefront: Addressing Gender-Based Violence in the Federal World of Work” on April 17, 2024. This event, commemorating Sexual Assault Awareness Month, focused on enhancing workplace policies and training programs designed to prevent and address gender-based violence and sexual harassment. At the event, Futures Without Violence, through the Workplaces Respond to Domestic and Sexual Violence Resource Center authorized by VAWA, launched a community of practice for federal agencies to share information, promising policies and practices, and resources for supporting employees in the federal workplace impacted by gender-based violence.

Violence Against Women Act 30th Anniversary Commemoration

At the [Violence Against Women Act 30th Anniversary Commemoration](#) on September 12-13, 2024, OVW hosted a panel featuring representatives from federal agencies to underscore the importance of a coordinated federal response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. Panelists from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Labor (DOL), and the State Department's Office of Global Women's Issues, shared their insights on fostering interagency collaboration to address these critical issues effectively.

Responding to Cybercrimes Against Individuals

National Resource Center on Cybercrimes Against Individuals

As previously noted, [OVW awarded](#) \$2.8 million to establish a new national resource center to provide information, training, and technical assistance to improve the capacity of individuals, organizations, governmental entities, and communities to prevent, investigate, and prosecute cybercrimes against individuals. This includes a primary focus on addressing technology-facilitated abuse, such as the non-consensual distribution of intimate images and cyberstalking, among others.

Local Law Enforcement Grants for Enforcement of Cybercrimes Program

As previously noted, [OVW awarded](#) 11 grants totaling \$5.5 million through this new grant program to support communities in preventing, investigating, and prosecuting cybercrimes against individuals and providing training for law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, victim service providers, and judicial personnel to address such crimes.

Prosecution and Investigation of Online Abuse Initiative

Under the FY 2023 Training and Technical Assistance Initiative Solicitation, OVW made a 36-month award of \$1 million to Aequitas for the Prosecution and Investigation of Online Abuse Initiative, which supports the provision of training and technical assistance to law enforcement and prosecution agencies to enhance their capacity to investigate and prosecute online crimes such as cyberstalking, online harassment, doxing, sextortion, and the non-consensual distribution of intimate images.

Online Safety for Children and Youth

OVW awarded a grant in 2024 to fund a 24-month training and technical assistance project to support children-and youth-serving organizations, schools and school districts, institutions of higher education, and victim service providers to enhance their ability to provide prevention and intervention strategies and responses to children and youth (ages 0 – 24) who have experienced or are impacted by technology-facilitated abuse.

Federal Civil Cause of Action for Nonconsensual Disclosure of Intimate Images

Section 1309 of VAWA 2022 created a new federal civil cause of action for individuals whose intimate visual images are distributed without their consent, allowing the recovery of damages and legal fees. To raise awareness, the DOJ's Office for Access to Justice partnered with OVW and the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys to develop an [informational pamphlet](#) for victims that explains the new cause of action, including its elements and available relief.

Improving Responses to Sexual Assault

National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations:

OVW published in September 2024 the third edition of the [National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations \(SAFE Protocol\)](#) for adults and adolescents. The protocol provides detailed guidelines for responding to the immediate needs of sexual assault patients. The protocol, first published in 2004, was updated to reflect current technology, science, and standards of practice.

National Service Line for Incarcerated Survivors of Sexual Abuse

OVW partnered with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) on an initiative to develop a National Service Line for Incarcerated Survivors of Sexual Abuse and funded the Urban Institute and the National Sexual Violence Resource Center to assess whether a national service line could provide services to incarcerated survivors and a mechanism for reporting sexual abuse. The resulting [report](#) was released in June 2024 and in September 2024, [OVW released a funding solicitation](#) to create, and pilot test a service line for sexual abuse victims in adult correctional settings in four states using two different models. The service line will include trauma-informed support via multiple means of communication.

Expanding Sexual Assault Victim Services on Campus Pilot

OVW released a solicitation for this [new pilot program](#) in April 2024. Campus sexual assault victim services must be survivor-centered, comprehensive, culturally relevant, and flexible for all survivors of sexual assault, which makes collaborative relationships between campus- and community-based victim service providers critical to ensuring that services are effective and accessible. OVW awarded nearly \$1.5 million in grant funds to support institutions of higher education as they improve victim services on campus by expanding access to holistic sexual assault services and creating a promising practices guide for higher education institutions that wish to expand their sexual assault services and advocacy.

Healing Services for Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse

[Healing Services for Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse](#) is an OVW-funded virtual course that provides resources for those who serve domestic violence and sexual assault survivors, many of whom may also be survivors of childhood sexual abuse. The course was developed by the Resource Sharing Project and has lessons about survivors, the impact of trauma, and trauma-informed approaches to healing, as well as a module for Sexual Assault Services Program administrators. The Associate Attorney General announced this new OVW-funded resource in a Sexual Assault Awareness Month [blog](#) on April 20, 2022.

Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examination: A Virtual Practicum (SAMFE VP)

This interactive e-learning [tool](#) that is funded by OVW, in partnership with the National Institute of Justice, launched in 2022, teaches healthcare providers every step of a person-centered examination, and is also a valuable training tool for law enforcement, prosecutors, forensic scientists, emergency medical services, victim advocates, and other allied professionals.

Restorative Justice for Sexual Assault Survivors: A Tip Sheet for Office on Violence Against Women-funded Lawyers

With OVW technical assistance funding, the Victim Rights Law Center produced a [resource](#) with an overview and recommendations for how OVW-funded attorneys can support sexual assault survivors interested in exploring restorative justice options on their path to healing. The tip sheet is organized chronologically into three parts: Part I begins with a discussion of where, how, and with whom to launch an exploration of restorative justice options in your community; Part II provides guidance on discussing restorative justice with a client who is a survivor of sexual assault; and Part III offers insight into how to determine if the restorative justice programs available in a community are likely to meet a survivor client's needs

Improving Access for Underserved Populations

Language Access

In alignment with the [DOJ's updated Language Access Plan](#), OVW revised its own Language Access Plan and provided training to support staff in ensuring language access in the implementation of OVW's programs in compliance with federal legislation and regulations. This updated plan seeks to ensure that grantees, subgrantees, applicants, and the survivors served by OVW-funded programs can fully benefit from and access OVW-supported resources.

Funding Culturally Specific Organizations

In FY 2024, OVW issued [\\$22.97 million](#) in grants through the [Grants to Enhance Culturally Specific Services for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Program](#) to support community-based programs that provide culturally specific services for survivors of gender-based violence, as well as support the further development of innovative culturally specific strategies and projects that enhance access to services and resources for survivors who face obstacles to using more traditional services and resources. Additionally, OVW awarded grants totaling more than [\\$8 million](#) through [OVW's Sexual Assault Services Culturally Specific Program](#) to support nonprofit organizations that focus primarily on addressing the needs of survivors from culturally specific communities and have experience working with survivors of sexual assault.

Outreach and Services to Underserved Populations Program

In FY 2024, OVW awarded [\\$10.8 million](#) in grants under the [Outreach and Services to Underserved Populations Program](#). Funds under this program are used for the purpose of providing or enhancing population-specific outreach and services to adult and youth victims in one or more underserved populations.

Expanding Deaf-Specific Victim Services

In FY 2023, OVW funded Phase Two of a two-part [initiative to expand and strengthen](#) services for Deaf victims and survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Under Phase One, OVW issued the National Deaf Service Line Initiative solicitation. This project resulted in the [Expanding Deaf Specific Victim Services Nationwide; A 1-Year Strategy Report](#). In FY 2024, OVW [provided \\$3 million in grant funding](#) to implement the recommended strategy outlined in the report, launching a virtual “for Deaf, by Deaf” victim services program, which will be the foundation of this initiative, and also test strategies to expand in-person services.

Additionally, in FY 2024, [grants totaling](#) more than \$1.4 million from the [Training and Services to End Violence and Abuse Against Individuals with Disabilities and Deaf People Program](#) supported efforts to improve the response to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and caregiver abuse who have disabilities or are Deaf, and to hold perpetrators of such crimes accountable.

Initiative to Support Culturally Specific Colleges and Universities in Addressing Violence

OVW launched the [Strengthening Culturally Specific Campuses’ Approaches to Address Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Initiative](#). In FY 2024, [OVW distributed](#) \$9.48 million in grants through this initiative, based on statutory language in VAWA 2022 and the appropriations acts, to support programs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities in strengthening their institutional response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Expanding Legal Services Initiative

In 2022, OVW launched the Expanding Legal Services Initiative (ELSI) under the [Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program](#). ELSI supports entities that do not yet have a legal services program and need assistance establishing one. Grantees receive specific training and technical assistance to help create a legal program, with a focus on reaching survivors from underserved populations who face additional barriers in accessing legal services and support.

Training and Services to End Abuse in Later Life Program

[Grants totaling](#) more than \$6.87 million for FY 2024 support a comprehensive approach to addressing abuse in later life, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, neglect, abandonment, economic abuse, or willful harm committed against victims who are 50 or older.

Underserved Web Portal

With funding under OVW’s Training and Technical Assistance Initiative, the Alliance of Local Service Organizations (ALSO)’s [Underserved Web Portal](#) houses a variety of tools and resources to support OVW Underserved Program grantees in their work. These resources are designed to increase grantees’ capacity to develop and implement outreach strategies targeted at, and to provide victim services to, adult and youth victims and survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking in underserved populations.

Widening Access for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Communities

In FY 2024, OVW [awarded a Training and Technical Assistance](#) grant to support Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community-based organizations in highlighting best practices, fostering peer support, and strengthening overall capacity. These efforts aim to enhance support for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Support to Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) Communities

To bolster the MENA communities' capacity to serve survivors and identify any service gaps, OVW [awarded a FY 2023 Training and Technical Assistance grant](#) to provide training and technical assistance on domestic violence and sexual assault services to community-based organizations currently serving or planning to develop services focused on addressing the needs of victims from MENA communities. This support is delivered through regional capacity workshops and the development of resources for organizations.

Equity Action Plan

OVW played an integral role in developing and implementing certain provisions in DOJ's [Equity Action Plan](#) that focused on expanding access to grants administered by DOJ. The initiative identified ways to make grant solicitations more accessible and user-friendly, while implementing targeted strategies to support community-based organizations – particularly those with no prior experience accessing federal funding – submitting successful applications.

Expanding Options for Pursuing Safety and Accountability

Framework for Prosecutors to Strengthen our National Response to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Involving Adult Victims

Released in May 2024, OVW released the [Framework for Prosecutors to Strengthen our National Response to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Involving Adult Victims](#) and accompanying resources for prosecutors to strengthen our national response to sexual assault and domestic violence by reducing declinations of meritorious allegations. It sets out five principles to equip prosecutors to build provable cases in a trauma-informed manner that treats victims with humanity and ensures due process for defendants. Written by prosecutors for prosecutors, this guide reflects decades of expertise, insight, and experience of more than 120 state, Tribal, military, and federal prosecutors, as well as advocates, academics, and investigators who dedicated their careers to combatting sexual assault and domestic violence. Although the focus is on prosecutors, it equally applies to investigators, advocates, and anyone building these sorts of cases. Since the release of the guide, OVW has trained hundreds of federal, state, and military prosecutors as well as law enforcement officers throughout the federal government on implementing the principles and thereby improving investigations and prosecutions.

Guiding Principles for Engagement and Intervention with People Who Cause Harm through Intimate Partner Violence

Created in 2022 as part of the OVW-funded Abusive Partner Accountability and Engagement Training and Technical Assistance Project initiative, these [guiding principles](#) are designed to inform abusive partner intervention programming at all stages of intervention in order to enhance programs and the broader community response to accountability and engagement for people who cause harm through intimate partner violence. Equity is a central component of the guiding principles and is interwoven into the fabric of each interrelated principle.

Awareness Month Toolkits for U.S Attorney Offices

In honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and Teen Dating Awareness and Prevention Month, OVW developed and released tailored toolkits for U.S. Attorney's Offices to share valuable resources with their stakeholders. These toolkits included social media graphics, talking points, and press release templates, as well as materials designed to showcase federal partnerships with local community initiatives.

First Protocol for Intimate Partner Violence Medical Forensic Examinations

OVW released the [National.Protocol.for.Intimate.Partner.Violence.Medical.Forensic.Examinations](#), in May 2023, developed in collaboration with the International Association of Forensic Nurses and in partnership with healthcare, victim advocacy, justice, law enforcement, and victim service providers. The protocol guides healthcare providers in conducting comprehensive assessments in a clinical setting of patients experiencing intimate partner violence that prioritizes the patient's health and well-being. The protocol underscores trauma-informed, patient-centered care, as well as the critical role of language accessibility.

Federal and Local Coordinated Community Response

On December 11, 2023, OVW moderated a panel titled **“Safe at Home: PSN's Role in Reducing Domestic Violence”** at the Bureau of Justice Assistance Violent Crime Summit in Indianapolis, Indiana. Panelists highlighted the strategy development, implementation efforts, strategic partnerships, and successes of two PSN District initiatives: the Western District of Oklahoma's [Operation 922](#) and the Northern District of Alabama's [Operation Safe Families](#).

In FY23, OVW staff visited the Western District of Oklahoma's Operation 922 and toured a local Family Justice Center to learn how four local programs are implementing the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Violent Crime Initiative. Similarly, in FY24, OVW leadership and staff met with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Alabama and its criminal justice and community partners to discuss Operation Safe Families, where partners collaborate on addressing high-risk domestic violence cases to reduce violent crime, homicides, and gun violence. Notably, the Northern District of Alabama is also a partner in OVW's Firearms Technical Assistance Project (FTAP), which works to reduce domestic violence-related firearms fatalities.

Investigating and Prosecuting Staff-Committed Sexual Abuse in the Federal Bureau of Prisons: National Advocacy Center

In October 2024, OVW and the Civil Rights Division, in collaboration with the Office of Inspector General (OIG), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) and the Executive Office of United States Attorneys (EOUSA) co-hosted a three-day in-person training at the National Advocacy Center (NAC) that focused on effectively investigating and prosecuting allegations of staff-committed sexual abuse in the federal Bureau of Prisons. It addressed investigative strategies and challenges, trauma-informed interviewing, working with marginalized victims, evidence collection, charging decisions, pre-trial motion practice, parallel civil litigation, and discovery and sentencing issues. Faculty included subject matter experts from throughout DOJ, including OVW. About 125 federal prosecutors, OIG agents, FBI agents, BOP investigators, and victim specialists attended. The training was met with high praise and OVW has received requests for additional and follow-up trainings.

Supporting Effective Investigations

Improving Law Enforcement Response to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence by Identifying and Preventing Gender Bias

Released in 2022, the updated guidance on [Improving Law Enforcement Response to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence by Identifying and Preventing Gender Bias](#) is designed to help law enforcement agencies recognize, mitigate, and prevent gender bias and other bias from compromising the response to, and investigation of, sexual assault, domestic violence, and other forms of gender-based violence. The guidance provides a set of eight basic principles that – if integrated into LEAs’ policies, trainings and practices – help ensure that gender bias, either intentionally or unintentionally, does not undermine efforts to keep survivors safe and hold offenders accountable.

Gender Bias Prevention Initiative for Law Enforcement Agencies Project

In fiscal year 2022, OVW awarded nearly \$800,000 in technical assistance grants to Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) to support implementation of the [law enforcement guidance](#). PERF partnered with Ujima: The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community to conduct the Gender Bias Prevention Initiative for Law Enforcement Agencies project, in which policing experts provided guidance and support to several law enforcement agencies as they developed and implemented action steps for improving their response to, and investigation of, sexual assault and domestic violence. IACP worked in partnership with the National Center for Victims of Crime to implement the Proactive Approaches to Domestic and Sexual Violence: Recognizing and Eliminating Gender Bias in Law Enforcement project. Eight sites will use IACP’s existing assessments and tools to identify strengths and gaps in the response to gender-based violence and establish action plans to address those gaps.

National Violence Against Women Law Enforcement Training and Technical Assistance Consortium (LETTAC)

In 2022, OVW launched [LETTAC](#), a single, streamlined point of entry for OVW grantees and the field to request law enforcement TTA. LETTAC prioritizes inclusivity – including support for traditionally underserved jurisdictions, such as rural and Tribal communities – in assisting all law enforcement in best responding to, investigating, and prosecuting intimate partner violence and VAWA crimes in a trauma-informed manner, supporting victim healing, safety, and justice.

Domestic Violence and Firearms

Firearms Technical Assistance Project

In 2021, OVW launched the [Firearms Technical Assistance Project \(FTAP\)](#), which provides funding and support to an initial select group of communities nationwide focused on reducing domestic violence homicides and injuries involving firearms. FTAP assists communities in implementing effective policies and practices to prevent firearm access by adjudicated domestic violence offenders. In 2022, [OVW expanded the project](#) and funded six additional sites. The current FTAP grantee sites are: Birmingham, Alabama; Muscogee Creek Nation; Columbus, Ohio; Brooklyn, New York; the state of Vermont; Tucson, Arizona; the Georgia Department of Community Supervision; Detroit, Michigan; Knoxville and the Tennessee Valley, Tennessee; Austin, Texas; and Yakima, Washington.

FTAP Convening, Listening Session and Unveiling of Department Firearms Strategies

In August 2024, [OVW brought together all FTAP sites in Denver, Colorado](#), for a convening that fostered the exchange of best practices and strategies. The event also included a listening session, which offered valuable insights into trauma-informed approaches centered on survivors, strategies to strengthen partnerships between law enforcement, prosecutors, victim service providers, and others, as well as identifying areas of support to enhance program effectiveness. Additionally, OVW unveiled new firearms-related initiatives as part of DOJ’s comprehensive strategy to raise awareness about federal laws prohibiting firearm possession by domestic abusers.

National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and Firearms

OVW funds the [National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and Firearms](#) (NRCDV), operated by the Battered Women’s Justice Project, to provide training and technical assistance for initiatives aimed at the relinquishment of firearms by individuals prohibited from possessing or purchasing firearms due to misdemeanor domestic violence convictions or domestic violence protection orders. In November 2024, NRCDV released [Promising Practices: Federal-State-Local Coordinated Justice System Responses to Domestic Violence And Firearms](#) to support local, state and federal partnerships and an update to the [Firearms Relinquishment in Cases Involving Intimate Partner Violence: How to Structure Effective Protocols For Your Community](#).

Collaborative Trainings

OVW partnered with the ATF, FBI, and EOUSA in 2024 to develop and deliver trainings and resources designed to strengthen collaborations between federal agencies and local communities in enforcing federal firearm prohibitions. As part of this initiative, a roll call training video titled

[Misdemeanor Crimes of Domestic Violence; Take the Extra Minute. - . It Could Save a Life](#) was unveiled at the International Association of Chiefs of Police conference in October. The video underscores the technical assistance and grant resources available to law enforcement agencies while providing critical information on federal firearm prohibitions and proper documentation within the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).

Misdemeanor Crimes of Domestic Violence Prohibitions Reference Card

DOJ released [The Misdemeanor Crimes of Domestic Violence Prohibitions](#) reference card, in May 2024, a resource outlining the tools available under federal law to prevent firearm purchases by domestic violence offenders and to prosecute those who illegally possess them. This includes the implementation of new dating-relationship provisions enacted through the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA), which address the so-called "boyfriend loophole for cases involving a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence by a dating partner. The reference card is designed to enhance understanding among law enforcement, courts, and the public about domestic violence firearm prohibitions, supporting more effective implementation of these critical measures.

Resource Guide for Addressing the Intersection of Domestic Violence and Firearms

To support communities in accessing federal resources and strengthening a coordinated community response to address domestic violence and firearms, OVW and the Office for Justice Programs developed this [resource guide](#). The guide, released in June 2024, details DOJ funding, training, and partnership opportunities aimed at enforcing firearms laws and strengthening efforts at the local, state, Tribal, and federal levels to keep guns out of the hands of adjudicated abusers.

Raising Awareness of OVW Grants to Address Firearms

In July 2024, OVW informed STOP Formula Grant administrators about opportunities to use OVW STOP grants and certain discretionary grants to address the intersection of domestic violence and firearms through a formal letter and additional support through training and technical assistance for STOP grant administrators. Similarly, OVW extended this notification to State Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions, providing tailored guidance on leveraging grant resources, as well as training and technical assistance, to tackle this critical issue.

Engaging Men and Boys

National Strategy Center on Engaging Men to End Gender-Based Violence

OVW supports strategies that involve men as partners in prevention efforts, including the development of resources such as Futures Without Violence's [National Strategy Center on Engaging Men to End Gender-Based Violence](#), which was launched in May 2022. From providing overarching principles and best practices on public messaging to compiling promising programs and tools, this new website aims to holistically support organizations' efforts to engage men and boys in meaningful initiatives and as agents of change.

Supporting Men as Allies in Tribal Communities

In FY 2023, OVW made a training and technical assistance award to Fox Valley Technical College to support a Tribal men's conference, ProtectHer, to be held in August 2025, which will provide

opportunities for learning, sharing, and strategizing approaches to support men as allies and advocates who are working to address efforts to end gender-based violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women, children, and families, 2-spirited/LGBTQ individuals, and persons with disabilities.

Engaging Men and Boys in Preventing Gender-Based Violence

In FY 2024, OVW issued [grants totaling](#) more than \$3.35 million from the Grants to Engage Men and Boys as Allies in the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls Program to support efforts to create educational and community-based programming designed to encourage men and boys to work as allies with women and girls to prevent domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sex trafficking.

Community Violence Intervention

In April 2024, OVW convened listening sessions with Community Violence Interruption (CVI) practitioners in Chicago to explore how CVI programs address gender-based violence. Additionally, OVW presented at the Community Violence Interruption Conference, highlighting effective partnerships between CVI programs and the domestic and sexual violence field.

Families, Children, and Youth

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month Events

On February 14, 2023, OVW [hosted](#) a Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month Event featuring a panel of youth engaged in violence prevention efforts in their communities, as well as prevention experts and remarks from DOJ leadership. Additionally, in February 2024, OVW hosted a webinar, co-sponsored by the National Domestic Violence Hotline and Love is Respect, along with the Department of Health and Human Services, highlighting the leadership of teens addressing online abuse and harassment.

The Summit Series on Youth and Violence

The Summit Series on Youth and Violence was created as a partnership among OVW, Futures Without Violence, and Break the Cycle in 2022. These organizations, dedicated to preventing and ending teen dating violence, identified areas in need of greater exploration in the field of youth and violence: justice, trauma, culture, and accountability. Some of the most respected youth-serving organizations and youth activists from across the country came together for three convenings to tap into their experience, insight, and expertise to identify innovative approaches to address teen dating violence. The summit resulted in a digital toolkit organized around making actionable change in communities and implementing youth violence prevention strategies.

Safe Access for Victims' Economic Security (SAVES)

In February 2024, OVW presented on the Model Code on Domestic Violence and Family Violence, as well as on OVW grants and resources, at the SAVES grantee convening hosted by HHS's Administration for Children and Families. The convening supported projects aimed at enhancing

survivor safety in child support programs and increasing access to child support and parenting time services for parents facing safety concerns.

Young Women and Girls

In October 2024, OVW, in partnership with the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), and the nonprofit organization Justice + Joy National Collaborative, hosted a listening session with young women and girls from marginalized communities. The session aimed to gather their perspectives on addressing domestic and sexual violence, improving intervention and prevention efforts, and fostering their leadership in addressing these critical issues.

Closing

The Office on Violence Against Women provides federal leadership in building the national capacity to reduce violence against women, administer justice for victims, and enhance services for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. OVW extends its gratitude to survivors, advocates, criminal justice professionals, and community partners for their vital role in advancing the mission to ensure safe communities and access to safety and justice for survivors.

For more information on our grant programs, initiatives, technical assistance, and training, please visit [justice.gov/ovw](https://www.justice.gov/ovw).