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U.S. Department of Justice

Office on Violence Against Women

Washington, DC 20530

March 27, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for all of your efforts to keep your programs running during the COVID-19 national emergency and continue to provide supports for victims in your state. I hope you have received my emails dated March 17, March 19, and March 27, providing flexibilities for administrative relief to funding recipients affected by the loss of operational capacity and increased costs due to the COVID-19 crisis. I am writing to provide additional information and flexibilities specific to the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program (STOP Program).

Match Waivers

As you know, the STOP Program requires a 25 percent non-federal match (with certain exceptions). States are able to request a waiver of the match based on adequate demonstration of financial need. Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) regulations (28 CFR 90.18(d)) provide detailed information on the documentation needed to demonstrate financial need. OVW has determined that the COVID-19 national emergency has created sufficient financial need for all states and territories. Therefore, for your Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, 2019, and 2020 awards, if your program is in need of a match waiver, please submit a letter, signed by the authorized representative for the STOP Program award, explaining that your state is experiencing financial need as a result of COVID-19 and request a waiver. Please include the amount of waiver you are requesting. This letter will be considered sufficient documentation of need and OVW will waive the amount of match requested.

Implementation Plans

State implementation plans for the STOP Program would normally be due with the FY 2021 grant applications. We expect most states are well on their way to developing this plan. We also recognize, however, that the COVID-19 national emergency interferes with normal planning activities, such as holding planning meetings, and creates the need to focus on other priorities such as emergency services. Therefore, we have extended the planning period, so that new plans will be due with the FY 2022 applications instead. For FY 2021, states will have the option of submitting a plan modification to their FY 2017 plan or submitting a letter indicating they will continue to follow their FY 2017 plan.

In addition to these flexibilities, you should have received emails from Amy Loder, Associate Director for the STOP Program, extending the annual progress report deadline from March 30 to May 29, 2020, extending the application due dates for the Rape Survivor Child Custody Act (RSCCA) to July 1 and August 1, 2020 (depending whether

the state is a current recipient of RSCCA funds), and describing flexibilities in the STOP Program application process for FY 2020. If you have any questions about these flexibilities, or other matters, please contact your OVW program specialist.

During these difficult times, I want you to know that my thoughts and full support are with all of you. I am in awe of your dedication and your creativity in finding new ways to accomplish your mission. Your selflessness and dedication to others is the driving force that makes your programs a success. The importance of guarding your health cannot be understated, both for you and your family's personal well-being, but also so that you can continue to serve those who require your assistance through your programs. So, thank you for all you are doing, on a daily basis. Please know that we are here for you at OVW, available to assist you. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Laura L. Rogers
Acting Director