

**Goal 1:** In 2019, 2020, and 2021 assist the Hampton Police Department annually with at least one new recruit police officer training presentation as that training relates specifically to domestic violence, the dynamics of domestic violence, the laws pertaining to domestic violence and evidence gathering in domestic violence cases.

**Objective:** To train at least one new police officer recruiting class per grant year in the years 2019 through 2021.

**Activities:**

- Submit evaluations to participants for critique of training program;
- Monitor and list the participants at each training program;
- Prepare and present handouts to participants.

**Deliverables:** Evaluations from the officers attending the training, a running list of the officers who have been trained on the basics of domestic violence investigation and evidence-based prosecution, and an informative training document which can be distributed to any police officer who needs the information or a primer on domestic violence.

**Goal 2:** Implement more effective investigatory and prosecutorial procedures devoted to locating and educating uncooperative victims and witnesses.

**Objective:** Decrease the overall number of cases nolle prossed due to lack of evidence and/or victim uncooperativeness by at least 5%

**Activities:**

- Make earlier contact with victims and witnesses to establish trust. In addition to an initial contact letter from the victim witness advocate, an initial telephone call from the DV prosecutor will be made.
- Utilize the staff investigator and other cooperating agencies (i.e. Transitions) to locate missing victims.
- At arraignments and bond hearings, the DV prosecutor and victim witness advocate will use that opportunity to discuss the case with those victims that appear, and update contact information for future contact.
- Train HPD police officers in the proper investigatory procedures for documenting and obtaining victim/witness information during first response and effectively obtaining evidence for prosecution of cases.

**Deliverables:** Statistics regarding the ultimate outcome of cases.

**Goal:** In collaboration with the Hampton Police Division, to enhance the response to violence against women by promoting the identification, apprehension, prosecution, and adjudication of perpetrators of violence against women.

**Objective:** In 2019, 2020, and 2021, to prosecute 1000 domestic violence cases and to provide prosecutorial assistance to 650 new or unduplicated victims of domestic violence and other ancillary charges.

**Activities:**

- Monitor the number of prosecutions and dispositions of cases involving domestic violence, violations of protective orders, stalking, and other ancillary charges; include information regarding same in the quarterly progress report;
- Monitor the number of prosecutions and dispositions of any appeals involving the above cases, and include in the quarterly progress report;
- Conduct the bond motions and revocations hearings for all domestic violence cases;
- Coordinate with victim-witness personnel and Transitions personnel to schedule victim and witness interviews prior to trial
- Prosecute the cases at trial; speak with victims at least 2 weeks prior to court, when possible, and meet with victims directly before and after trial with victim/witness personnel and Transitions personnel;
- Prosecute any appeals;
- Maintain a disposition sheet for all cases prosecuted;
- Seek and attend at least two training opportunities through various institutions, including but not limited to NDAA and DCJS.

**Deliverables:** Statistics (document and maintain log of successful prosecution of these cases and the investigatory methods that worked favorably).

## Evaluation Plan

- a. The Hampton Commonwealth's Attorney's Office Community Unified Response Effort grant (CURE) is a continuation project and has received VSTOP funding since 1996.
- b. As an established program in the community, victims of domestic violence are aware they can call the police, make a complaint, and the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office will prosecute the case. Although we often encounter victims who want to drop the charges, we explain to the victim our stance against domestic violence and the fact we have a "no-drop" policy. This policy accounts for a large part of our successful prosecution. It has proven to be an essential part of this program's success and to offender accountability.
- c. The cooperation between the Commonwealth's Attorney Office, Police, and Transitions contributes greatly to the success of this program. There is constant communication concerning needs of victims, prosecutors, and police investigators. We recognize the fight against domestic violence is a team effort which leads to improved victim services and better ways to investigate and prosecute criminals who commit violent acts against women.
- d. Program services have increased since VSTOP funds have been available to the CURE program. We have learned the types of services needed by domestic violence victims. An attempt is made to contact 100% of victims prior to court. Support services are always discussed with all victims who are open to services. Prior to dismissal of any case where a victim cannot be located, we task our investigator to ascertain contact information. Prior to receiving VSTOP funding, as many as 70% of cases were dismissed. With VSTOP funding it is estimated that the number of cases prosecuted has increased by over 100% since 1996. In 2013 we prosecuted 663 cases which included domestic violence and/or ancillary charges. We are prosecuting nearly 800 cases with independent victims per year at this point, with over 1000 separate court events. This is handled by the DV prosecutor alone. VSTOP funding allowed those victims who sought help to have a voice and representation in court.
- e. The major barrier encountered at every step of the way is uncooperativeness and/or recanting by victims. Because of VSTOP funding a dedicated prosecutor spends his entire working time contacting, speaking to, and convincing victims that now is the time to come forward. This prosecutor also has contact with the same victims at times and it lends a sense of familiarity to those victims who have been uncooperative in the past but who are now prepared to put a stop to the violence. The main priority of this prosecutor is to show the victims that we do care and it is possible and there are means by which they can overcome what is happening to them.
- f. In the past, the attitude of police have been an issue, and to some extent occasionally is. But thanks to the funding, training, and dedication it allows, this issue has increased communication with the police and improved their attitude toward these cases. Especially when the prosecutor can show them statistics proving their efforts are leading to favorable resolutions. At times that movement forward seems incremental but globally is significant.

## Survey

In the past, a survey has been used by the DV prosecutor which was two pages long and unreasonable considering the heavy number of cases that must be handled on any one docket

(somewhere between 40 to 60 cases in one day). It was impossible to get victim feedback when the prosecutor cannot step away from the table for 6 hours. Below is a proposal for a new survey. This survey will address the specific concerns that need to be addressed to overcome the barriers to effective prosecution. That is effective communication, proper police response, and full evidence collection. The last survey used by this office contained superfluous questions focused upon "helpfulness," which is too vague and in terms of victims who potentially do not want to be a part of this process, "helpful" takes on a number of different meanings.

**V-STOP Underserved Data Sheet**

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs identifies the following as underserved populations. Please indicate the number of victims you served in each category in Calendar Year 2017.

Please indicate in **percentages** how your board, staff, and volunteer force reflect the culture and ethnicity of your service area using the traditionally underserved populations as defined by the Department of Justice (e.g. Board is comprised of 20% African American, 5% Hispanic, 75% White **compared to** the demographic breakdown of Random County, Virginia, which is 53% White, 30% African-American, 15% Hispanic, and 2% Native American). You can find the census data for each Virginia locality at <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/51000.html>.

Underserved Population	Census Data from Primary Locality(ies)	Victims Served in CY2017	% of Board (if NGO)	% of Agency Staff	% of Volunteers
<b>Geographic:</b>					
Rural					
Tribal					
Underserved Urban					
Other:					
<b>Racial/Ethnic:</b>					
African American	50.8%	66.2%		54.5%	
Asian American	2.4%	1.9%			
Pacific Islander	0.1%				
Hispanic	5.7%			9%	
Native American	0.5%				
Other:	4.1%				
<b>Linguistic:</b>					
Spanish-speaking				9%	
Asian languages					
Other:					
<b>Population specific:</b>					
Mentally/emotionally challenged		1.3%			
Physically/medically challenged					

