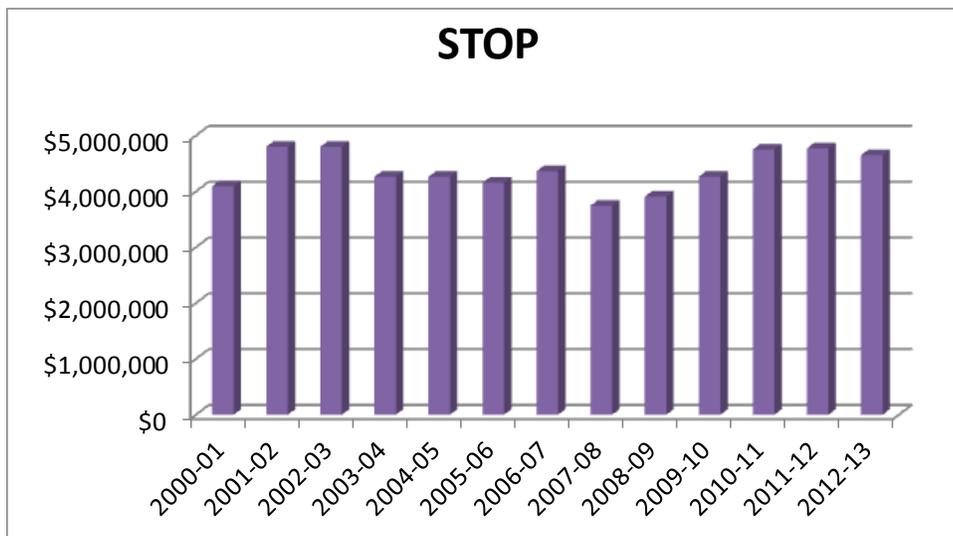


STOP Violence Against Women FUNDING STREAM

STOP Violence Against Women (STOP)

History

The STOP Formula Grant Program through the federal Office on Violence Against Women was established by the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (reauthorized in 2005) to develop and strengthen the criminal justice system's response to violence against women and to support and enhance services for victims. The STOP Program promotes a multidisciplinary approach to improve the criminal and juvenile justice systems' response to violence against women and to enhance prosecution, advocacy and services available to women who have been victims of violent crimes. The emphasis of the STOP Program is the implementation of comprehensive victim services, law enforcement and prosecutorial strategies addressing violence against women that are sensitive to the needs and safety of victims and hold offenders accountable for their crimes.



*Note: The above chart does not include ARRA

Problem Statement

- STOP funding is restricted to programs engaged in a collaborative response to adult and teenaged victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence.
- STOP funded counties divide the funding among victim services, law enforcement and prosecution.
- When STOP funding was introduced in Pennsylvania in the mid 1990's, counties were gradually brought into the program with the expectation that Pennsylvania's allocation would increase and all 67 counties could be funded, however this did not occur.
- By 2007, the average county STOP allocation was 46% of what it had been a decade earlier.

- STOP funded counties could no longer sustain their projects as originally conceived; STOP funded positions were reduced or eliminated and counties were threatening to pull out of the program entirely because they could not provide local funding to make up the federal shortfalls.
- In 2007, VSAC appointed a workgroup to examine the administration of STOP funding in Pennsylvania, particularly in light of reduced STOP funding, effectiveness of the funding strategy, and the fact that Pennsylvania's STOP allocation was too small to fund all 67 counties.
- The STOP Workgroup recommended and VSAC accepted that STOP funding be switched to a competitive process with successful applicants being eligible to receive up to \$125K per year over a three-year grant cycle.

Programmatic Overview

- There are currently 29 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties receiving STOP funding.
- STOP funding is provided on a three-year grant cycle.
- While a 25% federal match is required, Pennsylvania received permission from the federal Office on Violence Against Women to use its state budgetary allocations for sexual assault and domestic violence to meet this requirement.
- Collaboration is a key component of the STOP Program.
- Funds must be allocated using a Federal Formula. The percentage system consists of 25% for law enforcement, 25% for prosecution, 30% to victim services (of which 10% of this allocation must be used for underserved populations), 5% to courts and 15% to discretionary. This is primarily used for staff salaries and benefits in victim services, law enforcement and prosecution for positions whose function is to provide services to victims of or investigate/prosecute cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence.
- On average, STOP funded programs annually provide assistance to over 25,000 victims of violence against women.
- In order to receive STOP funding, Pennsylvania must certify that it is in compliance with the following four Federal requirements:
 - Do not charge victims for filing criminal charges or protection orders;
 - Do not charge for forensic medical examinations for victims of sexual assault and do not require victims to participate in the criminal justice system or cooperate with law enforcement in order to receive a free forensic sexual assault exam;
 - Comply with judicial notification requirements regarding firearms; and
 - Comply with Pennsylvania's polygraphing policy.
- All STOP grants are monitored once every three years for programmatic and fiscal compliance.