



JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM

Grants to Support Families in the Justice System Program

July – December 2016

Justice for Families grantees seek to improve the response of the civil and criminal justice system to families with a history of domestic/sexual violence or child sexual abuse. JFF grantees do this by promoting the development of supervised visitation and exchange centers, providing civil legal assistance to victims and non-offending parents, improving civil and criminal court responses to victims of domestic/sexual violence, and training court-based and court-related personnel on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and child sexual abuse.^{1,2}

- **98** grantees reported this period.³

VICTIM SERVICES

Justice for Families Program grantees provided comprehensive services to **3,103** victims of domestic/sexual violence and child sexual abuse to help them become and remain safe from violence. These services include legal advocacy, civil legal assistance, criminal justice advocacy, and victim advocacy.

Victims seeking services ⁴		
Victims	Total	Percentage
Served	2,923	93%
Partially served	180	6%
Not served	53	2%
Total seeking services	3,156	100%

- **24** grantees used funds for victim services (24% of all grantees reporting).

¹ This report contains selected data submitted by Justice for Families Program grantees on a semi-annual progress report.

² Throughout this document, the sum of percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

³ During the reporting period, 22 grantees reported JFF-funded activities on the Courts Program form, 38 grantees on the Supervised Visitation Program form, and 38 grantees reported on the JFF Form. This is the first reporting period grantees submitted data on the JFF Form.

⁴ Percentages are based on victims seeking services.

Services to victims:

- Civil legal advocacy/court accompaniment was provided to **1,297** victims (42% of all victims receiving services);
- Victim advocacy was provided to **1,228** (40%) victims;
- Criminal justice advocacy/court accompaniment was provided to **790** (25%) victims; and
- Pro se clinics/group services were provided to **17** (1%) victims.

Protection orders provided with assistance from victim services staff:

- Domestic/dating violence: **773** temporary orders and **526** final orders were granted
- Stalking: **38** temporary orders and **24** final orders were granted
- Child sexual abuse: **10** temporary orders and **9** final orders were granted
- Sexual assault: **9** temporary orders and **11** final orders were granted

Victims served or partially served by type of victimization:

- Domestic/dating violence: **2,850** (92% of all victims receiving services)
- Stalking: **201** (6%)
- Sexual assault: **40** (1%)
- Child sexual abuse: **12** (<1%)

Demographics of victims served	Total	% of those receiving services
Race/ethnicity^{5,6}		
White	1,459	61%
Black or African American	629	26%
Hispanic or Latino	588	25%
American Indian and Alaska Native	104	4%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	78	3%
Asian	47	2%
Gender⁵		
Female	2,454	88%
Male	335	12%

⁵ Percentages are based on victims receiving services for whom this information was known.

⁶ Some victims may identify with more than one race/ethnicity, so the total number reported in race/ethnicity may be higher than the total number of victims served.

Demographics of victims served	Total	% of those receiving services
Age⁵		
11-17	14	1%
18-24	445	18%
25-59	1,948	77%
60+	133	5%
Other demographics⁷		
Rural	790	25%
Limited English proficiency	444	14%
Immigrants/refugees/asylum seekers	144	5%
Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer	125	4%
Disabilities	115	4%

Victims' relationship to offender ⁸	Total	% of those receiving services
Domestic/dating violence		
Spouse/intimate partner	2,096	82%
Dating relationship	259	10%
Other family/household member	182	7%
Acquaintance	17	1%
Stalking		
Spouse/intimate partner	134	58%
Acquaintance	51	22%
Other family/household member	34	15%
Dating relationship	9	4%
Stranger	3	1%
Sexual assault		
Spouse/intimate partner	35	59%
Acquaintance	9	15%
Dating relationship	9	15%
Other family/household member	4	7%
Stranger	2	3%

⁷ Because victims may be represented in more than one of these categories, or not at all, the total for this category may be higher or lower than the total number of victims served.

⁸ Victims may have been abused by more than one offender and/or may have experienced more than one type of victimization, so the total for each victimization category may be higher than the total number of victims served in each of those categories. Percentages presented here are based on the total number of known relationships in each victimization category.

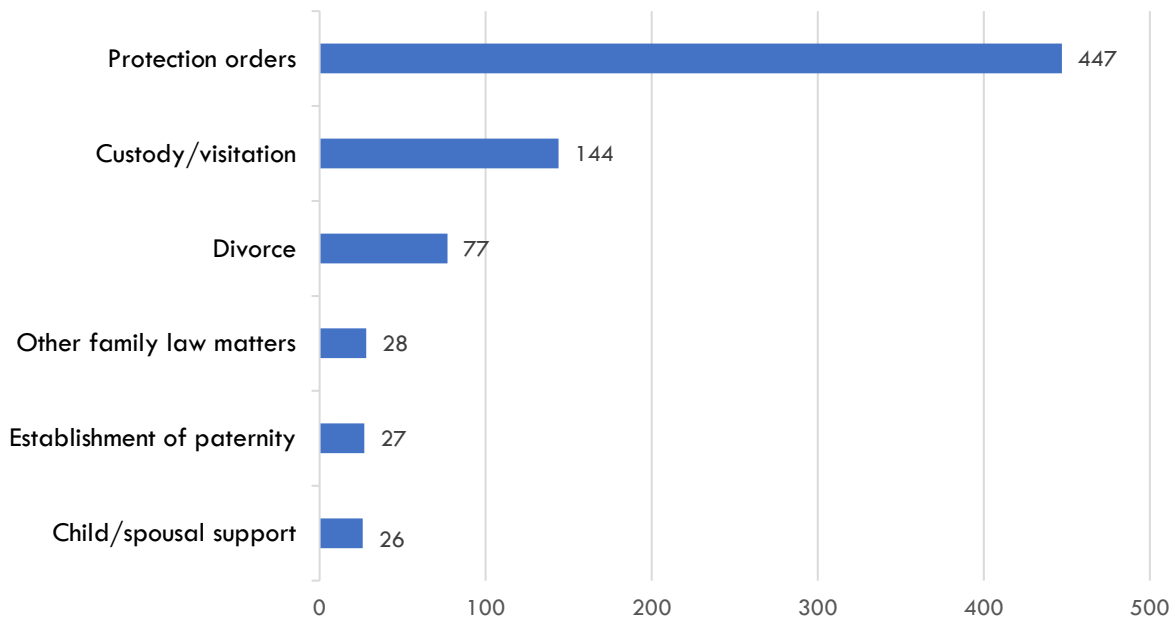
Victims' relationship to offender ⁹	Total	% of those receiving services
Child sexual abuse		
Other family/household member	13	76%
Spouse/intimate partner	2	12%
Acquaintance	1	6%
Dating relationship	1	6%

LEGAL SERVICES

Grant-funded lawyers, paralegals, and specially appointed advocates provide legal services to victims.

- **14** grantees used funds for legal services (58% of grantees using funds for victim services).
- **639** victims received assistance with legal issues.
- **137** victims received assistance with multiple legal issues.

Victims receiving assistance with legal issues¹⁰



⁹ Victims may have been abused by more than one offender and/or may have experienced more than one type of victimization, so the total for each victimization category may be higher than the total number of victims served in each of those categories. Percentages presented here are based on the total number of known relationships in each victimization category.

¹⁰ Only the top 6 legal issues are presented here

Legal Outcomes

Grantees report on a number of legal outcomes for the cases for which there is a final disposition. These outcomes include provision of information/referral/advice services only; brief services; negotiated resolution; court decision; and administrative decision. Grantees report on the disposition of each legal matter they addressed.

- **774** legal issues were disposed of.¹¹

Legal outcomes	Total	% of all legal outcomes
Other family law matters	236	30%
Court decision (96% of other family law matters)		
Received information/referral/advice only (3%)		
Negotiated resolution/filed action (1%)		
Received brief services only (<1%)		
Protection orders	229	30%
Court decision (65% of protection orders)		
Received information/referral/advice only (14%)		
Negotiated resolution/filed action (10%)		
Victim withdrew (10%)		
Negotiated resolution/no filed action (2%)		
Custody/visitation	119	15%
Court decision (55% of custody/visitation)		
Received information/referral/advice only (27%)		
Negotiated resolution/filed action (8%)		
Received brief services only (7%)		
Victim withdrew (2%)		
Negotiated resolution/no filed action (1%)		
Other result (1%)		
Divorce	92	12%
Received brief services only (29% of divorce)		
Court decision (23%)		
Received information/referral/advice only (18%)		
Negotiated resolution/filed action (15%)		
Victim withdrew (7%)		
Other result (5%)		
Negotiated resolution/no filed action (2%)		

¹¹ Only the top four categories of legal issues disposed of are presented. The total number of outcomes includes all dispositions.

SUPERVISED VISITATION SERVICES

Grantees provided supervised visitation and safe exchange services to **2,336** families to help keep victims and their children safe from violence.

- **48** grantees used funds to provide supervised visitation and safe exchange services to families (49% of all grantees reporting).

Families seeking services ¹²		
Families	Total	%
Served	2,276	89%
Partially served	60	2%
Not served	213	8%
Total seeking services	2,549	100%

Services provided to families:

- One-to-one supervision was provided to **1,470** families **11,585** times;
- Supervised exchange was provided to **636** families **8,235** times; and
- Group supervision was provided to **288** families **1,258** times.
- **382** families completed services (cessation of threats, treatment program, mutual agreement, change in court order); and
- **64** safety and security problems were reported.

Families served or partially served by type of victimization:

- Domestic/dating violence: **2,011** (86% of families receiving services)
- Child abuse: **233** (10%)
- Stalking: **61** (3%)
- Sexual assault: **31** (1%)

¹² Percentages are based on families seeking services.

Demographics of parents and children served

	Custodial parents		Non-custodial parents		Children	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Race/ethnicity^{13,14}						
American Indian and Alaska Native	45	2%	58	3%	110	3%
Asian	40	2%	45	2%	99	3%
Black or African American	284	13%	338	15%	536	16%
Hispanic or Latino	234	11%	286	13%	466	14%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	4	<1%	5	<1%	7	<1%
White	1,693	77%	1,599	72%	2,434	75%
Gender¹³						
Female	1,657	73%	660	29%	1,703	50%
Male	621	27%	1,623	71%	1,685	50%
Age¹³						
0-6	-	-	-	-	1,578	46%
7-17	-	-	-	-	1,832	54%
11-17	0	0%	1	<1%	-	-
18-24	204	9%	161	7%	9	<1%
25-59	2,041	90%	2,100	92%	0	0%
60+	32	1%	23	1%	-	-
Other demographics¹⁵						
Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer individuals	1	<1%	0	0%	0	0%
Disabilities	77	3%	161	7%	131	4%
Limited English proficiency	94	4%	98	4%	73	2%
Immigrants/refugees/ asylum seekers	77	3%	80	3%	37	1%
Rural	497	21%	510	22%	616	18%

¹³ Percentages are based on family members for whom this information was known.

¹⁴ Some family members may identify with more than one race/ethnicity, so the total number reported in any category may be higher than the total number of family members served.

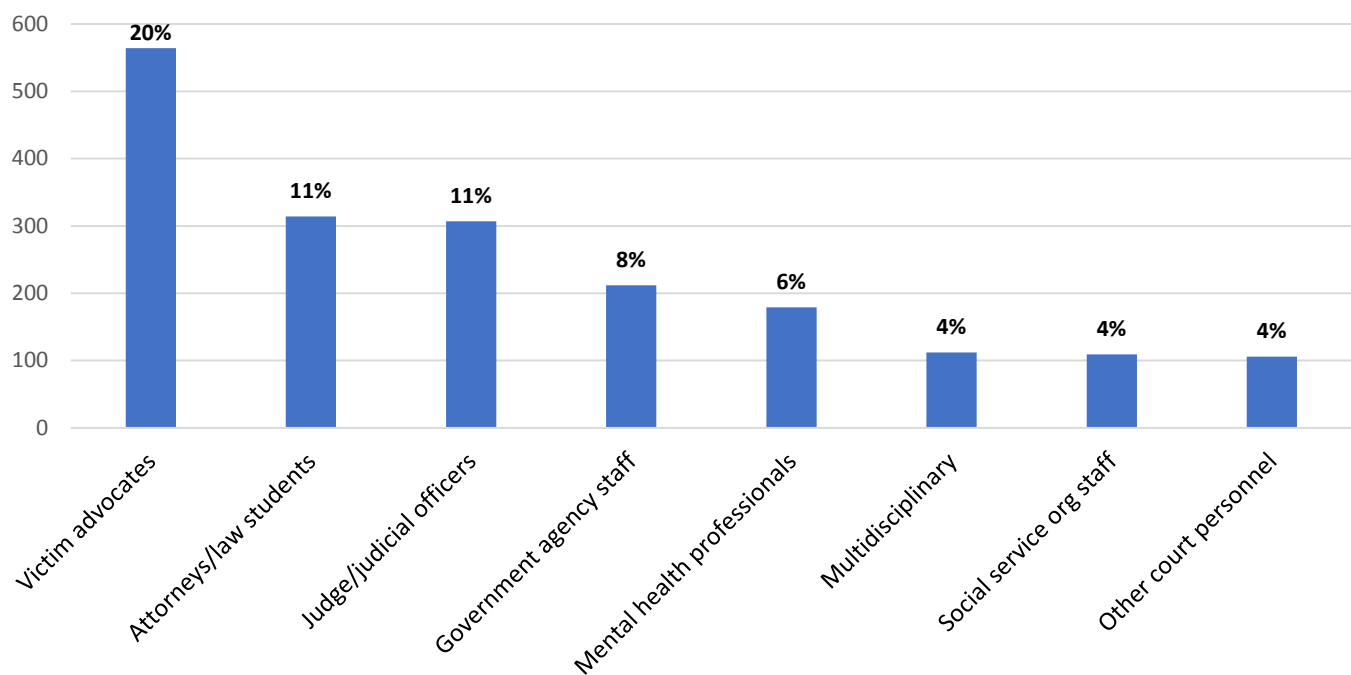
¹⁵ Family members may be represented in more than one of these categories, or not at all.

TRAINING

Grantees provide training for professionals to help improve the response to victims, children, and families with a history of domestic/sexual violence or child sexual abuse. This training enables staff to meet the safety needs of *all* family members and improves the professional response to victims while increasing offender accountability.

- **53** grantees used funds for training (54% of all grantees reporting).
- **2,821** professionals attended **147** events.

Types of professionals most frequently trained



STAFF

Grant-funded staff provide supervised visitation and safe exchange for children; develop community consulting committees; engage in issuing protection orders or helping victims obtain them; support victims in family matters and/or criminal cases; and establish statewide training and technical assistance projects to increase supervised visitation and safe exchange options. They also provide training, supervised visitation, victim services, offender management, and support criminal and civil courts.

- **87** grantees used funds for staff (89% of all grantees reporting).
- **190** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff were funded this period.

Funded staff positions ¹⁶	FTEs	% of all funded staff
Supervision staff for visitation and exchange	63	33%
Program coordinator	42	22%
Administrator	16	8%
Victim advocate	16	8%
Security staff	15	8%
Attorney	11	6%
Case/docket manager	8	4%
Support staff	6	3%
Probation officer/offender monitor	4	2%
Legal advocate	2	1%
Batterer intervention program staff	1	1%
Court clerks	1	1%
Paralegals	1	1%
Trainer/educator	1	1%
Victim assistant	1	1%

COURT-BASED ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

Specialized courts or dedicated dockets

Grantees implement practices to ensure consistent case handling, enhance case information flow to improve judicial decision making, emphasize defendant monitoring and accountability, and enhance protection for, and services, to victims.

- **15** grantees used funds for specialized courts or dedicated dockets infrastructure and activities (15% of all grantees reporting).

Type of case	Type of victimization		
	Sexual assault	Domestic/dating violence	Stalking
Civil protection orders	3	9	4
Compliance review/monitoring	2	5	2
Criminal matters (felony)	2	4	2
Criminal matters (misdemeanor)	2	12	3
Family matters	3	10	2

¹⁶ Categories are rounded to the nearest whole number and only categories with at least one FTE after rounding are included.

Criminal cases

Grantees use funds for dedicated dockets, specialized courts, and other practices to enhance case flow, information sharing, and successful prosecution of domestic/sexual violence and child sexual abuse.

- **13** grantees used funds for criminal cases (13% of all grantees reporting).

Cases disposed of: 2,207

Cases resulting in convictions:¹⁷ 1,467 (66% of all case dispositions)

Top four dispositions by case type	Total	% of all case dispositions ¹⁸
Misdemeanor domestic/dating violence	1,141	52%
Dismissed (42% of misdemeanor domestic/dating violence)	484	
Convicted (54%)	620	
Acquitted (3%)	37	
Violation of probation/parole	324	15%
Dismissed (17% of violation of probation/parole)	56	
Convicted (83%)	268	
Violation of protection order	257	12%
Dismissed (29% of violation of protection order)	74	
Convicted (70%)	180	
Acquitted (1%)	3	
Felony domestic/dating violence	256	12%
Dismissed (29% of felony domestic/dating violence)	75	
Convicted (70%)	179	
Acquitted (1%)	2	

¹⁷ The number of deferred adjudications is 44, which represents 3% of all conviction outcomes.

¹⁸ Deferred adjudication represents 5% of all misdemeanor domestic/dating violence convictions, 3% of all violation of probation/parole convictions, 1% of all violation of protection order convictions, and 2% of all felony domestic/dating violence convictions.

Judicial monitoring

Judicial monitoring occurs when the court schedules regular probation or court reviews to determine whether convicted offenders are complying with the terms of their sentences. Probation officers may meet with offenders in person, by telephone, or via unscheduled surveillance.

- **1,083** offenders were reviewed and **2,423** individual review hearings were conducted:¹⁹
 - Domestic/dating violence: **1,078** reviews and **2,415** hearings
 - Stalking: **5** reviews and **8** hearings

Dispositions of violations of probation and other court orders

Courts monitor offenders' compliance with court orders. The data reported below reflect the sanctions most frequently imposed for violations that were disposed of during the current reporting period.

- **Violations of protection order: 123**
 - **70** (57%) had partial or full revocation or probation, and
 - **34** (28%) received additional conditions.
- **New criminal behavior: 65**
 - **27** (42%) received additional conditions, and
 - **23** (35%) had partial or full revocation or probation.
- **Failure to attend batterer intervention program: 117**
 - **57** (49%) had partial or full revocation or probation, and
 - **26** (22%) received verbal/written warning.
- **Failure to attend mandated offender treatment: 10**
 - **5** (50%) had partial or full revocation of probation, and
 - **4** (40%) received additional conditions.
- **Other condition of probation/parole: 250**
 - **96** (38%) had partial or full revocation of probation, and
 - **83** (33%) received additional conditions.

¹⁹ No sexual assault offenders received Justice for Families Program-funded judicial monitoring in this reporting period.

Civil protection orders

Civil orders of protection, also known as restraining orders, are court-issued injunctions that prohibit or limit an offender's contact with the victim and prohibit further abusive behavior. These orders may include custody and visitation directives, economic relief, and temporary restrictions on possession of firearms. Orders of protection are enforceable throughout the country, not solely in the issuing jurisdiction.

- **5** grantees used funds for civil protection order cases (5% of all grantees reporting).
- **2,428** temporary protection orders were granted.²⁰
- **994** final protection orders were granted.²¹

Final protection orders granted the following relief:²²

- **985** Stay away/no contact;
- **764** Firearms restrictions;
- **324** Batterers intervention program;
- **254** Sole parental rights to petitioner;
- **110** Economic relief;
- **98** Other offender treatment;
- **73** Supervised visitation/exchange; and
- **40** Child support.

Family Cases

Grantees use funds to improve court infrastructure and judicial response to divorce, custody, visitation, child/spousal support, and parental rights and responsibilities cases in which there are issues of domestic/sexual violence.

- **5** grantees used funds for family cases (5% of all grantees reporting).
- **296** new and pending family cases were addressed.

Type of case	Number of cases	Number of hearings
Divorce (no children in common)	88	239
Divorce (children in common)	180	554
Parental right/responsibilities	28	81

²⁰ This number includes 1,820 domestic/dating violence, 248 stalking, and 360 temporary orders for which the victimization was not specified.

²¹ This number includes 697 domestic/dating violence, 105 stalking, 8 sexual assault, and 184 final orders for which the victimization was not specified.

²² Only the top 8 relief types are presented.

Offender/Respondent Compliance Monitoring

Probation officers or other court-based compliance monitors conduct offender monitoring to determine whether offenders/respondents are complying with the terms of their court orders. Those orders could be pre-trial, bail, protection orders, probation, or other conditions of release.

- **6** grantees used funds for offender/respondent monitoring (6% of all grantees reporting).
- **1,037** offenders/respondents were supervised or monitored.

Number of offenders/respondents monitored by type of activity:

- **248** reviews of information from/contact with batterer intervention programs were conducted;
- **156** meetings/contacts with offenders/respondents were conducted;
- **138** reviews of information from/contact with other counselors/agencies were conducted;
- **85** reviews of information from/contact with substance abuse counselors/agencies were conducted;
- **28** reviews of information from/contact with other mandated treatment programs were conducted; and
- **4** reviews of electronic monitoring.

Outreach to victims

In addition to offender monitoring, probation/compliance officers also contact victims as an additional strategy to increase victim safety.

- **46** victims received outreach.