

# JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM

## Grants to Support Families in the Justice System Program

January – June 2017

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.<sup>1,2</sup>

- **72** grantees reported this period.<sup>3</sup>

## VICTIM SERVICES

Justice for Families Program grantees provided comprehensive services to **4,559** 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 <sup>4</sup>		
Victims	Total	Percentage
Served	4,412	94%
Partially served	147	3%
Not served	124	3%
Total seeking services	4,683	100%

- **28** grantees used funds for victim services (39% of all grantees reporting).

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

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

<sup>3</sup> During the reporting period, 14 grantees reported JFF-funded activities on the Courts Program form, 17 grantees on the Supervised Visitation Program form, and 41 grantees reported on the JFF Form.

<sup>4</sup> Percentages are based on victims seeking services.

## Services to victims:

- Victim advocacy was provided to **2,262** victims (50% of all victims receiving services);
- Civil legal advocacy/court accompaniment was provided to **1,763** (39%) victims;
- Criminal justice advocacy/court accompaniment was provided to **900** (20%) victims; and
- Pro se clinics/group services were provided to **35** (1%) victims.

## Protection orders provided with assistance from victim services staff:

- Domestic/dating violence: **727** temporary orders and **631** final orders were granted
- Sexual assault: **41** temporary orders and **30** final orders were granted
- Stalking: **19** temporary orders and **6** final orders were granted
- Child sexual abuse: **7** temporary orders and **3** final orders were granted

## Victims served or partially served by type of victimization:

- Domestic/dating violence: **4,056** (89% of all victims receiving services)
- Sexual assault: **190** (4%)
- Child sexual abuse: **187** (4%)
- Stalking: **126** (3%)

Demographics of victims served	Total	% of those receiving services
<b>Race/ethnicity<sup>5,6</sup></b>		
White	1,950	57%
Black or African American	1,210	35%
Hispanic or Latino	788	23%
American Indian and Alaska Native	132	4%
Asian	66	2%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	10	<1%
<b>Gender<sup>5</sup></b>		
Female	3,752	89%
Male	451	11%

<sup>5</sup> Percentages are based on victims receiving services for whom this information was known.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<b>Demographics of victims served</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% of those receiving services</b>
<b>Age<sup>5</sup></b>		
11-17	92	2%
18-24	563	14%
25-59	3,114	80%
60+	127	3%
<b>Other demographics<sup>7</sup></b>		
Rural	1,115	24%
Limited English proficiency	399	9%
Immigrants/refugees/asylum seekers	270	6%
Disabilities	238	5%
Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer	182	4%

<b>Victims' relationship to offender<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% of those receiving services</b>
<b>Domestic/dating violence</b>		
Spouse/intimate partner	3,170	78%
Dating relationship	570	14%
Other family/household member	257	6%
Acquaintance	52	1%
<b>Sexual assault</b>		
Spouse/intimate partner	84	45%
Acquaintance	39	21%
Other family/household member	33	18%
Dating relationship	24	13%
Stranger	8	4%
<b>Child sexual abuse</b>		
Other family/household member	125	71%
Acquaintance	32	18%
Spouse/intimate partner	12	7%
Dating relationship	3	2%
Stranger	3	2%

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> 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.

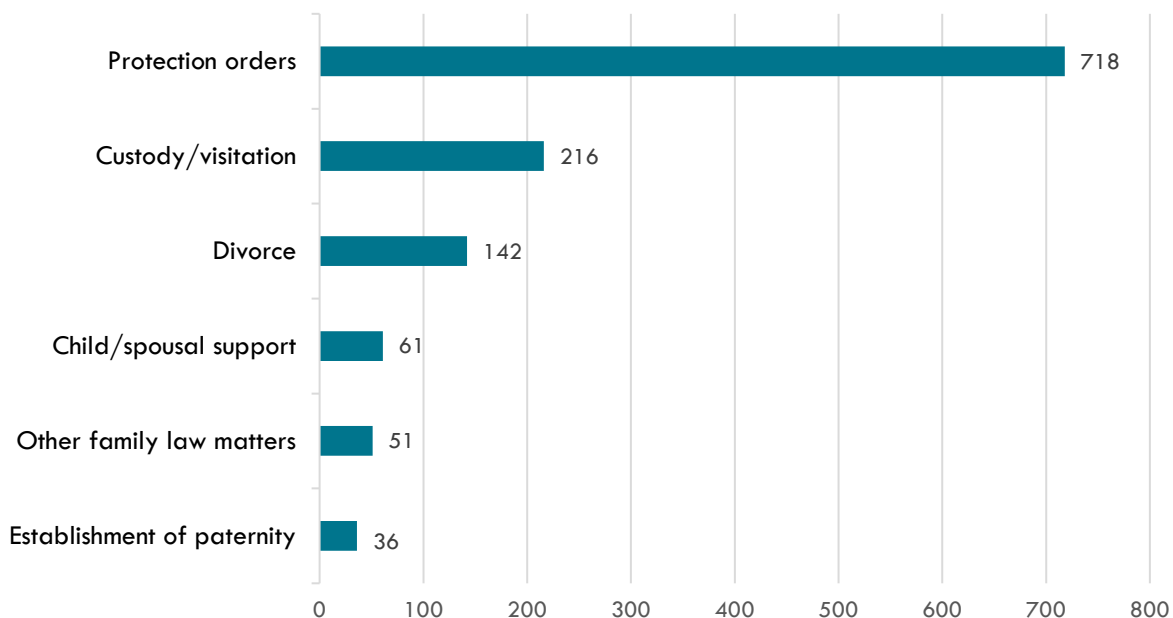
Victims' relationship to offender <sup>9</sup>	Total	% of those receiving services
<b>Stalking</b>		
Spouse/intimate partner	76	52%
Other family/household member	40	27%
Acquaintance	14	10%
Dating relationship	13	9%
Stranger	3	2%

## LEGAL SERVICES

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

- **17** grantees used funds for legal services (61% of grantees using funds for victim services).
- **926** victims received assistance with legal issues.
- **390** victims received assistance with multiple legal issues.

### Victims receiving assistance with legal issues<sup>10</sup>



<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> Only the top 6 legal issues are presented.

## 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.

- **1,167** legal issues were disposed of.<sup>11</sup>

Legal outcomes	Total	% of all legal outcomes
<b>Protection orders</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>50%</b>
Court decision (47% of protection orders)		
Received information/referral/advice only (46%)		
Negotiated resolution/filed action (4%)		
Victim withdrew (3%)		
<b>Divorce</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>15%</b>
Court decision (45% of divorce)		
Received information/referral/advice only (29%)		
Received brief services only (21%)		
Negotiated resolution/filed action (2%)		
Victim withdrew (2%)		
Other result (1%)		
<b>Custody/visitation</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>15%</b>
Received information/referral/advice only (47% of custody/visitation)		
Court decision (31%)		
Received brief services only (15%)		
Negotiated resolution/filed action (6%)		
Victim withdrew (1%)		
<b>Other family law matters</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>6%</b>
Court decision (60% of other family law matters)		
Received information/referral/advice only (28%)		
Received brief services only (7%)		
Administrative decision (3%)		
Negotiated resolution/filed action (1%)		
Other result (1%)		

<sup>11</sup> 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 **1,173** families to help keep victims and their children safe from violence.

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

Families seeking services <sup>12</sup>		
Families	Total	%
Served	1,134	89%
Partially served	39	3%
Not served	98	8%
Total seeking services	1,271	100%

### Services provided to families:

- One-to-one supervision was provided to **804** families **6,451** times;
- Supervised exchange was provided to **321** families **4,117** times; and
- Group supervision was provided to **68** families **662** times.
- **194** families completed services (cessation of threats, treatment program, mutual agreement, change in court order); and
- **27** safety and security problems were reported.

### Families served or partially served by type of victimization:

- Domestic/dating violence: **1,074** (92% of families receiving services)
- Child abuse: **70** (6%)
- Stalking: **16** (1%)
- Sexual assault: **13** (1%)

<sup>12</sup> Percentages are based on families seeking services.

## Demographics of parents and children served

	Custodial parents		Non-custodial parents		Children	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
<b>Race/ethnicity<sup>13,14</sup></b>						
American Indian and Alaska Native	14	1%	11	1%	27	2%
Asian	35	3%	29	3%	63	4%
Black or African American	190	18%	241	23%	337	22%
Hispanic or Latino	179	17%	181	17%	284	18%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	21	2%	5	<1%	23	1%
White	781	73%	724	70%	1,159	75%
<b>Gender<sup>13</sup></b>						
Female	850	74%	299	27%	833	49%
Male	303	26%	824	73%	858	51%
<b>Age<sup>13</sup></b>						
0-6	-	-	-	-	835	49%
7-17	-	-	-	-	863	51%
11-17	14	1%	14	1%	-	-
18-24	122	11%	76	7%	1	<1%
25-59	982	86%	987	89%	0	0%
60+	30	3%	27	2%	-	-
<b>Other demographics<sup>15</sup></b>						
Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer individuals	1	<1%	0	0%	0	0%
Disabilities	36	3%	65	6%	63	4%
Limited English proficiency	43	4%	44	4%	35	2%
Immigrants/refugees/asylum seekers	39	3%	36	3%	24	1%
Rural	242	21%	214	18%	315	19%

<sup>13</sup> Percentages are based on family members for whom this information was known.

<sup>14</sup> 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.

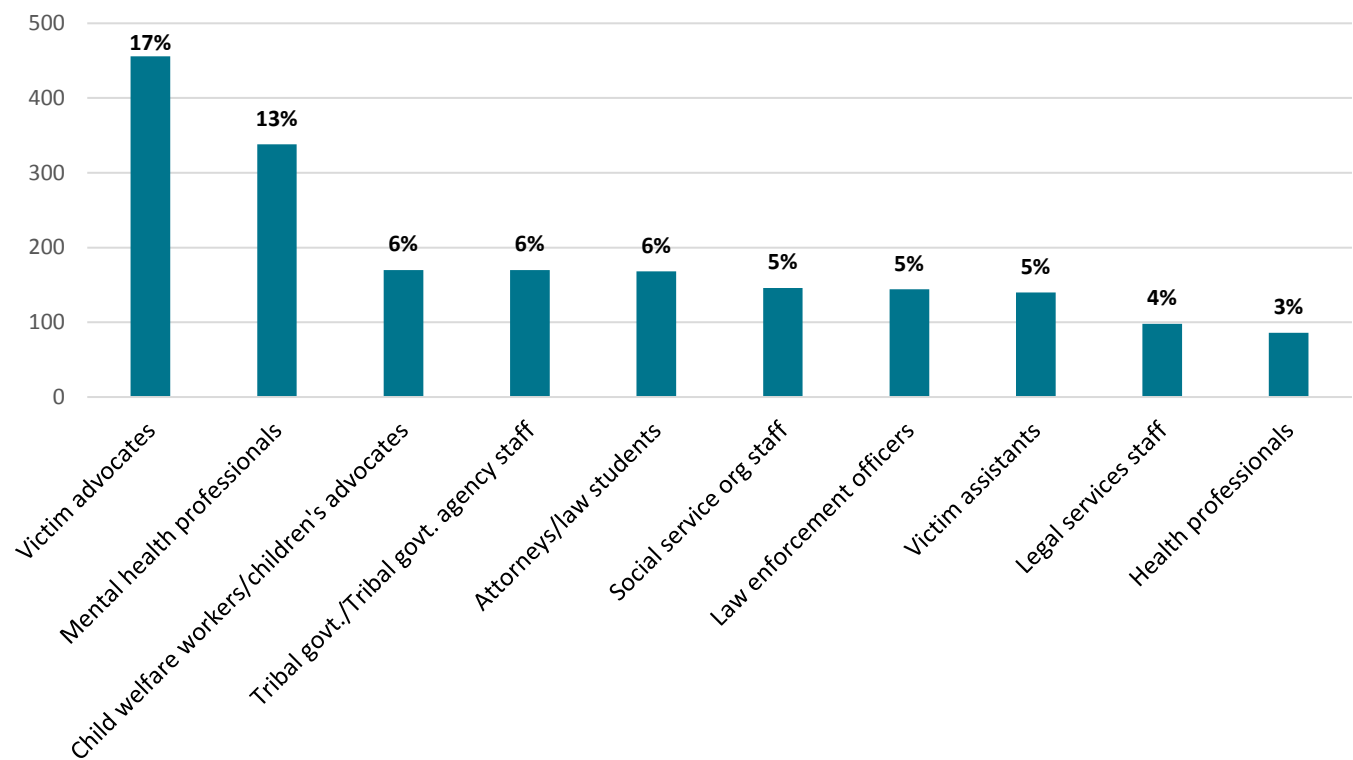
<sup>15</sup> Family members may be represented in more than one of these categories, or not at all.

## 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.

- **45** grantees used funds for training (63% of all grantees reporting).
- **2,666** professionals attended **170** 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.

- **68** grantees used funds for staff (94% of all grantees reporting).
- **144** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff were funded this period.



<b>Funded staff positions<sup>16</sup></b>	<b>FTEs</b>	<b>% of all funded staff</b>
Supervision staff for visitation and exchange	43	30%
Program coordinator	29	20%
Victim advocate	16	11%
Administrator	13	9%
Attorney	12	8%
Security staff	9	6%
Case/docket manager	6	4%
Probation officer/offender monitor	6	4%
Support staff	4	3%
Legal advocate	2	1%
Victim assistant	2	1%
Batterer intervention program staff	1	1%
Paralegal	1	1%
Trainer	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.

- **12** grantees used funds for specialized courts or dedicated dockets infrastructure and activities (17% of all grantees reporting).

<b>Type of case</b>	<b>Type of victimization</b>		
	<b>Sexual assault</b>	<b>Domestic/dating violence</b>	<b>Stalking</b>
Civil protection orders	2	8	3
Compliance review/monitoring	2	6	2
Criminal matters (felony)	2	3	2
Criminal matters (misdemeanor)	1	8	2
Family matters	2	6	1

<sup>16</sup> 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.

- **10** grantees used funds for criminal cases (14% of all grantees reporting).

**Cases disposed of: 2,232**

**Cases resulting in convictions:<sup>17</sup> 1,469** (66% of all case dispositions)

Top four dispositions by case type	Total	% of all case dispositions <sup>18</sup>
<b>Misdemeanor domestic/dating violence</b>	<b>1,167</b>	<b>52%</b>
Dismissed (45% of misdemeanor domestic/dating violence)	521	
Convicted (55%)	637	
Acquitted (1%)	9	
<b>Violation of probation/parole</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>15%</b>
Dismissed (8% of violation of probation/parole)	26	
Convicted (92%)	311	
<b>Felony domestic/dating violence</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>13%</b>
Dismissed (35% of felony domestic/dating violence)	97	
Convicted (65%)	180	
Acquitted (1%)	2	
<b>Violation of protection order</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>9%</b>
Dismissed (36% of violation of protection order)	71	
Convicted (64%)	127	

<sup>17</sup> The number of deferred adjudications is 28, which represents 2% of all conviction outcomes.

<sup>18</sup> Deferred adjudication represents 2% of all misdemeanor 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.

- **795** offenders were reviewed and **2,110** individual review hearings were conducted:
  - Domestic/dating violence: **790** reviews and **2,098** hearings
  - Sexual assault: **3** reviews and **4** hearings
  - Stalking: **2** 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: 67**
  - **33** (49%) received additional conditions, and
  - **16** (24%) had partial or full revocation or probation.
- **New criminal behavior: 81**
  - **28** (35%) had partial or full revocation or probation,
  - **22** (27%) had no action taken.
- **Failure to attend batterer intervention program: 126**
  - **64** (51%) had partial or full revocation or probation, and
  - **26** (21%) received verbal/written warning.
- **Failure to attend mandated offender treatment: 8**
  - **7** (88%) had partial or full revocation of probation, and
  - **1** (13%) received verbal/written warning.
- **Other condition of probation/parole: 279**
  - **140** (50%) had partial or full revocation of probation, and
  - **65** (23%) received additional conditions.

## 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 (7% of all grantees reporting).
- **2,558** temporary protection orders were granted.<sup>19</sup>
- **1,008** final protection orders were granted.<sup>20</sup>

### Final protection orders granted the following relief:<sup>21</sup>

- **1,019** Stay away/no contact;
- **766** Firearms restrictions;
- **314** Batterers intervention program;
- **156** Sole parental rights to petitioner;
- **139** Other offender treatment;
- **120** Economic relief;
- **59** Supervised visitation/exchange; and
- **29** 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.

- **3** grantees used funds for family cases (4% of all grantees reporting).
- **340** new and pending family cases were addressed.

Type of case	Number of cases	Number of hearings
Divorce (no children in common)	97	272
Divorce (children in common)	203	793
Parental right/responsibilities	40	183

<sup>19</sup> This number includes 1,928 domestic/dating violence, 246 stalking, and 384 temporary orders for which the victimization was not specified.

<sup>20</sup> This number includes 713 domestic/dating violence, 95 stalking, 17 sexual assault, and 183 final orders for which the victimization was not specified.

<sup>21</sup> 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 (8% of all grantees reporting).
- **933** offenders/respondents were supervised or monitored.

### Number of offenders/respondents monitored by type of activity:

- **209** reviews of information from/contact with batterer intervention programs were conducted;
- **165** meetings/contacts with offenders/respondents were conducted;
- **160** reviews of information from/contact with other counselors/agencies were conducted;
- **104** reviews of information from/contact with substance abuse counselors/agencies were conducted;
- **46** reviews of information from/contact with other mandated treatment programs were conducted; and
- **1** review 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.

- **52** victims received outreach.