

## VAWA 2013: Documenting your Accomplishments

### Slide 1

Elisabeth Snell, VAWA MEI/Muskie School:

Thank you Alicia, hello everyone. My name is Elizabeth Snell and I'm here from the Muskie School. My co-presenter is Ginger from OVW. Ginger do want to say hello?

Ginger Baran, OVW:

Hello everybody, this is Ginger Baran, of the Office on Violence Against Women. Thanks Elisabeth.

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Elisabeth:

We are thrilled to have the opportunity to co-present to grantees. Ginger and I have done this a couple of times after starting to talk with grantees. We present frequently on how to fill out progress reporting forms and lots of people had questions about where their data goes and what happens to the data after we put it together? So we put together this brief overview of how your data is used, and we will walk through that today. Before we do, we thought we would give a bit of a bigger picture about OVW's mission and about the Measuring Effectiveness Initiative as well. So Ginger, I will turn it back to you.

Ginger:

Thanks Elisabeth, and before I jump in and get started I just want to start by first thanking my colleagues over at the Muskie School. We have a long partnership with them and they have supported so much of our work through the years and it is great to be able to do this webinar series together. Thanks to NCJFCJ for helping us with providing the webinar platform today. And last, but certainly not least, thank you so much to those of you are taking the time out of your day to explore how you can use your grant progress reporting to showcase your accomplishments. And also let us at OVW and the folks we answer to in Congress understand what some of the challenges and barriers are that you face in your community. So thanks again for your time. We will do some presentations and then get a bit interactive toward the end.

So moving right along, the Office on Violence Against Women is a component of the U.S. Department of Justice. We provide federal leadership in developing the national capacity to reduce violence against women and administer justice for and strengthen services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. The Violence Against Women Act, which you may be familiar with, was first passed in 1994 and a separate act of Congress established the Office on Violence Against Women in 1995. So in the 20+ years since then, we have administered almost \$8 billion in grants for the programs authorized under VAWA. When we started out, the programs authorized under VAWA were very criminal justice focused and focused on making the justice system a better solution and option for victims, with a real focus on domestic violence. With additional later reauthorizations and changes in the field, VAWA has gone on to cover much more than just criminal justice issues and providing support at the community and state level for victim services and other types of things outside the justice system

that victims need while also maintaining that emphasis on civil and criminal justice system improvements. As you probably know, if you're funded under any of these grant programs, the cornerstone of our work is the Coordinated Community Response, which is obviously fancy for saying that everyone needs to work together and work across the systems to ensure the best response for crime victims. So that is a little bit about OVW. I will turn it back to Elisabeth to talk about her work.

Elisabeth:

Thanks Ginger, many of you may already be familiar with the MEI or the Muskie School, as some people call us. We support OVW in doing their work by helping them collect data from VAWA grantees like all of you. So that means we provide technical assistance, a whole lot of technical assistance, to folks about twice a year, although we do it all year long. But when the progress reports come due we provide trainings and one-on-one technical assistance. And then we do a lot of work in compiling and cleaning and analyzing that data in collaboration with OVW.

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At this point we will move on to our goals and objectives for today. As Ginger already said, it's an opportunity for you to hear more from OVW about how Ginger and her colleagues use your data. And in particular we want to hone in on some of the key changes that happened with the last reauthorization of VAWA, that was VAWA 2013. There were some really unique and some sweeping and some smaller changes that VAWA made to your programs. And because progress reporting forms have not always caught up, we want to talk about how you can collect and capture your activities that are related to those and roll them up to OVW. So I will turn it back over to Ginger for a poll question.

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Ginger:

Before we get started on this poll question, please know there's no right or wrong answer. Think of the most recent big success or accomplishment you achieved with OVW funding. Did you include it in your last grant report? Yes, no, or cannot remember? We will give everyone a few seconds to respond. It looks like a large number of folks say that yes, they did include their accomplishments in their last grant report, so that's great. Should we move on, Elisabeth?

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Elisabeth:

I'm just reflecting on about a year ago, Ginger and I did this presentation for the first time and the numbers were not as striking. It's great, we are seeing the needle move. I love to start presentations on data with this quote, which absolutely outs me as a research and evaluation 'deep nerd'. I'm happy to have that title. Jim Barksdale, who was one of the big heroes of the early internet years, said "If we have data, let's look at data. If all we have are opinions, let's go with mine." And I just love this quote because I think it is so perfectly highlights why data is so important when we are trying to evaluate and assess, and better understand how services are being provided or how programs are being run. So I encourage you to print that out and pop it up on your bulletin board and think of it during progress reporting time. I think it's a great way to think of how your work rolls up and can influence decision-makers. I will turn this back over to Ginger to talk a little bit about how OVW actually uses your data.

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### Ginger:

Okay, so one thing I have heard a few times and it is disheartening and also I think really woke us up that we need to do more communication with you all about what we do with your data. Because I have heard that some grantees think that they are just putting data into a black hole that's never looked at and never used when they submit their progress report. And we know how arduous and time-consuming those reports can be for you, and that you also have a great many other demands on your time. So I want to make sure that we get information out to those of you in the field about the many different ways that we in fact do use your reported data that you give us every six months or every year if you are under a formula program.

There's a handout that you might have gotten at registration that you can definitely download here from the webinar module. It just outlines and provides examples of the various ways that we use grantee reported data. As you know, the Violence Against Women programs are substantially funded by taxpayer dollars and we get those appropriations from Congress. So we have a responsibility to make sure they're used as they are intended and in compliance with all the different grant requirements. So there's a compliance piece, but also just making sure the grantees are meeting their goals and objectives. And if they are not, find out if there is some way that we can, we fund a pretty substantial technical assistance program. So making sure that we give you the resources and guidance or assistance that you might need to get closer to meeting those objectives. Oftentimes things come up that no one could foresee and just some training or some other assistance from outside can be useful. We use a grantee progress report to make sure the grantees are doing what they were funded to do. We also check for discrepancies between reported activities and draw-down history. That's not anything very precise at this stage, it's just that if the grantee reports on a progress report that they did zero activities, nothing was accomplished during the six-month period, then we see that they drew down \$50,000, that's going to trigger a question to the grantee about what is going on and what is the reason for this disparity. And sometimes there's an explanation. Maybe they did a certain activity and it wasn't documented in the progress report and they need to go back and correct that. As I already said, spotting training and technical assistance needs, and also the Office of the Inspector General does use the progress reports to do routine audits of the grants. We are also obligated by statute to report to Congress on different occasions for different programs in different areas about what is being done with VAWA grant funds.

So you can find on our website and also on the MEI website some of those reports. And I definitely encourage you to take a look at the 2016 Measuring Effectiveness report that you can find on our website and on Muskie's website and it is peppered with some really powerful and thought-provoking quotes from you, from grantees that sort of take some of those big aggregate numbers and show you what they really look like in a community and what the dollars are actually doing in ways that the numbers cannot really illustrate. So if you take a look in there you might find your own agency or organization. So I definitely encourage you to take a look.

We also use them to identify trends and promising practices in areas of need. An example of that is that for a long time across grant programs and not just within one grant program or in one period, but for years and across grant programs, we kept hearing as an area of unmet need, that legal services was a problem, that there was just a real shortage of legal services, particularly for domestic violence survivors

in communities. And it was making it really hard to do all of the other work to help those folks get safe and get through difficult situations. So we did request increases to the Legal Assistance for Victims program, based in part on that feedback that we were hearing. Analysis of funds allocated and used for sexual assault-focused activities in the STOP program, Rural program, and the Arrest program influenced, in part, changes in the 2013 reauthorization of VAWA to these programs and set asides and added some new purpose areas that focus on sexual assault. So again it wasn't the only thing that influenced these things, but it was something that we could look to see what do we need in the field? What can we put more resources into?

We also use them for performance measurements and providing information to folks that we answer to here at the Department of Justice about how our grantees are doing, how our work is going and whether or not we are meeting our targets. And we also answer a great many routine and ad hoc data requests from the Government Accountability Office, Congress, we get FOIA requests - freedom of information act requests, from media and others so we are able to share some of that information. Most recently, the Attorney General gave an address a couple of weeks ago at a conference for prosecutors and used an example that we supplied from a grantee who was using OVW funds to fund a cold case prosecution unit that was looking at sexual assault cold cases and retesting DNA evidence and things like that, and making some real headway with much older case re-openings, and arrests, and indictments. So that was mentioned in the Attorney General's address. That is just one thing that comes to mind most recently. And also, I think it was about two years ago the Government accountability office did a major inquiry into the extent to which DOJ Grant funds are used to support training and salary payment for sexual assault nurse examiners and helped get a conversation started about the shortage of sexual assault nurse examiners in many states. So those are some examples of the ways that we use data and I think we can actually go to the next slide.

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Elisabeth:

Actually, Ginger if you want to toggle it you are certainly welcome to for the next one.

Ginger:

Okay great.

So here are some questions that just over the past several years we've been able to use data that you all have provided us to answer. For example, how many grantees are using funds to support family justice centers? What are the biggest areas of need in rural communities? What kind of training are grantees receiving or providing related to sex trafficking? How often are dual arrests being made among grantees that use funds for law enforcement? These are just some examples and I'm gonna veer from our agenda just a little bit because I know the chat box is going and everyone is introducing themselves and that is great. I'm wondering if any of you, whether we are talking about your data that you collect for OVW or just other ways that you collect and maybe occasionally or routinely look at your program data, have you use that at some point recently to answer some questions you might have had? Or to make some change to your program? We don't need to just talk about your OVW funds, but more broadly if you'd like to share, that would be great. You can also unmute yourself and chime in. So whatever works. We have some folks typing so we will wait a moment.

Rebecca says, “we’re in the first year of the grant so our funding use has been limited until we get to the implementation stage of the grant.” I understand. That makes sense. Sometimes you will submit a progress report that is pretty much empty because you are waiting to get some approval to draw down the funds and that's understood. I see some other folks are typing to so we can get back for that. I just hope that to the extent that you might be providing some data to OVW that does not really have a whole lot of utility to you, but I hope some of the other measures you’re tracking are actually useful to you and the other work that you are doing and sort of trying to track the progress over time.

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So we are moving on to ... another poll question. So “I know what the key changes were to my program as a result of the 2013 reauthorization.” That's okay, I see a lot of no’s. Especially if there was a change in the statute to a particular program, like a new purpose area to the Improving Criminal Justice Response program. It might not be something that you specifically, through your project, are funded to do. And it might not be something you know much about. Okay so we have a bit of a split here and that's fine. And when we're done with the webinar, I'm going to go over in very broad strokes and in summary some of those changes. But there is a document available I think you can download from the webinar that summarizes all of those changes. Some are changes that go across grant programs and others are very specific to grant programs. Thanks for participating.

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So a few examples here: the re-authorization of VAWA made some important changes and improvements for grantees who were funded in 2013 or after, so it only applies to grants that were made in the 2013 fiscal year or later. It made it possible for grantees to undertake or increase their ability to accomplish certain activities. One key change is that our grantees can now serve victims of severe forms of trafficking. And that legal assistance has been added as a purpose area to some programs that expands grantees’ ability to be able to assist victims with legal assistance.

## Slide 11

There is also a chart on the next slide here that summarizes some of the key changes to those programs. For example, some programs added that you could use the funds to lobby for certain legislation. Again, not everyone is approved to do that, but it is something we can approve grantees to do. So I just encourage you, depending on what grant program you’re funded under, to take a look at the thing that is hyperlinked at the bottom of the slide, that link will take you to some information and this chart here. I believe that is also available as a PDF that you can download from this room.

## Slide 12

So I know some folks know what the changes to their program due to VAWA 2013 might be. And others might not be as familiar with that. So if you do, in the last progress report did you include a specific accomplishment or activity related to VAWA 2013? Getting a lot of yeses, okay. And no’s, and that’s fine too. And again, these don't necessarily affect every single grant, they just expand what OVW can allow grantees to use their funds to support.

So we will move on, should I hand it over to you, Elisabeth?

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### Elisabeth:

It's great to hear that a lot of you are already documenting those accomplishments related to VAWA 2013. But let's talk a little bit about that narrative data that Ginger mentioned that is sprinkled throughout the Report to Congress and a lot of other products that OVW develops and why it really matters. I think Ginger outlined this really well when she said that narrative data can illustrate what the numbers mean. Think about it as context. You might share that you were able to serve 25 victims. But then if you include stories about what those services were like and what that person came to you for and how you were able to support them I think of it as turning the numbers from black and white into color. I also think about the impacts that you might think about that as you're sitting down to write some of those narrative questions. How can you demonstrate the impact on survivors or offenders, or communities that you are working in? And it's also a great way to bubble up themes and trends to OVW and beyond.

I always think that trafficking is a great example here. The more grantees started to talk about you know "we are hearing a lot of people or more people are starting to come to us seeking services for trafficking," the more OVW is able to look at that and other data sources and sort of the national conversation happening around them. And then include victims of trafficking in that most recent reauthorization that just passed, and now a victim of DV and SA who's coming to you for services, you could also serve them if they are a victim of trafficking. So those are just some of the broad strokes that I think about.

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And in terms of where to actually put it. Because you will notice as you're filling out your progress report, there's not actually specific questions that are associated with these changes to your program in VAWA 2013. Ginger and I were just having a conversation this morning where we are trying to push revised reporting forms through so you can accurately track your work and so that the forms are accurately reflecting what your programs are authorized to do. The workaround while those forms are being published is to use what you've got. So the narrative questions that you already have are where you can put in numbers - quantitative data - and narrative, stories - qualitative data. And you don't have to do this if you don't remember, but if you put in VAWA 2013, or "this is new for us," that can help us, the Muskie team, code that data so that we can flag it for OVW. And actually, Brooke, I'm just glancing over, you brought up a great example of how the form does not always give you the option to explain something in as much detail or color as you would like. So Brooke is saying she uses the narrative to explain why cases are dismissed, and maybe that's because your victims unexpectedly are moving, or changing contact or change their mind. And that's a great way to use the narrative questions.

## Slide 15

So the places that I would encourage you to include those VAWA 2013 snippets and nuggets are in the program status questions. "What did the funding allow you to do" questions? And then the information about the effectiveness of your grant. Those are questions that are the same throughout every program, so those are where you can put that kind of information.

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And this is just what it looks like, I pulled it from the Arrest program. It's question number 61 where all of us report on our current status.

## Slide 17

You can also use the remaining areas of need, or the Arrest program funding, what it allows you to do that you were not able to do prior.

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If you have run out of space, you are always welcome to put it into the additional information questions.

## Slide 19

So now that Ginger has talked about some of the changes that came about, and how OVW uses your data and we have walked you through where you might put some of these VAWA 2013 examples, now let's actually talk about how you can make your narrative and qualitative data as useful as it can be. And this is where Ginger was saying a lot of folks have said, you know, I sit down to write but I never hear if it actually goes anywhere and I'm not sure if I'm including any information that is useful. It is so useful. But if you think about, how can I be as specific as I can here? How can I pull up some really concrete examples about maybe how my agency strengthened a relationship, or we created a new relationship with another community organization? How does my work impact victims? Or offender accountability?

And I always think about before and after. Before we had grant funding, X was happening. After we had grant funding, Y was happening. I remember there was a powerful quote that I think made it into the Report to Congress that talked about before we had this funding almost no counties of a particular state had high risk multidisciplinary homicide review teams. And as a result of this funding and providing training and implementing policies, seven out of eight counties are in the process of setting those up. And that quote just stuck in my mind as a wonderful way to demonstrate the impact that this work has. You might also, as I have included on this slide, if you want to point to changes that you are seeing in the practices in your communities, and changes that you are able to support in terms of actual changes in policy, that is always great for OVW and beyond to hear.

## Slide 20

I've included a slide about outputs and outcomes, because I often have this conversation with folks. A classic example of an output. And outputs are helpful, but both together make your data really strong. We know that in the last reporting, 83% of rural grantees, or 106 rural grantees, were using their OVW implemented VAWA funds to train in their communities. Or put another way, rural grantees trained about 46,000 people. And that number on its own really stands alone. But when that is coupled with this narrative data, where one rural grantee has said, "we were able to bring in national trainers and in our catchment area we trained over 100 professionals. And over half the law enforcement officers from the areas we serve were there." And then there's that great before-and-after where as a result of this training, this grantee saw a change in practice in their AG's office, that they are starting to use expert witnesses. So whenever you are completing your progress reporting forms there's a lot of output, and you can think about using the narrative data to flesh out some of the outcomes.

So at this point, I would love to turn to some samples of quotes and narrative data that we have seen in the most recent couple of reporting periods that did a really nice job of highlighting some of these changes to what programs are able to do as a result of VAWA 2013 that we've been talking about. So let's make this a little interactive. Instead of Ginger and I telling you what stands out to us about these quotes, why don't you tell us.

## Slide 21

Here is a quote about serving the deaf community. If you want to take a moment to read this and type into the chat box what you think are the pearls, what stands out to you about this quote, why this might be a strong example of narrative data. I will just take a minute to read it. So this one says, "As a result of the funding we've put together a team to serve the deaf community. Funding allows us to outreach, connect with, educate, advocate and support our deaf community on issues of violence and violence prevention. Our team is able to help address DV (which deaf people experience one and half times more than hearing people) and sexual assault (which deaf people experience 3.8 times higher than hearing people) issues which Survivors face. Without these funds we would not be able to provide critical services that deaf survivors need to continue healing. Since there are less than 20 deaf DV/SV programs in the United States, there is a high demand from Deaf individuals in areas that don't have culturally competent services outside of our jurisdiction."

Angela has immediately pointed out something that popped out to me too, that there is included some data which helps underscore why this is such a pressing need, specifically for deaf and hard of hearing survivors. Paula is pointing out the number of deaf DV/SA programs in the US after listing their programs. Paula, I really like that too. It really underscores, there are very few services available for this particular population. And that this grantee is specifically serving. Kathleen also mentions the high numbers, the clear need. And one of the reasons why I pulled this quote out was that as a result of VAWA 2013, it authorized the creation of the Underserved program, which specifically responds to the needs of underserved programs that historically have been involved in other grant programs and specifically includes deaf or hard of hearing communities. So why don't we tap to the next slide? Ginger, do you want to take this one?

## Slide 22

Ginger:

Sure. One other change that the 2013 reauthorization made to the Rural and Improving Criminal Justice Responses programs was that it authorized the development of multidisciplinary high risk teams for reducing domestic violence homicides. The lethality assessment program, which some of you may be familiar with, or at least heard of, is one tested tool that many of these teams use. So this grantee gave us an example of how that's working in their community and how things are turning out, as they implement it. I will read the quote and you can think about what stands out to you. "Prior to receiving this funding there was no formalized mechanism for law enforcement jurisdictions to identify the most dangerous offenders and to target services to those at the highest risk of fatality. This funding has provided for better identification of and services to high risk victims. In the past, law enforcement made attempts to connect victims with advocates but the connections were inconsistent and not based on an objective validated screening tool. This grant funded the High Risk Legal Advocate position, and the advocate connected with 45 victims identified as being in high danger. 14 of the victims who were

identified by the LAP had never accessed services before. As research has shown, connecting victims to advocacy services greatly decreases their likelihood to be fatally wounded in a domestic or dating violence incident.”

Lauren points out the identification of previous practice or ineffective previous practice. It’s sort of that before-and-after illustration that Elisabeth was talking about. And Paula said it clearly shows how the LAP was used to identify the victims needing referrals. Helps to figure out what sort of service steps need to be taken. And really breaking it down to simple things like saving lives, not that that’s simple, but that’s what we’re trying to do throughout the programs and all of you with boots on the ground are doing every day. And it is so important that we hear not only about your success stories, but how you got there and what some of the challenges are as you do this incredibly important and life-saving work. And Teresa noted the research for the need. Yes, exactly. Tying some of the work that they’re doing and what they’re seeing with some of what we already know from national empirical research. These are great examples.

Another example that comes to mind is not specifically about this topic. But recently we were asked to provide some information to the Government Accountability Office about what some of our tribal grantees are doing in terms of culturally relevant healing practices that they use with their clients. And as you know, there is no place on the form to count those as discrete services. But many grantees provide very rich narrative information about the ways that they are using culturally relevant, culturally appropriate practices with their clients that don’t fit in elsewhere on the forms but are so important for us to hear, so that we can illustrate for people asking us, what does it look like? We can say well this is what our grantees are telling us. They’re telling us this works. Thanks everyone for chiming in. Elisabeth, do want to take the next one?

## Slide 23

### Elisabeth:

Sure. So one of the changes that came about as a result of VAWA 2013 is that many grant programs now include a purpose area about promoting and developing legislation and policies. And if you take a look at that link, or that hand-out that Ginger mentioned, that sort of a broad brush of those 2013 changes, you’ll see it there. And this is what stood out to me for that reason. This grantee, who I want to say is a Rural grantee, although I cannot remember, says “policy development was unquestionably one of the major accomplishments of this reporting period. The policy development, which will result in major system changes, included the passage of a new SANE law. The creation of a statewide board to establish a standard of care for sexual assault victims is an advance of untold proportions. At the very least each county will have to form a multidisciplinary team and create a plan for serving victims of sexual assault.”

So what stands out to folks on the phone about this quote? Yes, Teresa and Mary are both typing about things that stood out to me as well. Mary says statewide policy. Teresa says policy development is encouraging partners to work together, and toward systems change. I also think that implicit in this quote is that there is going to be a statewide board, and there probably was not a statewide board before. So that’s a great example of the before and after. And Senovia is pointing out that protocols lead to impact. While this grantee was focusing a lot of their efforts on policy during this reporting period, we are actually seeing a new SANE law come, as part of their efforts. And I would imagine in future reporting periods we would be able to hear back from this grantee about changes for victims in care that

came about as part of this law, this statewide board, these multi-disciplinary teams. So thanks for your feedback, and I will turn it back to you, Ginger.

Ginger:

Thanks Elizabeth, and before I read the next quote, I really like this one. Because it reminds me of something that we here at OVW occasionally find ourselves in conversations with colleagues elsewhere in the department, or with other government agencies, where we find that we need to challenge certain assumptions about what is a good outcome, and what is a good measure of something? We know having a very high conviction rate for sexual assault is not necessarily good thing, because it could mean that many cases that really do meet the criteria for charging are not being accepted for prosecution, because they are seen as risky or unwinnable. That's one of those measures that may look like something on its face, but is not necessarily telling the full story. Another one that we find that we have to have some conversations about sometimes is length of stay in transitional housing. Thinking that just the shorter the stay the better is something that we find we need to challenge on. I think this grantee gives us exactly the reason why we have to think more open-mindedly about this. So I will read it.

Slide 24

“Traditionally we have had a hard time with trafficked clients leaving our emergency shelter unexpectedly. They tend to leave very early into their stay and we have a hard time ever reaching them again. [Because of this funding], we are able to stay in contact and do regular case management.. offer a regularly attended group for our sex trafficked clients... build and foster relationships that help and maintain trust, a key component to any trafficking survivor’s recovery. None of our clients have disappeared; we have been able to provide permanent housing for each of them; they have successfully been able to stay safe and away from their perpetrators as each of them have wanted.” I told you what I like about this. And you tell me what stands out to you.

Paula said, staying in contact with victims to maintain safety. Yes, not assuming that because they left housing that they don't need further assistance. Not assuming that their safety needs are met. Crystal said, staying in contact with the clients; none disappeared. Teresa says, shows the impact on clients and overcome the challenge they were having with losing contact with victims. Senovia said, standardized practice limiting loss of client contact resulting in impact and safety measures.

Elizabeth:

I think that is a great point, Senovia.

Ginger:

Yes. I know Kathleen is typing too. But should we move on with this?

Elisabeth:

Sure.

Ginger:

Okay.

Elisabeth:

Kathleen rounded this up with a great simple and powerful point which is that clients were asking for services and who were seeking services were not getting them. Now clients are getting them.

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So moving on to this quote. I love this quote because clearly this grantee, like me, is data-minded. This was an Arrest, or formally-known-as-Arrest program grantee who's talking about that LAP tool that Ginger was mentioning before. And so they say "Prior to the funding and the LAP our agency was successful in reaching domestic assault victims referred by law enforcement about 64% of the time. The funding enabled lethality assessment procedures to be implemented in all 11 law enforcement jurisdictions. Now under the LAP, high-risk victims are being reached at a rate of 90%. Of the 1081 victims identified as high risk via the screening tool, in 2012-2014, currently 81% have or are currently receiving ongoing services." What stands out to you about this quote? Paula says, they are able to get all 11 jurisdictions to consistently use the LAP, which all of you working in the field know that that can be really tough, to get compliance when you're trying to convince folks to do something. I also think that the fact that this grantee was able to track, that they were able to reach victims 64% of the time, those referrals that they got from law enforcement before. And now using this tool they're reaching them at a rate of 90%. Which is a huge jump. Even though we don't know how many victims that is per reporting period. They've kept these records of these two years, they've served over 1000 victims. And 81% received services or are currently receiving services. So this is an example where...81%, I'm incredibly impressed by that. And this is a great example of where the outputs and outcomes are woven together in such a terrific way.

## Slide 26

Ginger:

I'm thinking we will do this one and leave the remaining time for questions, does that make sense?

Elisabeth:

That sounds great.

Ginger:

So VAWA 2013 also expanded for the Transitional Housing program to include support services for victims and clarifies services to include assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault who were also victims of trafficking. So this quote illustrates a grantee taking advantage of that new ability to serve those victims. "We have focused our services to address the needs of several different subpopulations within the youth category (ie Singles, families, long-term homeless and trafficked/sexually exploited teens). With this funding our current housing stock includes apartments for young adults fleeing domestic violence; apartments providing transitional and permanent supportive housing for high-barrier youth; a five bed supportive housing program for teen victims of sex trafficking; and semi-independent transitional and long-term supportive housing in scattered-site apartments." So what stands out to folks about this grantee and what they're reporting? I have no one typing, that's okay. Looks like Brandi's going to chime in. And Paula said focusing on youth population, not just women with children. Correct, making distinctions in the way and the types of services that are provided to meet the needs of your clients.

Elisabeth:

And this grantee, as Ginger was saying, because of VAWA 2013, folks can now serve victims of DV and SA who were also victims of trafficking. So now just a year or two later this grantee is immediately doing that.

Ginger:

And Brandy said being able to meet the unique and individual housing needs of the youth in the program. Exactly.

I think we are going to go ahead and take some questions but first I wanted to thank you all for your time and thank our colleagues at the Muskie School and NCJFCJ for their help today and all of their work in putting this together. Also, I wanted to say to those of you grantees, some of you might be new as an organization grant funded by OVW or perhaps you're a new staff person in an agency that has had funding for an amount of time. We know here that managing these awards can be complicated. The answers are not always immediately obvious when looking at your award document. When you have challenges with how to fill out your progress reports, the team at Muskie is exceptional and will walk you through any solutions and provide guidance on that. But if you have questions about your program, how you can use funds, how you can access technical assistance and things like that, you should always feel free to reach out to your OVW grant program specialist. My contact is at the end of the slides, you can always email me if you need to reach me as well. We welcome any questions and requests for assistance from grantees. We know that sometimes you just need to be pointed in the right direction of some material that we might have. And often we can talk through any situations that might be coming up in your program and how to work through some of those. So with that, do we have any questions about today's webinar?

## Slide 28

Elisabeth:

It looks like a couple of folks are typing.

So Ginger, Carolyn raises the question that I hear a lot. She's a Transitional Housing grantee. She says, I sometimes struggle with getting something new to write every six months, how important is freshness for each reporting cycle?

Ginger:

That's such a great question. Thanks for asking it. I will tell you what some grantees do. If there are not distinct activities that happen in a specific area, but just sort of general what are we doing to improve? And what are we seeing coming out of that? You can cut and paste from one progress report period to another. Just make sure it is accurately aligned with that reporting period. That's great too. Because sometimes we are doing data runs and searches on grant reports to try to respond to requests and fill in our reports to Congress and things like that, we will look at only a certain period of time. If you put it in a report from like four years ago we won't necessarily catch it so it is good to have that refresher. What a lot of transitional housing grantees do you know without using names or too many specifics, just give us some examples of success stories that they have been able to help clients with, and what the outcomes in those cases have been. That's helpful as well.

Shataun says we are currently working on updating our data reporting form for grantees, is there way we can view other states reports?

Are you talking about the STOP administrator level? Because I know that some STOP administrators might have some data collection tools other than the STOP grantees' reports. So you want to know a little bit about what other states are doing. And I think that is an excellent question. I'm not the one to answer, but I would be happy to reach out to ALSO, which is the technical assistance provider for the STOP program. Because if they don't have some information to share with you already, I think that they would be able to get that information. So I'm sure that we have your email address from your registration. So I will have that and follow up with you very soon. Let me scroll through what we have here. You are also wondering about the use of the MDT model when it comes to VAWA funds. It is definitely worth looking into the Measuring Effectiveness Report to Congress to see what other grantees, there's a STOP Report to Congress as well that you can check out, but that's a great way to find examples of multi-disciplinary approaches in different communities and states. Thanks Carolyn.

Teresa says, we have a co-located service center with 15 agencies in our partnership. I sometimes include the work the partner agencies are doing in the report because we are working through it together but they may not actually have paid staff by the funding, is this okay?

I have my answers and I'm pretty sure about. Elisabeth will you jump in and correct me if I'm wrong?

Elisabeth:

Sure.

Ginger:

When you are reporting in the narrative field it's good to include some of those illustrative examples of things that are not done with OVW money although we generally want those reports attached to the dollars. I would include that, if you think it's helpful especially for providing context. But clarify you know this person's work doing XYZ was not supported with OVW funding, so we have that clarification. Am I right, Elisabeth?

Elisabeth:

The short answer is yes.

Maureen Baker, VAWA MEI/Muskie School:

This is Maureen, I've been sitting in on the webinar. There are couple of questions and things about what remaining area of needs and remaining area of needs can be outside of the scope of what is funded.

Ginger:

Great, thank you so much, Maureen. David was wondering if the documents can be available by download. I will let the folks at NCJFCJ or Muskie answer that one.

Elisabeth:

Yes, they are still in the room, David, and as soon as we are done with this webinar, the updated documents will be on our website, and I will pass out that link.

Ginger:

Mary, I think your question sounds pretty similar to what we were just talking with Teresa about, providing that information when it is relevant and contextual, and just clarifying it's not an OVW funded activity. One thing I will say is in terms of the victims served, you would not put that in your progress report in those counts in that quantitative area, because that is not OVW funded.

Those were really excellent questions. I don't know if anyone else has any questions they want to put in the chat box. You are welcome to. And if we don't get to your question, or you think of something when you get off the line, you see our contact information there. Feel free to give us a call.

Elisabeth:

You will get an evaluation for this webinar shortly after we wrap up. And it would be great if you want to take a few minutes to fill that out. As I said, we have put together these webinars at the request of grantees. But we definitely want to hear from you whether they are useful, whether they should be shorter, or longer, or take a different approach, so keep us posted.

I think at this point we can go ahead and wrap up. You know how to reach Ginger and you know how to reach us at Muskie. Again we want to thank you so much for the time that you put in every day working with survivors, holding offenders accountable, working to respond.

Ginger:

I second that, thank you everyone for your time today and for the work that you are doing in your community and in your state.

Elisabeth:

Take care, goodbye.