

JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM

Grants to Support Families in the Justice System Program

July – December 2017

Justice for Families (JFF) 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}

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

VICTIM SERVICES

Justice for Families Program grantees provided comprehensive services to **5,859** victims of domestic/sexual violence and child sexual abuse.

- **33** grantees used funds for victim services (44% of all grantees reporting).

Victims seeking services ⁴		
Victims	Total	Percentage
Served	5,612	94%
Partially served	247	4%
Not served	93	2%
Total seeking services	5,952	100%

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, 18 grantees reported JFF-funded activities on the Courts Program form, 8 grantees on the Supervised Visitation Program form, and 49 grantees reported on the JFF Form. This is the third 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 **2,836** victims (48% of all victims receiving services);
- Victim advocacy was provided to **2,331** (40%) victims;
- Criminal justice advocacy/court accompaniment was provided to **1,053** (18%) victims; and
- Pro se clinics/group services were provided to **16** (<1%) victims.

Protection orders provided with assistance from victim services staff:

- Domestic/dating violence: **1,248** temporary orders and **949** final orders were granted
- Stalking: **126** temporary orders and **70** final orders were granted
- Sexual assault: **16** temporary orders and **17** final orders were granted
- Child sexual abuse: **6** temporary orders and **4** final orders were granted

Victims served or partially served by type of victimization:

- Domestic/dating violence: **5,370** (92% of all victims receiving services)
- Stalking: **205** (3%)
- Child sexual abuse: **151** (3%)
- Sexual assault: **133** (2%)

Demographics of victims served	Total	% of those receiving services
Race/ethnicity^{5,6}		
White	1,998	47%
Black or African American	1,802	42%
Hispanic or Latino	1,121	26%
American Indian or Alaska Native	177	4%
Asian	152	4%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	10	<1%
Gender⁴		
Female	4,846	88%
Male	661	12%
Age⁵		
11-17	50	1%
18-24	753	15%

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.

25-59	3,897	79%
60+	202	4%
Other demographics⁷		
Rural	906	15%
Limited English proficiency	463	8%
Disabilities	310	5%
Immigrants/refugees/asylum seekers	280	5%
Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer	76	1%

Victims' relationship to offender⁸	Total	% of those receiving services
Domestic/dating violence		
Spouse/intimate partner	3,726	72%
Dating relationship	1,058	20%
Other family/household member	366	7%
Acquaintance	57	1%
Stalking		
Dating relationship	224	42%
Spouse/intimate partner	177	33%
Other family/household member	112	21%
Acquaintance	13	2%
Stranger	5	1%
Child sexual abuse		
Other family/household member	85	59%
Acquaintance	33	23%
Spouse/intimate partner	19	13%
Dating relationship	6	4%
Stranger	2	1%
Sexual assault		
Dating relationship	51	31%
Spouse/intimate partner	42	25%
Acquaintance	32	19%
Other family/household member	31	19%
Stranger	10	6%

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.

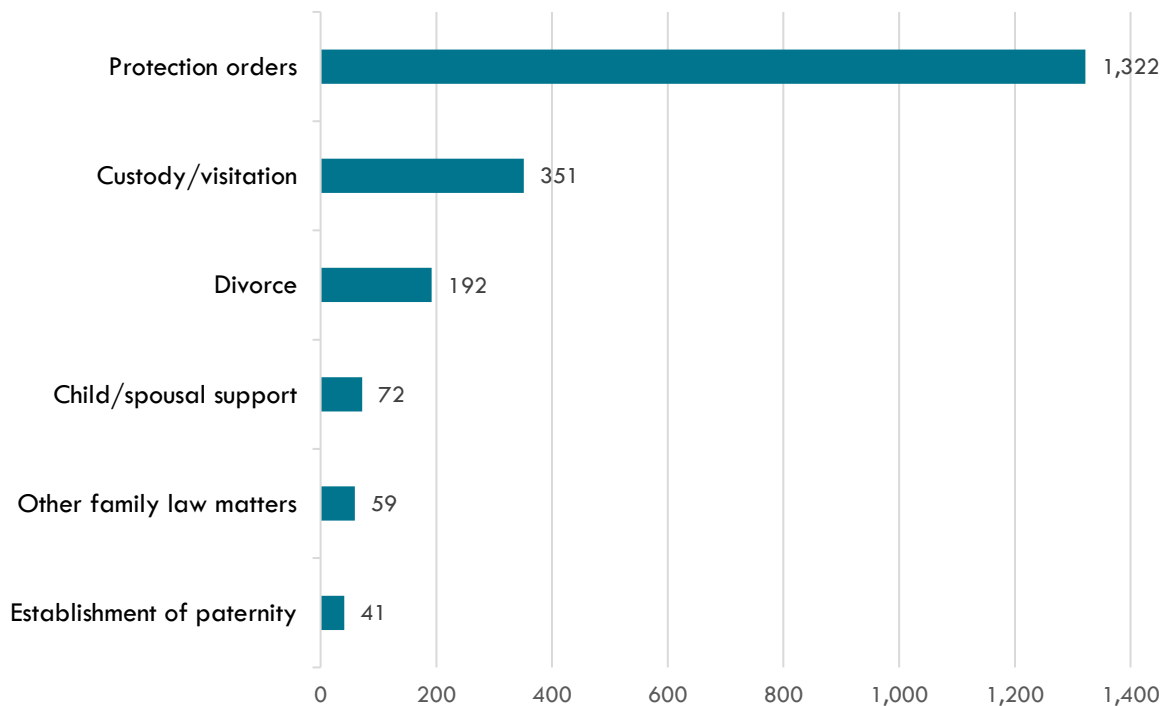
⁸ Victims may have been abused by more than one offender and/or may have experienced more than one type of victimization, so the total for each victimization category may be higher than the total number of victims served in each of those categories. Percentages presented here are based on the total number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

LEGAL SERVICES

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

- **20** grantees used funds for legal services (27% of grantees using funds for victim services).
- **1,629** victims received assistance with legal issues.
- **531** victims received assistance with multiple legal issues.

Victims receiving assistance with legal issues⁹



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.

- **1,943** legal issues were disposed of.¹⁰

⁹ Only the top 6 legal issues are presented here

¹⁰ Only the top four categories of legal issues disposed of are presented. The total number of outcomes includes all dispositions.

Legal outcomes	Total	% of all legal outcomes
Protection orders	1,177	61%
Received information/referral/advice only (60% of protection orders)		
Court decision (35%)		
Negotiated resolution/filed action (3%)		
Other result (1%)		
Victim withdrew (1%)		
Custody/visitation	328	17%
Received information/referral/advice only (66% of custody/visitation)		
Court decision (19%)		
Received brief services only (9%)		
Negotiated resolution/filed action (3%)		
Negotiated resolution/no filed action (1%)		
Victim withdrew (1%)		
Other result (1%)		
Divorce	160	8%
Received information/referral/advice only (44% of divorce)		
Received brief services only (23%)		
Court decision (22%)		
Negotiated resolution/filed action (9%)		
Victim withdrew (3%)		
Child/spousal support	68	3%
Received information/referral/advice only (41% of child/spousal support)		
Received brief services only (29%)		
Court decision (19%)		
Negotiated resolution/filed action (4%)		
Negotiated resolution/no filed action (3%)		
Victim withdrew (1%)		
Other result (1%)		

SUPERVISED VISITATION SERVICES

Grantees provided supervised visitation and safe exchange services to **1,349** families to help keep victims and their children safe from violence.

- **33** grantees used funds to provide supervised visitation and safe exchange services to families (44% of all grantees reporting).

Families seeking services ¹¹		
Families	Total	%
Served	1,309	88%
Partially served	40	3%
Not served	138	9%
Total seeking services	1,487	100%

Services provided to families:

- One-to-one supervision was provided to **1,076** families **7,725** times;
- Supervised exchange was provided to **338** families **3,345** times; and
- Group supervision was provided to **39** families **691** times.
- **253** families completed services (cessation of threats, treatment program, mutual agreement, change in court order); and
- **33** safety and security problems were reported.

Families served or partially served by type of victimization:

- Domestic/dating violence: **1,283** (95% of families receiving services)
- Child abuse: **42** (3%)
- Sexual assault: **17** (1%)
- Stalking: **7** (1%)

¹¹ Percentages are based on families seeking services.

Demographics of parents and children served

	Custodial parents		Non-custodial parents		Children	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Race/ethnicity^{12,13}						
American Indian or Alaska Native	32	3%	33	3%	35	2%
Asian	43	4%	47	4%	82	5%
Black or African American	246	21%	277	23%	444	25%
Hispanic or Latino	203	17%	218	18%	386	22%
Native Hawaiian or Other pacific Islander	13	1%	11	1%	16	1%
White	837	71%	789	66%	1,233	70%
Gender¹²						
Female	986	73%	380	28%	921	48%
Male	363	27%	969	72%	986	52%
Age¹²						
0-6	-	-	-	-	976	50%
7-17	-	-	-	-	967	50%
11-17	2	<1%	0	0%	-	-
18-24	187	15%	223	17%	7	<1%
25-59	1,074	83%	1,044	81%	0	0%
60+	24	2%	22	2%	-	-
Other demographics¹⁴						
Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer individuals	8	1%	5	<1%	1	<1%
Disabilities	42	3%	71	5%	69	4%
Limited English proficiency	80	6%	90	7%	35	2%
Immigrants/refugees/asylum seekers	51	4%	49	4%	22	1%
Rural	201	15%	204	15%	381	20%

¹² Percentages are based on family members for whom this information was known.

¹³ 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.

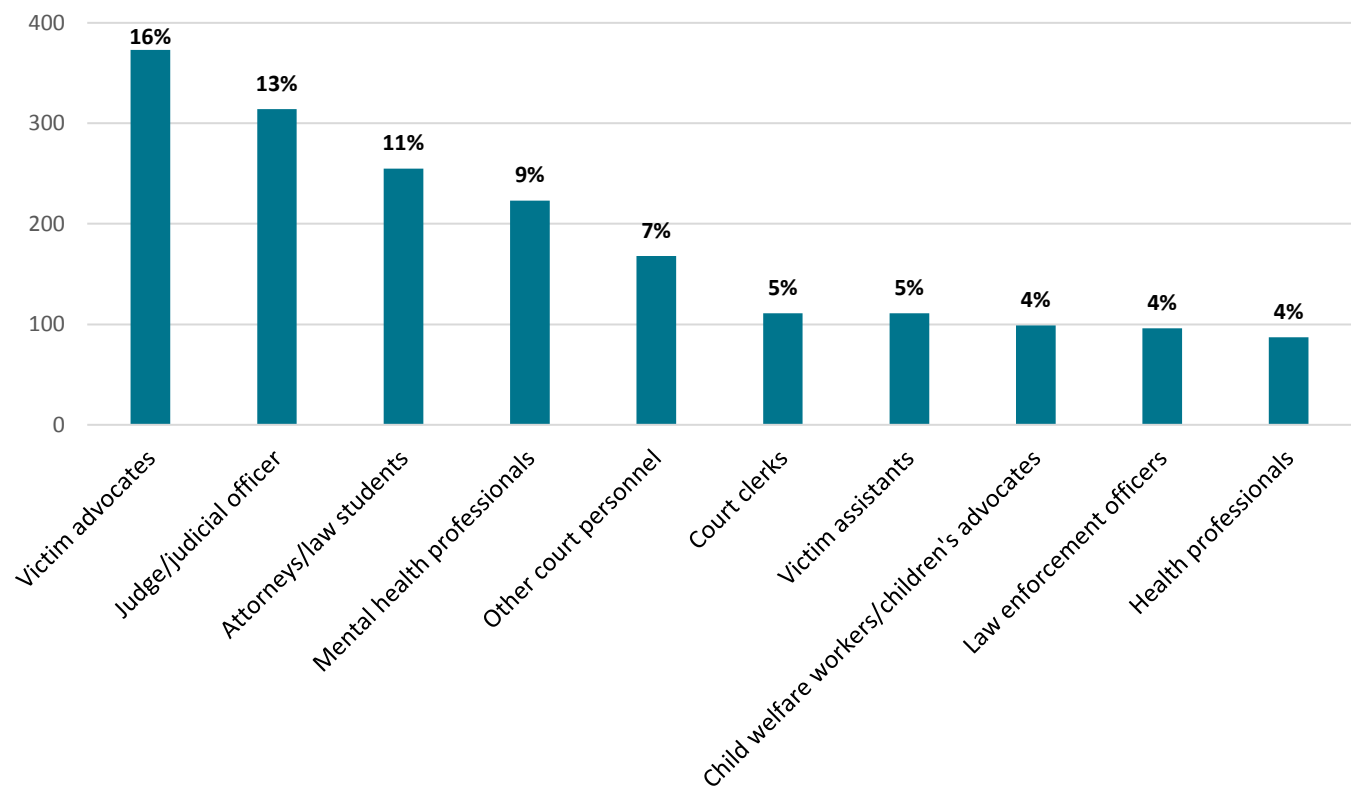
¹⁴ Family members may be represented in more than one of these categories, or not at all.

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.

- **36** grantees used funds for training (48% of all grantees reporting).
- **2,351** professionals attended **179** 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, victim services, offender management, and support criminal and civil courts.

- **68** grantees used funds for staff (91% of all grantees reporting).
- **146.38** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff were funded this period.

Funded staff positions	FTEs	% of all funded staff
Supervision staff for visitation and exchange	41.24	28%
Program coordinator	27.35	19%
Victim advocate	16.69	11%
Attorney	13.50	9%
Administrator	11.33	8%
Security staff	7.92	5%
Case/docket manager	5.75	4%
Probation officer/offender monitor	5.48	4%
Support staff	4.43	3%
Legal advocate	2.60	2%
Paralegal	2.58	2%
Trainer	1.63	1%
Victim assistant	1.50	1%
Batterer intervention program staff	1.19	1%
IT staff	1.14	1%
Court clerks	0.76	1%
Judge/judicial officer	0.09	<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.

- **17** grantees used funds for specialized courts or dedicated dockets infrastructure and activities (23% of all grantees reporting).

Type of case	Type of victimization		
	Sexual assault	Domestic/dating violence	Stalking
Civil protection orders	5	14	7
Compliance review/monitoring	2	6	2
Criminal matters (felony)	3	5	3
Criminal matters (misdemeanor)	1	14	3
Family matters	3	8	2

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.

- **8** grantees used funds for criminal cases (11% of all grantees reporting).

Cases disposed of: 1,774

Cases resulting in convictions:¹⁵ 1,191 (67% of all case dispositions)

Top four dispositions by case type	Total	% of all case dispositions ¹⁶
Misdemeanor domestic/dating violence	984	55%
Convicted (60% of misdemeanor domestic/dating violence)	593	
Dismissed (39%)	385	
Acquitted (1%)	6	
Felony domestic/dating violence	288	16%
Convicted (58% of misdemeanor domestic/dating violence)	168	
Dismissed (42%)	120	
Violation of probation/parole	253	14%
Convicted (92% of violation of probation/parole)	234	
Dismissed (8%)	19	
Violation of protection order	134	8%
Convicted (70% of violation of protection order)	94	
Dismissed (28%)	38	
Acquitted (1%)	2	

¹⁵ The number of deferred adjudications is 25, which represents 2% of all conviction outcomes.

¹⁶ Deferred adjudication represents 3% of all misdemeanor domestic/dating violence convictions, 1% of all felony domestic/dating violence convictions, and 5% of all violation of protection order 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.

- **683** offenders were reviewed and **1,821** individual review hearings were conducted:¹⁷
 - Domestic/dating violence: **679** reviews and **1,812** hearings
 - Sexual assault: **4** reviews and **9** 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: 77**
 - **46** (60%) had partial or full revocation or probation, and
 - **16** (21%) had no action taken.
- **New criminal behavior: 41**
 - **31** (76%) had partial or full revocation or probation, and
 - **5** (12%) had no action taken.
- **Failure to attend batterer intervention program: 74**
 - **28** (38%) received additional conditions, and
 - **21** (28%) had no action taken.
- **Failure to attend mandated offender treatment: 8**
 - **4** (50%) had partial or full revocation of probation, and
 - **2** (25%) had no action taken.
- **Other condition of probation/parole: 66**
 - **43** (65%) had partial or full revocation of probation, and
 - **11** (17%) received verbal/written warning.

¹⁷ No stalking 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 (7% of all grantees reporting).
- **2,632** temporary protection orders were granted.¹⁸
- **904** final protection orders were granted.¹⁹

Final protection orders granted the following relief:²⁰

- **689** Stay away/no contact;
- **576** Firearms restrictions;
- **208** Batterers intervention program;
- **185** Sole parental rights to petitioner;
- **103** Supervised visitation/exchange;
- **82** Other offender treatment;
- **46** Child support; and
- **26** Economic relief.

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 (7% of all grantees reporting).
- **201** new and pending family cases were addressed.

Type of case	Number of cases	Number of hearings
Divorce (no children in common)	45	247
Divorce (children in common)	90	460
Parental right/responsibilities	18	50

¹⁸ This number includes 1,093 domestic/dating violence and 1,539 temporary orders for which the victimization was not specified.

¹⁹ This number includes 386 domestic/dating violence, 6 sexual assault, and 512 final orders for which the victimization was not specified.

²⁰ 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).
- **489** offenders/respondents were supervised or monitored.

Number of offenders/respondents monitored by type of activity:

- **598** reviews of information from/contact with batterer intervention programs were conducted;
- **254** meetings/contacts with offenders/respondents were conducted;
- **111** reviews of information from/contact with substance abuse counselors/agencies were conducted;
- **67** reviews of information from/contact with other counselors/agencies were conducted;
- **46** reviews of information from/contact with other mandated treatment programs were conducted; and
- **3** 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.

- **19** victims received outreach.