

JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM

Grants to Support Families in the Justice System Program

January – June 2018

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}

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

VICTIM SERVICES

Justice for Families Program grantees provided comprehensive services to **7,063** victims of domestic/sexual violence and child sexual abuse.

- **41** grantees used funds for victim services (55% of all grantees reporting).

Victims seeking services ⁴		
Victims	Total	Percentage
Served	6,723	92%
Partially served	340	5%
Not served	224	3%
Total seeking services	7,287	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, 12 grantees reported JFF-funded activities on the Courts Program form, 2 grantees on the Supervised Visitation Program form, and 60 grantees reported on the JFF form.

⁴ Percentages are based on victims seeking services.

Services to victims:

- Civil legal advocacy/court accompaniment was provided to **3,453** victims (49% of all victims receiving services);
- Victim advocacy was provided to **3,044** (43%) victims;
- Criminal justice advocacy/court accompaniment was provided to **961** (14%) victims; and
- Pro se clinics/group services were provided to **637** (9%) victims.

Protection orders provided with assistance from victim services staff:

- Domestic/dating violence: **2,470** temporary orders and **1,393** final orders were granted
- Stalking: **327** temporary orders and **144** final orders were granted
- Sexual assault: **20** temporary orders and **15** final orders were granted
- Child sexual abuse: **15** temporary orders and **4** final orders were granted

Victims served or partially served by type of victimization:

- Domestic/dating violence: **6,496** (92% of all victims receiving services)
- Stalking: **205** (3%)
- Sexual assault: **197** (3%)
- Child sexual abuse: **165** (2%)

Demographics of victims served	Total	% of those receiving services
Race/ethnicity^{5,6}		
White	2,596	53%
Black or African American	1,859	38%
Hispanic or Latino	1,425	29%
American Indian or Alaska Native	200	4%
Asian	182	4%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	28	1%
Gender⁵		
Female	5,633	88%
Male	796	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.

Age⁵		
11-17	101	2%
18-24	885	15%
25-59	4,760	80%
60+	222	4%
Other demographics⁷		
Rural	736	10%
Limited English proficiency	677	10%
Disabilities	394	6%
Immigrants/refugees/asylum seekers	361	5%
Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer	91	1%

Victims' relationship to offender⁸	Total	% of those receiving services
Domestic violence/dating violence		
Spouse/intimate partner	4,153	71%
Dating relationship	1,267	22%
Other family/household member	357	6%
Acquaintance	45	1%
Stalking		
Spouse/intimate partner	286	48%
Dating relationship	253	42%
Other family/household member	40	7%
Acquaintance	14	2%
Stranger	4	1%
Sexual assault		
Spouse/intimate partner	123	45%
Acquaintance	66	24%
Dating relationship	58	21%
Other family/household member	18	7%
Stranger	6	2%

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.

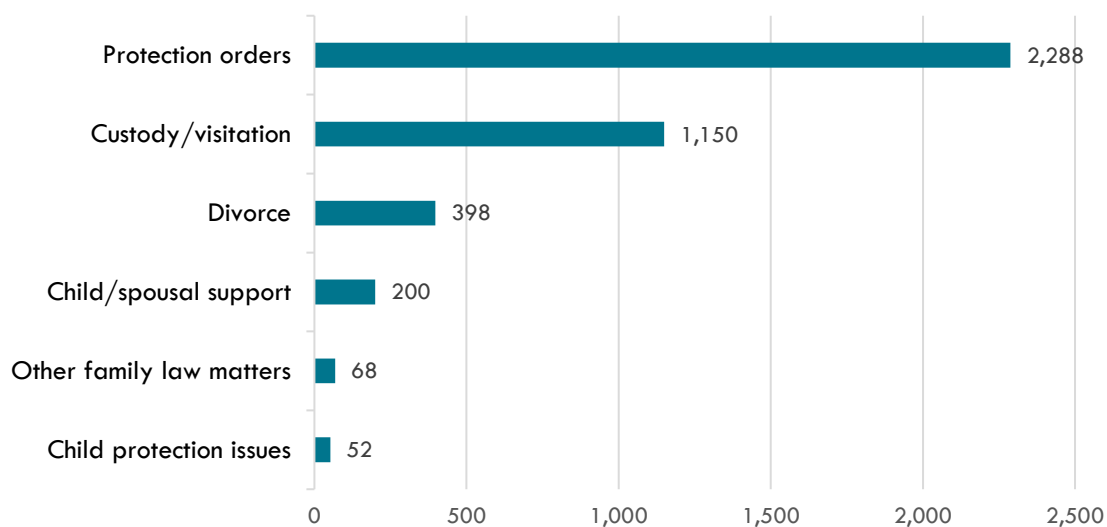
Child sexual abuse		
Other family/household member	120	68%
Acquaintance	27	15%
Dating relationship	14	8%
Spouse/intimate partner	11	6%
Stranger	4	2%

LEGAL SERVICES

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

- **26** grantees used funds for legal services (63% of grantees using funds for victim services).
- **2,901** victims received assistance with legal issues.
- **1,213** 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.

- **4,683** legal issues were disposed of.¹⁰

⁹ Only the top six legal issues are presented here.

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

Legal outcomes	Total	% of outcomes¹¹
Protection orders	2,013	43%
Court decision (51% of protection orders)		
Received information/referral/advice only (43%)		
Negotiated resolution/filed action (3%)		
Other result (2%)		
Victim withdrew (1%)		
Negotiated resolution/no filed action (<1%)		
Custody/visitation	1,120	24%
Received information/referral/advice only (55% of custody/visitation)		
Court decision (38%)		
Received brief services only (3%)		
Negotiated resolution/filed action (3%)		
Victim withdrew (1%)		
Administrative decision (<1%)		
Negotiated resolution/no filed action (<1%)		
Other result (<1%)		
Other family law matters	764	16%
Court decision (93% of other family law matters)		
Received information/referral/advice only (3%)		
Negotiated resolution/filed action (3%)		
Received brief services only (1%)		
Victim withdrew (<1%)		
Divorce	449	10%
Court decision (69% of divorce)		
Received information/referral/advice only (15%)		
Received brief services only (9%)		
Negotiated resolution/filed action (3%)		
Other result (1%)		
Victim withdrew (1%)		
Administrative decision (<1%)		

¹¹ Percentages for types of outcomes are based on the number of issues disposed of in each category.

SUPERVISED VISITATION SERVICES

Grantees provided supervised visitation and safe exchange services to **1,433** families to help keep victims and their children safe from violence.

- **38** grantees used funds to provide supervised visitation and safe exchange services to families (51% of all grantees reporting).

Families seeking services ¹²		
Families	Total	%
Served	1,354	80%
Partially served	79	5%
Not served	257	15%
Total seeking services	1,690	100%

Services provided to families:

- One-to-one supervision was provided to **1,080** families **9,574** times;
- Supervised exchange was provided to **340** families **5,618** times; and
- Group supervision was provided to **93** families **478** times.
- **257** families completed services (cessation of threats, treatment program, mutual agreement, change in court order); and
- **56** safety and security problems were reported.

Families served or partially served by type of victimization:

- Domestic/dating violence: **1,311** (91% of families receiving services)
- Child abuse: **71** (5%)
- Sexual assault: **26** (2%)
- Stalking: **25** (2%)

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 or Alaska Native	12	1%	11	1%	16	1%
Asian	31	3%	24	2%	49	3%
Black or African American	205	17%	246	21%	347	20%
Hispanic or Latino	263	22%	307	26%	485	28%
Native Hawaiian or Other pacific Islander	6	1%	7	1%	6	<1%
White	949	79%	903	76%	1,343	79%
Gender¹³						
Female	1,053	77%	366	26%	1,009	51%
Male	321	23%	1,066	74%	989	49%
Age¹³						
0-6	-	-	-	-	1,028	51%
7-10	-	-	-	-	646	32%
11-17	4	<1%	2	<1%	347	17%
18-24	137	10%	113	8%	4	<1%
25-59	1,208	89%	1,247	91%	0	0%
60+	15	1%	10	1%	-	-
Other demographics¹⁵						
Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer individuals	9	1%	8	1%	0	0%
Disabilities	40	3%	63	4%	102	5%
Limited English proficiency	64	4%	67	5%	26	1%
Immigrants/refugees/asylum seekers	43	3%	34	2%	13	1%
Rural	212	15%	222	15%	306	15%

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.

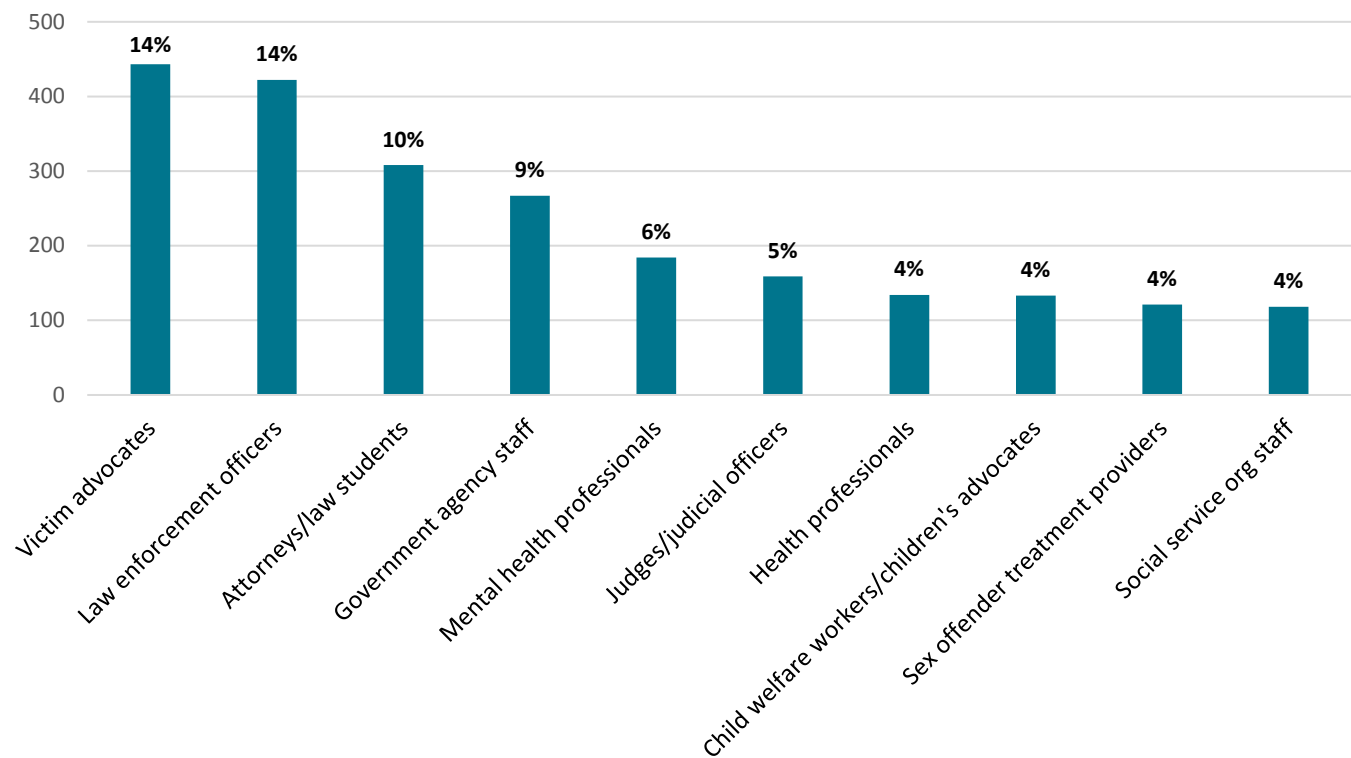
¹⁵ Family members may be represented in more than one of these categories, or not at all.

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.

- **40** grantees used funds for training (54% of all grantees reporting).
- **3,115** professionals attended **165** 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.

- **69** grantees used funds for staff (93% of all grantees reporting).
- **156.31** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff were funded this period.

Funded staff positions	FTEs	% of all funded staff
Supervision staff for visitation and exchange	41.74	27%
Program coordinator	30.61	20%
Attorney	18.41	12%
Victim advocate	17.51	11%
Administrator	10.00	6%
Security staff	8.61	6%
Probation officer/offender monitor	5.32	3%
Support staff	4.64	3%
Paralegal	4.21	3%
Case/docket managers	3.97	3%
Legal advocate	3.24	2%
Batterer intervention program staff	2.07	1%
Victim assistant	1.50	1%
Court clerk	1.25	1%
IT staff	1.00	1%
Trainer	0.70	<1%
Judge/judicial officer	0.17	<1%
Translator/interpreter	0.02	<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.

- **14** grantees used funds for specialized courts or dedicated dockets infrastructure and activities (19% of all grantees reporting).

Type of case	Type of victimization		
	Sexual assault	Domestic/dating violence	Stalking
Civil protection orders	3	9	5
Compliance review/monitoring	1	6	2
Criminal matters (felony)	2	5	3
Criminal matters (misdemeanor)	0	10	1
Family matters	2	4	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.

- **7** grantees used funds for criminal cases (9% of all grantees reporting).

Cases disposed of: 2,001

Cases resulting in convictions:¹⁶ 1,135 (57% of all case dispositions)

Top four dispositions by case type	Total	% of all case dispositions ¹⁷
Misdemeanor domestic/dating violence	1,158	58%
Convicted (53% of misdemeanor domestic/dating violence)	613	
Dismissed (47%)	544	
Acquitted (<1%)	1	
Felony domestic/dating violence	448	22%
Convicted (56% of felony domestic/dating violence)	249	
Dismissed (44%)	196	
Acquitted (1%)	3	
Violation of protection order	263	13%
Convicted (63% of violation of protection order)	165	
Dismissed (37%)	98	
Violation of probation/parole	106	5%
Convicted (87% of violation of probation/parole)	92	
Dismissed (12%)	13	
Acquitted (1%)	1	

¹⁶ The number of deferred adjudications is 116, which represents 10% of all conviction outcomes.

¹⁷ Deferred adjudication represents 9% of all misdemeanor domestic/dating violence convictions, 13% of all felony domestic/dating violence convictions, 16% of all violation of protection order convictions, and 1% of all violation of probation/parole 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.

- **999** offenders were reviewed and **2,704** individual review hearings were conducted:
 - Domestic/dating violence: **992** reviews and **2,692** hearings
 - Stalking: **6** reviews and **11** hearings
 - Sexual assault: **1** review and **1** hearing

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: 59**
 - **39** (66%) had partial or full revocation or probation, and
 - **17** (29%) has no action taken.
- **New criminal behavior: 30**
 - **26** (87%) had partial or full revocation or probation, and
 - **3** (10%) has no action taken.
- **Failure to attend batterer intervention program: 111**
 - **71** (64%) had partial or full revocation or probation, and
 - **26** (23%) has no action taken.
- **Failure to attend mandated offender treatment: 8**
 - **5** (63%) had partial or full revocation of probation, and
 - **2** (25%) received verbal/written warning.
- **Other condition of probation/parole: 148**
 - **104** (70%) had partial or full revocation of probation, and
 - **25** (17%) 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).
- **3,247** temporary protection orders were granted.¹⁸
- **939** final protection orders were granted.¹⁹

Final protection orders granted the following relief:

- **810** Stay away/no contact;
- **369** Firearms restrictions;
- **122** Sole parental rights to petitioner;
- **114** Supervised visitation/exchange;
- **48** Child support;
- **40** Other offender treatment;
- **31** Batterers intervention program;
- **29** Economic relief; and
- **1** Shared parental rights.

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).
- **196** new and pending family cases were addressed.

Type of case	Number of cases	Number of hearings
Divorce (no children in common)	53	138
Divorce (children in common)	92	363
Parental right/responsibilities	36	36

¹⁸ This number includes 855 domestic/dating violence, 266 stalking, and 2,126 temporary orders for which the victimization was not specified.

¹⁹ This number includes 271 domestic/dating violence, 114 stalking, and 554 final orders for which the victimization was not specified.

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).
- **471** offenders/respondents were supervised or monitored.

Number of offenders/respondents monitored by type of activity:

- **388** reviews of information from/contact with batterer intervention programs were conducted;
- **192** meetings/contacts with offenders/respondents were conducted;
- **52** reviews of information from/contact with other counselors/agencies were conducted;
- **33** reviews of information from/contact with substance abuse counselors/agencies were conducted;
- **11** reviews of electronic monitoring; and
- **3** reviews of information from/contact with other mandated treatment programs were conducted.

Outreach to victims

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

- **35** victims received outreach.