



STATE OF VERMONT
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Fiscal Committee Members
From: Nathan Lavery, Fiscal Analyst
Date: October 30, 2013
Subject: Grant Requests

Enclosed please find eight (8) items that the Joint Fiscal Office has received from the administration. One limited service position is associated with these items.

JFO #2643 – \$150,000 grant from New England Waste Services of Vermont to the Vermont Agency of Transportation. These funds will be used to match federal funding designated for improvements to the Newport State Airport.
[JFO received 10/14/13]

JFO #2644 – Donation of truck and trailer valued at \$17,870 from Fletcher Allen Health Care to the Vermont Department of Health. This equipment will become part of the Public Health Preparedness program (in support of the Medical Reserve Corp, Medical Surge, and Mobile Hospital) and be deployed when requested by Vermont hospitals and local emergency response agencies.
[JFO received 10/23/13]

JFO #2645 – \$60,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to the Vermont Department of Corrections. These funds will be used to create a system-wide approach to reentry by assembling a task force of stakeholders to analyze current conditions and develop a plan that includes recidivism reduction goals.
[JFO received 10/23/13]

JFO #2646 – \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to the Vermont Judiciary. These funds will be used in Windham County to implement a domestic violence docket that will enhance services to victims of domestic violence. **One (1) limited service position** is associated with this request.
[JFO received 10/28/13]

JFO #2647 – \$325,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the Vermont Department of Health. These funds will be used to enhance health policies focused on Vermont youth, such as measuring the health environment at schools and conducting the Youth Risk Behavior Survey.
[JFO received 10/28/13]

JFO #2648 – \$450,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the Vermont Agency of Human Services. This grant will fund an employment program aimed at helping older

refugees find employment. The funding will also support younger refugees making the transition from secondary school to the workforce or higher education.

[JFO received 10/28/13]

JFO #2649 – \$64,902 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services (VCCVS). These funds will be used to develop a plan for increasing accessibility to VCCVS services among people with disabilities.

[JFO received 10/28/13]

JFO #2650 – \$264,104 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services (VCCVS). These funds will be used support a training program (for law enforcement and advocates) designed to promote cooperation and produce a plan aimed at reducing fatalities associated with domestic violence and stalking.

[JFO received 10/28/13]

Please review the enclosed materials and notify the Joint Fiscal Office (Nathan Lavery at (802) 828-1488; nlavery@leg.state.vt.us) if you have questions or would like an item held for legislative review. Unless we hear from you to the contrary by November 13 we will assume that you agree to consider as final the Governor's acceptance of these requests.



State of Vermont
 Department of Finance & Management
 109 State Street, Pavilion Building
 Montpelier, VT 05620-0401

[phone] 802-828-2376
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Agency of Administration

SPO 2646

**STATE OF VERMONT
 FINANCE & MANAGEMENT GRANT REVIEW FORM**

Grant Summary: This grant will enable Windham County to implement a domestic violence docket that provides enhanced services to victims of domestic violence through the "one family, one judge" model. In this model a single judge hears related cases, providing for more informed decision making.

Date: 10/17/2013

Department: The Vermont Judiciary, Court Administrator's Office

Legal Title of Grant: OVW FY13 Court Training and Improvements Program Violence Against Women Act Court Training Program

Federal Catalog #: CFDA#16.013

Grant/Donor Name and Address: Office on Violence Against Women, US Dept of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530-0001

Grant Period: From: 10/1/2013 To: 9/30/2015

Grant/Donation \$300,000

	SFY 1	SFY 2	SFY 3	Total	Comments
Grant Amount:	\$77,647	\$150,515	\$71,838	\$300,000	

Position Information:	# Positions	Explanation/Comments
	1	Windham County IDVD Resource Coordinator

Additional Comments:
 Has Vantage budget detail been reviewed and reconciled? Yes No *HC* (Analyst Initial)

Department of Finance & Management	<i>HC</i> 10/17/13	(Initial)
Secretary of Administration	<i>HC</i> 10/21/13	(Initial)
Sent To Joint Fiscal Office	10/24/13	Date



STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT (*) ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)

BASIC GRANT INFORMATION				
1. Agency:	The Vermont Judiciary			
2. Department:	Court Administrator's Office			
3. Program:	Windham Integrated Domestic Violence Docket			
4. Legal Title of Grant:	OVW FY 2013 Court Training and Improvements Program Violence Against Women Act Court Training and Improvement Grants			
5. Federal Catalog #:	16.013			
6. Grant/Donor Name and Address:	Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530-0001			
7. Grant Period:	From:	10/1/2013	To:	9/30/2015
8. Purpose of Grant:	To plan and implement an integrated domestic violence docket in Windham County dedicated to the concept of "one family, one judge" allowing a single judge to hear related cases involving domestic violence victims and their families. This model provides enhanced services to domestic violence victims and their children, ensuring defendant/respondent accountability and providing more informed decision-making by judges.			
9. Impact on existing program if grant is not Accepted:	An integrated domestic violence docket will not exist in Windham County.			
10. BUDGET INFORMATION				
	SFY 1	SFY 2	SFY 3	Comments
Expenditures:	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	
Personal Services	\$64,869	\$133,244	\$64,868	
Operating Expenses	\$12,778	\$17,271	\$6,970	
Grants	\$	\$	\$	
Total	\$77,647	\$150,515	\$71,838	
Revenues:				
State Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
Cash	\$	\$	\$	
In-Kind	\$	\$	\$	
Federal Funds:	\$77,647	\$150,515	\$71,838	
(Direct Costs)	\$	\$	\$	
(Statewide Indirect)	\$	\$	\$	
(Departmental Indirect)	\$	\$	\$	
Other Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
Grant (source)	\$	\$	\$	
Total	\$77,647	\$150,515	\$71,838	
Appropriation No:	Pending	Amount:	\$300,000	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	

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STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT (*) ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)

		\$
		\$
	Total	\$300,000

Has current fiscal year budget detail been entered into Vantage? Yes No

PERSONAL SERVICE INFORMATION

11. Will monies from this grant be used to fund one or more Personal Service Contracts? Yes No
 If "Yes", appointing authority must initial here to indicate intent to follow current competitive bidding process/policy.

Appointing Authority Name: Patricia Gabel Agreed by: [Signature] (initial)

12. Limited Service Position Information:	# Positions	Title
	1	Windham County IDVD Resource Coordinator
Total Positions	1	

12a. Equipment and space for these positions: Is presently available. Can be obtained with available funds.

13. AUTHORIZATION AGENCY/DEPARTMENT

I/we certify that no funds beyond basic application preparation and filing costs have been expended or committed in anticipation of Joint Fiscal Committee approval of this grant, unless previous notification was made on Form AA-1PN (if applicable):	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date:
	Title: Patricia Gabel, Court Administrator	
	Signature:	Date:
	Title:	

14. SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION

Approved: [Signature] (Secretary or designee signature) [Signature] Date: 10/21/13

15. ACTION BY GOVERNOR

Check One Box:
 Accepted [Signature] (Governor's signature) Date: 10/24/13
 Rejected

16. DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

Required GRANT Documentation

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Request Memo | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Donation (if any) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dept. project approval (if applicable) | <input type="checkbox"/> Grant (Project) Timeline (if applicable) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Extension (if applicable) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Agreement | <input type="checkbox"/> Form AA-1PN attached (if applicable) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Budget | |

End Form AA-1

(*) The term "grant" refers to any grant, gift, loan, or any sum of money or thing of value to be accepted by any agency, department, commission, board, or other part of state government (see 32 V.S.A. §5).


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Department of Justice
Office on Violence Against Women

Grant

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1. RECIPIENT NAME AND ADDRESS (Including Zip Code) Vermont Judiciary Courts 109 State St. Montpelier, VT 05609-0701		4. AWARD NUMBER: 2013-FL-AX-0023	
		5. PROJECT PERIOD: FROM 10/01/2013 TO 09/30/2015 BUDGET PERIOD: FROM 10/01/2013 TO 09/30/2015	
		6. AWARD DATE 09/05/2013	7. ACTION Initial
1A. GRANTEE IRS/VENDOR NO. 036000301		8. SUPPLEMENT NUMBER 00	
		9. PREVIOUS AWARD AMOUNT \$ 0	
3. PROJECT TITLE Windham Integrated Domestic Violence Court		10. AMOUNT OF THIS AWARD \$ 300,000	
		11. TOTAL AWARD \$ 300,000	
12. SPECIAL CONDITIONS THE ABOVE GRANT PROJECT IS APPROVED SUBJECT TO SUCH CONDITIONS OR LIMITATIONS AS ARE SET FORTHON THE ATTACHED PAGE(S).			
13. STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR GRANT This project is supported under 42 U.S.C. 13701			
15. METHOD OF PAYMENT GPRS			
AGENCY APPROVAL		GRANTEE ACCEPTANCE	
16. TYPED NAME AND TITLE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL Bea Hanson Acting Director		18. TYPED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED GRANTEE OFFICIAL Robert Greemore Court Administrator	
17. SIGNATURE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL 		19. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED RECIPIENT OFFICIAL	19A. DATE
AGENCY USE ONLY			
20. ACCOUNTING CLASSIFICATION CODES FISCAL Y FUND C BUD. A OFC. DIV. RE SUB. POMS AMOUNT EAR ODE CT. G.		21. FLWC13D022	
X A FL 29 00 00 300000			

OJP FORM 4000/2 (REV. 5-87) PREVIOUS EDITIONS ARE OBSOLETE.

OJP FORM 4000/2 (REV. 4-88)

Abstract—Windham County Integrated Domestic Violence Court Project

With the establishment of the Windham County Integrated Domestic Violence Court (IDV), families in crisis who have criminal cases that also have overlapping Family Court matters will be transferred into the new court. IDV Courts are dedicated to the idea of “one family-one judge,” allowing a single judge to hear related cases involving domestic violence victims and their families. The goal is to change the way the current justice system treats families in crisis – by providing enhanced services to domestic violence victims and their children, ensuring defendant/respondent accountability and promoting more informed decision making by judges.

Due to this enhancement of the Windham County Superior Court’s practice, court staff, the Windham County State’s Attorney’s office, the Public Defender’s office, the Vermont Department of Corrections, and victim advocates will have a clearer understanding of a family’s entire criminal and civil case history, provide immediate referrals for defendants to batterer programming and other necessary services, respond immediately to any violation of the court’s orders and enhance services for victims through the provision of civil legal and other services.

The Windham County Integrated Domestic Violence Court Project will achieve these goals through intensive planning with a diverse group of stakeholders, identification of current gaps, strengthening communication between the court and stakeholders and streamlining information to the judge through the hiring of a Resource Coordinator, and providing enhanced assessment and programming for defendants and civil legal services for victims.

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Purpose of the Application:

Windham County is a large rural county with a population of 44,513 and encompasses 785 square miles. Its largest city is Brattleboro with a population of 8,289. Approximately 95% of the population is White, .8% are Black, 1.8% are Latino, and 1% are Asian. Approximately 10.7% percent of the population is below the poverty line. A recent study of domestic violence arrests in Vermont, found that of the 10, 048 domestic violence arrests from 2003-2011, over 800 occurred in Windham County. The Women's Freedom Center, the community based victim services and shelter provider in Windham County, served 20 victims of sexual violence, 422 victims of domestic violence and housed 99 victims in shelters in 2012. Windham Superior Court Family Division processed 280 Relief from Abuse petitions. The Windham Criminal Division added 52 felony domestic assault cases and 95 misdemeanor domestic assault cases.

While family and criminal courts are located in the same building in Windham County, and staff from both courts are easily accessible to one another, currently, litigants with both criminal and family matters currently are calendared with two separate judges, sometimes on different dates, increasing the burden on litigants and decreasing court efficiency. There is no institutionalized practice whereby each judge is given access to related orders in other dockets thereby increasing the risk of conflicting orders. Additionally, neither court currently addresses the unique dynamics and challenges of domestic violence cases in any comprehensive manner, assesses risk and needs in a timely manner or frontloads needed services for victims, defendants and their families or coordinates access to such appropriate services. However, Windham County is in a unique position to enhance the way it currently handles domestic violence cases. This proposal aims to change this current process by creating an Integrated Domestic Violence Court with enhanced staff and services. The current co-location of criminal and family courts under

one roof lends itself to increased information sharing, easier access to court files and increased efficiency for staff. Additionally, the current family court judge, Judge Suntag, was instrumental in the creation and planning of the Bennington County Integrated Domestic Violence Court and its first presiding judge. Through the formation of strong relationships with domestic violence agencies, criminal justice agencies, legal services and social service providers as well as the streamlining and centralizing of the court process, the Windham County IDV Court will ensure enhanced judicial monitoring and improved victim and offender services.

The Windham County IDV Court will build upon the successful planning and implementation of Bennington County IDV Court. Bennington IDV Court, located in Bennington, VT, became operational in September 2007 after one year of planning, a process that included the presiding judge, the Bennington State's Attorney's Office, the Public Defender, community based victim advocates, Probation, civil legal services and other community service providers. As part of the planning process court staff and stakeholders visited an operational IDV Court in nearby New York State, created a planning document and hired a Resource Coordinator. The Center for Court Innovation provided support and technical assistance to the Resource Coordinator and court staff in their planning and in 2011 worked with the court and its stakeholders to evaluate its current process, identify strengths and strategize steps to strengthen some of the identified gaps.

Bennington's IDV Court goals are to increase information flow to the court regarding domestic violence cases and to enhance offender accountability and victim safety. In the planning process, stakeholders and the presiding judge identified victim safety as a priority—especially when the vast majority of the litigants were going to re-unify or continue to live together. To that end, one judge hears all civil protection order petitions in a morning and all criminal cases involving domestic violence allegations the same afternoon. Civil legal service

providers offer pro bono legal services to petitioners/victims, community based victim advocates provide on-site victim advocacy and the Public Defender provides free legal advice to defendants on civil protective order hearings. In addition the court increased security both within and outside the courthouse and courtroom, secured separate waiting areas for defendants and petitioners/complaining witnesses, as well as their support persons, staggered arrival times, showed a 20 minute video explaining criminal and civil court proceedings, and a 5 minute presentation by the Resource Coordinator to both parties regarding the IDV Court process. The Resource Coordinator worked to schedule prompt evaluations to ensure that assessments for substance abuse, mental health issues, and domestic violence education and counseling programs were available as well as scheduled needed and appropriate supervised visitation center appointments for the parents to carry out court ordered supervised visitation schedules. These efforts resulted in relevant assessment reports and programming screenings being made available to the court and parties within one to two weeks of the event which brought the parties to court. The coordinator also compiled a list of other community resources for defendants, victims and their children as well as worked with the families to access funding and insurance coverage for services.

In 2011 Vermont Center for Justice Research (VCJR) conducted an outcome analysis of Bennington IDV Court. In addition VCJR conducted separate research on Vermont's statewide domestic violence data, including recidivism, case processing, and case outcomes. VCJR's final report, **Bennington County Integrated Domestic Violence Docket Project: Outcome Evaluation** (Schlueter Max, et al., Vermont Center for Justice Research, 2011) showed a substantial difference in recidivism, re-conviction, case processing, and service needs between the 140 defendants whose cases were heard in the IDV Court and the 102 defendants with similar

criminal cases that were heard in the general criminal docket between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2010.

The analysis of defendants whose cases were heard in the IDV Court compared to those whose cases were not heard in the IDV Court showed that, in fact, the IDV Court does have a positive effect on recidivism, re-conviction rate, time to disposition, and the ability of the court to refer defendants to services. One of the goals of the IDV Court was to enhance offender accountability. Bennington IDV Court sought to achieve that goal through increased probation supervision and monitoring as well as implementation of a “*swift and certain sanction*” approach to probation violations. The Resource Coordinator assisted the court with judicial monitoring and convicted offenders were often sentenced to probation. Probation monitored defendants for between 1-2 years on average with enhanced supervision and any violation results in immediate arrest and an appearance in front of the IDV Judge for sanctioning. When compared to both statewide domestic violence defendants and domestic violence defendants within Bennington County, IDV defendants recidivated a significantly lower rate and more notable, were reconvicted of fewer domestic violence and general violent crimes. 22.1% of IDV defendants were reconvicted of some type of crime as compared to 36.3% of defendants in the county and 47.7% of domestic violence offenders statewide, a 54% reduction in rate of any new crime conviction from statewide. Compared to over seven percent of statewide domestic violence defendants, only 4.3% of the IDV defendants were convicted of a new domestic violence offense as their first reconviction and the rate for reconviction for any violent crime was reduced by 38% from statewide. Compared to defendants in the same county with similar charges, the IDV defendants were more than two times less like be convicted of a new violent crime. The research further revealed that IDV defendants were actually incarcerated for less time than their statewide counterparts while nevertheless reducing recidivism. The Bennington IDV research confirmed

that time from arrest to final case resolution for the criminal cases in the IDV program took only 1/3 of the time taken by cases statewide.

The Windham IDV Court will use the lessons learned in the planning and implementation of the Bennington IDV Court as well as the research on the court to enhance the way it addresses domestic violence cases. Through thoughtful planning, stakeholder engagement, and an enhanced staff, creating protocols for expedited case calendaring, enhanced judicial monitoring through probation and linkages to appropriate services the Windham IDV Court will enhance offender accountability and victim safety.

In order to achieve this goal, the grant will allow the court to hire a Resource Coordinator to assist in identifying overlapping cases, providing case management of the cases, and coordinate available services. This staff person will identify resources for victims, refer defendants to appropriate services and assessments, assist the court in monitoring offender compliance, and assure strong linkages with victim assistance programs.

Additionally, the project will provide enhanced legal advocacy for victims and their families in the civil court. Women's Freedom Center and the Windham County State's Attorneys office both provide victim advocacy on-site to victims of domestic violence. However, there is currently no provision of free civil legal services for victims with protective order petitions. This project would enable Have Justice Will Travel to provide free on-site civil legal assistance to victims in the IDV Court.

There are no direct active federal grants that are supporting the Windham County Integrated Domestic Violence Court Project. The 5% Judiciary set aside for the STOP VAWA project equates to \$39,943 with a cash match of \$13,314. The priorities of the STOP VAWA funding are to provide victims and their children with safe parent child contact through the Vermont Superior Court Mediation Program (VFCMP) Parent Child Coordination Program. The

next priority of the STOP VAWA is to support judicial and staff education around the issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, elderly abuse, and teen abuse issues. Funding has been and will continue to be utilized to support state-wide collaborative efforts to find ways to improve access to language interpreters for Limited English Proficient (LEP) victims. This is an ongoing effort to increase LEP interpreter issue awareness for the service providers with the intent to share in the responsibility of increasing interpreter quality and access to Vermont's current language interpreters. Strengthening local processes of service of protection orders is an ongoing focus of the grant. This includes local community training on best practice of service and coordination between the courts, serving agency, and the holding station. The last priority of the STOP VAWA grant is to keep pace with technology improvements for relief from abuse after hours. Funding is set aside to purchase appropriate technology to allow easier access to judges after hours. Any unspent funding by the end of the grant is designated to parent coordination services or training, as outlined above.

What Will Be Done

With the establishment of the Windham County IDV Court, families in crisis who have criminal cases that also have overlapping Family Court Protective Order cases will be heard by one IDV Judge. The Windham County IDV Court judge will hear the related cases involving domestic violence victims and their families. The goal is to change the way the current justice system treats families in crisis by providing enhanced services to domestic violence victims and their children, ensuring defendant/respondent accountability with enhanced probation monitoring and immediate assessment for appropriate court mandated programming, ensuring procedural fairness for all parties and promoting more informed decision making by judges.

Due to this enhancement of the current court's practice, court staff, the Windham County State's Attorney's office, the Vermont Department of Correction, defense bar, civil legal service

providers and victim advocates will be able to have a clearer understanding of a family's entire criminal and civil case history.

GOAL: CREATE AN INTEGRATED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT IN WINDHAM COUNTY (Year One- Year Three)

Objective #1: To create an effective IDV Court in Windham County through an intensive planning phase that includes both court planners and community stakeholders. (First Quarter - Third Quarter) The significance of the planning phase of an IDV Court cannot be over-emphasized. Proper planning will ensure consistency among the IDV Courts as well as the advancement of the primary goals of the IDV Court: victim safety and offender accountability.

Task 1: Create a IDV Court planning work group: (First Quarter) An IDV Court Planning Work Group will be established including the supervisory judge(s) and court personnel from each division affected by the IDV Court (i.e., criminal and family), prosecutors, victim advocates, probation personnel, legal services attorneys, criminal defense attorneys, key service providers to begin the planning process.

Task 2: Determine caseloads, gaps and legal issues for the Windham County IDV Court: (First 6 months) The Work Group will conduct a caseload analysis or SWOT analysis as part of its planning activities, to determine the number of cases with both criminal and family court overlap, the number of defendants currently under Department of Correction Supervision and the program mandates, and the number of self-represented litigants requesting protective orders. One of the lessons learned in the planning and implementation of Bennington IDV is the need for safety planning around custody and visitation that include specific parenting plans for offenders enabling them to see their children and at the same time ensuring victims' safety. Brattleboro, the town where the court is located, does not currently have supervised visitation services. The Windham County IDV Work Group will address this current gap in services by identifying

strategies to meet this need, the appropriate agency with whom to partner, and create protocols for parent – child contact. The Work Group will also identify evidence-based programs for offenders to address parenting after violence.

Task 3: Hold in-depth discussions with criminal justice and other court partners (First 9 Months)

The Work Group will convene in-depth discussions with prosecutors, victim advocates, other attorney organizations, advocacy groups and relevant agencies concerning service needs, coordination of responsibilities and defendant accountability.

Task 4: Draft implementation protocols: (First 9 Months) In consultation with court personnel and CCI staff, the Work Group will draft implementation protocols that include detailed plans for tracking and processing cases into the IDV Court, provision of comprehensive services for litigants, and judicial monitoring of offenders.

Objective #2: To implement an IDV Court in Windham County (5th-12th Quarter) Technical assistance can provide local planners with a jump-start, and ensure that they do not have to re-invent the wheel or overlook valuable resources. CCI will provide intensive technical assistance to the Windham County IDV Court during their initial implementation phase. CCI Staff will collaborate with other Courts Grant Training and Technical Assistance Providers to provide appropriate technical assistance as needed.

Task 1: Provide hands-on technical assistance to the court. (First Quarter - Twelfth Quarter)

CCI will provide hands-on training and resources and on-site support to the Windham County IDV Court Work Group during their planning process, providing the necessary tools for the successful planning and implementation of an IDV Court that will advance the primary goals of victim safety and offender accountability while meeting the specific needs of the community.

GOAL: TO HIRE ENHANCED STAFF FOR THE WINDHAM COUNTY IDV COURT

Objective #1: Ensure information flow, coordination of services and offender monitoring with an enhanced staff. (3rd Quarter of Year One)

Task 1: Hire a Resource Coordinator for the Windham County IDV Court: The IDV Court will hire a full time Resource Coordinator to assist the judge and other court staff in information flow, coordination of services, and monitoring of defendants/respondents. The IDV Court will attempt to hire someone who has a background in both domestic violence issues and the court system. The Resource Coordinator will provide information to victims regarding court procedures, arraignment dispositions and conditions of protective orders, as well as make referrals to the victims advocates for confidential services such as safety planning, crisis intervention, emotional support, referrals to shelters. The Resource Coordinator gathers and organizes all related court information pertaining to the litigants; provides immediate referral to screening for substance abuse and batterer accountability programs; develops and implements protocols with off-site agencies; oversees the submission of required reports and compliance-related paperwork; works collaboratively with court staff and criminal justice and social service agencies to coordinate the delivery of services; serves as a liaison between the court and private and public agencies; participates in program planning and development; works with court mandated programs for defendants in order to receive monitoring information about defendants/respondents; ensures court mandated programs for defendants are held accountable for their quality using the statewide offender accountability guidelines and facilitates linkages with social service providers.

GOAL: PROVIDE ENHANCED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM ADVOCACY

Objective #1: To contract with independent domestic violence agency to provide on-site legal victim advocacy to the Windham IDV Court

Task #1: Contract with Have Justice Will Travel to provide a part-time attorney to provide civil legal services for petitioners in the Windham IDV Court (Years 2-3) The Vermont Court

Administrator's Office will contract with Have Justice Will Travel, a non-profit, independent victim service agency that provides pro bono legal services to this community. The part-time attorney will provide representation in civil protective order cases for petitioners in the IDV Court and coordinate with Women's Freedom Center to ensure victim services are provided.

Task 2: Facilitate the flow of information to/from victims:

The Resource Coordinator will provide on-going information about the pending court cases to the victims via the victim's attorney, State's Attorney's victim advocate, and/or the Women's Freedom Center victim advocate, including the status and terms of any protective orders. The Resource Coordinator will help monitor the status of victim safety and potential

defendant/respondent violation of orders by ensuring that any information obtained from the victim advocates, the SA's Office, Department of Corrections, and other off-site agencies (including hospitals and various social service agencies) is provided to the appropriate agencies.

The Work Group will work with the State's Attorney's victim advocate, Women's Freedom Center, Have Justice Will travel will collaborate to ensure enhanced victim services in the IDV Court. Specifically, the current referral process will be reviewed and protocols implemented as necessary to ensure victims receive referrals to confidential victim services through the community based, WFC, as well as have access to civil legal services provided by HJWT.

GOAL: CREATE OFFENDER ACCOUNTABILITY BY ENHANCED MONITORING

Objective #1: Improve offender accountability for all domestic violence cases (Year 2-3)

Task 1: Use of sentences with enhanced probation supervision and court-mandated conditions

for non-incarcerated defendants in criminal cases and respondents in civil cases: The Windham

County IDV Court will use domestic violence probation conditions and court-mandated

programs, such as batterer intervention and substance abuse treatment programs in order to ensure high levels of judicial and probation department monitoring of defendants/respondents. These conditions will be mandated by the court and immediate action to advance the case will be taken by the court if a violation of a condition is reported. The Resource Coordinator will work to create protocols with probation and any court mandated program to ensure swift reporting of non-compliance. In addition, statistics will be kept regarding the numbers of violations and what response was ordered by the court in those cases.

Objective #2: Increase compliance with batterers' intervention programs and other court mandated programs (Year 2-3)

Task 1: Compliance monitoring:

The IDV Court will be able to closely monitor defendant/respondent participation in court mandated programs through improved and reliable direct supervision by trained probation and parole officers and immediate court response to any reported violations. The State's Attorney's office and probation will act immediately if there is a violation of an order.

Task 2: Maintain high levels of defendant/respondent monitoring in an effort to reduce recidivism: By monitoring defendants/respondents during the duration of their court-ordered programs, the court can promote strict accountability of defendants/respondents. The Resource Coordinator will create court ordered referral and monitoring methods that will be implemented by the court. The IDV Court will work to enhance existing court partnerships with the Department of Corrections and with Bill Pelz-Walsh, Taking Responsibility facilitator, the certified batterer intervention program in Windham County, in order to accommodate the needs of the defendants/respondents and facilitate compliance with court orders. The Resource

coordinator will develop monitoring protocols with the Department of Corrections (if mandated to probation) and with Taking Responsibility or any other court mandated program.

GOAL: TO COLLABORATE WITH CRIMINAL JUSTICE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES AND OTHER COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS (Year One-Year 3)

Objective #1: Centralize the coordination of services and exchange information among the court, criminal justice, and social service agencies, and other community-based organizations.

(Year One-Year 3) To improve the court's response to domestic violence crime, the IDV Court requires strong partnerships with key criminal justice and social service agencies, including the Windham County State's Attorney's Office, the Windham County Department of Corrections, local police departments, independent victim service agencies such as Women's Freedom Center, Bill Pelz-Walsh, facilitator of the batterer intervention program, substance abuse and mental health treatment programs, supervised visitation providers, legal services criminal defense attorneys and other social service programs. Court staff will convene community stakeholder meetings on a regular basis with a variety of agencies. Ongoing trainings will be developed for the court and its partners by CCI and will feature a variety of topics aimed at increasing knowledge and capacity building on issues faced in the IDV Court with specific emphasis on issues faced in rural communities.

Task 1: Improve information through collaboration (Year 2-Year 3):

The Resource Coordinator will work to establish and strengthen collaborations with criminal justice, domestic violence, legal services and other community stakeholders. The court staff will develop protocols in collaboration with community stakeholders to enhance coordination and the constant flow and exchange of information. The Resource Coordinator will keep statistics about

the number of community stakeholders that participate in the court's planning and implementation. In addition, the Resource Coordinator will keep statistics on the numbers of agencies and representatives who attend each stakeholder meeting and ongoing trainings.

Task 2: Outreach and Training with Stakeholder Agencies (Year 2 and Year 3):

The Resource Coordinator will outreach to criminal justice, domestic violence, legal services and community stakeholders. The Resource Coordinator will focus on doing specific outreach to diverse agencies, less traditional court partners and agencies that work with underserved populations. The IDV Court will have regular and continuous stakeholder meetings. These meetings (held approximately every six to eight weeks) will be presided over by the IDV Court Judge and the meetings will focus on discussing important issues confronting the court and its partners. In addition, ongoing training and continuing education will be organized on a variety of topics. Training activities will be driven by discussions with local stakeholders. Local stakeholders will also be encouraged to participate as trainers in the trainings and impart their expertise to the larger court partnership. The Resource Coordinator will review numbers in attendance at meetings and the number of interagency meetings that are held in order to assess whether outreach efforts have been effective. In addition, evaluations will be distributed at each training to determine the quality and relevancy of the speakers and topics.

Objective #2: *Provide advanced domestic violence education, training, and capacity-building to judges, court staff and stakeholders in Windham County (TIMEFRAME: Year 2)*

Task #1: Survey the needs of the IDV Court staff and stakeholder agencies. The IDV Court Working Group, in collaboration with the Center for Court Innovation and other Training and Technical Assistance Providers, will create a training needs survey and distribute to judges, court

staff and stakeholder agencies in Windham County to best identify the domestic violence related training needs of the community.

Task 2: Host a one-day domestic violence training for Windham County IDV Court staff

and stakeholders: The Working Group in consultation with the grant Training and Technical Assistance Partners will host a one-day training for judges, court staff, and stakeholders to better understand the dynamics of domestic violence and address both safety and accountability concerns in the Integrated Domestic Violence Court.

Who Will Implement

Key Personnel:

Resource Coordinator: TBD See attached job description.

The Judge: Honorable David Suntag has been a Superior Court Judge in Vermont for 23 years. He was the driving force behind the Bennington IDV and presided over that docket for 4 years. Judge Suntag has been on the faculty of the National Judicial College, Reno, Nevada since 2004 and has provided judicial education programs on a national level on numerous topics, including: domestic violence; working with self-represented litigants; procedural fairness; jury trial issues: contempt powers; bench skills and faculty development. (see attached resume)

Superior Court Clerk, Anne Damone has been working in the legal field for 25 years. She began her legal career as the Deputy Court Clerk in Windham from 1988 to 1995 and returned to the Court in 2011 as the Superior Court Clerk. Ms. Damone oversees the criminal, civil, family and probate divisions in Windham and will supervise the Resource Coordinator. (see attached resume)

Karen Gennette will act as the Project Director and single point of contact. Ms. Gennette, a Program Manager with the Court Administrator's Office, has worked with the CAO for over 8

years and oversees the implementation of Federal and State grants and programs. She has administered \$5.5M in funding and has helped with the establishment of treatment court dockets and other alternative programming, including the planning and implementation of the Bennington County Integrated Domestic Violence Docket. (See attached resume)

Expertise of Organizations/Partnerships/Roles and Responsibilities:

The Windham County IDV Court proposal is a collaboration between the Vermont Judiciary, the Windham County Superior Court, the Center for Court Innovation (CCI), the Windham County State's Attorney's Office, civil legal service providers, public defender, the Department of Corrections, Women's Freedom Center and Health Care and Rehabilitation Services and Bill Pelz-Walsh, the facilitator of the batter intervention program. The grant will be administered and overseen by the Vermont Court Administrator's Office. The CAO is the administrative arm of the Vermont Judiciary and oversees 32 judges and approximately 400 staff throughout the State. The CAO is experienced in the management and administration of competitive Federal grants and is dedicated to improving the courts' response to domestic violence issues.

CCI staff would provide technical assistance and training to the Windham County IDV Court. Rebecca Thomforde Hauser, the Associate Director of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Programs will provide project coordination and technical assistance for this initiative. This assistance will include intensive aid in both the planning and implementation of the court. The CCI has significant experience in the planning and implementation of innovative court projects, including development of specialized domestic violence court models throughout New York State, and creation of the several training programs for judges and multiple court partners on domestic violence issues. (See attached resume of CCI staff)

Women's Freedom Center Women's Freedom Center is the independent, non-profit, victim service agency that provides safety planning, information, counseling, crisis intervention, and supportive services to domestic violence and sexual assault victims in Windham County;

State's Attorney's Office handles the prosecution of all domestic violence cases in the Windham County and has dedicated domestic violence prosecutors and victim advocates;

The Public Defender's Office will participate in the development, planning and implementation of the IDV Court to ensure that services are front-loaded and accessible.

Have Justice Will Travel will participate in the development, planning and implementation of the Windham County IDV Court Project in collaboration with CAO will hire, train and supervise a part-time attorney to provide civil legal services to victims in the IDV Court. HJWT provided civil legal services to victims in the Bennington IDV Court.

The Department of Corrections Probation Office in Windham will work with the IDV Court offenders to ensure compliance with IDV Court enhanced probation orders.

HCRS is the community mental health agency, providing comprehensive services in Windham County. HCRS offers the most comprehensive array of services available in Windham County. At the time of intake and assessment, the needs of clients are evaluated not only for level of acuity, but for mental health needs. The agency refers clients to the programs and services within the agency at the time of initial evaluation, and when necessary during the course of treatment. As a community mental health setting, treatment at HCRS is voluntary and requires client consent.

(See attached MOU)

Evaluation

There will be two parts to the evaluation. The first part will be a satisfaction survey delivered to the victims involved in the Integrated Domestic Violence Court cases. CCI will help the team develop the survey that allows the Work Group to have a better understanding of the effectiveness of the strategies that have been put in place. The second part of the evaluation will allow the Work Group to engage in a continuous improvement process for the grant and project activities. The CAO will contract with Vermont Center for Justice Research, the organization that provided a process and outcome evaluation on the Bennington Integrated Domestic Violence Court and has conducted separate research on Vermont's statewide domestic violence data, including recidivism, case processing, and case outcomes. VCJR will provide a baseline for this project using the measures from Bennington and provide regular feedback to the Work Group to assess the effectiveness of the project activities allowing necessary adjustments to address issues that arise and improve the overall outcomes of the project. Three percent of the budget as allowed will be used for the evaluation.

Conclusion

As stated in the Request for Proposal, it's most effective when all parts of the justice system collaborate in response to these crimes. Windham County is ready to take on a new enhanced approach to the crimes of domestic violence. An approach that will keep victims safe and hold offenders accountable. Included in this proposal is the provision of ongoing training of team members on domestic violence issues enabling them to understand the needs of victims better and the dynamics of domestic violence including the impact on the children. This willingness to collaborate is demonstrated by the signatures of the criminal justice partners and service providers on the Memorandum of Understanding.