



## Introduction

The Nebraska Crime Commission (NCC) has prepared this reference as a resource for current and future Nebraska grantees of federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funds through the Services\*Training\*Officers\*Prosecutors (STOP) grant program. NCC, as the state administering agency, is responsible for the application of federal guidelines on STOP budget requirements. This resource provides brief details and context on the unique requirements for this grant program.

The STOP Grant Program encourages partnerships between law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and victim services organizations to enhance victim safety and hold offenders accountable in response to domestic and sexual violence (including the crimes of domestic assault, sexual assault, stalking, and human sex trafficking, as well as gender-based assaults such as female genital mutilation). The goal of the grant program is to develop and strengthen law enforcement, prosecution, and court strategies to combat violent crimes against women and to develop and strengthen victim services (including community-based and culturally specific services).

## Overview

STOP Grant budgets, in addition to line-item costs by category, must identify:

Element	Explanation
<b>Sexual Assault (SA) Set Aside</b>	<u>At least</u> 20%, minimum, statewide This includes items, time, or activities that focus on sexual assault response.
<b>Public Awareness or Community Education (P&amp;E) Allowance</b>	<u>No more than</u> 5%, maximum, statewide This includes items, time, or activities that support public service announcements, social media engagement, and prevention/education activities that broadly address DSV.
<b>Allocations Categories</b>	NCC must award funds “to” courts and culturally specific community-based organizations and “for the benefit” (directly or indirectly) of law enforcement, prosecution and victim services entities, based on the ratios provided. Funds that are allocated indirectly must be documented by formal agreements.
<b>Match Requirements</b>	Not required for non-profit and not-for-profit victim services agencies. <u>At least</u> 25% of total award amount for government and for-profit agencies.

## Match Requirements

Funds awarded to victim service providers for victim services, or to tribes, are excluded from the total award amount for purposes of calculating match. This includes funds that are awarded under the “discretionary” allocation for victim services purposes and funds that are reallocated from other categories to victim services.

Recipients of funds in the Courts, Law Enforcement, and Prosecutors categories are required to provide a 25% match of non-Federal resources. This 25% match may be cash funds or in-kind services. Written documentation that identifies the source of the match is required.

All funds designated as match are restricted to the same uses as the program funds and must be expended within the grant period. The State must ensure that match is identified in a manner that guarantees its accountability during an audit.

Source: 28 CFR 90.18 <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-28/section-90.18>

### Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

P.O. Box 94946  
 301 Centennial Mall South  
 Lincoln, Nebraska 68509  
[ncc.nebraska.gov](http://ncc.nebraska.gov)

OFFICE 402-471-2194 FAX 402-471-2837  
 NCC.Webmaster@Nebraska.gov



## How to Calculate Match Minimums

Step 1: Federal Award Amount ÷ 75% = Total Award Amount (Federal + Match)

Step 2: Total Award Amount × 25% = Minimum Match Amount

## Allocation Categories

NCC is required to award statewide funds according to the following ratios.

Courts	Law Enforcement	Prosecutors	Victim Services		Discretionary*
5%	25%	25%	30%		15%
			Culturally Undefined Organizations	Culturally Specific Organizations	
			90% maximum	10% minimum	

\*NCC determines allocation benefit

Allocation ratios for courts and culturally specific community-based organizations must be awarded to these entities.

Allocation ratios for law enforcement, prosecution and victim services must benefit these entities. If funds are not granted directly by NCC to law enforcement, prosecution, and/or victim services entities, then NCC must require documentation between the NCC grantee and the law enforcement, prosecution, and/or victim services entity stating that they the proposed grant project and agrees that it is to the benefit of that entity. This documentation is commonly an MOU or subgrant agreement, and must be signed by the chief executives of both entities.

Source: 28 CFR 90.11(c): [https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-28/part-90#p-90.11\(c\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-28/part-90#p-90.11(c))

## Culturally Specific Organization Allocation

To qualify for funding for the culturally specific organization allocation, an entity must have primary mission is to address the needs of racial and ethnic minority groups or have developed a special expertise regarding services to address the demonstrated needs of a particular racial and ethnic minority group.

The organization must do more than merely provide services to the targeted group; rather, the organization must provide culturally competent services designed to meet the specific needs of the target population.

Source: 28 CFR 90.11(c)(3): [https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-28/part-90#p-90.11\(c\)\(3\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-28/part-90#p-90.11(c)(3))

## Funding Allocation Dedications

### Sexual Assault Set Aside

**A minimum of 20%** of STOP funded activities must meaningfully address sexual assault. Activities that meaningfully address sexual assault are tailored to meet the specific needs of sexual assault victims. NCC must ensure that projects funded under the sexual assault set aside have a legitimate focus on sexual assault and that personnel funded under such projects have sufficient expertise and experience on sexual assault.

Source: 28 CFR 90.11(c)(4): [https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-28/part-90#p-90.11\(c\)\(4\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-28/part-90#p-90.11(c)(4))

Examples of items, time, or activities that would qualify for the sexual assault set aside may include:

- Staff time (salary & benefits) spent on criminal investigations, case prosecution, victim services specific to sexual assault, SART coordination or sexual assault specific CCR projects, systems navigation support for sexual assault protection order petitioners.
- Travel & training costs and/or personnel time to attend specialized sexual assault training on forensic medical evidence collection (SANE training), criminal investigation and/or prosecution.
- Supplies for forensic medical or criminal evidence collection or victim/survivor personal care items provided after evidence collection.
- Contracts for expert testimony fees to support sexual assault prosecutions.

NCC is required to ensure that the minimum sexual assault set aside amount is reached statewide and comes from two or more funding allocation categories.<sup>1</sup> **NCC does NOT require individual grantees to set aside a fixed amount of their award budget. However, budget adjustments will be required if the statewide set aside is not reached.** NCC grantees are encouraged to emphasize and maximize their dedication to sexual assault response.

## Public Awareness or Community Education Allowance & Prevention and Educational Programming Purpose Area

The 2013 reauthorization of VAWA created a new purpose area for STOP funds: “Developing, enhancing, or strengthening prevention and educational programming to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or female genital mutilation or cutting, with not more than 5% of the amount allocated to a state to be used for this purpose.”

Therefore, a **maximum of 5%** of STOP funded activities (statewide) may be used to conduct public awareness or community education campaigns or related activities to broadly address DSV. ***This limit does not apply to grant funds that are used to provide outreach about available services and support information sharing.***

The term “prevention” includes both primary and secondary prevention efforts.

- “Primary prevention” means strategies, programming, and activities to stop both first-time perpetration and first-time victimization. Primary prevention is stopping domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking before they occur.
- “Secondary prevention” is identifying risk factors or problems that may lead to future domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and taking the necessary actions to eliminate the risk factors and the potential problem.
- “Prevention” is distinguished from “outreach,” which has the goal of informing victims and potential victims about available services.

Source: 28 CFR 90.2(d): <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-28/section-90.2>

Examples of items, time, or activities that may be included in the *Public Awareness or Community Education Allowance & Prevention and Educational Programming Purpose Area* include:

- Staff time producing, managing, coordinating, or otherwise supporting public service announcements and mass/social media campaigns focused on educating the public about domestic and sexual violence.
  - This includes prevention-focused activities for “Awareness Month” campaigns for stalking, human trafficking, sexual assault, and domestic violence.
- Travel costs and/or staff time to attend, present at, or share information at a promotional event or educational engagement that:
  - Is comprised of an audience that is not criminal justice and/or victim services focused; AND
  - Does not have an intended outcome of informing victims and potential victims about available services.
- Procurement of supplies or contracts for mass media promotional campaigns for community awareness activities.

NCC is required to ensure that awarded funds do not exceed the public awareness or community education statewide allowance. Projects funding activities under the *Public Awareness or Community Education Allowance* must identify the *Prevention and Educational Programming Purpose Area* in their project scope. **NCC has NOT set a fixed amount or percentage cap for individual grantees to apply to their award budget. However, budget adjustments will be required if the statewide allowance is exceeded.** NCC grantees are encouraged to minimize their dedication of STOP funds that qualify for this allowance and/or under this purpose area.

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<sup>1</sup> Activities funded under the discretionary allocation do not count toward the state’s sexual assault set aside minimum.