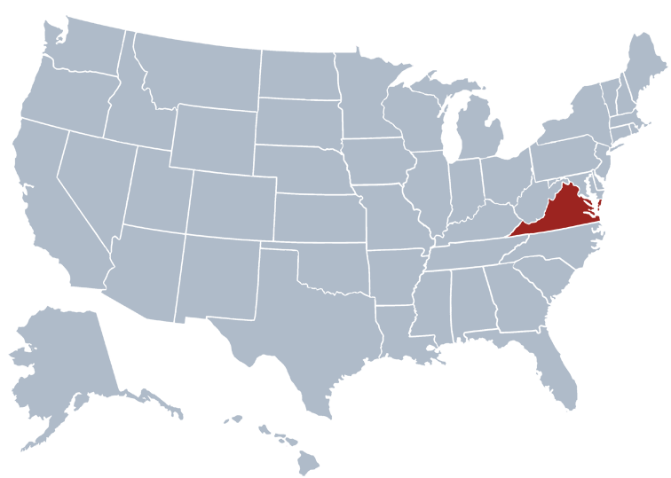
**ICJR FY2019, PROJECT NARRATIVE, COMMONWEATH OF VIRGINIA**

**PURPOSE OF THE APPLICATION**

**Communities, Location, Populations and Services Area**

This project will target the entire Commonwealth of Virginia, which is diverse in geography and demographics. Virginia is 39,490 square miles and composed of 95 counties, 38 independent cities, and 81 universities. According to the US Census Bureau, in 2016, the estimated population was 8,411,808, persons with Whites constituting 62.4% of the population, African Americans 19.1%, Asians 6.5%, Native Americans 0.3% and Hispanics 9.1%.  The average age of Virginia residents was 37.5 years and females represented 50.8% of the population.

The target service area hopes to reach the community of criminal justice and victim assistance agencies serving Virginia’s victims of sexual and domestic violence, including: 63 community-based victim assistance programs that serve domestic violence victims and sexual assault victims; 370 Law Enforcement agencies (Police and Sheriffs), employing 22,848 sworn law enforcement officers; 133 Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Offices, that prosecute felony and misdemeanor criminal cases; 128 Victim/Witness offices based in Commonwealth Attorney’s Offices or Police Departments; and 9 Legal Aid offices that provide free civil legal assistance and representation to low-income Virginians.

**Purpose and Priority Areas**

This project proposes to address the following statutory purpose areas: #5 To strengthen legal advocacy services programs and other victim services for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, including strengthening assistance to such victims in immigration matters; # 18 To develop, implement, or enhance Sexual Assault Response Teams or similar coordinated community responses to sexual assault; and # 22 To develop multidisciplinary high-risk teams focusing on reducing domestic violence and dating violence homicides by using evidence-based indicators to assess the risk of homicide and link high-risk victims to immediate crisis intervention services; identifying and managing high-risk offenders; and providing ongoing victim advocacy and referrals to comprehensive services including legal, housing, health care, and economic assistance. This project proposes to reduce violent crime against women and promote victim safety by addressing OVW statutory priority area #22 described above.

**Problems and Need for the Project**

Although Virginia has prioritized specialized victim services, with the goal to reduce violent crime against women and promote victim safety, the scope of non-fatal and fatal domestic violence in Virginia remains significant. According to statistics compiled by the Action Alliance, in 2017 there were 60,270 calls to sexual or domestic violence hotlines across Virginia. In 2017, Virginia State Police reported 23,634 arrests for assault and battery offenses committed against a family member, and local law enforcement agencies reported that there were 5,736 victims of 5,442 forcible sex offenses, of which 86.4% of the victims were female. According to surveillance data collected by the Virginia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, in 2016, there were 158 family and intimate partner homicides, representing 33% of all homicides in Virginia, a 27% increase from the prior year. Between 2014 and 2016, there was a 25% increase in the number of intimate partner homicides, with 62% involving a firearm. In Virginia, race and gender are key factors in understanding the homicide risk for all persons, but particularly for African American women, who die at twice the rate of white women, and have the highest fatality rates amongst all racial and gender groups.

This proposal is designed to improve criminal justice responses statewide through training, technical assistance, and resources to professionals responding to victims of sexual assault, domestic/dating violence and stalking. The proposed project will assist localities with the development of Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART), Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) teams, Fatality Review Teams and legal advocacy programs.

In 2009, the Code of Virginia mandated that the Commonwealth Attorney in each political subdivision coordinate a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) and hold a meeting at least annually. While some new SARTs started as a result of the mandate, according to a 2018 survey, 25% of Virginia localities do not have SARTs, either because their SART dissolved or because they never formed a SART. Existing SARTs also face challenges. According to a 2016 survey, Commonwealth Attorneys indicated that 24% minimally fulfill the code requirement of one meeting per year and 46% of respondents said that their SARTs focused on children, an inaccurate description of a SART’s role. In 2016, DCJS and Sexual Violence Justice Institute (SVJI) conducted an analysis of the barriers that Virginia SARTs experience. A primary recommendation in the report and the need to be addressed by this project is to identify and empower an entity to formally lead the work of SART ecosystem development, and to foster systems change at the local level.

The Code of Virginia directs Virginia’s Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) to provide training and technical assistance to Virginia’s Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams (DVFRTs), of which there are currently 20 established across Virginia. These multidisciplinary teams review deaths that occur within the context of domestic violence to generate findings and propose policy changes as protective measures to prevent future domestic violence fatalities. Through promulgation of evidence-based recommendations, these teams have had a tremendous impact on their community’s response to domestic violence. In recent years, the OCME has focused their training efforts on building teams’ data collection tools, to better capture the information and insights gained through fatality review, including lethality, other risk factors, and precipitating events. The main goal of this training’s focus was to provide a streamlined data collection, analysis, and reporting process, allowing teams to release findings and recommendations to stakeholders in a timelier manner. OCME has also been working with teams to enhance community engagement efforts, including increased participation in community events and an enhanced media presence, ensuring that fatality review teams remain active and key stakeholders in the development and implementation of community-based domestic violence intervention and prevention activities.

In 2014, the Virginia statewide Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) Team was created to provide training and support to communities seeking to implement LAP. With the assistance of the Maryland Network against Domestic Violence, the team adopted the Maryland Model LAP and has promoted its implementation across the state. Since 2015, the team has assisted 439 law enforcement agencies with LAP implementation. In 2017, after recognizing the need for on-going support, the Team implemented quarterly LAP Coordinator meetings. Additionally, the Team collects data from each LAP locality to gauge protocol usage and the extent of high-risk domestic violence incidents. This proposal seeks to continue this work, promoting LAP as an intervention tool, providing training and technical assistance to high-risk LAP-implementing communities.

Legal Advocacy is a core component provided by both domestic and sexual violence advocates and systems-based advocates who work on behalf of victims of sexual assault and intimate partner violence.To identify unmet victim needs, the Partnership conducted a series of surveys and focus groups as part of a previous GEAP grant project, identifying four priority barriers to victim safety and offender accountability that were directly related to legal advocacy services:1) mistrust of the response system based on experiences of racism, ageism, anti-immigration policies and attitudes, sexism, and homophobia; 2) lack of coordinated, accessible, affordable, and culturally appropriate services to ensure timely and accurate information about victims’ rights and services; 3) potential and real risks of disclosing violence, including unreliable law enforcement, magistrate, or court response, concerns for children being removed from victim parents, escalating violence, and legal or immigration problems; and 4) system and community minimization of the dangers and risks associated with the violence often accompanied by victim-blaming and pressures not to speak about the violence.

**Gaps in Services and How the Project will Complement and not Duplicate Existing Services**

At the 2018 Virginia SART Summit, focus groups identified the following as gaps in SART development: No statewide accountability; lack of resources; lack of coordination, lack of leadership; lack of buy-in; lack of funding; unclear function of SARTs, lack of attendance and participation. The focus groups identified the following activities that would develop or enhance SARTs: develop Virginia-specific resources; develop technical assistance; provide education in best practices; conduct site visits to help teams; and provide standards, evaluation and data. This project will complement and enhance existing support to SARTs by creating a more customized structure of assessment, resources, training, and evaluation.

Since 2014, the Statewide LAP Team has assisted in LAP implementation in 39 (20%) communities. There are currently 20 Fatality Review Teams in Virginia. Two new teams were established in the past year. The OCME provided training to 5 teams/75 individuals and provided technical support, guidance and information to 330 individuals. The proposed project will continue the work toward LAP and Fatality Review Team implementation in remaining localities.

Unfortunately, not all victim assistance services are collaborative. Some programs provide duplicative services, and many providers are unaware of the role of other advocacy services in their own jurisdiction. Advocates have varied levels of training, particularly those designed to address barriers identified by victims. Access varies because not all jurisdictions have full-time legal advocates. In many communities, services are not coordinated among Victim/Witness Programs, Sexual and Domestic Violence Agencies, and Legal Services Agencies. While victims do not always understand the differences between types of advocates, those differences may be critical to a victim’s experience. It is vital that all advocates are well trained and work collaboratively to maximize positive outcomes, particularly for those from populations that are traditionally underserved or poorly served by the criminal justice system.

Building on our current grant’s focus of increasing access to trained legal advocates, the Partnership (see Abstract) will work collaboratively to provide training to both community-based and systems-based advocates on legal advocacy. The Partnership will also encourage the enhancement of relationships between community based and systems based advocates, criminal justice personnel, attorneys, and SART, LAP and Fatality Review Team members by offering networking opportunities and training.

There are currently no other statewide efforts to develop and enhance SARTs, Fatality Review Teams and LAP teams or victim legal advocacy programs. This project will build on past efforts to develop and enhance community response to sexual assault and domestic violence victims.

**Impact of Current/Prior Efforts to Prevent and Reduce Sexual & Intimate Partner Violence**

DCJS and the Partnership initiated prior efforts to provide training to SARTs across the state including: eight one-day regional SART trainings, two advanced trainings and twenty on-site SART trainings, a webinar two SART Summits, a SART Interactive Scenario training and SART resources. According to the *Cultivating SART Efficacy* report, these efforts did have an impact by increasing the number of new SARTs that were started. In addition, in 2019 the VOCA grant, administered by DCJS, allowed funding for coordination, opening the possibility of localities having more funded SART Coordinators.

In 2011, legislative changes resulted in the availability of protection orders to a larger class of persons based upon a broader range of conduct; and the provisions for family abuse protective orders were made more consistent, including the penalties for repeat violations. In 2016, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe signed into law S.B. 49/H.B 1391, which prohibits individuals who are subject to family abuse protective orders from possessing firearms.

Currently, the Partnership is delivering Project INVEST, a twelve-month learning collaborative aimed at strengthening partnerships between community advocates, system advocates and legal advocates and increasing advocacy skills grounded in trauma-informed best practices.

These legislative and programmatic measures intend to keep victims safe from lethal harm. That said, Virginia’s criminal justice system struggles with enforcement of laws, including the establishment of SARTs and the prohibition of firearms in to family abuse protective orders. As a result, victims’ safety remains compromised. Twenty-two percent of victims who accessed services from the Action Alliance in 2017 reported that the perpetrator used a weapon against them. This project aims to incorporate legislative and programmatic updates into LAP and legal advocacy trainings.

**WHAT WILL BE DONE**

**Goals, Objectives and Expected Outcomes**

**GOAL 1: The Partnership will enhance local and regional community response to sexual assault by promoting stronger coordination and encouraging the implementation of SARTs in Virginia through the development and delivery of training, resources and networking, informed by an Advisory Group. Objective 1A:** The Partnership will facilitate needs assessments around sexual assault response and develop plans for technical assistance, resources and training based on identified needs, which could include the development of customized training and resources. These assessments will offer an opportunity to identify and promote best practices in specific areas, including services to at-risk and underserved populations, and to analyze the policies and practices of the various responders in a given community. **Objective 1B:** The Partnership will identify state and regional partners to provide expert guidance on training curricula, resources, and implementation of project activities. The Advisory Group will meet quarterly and will be comprised of state and local organizations from all regions of Virginia.

**Goal 1 Tasks and Activities:** Administer 15 SART Readiness Assessments to identify strengths and needs; Fifteen plans for technical assistance and training will be developed; analyze SART protocols to identify gaps and offer recommendations on evidence-informed practices; develop a menu of training modules that can be combined to create customized trainings for SARTs; facilitate 12 SART Advisory Group meetings to gain expert guidance on resources, training curricula and implementation of project activities; and develop and maintain Virginia-specific resources and networking by maintaining a webpage, SART Google Group and a SART registry. **Goal 1 Outcomes:** The Partnership members will provide 15 SART readiness assessments and will analyze policies and protocol gaps, offering recommendations and technical assistance and/or customized, on-site training on evidence-based practices to 15 local SARTs. SART members will participate in evaluation of customized training and technical assistance. 85% of participants will indicate that the training and/or technical assistance contributed to an improvement in policy and practice in their areas of need. Seven new Virginia SARTs will be formed.

**GOAL 2: The Partnership will enhance local and regional community response to domestic and dating violence in Virginia’s diverse regions by promoting stronger coordination and encouraging the implementation or expansion of Fatality Review Teams and LAP. Objective 2A:** The Partnership will develop a new training protocol, highlighting fatality review theory, methodology, analysis, and dissemination of the findings from the review. **Objective 2B**:The Partnership will train local Fatality Review Teams about fatality review process and will be available throughout the grant period for team specific training and support. **Objective 2C:** The Partnership will use OCME surveillance data from the Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Surveillance Project to identify high lethality localities and mobilize resources as needed providing outreach and technical assistance to communities to implement LAP protocols. **Objective 2D:** The Partnership will provide training and technical assistance to localities seeking to implement and sustain LAP, especially those identified as high lethality localities on OCME data. Over the grant period, the Partnership anticipates assisting 9 jurisdictions. **Objective 2E:** The Partnership will continue to support LAP communities by: a) organizing and hosting quarterly (12 total) statewide LAP coordinator meetings where participants can share solutions for maintaining and enhancing their LAPs; b) providing technical assistance to LAPs through data sharing and providing follow-up LAP training; c) enhancing homicide reduction efforts by utilizing LAP data to inform policy recommendations that promote victim safety and help identify and manage high-risk offenders. **Goal 2** **Tasks and Activities:** Identify trends from LAP data, make outreach to localities, provide technical assistance and training (LAP Train-the-Trainer and protection order prohibition information) for localities to implement LAP; Develop a new protocol for local and regional teams; Create and implement a training curriculum, including on-site training, web-based training, and a list of frequently asked questions; Provide data to LAP localities at quarterly meetings; Update Train-the-Trainer; coordinate quarterly LAP meetings. **Goal 2 Outcomes:** With an improved protocol and training curriculum critical information on victims and perpetrators in fatal homicide events, lethality factors, and recommendations from domestic violence Fatality Review Teams will be more readily available and accessible to each team. With improved provision of this essential information, coordination and collaboration among domestic violence stakeholders and community service providers in each community will improve, enhancing the overall community response to domestic violence; LAP jurisdictions are better informed and prevent domestic violence homicides by helping victims access services in a timely and trauma informed way; Nine new LAP jurisdictions are established.

**Goal 3: The Partnership will improve legal advocacy services by developing and delivering trainings, resources, and information on best practices, provide technical assistance and make networking opportunities available to system and community-based victim advocates, attorneys, and criminal and civil justice personnel, SARTs, LAP and Fatality Review Teams. Objective 3A:** The Partnership will conduct and deliver the following trainings: two- day *Legal Advocacy*, two-day *Continuing Advocacy*, a two- day *Working with Immigrant Survivors* three times during the grant period; *Safety Planning with High-Risk Survivors* two times during the grant period; *Working with African American Communities* two times during the grant period and; Three-Part *Protective Order Webinar* that includes information on the firearms provision of the Family Abuse Protective Order as well as information on accessing and enforcing protective orders. **Objective 3B**: The Partnership will facilitate quarterly networking opportunities for victim advocates, attorneys, and civil and criminal justice personnel to provide the opportunity to discuss challenges and successes, identify solutions, network, share information and provide referrals. These networking opportunities will be provided at LAP Coordinators meetings, Partner Agency Conferences and Trainings, and at Statewide Partners Meetings. **Objective 3C**: The Partnership will provide ongoing technical assistance to victim advocates, attorneys, civil and criminal justice personnel, SARTs and LAP Teams as requested on-site, by phone and/or email. **Goal 3 Tasks and Activities:** Identify participants; manage registration process, coordinate site logistics and training faculty, deliver trainings sessions and conduct evaluations; develop *High-Risk Safety Planning Training*; submit to OVW for approval, advertise and deliver training to LAP communities and victim advocates; Identify quarterly networking sites with Partnership agencies, identify topics for networking sites, convene and facilitate quarterly networking, training and resource sharing opportunities; Offer regular technical assistance and encourage stakeholders to utilize technical assistance; develop a technical assistance menu and provide to stakeholders. **Goal 3 Outcomes:** *The Legal Advocacy Continuing Advocacy* training will reach 60 advocates and other professionals. The *Trauma-informed Work with Immigrant Survivor* Training will be delivered three times and will reach 45 victim advocates. The *Safety Planning with High-Risk Survivors* curriculum will be developed, submitted to OVW for approval and will reach at least 50 advocates. The Webinar on *Accessing and Enforcing Protective Orders* will be delivered once and recorded for future use, accessed by 50 advocates and other stakeholders. All trainings will be evaluated with at least 85% of participants identifying an increase in their knowledge of and ability to provide more effective trauma-informed legal advocacy services to victim/survivors of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault or stalking. Networking opportunities will be identified and 12 facilitated networking opportunities will be held with 20 participants in each session. Technical assistance will be provided on-site, by phone or email to an average of 20 advocates, attorneys or other civil or criminal justice professionals, or SART, LAP or Fatality Review Team members each month by Partner Agencies.

**36 Months Timeline**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Year 1**  **Quarters** | | | | **Year 2**  **Quarters** | | | | **Year 3**  **Quarters** | | | |
| Recruit SART Advisory Group | x |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Convene SART Advisory Group Meetings |  | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Announce SART training and technical assistance offerings | x |  |  |  | x |  |  |  | x |  |  |  |
| Conduct needs assessments of Virginia SARTs | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Develop SART action plans |  | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Conduct customized, on-site training for SARTs |  |  | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Develop SART registry |  |  |  | x |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Maintain SART registry |  | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Post announcements and information on SART Google Group | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Conduct evaluations on participating Virginia SARTs |  |  | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| SART survey administered to all Virginia localities |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | x |  |  |
| Identify high risk/high fatality DV localities | x |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Host LAP Coordinator Meeting | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Review LAP stats for trends/outstanding info | x |  |  |  | x |  |  |  | x |  |  |  |
| Make outreach to high risk LAP communities for LAP implementation |  | x |  |  |  | x |  |  |  | x |  |  |
| Provide LAP implementation to at least one new jurisdiction | x |  | x | x | x |  | x | x | x |  | x | x |
| Update LAP Train the Trainer and Refresher trainings with information obtained from LAP and OCME stats | x |  |  |  | x |  |  |  | x |  |  |  |
| Conduct Legal Advocacy Training |  | x |  |  |  | x |  |  |  | x |  |  |
| Conduct Immigration Training |  |  |  | x |  |  | x |  |  |  | x |  |
| Develop Safety Planning Training |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Deliver Safety Planning Training |  | x | x |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Deliver Working with African American Community Training |  |  |  |  | x |  |  |  | x |  |  |  |
| Deliver three part Protective Order Webinar | x | x | x |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Train at least 20 fatality review teams on best practices for Fatality Review | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Quarterly Networking Opportunities | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Technical Assistance to victim advocates, attorneys, criminal and civil justice personnel SART, LAP and Fatality Review Team members | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |

**Description of Anticipated Success and Determining if Goals are Accomplished**

Training, technical assistance, resources and networking opportunities are key components in creating an effective community response to domestic and dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. Coordinated community response teams benefit when they are supported by a system of connections, resources, and guidance that both informs them, and is informed by them. Understanding the local response to sexual assault and domestic violence, and designing then implementing changes to enhance strengths and close gaps in the response can lead to greater victim/survivor engagement in the legal process and improved criminal justice outcomes.

The SARTs project will be successful because the project is informed, not only by national research on SART ecosystem development, but also by input from Virginia SARTs. The project will consult with the Minnesota SART Collaboration Project, a successful initiative that uses assessments, improvement plans and evaluation to help SARTs facilitate change. SART goals will be measured by administering training evaluations to all participants. SARTs who receive an assessment and site visit will also receive an action plan with specific goals and recommendations. The Partnership will continue to measure the completion of goals and recommendations throughout the duration of the project. In addition, a SART survey will be administered to all localities in Virginia during the final quarter of the grant period in order to re-assess the number, functioning and needs of SARTs.

Success of LAP implementation will be measured by the number of new LAP communities. Evaluations will be administered to both new and existing LAP teams. This project will be successful in the implementation of LAP communities due to the following: 1) experience implementing 39 previous LAP communities; 2) the support and technical assistance provided by the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, which developed the LAP protocol; 3) the accessibility of OCME data and three years of LAP-specific data to inform about the types and extent of lethal domestic violence incidents across the state; and a dedicated LAP coordinator in the OAG who will focus efforts of the team.

The enhancement and development of new Fatality Review Teams will be successful because current Fatality Review Team members and experts in fatality review will design the protocol and curriculum. The design of the proposed enhancements is based on similar models used by the OCME Division of Death Prevention in other fatality review team programs. Additionally, the project will include a comprehensive training plan, consisting of on-site, and written guidance and training materials. Project goals will be measured through Plan-Do-Study-Act (PSDA) evaluation cycles, ensuring trainings are responsive to the needs of the Teams. During trainings, the OCME Coordinator will administer training evaluations to all participants in order to assess their understanding and ability to conduct fatality review, as well as to identify additional training.

Victims have expressed how helpful the support of community-based victim advocates are in navigating the criminal and civil legal systems. There are two indicators the Partnership will look for in determining if the project goals have been accomplished; 1) Training evaluations that indicate the participants learned new skills and increased their knowledge on how to provide trauma-informed legal advocacy services to victims; and 2) an increase in the number of SARTs, LAP, and Fatality Review Teams that are active throughout Virginia and have the active participation of victim advocates.

**Reducing Violent Crime against Women & Promoting Safety #22**

Although it is not possible to draw a definitive causal link between the presence of a Fatality Review Team in a community and a reduction in the number of domestic violence fatalities, Fatality Review Teams conduct in-depth evaluation and analysis of local intimate partner homicides to identify community-level changes that could benefit future victims of domestic violence. In doing so, fatality review provides community stakeholders with robust data on these homicides and populations at increased homicide risk, evidence-based recommendations to eliminate existing gaps in the community response to domestic violence, and lethality and other risk factors that can lead to fatal domestic violence.

According to the LAP protocol, law enforcement officers assess all victims of domestic violence using a lethality screening tool. Victims identified as high-risk are offered safety planning, counseling, and information helpful to determine next steps. LAP participating communities no longer just leave victims with a brochure and hope the victim will reach out for services; rather, LAP protocol mandates that victims are provided contact with service providers immediately.

**How Funding Will Address Identified Needs and Tangible Products**

Funding will address the identified needs by providing staff salaries and travel to coordinate the Partnership and fulfill ICJR grant requirements. To enhance the work of Virginia’s Fatality Review Teams, SARTs, LAP and legal advocacy, funding will support new curriculum development, training delivery, resources, technical assistance and networking opportunities to Virginia localities.

The tangible products created by The Partnership will include: a menu of SART training modules that can be combined to create customized training; a SART registry; a revised Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team Protocol and training curriculum; updated LAP “Train the Trainer” presentation; LAP “Refresher” presentation; and outreach and training documents to law enforcement and victim advocacy groups on protective order provision.

**Disabilities and Limited English Proficiency**

Several of The Partners serve on the I-CAN! Accessibility Advisory Board which is a collaboration between the Partnership for People with Disabilities and the UVA School of Social Work to help people with disabilities gain access to a free online website that enables a person to complete and print protective orders.

To improve services to underserved populations, the Department of Social Services and the Action Alliance launched the Underserved Populations Learning Collaborative, which is an 18-month program designed to support local programs in improving services and outreach to underserved populations. In addition, the Action Alliance created the Project for the Empowerment of Survivors, which provides trauma-informed legal information and referrals to underserved populations who are experiencing sexual or intimate partner violence.

The Partnership will assess whether SART protocols contain provisions for victims with disabilities, individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing or have limited English proficiency and recommendations will be made to SARTs for protocol revisions. LAP training and technical assistance will include information about working with victims with disabilities and limited English proficiency. Project training also will include a *Trauma-informed Immigration* training.

**WHO WILL IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT**

The current Virginia Partnership is a strong collaboration between the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), Office of the Attorney General (OAG), the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME), the Virginia Poverty Law Center (VPLC), the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance (Action Alliance) and the Virginia Victim Assistance Network (VVAN). These partner agencies have worked together in a variety of configurations since 1994. Collaboration has included several ICJR/GEAP/CDS projects funded by OVW, as well as a number of other state/federally funded projects.

The partners bring extensive experience and expertiseto this project. As the lead agency on several past GEAP-funded projects and the current applicant, **Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services** manages grant funding and provides technical assistance and training for law enforcement, Commonwealth Attorneys, victim advocates and medical providers on sexual assault, stalking, domestic violence response and underserved, marginalized populations. DCJS will provide staff time, expertise, and resources to fulfill all goals, objectives and grant requirements. Jennifer Kline (resume included), Grant Program Coordinator, has worked in the field of victim services for twenty years and specifically in the field of sexual assault for thirteen years. Ms. Kline will facilitate Partnership meetings, serve as the main point of contact to OVW, complete statistical and budget reports and all other requirements of the grant. In addition, Ms. Kline will coordinate the statewide SART advisory group; coordinate SART assessments, technical assistance, and develop and coordinate training. Anndelynn Martin (resume included), DCJS’ Sexual Assault and Interpersonal Violence Coordinator, who has 20 years of experience in the field of victim services and served for two years as the LAP Coordinator at the OAG, will develop and deliver SART technical assistance and training and assist with LAP training. Kristina Vadas (resume included), the Victim Services Manager has 18 years of experience in the field of victims services and will provide supervision and oversight to the Grant Program Coordinator and Sexual Assault and Interpersonal Violence Coordinator. DCJS’ Grants and Finance Department will provide support by managing budgets and providing financial oversight.

The **Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance** (Action Alliance) is the state-wide coalition that plays a vital role in community response to victims of domestic and sexual violence through training, resources and support for local victim advocates. They also provide a hotline and legal assistance to victims. The Action Alliance will provide staff time and resources to conduct legal advocacy training, safety planning training and immigration training, protective order webinars, and will facilitate technical assistance and networking opportunities to advocates and will assist with SART and LAP training. Ruth Micklem (resume included) is the Community Engagement Manager who will serve as the ICJR representative. Ms. Micklem has over 35 years of experience working in the Sexual and Domestic Violence in direct services, management, policy and coordinated community response. Caitlin Bradley (resume included) will also serve on the Partnership by developing and delivering legal advocacy training. Ms. Bradley is an Attorney with the Project for the Empowerment of Survivors (PES) at the Action Alliance which provides free legal advice and counsel to survivors on matters related to sexual assault and harassment, domestic violence, and stalking.

The **Virginia Poverty Law Center** (VPLC) brings extensive knowledge of the civil and criminal legal system and immigration matters. They also bring the relationship with legal aid offices statewide that are important to underserved and high-risk victims as they navigate the criminal justice system locally. VPLC will provide staff time and resources to conduct legal advocacy training, safety planning training and immigration training, protective order webinars and technical assistance to legal advocates and will assist with SART and LAP training. Susheela Varky, Staff Attorney will represent VPLC on the Partnership. She has been involved in the public interest arena for over 30 years and leads VPLC’s Center for Family Advocacy, overseeing team members’ work on family law, immigration, child welfare and elder law issues.

The **Office of the Attorney General** (OAG) brings public safety perspective and expertise to the Partnership and provides ongoing training and technical assistance on the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP). The OAG will provide staff time and resources to lead the development and training for new and existing LAP communities. The LAP Coordinator (currently vacant, position description included) position will be the OAG representative on the Partnership under the supervision of Shannon Freeman (resume included), Director of Programs and Community Outreach, who has 24 of victim advocacy and project management experience.

The **Virginia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner** (OCME) provides expertise by examining fatalities in family and intimate partner homicides for purposes of improving responses to domestic violence and promoting the application of lessons learned through fatality review to improved community responses. The OCME will provide staff time and resources to analyze OCME data and provide recommendations to the Partnership in order to identify underserved and high-risk communities needing outreach regarding LAP implementation assistance. The Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Surveillance Coordinator (currently vacant, position description included) will represent the OCME on the Partnership, and will attend fatality review team meetings, providing training and technical assistance to the teams under the supervision of Ryan Marie Diduk-Smith (resume included), Division Director of Death Prevention, an experienced public health and health services researcher.

The **Virginia Victim Assistance Network** (VVAN) has over 36 years of experience serving as the statewide membership organization for victim assistance programs. VVAN will provide staff time and resources to conduct legal advocacy training, safety planning training and immigration training, protective order webinars and technical assistance to advocates will also assist with SART and LAP training. VVAN’s Training Coordinator, (currently vacant, position description included) will serve as VVAN’s representative on the Partnership under the supervision of Cristi Lawton (resume included), VVAN’s Executive Director, who has extensive experience in the fields of health care, domestic violence and housing.

Each partner agency is committed to successful completion of this proposed project. If awarded, the Partnership members agree to: 1) work collaboratively to accomplish the goals and objectives outlined herein and 2) maintain an overarching focus on how the Partnership’s efforts can improve the provision of services to underserved, inadequately served populations.