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August 19, 2016

Hafa adai. The Office of the Attorney General of Guam is making available for public comment its FY2015-2018 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) State Plan. The period for public comment will commence today through September 20, 2016.

Comments can be submitted by mail:

Office of the Attorney General of Guam
590 S. Marine Corps Drive, Suite 706
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Attn: Jacqueline Z. Cruz
Chief of Staff

Or emailed to jzcruz@guamag.org.

Sincerely,


ELIZABETH BARRETT-ANDERSON
Attorney General of Guam



**Office of the Attorney General of Guam
FY2015 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Program
2015-2018 VOCA State Plan**

Issued August 19, 2016

I. CONTEXT

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) of Guam has been the State Administering Agency (SAA) for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Program through designation by the Governor of Guam since 1989.

Grant funds have been primarily utilized to fund victim advocates employed by the OAG Victim Service Center [formerly Victim Witness *Ayuda* Services (VWAS)] to assist victims in understanding and becoming knowledgeable of the complexities of the prosecutorial system of justice. A portion of funding has been sub-granted to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide direct services to crime victims such as emergency shelter, food and support.

This State Plan will provide a strategic direction for future VOCA sub-grant awards in Guam through collaboration with the newly appointed Guam Victims Advisory Council and current as well as future eligible VOCA sub-grantees who comprise the NGO service provider network.

The goal of this State Plan is to maintain current efforts, identify previously underserved victim populations and provide direct services to assist the growing number of crime victims and varying crimes beyond the prosecutorial system of justice. Collaboration with qualified government agencies and NGOs with a proven record of victim advocacy in Guam is vital to effectively address victim needs.

Capacity building among all relevant victim advocacy groups will ensure consistent service delivery. The State Plan recognizes the importance of identification and minimization – or elimination – of current gaps in service.

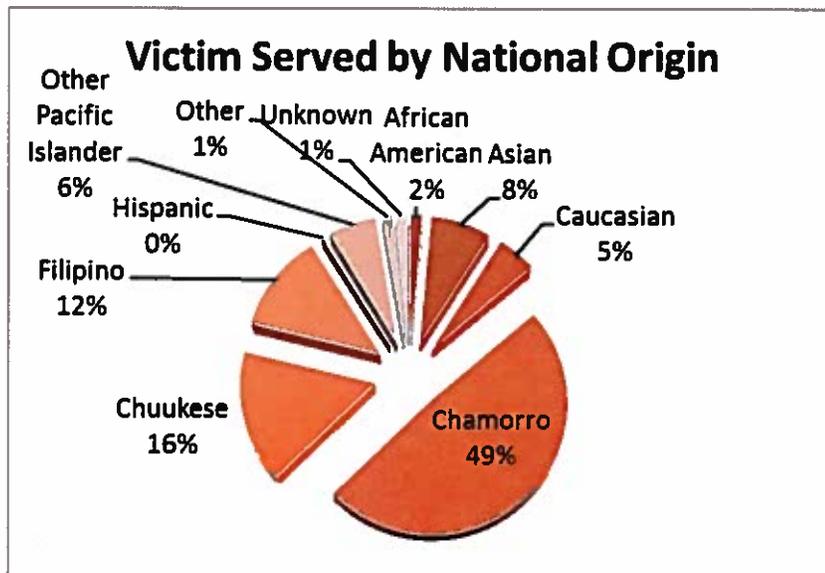
II. DEMOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND

According to www.Countrymeters.info/en/Guam, Guam's population was 159,440 in January 1, 2010. The U.S. Territory of Guam is a multi-cultural island community, with significant increases over previous years as illustrated below¹.

Race/Ethnicity – Guam	2010	2000	% Change
Carolinian	242	123	96.7%
Chamorro	59,381	57,297	3.6%
Chuukese	11,230	6,229	80.3%
Kosraean	425	292	45.5%
Marshallese	315	257	22.6%
Palauan	2,563	2,141	19.7%
Pohnpeian	2,248	1,366	64.6%
Yapese	1,263	686	84.1%
Other Pacific Islander	915	648	41.2%
Chinese	2,368	2,707	-
Filipino	41,944	40,729	3.0%
Japanese	2,368	2,086	13.5%
Korean	3,437	3,816	-9.9%
Taiwanese	249	-	-
Vietnamese	337	-	-
Other Asian	678	991	-
African American	1,540	1,568	-1.8%
Hispanic	1,201	-	-
White	11,321	10,509	7.7%
Two or More Races	14,929	21,553	-30.7%

Source: Guam State Data Center, Bureau of Statistics and Plans – Nov. 2012.

Guam's demographic background of ethnic groups correlates to the demographic landscape of victims served by the Victim Service Center, OAG, as illustrated below.



¹ Guam State Data Center, Bureau of Statistics and Plans – Nov. 2012.

The percentage of victim services provided under the OAG VOCA grant is reflective of Guam's diverse population. While the figures capture ethnicity, there are no surveys tracking victim services by age or gender, which is important in order to identify marginalized victim populations.

As a funding requirement, sub-grantees will provide periodic reports timely to the SAA containing progress made on goals and objectives, performance measurement data, services provided to victims, including language access, challenges, and details to overcome challenges.

III. VOCA ADVISORY GROUP 2015

The Guam Victim Advisory Council (hereafter Advisory Council) was formed in 2015 by Attorney General Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson to guide the OAG in developing, implementing and overseeing the 2015-2018 VOCA State Plan. The Advisory Council is comprised of volunteer members from law enforcement, tourism and hospitality, business sector, banking, and higher education. The Advisory Council has recommended diversifying victim services based on crime trends (e.g., cybercrime, campus sex crimes, etc.).

Additionally, the Advisory Council recommends that the Territory plan and develop an automated victim information system (AVINS) for victims of crime to be kept informed of critical hearings involved in cases that are charged, including notification of releases and release conditions.

IV. DIRECT VICTIM SERVICE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Prioritized funding categories are indicated below:

- 1. Grants for specific services or crime types**
Including but not limited to, civil legal advocacy services, victim focused restorative justice/mediation, and planning and implementation of an Automated Victim Information Notification System.
- 2. Funding for specific crimes**
Including but not limited to campus sexual assault and violence, child abuse and neglect (including child sexual abuse), cybercrime (e.g., bullying, sexting), domestic violence, elder abuse, hate crimes, home invasion, identity theft, sexual assault, stalking and trafficking.
- 3. Investment in current services**
Including but not limited to, victim advocacy, legal advocacy services, and emergency shelter and financial assistance. This is maintenance of effort for current sub-grantees.

- 4. Set-asides**
Set-asides are intended to cover costs for program administration, including but not limited to data collection and analysis, as well as for a language access bank.
- 5. Reserve fund**
A reserve fund is created for emergency housing and emergency financial assistance; as well as a contingency fund for any unplanned urgencies.

These categories are broad to allow potential eligible sub-grantees the opportunity to review their existing data (if they are a current service provider), research available victim data in Guam, develop proposals designed to reach greater numbers of victims, and provide direct services to aid victims in their recovery from crime.

V. TRAINING

Guam's FY2015 VOCA Discretionary Grant Program award (2015-VF-GX-0015) is \$31,166 for training of advocates, including government officials, staff and/or volunteers of NGOs, to ensure service delivery is consistent among agencies.

The intent is to reach a broader audience and train as many direct service providers in Guam to enhance knowledge and foster greater collaboration. Training may include safety, legal and ethical issues in crisis intervention and response; skill development and core competencies (*e.g.*, crisis intervention, court preparation, interpersonal communication skills, confidentiality, and advocacy); victims' rights and the justice system; trauma, grief, and secondary trauma; social work assessments and safety planning; cultural and linguistic considerations and providing language access services; review of public assistance and welfare systems; social and community behavior; and Guam's Criminal Injuries Compensation program eligibility requirements and application process.

This is a discretionary award administered by the SAA.

VI. CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity building through training is critical to ensure victim advocates – regardless of organization – are properly trained in all aspects of service delivery including but not limited to courses listed in section V. Training.

The SAA will consider on or off-site training as well as Train-the-Trainer courses.

VII. EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Emergency financial assistance is limited to emergency shelter, safety planning and counseling services, transitional living, meals and clothing for victims and their families.

VIII. TRANSPORTATION

Grant funding is available to victims who are in need of transportation services connected to obtaining critical or needed services from within the community. Such services may include limited car rental, transit passes and/or similar public transportation services subject to federal limitations.

IX. LANGUAGE ACCESS AND ASSISTANCE

Grant funding is available for purposes of assisting victims of Limited English Proficiency and/or who are Deaf and/or Hard of Hearing, or visually impaired with interpreter, translation, or accommodative services to ensure equal access to services and programs.

X. PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATION*

The proposed funding allocation for Guam's FY2015 VOCA award is presented below. Purpose areas must be within the limitation of federal requirements.

Purpose	Anticipated Ceiling	% of VOCA funds
Total Award	\$1,163,549.00	
Grants for specific services or crime types		
Including but not limited to examples listed below:		
Victim Focused Restorative Justice/Mediation Planning and implementation of an Automated Victim Information Notification System (AVINS) (OAG)	305,749.18	26%
Specific crimes		
Including but not limited to crimes listed below:		
Campus sexual assault and violence Child abuse and neglect (including child sexual abuse) Cybercrime (e.g., bullying, sexting) Domestic violence Elder abuse Hate crimes Home invasion Identity theft Sexual assault Stalking Trafficking	95,000.00	8%
Investment in current services		
Maintenance of effort – Victim advocacy services	344,931.24	55%
– Legal advocacy services	100,000.00	
– Emergency shelter	112,587.46	
– Supervised visitation	82,104.12	
Set-asides		
Program administration, data collection and analysis	58,177.00	5%
Language bank	10,000.00	1%
Training bank	10,000.00	1%
Reserve Fund		
Emergency financial assistance (e.g., shelter, clothing, food, incidentals)	15,000.00	1%
Contingency	30,000.00	3%
*OAG anticipates awarding up to the percentage listed. OAG reserves the right to modify this allocation within purpose areas when underutilized.		

XI. PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD

This State Plan will be published Friday, August 19, 2016. A 30 day public review and comment period will ensue through September 20, 2016.

Please send comments to Jacqueline Z. Cruz, Chief of Staff, at jzcruz@guamag.org by close of business **Friday, October 14, 2016**.

Sincerely,



ELIZABETH BARRETT-ANDERSON
Attorney General of Guam