applicants must demonstrate knowledge of victim assistance strategies in law enforcement, as well as victim rights and services related to the criminal justice system.

Award Period: 12 months. Contact: Duane Ragan, (202) 307– 2021.

Promising Strategies and Practices for Evidentiary Medical Examinations, Including the Use of Nurse Examiners and Special Settings—Award Amount: \$50,000

Purpose: To describe promising practices for utilizing victim-oriented medical settings and nurse examiner programs to conduct evidentiary medical examinations.

Background: In many places, victims of sexual assault and child abuse who arrive at hospital emergency rooms often have to contend with a lack of privacy, long waits for doctors who are busy attending to other medical emergencies, a lack of emotional support throughout the forensic examination process, and an impersonal, chaotic environment. These conditions not only compound the trauma experienced by victims, but discourage many victims from coming forward to report the crime or to obtain necessary assistance and medical services. To address these issues, some jurisdictions have developed sexual assault nurse examiner programs, in which nurses who are specially trained to address the medical and emotional needs of victims perform the examinations in a setting especially designed for victims. The intent of these programs is to free doctors to attend to other medical emergencies; to use consistent forensic examination practices to ensure appropriate steps are followed in collecting, handling, and storing evidence; and, most importantly, to assist sexual assault victims in a compassionate and sensitive manner. Various communities have found that examination rooms designed for victims seem to increase their willingness to participate in the criminal justice system. They have also found that the use of trained nurse examiners can reduce costs, as well as enhance the provision of services.

Goals:

- To increase victim participation in the criminal justice system by facilitating the use of nurse examiners and special settings for expert medical examinations; and
- To promote consistent and quality practices in providing expert medical examinations for victims of sexual assault and child sexual abuse.

Objectives:

- To survey and assess promising policies, procedures, and training materials used by sexual assault nurse examiner programs around the country;
- To give the details regarding the training provided to nurse examiners and how to set up special medical settings for expert medical examinations;
- To issue a guidebook on the operation of sexual assault nurse examiner programs for the field;
- To identify competent, experienced sexual assault nurse examiners for training purposes;
- To assess whether nurse examiner programs are useful in providing evidentiary medical examinations to child sexual abuse victims; and

• To provide information about the use of specialized clinics or rooms to conduct these examinations.

Program Strategy: This solicitation invites applications for a grantee to develop a guidebook on how to implement and operate a nurse examiners program for victims of sexual assault and how to establish examination rooms especially designed for victims. The grantee also will explore whether similar programs can be established for child sexual abuse victims. The program will be comprised of three phases:

I. Assessment: This phase entails the identification and assessment of materials currently describing or in use by sexual assault nurse examiner programs. As part of the assessment, the grantee will convene an advisory board of experienced nurse examiners and administrators of such programs, as well as representatives from law enforcement and prosecutors' offices, for their input and for the review of collected materials. The activities to be completed are:

- Establishment of an advisory committee;
- Development and submission of a plan and criteria for surveying and assessing sexual assault nurse examiner programs, similar programs for child sexual abuse victims, and use of medical settings especially designed for victims;
- Survey and review of literature, policies, procedures, and practices for sexual assault nurse examiner programs and use of special examination settings;
- Identification and description of model programs nationwide; and
- Preparation of an assessment report of findings.
- II. Development of Prototype: Upon completion of the first phase, the grantee will, in collaboration with its advisory board, develop a model program brief for implementing and

operating a sexual assault nurse examiner program and for establishing special settings for expert medical examinations. The brief will highlight essential components of nurse examiner programs, as well as optional or adaptable elements from model programs around the nation. Attention will be given to issues such as training and credentialing of nurse examiners, as well as qualifying them to testify in court. The brief will also describe examples of special medical settings used for expert medical examinations of crime victims. The activities for this phase are:

• Development and drafting of model program elements;

• Highlighting of model programs identified by the survey; and

• Review and refinement of draft product.

III. Finalization of Products: Upon completion of the second phase, the grantee will produce the guidebook and make it available to the field. The activities for this phase are:

- Development and draft of guidebook, consisting of the model program brief and accompanying instruction on how to set up a sexual assault nurse examiner program and clinic designed for victims;
 - Review and refinement of draft;
- Development of a plan for product dissemination;
- Identification in list form with supporting vitae of training and technical assistance staff for addition to the OVC Trainer's Bureau;
- Preparation of a final report on the project; and
- Preparation of an OVC Bulletin summarizing the project's findings.

Eligibility Requirements: In addition to the requirements of Sections VI–XI, applicants must demonstrate:

- Expert knowledge of trauma related to sexual assault and unique needs of these victims;
- Expertise in conducting nationalscope information searches;
- Knowledge of issues associated with the criminal justice system's handling of crime victims and, more specifically, service provision to sexual assault victims; and
- Management and financial capability to oversee a project of this size and scope.

Award Period: 12 months. Contact: Melanie Smith, (202) 616–3575.

Promising Strategies and Practices for Prosecutors (Cooperative Agreement)— Award Amount: \$50,000

Purpose: To identify and document innovative policies, procedures,