

programs and activities recently enacted in the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Crime Bill). A Steering Committee on Violence Against Women is coordinating activities among family violence-related programs and across agencies and departments.

2. Opportunities for Coordination at the State and Local Level

The major domestic violence prevention activities funded by the Federal government focus on law enforcement and justice system strategies; victim protection and assistance services; and prevention activities, including public awareness and education. Federal programs also serve related needs, such as housing, family preservation and child welfare services, substance abuse treatment, and job training.

We want to call to your attention two major programs, recently enacted by Congress, that provide new funds to expand services and which require the involvement of State agencies, Indian tribes, State Domestic Violence Coalitions, and others interested in prevention and services for victims of domestic violence. These programs are: Law Enforcement and Prosecution Grants to Reduce Violent Crimes Against Women, administered by the Department of Justice, and the Family Preservation and Support Services program, administered by DHHS. Both programs (described in detail below) require State agencies and Indian tribes administering them to conduct an inclusive, broad-based, comprehensive planning process at the State and community level.

We urge State Domestic Violence Coalitions to participate in these service planning and decision-making processes; we believe the expertise and perspective of the family violence prevention and services field will be invaluable as decisions are made on how best to use these funds and design service delivery improvements.

(a) *Law Enforcement and Prosecution Grants to Reduce Violent Crimes Against Women (DOJ)*. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), provides an opportunity to respond to violence against women in a comprehensive manner. It emphasizes the development of Federal, State and local partnerships to assure that offenders are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, that crime victims receive the services they need and the dignity they deserve, and that all parts of the criminal justice system have training and funds to respond effectively to both offenders and crime victims.

The Department of Justice is implementing a new formula grant program, which makes available \$26 million to States in FY 1995, to develop, strengthen, and implement effective law enforcement, prosecution, and victim assistance strategies. The program contemplates coordination within and across the criminal justice and service delivery systems, and will require the development of a coordinated, comprehensive approach to bring about changes in the way the justice system intervenes and responds to domestic violence and sexual assault. Such a coordinated approach will require a partnership and collaboration among the police, prosecutors, the courts, shelter and victims service providers, and medical and mental health professionals.

The Violence Against Women Act authorized a smaller discretionary program to be implemented by Indian tribes. The Department of Justice grant regulations and program guidelines will address the requirements of both the formula grant and the discretionary grant programs.

In order to be eligible for funds, States must develop a plan for implementation. As a part of the planning process, they must consult with nonprofit, nongovernmental victims' services programs including sexual assault and domestic violence victim services programs. DOJ expects that States will draw into the planning process the experience of existing family violence task forces and coordinating councils such as the State Domestic Violence Coalitions.

(b) *Family Preservation and Family Support Services Program (DHHS)*. In August 1993, Congress created a new program entitled "Family Preservation and Support Services" (Title IV-B of the Social Security Act).

Family preservation services include intensive services assisting families at-risk or in crisis, particularly in cases where children are at risk of being placed out of the home. Victims of family violence and their dependents are considered at-risk or in crisis.

Family support services include community-based preventive activities designed to strengthen parents' ability to create safe, stable, and nurturing home environments that promote healthy child development. These services also include assistance to parents themselves through home visiting and activities such as drop-in center programs and parent support groups.

In FY 1994, 100 percent Federal funds were available to State child welfare agencies and Indian Tribes to develop a

comprehensive five-year Child and Family Services Plan for FYs 1995-1999 (due by June 30, 1995).

To develop the service plans, most States currently are in the process of consulting with a wide range of public agencies and nonprofit private and community-based organizations that have expertise in administering services for children and families, including those with experience and expertise in family violence.

Part II. Family Violence Prevention and Services Grants Requirements

This section includes application requirements for family violence prevention and services grants for State Domestic Violence Coalitions and is organized as follows:

- A. Legislative Authority
- B. Background
- C. Eligibility
- D. Funds Available
- E. Expenditure Period
- F. Reporting Requirements
- G. Application Requirements
- H. Paperwork Reduction Act
- I. Executive Order 12372
- J. Certifications

A. Legislative Authority

Title III of the Child Abuse Amendments of 1984 (Pub. Law 98-457, 42 U.S.C. 10401 et seq.) is entitled the "Family Violence Prevention and Services Act" (the Act). The Act was first implemented in FY 1986, was reauthorized and amended in 1992 by Pub. L. 102-295, and was reauthorized and amended for fiscal Years 1995 through 2000 by Pub. L. 103-322, the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (the Crime Bill), and signed into law on September 13, 1994.

B. Background

Section 311 of the Act authorizes the Secretary to award grants to statewide private non-profit State domestic violence coalitions to conduct activities to promote domestic violence intervention and prevention and to increase public awareness of domestic violence issues.

During FY 1994, the Department made grant awards to 50 State domestic violence coalitions, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In FY 1995, grant awards will be again available to one statewide domestic violence coalition in each State, the U.S. Territories, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

C. Eligibility

To be eligible for grants under this program announcement an organization