

Maricopa Association of Governments
STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant
FY 2011 Scope of Work Overview for the
Protocol Evaluation Project

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) has diligently worked to end domestic violence in the region for more than a decade. These efforts have provided effective tools to ensure safety and accountability. This project proposes to utilize STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant funds to implement an assessment of the protocols used to arrest and prosecute domestic violence misdemeanor offenders. The purpose of the proposed project will be to evaluate the existing protocols used by law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim advocates to address domestic violence cases in the municipal criminal court system, to build a framework of promising practices, and to develop training and public awareness tools to increase consistency and understanding.

The project will be completed collaboratively by engaging expert representatives from each group. Changes will be recommended to improve the protocols and to integrate the new legislation expanding the definition of domestic violence to include teen dating violence. Training on a framework of promising practices will be developed and offered to professionals in the field to ensure consistent, regional implementation of the revised protocol.

MAG is uniquely poised to implement this project. The diverse membership of the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council will ensure the project addresses both the rural and urban areas of the Valley. Cultural competency will be maintained throughout the project as a result of the Council's extensive community partnerships. The impact of the project will be a comprehensive municipal protocol, streamlined data elements, and more efficient prosecution of domestic violence cases.

The project will be completed through three main activities as follows:

1. Assess the current protocols used by the law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim advocates in the municipal misdemeanor criminal court system.
2. Build a framework of promising practices that will include improvements to the protocols and streamlined data elements to ensure accurate tracking in the future.
3. Develop and deliver training and public awareness tools on the revised protocols and promising practices through an in-person training, video, and webinar.

Detail is offered for each main activity as follows:

1. Protocol Assessment

MAG will assess the current protocols through a variety of mechanisms designed to collect data from a diverse array of sources including experts in the field, domestic violence survivors, and community partners. Community engagement techniques such as Appreciative Inquiry and Open Space will be utilized to gather data, build relationships, and to energize participants for the work ahead.

The following activities will be completed from March to July 2010.

1a. Engage representatives through the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council from law enforcement, prosecutors, judiciary, and victim advocate and facilitate dialogue about the following:

- What has changed in the domestic violence environment, including changes to statute such as adding teen dating violence to the definition of domestic violence?
- How are the current protocols working well? What benefits are accrued as a result?
- In what situations are the protocols not working well? What is the impact?
- How specifically can the protocols be improved?

1b. Conduct key informant interviews with the representatives previously mentioned in 1a to obtain more detail about the questions. Trends (issues commonly cited) and gems (themes not mentioned frequently but deemed to be important) will be noted.

1c. Research promising practices nationally and locally. Assess them for local relevance and potential for implementation.

1d. With the assistance of the evaluation team, analyze existing data sources relating to the implementation of the existing protocols. This will include but may not be limited to the following:

- The number of calls and reports processed by law enforcement
- The number of cases dismissed and why, the number of cases prosecuted and the number of abusers indicted

2. Promising Practice Framework

A framework of promising practices will be developed that can be adapted throughout the region, and where applicable, the State. The framework will have sufficient detail to ensure clarity as well as enough flexibility so the framework may be utilized in a variety of diverse settings.

The following activities will be completed from August to November 2010.

2a. Select promising practices that have the best chance for successful implementation in the region.

2b. Confirm changes to the current protocols through expert, community, and survivor dialogue. This will include changes in legislation that affect the protocols, such as the inclusion of teen dating violence to the definition of domestic violence.

2c. Identify new policies or revisions to current policies as needed to facilitate the successful implementation of the revised protocols.

2d. Identify opportunities to streamline data elements to ensure the protocols are being implemented fully and appropriately in the future.

2e. Present the findings from activities 2a through 2d to the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council by October 2010 and to community partners as requested.

3. Development and Delivery of Training and Public Awareness Tools

The results of the project will be made available throughout the region to ensure victim safety and offender accountability. The information will be made available through a variety of mediums to ensure broad coverage throughout the region and the State.

The following activities will be completed from December 2010 through February 2011.

3a. Develop and offer an in-person training to at least 100 participants featuring the changes made to the protocols and the promising practices.

3b. Develop and distribute a 30-minute video featuring the elements delivered at the in-person training.

3c. Develop a power point presentation and offer additional remote training through a Webinar.

3d. Develop and distribute a public awareness video demonstrating the steps taken per the protocols when arresting and prosecuting misdemeanor domestic violence offenders.

Resources

Staff from the MAG Human Services Division and the MAG Communications Division will be needed to deliver this project successfully. Participants will be solicited from the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council, community partners, and MAG member agencies. Efforts will be made to engage representatives from law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim advocates from throughout the region to maintain cultural competency and to reflect the rural and urban nature of the region.