

The Fulton County Government submits this grant application to the Office on Violence against Women (OVW) for the 2021 Improving Criminal Justice System Responses (ICJR) to Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Grant Program, focusing on the Domestic Violence component. The Fulton County District Attorney's Office (FCDA), the Atlanta Police Department (APD) and the Atlanta Police Academy, the Partnership Against Domestic violence (PADV), and the Fulton County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) are partnering together to create a coordinated community response team (CCRT) to improve coordinated responses to domestic violence victims and more effectively hold offenders accountable.

To address the needs and challenges of the community, the CCRT will: 1) engage in OVW-approved trainings that incorporate trauma-informed practices, evidence-based prosecution, identifying the primary aggressor, preventing dual arrests, strangulation and temporary protection orders; 2) create a dedicated Domestic Violence Unit in the FCDA that will hire a senior prosecutor and advocate; 3) use OVW-approved risk and safety assessment tools to determine offender's risk of re-offending, and a victim's risk of lethal assault; 4) develop specific services for domestic violence victims whose abusers are being prosecuted in the FCDA's office; 5) connect victims to comprehensive community services; 6) educate Fulton County judges and personnel on OVW best practices for Courts; and, 7) propose domestic violence bill in the state legislature to address the safety of victims.

Partner	Roles and Responsibilities
Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV)	1) Create a support group for victims whose abuser is being prosecuted by the FCDA; 2) Designate a Coordinator of Services contact for high need referrals from the FCDA; and, 3) Develop a tool for FCDA to assess the victims in highest need of community services.
Fulton County District Attorney's Office (FCDA)	1) Form a specialized Domestic Violence Unit; 2) Hire a senior prosecutor and senior advocate who will also serve as the project coordinator; 3) Incorporate OVW best practices into the new unit; 4) Implement OVW training for prosecutors that addresses trauma informed practices about victim behavior, evidenced-based prosecution, signs of

	strangulation, how to prevent dual prosecution and enforcing TPOs; 5) Use OVW-approved risk assessment tools on the safety of the victim and behavior of the abuser to prioritize cases that needed immediate actions and victims who need referrals to community services.
Atlanta Police Department (APD)	1) Incorporate OVW training into the Atlanta Police Academy on: trauma-informed practices, how to identify the primary aggressor, how to prevent dual arrest, signs of strangulation, violation and enforcing TPOs; 2) Identify repeat offenders within FCDA caseload to prioritize cases.
Fulton County Sheriff's Office (FCSO)	1) Provide training to FCDA and Police Academy on how victims can obtain TPOs, TPO violation/enforcements, and how violations of TPOs can inform prosecutorial charges; 2) Provide training on child custody provisions within protective orders; 3) lead outreach to the Fulton County Superior Courts to engage personnel in trainings on how to make Courts friendly to domestic violence victims.

Fulton County's proposed project and its new partnership with APD/Academy, FCSO, and PADV would be the first ICJR project in the County. To address purpose areas #1 and 9, the CCRT will invest in intensive OVW training that addresses TPOs, preventing dual arrests and prosecutions, identifying the aggressor, evidence based prosecution and trauma-based training. To implement purpose area #14, guided by FCSO, the CCRT will conduct education outreach to Fulton County Superior Courts on how to make courtrooms victim-friendly. Finally, the CCRT will introduce state legislation to increase victim safety and reduce domestic violence related murders to meet purpose area #16.

This project represents coordination among agencies in Fulton County that, to be honest, is long overdue. With fresh leadership and a vision of success, the CCRT partners have worked together to prepare for this application and funding, taking time to discuss the project goals and objectives throughout our agencies. For the first time, partners have shared their internal data, organizational structures and budgets to better inform one another of their operational capacity. Each partner developed outcomes and ideas for measurement activities that their organization would implement to contribute to the collaboration. The partners acknowledged that the first year would be spent planning how to implement the activities in tandem with DOJ technical advisors.