

STAAR

STOP Technical Assistance to Administrators Resource Project

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Hello!

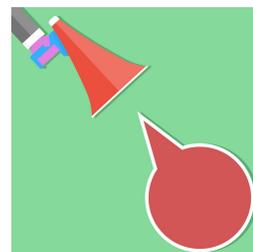
January is recognized as both stalking and human trafficking awareness month. This newsletter includes a wide variety of resources that address both of these crime areas.

If you have any questions about how to address human trafficking and/or stalking in your STOP planning and implementation, please contact us at ALSOSTAARProjectTA@also-chicago.org.

-The STAAR Project Team

STAAR Project Announcements

- Our next webinar will be on the **new STOP Formula Grant Progress Reporting Forms**. Join us and VAWA MEI (Muskie) staff for this webinar on Thursday 1/30 at 1:00 PM CT.
- The **recording** of our most recent webinar on the similarities and differences between VAWA and VOCA grants is now available for viewing.



National Stalking Awareness Month

January 2020 marks the 16th annual National Stalking Awareness Month (NSAM), an annual call to action to recognize and respond to the serious crime of stalking. Below are resources that address the intersection of stalking, domestic violence, and sexual violence.

The Intersection of Stalking and Sexual Assault

[Legal Momentum's](#) webinar, [The Intersection of Stalking and Sexual Assault](#), addresses the often

Facts about Domestic Violence and Stalking

Stalking is infrequently prosecuted, despite its lethal link and statistical presence in domestic and sexual violence cases. Stalking services can be an essential part of your state's strategic plan around Domestic Violence

overlooked link between stalking and other crimes. Research is consistently demonstrating a connection between stalking and sexual assault – both pre- and post-assault. The webinar explores the nature and dynamics of stalking, focusing on its intersection with sexual assault.

homicide reduction. The [National Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#) (NCADV) created a [Facts about Domestic Violence and Stalking](#) sheet, which includes:

- 76% of women murdered by an intimate partner were stalked first.
- 85% of women who survived murder attempts were stalked.
- 89% of femicide victims who had been physically assaulted before their murder were also stalked in the last year prior to their murder.
- 54% of femicide victims reported stalking to the police before they were killed by their stalkers.

Addressing Stalking: A Checklist for Domestic and Sexual Violence Organizations

Because there are very few stalking-specific service providers, stalking victims rely on domestic and/or sexual violence programs to assist them with safety planning and resources. In reviewing your local response to stalking, consider utilizing [Addressing Stalking: A Checklist for Domestic and Sexual Violence Organizations](#). This publication provides questions, checklist items, and suggestions for Victim Service Providers to enhance their stalking responses. The checklist can be utilized by STOP administrators in considering appropriate and confidential monitoring activities for programs who serve stalking survivors to increase effective service delivery.

How to Start and Facilitate a Support Group for Victims of Stalking

Support groups and Talking Circles can decrease a stalking survivor's sense of isolation by creating connections, sharing commonalities, and providing information about the tactics that perpetrators utilize. They can provide emotional support, foster empowerment, and encourage healthy coping strategies. The [Stalking Resource Center](#) created a guide, [How to Start and Facilitate a Support Group for Victims of Stalking](#), which provides information on how to initiate and implement a stalking support group. Information includes:

- How to locate partners and community support.
- Identifying resources.
- Engaging survivors.
- Choosing a group facilitator.
- How to prepare the facilitator.
- How to run support group sessions that help members cope with the impact of stalking.

January is National Human Trafficking Awareness Month

January is Trafficking Awareness Month. The [Polaris Project](#) describes that “Human trafficking is the business of stealing freedom for profit.” Sex traffickers use threats,

manipulation, lies, debt bondage, and other forms of coercion to compel adults and children to engage in commercial sex acts against their will. Under U.S. law, any minor under the age of 18 years induced into commercial sex is a victim of sex trafficking — regardless of whether or not the trafficker used force, fraud, or coercion. Below are various resources on human trafficking and sex trafficking.

National Institute of Justice

Through the funding of rigorous research, the National Institute for Justice (NIJ) is committed to assisting with the detection and prosecution of human traffickers. Their [website](#) includes an overview of trafficking to get started, and a variety of articles and trainings to learn more. NIJ-funded research projects focus on:

- The nature and extent of human trafficking.
- Detecting and investigating traffickers.
- Prosecuting traffickers.
- Services for trafficking victims.

Busting the Myths: Sex Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation

Sexual exploitation and sex trafficking receive a lot of media attention, which may leave you wondering how these issues impact *your* community.

Increased awareness of the problem is always good, but conversations around sexual exploitation and trafficking can sometimes be confusing. The realities of these forms of sexual violence are often misrepresented and misunderstood, including who is affected. [This resource](#), from the [Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault](#) (MNCASA), provides basic definitions of both sexual exploitation and sex trafficking, and addresses some common myths and misconceptions people may have.

The Protected Innocence Challenge

The Protected Innocence Challenge, through [Shared Hope International](#), is a comprehensive study of existing state laws designed to inspire and equip advocates.

Under the Challenge, every state receives a [Report Card](#) that grades the state on 41 key legislative components that must be addressed in a state's laws in order to effectively respond to the crime of domestic minor sex trafficking. In addition, each state receives a complete analysis of this 41-component

Human Trafficking: Developing Housing Options

In October 2014, the Children's Bureau awarded nine 5-year grants to continue the development of the child welfare system's response to trafficking through infrastructure development and multi-system approaches. As States have bolstered their responses to trafficking, locating secure and appropriate housing that can meet the unique needs of victims of trafficking has been a common challenge. This brief, [Developing Housing Options](#), shares what grantees have learned thus far and the strategies they are using to address challenges.

Lessons learned from the project include:

- Identifying continuum of housing

review and practical recommendations for improvement.

- options.
- Utilizing existing therapeutic foster parents.
- Supporting the providers who support your housing programs.



[STAAR Project Webinars](#)

Upcoming:

- **New STOP Formula Grant Program Progress Reporting Forms**

Previous:

- **Similarities and Differences between VOCA and VAWA Formula Grants**

Visit our [webinars page](#) to access recordings and materials of all webinars convened by the STAAR Project!

[Email Checklist](#)

You can now view all official emails sent by the ALSO STAAR Project in one place!



Tip: This will be especially helpful if you are a new STOP Administrator and want to catch up on what you've missed.

[Log-in to access emails](#)

Don't have an account? [Create one here!](#)