
Office of Legislative Auditor

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Informational Report: Potential Duplication With Battered Women's Services Funding

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About This Informational Report

Louisiana Revised Statute 24:522(C) requires the Louisiana Legislative Auditor (LLA) to evaluate programs and services of state government agencies and identify areas needing improvement. In the last regular session, the legislature formed the Commission on Streamlining Government (Commission) to assist in this effort, and LLA has been assigned to assist the Commission. One of the topics the Commission is focusing on is duplication of services provided by two or more programs.

To assist the Commission, we will report on areas of potential duplication by two or more agencies in delivering services. We defined duplication as identical or similar activities performed by more than one agency leading to accomplishment of the same or similar goal. We will issue individual reports addressing different areas of duplication.

To be responsive in a timely manner, we obtained information from state law, budget documents, agency interviews, and other sources. We did not conduct this audit in accordance with government auditing standards. Though we performed procedures adequate to identify potential duplication, we did not perform sufficient procedures to make definitive conclusions or estimate potential savings, if any, that may result from any action taken by these entities to eliminate such potential duplication.

We identified two agencies that administer grant funds for battered women's services. These agencies are the Department of Social Services (DSS), Office of Community Services, Family Violence Prevention and Intervention Program and the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE).

Potential Duplication Between DSS and LCLE

Potential duplication exists because both agencies administer grants to recipients that provide services to battered women. Twenty battered women's organizations receive both DSS- and LCLE-administered funding, as shown in Exhibit 1 on pages 3-4. Both agencies monitor these recipients on a regular basis, which is potentially duplicative as well.

In fiscal year 2009, DSS administered \$6,856,100 in grant funds with administrative costs of approximately \$125,000. LCLE administered \$484,020 in Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funds and \$1,878,355 in Crime Victim Assistance (CVA) funds totaling \$2,362,375 in fiscal year 2009. An LCLE official informed us they could not accurately calculate administrative expenditures for battered women's services only.

DSS has a full-time program manager working with the grants. One support employee works on an intermittent, as-needed basis. LCLE has one full-time program manager who administers both VAWA and CVA grants. A compliance monitor spends half of her time monitoring the VAWA and CVA recipients. Approximately 12 additional employees work varying amounts of time on the programs, according to an LCLE official.

The DSS program manager is a member of the LCLE Victim Services Advisory Board. This board is one of the links in the LCLE chain of grant approval. Both agencies stated that the DSS employee's service on the board helps coordinate the services provided by both DSS and LCLE.

DSS

DSS awards grants to eligible nonprofit organizations that provide battered women's services. Funding for the program comes from the state general fund, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, and a federal Department of Health and Human Services Family Violence Prevention and Services Act grant. In fiscal year 2009, the amount of state general funds was \$4,479,640, representing approximately 65 percent of the overall program distributions, which totaled \$6,856,100.

The program manager is the only employee who works directly with the grants for battered women's shelters. Duties include managing the grant awarding process and monitoring grant recipients. The program manager shares one support staff with a DSS supervisor; the support employee works on an intermittent, as-needed basis.

As shown in Exhibit 1 on pages 3-4, a total of 20 organizations received DSS grant funds totaling \$6,856,100 in fiscal year 2009. The service providers are located throughout the state, and serve each parish. Administrative costs were about \$125,000 in fiscal year 2009, according to a program official. DSS retains 5 percent (approximately \$65,000) of the available federal grant funds and 5 percent (approximately \$18,500) of another source of self-generated revenues for administrative expenses. State general funds pay remaining administrative expenses, which totaled approximately \$41,500 in fiscal year 2009.

LCLE

LCLE is the state agency designated to administer the federal Department of Justice VAWA formula grants designed to provide criminal justice response and services. LCLE must use 30 percent of these funds for victims' services providers, which include battered women's services. LCLE allocates these funds to two larger organizations, the Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Foundation Against Sexual Assault, both of which recommend sub-grant allocations to LCLE and the Victim Services Advisory Board. LCLE then distributes the funds to nonprofit members on a noncompetitive basis.

In addition, LCLE administers the Victims of Crime Act CVA formula grants. From the total federal grant award, there are four priority funding areas that must receive a minimum of

10 percent each, which are sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse, and previously underserved victims.

One program manager works full-time with both the VAWA and CVA grants. A compliance monitor spends half of his/her time monitoring the VAWA and CVA recipients to ensure that sites are meeting federal and LCLE requirements. Approximately 12 additional employees contribute varying amounts of time (e.g., accounting, grant review, administrative support) on the programs.

Twenty-six organizations received LCLE-administered grant funds totaling \$2,362,375 during fiscal year 2009. Of the total, \$484,020 came from VAWA and \$1,878,355 from CVA. Nineteen organizations received grants from both LCLE grant programs with four receiving only VAWA funds and three only CVA funds, as shown in Exhibit 1.

LCLE retains 10 percent of the VAWA grant funds and 4 percent of the CVA grant funds for administrative expenses. In fiscal year 2009, VAWA administrative expenditures for the whole grant program (not just for the battered women’s services allocation of grant funds) were \$142,862 federal, and \$81,300 required state match. Actual administrative expenditures for fiscal year 2009 for the entire CVA program totaled \$229,966, all paid from federal funds. An LCLE official informed us they could not accurately calculate an administrative expenditure amount for only administering battered women’s services.

<p align="center">Exhibit 1 Battered Women's Services Grant Recipients Fiscal Year 2009</p>			
<p align="center">Organization</p>	<p align="center">DSS</p>	<p align="center">LCLE</p>	
		<p align="center">VAWA*</p>	<p align="center">CVA**</p>
Adapt, Inc.		✓	✓
Beauregard Community Concerns	✓	✓	
CADA of Jefferson Davis	✓	✓	
Calcasieu Women's Shelter	✓	✓	✓
Capital Area Family Violence Intervention Center	✓	✓	✓
Catholic Charities Archdiocese (Crescent House)	✓	✓	✓
Chez Hope, Inc.	✓	✓	✓
Faith House	✓	✓	✓
Family Counseling Agency, Inc. (Turning Point)	✓	✓	✓
Family Service of NOLA			✓
The Haven	✓	✓	✓
Lincoln D.A.R.T.	✓	✓	✓
Metropolitan Center for Women and Children	✓	✓	✓
My Sister's House of the Felicianas			✓

**Exhibit 1
Battered Women's Services Grant Recipients
Fiscal Year 2009**

Organization	DSS	LCLE	
		VAWA*	CVA**
Natchitoches Domestic Violence Education and Support (DOVES)	✓	✓	✓
New Start Center	✓	✓	✓
Project Celebration (Taylor House)	✓	✓	✓
Providence House			✓
Safe Harbor	✓	✓	
Safety Net for Abused Persons	✓	✓	✓
Southeast Spouse Abuse Program	✓	✓	✓
St. Bernard Battered Women's Program	✓	✓	✓
St. Landry - Evangeline Sexual Assault		✓	✓
Stuller Place - Sexual Abuse Response		✓	✓
Wellspring Alliance for Families, Inc.	✓	✓	✓
YWCA of Northwest LA	✓	✓	
Total grant funds distributed by type	\$6,856,100	\$484,020	\$1,878,355
Total receiving each grant type	20	23	22
Total number of recipient organizations			26
Total recipients of both DSS and LCLE grants			20

*Violence Against Women Act grants

**Crime Victim Assistance grants

Source: Prepared by legislative auditor's staff based on information provided by DSS and LCLE.

FOR QUESTIONS RELATED TO THIS INFORMATIONAL REPORT,
CONTACT MIKE BATTLE, PERFORMANCE AUDIT MANAGER,
AT (225) 339-3800.

A copy of this report is available at our Web site www.la.la.gov.

Under the provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of this report has been submitted to the Governor, to the Attorney General, and to other public officials as required by state law. A copy of this report has been made available for public inspection at the Baton Rouge office of the Legislative Auditor.

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