

# **Appendix Q**

## **Definitions**

The following STOP VAWA related definitions have been revised, effective with the VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2005:

1. **Violence Against Women Crimes** - now includes dating violence, as well as domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.
  
2. **Community-based Organization** –The term means an organization that:
  - (A) focuses primarily on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking;
  - (B) has established a specialized culturally specific program that addresses domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking;
  - (C) has a primary focus on underserved populations (and includes representatives of these populations) and domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking; or
  - (D) obtains expertise, or shows demonstrated capacity to work effectively, on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking through collaboration.
  
3. **Linguistically and Culturally Specific Services** – means community-based services that offer **FULL linguistic access and culturally specific services and resources**, including outreach, collaboration, and support mechanisms primarily directed toward underserved communities. The term also relates to the community-based organizations and describes the kinds of services such groups would offer to overcome obstacles to access to more traditional services. This also means that mainstream programs that have a goal of serving underserved populations must ensure that they offer **full linguistic access and culturally specific services**. *For example, if a program has translated a brochure, then it should be able to provide all other services in that same language.*
  
4. **Cultural Competency** - refers to an ability to interact effectively with people of different cultures. Cultural competence comprises

four components: (a) Awareness of one's own cultural worldview, (b) Attitude towards cultural differences, (c) Knowledge of different cultural practices and worldviews, and (d) cross-cultural Skills. Developing cultural competence results in an ability to understand, communicate with, and effectively interact with people across cultures.

5. **Personal Identifying Information** - The term 'personally identifying information' or 'personal information' means individually identifying information for or about an individual including information likely to disclose the location of a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, including—
  - (A) a first and last name;
  - (B) a home or other physical address;
  - (C) contact information (including a postal, e-mail or Internet protocol address, or telephone or facsimile number);
  - (D) a social security number; and
  - (E) any other information, including date of birth, racial or ethnic background, or religious affiliation, that, in combination with any of subparagraphs (A) through (D), would serve to identify any individual.
  
6. **Rural Area or Rural Community**.—The term means:
  - (A) any area or community, respectively, no part of which is within an area designated as a standard metropolitan statistical area by the Office of Management and Budget; or
  - (B) any area or community, respectively, that is:
    - (i) within an area designated as a metropolitan statistical area or considered as part of a metropolitan statistical area; and
    - (ii) located in a rural census tract.
  
7. **Underserved Populations**. — refers to individuals or communities who are subject to various barriers that deny or limit access to quality advocacy and services. Includes populations underserved because of geographic location, underserved racial and ethnic populations, and/or populations underserved because

of special needs (such as language barriers, disabilities, alienage status, or age). Other examples: religious/cultural, illness/disease, sexual orientation, and education/literacy.

8. **Victim Services or Victim Service Provider**.—The term ‘victim services’ or ‘victim service provider’ means a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization that assists domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking victims, including rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, faith-based organizations, and other organizations, with a documented history of effective work concerning domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
  
9. **Victim Advocate**.— means a person, whether paid or serving as a volunteer, who provides services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or dating violence under the auspices or supervision of a victim services program.
  
10. **Victim Assistant**.— means a person, whether paid or serving as a volunteer, who provides services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or dating violence under the auspices or supervision of a court or a law enforcement or prosecution agency.
  
11. **Youth** - means teen and young adult (13 and up) victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
  
13. **Elder Abuse** – means any action against a person who is 50 years of age or older that constitutes the willful  
  
(A) Infliction of injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation, or cruel punishment with resulting physical harm, pain, or mental anguish; or

(B) Deprivation by a person, including a caregiver, of foods or services with intent to cause physical harm, mental anguish, or mental illness.

14. **Victim Centered Approach** - A systematic focus on the needs and concerns of a victim to ensure the compassionate and sensitive delivery of services in a non-judgmental manner. A victim centered approach seeks to minimize re-traumatization associated with the criminal justice process by providing support to the victim, empowering the victim/survivor and providing them the opportunity to play a role in seeing their offender brought to justice. In a victim centered approach, the victim's wishes, safety and wellbeing take priority.