

**Harrisonburg Police Department
VSTOP – Violent Crimes Against Women**

Budget Narrative 2016

Funds provided by the VSTOP Grant would enable the Harrisonburg Police Department (HPD) to assign a full-time, experienced criminal investigator with a minimum of five years of experience to lead a new initiative to improve the recognition, investigation and apprehension of offenders who commit violent crimes against women in Harrisonburg.

We plan to give special emphasis to the victimization of women in Harrisonburg's underserved population, made up largely of people of Hispanic/Latino heritage (18% of the population); immigrants from 40 other countries, many of whom lack English-language proficiency; African-Americans and other Blacks, and 23,000 university students, more than half of whom are women.

The total Project Cost is \$60,220. The HPD budget does not include funds for this purpose and none are forthcoming. Therefore, we would use \$40,000 of VSTOP grant money to offset an officer's salary (\$38,688) and portion of benefits costs (\$1,312), with the balance of \$20,220 comprising matching funds appropriated by the Harrisonburg City Council. The matching funds include the share of FICA not covered by grant funds (\$1,312), as well as the city's contributions to retirement (\$4,859), group life insurance (\$310), health and medical (\$13,255) and dental insurance (\$156).

The officer assigned would have both investigatory responsibilities and management oversight of all HPD activities related to violent crimes against women, including development and updating of policies and protocols, specialized training of all officers who handle VCAW calls for service, coordination of effort between the Patrol Division and Criminal Investigations Division, and liaison with agencies and non-profit organizations in the community that provide prosecution of offenders, legal aid, sexual assault crisis services, education and prevention, and mental health treatment to victimized women.

Because the HPD is a relatively small department and the assignment of a senior investigator to this position would create a vacancy in CID to be filled by promotion and we would backfill with an entry-level officer. VSTOP funds would be used to offset a portion of that officer's salary and benefits. The Lead Investigator's full-time assignment would be VCAW operations, potentially subject only to brief assignment of other duties in the event of a major emergency or incident.