

STATE OF DELAWARE



**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DOVER**

EXECUTIVE ORDER
NUMBER TWENTY-SEVEN

TO: HEADS OF ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

RE: CREATION OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT IMPLEMENTATION
COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Violence Against Women Act was signed into law on September 13, 1994 as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 and Delaware will be eligible for substantial funding under that Act; and

WHEREAS, that legislation recognizes the importance of creating a coordinated plan, based on significant public input and comment, for distributing such funding in a way that best addresses the serious problem of violence against women; and

WHEREAS, a myriad of state, federal, and private agencies support programs touching on the issue of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, the people of Delaware will best be served by a well-defined, concise and expedited process for distributing funding available under the Violence Against Women Act, particularly if such process incorporates input from relevant organizations, including, but not limited to, law enforcement, the courts, prosecutors and defense attorneys, legislators, the

Department of Correction, educators, the medical community, and non-profit, non-governmental victim services programs; and

WHEREAS, both the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council and the Criminal Justice Council play key roles in guiding state policy in the area of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council is mandated by law to coordinate and improve domestic violence policies, procedures, and services in Delaware; and

WHEREAS, the Criminal Justice Council has statutory responsibility to improve the criminal justice system in general, including services to victims of crime.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THOMAS R. CARPER, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of Delaware, do hereby order and declare that:

1. There is hereby established a Violence Against Women Act Implementation Committee.
2. The Committee is charged with the following responsibilities:
 - a. identifying needs and gaps in services for female victims of crime based on public input and input solicited from the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council and the Victim Advisory Committee of the Criminal Justice Council, both of which are comprised of state and private sector members with particular expertise in the area of violence against women;
 - b. soliciting input from interested individuals, state and federal agencies, and private organizations, including non-profit, non-governmental victim services programs, about needs and gaps in Delaware services for female victims of violent crime;

- c. preparing a comprehensive Plan to obtain and use federal funds available under the Violence Against Women Act and for compliance with the legislation and related regulations;
- d. holding training sessions for individuals and groups interested in submitting funding applications, designed to assist potential applicants with the funding selection process;
- e. soliciting and reviewing concept papers submitted by grant applicants; and
- f. consistent with the Plan, making recommendations on Violence Against Women Act grant recipients to the Criminal Justice Council and the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council for their approval by majority vote, before they are submitted to the Governor for his consideration. If both the Criminal Justice Council and the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council do not approve the Committee's recommendations, they shall be returned to the Committee for modification.

3. The Committee shall be comprised of the following four individuals, representing relevant organizations involved in the State's efforts to prevent violence against women: the Honorable Vincent J. Poppitti, Chairperson of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council; the Honorable Patricia M. Blevins, Vice Chairperson of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council; the Honorable Karen L. Johnson, Chairperson of the Criminal Justice Council; and the Honorable Gregory M. Sleet, Chairperson of the Victim Advisory Committee of the Criminal Justice Council.

4. The Committee shall be staffed by staff from the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council and the Criminal Justice Council, as the Committee finds necessary.

5. Federal grants obtained by Delaware as a result of the Violence Against Women Act shall be allocated by the Criminal Justice Council in accordance with the recommendations made pursuant to paragraph 2 of this Order. The Criminal Justice Council shall administer and monitor such grants and shall provide the Committee with regular reports regarding their status.



APPROVED this 21ST day of
February, 1995


Governor

ATTEST:


Secretary of State