



**Evaluation of the Palm Beach County (PBC) Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention
Demonstration Initiative (DVHPDI): Project #032436**

Scope of Work

The goal of the project is to measure through formal evaluation the effectiveness of one of two domestic violence homicide prevention models, the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) or the Domestic Violence High Risk Team (DVHRT).

Specifically, the Florida State University (FSU) College of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Center for Criminology and Public Policy is serving as the local researcher to 1) assess the availability of data and feasibility of project implementation, 2) collect and report data to John Hopkins University and NIJ, and 3) conduct an evaluability assessment using NIJ's site evaluability instrument.

To assess the availability of data and feasibility of the project's implementation, it is anticipated that preliminary project planning will include several meetings, conference calls and site visits. First, FSU will assist PBC in identifying districts and municipalities within the county where the DVHPDI can be successfully implemented. Second, FSU will determine the extent to which data can be accessed and collected according to the data request of the Federal Office of Violence against Women (OVW) and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). Once the geographic scope of the project and availability of data have been identified, FSU will apply for IRB approval through the FSU Human Subjects Committee (HSC).

Upon completion of the preliminary project planning is completed and the HSC has approved the data collection and research, FSU will proceed with collecting data and conducting the evaluability assessment.

Depending on availability and geographic location, baseline data collection will include 1) site characteristic data, 2) data from local law enforcement and the criminal justice system, 3) hospital data, and 4) data from local victim advocate service organizations. Site characteristic data is aggregate data on the population's demographics, community characteristics and census information. Law enforcement data will focus upon domestic violence related arrests, reported crimes and homicides. Hospital data will focus on numbers of patients who screen positive for domestic violence and cases of "Near Homicide." Finally, data collected from Victim Services Organizations will include numbers of referrals and levels of services provided. Once this data is collected, FSU will enter the data into a secure "RedCap" database provided by NIJ and John Hopkins University. It is anticipated that there will be two rounds of data collection and reporting; one in the Fall of 2013 for 2012 data and one in the Spring of 2014 for 2013 data.

The Evaluability Assessment includes working closely with the Palm Beach County Office of Victim Services to determine the extent to which the local sites can be evaluated in a reliable and credible manner. The Evaluability Assessment will be used to supplement the data collection efforts and to determine the sites readiness for a possible second phase that would receive continuation funding from OVW and NIJ.