



**ILLINOIS
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

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NEWS

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Authority Announces Grant Awards to Improve Criminal Justice System Responses to Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault

CHICAGO—October 9, 2015. Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority Executive Director John Maki today announced grant awards to four counties for multidisciplinary response team programs serving victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Grants between \$450,000 and \$600,000 were awarded to the following counties to form or expand multidisciplinary teams of police, prosecutors, probation officers, and victim service providers:

County	Team type
Cook County	Domestic violence
Cook County	Sexual assault
Kankakee County	Sexual assault
Peoria County	Domestic violence
St Clair County	Domestic violence

Multidisciplinary response teams collaborate to improve their initial responses to crime, quality of evidence collection, victim interviews, and victim referrals. Applications submitted by the awarded counties demonstrated program commitment from all partnering agencies.

“This funding initiative is part of a research driven effort by the Authority to support best practices in criminal justice,” Executive Director Maki said. “Multijurisdictional response team programs operate with a victim-centered approach while ensuring an effective coordinated response to domestic violence and sexual assault.”

The Authority set aside \$4 million in federal fiscal year 2015 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funding to expand the number of response teams serving victims of

domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking across Illinois. A 25 percent local fund contribution was required and funds must be spent over a 12-month period.

This initiative is part of a three-year effort by the Authority to expand VAWA-funded multidisciplinary response teams across the state. Funds also may be used to support strategic planning in counties that want to explore program implementation while garnering commitment from justice system stakeholders.

The Authority is dedicated to improving the administration of criminal justice with work in the areas of grants administration, research and analysis, policy and planning, and information systems and technology. Visit the Authority's new website at www.icjia.state.il.us.

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