



**State of Connecticut**  
JUDICIAL BRANCH  
COURT SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION  
FAMILY SERVICES  
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January 13, 2009

Darlene Johnson  
Program Director  
Office on Violence Against Women/USDOJ  
810 Seventh Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 2053

Dear Ms. Johnson:

The State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, Court Support Services Division, is providing the following documentation in accordance with the STOP Violence Against Women Program Implementation Plan:

Domestic Violence Sanction Project and DV Enhancements -Hartford: The historical and prominent gap in continuum of offender sanction and accountability programs continues to be the impetus for seeking this grant. A continuum of specialized sanctions for domestic violence offenders combined with on going and enhanced victim advocacy services has proven in Connecticut to enable more aggressive prosecution and enhance victim safety. Furthermore, options for sanctions such as inclusion of intervention programs, provides additional opportunities to successfully effect changes in defendant/offender behavior patterns. In this past calendar year, 84 individuals successfully completed this sanction/intervention. The successful completion rate (60%) is above what would be expected for an intensive program that lasts for six months.

This grant provides the necessary funds to continue to provide these critical sanction options in the Hartford area while also enhancing the services for victims of the domestic violence offenders involved in the sanction programs. Early funding of the program supported the capacity of 30 men at any one time for this 26-week domestic violence sanction program. The program has consistently operated at or above capacity. In recent years, the amount of federal funding permitted two additional cycles of the program to be implemented with the goal of reducing/eliminating any waitlist to enhance offender accountability and increase victim safety. Presently, the program has consistently maintained six weekly group sessions for the clients (5 English speaking and one Spanish monolingual group). Current funding also supports and allows collaboration with non-governmental Family Violence Victim Advocates employed by the community based domestic violence victim service provider. These victim advocates provide services to victims whose offender is involved in the sanction program within the context of privileged communications.

The continuation of funding is vital, especially in the present fiscal climate, as the opportunity to create a formalized Domestic Violence Docket in Hartford will continue to progress during this calendar year. The success of a Domestic Violence Docket will depend on the on-going availability of resources and a

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major component of the project will be the need for sanction programs. As seen in other formal docket sites in Connecticut, offender accountability and victim safety is greatly facilitated through this type of initiative.

It is the goal of the Domestic Violence Sanction Project to attain greater offender accountability by ensuring the ongoing availability of domestic violence sanctions for the Hartford court. A main component of this initiative is the continuation of a collaborative response among the community intervention program, the criminal justice system entities and the Family Violence Victim Advocate to comprehensively address domestic violence cases. Without continued funding, the enhanced sanctions and intensified victim services would not exist in the Hartford area. This would have real implications on overall public safety. I therefore respectfully request your continued support for this important project.

Sincerely yours,



Stephen R. Grant  
Director  
Judicial Branch  
Court Support Services Division