

**LEGISLATIVE #**

**120489a**

**OVW Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Demonstration Initiative  
Summary Data Sheet  
OMB Number 1122-0020  
Alachua County, Florida Application**

**Authorized Representative for Alachua County Government:**

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**Statement:** The Department has expended in excess of \$500,000 in Federal funds in the past fiscal year ending September 30, 2012.

**Federal Grants Currently Funded in Alachua County Department of Court Services:**

- **Grant Title: No Wrong Door II**  
**Grant Number:** 2009-D1-BX-0288  
**Original Award Amount:** \$550,000  
**Budget Remaining:** \$ 346,177 as of 10/11/12  
**Positions Funded-** (1) Program Specialist
- **Grant Title: No Wrong Door III**  
**Grant Number -**2010-DD-BX-0719  
**Original Award Amount:** \$900,000  
**Budget Remaining:** \$285,290 as of 10/11/12  
**Positions Funded:** No FTE's all contract money.

- **Grant Title: Justice Assistance Grant Probation and Pretrial Recovery Treatment**

**Grant Number-** 2009-DJ-BX-1325

**Original Award amount:** \$106,709

**Positions Funded:** (1) Drug Counselor funded originally, but repurposed in 2012 to eliminate the FTE and move all money into contracts).

**Budget Remaining:** \$ 19,155

- **Grant Title: Byrne Probation and Pretrial Treatment Grant (Office of Justice Programs) awarded through the FDLE**

**Grant Number:** 2010-ARRC-ALAC-10-W7-311

**Original Award Amount:** \$231,032

**Budget Remaining-** \$127,360 as of 10/11/12

**Positions Funded-** (1) Drug Counselor

- **Grant Title: Criminal Justice Diversion Resource Coordinator**

**Grant Award:** 2008-DD-BX-0664

**Original Award Amount:** \$178,870

**Budget Remaining:** \$6,745.00 as of 10/11/12

**Positions Funded:** (1) Criminal Justice Diversion Coordinator

**Agency and Type:**

Alachua County Government is a unit of local government in the State of Florida, with headquarters located in Gainesville, Florida, the County seat. The lead agency is a department in Alachua County Government: Alachua County Department of Court Services.

**Non-Profit, Non- Governmental Victim Services Program Collaboration on this Project:**

Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network is the certified domestic violence center for Alachua, Bradford and Union counties in North Central Florida. It is a member agency of the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

**Name of Researcher/Evaluator:**

University of Florida Family Data Center: guided by Associate Director. Dr. Nancy Hardt.

**Regional Area of Implementation:**

Alachua County, Florida located in North Central Florida

**Other Federal Grant Programs/Summary of Current and Recent OVW project:**

**City of Gainesville Grant in cooperation with a program of Alachua County Government, Alachua County Victim Services and Rape Crisis Center (certified rape crisis center and member of Florida Council Against Sexual Violence).**

- **Grant Number:** U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, Funding Opportunity OVW-2011-2905

**Grant Title:** A Coordinated Community Response to Preventing Violence Against Women in Gainesville, Florida

**Award Dates:** 8/1/2011 – 9/30/2013; Project funded since 2007 (currently in third cycle)

**Positions funded:** (1) Domestic Violence Detective, 1 Victim Advocate (funded for Alachua County Victim Services), and 1 Community Outreach Coordinator. Two contracts: Peaceful Paths (law enforcement instruction/information sessions and community outreach), Alachua County Clerk of the Court to provide IT services related to documenting information related to Protection Orders for Law Enforcement access to assist in monitoring these orders.

**Original Award Amount:** \$394,327

**Budget Remaining:** \$154,058.71 as of 10/11/12

**Description of Lead Agency**

Alachua County Department of Court Services Court Services is a multifaceted agency that has been funded by the Board of County Commissioners over three (3) decades. The Department provides services to the criminal justice community since its inception. The Department works in collaboration with many local key system stakeholders in our efforts to reduce the need for costly pretrial detention and subsequent incarceration. One of our goals is to render timely and accurate information to the Court while providing a continuum of cost-effective, community-based supervision and therapeutic services to the citizens of Alachua County with emphasis on accountability and preserving public safety.

The Department has a long history of providing effective and innovative services to work with adults in the criminal justice system. For example, Alachua County was among the first in the State of Florida to implement Mental Health and Drug Courts. In 2008, our Pretrial Services program became the first non-law enforcement program in the United States to be accredited by the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission (FCAC).

The agency uses evidence based practices to provide effective continuum of supervision and treatment services for people under the jurisdiction of the County and Circuit Courts of Alachua County. This continuum begins with the information the Department provides to the judiciary at First Appearance Hearings in the form of Pretrial Investigations. These investigations are paramount to the court making informed release or detention decisions. Many individuals we supervise can be released from custody safely back to the community prior to final case disposition. The Department offers several levels of community supervision often times linked with therapeutic activities. Our supervision continuum includes Pretrial Services, County Probation, Day Reporting, Community Services, OPUS (substance abuse treatment) Work

Release (with a treatment component), Drug Court, Mental Health Court, and our most intensive form of supervision, Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) and Electronic Monitoring (EM) with “House Arrest”. **In addition, the Department has established policy for referring to the long established local Batterer’s Intervention Program (BIP).**

**The EM/GPS program efforts are to enhance public safety using technology to provide intensive supervision on high risk offenders, including those accused of domestic violence.** In Fiscal Year 2011/2012, Twenty-six percent (26%) of the cases supervised in the EM/GPS program were DV cases. This program works in conjunction with local law enforcement from all of the local municipalities.

**County Probation created the supervision of specialized domestic violence caseloads over 15 years ago. There are currently three (3) dedicated Court Officers in the probation program who are responsible for supervising domestic violence cases sentenced in County Court. Procedures and protocols are specific to the supervision of these cases so that the court can rapidly respond when violations occur against any victim. Additionally officers make contact with victims to inform them of the probationers’ probationary period. Court Officers also maintain contact with victims to serve as a resource for victim safety.**

Those accused of criminal behaviors often suffer from substance abuse, mental health, and other disabling conditions. In response to these needs, we provide a number of therapeutic opportunities for people under supervision, including referrals to various community treatment providers. We also operate our own “in-house” licensed treatment services programs including outpatient and long term residential placement. In many cases, treatment and courts are very closely aligned to achieve maximum therapeutic benefit.

As the lead agency in this proposal, the Department of Court Services looks to enhance current EM/GPS services and designate a position and equipment for supervision of High Risk Offenders accused of domestic violence related offenses. This enhancement would compliment the work of the dedicated Domestic Violence Court Officers and promote greater offender accountability. Officers in the dedicated unit have a long history of working to serve as a resource for victim safety through their work with local victim advocates based in the community (rape crisis, domestic violence and child welfare), law enforcement agencies and the prosecutor’s office.

Court Services has worked for several years with this **project’s partners: (1) Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network, (2) Alachua County Sheriff’s Office and (3) Gainesville Police Department** to enhance offender accountability and improve victim support and safety. In addition, departments in Alachua County Government have worked closely with this **project’s named researcher, the University of Florida’s (UF) Family Data Center**, specifically on the South West Advocacy Group (SWAG) initiative noted in the researcher’s Letter of Commitment.

The Department of Court Services, along with this project’s above named partner agencies and research agency at UF currently serve together on the **Alachua County Domestic Violence Task Force, The Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team and the Alachua County Domestic Violence High Risk Team.**