



FIREARMS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT 2024 OVERVIEW

2024

The 2024 Firearms Technical Assistance Project (FTAP) Yearly Overview highlights key activities aimed at improving firearm relinquishment processes and supporting survivors in domestic violence cases.

Through topical calls, peer-to-peer connections, and site visits, FTAP has fostered collaboration and shared strategies to strengthen local systems and enhance victim safety.

2024 FTAP Topical Calls Overview:

Throughout 2024, the Firearms Technical Assistance Project (FTAP) hosted several topical calls to address pressing issues in domestic violence and firearm relinquishment. These calls facilitated expert presentations and collaborative discussions to advance knowledge and strategies across multiple sectors.

- **Probation/Parole Strategies to Disarm Domestic Violence Offenders**

Date: January 24, 2024 | Presenter: Jennifer Waindle, BWJP

- **Systems Mapping**

Date: February 7, 2024 | Presenter: Darren Mitchell

- **Ask A TA**

Date: March 20, 2024 | Presenter: FTAP TA Team

- **Building Your MDT**

Date: April 10, 2024 | Presenter: Amalfi Parker, BWJP

- **Supporting Military Survivors**

Date: April 17, 2024 | Presenter: Ava Ramirez-Ene, NOVA

- **DVPO and ERPOs**

Date: May 15, 2024 | Presenters: Jenn Becker and Rob Valente, BWJP

- **Trauma, Mental Health, and DV**

Date: August 28, 2024 | Presenter: Irene Avinga, BWJP

- **Supporting Pro-Se Litigant Call Participants**

Date: September 18, 2024 | Presenter: Bonnie Claxton, The Center for Native Health

- **Implementing a Court Watch Program for Domestic Violence Advocacy**

Date: October 23, 2024 | Presenter: Lavontee Chapman, Court Watch Montgomery

- **Firearms: Tribal Jurisdiction and Cultural Considerations**

Date: November 19, 2024 | Presenters: Heather Torres and Kelly Stoner, Tribal Law and Policy Institute (TLPI)

These calls connected stakeholders across various sectors to discuss and share strategies for addressing firearm-related violence in domestic violence cases.



FTAP All-Sites Meeting – Denver, Colorado

July 30 – August 2, 2024

The FTAP All-Sites Meeting provided an opportunity for grantees, experts, and partners to come together in Denver for three days of collaboration and resource sharing. Sessions focused on improving firearm relinquishment processes, enhancing Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) collaboration, and addressing cultural considerations in domestic violence cases.

Key Highlights:

- Sessions on culturally responsive practices, language access, and building partnerships with Tribal Nations.
- Peer presentations that showcased successes and challenges related to community response coordination, victim notification, and addressing staffing and funding shortages.
- Discussions on strengthening law enforcement and court protocols, enhancing MDT collaboration, and improving firearm affidavits for protection orders.

Attendees appreciated the chance to connect with peers, share ideas, and gather practical tools to implement locally. The survivor-centered approach, focus on culturally responsive methods, and actionable insights made this meeting a valuable experience for all.

FTAP Peer-to-Peer Connections – Fall 2024 Overview

The fall 2024 Peer-to-Peer (P2P) calls focused on improving firearm relinquishment processes, MDT coordination, and addressing barriers survivors face in the legal system. Key discussions included:

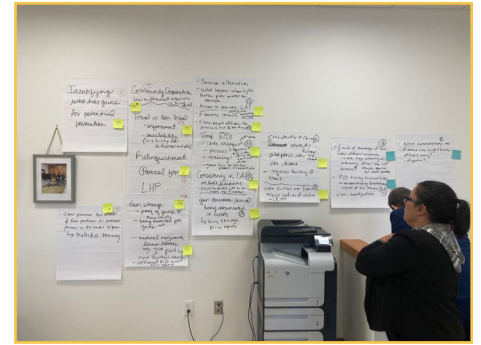
- **September 16, 2024 – Firearm Relinquishment & Legal Process**
Project Coordinators shared strategies to improve ex parte orders and affidavits for firearm relinquishment, aiming for better consistency and judicial compliance.
- **October 16, 2024 – Protection Order & Firearm Relinquishment Challenges**
Project Coordinators discussed the development of standardized affidavits and judicial training to streamline firearm relinquishment and improve data collection.
- **November 20, 2024 – Effective Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Leadership**
Project Coordinators explored strategies for building and maintaining effective MDTs, including engaging key stakeholders and ensuring sustainability.

These calls provided valuable insights for strengthening firearm relinquishment processes, MDT coordination, and addressing legal system barriers for survivors.



FTAP Site Visits Overview

In 2024, the FTAP TA team conducted site visits to support communities in tackling firearm relinquishment challenges in Protection Order (PO) cases. The visits focused on process mapping, identifying gaps, and fostering collaboration to improve local systems for firearm surrender.



- **Yakima, WA (September 4-5, 2024):** Stakeholders mapped criminal and civil processes within Municipal and Superior Courts, identifying gaps in coordination and enforcement that affect firearm relinquishment.
- **Austin, TX (September 24-25, 2024):** Austin's team focused on MDT coordination to improve firearm relinquishment, conducting court observations and engaging with law enforcement to identify local challenges.
- **Detroit, MI (October 29-30, 2024):** The visit centered on mapping civil and criminal processes and engaging stakeholders to address gaps in the PPO process and improve firearm relinquishment efforts.
- **Muscogee Creek Nation (November 13-14, 2024):** The TA team observed the domestic violence docket, toured victim service centers, and conducted a systems mapping exercise to improve coordination and firearm relinquishment efforts.

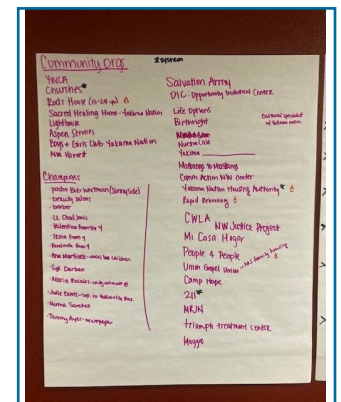
These site visits were instrumental in fostering cross-community collaboration and setting the stage for actionable changes to strengthen local firearm surrender systems.

Stakeholders Involved

Throughout the year, the FTAP TA team engaged with a wide range of stakeholders during site visits, including:

- Law enforcement (local police, sheriff's deputies, investigators, tribal law enforcement)
- Court staff and judges (Municipal, Superior, County, and Tribal Courts)
- Victim service organizations (advocates, local centers, tribal victim service centers)
- Culturally specific organizations (especially in Detroit)
- Legal services (attorneys, county legal teams, Tribal AG's office)
- Domestic violence advocates
- State coalitions (domestic violence and firearms)

These collaborations were crucial in strengthening firearm relinquishment processes and supporting survivors of domestic violence.



Culturally Specific Technical Assistance

This year, we made significant progress in understanding local communities through the use of the Initial Community Assessment Worksheet developed by Ujima and Esperanza United. This worksheet enabled sites to reflect on local demographics and identify potential partnerships with local and culturally specific organizations.

During site visits, the Culturally Specific Technical Assistance Providers (CSTAP) facilitated community resource mapping, which complemented the systems mapping activities. Additionally, several meetings with local culturally specific organizations were held both during site visits and virtually, with the aim of fostering future collaborations. CSTAP also offered practical support on various topics, including building partnerships, being culturally responsive, and ensuring language access.

For the upcoming year, we plan to continue supporting sites in deepening their collaboration with local culturally specific organizations. By facilitating regular meetings and open dialogues with culturally specific organizations, we hope to better understand the unique needs of diverse communities and work together to create environments where everyone feels valued and represented. This approach not only strengthens our relationships but also ensures that our initiatives are resonant with and relevant to those we serve.

FTAP made significant progress in 2024 by improving coordination, processes, and training across sites. The efforts outlined here lay a strong foundation for continued work in 2025 to advance firearm-related domestic violence interventions and support survivors.



This project is supported by Grant No. 15JOVW-22-GK-05005-FIRE and 15-JOVW-21-GK-02225-MUMU awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

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