



# OVC FAST FACTS



Office for Victims of Crime  
**OVC**

JUNE 2019

## Office for Victims of Crime Reports on FYs 2017–2018 Programs and Services

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) 2019 Report to the Nation describes the progress made in upholding victims' rights and providing assistance to victims, survivors, and communities during Fiscal Years (FY) 2017 and 2018. The online report highlights new and expanded programs and services, summarizes financial allocations to states and territories, and provides insight into OVC's strategic efforts to collaborate with partner agencies and organizations to develop innovative projects that enhance victim services.

### Fast Facts About the Crime Victims Fund

- The Crime Victims Fund (the Fund) was established by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) of 1984 to provide federal funding for victim services nationwide. OVC was subsequently established to administer the Fund by an amendment to VOCA in 1988.
- In FY 2018, Congress made available the largest amount from the Fund since placing an annual cap on available funding in 2000. The Fund's appropriation cap nearly doubled the annual cap, from \$2.573 billion in FY 2017 to a record-breaking \$4.436 billion in FY 2018.
- In FYs 2017 and 2018, state compensation payments, which consist of both federal and state funds, totaled \$779,535,703. Victims were most often compensated for claims related to assault, child sexual abuse, and sexual assault.
- In FYs 2017 and 2018, VOCA-funded assistance reached 18,826,776 victims of crime. Common types of direct aid included information/referrals and assistance with the criminal and civil justice systems.
- In FY 2018, OVC successfully transitioned all VOCA victim assistance and compensation grant program reporting to the new Performance Measurement Tool, which provides more robust performance measurement and will enable OVC to identify nationwide variables and trends associated with these programs.

### CAPACITY-BUILDING EFFORTS

OVC programming in FYs 2017 and 2018 focused on building capacity in a number of key areas. OVC supported many programs to combat human trafficking and help survivors of this terrible crime. OVC also strengthened its support for a wide range of law enforcement organizations and their efforts to serve communities, while also funding initiatives to help children and families heal. Additionally, OVC supported efforts to strengthen service organizations' ability to reach underserved victim populations—from particularly vulnerable victim groups, to those who have experienced victimization abroad, to those who have been affected by the Nation's opioid crisis. OVC also maintained its commitment to supporting training and technical assistance by expanding existing offerings and releasing new opportunities.

### OVC'S MISSION

OVC is committed to enhancing the Nation's capacity to assist crime victims and to providing leadership in changing attitudes, policies, and practices to promote justice and healing for all victims of crime.

## Fast Facts About FYs 2017–2018 Programs and Services

- OVC intensified its efforts to address the specific needs of human trafficking victims, launching new initiatives aimed at increasing the availability of trauma-informed services for victims of human trafficking, and at addressing barriers to identifying and assisting labor trafficking victims. OVC launched the Human Trafficking Capacity Building Center to deliver high-quality, strategically focused, capacity-building training and technical assistance to increase the availability of trauma-informed, victim-centered services for all victims of human trafficking in the United States. OVC also began planning work toward the implementation of a new grant program to address minor victims of trafficking.
- OVC supports partnerships with law enforcement agencies at the state, tribal, and local levels to combat crime, promote safer neighborhoods, and establish collaborations between law enforcement and the communities they protect. OVC grantees worked on programs to improve law enforcement agencies' responses to victims of crime, particularly in high-crime areas; to develop or enhance direct victim assistance programs within law enforcement agencies; and to better coordinate partnerships with community-based programs to serve the broader needs and rights of all crime victims.
- Throughout the Nation, communities are struggling to respond to drug abuse and addiction—particularly from opioids—and the associated social and economic consequences, including crime victimization. OVC launched a new grant program to help address the urgent gaps in crime victim services related to the opioid epidemic and to establish new or expand upon existing programs to provide services to children and youth who are crime victims as a result of the opioid crisis.

- OVC is increasingly called upon to respond to acts of terrorism and mass violence in the United States and abroad, which leave scores of devastated victims, survivors, and communities in their wake. In FYs 2017–2018, OVC supported the needs of victims and survivors of acts of terrorism and mass violence in Thornton, Colorado; Las Vegas, Nevada; and Burlington, Washington. OVC also launched a new Mass Violence and Victimization Resource Center to support the comprehensive needs of victims of mass violence and domestic terrorism and assess the needs of victims of large-scale criminal incidents.
- American Indians and Alaska Natives suffer from one of the highest rates of victimization in the country. OVC awarded congressionally appointed funds to tribes to support their efforts to offer a wide range of services—including needs assessments, strategic planning, program development and implementation, and program expansion—to address the victim service needs of tribes. OVC also developed a streamlined, two-phase application process to make it as easy as possible for tribes to apply for tribal set-aside funding.
- Older adults are especially vulnerable to violent crime, neglect, and exploitation, including financial fraud. OVC continued its efforts to address elder abuse, launching a new elder financial exploitation program aimed at building the capacity of victim service providers and financial industry representatives to enhance fraud detection and provide trauma-informed, age-appropriate services and resources for older victims of financial exploitation.
- The OVC Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) provided in-depth training and technical assistance to more than 155 organizations and more than 60,000 individuals, in areas such as human trafficking, tribal victims of crime, and supporting law enforcement. OVC TTAC supported mass violence training and intensive technical assistance to state and local agencies, and released a series of webinars highlighting significant actions needed to help communities prepare for, and respond to, a mass violence incident. OVC also provided funding for technical assistance and resource development to assist grantees and subgrantees in implementing domestic violence trauma-informed housing programs.

*View the full report online at <https://ovc.ojp.gov/2019-report-nation/> to learn more about OVC's support for dynamic programs and initiatives to serve victims of crime throughout the Nation.*

## RESOURCES

### Crime Victims Fund

<https://ovc.ojp.gov/about/crime-victims-fund>

### Events

<https://ovc.ojp.gov/events>

### Office of Justice Programs

[www.ojp.gov](http://www.ojp.gov)

### OVC TTAC Expert Q&A

[www.ovcttac.gov/expert-qa](http://www.ovcttac.gov/expert-qa)

### Programs

<https://ovc.ojp.gov/programs>



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