

CO Annual State Performance Report

Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program

Reporting Period: [Oct 1, 2019 to Sept 30, 2020]

This aggregated data is self-reported by the grantees and subgrantees in each state/territory.

| OVC VOCA Assistance Funds | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | 2017-VA-GX-0037 | 2018-V2-GX-0050 | 2019-V2-GX-0027 | 2020-V2-GX-0024 |
| Federal Award Amount | \$31,335,524.00 | \$56,681,557.00 | \$38,825,662.00 | \$28,979,500.00 |
| Total Amount of Subawards | \$29,768,748.00 | \$16,445,097.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Total Number of Subawards | 176 | 181 | 0 | 0 |
| Administrative Funds Amount | \$1,566,776.00 | \$2,834,077.00 | \$1,941,283.00 | \$0.00 |
| Training Funds Amount | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Balance Remaining | \$0.00 | \$37,402,383.00 | \$36,884,379.00 | \$28,979,500.00 |

| Subgrantee Organization Type | | | | |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <small>The total number of subgrants represents all subgrants funded across all federal awards active during the reporting period. The number is not unique as there are subgrantee organizations that are continuously funded from each federal award.</small> | | | | |
| Type of Organization | 2017-VA-GX-0037 | 2018-V2-GX-0050 | 2019-V2-GX-0027 | 2020-V2-GX-0024 |
| Government Agencies Only | 65 | 68 | 0 | 0 |
| Corrections | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Courts | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Juvenile Justice | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Law Enforcement | 36 | 37 | 0 | 0 |
| Prosecutor | 21 | 22 | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 7 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Nonprofit Organization Only | 109 | 111 | 0 | 0 |
| Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center) | 27 | 27 | 0 | 0 |
| Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition) | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Domestic and Family Violence Organization | 19 | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Faith-based Organization | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services | 21 | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse) | 7 | 8 | 0 | 0 |

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| | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|----------|----------|
| Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center) | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Multiservice agency | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 13 | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Agencies, and Organizations Only | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Court | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Domestic and Family Violence organization | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Faith-based organization | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Juvenile justice | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Law Enforcement | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Organization provides domestic and family violence and sexual assault services | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Prosecutor | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other justice-based agency | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other agency that is NOT justice-based (e.g., human services, health, education) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Organization by and/or for a specific traditionally underserved community | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Campus Organizations Only | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Campus-based victims services | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Law enforcement | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Physical or mental health service program | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Number of Subawards | 176 | 181 | 0 | 0 |

*This number is not unique across fiscal years as there are subgrantee organizations that are funded from multiple federal awards.

| Subaward Purpose | | | | |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| A single SAR can select multiple purposes. Numbers are not unique | | | | |
| | 2017-VA-GX-0037 | 2018-V2-GX-0050 | 2019-V2-GX-0027 | 2020-V2-GX-0024 |
| A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year | 147 | 146 | 0 | 0 |

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|--|----|----|---|---|
| B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year | 27 | 32 | 0 | 0 |
| C. Start up a new victim services project | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| D. Start up a new Native American victim services project | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| E. Expand or enhance an existing Native American project | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

VOCA and Match Funds

A single SAR can select multiple service types. Numbers are not unique

| | 2017-VA-GX-0037 | 2018-V2-GX-0050 | 2019-V2-GX-0027 | 2020-V2-GX-0024 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL | 1 | 170 | 0 | 0 |
| B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT | 1 | 154 | 0 | 0 |
| C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES | 1 | 148 | 0 | 0 |
| D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES | 0 | 79 | 0 | 0 |
| E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE | 1 | 141 | 0 | 0 |
| F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS | 1 | 181 | 0 | 0 |

Priority and Underserved Requirements

| Priority Area | 2017-VA-GX-0037 | 2018-V2-GX-0050 | 2019-V2-GX-0027 | 2020-V2-GX-0024 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Child Abuse | | | | |
| Total Amount | \$5,178,557.00 | \$2,490,187.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| % of Total Federal Award | 17.00 % | 4.00 % | | |
| Domestic and Family Violence | | | | |
| Total Amount | \$14,237,834.00 | \$7,991,580.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| % of Total Federal Award | 45.00 % | 14.00 % | | |
| Sexual Assault | | | | |
| Total Amount | \$3,825,701.00 | \$1,979,685.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| % of Total Federal Award | 12.00 % | 3.00 % | | |
| Underserved | | | | |
| Total Amount | \$6,481,656.00 | \$3,983,525.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| % of Total Federal Award | 21.00 % | 7.00 % | | |

Budget and Staffing

| Staffing Information | 2017-VA-GX-0037 | 2018-V2-GX-0050 | 2019-V2-GX-0027 | 2020-V2-GX-0024 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services | 1617 | 1681 | | |

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|---|---------|---------|--|--|
| Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services | 2152746 | 2161089 | | |
| Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services | 4672 | 4740 | | |
| Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services | 1230706 | 1259486 | | |

AGGREGATED SUBGRANTEE PERFORMANCE MEASURE DATA

| Victimization Type | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Victimization Type | Number of Subgrantees Indicating Intent to Serve This Victim Type | Number of Individuals Who Actually Received Services Based on a Presenting Victimization | | | | |
| | | Quarter 1 Total | Quarter 2 Total | Quarter 3 Total | Quarter 4 Total | Per Quarter Average |
| Adult Physical Assault (includes Aggravated and Simple Assault) | 91 | 5967 | 5801 | 5641 | 6252 | 5915 |
| Adult Sexual Assault | 2 | 3033 | 2840 | 2533 | 2743 | 2787 |
| Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children | 1 | 884 | 653 | 794 | 653 | 746 |
| Arson | 26 | 35 | 26 | 62 | 55 | 44 |
| Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical) | 40 | 1183 | 1099 | 1324 | 1012 | 1154 |
| Burglary | 51 | 629 | 610 | 529 | 519 | 571 |
| Child Physical Abuse or Neglect | 1 | 4822 | 4733 | 4570 | 4916 | 4760 |
| Child Pornography | 33 | 35 | 88 | 73 | 88 | 71 |
| Child Sexual Abuse/Assault | 133 | 4428 | 4087 | 3556 | 3956 | 4006 |
| Domestic and/or Family Violence | 12 | 17946 | 18800 | 16141 | 18008 | 17723 |
| DUI/DWI Incidents | 1 | 362 | 411 | 388 | 335 | 374 |
| Elder Abuse or Neglect | 83 | 582 | 491 | 461 | 387 | 480 |
| Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required) | 32 | 48 | 46 | 42 | 72 | 52 |
| Human Trafficking: Labor | 25 | 45 | 31 | 35 | 34 | 36 |
| Human Trafficking: Sex | 1 | 169 | 224 | 206 | 233 | 208 |
| Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime | 43 | 978 | 990 | 1259 | 1342 | 1142 |
| Kidnapping (non-custodial) | 28 | 136 | 198 | 179 | 218 | 182 |
| Kidnapping (custodial) | 26 | 31 | 27 | 26 | 39 | 30 |

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| | | | | | | |
|---|----|------|------|------|------|------|
| Mass Violence (Domestic/International) | 2 | 80 | 173 | 95 | 92 | 110 |
| Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run) | 45 | 810 | 453 | 514 | 835 | 653 |
| Robbery | 55 | 534 | 559 | 430 | 464 | 496 |
| Stalking/Harassment | 99 | 2755 | 2695 | 2379 | 2968 | 2699 |
| Survivors of Homicide Victims | 63 | 415 | 468 | 379 | 557 | 454 |
| Teen Dating Victimization | 59 | 179 | 178 | 131 | 185 | 168 |
| Terrorism (Domestic/International) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Other | 1 | 5412 | 5740 | 6397 | 8316 | 6466 |

Special Classifications of Individuals

| Special Classifications of Individuals | Number of Individuals Self Reporting a Special Classification | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| | Quarter 1 Total | Quarter 2 Total | Quarter 3 Total | Quarter 4 Total | Per Quarter Average |
| Deaf/Hard of Hearing | 125 | 144 | 119 | 107 | 499 |
| Homeless | 1198 | 1197 | 941 | 949 | 4620 |
| Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers | 1165 | 989 | 1039 | 985 | 4213 |
| LGBTQ | 529 | 468 | 390 | 386 | 1480 |
| Veterans | 468 | 370 | 398 | 541 | 1317 |
| Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/Physical /Mental | 1716 | 1798 | 1665 | 1474 | 7230 |
| Victims with Limited English Proficiency | 1977 | 1910 | 1802 | 2169 | 8774 |
| Other | 1875 | 1463 | 882 | 1508 | 5124 |

General Award Information

| Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level | Number | Percent |
|---|--------|---------|
| Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year. | 145809 | |
| Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year | 14431 | |
| Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year. | 99781 | 68.43 % |
| Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year? | 36571 | 25.08 % |
| Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year. | 50899 | |

Demographics

| Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served | Number | Percent |
|--|--------|---------|
| Race/Ethnicity | | |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | 1324 | 1.33 % |
| Asian | 1038 | 1.04 % |
| Black or African American | 5983 | 6.00 % |

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| | | |
|---|--------------|---------|
| Hispanic or Latino | 20146 | 20.19 % |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | 202 | 0.20 % |
| White Non-Latino or Caucasian | 46905 | 47.01 % |
| Some Other Race | 3170 | 3.18 % |
| Multiple Races | 2239 | 2.24 % |
| Not Reported | 11585 | 11.61 % |
| Not Tracked | 7189 | 7.20 % |
| Race/Ethnicity Total | 99781 | |
| Gender Identity | | |
| Male | 26829 | 26.89 % |
| Female | 60092 | 60.22 % |
| Other | 188 | 0.19 % |
| Not Reported | 5864 | 5.88 % |
| Not Tracked | 6808 | 6.82 % |
| Gender Total | 99781 | |
| Age | | |
| Age 0- 12 | 13345 | 13.37 % |
| Age 13- 17 | 7156 | 7.17 % |
| Age 18- 24 | 10033 | 10.06 % |
| Age 25- 59 | 45692 | 45.79 % |
| Age 60 and Older | 6297 | 6.31 % |
| Not Reported | 7554 | 7.57 % |
| Not Tracked | 9704 | 9.73 % |
| Age Total | 99781 | |

| Direct Services | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|----------------------|
| Service Area | # of Subgrantees That Provided Services in This Category | # of Individuals/Contacts Receiving Services | Specific Service | Frequency of Service |
| A. Information & Referral | 175 | 115865 | Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory. | 0 |
| | | | A1. Information about the criminal justice process | 92087 |
| | | | A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc. | 82362 |
| | | | A3. Referral to other victim service programs | 57551 |

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|---|-----|-------|--|-------|
| | | | A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.) | 76258 |
| B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment | 155 | 49600 | Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory. | 0 |
| | | | B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care | 2489 |
| | | | B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam | 1602 |
| | | | B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment | 7103 |
| | | | B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects) | 71985 |
| | | | B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection | 2374 |
| | | | B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief) | 2502 |
| | | | B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution | 5387 |
| | | | B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services) | 3765 |
| | | | B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services) | 5781 |
| | | | B10. Interpreter services | 10208 |
| C. Emotional Support or Safety Services | 149 | 66649 | Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory. | 0 |
| | | | C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.) | 52553 |
| | | | C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling | 35934 |
| | | | C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response) | 7345 |
| | | | C4. Individual counseling | 34354 |
| | | | C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer) | 8579 |
| | | | C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.) | 8131 |
| | | | C7. Emergency financial assistance | 8974 |
| D. Shelter/ Housing Services | 82 | 5253 | Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory. | 0 |
| | | | D1. Emergency shelter or safe house | 20214 |
| | | | D2. Transitional housing | 13246 |

| | | | | |
|--|------|-------|---|-------|
| | | | D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing) | 11287 |
| E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance | 135 | 74569 | Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory. | 0 |
| | | | E1. Notification of criminal justice events | 76448 |
| | | | E2. Victim impact statement assistance | 10367 |
| | | | E3. Assistance with restitution | 5201 |
| | | | E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order | 10693 |
| | | | E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues | 8736 |
| | | | E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance | 6126 |
| | | | E7. Immigration assistance | 2450 |
| | | | E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment | 5912 |
| | | | E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment | 3969 |
| | | | E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment | 25807 |
| E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel | 8056 | | | |

ANNUAL QUESTIONS

Grantee Annually Reported Questions

| Question/Option | Count |
|--|-------|
| Were any administrative and training funds used during the reporting period? | |
| Yes | 1 |
| No | 0 |
| Did the administrative funds support any education activities during the reporting period? | |
| Yes | 1 |
| No | 0 |
| Number of requests received for education activities during the reporting period. | 0 |
| Number of people trained or attending education events during the reporting period. | 0 |
| Number of events conducted during the reporting period. | 0 |
| Did the grant support any coordination activities (e.g., with other service providers, law enforcement agencies) during the reporting period? | |
| Yes | 1 |
| No | 0 |
| Describe any program or educational materials developed during the reporting period. | |
| We contracted with two agencies, one that works with LGBTQ populations and another that works with disabled populations, to tailor their training curriculums for our subgrantees who work with crime victims. | |

Describe any planning or training events held during the reporting period.

No training events took place during this fiscal year, only the initial contract to start the development of the training sessions.

Describe any program policies changed during the reporting period.

As a result of guidance issued by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) in March 2020, our office updated its Match Waiver policy to make clear that the Division of Criminal Justice/Office for Victims Programs can approve match waiver requests at the state level and that the state can implement expedited match waiver processes in unusual circumstances. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, our office approved a blanket match waiver for all VOCA subgrantees for the July – December 2020 portion of the current subaward period. This is the only policy change made during the October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020 time period.

Describe any earned media coverage events/episodes during the reporting period.

Several agencies mentioned earned media coverage. Coverage ranged from a newspaper in a rural area running a continuous article in the paper with the agency's contact information to agencies being featured on local television news programs. One agency launched a public awareness campaign, titled You Have the Right campaign, to educate victims and their families and friends about sexual assault reporting options in Colorado. Many agencies also described promoting their programs through local newspapers, radio, billboards, and social media (mainly Facebook).

Describe any coordinated responses/services for assisting crime victims during the reporting period.

The Office for Victims Programs, within the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, continues to oversee the federal VOCA Assistance grant (VOCA), the federal Violence Against Women Act grant (VAWA), the federal Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) grant, and our state Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement grant (state VALE) and the federal VOCA Victim Compensation grant (VC). Because all of these programs are housed within one office, coordination between these programs happens regularly, which in turn helps the agencies that assist crime victims. In addition, our office conducts a consolidated grant application process – meaning agencies use one application to apply for any of the funds we administer (except for compensation, which is distributed separately) during one funding process. Since the inception of our consolidated grant process, agencies did not apply to a specific funding source; instead, staff determined the source of funds for grants recommended for funding by our Crime Victim Services Advisory Board. In calendar year 2020 we conducted our competitive funding process but changed it slightly. For the funding process that took place this year, applicants applied for a specific funding source; the process was still consolidated in the sense that there was one application (with slightly different application questions depending on the funding source), one board reviewing the applications, etc. The reason we changed the process is because we found that many applicants were not reading the eligibility criteria for the different funding sources and therefore we received many applications for requests where the vast majority of the request wasn't eligible under any of our funding sources. The Office for Victims programs continues to house the state Human Trafficking Council. Having this program in our office means that we have access to the latest information regarding human trafficking crimes in Colorado. In addition, the Human Trafficking staff also conducts training to local stakeholders, many of whom are VOCA subgrantees. The Human Trafficking program within our office was recently funded through VOCA to conduct a statewide public awareness campaign to address both labor and sex trafficking. Our office also houses the Victims Rights Act coordinator for the state. The coordinator works with a subcommittee of our advisory board to review victims rights act complaints and to determine whether a victim's rights have been violated when a complaint is filed. The coordinator of this program provides training on victims rights in Colorado that many of our subgrantees attend. Receiving training on victims rights is a special condition of our grant agreements. Our Grants Team Leader and our Unit Manager both continue to participate in statewide work groups to improve victim services; other statewide agencies that administer grant funds and our state coalitions are also members of these groups. In addition, a staff person in our office serves as a member of the Domestic Violence Program (DVP) Advisory Board and the Domestic Violence Program (DVP) Funding Committee at the Colorado Department of Human Services. DVP is the program that oversees and administers the state's federal FVPSA grant and the state dollars allocated for domestic violence programs. Serving on both the board and the committee allows for more open communication between the two agencies as many of the agencies funded by DVP are also funded through VOCA.

Please discuss the major issues in your state that either assist or prevent victims from receiving assistance during the reporting period.

In order to provide the most pertinent information in response to this question, we sent a survey to our subgrantees asking them for input on this question. The survey is optional but many of our subgrantees respond. The information provided is primarily a summary of their responses. When asked to identify some of the components that help victims in receiving assistance in their community, a few of our programs identified that moving services virtually (because of COVID 19 and because some providers were adding virtual services even before the pandemic) has allowed for victims without transportation or childcare to receive assistance, including therapy and court support. While access to these virtual services requires the survivor to have the necessary technology and internet connection available to them, it does address the issue of transportation that many of our rural programs

face and many agencies have successfully implemented virtual services. Most of the programs that have implemented virtual therapy services felt that victims have made the transition to this service model without many problems. However, there were some programs that said virtual group sessions and therapy are not as effective due to lack of participation or difficulty creating a safe, comfortable environment for participants. We also saw a theme of VOCA-funded programs citing community outreach, information sharing of services, and strong collaboration with other agencies as reasons that assist victims in receiving supports and services. While crime victims have not always been able to receive in-person services in 2020, the importance of victim service agencies communicating and advertising their services via local news outlets and partner agencies has proven to be crucial in reaching victims. From a state perspective, increased funding for specialized services like legal services and specialized advocates, e.g. bilingual staff, has helped to assist victims in receiving services. In regard to issues that prevent victims from receiving assistance, the vast majority of responses were in some way related to how the COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges for agencies to provide services. One particular subgrantee shared the challenges they have faced in aiding victims of identity theft during the pandemic. For this victim service provider, they have struggled to get criminal histories completed as many law enforcement agencies are not doing fingerprinting due to COVID-19 health restrictions. This prevents the provider from clearing the victim's criminal history and they are often unable to provide the victim with a clean criminal history when they have done nothing wrong, but are the victims of ID Theft. This impacts the crime victim's ability to obtain or retain employment, ability to purchase a firearm, renew a driver's license or travel safely and without fear of being arrested on someone else's warrants. While the service provider has created some work arounds, and offers victims as much support as possible; when victims of identity theft cannot get fingerprints, or can only obtain them by going to a jail for assistance, that places a burden on the victim that is unfair and revictimizes them. As in previous years, programs also said that lack of public transportation, weather, and large distances between communities prevents some victims from receiving assistance or leaving dangerous living situations. In addition, lack of affordable housing, even in some of our rural areas, has hindered victims from being able to receive services or leave dangerous situations. Finally, an issue that has hindered victims from receiving services is the issue of racism and law enforcement. There is a growing distrust of law enforcement that has created a difficult environment for some victims to feel safe enough to report a crime. Overall, our subgrantees overwhelmingly provided more reasons that prevent victims from receiving services, than reasons that aid victims in receiving services. While 2020 has been a difficult year for our victim services providers, it has exposed areas in which the victim services field needs to be strengthened.

Please describe ways that your agency promoted the coordination of public and private efforts within the community to help crime victims during the reporting period.

Addressing the emergency fund, civil legal services and housing needs of crime victims continues to be a priority for our office. In response to these needs, we established three special projects when we received an increase in VOCA funds in 2015. The Emergency Fund continues to be funded through VOCA and was established to increase the accessibility of emergency funds to crime victims throughout the state. Funds are distributed through the Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance to assist victims of crime, primarily with housing and relocation costs. A committee of stakeholders, which includes representation from our office, continues to meet to ensure the project is being implemented effectively and efficiently. Civil Legal Services: Since the increase in VOCA funding, our office has increased the number of projects providing civil legal services to crime victims. Currently some form of civil legal service is available in each of our twenty-two judicial districts. Our most recent civil legal services project is a fellowship project that places recent law school graduates in nonprofit agencies to assist crime victims, particularly in rural areas. Housing: this project was established to address the long term needs of crime victims by supporting new methods of housing (housing first model) assistance for victims of crime. Housing assistance has been incorporated into many of our subgrantees projects; however, many of them have expressed concerns about the high cost of housing throughout the state. All three of these special projects included coordination of public and private efforts through the establishment of steering committees that included systems-based and community programs that determined priorities for addressing the issues and for awarding the subgrants. As these special projects have been incorporated into our subgrantees regular projects, the committees (other than the emergency funds group) have stopped meeting. However, we will likely use this collaborative model for future endeavors.

Please describe any notable activities at the grantee level during the reporting period that improved delivery of victim services.

As has been mentioned in a previous section, the Office for Victims Programs administers the federal VOCA Assistance grant (VOCA), the federal Violence Against Women Act grant (VAWA), the federal Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) grant, a state Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement grant (state VALE) and the federal VOCA Victim Compensation grant (VC). Coordination between these programs and with our Human Trafficking and Victims Rights programs happen on a daily basis, which helps with the delivery of victim services. In addition to this coordination, one notable activity that improved the delivery of victim services this year was our office allowing subgrantees to make budget modifications when needed so that the necessary supplies and equipment could be purchased that would allow agency staff to work at home and continue to assist victims during the pandemic. At the state level, we also approved a blanket match waiver for VOCA subgrantees for the July – December 2020 portion of the current subgrant period and for the calendar year 2021-2022 subgrant award period. Not having to provide match will allow our subgrantees to use limited funds to maintain services, particularly when local and state funding sources are drying

up.

Please discuss each priority (i.e., child abuse, domestic assault, sexual assault, and underserved) in which VOCA funds have been used to assist crime victims during the reporting period

The Office for Victims Programs allocates the required 10% to serve victims of domestic violence, 10% to serve victims of child abuse, 10% to serve victims of sexual assault, and 10% to underserved victims. While the COVID-19 pandemic has forced all our victim services programs to adapt and adjust how they deliver programming, they continued to provide a variety of vital services to victims of crime during the past year. In order to gather more helpful information to answer this question, our office sends out a short questionnaire each year to VOCA-funded programs. Below is a summary of the responses we received: Services to victims of child abuse may have looked different this year, yet many service providers noted they saw an increase in cases in their area of Colorado. A number of those were CASA programs, which utilized volunteer advocates to investigate the needs and best interests for children involved in dependency and neglect cases, connect victims to services and resources, accompany them to court, and report information to the courts regarding the needs and wellbeing of the child abuse victims. Whether housed within a nonprofit or a systems agency, many VOCA-funded programs felt they were able to provide the same level of support to child abuse victims during the pandemic, however most were forced to establish creative solutions to address the restrictions placed on them. One agency worked with a child abuse case involving a 17-year-old taken in by a family that happened to know her situation and took her in so she could graduate high school with the classmates she has known all her life. With community support, the agency helped the family with rent, food, and even got a car donated for the child. Advocates assisted with helping the victim with compensation, resources, safety plans, court procedures and making sure the family knew what the next steps were going to be. Advocates responded right from the beginning when the child went to the hospital and continued to stay in contact with the family to make sure the child transitions into her new surroundings. Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault also continued to receive services throughout the grant period, despite the aforementioned challenges. For example, assistance with protection order paperwork, court hearing preparation and accompaniment, crisis intervention and planning, emergency and long-term shelter, therapy, financial assistance, and employment assistance were some of the services provided to victims of these crimes. It's worth noting that many safehouses and shelters serving survivors of domestic violence had limited capacity to comply with COVID-19 health precautions and therefore had to turn away more victims than usual. Even with these issues, there are also success stories worth sharing. Here is one story from a domestic violence service provider: Taylor* and her kids came to [our shelter] after she had an altercation with her boyfriend. Taylor didn't want her children to continue in the cycle of violence (studies show that girls who are exposed to domestic violence are 6 times more likely enter into abusive relationships; boys who grow up in homes with domestic violence are 10 times more likely become abusers themselves). Taylor shared that she had stayed at [our shelter] in the past when she was in a different violent relationship. As a result of the support and information she received during her previous stay, she was able to recognize the red flags and knew that she had a safe place to stay should she decide to leave. Taylor was receiving unemployment [benefits] when she arrived; however, within two days of intake at the shelter, she began a new job. Her main goal was to save for an apartment. With supportive services from [our shelter], Taylor found a landlord who was willing to work with her damaged credit. Additionally, Taylor received financial assistance from [our agency] amounting to her first month's rent to set her up for success. Within two weeks of leaving her abuser, Taylor and her kids were safe and settled into their new home. A major hurdle for survivors in securing permanent housing is finding landlords who are willing to work with people in poor economic standing. The landlord Taylor worked with had never heard of our program before, but after learning about our services and coordinating with us to pay for her first month's rent, he told us that he would love to work with our clients going forward. To this end, he said he would overlook background checks, evictions and credit scores for survivors who had stayed at our safehouse, and would contact us anytime that he had a new listing, giving our clients access before it was publicly listed. Lastly, VOCA-funded programs continue to create and implement specialized services to reach underserved victims where they are at, whether that be through hiring more bilingual staff, offering legal clinics within the community, or build

Please briefly describe efforts taken to serve Victims of Federal crime during the reporting period.

No specific efforts were undertaken; however, it is the expectation of the Office for Victims Programs at the Division of Criminal Justice that subgrantees serve victims of federal crimes in the same manner in which they would provide services to other victims. For the most recent federal fiscal year, one agency mentioned working a case that got picked up by the U.S. Marshal's office in Houston. The agency provided a forensic interview for the case, but no other services were provided.

Please identify any emerging issues or notable trends affecting crime victim services in your state during the reporting period.

An issue we have heard about from our local agencies/coalitions is the issue of racism and the growing distrust of law enforcement. This situation has created a difficult environment for some victims to feel safe to report a crime. The issue has also fractured relationships between some nonprofit agencies and law enforcement because the nonprofits might have publicly supported law enforcement reforms. A few programs mentioned an increase in child abuse and domestic violence cases over the past year in their service area. The most likely causes for this increase in cases has been issues related to the pandemic, school closures, limited childcare options, isolation, and unemployment, which forced many to stay in unsafe living situations. The feeling of isolation that crime victims face seems to be exacerbated by extended stay at home orders as well. In turn this increases the need for therapy and counseling, which one program cited as creating overloaded caseloads for their counselors and a greater demand for therapy. Another trend affecting crime victims, which is also a result of the pandemic, is that the Department of Corrections and local jails began releasing offenders who were incarcerated, but deemed at high risk for contracting COVID-19. Often, survivors were too late in attempting to block the release of these offenders who pose significant safety issues to victims. Closure of in-person court activities for many months has created a significant backlog, long wait times, dismissal of non-DV cases, and overall leaves victims feeling without justice. An issue related to the closure of our courts is a reduction in funding for our victim service programs. State and local funds for victim service programs are limited in Colorado and based on the collection of fees and fines from convicted offenders. With the courts closed or running limited dockets, fewer cases are being prosecuted and the reduction of funds is noticeable. Diverting offenders out of the criminal justice system into diversion programs is also impacting this reduction as our statute does not have a mechanism to collect surcharges in these situations. We are to the point that we think we will be unable to fund one full year of our two-year state grants in the 2021-2022 time period (funded through these same fees and fines). All of this, combined with the likely reduction in VOCA funds, appears to be a perfect storm that is going to have a significant impact on our programs abilities to provide services to crime victims. We are very concerned about the future of victim services over the next few years.

Please briefly outline any staffing retention issues that your victim assistance program has and why these issues may occur during the reporting period.

The majority of staff employed at the Office for Victims Programs have been employed with the office for multiple years. With the influx of VOCA Assistance funds, we have expanded our staff and our grants team is stable. During the October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020 grant period we hired a financial grant manager to replace the person who resigned during the previous grant period.

Please explain your state process to publicize its victim assistance funding for services to victims of crime during the reporting period.

Colorado's process for publicizing its victim assistance funding process is primarily to conduct a mass email campaign in which we send a link to our announcement of available funds and application materials to existing subgrantees and to everyone on our newsletter/email list. We ask everyone who receives our materials to forward them to interested parties. We also post our announcement and application materials on our state website and in our office newsletter. Once all of our materials are released, we also conduct regional application workshops to discuss our application and the various funding sources in more detail with local agencies and potential applicants. Regional grant application workshops were conducted in calendar year 2020, which was a funding year for us.

Please explain how your state is able to direct funding to new/underserved populations during the reporting period.

Colorado conducts its funding process every two years. Our process continues to be broad so we receive applications from many different types of agencies, including new agencies and those serving underserved populations. In addition, our application asks applicants to include information about the underserved populations (if any) they serve through their VOCA-funded project. This provides the board with information that is helpful in identifying those applicants that serve underserved populations they may want to fund.

Please explain how your program is able to respond to gaps in services during the reporting period.

Colorado has historically kept our application process as broad as possible so that we fund a wide-variety of programs serving a wide-variety of victims across the state. In our most recent needs assessment conducted in 2015, and in the questions we continue to ask each quarter in the narrative report, the responses confirm what we have heard for a number of years: that there is still a need for civil legal services, housing and money for the emergency needs of victims. In addition to the needs assessment and the quarterly reports, we ask our subgrantees to respond to questions about victim needs on an annual basis. Through their responses we learn more about what gaps in services they are seeing in their communities and this helps us in our planning discussions. During the most recent year, we have heard from many agencies they are concerned that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many victims are not able to easily access services. Victims who would normally be in school and observed by mandated reporters are no longer attending school in person, so the concern is that they are being abused and no one is aware of the situation. Likewise, many victims of domestic violence are stuck at home with their perpetrators unable to escape their situations. Service providers are brainstorming ways to respond to these gaps in services.

Please list and explain any outcome measure(s) that are reported to the governor, legislature, or other state entity during the reporting period.

Currently, the only information that is shared with the governor and/or legislature regarding VOCA is the list of VOCA awards that are made every 2 years.