

CT 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-0020	2018-V2-GX-0054	2019-V2-GX-0031	2020-V2-GX-0023
Federal Award Amount	\$20,404,499.00	\$36,452,243.00	\$24,540,595.00	\$18,131,939.00
Total Amount of Subawards	\$19,770,044.00	\$34,785,094.00	\$3,508,824.00	\$0.00
Total Number of Subawards	24	67	3	0
Administrative Funds Amount	\$634,455.00	\$154,989.00	\$509,919.00	\$0.00
Training Funds Amount	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance Remaining	\$0.00	\$1,512,160.00	\$20,521,852.00	\$18,131,939.00

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-0020	2018-V2-GX-0054	2019-V2-GX-0031	2020-V2-GX-0023
Government Agencies Only	2	3	0	0
Corrections	0	0	0	0
Courts	2	1	0	0
Juvenile Justice	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	0	0	0	0
Prosecutor	0	0	0	0
Other	0	2	0	0
Nonprofit Organization Only	22	64	3	0
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	0	0	0	0
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	1	0	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	3	7	1	0
Faith-based Organization	2	4	1	0
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	0	0	0	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	3	5	0	0

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Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	0	1	0	0
Multiservice agency	12	46	1	0
Other	1	1	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	0	0	0	0
Campus-based victims services	0	0	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	24	67	3	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-0020	2018-V2-GX-0054	2019-V2-GX-0031	2020-V2-GX-0023
A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	21	53	3	0

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B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	0	0	0	0
C. Start up a new victim services project	3	15	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-0020	2018-V2-GX-0054	2019-V2-GX-0031	2020-V2-GX-0023
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	24	67	3	0
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	23	61	3	0
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	24	65	3	0
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	10	23	1	0
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	19	50	2	0
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	24	67	3	0

Priority and Underserved Requirements

Priority Area	2017-VA-GX-0020	2018-V2-GX-0054	2019-V2-GX-0031	2020-V2-GX-0023
Child Abuse				
Total Amount	\$3,379,960.00	\$9,206,929.00	\$347,786.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	17.00 %	25.00 %	1.00 %	
Domestic and Family Violence				
Total Amount	\$9,732,350.00	\$13,316,759.00	\$2,468,285.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	48.00 %	37.00 %	10.00 %	
Sexual Assault				
Total Amount	\$2,145,642.00	\$4,162,260.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	11.00 %	11.00 %	0.00 %	
Underserved				
Total Amount	\$4,512,092.00	\$8,099,146.00	\$692,753.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	22.00 %	22.00 %	3.00 %	

Budget and Staffing

Staffing Information	2017-VA-GX-0020	2018-V2-GX-0054	2019-V2-GX-0031	2020-V2-GX-0023
Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	1074	1682	224	

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Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	625917	968660	99777	
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	146	217	41	
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	65431	104266	13378	

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)	30	1142	1114	996	1357	1152
Adult Sexual Assault	35	1301	1422	1097	1287	1276
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	38	537	591	825	691	661
Arson	10	18	18	13	16	16
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	30	584	580	537	536	559
Burglary	10	91	90	57	67	76
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	53	650	739	582	580	637
Child Pornography	14	60	59	45	42	51
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	58	2080	2336	1370	1934	1930
Domestic and/or Family Violence	69	16558	18049	16913	25024	19136
DUI/DWI Incidents	11	325	160	115	119	179
Elder Abuse or Neglect	21	80	79	43	63	66
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	11	29	26	23	26	26
Human Trafficking: Labor	4	7	11	9	5	8
Human Trafficking: Sex	29	122	133	122	134	127
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	13	90	96	73	56	78
Kidnapping (non-custodial)	7	30	40	23	27	30
Kidnapping (custodial)	11	17	20	19	26	20

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Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	10	258	249	135	132	193
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	15	69	59	54	61	60
Robbery	16	86	84	53	78	75
Stalking/Harassment	33	576	574	491	912	638
Survivors of Homicide Victims	35	361	330	256	299	311
Teen Dating Victimization	24	64	95	75	95	82
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	4	5	4	3	6	4
Other	10	92	89	70	95	86

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	51	51	42	55	233
Homeless	914	1088	1181	2600	7054
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	676	598	447	623	4601
LGBTQ	182	255	201	335	1931
Veterans	44	37	16	30	193
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/Physical /Mental	811	1040	972	1080	6727
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	1180	1455	1465	2063	8670
Other	0	0	0	0	89

General Award Information

Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	95172	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	77	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	58157	61.11 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	8798	9.24 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	5788	

Demographics

Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	149	0.26 %
Asian	644	1.11 %
Black or African American	10109	17.38 %

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Hispanic or Latino	13523	23.25 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	115	0.20 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	20017	34.42 %
Some Other Race	981	1.69 %
Multiple Races	1004	1.73 %
Not Reported	11615	19.97 %
Not Tracked	0	0.00 %
Race/Ethnicity Total	58157	
Gender Identity		
Male	12088	20.79 %
Female	44946	77.28 %
Other	98	0.17 %
Not Reported	1025	1.76 %
Not Tracked	0	0.00 %
Gender Total	58157	
Age		
Age 0- 12	3005	5.17 %
Age 13- 17	2367	4.07 %
Age 18- 24	7947	13.66 %
Age 25- 59	35423	60.91 %
Age 60 and Older	4102	7.05 %
Not Reported	5313	9.14 %
Not Tracked	0	0.00 %
Age Total	58157	

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	44	61373	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	67759
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	85025
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	26896

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			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	24580
B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	42	29551	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	509
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	1381
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	14456
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	17020
			B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	842
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	3182
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	15349
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	11497
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	4057
			B10. Interpreter services	2978
C. Emotional Support or Safety Services	44	76624	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	121867
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	57703
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	170
			C4. Individual counseling	112871
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	5428
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	6631
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	1628
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	17	972	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	4773
			D2. Transitional housing	150

			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	1612
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	35	50778	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	54018
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	2453
			E3. Assistance with restitution	656
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	15803
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	5510
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	5389
			E7. Immigration assistance	3197
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	14977
			E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	369
			E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	33613
E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	4260			

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	0
No	1
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.	
There were no program or education materials developed during the reporting period using VOCA administrative funds.	

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

There were no planning or training events held during the reporting period using VOCA Administrative funds. Trainings offered to staff of VOCA-funded contractors were conducted by OVS staff, or other individuals, at no cost to the grant.

Describe any program policies changed during the reporting period.

There were no changes to program policies during the reporting period.

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

OVS ran public service announcements about victim services during the second quarter of this reporting period. The announcements aired in English and in Spanish on radio stations throughout Connecticut. PSAs for the fourth quarter of the reporting period were not disseminated as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Examples of earned media coverage at the contractor/subcontractor level are as follows: The Center for Family Justice reported the following: The Center hosted a series of DV vigils at various locations within its catchment area as part of Domestic Violence Awareness/Action month. These events earned extensive media coverage in multiple local newspapers as well as News 12 and radio. Several newspapers in Fairfield County reported on The Center's second annual Speaking with Men Event. This event focuses on the important role men and boys can play in the efforts to end gender-based violence. During COVID-19 pandemic, CT news and radio broadcasting mentioned that all DV agencies were still open and serving the community. The state hotline number was provided. The CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence reported that its' work with the victims of abuse by institutions, particularly the Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests (SNAP) was highlighted in northeastern CT and on social media. Hartford Interval House reported the following: The Hope Beyond Fear program was featured in a podcast conducted by Identidad Latina, a popular Spanish multimedia agency, to promote the project and explain services. Two hosts interviewed the Community Liaison/Outreach Coordinator and the Advocacy Program Director about domestic violence in relation to immigration and program services. Identidad Latina will be making domestic violence a regular topic of future podcasts. Human Services Council reported the following: The VOCA program was featured in an article in several local media outlets due to its continued services during the COVID-19 pandemic. The article featured the reality of quarantine for young children who may not be safe at home while in lockdown without access to safe adults to talk to if they are being harmed. St. Francis Hospital reported the following media coverage: Project HOPE Community Advocates and victims of crime were guests on Windsor Public Access TV. They shared information about Project HOPE and all of the services of the Family Advocacy Center. The speakers represented people with disabilities, Jamaican and Muslim women, immigrants, and transgender women of color. YWCA of Hartford reported the following media coverage: Print and media outlets covered the Hartford Communities that Care forum to draw attention to the importance of supporting violent crime victims via Public Health, Violence Interrupter, and Hospital Based Violence Intervention approaches. Wharton Alumni healthcare article: Winter 2020 Volume 9. This article spoke to the proactive approach that Hartford Communities that Care has taken both to connect with victims affected by violence, and to help hospitals and insurance agencies save on medical costs by reducing recidivism.

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

OVS court based victim services advocates work closely with OVS Compensation staff to obtain crime information, when necessary, from the State's Attorney's office and court proceedings dates for victim compensation claims. The court based advocates also coordinate services and assistance to crime victims in court with advocates who work for VOCA funded contractors: Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Assault; Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Mothers Against Drunk Driving; and Survivors of Homicide. OVS advocates also work closely with the Department of Correction Victim Services Unit to provide timely inmate status notification to individuals who are registered for victim notification. Examples of efforts at the subcontractor level for coordinated responses/services are as follows: Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services reported the following: The New Haven Adult Advocate worked in collaboration with People's United Bank in order to provide victims with financial literacy counseling and resources. The Women and Family Center reported the following: The agency has a formal MOU with Hope Family Justice Center which includes a process for cross-referrals. The Bilingual Bicultural Child Advocate currently holds office hours at the center and has been able to foster relationships with the NHPD, New Haven Legal Assistance, and the Umbrella Center. Clifford Beers Clinic reported the following: The project advocates continue to provide advocacy services to victims receiving forensic interviews at the Yale Child Sexual Abuse Clinic. The project administrator for the NH MDT and South Central Child Advocacy Center continue to collaborate with the Clinic staff to ensure coverage and coordinated responses. After the forensic interview, advocates meet with the forensic team in order to discuss findings, needs of the family, and develop a plan. Advocates also facilitate referrals to mental health/trauma services and will assist the family with engaging in services. Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) reported the following: The agency has partnered with the Connecticut Department of Housing to administer a new federal grant aimed at diverting homelessness specifically around domestic violence and human trafficking survivors. Eligible survivors who have children will be assisted with rent and security deposits. A DV advocate or Human Trafficking advocate will provide case management that includes trauma-informed, victim-centered approaches to rebuild self-esteem, develop essential life skills, and establish financial independence. Klineberg Family Centers (CATS) reported the following: The project continues to collaborate and holds an MOU with the

Women and Families Center, a multi-faceted human service agency serving homeless and street youth victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, sexual exploitation, and trafficking in Meriden and Middlesex County. CATS will accept referrals to assess clinical needs and appropriateness to provide mental health services. Referrals for pregnant and parenting teens are accepted to assess and determine appropriateness for providing the Circle of Security Parenting, an evidenced based early intervention program. Yale University reported the following: As part of the CAC, the Clinic provides forensic interviews, forensic medical exams, and the family advocacy for the children and families from the NH MDT, Ansonia/Milford MDTs. The Clinic works closely with Love146, a VOCA funded agency, to provide a rapid response to victims at risk of trafficking. Our clinic staff works collaborative with this agency to ensure these victims are connecting to a service that is addressing their specific needs. Three Satellite Child Sexual Abuse Clinics are located in the Primary Care Center of Bridgeport Hospital, Greenwich Specialty Clinic, and the Pequot Emergency Department. The purpose of the Satellite Clinics is to provide forensic medical exams for suspected victims of child sexual abuse in the Bridgeport, Stamford, Norwalk, and New London regions so that these children do not have to travel to the main clinic in New Haven. These clinics are a collaborative effort of the Yale Sexual Abuse Clinic, the identified medical facility, and their local MDT.

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

A major issue impacting the ability of victims to receive assistance during the reporting period is the ongoing state budget crisis. Many state social service agencies are operating on fixed or reduced appropriations impacting the amount of funding that is available to nonprofit service providers throughout the state. These agencies provided needed services to victims of crime (access to affordable housing, access to legal aid, access to free medical care, access to counseling services, low-cost child care, access to public transportation, etc.). The loss of these services has resulted in fewer options for victims seeking assistance, outside of the VOCA-funded services, as well as increased wait times for services that are still being provided. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Connecticut Judicial Branch implemented social distancing protocols as a strategic effort to minimize possible exposure to COVID-19. These protocols included reducing staffing levels, closing certain courthouses, and reducing the hours of operation at the open courthouses and administrative offices. Throughout the partial shutdown, OVS continued to offer services and assistance to crime victims and their families, either remotely, via our central office hotline, or by transferring court based victim advocates to the courts that remained open for business. OVS contractors/subcontractors reported the following issues impacting victims due to the COVID-19 pandemic: -Victims were confined in their homes with their abusers and children due to state stay-at-home orders. Many victims have limited access to resources because they are being controlled or closely monitored by a partner. Clients had difficulty reaching out to get help since they could not find a safe place at home to call service providers. -With schools closed, there is significant concern that children in abusive situations are unable to report the abuse as school personnel are among the highest reporters of abuse. Additionally, children are accessing the internet without parental knowledge or safety controls in place. With so many children using devices during distance learning, parents were unaware of the dangers of what their children were doing online. Additionally, the isolation caused by the quarantine led children into trusting relationships with strangers online who were there to provide malicious support. -Agencies had to quickly adapt to a work from home environment. In-person sessions, meetings, and outreach were suspended as the community providers moved to remote services to continue servicing clients. -Criminal courts in CT were closed in March due to the pandemic. This had an impact on victims whose offenders had criminal cases which were put on hold. Most police departments halted in-person interviews resulting in criminal investigations being put on hold until further notice. The limited function of the courts and the police department had an impact on the mental health and safety of clients. DV victims were already fearful of their abusers, and now they had other issues such as unemployment, lack of health insurance, and being quarantined with their partner, unable to reach out for help. -Loss of income due to the pandemic has caused an increase in the needs of clients for food, clothing, toiletries, rental assistance, security deposits, other housing advocacy needs, and help finding employment. -During this time, privacy became an issue, as clients were sometimes unable to share trauma in detail with limited privacy when holding sessions over Telehealth. -While clients took advantage of the opportunity to connect with the licensed clinicians via Telehealth, many still prefer human contact that only an in-person clinical session can offer. -Lack of access to technology affects virtual individual and group session attendance. -The pandemic further exacerbated income inequalities and technological access issues for many survivors. -Sexual assault victims who feared contracting COVID-19 in hospitals did not seek treatment and forensic kits after sexual assaults. Hospital staff did not reach out to advocates as they were too busy providing medical treatment to victims to make a call. -The pandemic has had a significant impact on the financial footing of organizations, due to the loss of income from fundraising events that were cancelled or moved from in-person to online.

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.

As the state's lead agency dedicated to providing services to victims of violent crime, OVS is charged with the responsibility to provide supportive services, financial assistance, and information to crime victims. As the needs of crime victims are continually changing, OVS prioritizes a close working relationship with its community partners to identify what those needs are and how best to meet them. Listed below are a few examples of ongoing and new collaborative efforts that OVS engaged in during the report period to enhance services to crime victims in Connecticut: OVS provided staff services to the Advisory Council for Victims of Crime, which represents victims of various crimes, including, but not limited to: homicide, family violence, sexual assault, and drunk driving. The Council also included representatives of Connecticut's Judicial Branch and Executive Branch agencies, with members representing low income communities and victims of human trafficking. The council recommends initiatives that would improve services to crime victims and develops needs assessments for both court-based and community-based victim services. The Director of OVS is a member of the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission, Victim Issues Sub-Committee. This collaborative, multi-agency sub-committee looks at state laws and services for victims of crime. The Director of OVS is a member of the Trafficking in Persons Council. The council is tasked with determining what services are available to victims of trafficking in persons and how to best coordinate a response. The council includes law enforcement officials, leaders of state agencies, and community-based advocates and providers of services to victims. The Director of OVS is a member of the Commission on the Standardization of the Collection of Evidence in Sexual Assault Investigations. The Commission is tasked with reviewing and revising the Technical Guidelines for Health Care Response to Victims of Sexual Assault, making recommendations to the Chief State's Attorney and annually reviewing the design of the sexual assault evidence collection kit. The Director of OVS is a member of the Governor's Sexual Assault Kit Working Group. The Working Group focuses on examining and limiting barriers for submitting sexual assault evidence to the CT Forensic Science Laboratory and the tracking of all sexual assault evidence kits. The Director of OVS is the chair of the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFE) Advisory Committee. The Committee recommends to OVS on: 1) the certification process for individuals qualified to participate as sexual assault forensic examiners; 2) continuing education requirements for the maintenance and renewal of such certification; 3) development of quality assurance standards; and 4) such other related recommendations as determined by the committee. The Director of OVS is a member of the Connecticut Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee. The mission of the Committee is to prevent future deaths by conducting multidisciplinary systematic examinations of violent intimate partner fatalities and near fatalities. The Director of OVS is a member of the Domestic Violence Investigative Toolkit Task Force. The role of the Task Force was to develop a toolkit which encompassed the combined experience of the task force members and best investigative techniques and practices specific to CT. An OVS Victim Services Supervisor is a member of the Governor's Task Force on Justice for Abused Children. This group oversees the need for greater coordination of Multidisciplinary team (MDT) agencies involved in the investigation, intervention and prosecution of child sexual abuse and serious physical abuse cases, as well as working to reduce the trauma of any child victim and to ensure the protection and treatment of the child. The Deputy Director of OVS is a member of the Connecticut Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision State Council. The Council is charged with overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision, a formal agreement between member states that seek to promote public safety by systematically controlling the interstate movement of certain adult offenders. The Deputy Director of OVS is a member of the Connecticut Interstate Compact for Juveniles and Adults State Council. The Councils advise and exercise oversight and advocacy concerning the state's participation in Interstate Commission activities. The Councils also develop policy concerning operations and procedures of the compact within the state. The Deputy Director of OVS is a member of an advisory committee comprised of elected VINE Program Managers to increase the working relationship between Appriss operations involved in the delivery of VINE services and those who implement the services in the states.

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

OVS's Training and Outreach Unit continued to provide training to VOCA victim assistance providers and other service providers that work with crime victims through onsite trainings, the OVS training series for VOCA subcontractors, or training conferences. Due to the temporary reduction in services during the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person training activities were curtailed and were replaced by online trainings. OVS provided trainings on the following topics during the report period: -Connecticut Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification -Court 101 -Court Orders of Protection -Crime Victim Compensation Program -Crime Victims Rights in Connecticut During the report period, OVS released a new publication titled the Crime Victims Guide to the Adult Criminal Court to assist crime victims in navigating the criminal justice system.

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

VOCA Victim Assistance funds are awarded to service providers based upon the four priority categories of victimization. VOCA funded contractors provide services to victims of child abuse, domestic violence, adult sexual assault, and underserved categories including assault, DUI/DWI victims, adults abused as children, elder abuse, human trafficking, mass casualty victims, stalking victims, and survivors of homicide. Examples of services provided at the subcontractor level during the report period are as follows: - A VOCA-funded domestic violence program met with Full Circle Farm, a therapeutic horse farm for rescued horses and animals, to discuss areas where they could assist survivors of violence. The farm invited the residents of the safe house to visit the farm and work with the animals. The program reached out to Hispanic Coalition of Greater Waterbury to see if it could use their bus, and they volunteered to drive residents to the farm for no cost. The residents toured the farm, talking to the owner about the horses, children petted, brushed, and fed horses. Many residents thanked the farm staff and the program advocates for the trip. Several moms stated that the farm had made them forget about the chaos going on in their everyday life. It was noted that a child resident who is typically overactive, was calm during the visit to the farm, as he was enamored with the horses (even brushing them), causing his mother to tear up as this was the calmest she has ever seen him. The farm would like to provide the program with two field trips a year. - A 14-year old Hispanic female was referred to the VOCA funded Child Advocacy Center for a forensic interview after the child disclosed to her mother that she had been sexually abused by a person she met on line. During the forensic interview, the child disclosed how the man had contacted her through social media and asked to come see her. The child disclosed that when he arrived, he sexually assaulted her. The alleged perpetrator was arrested that evening. A forensic interview was scheduled for the child at the Child Advocacy Center. During the interview, the victim advocate met with the mother to offer support. Mother disclosed that the family had a prior trauma history and that she was struggling as a single parent. The advocate assessed the family's immediate needs and connected mom to resources in the community to assist her with getting food. The mom was also referred to another program to address her daughter's mental health. The advocate assisted mom in completing an application for victim compensation, which was approved by OVS. The child is engaged in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy with one of the agency's therapists and is addressing the trauma caused by the sexual assault. -The community justice advocate worked with a client who had been sexually harassed and intimidated by an employer who retaliated against her refusal of his advances by refusing to pay her. Client was struggling financially and was afraid that her employer would become physically violent or ruin her reputation with community partners if she attempted to sue for payment. Client became depressed and isolated, unable to pay her bills and look for work. She was 3 months behind in rent and on the verge of being evicted. The advocate was able to get funding approved to help client catch up with rent to avoid eviction. This allowed client some emotional and financial relief. Knowing that people did care and were willing and able to offer assistance, made it possible for her to look for a new job. - Marie is a client in the Elder Abuse Management program. She was being taken advantage of by two adults living in her apartment who were using drugs, eating her food, not helping with expenses, and jeopardizing Marie's housing status due to numerous complaints by other tenants and police involvement. Marie was being verbally abused by the tenants, and with the lack of family help, she was afraid of being evicted. With the support from the Case Manager, Marie was able to follow through on filing court documents, having state marshals serve the tenants to get them out. With no more stress and verbal abuse, Marie is now happy and enjoys visits from her family.

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

OVS is committed to working with its federal victim assistance partners to ensure that federal crime victims receive victim services. OVS provides the U.S. Attorney's Victim/Witness Coordinator, upon request, compensation forms, informational material about OVS victim services and referrals to participating agencies for victim assistance services (i.e. counseling, support groups, shelter services, etc.). In addition to OVS collaboration with Connecticut's federal crime victims assistance personnel, OVS and its contractors/subcontractors have taken the following initiatives: OVS maintains a contract with the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence to provide emergency shelter to victims of human trafficking through its coalition of 15 domestic violence service providers. These services are available as a referral source to both federal and state law enforcement officials. Examples of services provided to federal crime victims at the contractor/subcontractor level during the report period are as follows: The Center for Family Justice continues to collaborate closely with the CT. Institute for Refugees and Immigrants (CIRI) to provide safe housing and healing services for survivors of trafficking. The Center also partners with CIRI's Survivors of Torture Collaborative on a grant which has allowed CIRI staff to complete the Center's Certification training in order to provide more trauma-informed services to victims of human trafficking. A Victim Rights Center of CT attorney continues to advocate and work with a victim of possession of child pornography in federal court. The case was scheduled for trial in early 2020, then it was postponed until June, and now, it has again been postponed due to the pandemic. The attorney has remained in contact with the victim, the FBI, and US attorney to keep victim, who struggles with the delays in the process, informed and engaged. Rape Crisis Center of Milford advocates have been working closely with the FBI on behalf of a female reporting both sexual abuse and labor trafficking. Meetings with the FBI and the victim have taken place at the Center. The victim was removed from the home where the abusive behavior took place and is now cooperating fully with the FBI. Klingberg Child Advocacy Center collaborated with Homeland Security by providing a child friendly space to conduct forensic interviews for two child victims of domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST). Homeland Security requested use of their own forensic interviewer who specializes in DMST cases. LOVE146 continues to work with a number of victims whose trafficking is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and/or prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO). In these instances, LOVE146's Program Director, and Survivor Care Director, serve as the primary contact for federal government employees. During this

period, two individuals received federal sentences for the trafficking of multiple youth served by LOVE146. The Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services reported that an Assistant US Attorney in federal court was recently appointed as the VAWA coordinator in her office. She reached out to the UCDVS advocates to offer their generous resources to help find offenders who have outstanding warrants and consider federal charges for some of the agency's cases as well. The VOCA Coordinator invited the US Attorney to present at a DV Task Force meeting on the five federal DV Statutes and offer her assistance to both law enforcement and prosecutors with any of UCDVS cases.

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

Emerging issues or notable trends impacting services to crime victims in Connecticut were compiled from the progress reports provided to OVS by each of the contractors/subcontractors that provide VOCA victim assistance throughout the state. Below is a sampling of the major trends/issues shared by both OVS and the recipients of VOCA funds (non-COVID-19 related): -There has been a decreased availability of housing for domestic violence shelters and family shelters. The DV safe homes are often full and are sometimes unable to accommodate victims. Clients have been sheltered at hotels when there are no beds available. -Lack of funding for housing is a barrier for victims who frequently come in for services. Victims may need to leave their residence for safety or they may be evicted, as their abusers, who are the primary breadwinners, will cease financial payments. In most cases, victims need to find a location quickly, which is difficult to do without funds. -There is a notable lack of qualified, licensed, clinical social worker applicants for available positions. More licensed clinicians are becoming independent contractors, seeking private practice in an effort to manage workplace stressors/time. -The criminal justice process is hindered by perpetrators who flee the country. -The Victim Rights Center of CT has noticed a decline in referrals for legal services for undocumented citizens in the area who have been sexually assaulted or are the parent of a child who has been sexually assaulted. In conversation with other community partners, it was surmised that this is due to the undocumented victims fear of being deported as a result of the government's threats to actively deport undocumented residents. -Technology among the adolescent population is often difficult for parents to navigate making it harder for parents to effectively parent their teen who was sexually assaulted. -A positive trend during this period is clients wanting to access wellness services as they want to focus on ways to decrease stress and feel better during the pandemic and current civil unrest. -Clients are having difficulty finding consistent and ongoing mental health services and medication management with a therapist. Clients complain of rapid turnover of therapists in community non-profit organizations resulting in clients having to re-tell their stories numerous times feeling re-traumatization on each occasion. -Low credit scores (below 600) of most clients. This creates a barrier to financial services and assistance, such as micro-loans, debt consolidation, refinancing, housing, etc. Many victims have poor credit due to financial abuse. Many clients have no idea of what goes into credit and how important credit is. DVCC offers credit counseling and workshops to educate clients on the importance of good credit. -The lack of reliable transportation to and from appointments is a central issue facing clients who are finding it difficult to make it to their scheduled services. -More clients seem caught in the cycle of ambivalence about leaving their abuser for both emotional and financial reasons. -Substance abuse remains a problem as a maladaptive coping skill. -The clinic has seen more children identifying as transgender. These children have complex psychological and social situations and are in the midst of re-identifying their gender and understanding hormone treatment. -Many families are struggling to afford the up-front costs of funeral expenses which often delays their ability to bury a loved one who was murdered. -Lack of financial resources made connecting families with relocation housing services in the time of need very challenging. Relocation services are often required due to loss of income, fear of retaliation, or other trauma related factors. -As poor economic conditions continue, the agency anticipates an increase in numbers of evictions, and more crime victims at risk for homelessness. -Many clients that the LatinX Advocates are working with were victims of DV and sexual abuse in their home countries, and are dealing with PTSD. The Advocates notice a feeling of loneliness and believe the clients would benefit from community-building initiatives at the Center. The Spanish-speaking DV support groups will increase its meetings frequency due to client demand.

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

There are no retention issues impacting the Office of Victim Services. The Office is fully staffed. The majority of VOCA Assistance contractors/subcontractors reported no major staffing retention problems. Agencies that did have staffing retention issues reported the following reasons: Difficulty in replacing Spanish-speaking staff, Difficulty in finding experienced therapists to provide trauma-focused therapy, Emotional fatigue working with high-risk clients, Early retirements, Insecurity over future funding issues due to state budget difficulties, Low pay and benefits, Staff leaving due to heavy caseloads, Staff seeking opportunities for advancement.

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

All funding for service provision is awarded through a formal bid process. Notification of a Request for Proposals (RFP) is posted on the Judicial Branch website and through legal ads in newspapers throughout the state. During the report period, there were no RFPs issued by OVS. Services are being provided under multi-year contracts that began on 07/01/2019. On the Judicial Branch/OVS website, there is a list of agencies that currently receive victim assistance funding from OVS. The list provides a brief description of the program, the service area, contact information, and a link to the agency s website.

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

All funding for service provision is awarded through a formal bid process. If it is determined that funding for new/underserved populations or new services is needed, OVS will issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the identified populations and services. The bid solicitation will identify the specific populations or services that will be funded. During the report period, there were no RFPs issued by OVS. Services are being provided under multi-year contracts that began on 07/01/2019 and were discussed in the previous annual performance report. Due to uncertainties in future funding levels, OVS does not anticipate issuing any new bid solicitations during the upcoming report period, and will focus on maintaining services that are currently under contract.

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

All funding for service provision is awarded through a formal bid process. OVS receives feedback from current VOCA-funded service providers on current issues in the victim services and what services are lacking or underfunded. This information is reviewed, and any bids for programs to serve specific populations or provide specific services are determined by OVS. OVS also reviews existing contracts and service populations to ensure that services are being provided to victims in accordance with the minimum requirements for the four priority categories of crime victims as outlined in the VOCA Final Rule. During the report period, there were no RFPs issued by OVS. Services are being provided under multi-year contracts that began on 07/01/2019. Due to uncertainties in future funding levels, OVS will focus on maintaining services for the duration of the current contract cycle.

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

There are no outcome measures separate from the information that is reported each quarter in the OVCPMT system.