

# FL 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-0060  | 2018-V2-GX-0018  | 2019-V2-GX-0047  | 2020-V2-GX-0052  |
| <b>Federal Award Amount</b>        | \$115,217,117.00 | \$210,755,732.00 | \$143,823,948.00 | \$106,717,018.00 |
| <b>Total Amount of Subawards</b>   | \$112,247,428.00 | \$0.00           | \$0.00           | \$0.00           |
| <b>Total Number of Subawards</b>   | 275              | 0                | 0                | 0                |
| <b>Administrative Funds Amount</b> | \$0.00           | \$0.00           | \$0.00           | \$0.00           |
| <b>Training Funds Amount</b>       | \$0.00           | \$0.00           | \$0.00           | \$0.00           |
| <b>Balance Remaining</b>           | \$2,969,689.00   | \$210,755,732.00 | \$143,823,948.00 | \$106,717,018.00 |

| Subgrantee Organization Type   |                 |                 |                 |                 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 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. |                 |                 |                 |                 |
| Type of Organization   | 2017-VA-GX-0060 | 2018-V2-GX-0018 | 2019-V2-GX-0047 | 2020-V2-GX-0052 |
| <b>Government Agencies Only</b>  | <b>120</b>      | <b>0</b>        | <b>0</b>        | <b>0</b>        |
| Corrections  | 1               | 0               | 0               | 0               |
| Courts   | 3               | 0               | 0               | 0               |
| Juvenile Justice   | 0               | 0               | 0               | 0               |
| Law Enforcement  | 85              | 0               | 0               | 0               |
| Prosecutor   | 19              | 0               | 0               | 0               |
| Other  | 12              | 0               | 0               | 0               |
| <b>Nonprofit Organization Only</b>   | <b>150</b>      | <b>0</b>        | <b>0</b>        | <b>0</b>        |
| Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)   | 30              | 0               | 0               | 0               |
| Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)  | 7               | 0               | 0               | 0               |
| Domestic and Family Violence Organization  | 28              | 0               | 0               | 0               |
| Faith-based Organization   | 0               | 0               | 0               | 0               |
| Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services   | 32              | 0               | 0               | 0               |
| Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)   | 17              | 0               | 0               | 0               |

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|  |            |          |          |          |
|--|------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)                                      | 7          | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| Multiservice agency  | 27         | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| Other  | 2          | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| <b>Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Agencies, and Organizations Only</b>                     | <b>0</b>   | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> |
| 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        |
| <b>Campus Organizations Only</b>   | <b>5</b>   | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> |
| Campus-based victims services  | 2          | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| Law enforcement  | 0          | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| Physical or mental health service program  | 0          | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| Other  | 3          | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| <b>Total Number of Subawards</b>   | <b>275</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> |

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

| <b>Subaward Purpose</b>  |                        |                        |                        |                        |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| A single SAR can select multiple purposes. Numbers are not unique  |                        |                        |                        |                        |
|  | <b>2017-VA-GX-0060</b> | <b>2018-V2-GX-0018</b> | <b>2019-V2-GX-0047</b> | <b>2020-V2-GX-0052</b> |
| A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year | 266                    | 0                      | 0                      | 0                      |

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|  |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| C. Start up a new victim services project  | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| D. Start up a new <b>Native American</b> victim services project                 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| E. Expand or enhance an existing <b>Native American</b> project                  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**VOCA and Match Funds**

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

|   | 2017-VA-GX-0060 | 2018-V2-GX-0018 | 2019-V2-GX-0047 | 2020-V2-GX-0052 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL                    | 270             | 0               | 0               | 0               |
| B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT           | 250             | 0               | 0               | 0               |
| C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES      | 232             | 0               | 0               | 0               |
| D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES                  | 67              | 0               | 0               | 0               |
| E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE  | 253             | 0               | 0               | 0               |
| F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS | 275             | 0               | 0               | 0               |

**Priority and Underserved Requirements**

| Priority Area                       | 2017-VA-GX-0060 | 2018-V2-GX-0018 | 2019-V2-GX-0047 | 2020-V2-GX-0052 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Child Abuse</b>                  |                 |                 |                 |                 |
| Total Amount                        | \$19,288,702.00 | \$0.00          | \$0.00          | \$0.00          |
| % of Total Federal Award            | 17.00 %         |                 |                 |                 |
| <b>Domestic and Family Violence</b> |                 |                 |                 |                 |
| Total Amount                        | \$54,343,142.00 | \$0.00          | \$0.00          | \$0.00          |
| % of Total Federal Award            | 47.00 %         |                 |                 |                 |
| <b>Sexual Assault</b>               |                 |                 |                 |                 |
| Total Amount                        | \$4,895,517.00  | \$0.00          | \$0.00          | \$0.00          |
| % of Total Federal Award            | 4.00 %          |                 |                 |                 |
| <b>Underserved</b>                  |                 |                 |                 |                 |
| Total Amount                        | \$25,582,611.00 | \$0.00          | \$0.00          | \$0.00          |
| % of Total Federal Award            | 22.00 %         |                 |                 |                 |

**Budget and Staffing**

| Staffing Information  | 2017-VA-GX-0060 | 2018-V2-GX-0018 | 2019-V2-GX-0047 | 2020-V2-GX-0052 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services | 2986            |                 |                 |                 |

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|   |         |  |  |  |
|---|---------|--|--|--|
| Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services                   | 6510303 |  |  |  |
| Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services | 5738    |  |  |  |
| Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services       | 712341  |  |  |  |

**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)                      | 150   | 14909  | 14820           | 14064           | 16179           | 14993               |
| Adult Sexual Assault   | 179   | 4764   | 6170            | 4576            | 5830            | 5335                |
| Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children   | 104   | 2599   | 1960            | 2280            | 2458            | 2324                |
| Arson  | 48  | 153  | 183             | 183             | 202             | 180                 |
| Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)   | 82  | 1342   | 1192            | 847             | 2538            | 1479                |
| Burglary   | 119   | 8001   | 9989            | 7785            | 8966            | 8685                |
| Child Physical Abuse or Neglect  | 166   | 9463   | 8822            | 7801            | 9212            | 8824                |
| Child Pornography  | 61  | 370  | 355             | 886             | 265             | 469                 |
| Child Sexual Abuse/Assault   | 177   | 9026   | 9401            | 8267            | 8882            | 8894                |
| Domestic and/or Family Violence  | 237   | 65717  | 63909           | 54671           | 61773           | 61517               |
| DUI/DWI Incidents  | 84  | 2114   | 1512            | 1708            | 1489            | 1705                |
| Elder Abuse or Neglect   | 140   | 2125   | 2253            | 1741            | 2176            | 2073                |
| Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required) | 31  | 87   | 134             | 87              | 167             | 118                 |
| Human Trafficking: Labor   | 39  | 38   | 43              | 35              | 87              | 50                  |
| Human Trafficking: Sex   | 91  | 405  | 530             | 563             | 607             | 526                 |
| Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime   | 120   | 11091  | 7326            | 7298            | 9089            | 8701                |
| Kidnapping (non-custodial)   | 62  | 368  | 366             | 444             | 432             | 402                 |
| Kidnapping (custodial)   | 41  | 160  | 92              | 66              | 60              | 94                  |

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|   |     |        |        |        |        |        |
|---|-----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Mass Violence (Domestic/International)            | 15  | 196    | 220    | 192    | 173    | 195    |
| Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run) | 78  | 2203   | 1660   | 1923   | 1495   | 1820   |
| Robbery   | 133 | 3703   | 4164   | 2985   | 3184   | 3509   |
| Stalking/Harassment                               | 146 | 2898   | 3035   | 2438   | 3167   | 2884   |
| Survivors of Homicide Victims                     | 119 | 3375   | 3237   | 2471   | 3069   | 3038   |
| Teen Dating Victimization                         | 59  | 99     | 168    | 115    | 173    | 138    |
| Terrorism (Domestic/International)                | 7   | 64     | 39     | 22     | 9      | 33     |
| Other   | 38  | 173516 | 216285 | 108463 | 115644 | 153477 |

**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                                  | 237   | 197             | 190             | 176             | 1210                |
| Homeless  | 4737  | 5581            | 3696            | 4115            | 27282               |
| Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers                    | 2842  | 2581            | 2460            | 2723            | 12421               |
| LGBTQ   | 832   | 900             | 711             | 985             | 4926                |
| Veterans  | 707   | 655             | 630             | 613             | 3751                |
| Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/Physical /Mental | 5403  | 5714            | 5020            | 5522            | 34096               |
| Victims with Limited English Proficiency              | 4489  | 4406            | 4227            | 4743            | 22893               |
| Other   | 155163  | 155177          | 92236           | 98800           | 213464              |

**General Award Information**

| Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level  | Number  | Percent |
|---|---------|---------|
| Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.   | 1087954 |         |
| Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year   | 19849   |         |
| Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.                | 601490  | 55.29 % |
| Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year? | 59351   | 5.46 %  |
| Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.                             | 191973  |         |

**Demographics**

| Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served | Number | Percent |
|--|--------|---------|
| <b>Race/Ethnicity</b>                                |        |         |
| American Indian or Alaska Native                     | 1216   | 0.20 %  |
| Asian  | 2513   | 0.42 %  |
| Black or African American                            | 92072  | 15.31 % |

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|   |               |         |
|---|---------------|---------|
| Hispanic or Latino                        | 48745         | 8.10 %  |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | 630           | 0.10 %  |
| White Non-Latino or Caucasian             | 199881        | 33.23 % |
| Some Other Race                           | 4062          | 0.68 %  |
| Multiple Races                            | 8787          | 1.46 %  |
| Not Reported                              | 128339        | 21.34 % |
| Not Tracked                               | 115245        | 19.16 % |
| <b>Race/Ethnicity Total</b>               | <b>601490</b> |         |
| <b>Gender Identity</b>                    |               |         |
| Male                                      | 121210        | 20.15 % |
| Female                                    | 250300        | 41.61 % |
| Other                                     | 243           | 0.04 %  |
| Not Reported                              | 115327        | 19.17 % |
| Not Tracked                               | 114410        | 19.02 % |
| <b>Gender Total</b>                       | <b>601490</b> |         |
| <b>Age</b>                                |               |         |
| Age 0- 12                                 | 30083         | 5.00 %  |
| Age 13- 17                                | 19560         | 3.25 %  |
| Age 18- 24                                | 44600         | 7.41 %  |
| Age 25- 59                                | 206151        | 34.27 % |
| Age 60 and Older                          | 41258         | 6.86 %  |
| Not Reported                              | 42511         | 7.07 %  |
| Not Tracked                               | 217327        | 36.13 % |
| <b>Age Total</b>                          | <b>601490</b> |         |

| 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 | 265  | 623086                                       | Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.  | 0                    |
|                           |  |  | A1. Information about the criminal justice process                     | 327496               |
|                           |  |  | A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc. | 581081               |
|                           |  |  | A3. Referral to other victim service programs                          | 192829               |

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|   |     |        |  |        |
|---|-----|--------|--|--------|
|   |     |        | A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.) | 351424 |
| B. Personal Advocacy/<br>Accompaniment  | 243 | 117662 | Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.  | 0      |
|   |     |        | B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care  | 10368  |
|   |     |        | B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam   | 6910   |
|   |     |        | B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment   | 22691  |
|   |     |        | B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)                                   | 162959 |
|   |     |        | B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection   | 5712   |
|   |     |        | B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)                                       | 3192   |
|   |     |        | B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution  | 14941  |
|   |     |        | B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)   | 14143  |
|   |     |        | B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)  | 15676  |
|   |     |        | B10. Interpreter services  | 9537   |
| C. Emotional Support or Safety Services | 235 | 204939 | Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.  | 0      |
|   |     |        | C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)  | 219359 |
|   |     |        | C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling   | 82776  |
|   |     |        | C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)   | 3624   |
|   |     |        | C4. Individual counseling  | 242012 |
|   |     |        | C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)   | 40434  |
|   |     |        | C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)   | 45884  |
|   |     |        | C7. Emergency financial assistance   | 14752  |
| D. Shelter/ Housing Services            | 103 | 20486  | Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.  | 0      |
|   |     |        | D1. Emergency shelter or safe house  | 131956 |
|   |     |        | D2. Transitional housing   | 13159  |

|  |       |        |   |         |
|--|-------|--------|---|---------|
|  |       |        | D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)  | 11177   |
| E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance | 245   | 837867 | Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.   | 0       |
|  |       |        | E1. Notification of criminal justice events                             | 1269125 |
|  |       |        | E2. Victim impact statement assistance                                  | 34325   |
|  |       |        | E3. Assistance with restitution   | 36418   |
|  |       |        | E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order | 43550   |
|  |       |        | E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues                       | 52068   |
|  |       |        | E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance                          | 16984   |
|  |       |        | E7. Immigration assistance  | 4865    |
|  |       |        | E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment                        | 25951   |
|  |       |        | E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment                    | 11894   |
|  |       |        | E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment                                    | 73415   |
| E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel       | 16677 |        |   |         |

### ANNUAL QUESTIONS

#### Grantee Annually Reported Questions

| Question/Option  | Count |
|--|-------|
| <b>Were any administrative and training funds used during the reporting period?</b>  |       |
| Yes  | 1     |
| No   | 0     |
| <b>Did the administrative funds support any education activities during the reporting period?</b>  |       |
| 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.  | 633   |
| Number of events conducted during the reporting period.  | 20    |
| <b>Did the grant support any coordination activities (e.g., with other service providers, law enforcement agencies) during the reporting period?</b> |       |
| Yes  | 0     |
| No   | 1     |
| <b>Describe any program or educational materials developed during the reporting period.</b>  |       |
| N/A  |       |



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

Example of Training courses Continued during this reporting period are: Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner training Understanding Intimate Partner Violence and the impact on Children Managing Compassion Fatigue Effective Strategies for communicating with victims who are deaf or hard of hearing. Some trainings were done virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions.

**Describe any program policies changed during the reporting period.**

N/A

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

N/A

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

Bureau staff continues to assist victims and families of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida. Through the Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program grant, the OAG contracted with 3 organizations in Broward County to continue services for the community. In this reporting period, three Law Enforcement Line of Duty Deaths occurred, in separate incidents, involving the Florida Highway Patrol, Fish and Wildlife Commission, and Miami Police Department. The Office of the Attorney General (OAG), regional Victim Services Program Specialists (VSPS) immediately reached out to the law enforcement agency affected and offered assistance. They then worked with the chain of command and the victim's family at each respective agency to guide and help with the Emergency Responder Death Benefit funded through the Victim Compensation Program

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

Language barriers continued to be a challenge for many organizations in the South Florida area. In some remote areas of the state, there are few or no local agencies to assist victims who may have difficulty completing forms and filing applications for compensation. The Victim Compensation Relocation benefit was reduced from \$1500 to \$1000 per claim, due to insufficient collections of court ordered assessments, which reduces the availability of safe options for victims of domestic violence, sexual battery, and human trafficking. Affordable housing and transportation continue to be an issue for all crime victims. The COVID global pandemic has also caused many challenges for victim service providers in Florida. Due to restrictions put in place to combat the pandemic, the hours of availability and staffing shortages due to social distancing guidelines or illness themselves, may have impacted providers ability to help victims in person. Some organizations were adept at changing to remote advocacy however not all victims have access to the technology needed. The lack of volunteers also was a detriment to services. The capacity for the number of victims that a shelter can temporarily house was decreased to maintain distancing.

**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.**

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) Victim Services Program Specialists (VSPS) continue to work with local organizations to assist crime victims and their families of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting and other violent crimes. The Victim Services Program Specialists provide trainings on Victim Compensation Programs, Address Confidentiality Program, Cyber Safety, and Advocacy After the Conviction to local law enforcement victim advocates, State Attorneys Offices, hospitals, faith-based organizations, private and public schools, senior centers, and other allied professionals to help identify victims and refer them to services. These trainings used to be in person, however the unit was swiftly able to offer them virtually because of the pandemic. Advocates participate in a wide range of community meetings like Victims Rights Coalitions, Human Trafficking Coalitions, Senior Services, and Fatality Review Teams for Domestic Violence, Elder Abuse, and Child Abuse. Several employees continue to participate in community exercises to prepare for mass disasters and participate on local mass casualty response groups. The Bureau Chief and Division Director serve on Statewide work groups and three employees also participated in meetings, hosted by the FBI, over the course of several months in preparation for the 2020 Super Bowl in Miami. The group focused on readiness for a mass casualty event and the influx of human trafficking in the area.

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

Although the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence ceased to function in the same capacity it previously had been the Office of the Attorney General continued to work with sub-grantees to address the critical need for victims of domestic violence to receive legal representation when filing the ex parte petition and at the final injunction hearing. The project continued to fund full time attorneys at certified domestic violence centers to represent survivors of domestic violence. Even with the challenges with the shift in management, survivors continued to report positive feedback on the assistance they received from the program. The Economic Justice Project continued to fund economic empowerment advocates at Florida's certified domestic violence centers to implement an economic empowerment program for victims. The program continues to promote financial literacy and

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financial freedom from the abuser. The project to install generators at the 42 certified domestic violence shelters to increase the safety of survivors and their children during disasters or other events that may cause centers to lose power needed to operate critical health and safety functions was completed. Many subgrantees offered services through technology, to include therapy services for child victims of sexual abuse through the VOCA funded Sexual Abuse Treatment Program

### **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**

Although many of the awarded agencies continued to provide services to victims of the priority categories, some agencies specialize in services to specific victims. For example, child protection teams and children's advocacy centers are awarded funds to provide services to victims of child abuse. The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence was awarded funding for 7 statewide projects that specialize in services for domestic violence victims. Certified domestic violence centers also receive funding for domestic violence victims. The Florida Council Against Sexual Violence continued to receive funding for victims of sexual assault along with the certified rape crisis centers. Funding for underserved victims of crime are awarded to agencies providing services to survivors of homicide, victims with disabilities, victims of elder abuse, victims of DUI/DWI and human trafficking victims. Project Cold Case, a unique VOCA subgrantee continued to receive funding to provide services to families of victims in unsolved homicide cases.

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

During this reporting period, the OAG worked with the Federal Bureau of Investigation to assist with services for victims in the case against Jeffrey Epstein. Contact information for agencies that could assist with individual services was provided to the victims. The OAG Regional Victim Service Program Specialist continue to work with the FBI Victim Advocate Units throughout the state. In addition, the Agency worked with the DOJ/OVC consultant to enhance victim services in Florida

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

Language barriers continue to be a challenge. In the South Florida area many victims do not speak or read English. Numerous agencies do not have interpreters to assist non-English speaking crime victims. Undocumented victims fear deportation, having their children taken away or facing more violence from the perpetrator, if they report to law enforcement. In some remote areas of the state, there are few or no agencies to assist victims who may have difficulty completing and filing applications and required documentation. There have been additional challenges with providers receiving unredacted police reports due to Marsy's law that can cause a delay in services. Effective September 1, 2019, the schedule of Benefits for the state Victim Compensation Program was reduced due to insufficient collections of court ordered assessments, lowering the amount of payment to crime victims and providers. Due to COVID-19 many agencies provided services through technology, however, some victims may not have the internet access needed for these types of services.

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

Many agencies report experiencing high staff turnover due to low salaries or other employment opportunities. This is also a challenge for the OAG grant management unit

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

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) issues a Notice of Availability to apply for grant funds. The notice is posted on the OAG website, published in the Florida Administrative Register, provided to all agencies that have previously applied and current sub grantees through the EGrants online grant management system and published in the agenda for the Statewide Human Trafficking Conference. The notice is also provided to numerous stakeholder organizations such as: Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Florida Council Against Sexual Violence, Department of Health, Children's Medical Services, Florida Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, , Florida Sheriffs Association, and Florida Police Chiefs Association. The Division Director, Bureau Chief and OAG regional employees participate on many work groups and task forces throughout the state. The Notice of Availability is also distributed during these statewide and local meetings. The Agency worked with the DOJ/OVC consultant to enhance victim services in Florida.

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

Submitted applications continue to be reviewed for possible funding, using numerous factors when considering award allocations. The agency is made aware of new or underserved populations by stakeholder organizations, regional employees and daily contact with the public. The Bureau Chief participated in numerous conference calls with partnering agencies, in an effort to bring a Trauma Recovery Center (TRC) model to Florida. An application was submitted by a provider and technical review and further discussions were held. It is anticipated the TRC will be awarded funding and begin providing services during 2021. Outreach is consistently made by Bureau staff to educate the local communities on the availability of VOCA funding. The Bureau Chief also participated in calls to educate and promote outreach to public and not for profit agencies that may provide services to an underserved population. The Agency worked with the DOJ/OVC Consultant to enhance victim services in Florida.

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

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) responds to gaps in service through the regional Victim Services Program Specialists, by attending statewide meetings, through stakeholder organizations and contact with the public. Additionally, the Agency worked with the DOJ/OVC Consultant to enhance victim services in Florida

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

The Division of Victim Services and Criminal Justice Programs Annual Report is provided to the Governor and state legislature and is available on the agency website.