

# MN 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.*

<b>OVC VOCA Assistance Funds</b>				
	<b>2017-VA-GX-0080</b>	<b>2018-V2-GX-0069</b>	<b>2019-V2-GX-0033</b>	<b>2020-V2-GX-0018</b>
<b>Federal Award Amount</b>	\$31,220,915.00	\$56,375,478.00	\$38,257,832.00	\$28,390,500.00
<b>Total Amount of Subawards</b>	\$30,233,772.00	\$53,770,518.00	\$30,226,367.00	\$1,322,083.00
<b>Total Number of Subawards</b>	187	318	176	21
<b>Administrative Funds Amount</b>	\$987,143.00	\$532,661.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Training Funds Amount</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Balance Remaining</b>	\$0.00	\$2,072,299.00	\$8,031,465.00	\$27,068,417.00

<b>Subgrantee Organization Type</b>				
<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>				
<b>Type of Organization</b>	<b>2017-VA-GX-0080</b>	<b>2018-V2-GX-0069</b>	<b>2019-V2-GX-0033</b>	<b>2020-V2-GX-0018</b>
<b>Government Agencies Only</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>0</b>
Corrections	2	2	1	0
Courts	1	2	1	0
Juvenile Justice	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	2	2	2	0
Prosecutor	58	88	56	0
Other	4	6	4	0
<b>Nonprofit Organization Only</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>19</b>
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	20	41	19	0
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	4	11	10	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	33	56	27	11
Faith-based Organization	0	0	0	0
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	17	31	15	3
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	6	10	6	0

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Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	9	15	8	0
Multiservice agency	22	38	18	5
Other	1	2	2	0
<b>Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Agencies, and Organizations Only</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	0	0	0	0
Court	0	0	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence organization	2	4	2	1
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	6	10	5	1
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>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
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
<b>Total Number of Subawards</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>21</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-0080</b>	<b>2018-V2-GX-0069</b>	<b>2019-V2-GX-0033</b>	<b>2020-V2-GX-0018</b>
A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	164	248	174	21

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B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	5	2	2	0
C. Start up a new victim services project	21	68	1	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	2	0	0	0

**VOCA and Match Funds**

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

	2017-VA-GX-0080	2018-V2-GX-0069	2019-V2-GX-0033	2020-V2-GX-0018
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	84	92	155	21
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	62	58	87	21
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	61	107	84	21
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	25	30	15	21
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	38	45	70	0
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	84	141	155	21

**Priority and Underserved Requirements**

Priority Area	2017-VA-GX-0080	2018-V2-GX-0069	2019-V2-GX-0033	2020-V2-GX-0018
<b>Child Abuse</b>				
Total Amount	\$3,356,505.00	\$6,888,176.00	\$4,262,997.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	11.00 %	12.00 %	11.00 %	0.00 %
<b>Domestic and Family Violence</b>				
Total Amount	\$14,345,505.00	\$27,305,899.00	\$15,213,824.00	\$1,322,083.00
% of Total Federal Award	46.00 %	48.00 %	40.00 %	5.00 %
<b>Sexual Assault</b>				
Total Amount	\$6,009,524.00	\$10,551,764.00	\$5,565,974.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	19.00 %	19.00 %	15.00 %	0.00 %
<b>Underserved</b>				
Total Amount	\$6,431,968.00	\$8,924,629.00	\$4,985,977.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	21.00 %	16.00 %	13.00 %	0.00 %

**Budget and Staffing**

Staffing Information	2017-VA-GX-0080	2018-V2-GX-0069	2019-V2-GX-0033	2020-V2-GX-0018
Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	2339	3752	2456	768

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Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	1822664	2578702	1581537	571178
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	6390	10386	6010	1897
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	486670	641289	337104	51697

**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)	87	4657	4241	4283	4275	4364
Adult Sexual Assault	133	3858	2586	2195	2564	2800
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	129	744	680	504	633	640
Arson	80	100	76	83	75	83
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	80	698	659	492	402	562
Burglary	80	1522	1375	1249	1383	1382
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	4	1992	1785	1414	1499	1672
Child Pornography	92	86	100	104	91	95
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	136	3104	2899	2537	2682	2805
Domestic and/or Family Violence	52	33566	31677	27334	36418	32248
DUI/DWI Incidents	1	591	554	380	556	520
Elder Abuse or Neglect	1	302	729	430	1252	678
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	80	88	175	73	731	266
Human Trafficking: Labor	79	80	161	49	51	85
Human Trafficking: Sex	81	619	551	473	943	646
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	79	2011	1833	1438	1470	1688
Kidnapping (non-custodial)	79	106	98	80	81	91
Kidnapping (custodial)	78	48	38	44	27	39

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Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	78	26	34	42	23	31
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	78	877	893	524	725	754
Robbery	78	523	513	651	450	534
Stalking/Harassment	80	3998	3367	2792	7550	4426
Survivors of Homicide Victims	1	541	763	1131	612	761
Teen Dating Victimization	78	266	279	194	585	331
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	77	268	317	329	350	316
Other	0	13691	14491	18617	11355	14538

**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	152	170	154	102	859
Homeless	4167	2871	2639	2638	14182
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	1531	1488	1488	1491	7638
LGBTQ	631	880	621	825	3188
Veterans	234	106	69	73	585
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/Physical /Mental	3734	2797	3261	2865	15306
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	2891	1375	1262	1375	7198
Other	853	863	614	604	3197

**General Award Information**

Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	212914	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	45802	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	130307	61.20 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	38620	18.14 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	9578	

**Demographics**

Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
American Indian or Alaska Native	6829	5.24 %
Asian	7457	5.72 %
Black or African American	16511	12.67 %

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Hispanic or Latino	6495	4.98 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	304	0.23 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	52273	40.12 %
Some Other Race	2180	1.67 %
Multiple Races	3825	2.94 %
Not Reported	25231	19.36 %
Not Tracked	9202	7.06 %
<b>Race/Ethnicity Total</b>	<b>130307</b>	
<b>Gender Identity</b>		
Male	34677	26.61 %
Female	85928	65.94 %
Other	280	0.21 %
Not Reported	6377	4.89 %
Not Tracked	3045	2.34 %
<b>Gender Total</b>	<b>130307</b>	
<b>Age</b>		
Age 0- 12	12555	9.63 %
Age 13- 17	7766	5.96 %
Age 18- 24	15059	11.56 %
Age 25- 59	64649	49.61 %
Age 60 and Older	8627	6.62 %
Not Reported	15686	12.04 %
Not Tracked	5965	4.58 %
<b>Age Total</b>	<b>130307</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	167	144107	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	205289
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	168647
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	54455

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			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	118999
B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	140	59747	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	5162
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	1642
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	6414
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	151215
			B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	2805
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	2233
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	10633
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	14786
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	30202
			B10. Interpreter services	10530
C. Emotional Support or Safety Services	142	131374	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	163600
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	139306
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	6615
			C4. Individual counseling	284550
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	29934
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	20895
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	82526
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	89	14267	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	155657
			D2. Transitional housing	30196

			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	28242
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	153	111448	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	230533
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	13230
			E3. Assistance with restitution	19121
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	44469
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	27879
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	7542
			E7. Immigration assistance	8298
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	21694
			E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	4113
			E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	45596
E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	8421			

### 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.	25
Number of people trained or attending education events during the reporting period.	4066
Number of events conducted during the reporting period.	25
<b>Did the grant support any coordination activities (e.g., with other service providers, law enforcement agencies) during the reporting period?</b>	
Yes	1
No	0
<b>Describe any program or educational materials developed during the reporting period.</b>	

None. (These materials are routinely developed and updated with state administrative funding, and consist of: brochures for programs to distribute to crime victims about their rights, compensation, the juvenile justice process, financial assistance, language access, testifying in court, victim impact statements, plus the law enforcement cards given to victims when interacting with law enforcement providing contact information for advocacy services.)

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

The Annual Conference on Crime Victimization hosted by OJP was presented online this year.

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

We are in the process of reviewing all of our program policies and developing new ones as necessary for greater detail and description of our processes.

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

We had press coverage for Crime Victim Rights Week. This is an annual event that begins with a press conference, followed by daily blogs on the MN Dept. of Public Safety website and on social media platforms managed by the DPS Communications Division.

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

Within our broader office is the Crime Victim Justice Unit (CVJU), which responds directly to crime victims that feel they were not treated fairly or appropriately by criminal justice personnel in relation to the crime victimization they experienced. CVJU staff assist victims and conduct investigations to address their allegations, acting in many ways as a crime victim ombudsman. CVJU staff work together with OJP grant managers when crime victim grantee programs are involved. OJP grant managers also work with the Crime Victim Reparations staff through coordinated training for grantee service providers on better assisting crime victims in filing for Compensation claims. Grant managers include hands-on training about compensation during the comprehensive site visits they conduct with grantees. Together we are working to improve assistance provided to victims, and increase the number of claims filed.

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

Victims face barriers of many kinds in accessing services. While we have worked to extend service coverage over the entire state, rurally isolated victims have barriers to services related to lack of transportation, cell phone coverage issues, or not wanting to receive services in a small town where they re known. Language access for all is also an area needing more work. Additionally, there has been an increase in the past ten years toward greater racial diversity in rural areas of Minnesota. Often these small towns do not have many culturally specific agencies or services, including crime victim services. Even though agencies have use of Language Line or have Limited English Proficiency plans, some crime victims are reluctant to seek assistance from a mainstream, white agency for fear their particular circumstance will not be understood from someone not representative of their culture. Our office funds 10 of the 11 federally recognized tribes in Minnesota to provide direct services to Indigenous crime victims. These programs are growing and expanding their reach, and their service numbers continue to rise. Overall the exposure to crime victim issues through media and public awareness campaigns has helped assist victims in receiving assistance.

**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.**

OJP consistently promotes coordinated public and private efforts to aid crime victims in Minnesota, including supporting VINE and VICTIM AICE, and funding the Day One line – Minnesota's Domestic Violence Crisis Hotline and Sex Trafficking Hotline. Victim Information & Notification Everyday (VINE): VINE is a fully automated information and notification service that nearly all of the 87 Minnesota counties and the Department of Corrections have joined. Registered users are immediately notified upon a change in an offender's status for offenders housed in county jails and detention facilities. VINE can relay important custody or arrest information in a matter of minutes, anywhere in the US, via telephone. Users can access information about an offender's custody status in "real time," 24 hours a day. Standard information available through the VINE service includes inmate custody status and location, criminal charge information, sentence expiration date and referral information for law enforcement and victim service provider organizations. Notifications are placed to registered persons upon the transfer, release, escape or death of an inmate. Victims can access the VINE system through an 800 number or the VINELink Website and notification can be delivered by phone and/or email. VINE was launched in Minnesota in 2002. In addition to VINE, Minnesota worked with the vendor, Appriss, to create VICTIM AICE, an expanded notification system that includes information on inmates of a Dept. of Corrections facility. This has broadened the options for victims statewide, as notification information is available to victims of offenders housed in all types of detention facilities. VICTIM AICE is implemented (the first state in the nation), and we are continuing to make improvements, plus working with Appriss to fix issues. Day One – Minnesota's Domestic Violence Crisis Hotline: OJP provides on-going funding for this critically important program. Day One is housed at Cornerstone, Inc., a domestic violence shelter and community advocacy service program in the metropolitan Twin Cities. The Day One system electronically connects

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victim service programs providing shelter and hotel/motel services. Through one phone call a victim of domestic violence can access information about available shelter services statewide. Shelter providers must update the web-based system every time their bed space changes, or at least once every 24 hours. The Day One website gives immediate information on available shelter bed space, which can ensure that safety and services are appropriate and immediately available for women and children who need them. Day One also assists in arranging transportation to safe shelter and has greatly increased the number of women and children who are able to secure safe shelter with one phone call. Day One expanded in 2010 and 2011 to include domestic violence community advocacy agencies across the state that assist victims with an array of services, including securing emergency housing with other agencies. Day One is also now the statewide hotline for youth trafficking victims. Minnesota launched a statewide trafficking initiative in conjunction with the MN Department of Health (MDH) and the Women s Foundation, entitled, No Wrong Door. This initiative included changes to legislation – the Safe Harbor law. Starting August 1, 2014, Minnesota youth who engage in prostitution are no longer seen as criminals, but instead as victims and survivors. The Safe Harbor law treats these youth with dignity and respect, and directs them to appropriate services including shelter and housing. MDH received state funding to support youth trafficking shelter programs and the hiring of 8 Regional Navigators (including one Tribal navigator). Regional Navigators offer training and tools to increase the understanding in their region of juvenile sexual exploitation, which is too often misidentified as truancy, addiction, mental health, gang and other adolescent issues.

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

With the VOCA increase, OJP was able to fund 28 new agencies and increase the total amount of funding awarded statewide by about 34% between FY16 and FY17. All grantees were given 2-year renewal grants for FY18/19 to save on administrative time for them and OJP. The OJP Executive Director and Cecilia Miller meet every other month with the directors of the 6 coalitions (Violence Free Minnesota, MN Coalition Against Sexual Assault, MN Alliance on Crime, MN Indian Women s Sexual Assault Coalition, Sacred Hoop Coalition, and MN Children s Alliance). This meeting focuses on how best we can together help the field of victim service programs. We discuss training needs and joint training initiatives we can coordinate and sponsor statewide, unmet needs and issues expressed from direct service programs, legislative initiatives impacting crime victims and services, and strategic planning to improve the delivery of services statewide. The coalitions each have unique links of communication with their member programs and have been an excellent source of information about the difficulties occurring in the field. Track 1 of the Minnesota Victim Assistance Academy (MNVAA) is a foundation-level educational opportunity provided by OJP in October and November of 2016. Foundations in Victim Services was a week-long intensive course of study designed to improve the quality and consistency of victim services in Minnesota. The students for the academy class consisted of victim service providers and criminal justice professionals who work with victims of crime. Through education, the MNVAA builds the capacity of providers to serve those victimized by crime, encourages cutting-edge thinking about the ways we can help victims regain control of their lives, and focuses on victim-centered multi-disciplinary collaboration building. The MNVAA selects up to 40 candidates to attend the Foundations Academy annually. These participants explore a comprehensive curriculum created specifically for Minnesota by a multidisciplinary committee assembled by the Minnesota Office of Justice Programs. All students who are accepted and successfully complete this 40-hour MNVAA course receive a certificate of completion. Academic credit and CEUs may be available for an additional fee. The Annual Conference on Crime Victims hosted by OJP was held at online via webinars in May where 674 people attended at least one presentation. The participants included victim advocates and program volunteers, criminal justice professionals (law enforcement, prosecution, court services), OJP staff, and other allied professionals across the state. A wide variety of victim services and related program issues were presented and discussed.

### **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 funds support 74 agencies that serve domestic violence victims, 51 serving sexual assault victims, 68 serving underserved (general crime) victims and 48 serving child abuse victims. Each priority area has program standards that sub-grantees need to adhere to as a recipient of the various types of funding. While each set of program standards are specific to a type of victimization (priority area), they all require provision of services, direct service staff development, systems change and partnering with the other direct service providers in their geographic areas.

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

OJP continues to coordinate with the Minnesota District of the U.S. Attorney's Office. Our primary contact in this office sadly died this year and we are renewing contact with others in this office. We rely on this collaboration to share ideas, discuss gaps in services, needs assessments, etc. Staff in this office regularly seek assistance from the OJP Reparations Unit for help obtaining compensation for the federal crime victims with whom they work. OJP provides crime victim funding to 10 of the 11 federally recognized Tribal reservations in Minnesota, for domestic violence and sexual assault services. Grant managers work closely with these programs in addressing their unique cultural and geographic needs and challenges. They conduct site visits frequently to engage with program staff, provide training for capacity building, address program needs, assist in coordination with local non-Tribal victim service programs, and address resource needs for greater program stability. The directors of the two Indigenous coalitions, (Minnesota Indian Women s Sexual Assault Coalition and the Sacred Hoop Coalition), participate in regular meetings

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between the other victim services coalitions and OJP. These two directors and their staff advise OJP regarding service delivery challenges for Indigenous programs, both on and off reservation. They work together with OJP grant managers to provide training and technical assistance to grantees regarding capacity building and programming issues. Grant managers attend their annual training events and work hand-in-hand with Tribal reservation programs on issues. Other OJP staff overseeing JAG funding to Tribal reservations work in concert with crime victim grant managers to address issues between reservation-based victim service programs and local law enforcement and Tribal law enforcement, to improve the response to Indigenous crime victims. OJP has also worked closely with the U.S. Attorney's Office to address the payment of sexual assault forensic exams for women from the Red Lake Reservation, a non-PL280 reservation.

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

Affordable housing options continue to be very limited, which puts tremendous pressure on agencies trying to assist crime victims that need to relocate or transition from shelter to stable housing. This has been a significant issue for the past 15 years, with some improvement but not nearly enough. Minnesota has an Interagency Council on Homelessness, pulling together work across most state agencies that impact homelessness. There has been great improvement for the first targeted homelessness group – veterans, and now the effort is focused on families. It is difficult to quantify just how large of a problem homelessness is, but we continue to have tent encampments throughout the state, temporarily housing primarily Black and Indigenous individuals. Great efforts were made this summer to get women and children out of the encampments and housed in both temporary and long-term housing. Fear of the pandemic spread in the encampments was high, and state government and local agencies worked closely together to provide transportation to alternate housing, as well as food and medical care. We consistently hear of the struggles shelter programs face in helping families secure affordable housing. We are working with the Violence Free Minnesota and member programs to explore alternative housing strategies to see how we can ease the problem in Minnesota. We funded a position within VFMN for a housing coordinator working on policy development and needed changes with other state agencies toward improving the housing situation for domestic violence victims statewide. We also recently hired a Housing Specialist position within OJP, to represent DPS in the Interagency Council on Homelessness, and to work with state agencies and the crime victim programs statewide in addressing homelessness. Her role is to also bring the needs of domestic and sexual violence victims to the forefront with the team that manages the Interagency Council work. Programs (especially shelter programs) have been reporting for years that crime victims are presenting with more complex issues around joblessness, lack of familial support, housing difficulties, and a general inability to secure resources – all things that greatly impact their economic stability. Additionally, shelter residents experiencing challenges with mental health has a dramatic impact on programs and services. Rural programs have great difficulty referring crime victims for mental health services, due to a lack of mental health professionals in their rural area. There are areas of the state with no mental health practitioners to provide counseling. With the pandemic and counseling services going on-line, more opportunities can open up for those in need of mental health services. Prosecution of reported sexual assault has been an ongoing issue, despite training for law enforcement and prosecutors. We continue to work with the sexual assault coalition on initiatives to address this (mostly with VAWA funding). Reporting of sexual assault seems to be on a gradual rise, however, and our funded sexual assault programs are busy serving victims and addressing sexual assault evidentiary exam issues. The MN County Attorney's Association has talked with us about the lack of coordination between city attorney and county attorney offices that impacts the charging of crimes and follow-up. Many smaller city attorneys are on contract from their local law firm, working part-time. There is some discussion about moving anything involving domestic violence to the county attorney office to pursue, so that they don't get dropped so readily, but this would be a big change and if it happens, would move slowly. We know that drug and alcohol problems are a factor in cases of domestic and sexual violence on Tribal reservations. The issues are exacerbating each other, and the availability of culturally specific treatment options is limited. Most of the federal funding that used to support re-entry programs and halfway houses has disappeared. Addressing domestic and sexual violence issues on Tribal Reservations without also addressing chemical use is potentially not very effective.

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

We have not had any staffing retention issues. We have 5 grant managers in place and there's a placeholder for a 6th, but we're currently in a hiring freeze and need to wait on that position. The vision for the 6th position is someone with a strong nonprofit financial background that can assist programs in developing their capacity to manage federal grants more effectively.

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

Three separate competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) were released during the summer of 2016 for our FY17 funding year. Notices of this funding were distributed widely (through e-mail) to over 3,000 direct contacts representing community of color and culturally specific agencies, criminal justice system personnel, social service agencies, current grantees, etc. We awarded 2-year renewals for our grantees for FY18/19 and FY20/21. We will have a competitive process for all VOCA funding in either the summer of 2021 or 2023 depending on pandemic issues.

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

Our plan, through the competitive process, was to continue priority for funding of programs serving traditionally underserved populations across the state. The grant review process considered the unmet need for services for traditionally underserved populations, and geographic location and distribution of funding statewide, as well as other factors. We publicized the RFPs widely as the goal was to address emerging needs and allow new applicants to come in to the funding process. Of the 168 applications submitted, 17% were from agencies we did not currently fund and 10% of the new applicants were from agencies that primarily serve communities of color. Significant expansion funding was also awarded to a variety of long standing and capable victim service agencies, including agencies that primarily serve communities of color. We look to meet the needs of new/underserved populations with 2 or 3 year time-limited special projects leading up to our next competitive funding process for all VOCA funds in the summer of 2021 or 2023.

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

We conduct the open competitive process every five years, with grantees completing an annual renewal application in the intervening years. When we discover a specific gap in services during the intervening years one of our options is to provide a small bridge grant to bring the program into the network of crime victim service grantees, until the next competitive process. This helps those agencies build up their services and programming for crime victims, so that they can compete better in the competitive process. In the past 4 years we provided bridge funding to a Hard of Hearing/Deaf program, an expansion of a hospital-based violence intervention program, an Indian Tribal Reservation program, an elder abuse and legal services program, and a new domestic violence shelter for African Immigrant families. This is an excellent way to help programs put themselves in a stronger position to compete in the competitive process, and to expand program services to traditionally underserved victims of crime.

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

We provide a compilation of stats from the victim service programs that details the services and demographics of victims served by our grantee agencies. This is provided to the legislature, and is available on our website for anyone to access.