

VT 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-0042	2018-V2-GX-0006	2019-V2-GX-0049	2020-V2-GX-0053
Federal Award Amount	\$3,976,135.00	\$6,748,807.00	\$4,714,389.00	\$3,585,910.00
Total Amount of Subawards	\$4,218,595.00	\$7,115,996.00	\$3,127,384.00	\$0.00
Total Number of Subawards	61	79	59	0
Administrative Funds Amount	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Training Funds Amount	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance Remaining	(\$242,460.00)	(\$367,189.00)	\$1,587,005.00	\$3,585,910.00

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-0042	2018-V2-GX-0006	2019-V2-GX-0049	2020-V2-GX-0053
Government Agencies Only	6	16	11	0
Corrections	0	0	0	0
Courts	0	0	0	0
Juvenile Justice	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	2	4	3	0
Prosecutor	2	3	2	0
Other	2	9	6	0
Nonprofit Organization Only	55	63	48	0
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	13	13	12	0
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	4	5	4	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	4	2	2	0
Faith-based Organization	0	0	0	0
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	18	14	11	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	1	1	0	0

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Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	4	3	3	0
Multiservice agency	11	17	12	0
Other	0	8	4	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	61	79	59	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-0042	2018-V2-GX-0006	2019-V2-GX-0049	2020-V2-GX-0053
A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	61	71	59	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	0	8	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	1	0	0	0

VOCA and Match Funds

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

	2017-VA-GX-0042	2018-V2-GX-0006	2019-V2-GX-0049	2020-V2-GX-0053
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	61	77	59	0
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	55	72	53	0
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	48	55	44	0
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	28	31	26	0
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	52	64	47	0
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	61	78	59	0

Priority and Underserved Requirements

Priority Area	2017-VA-GX-0042	2018-V2-GX-0006	2019-V2-GX-0049	2020-V2-GX-0053
Child Abuse				
Total Amount	\$827,772.00	\$1,234,564.00	\$501,786.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	21.00 %	18.00 %	11.00 %	
Domestic and Family Violence				
Total Amount	\$1,407,649.00	\$2,024,229.00	\$903,901.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	35.00 %	30.00 %	19.00 %	
Sexual Assault				
Total Amount	\$1,112,349.00	\$1,609,341.00	\$566,271.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	28.00 %	24.00 %	12.00 %	
Underserved				
Total Amount	\$864,606.00	\$1,732,541.00	\$715,488.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	22.00 %	26.00 %	15.00 %	

Budget and Staffing

Staffing Information	2017-VA-GX-0042	2018-V2-GX-0006	2019-V2-GX-0049	2020-V2-GX-0053
Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	437	383	274	

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Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	134263	144225	112683
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	295	459	406
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	40939	33959	26177

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)	66	1883	1697	930	203	1178
Adult Sexual Assault	101	815	777	412	423	606
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	94	200	183	171	138	173
Arson	18	76	59	12	4	37
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	51	49	49	32	31	40
Burglary	24	354	605	172	13	286
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	78	462	450	254	264	357
Child Pornography	68	29	31	7	32	24
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	95	760	847	513	419	634
Domestic and/or Family Violence	92	4317	4243	2959	2556	3518
DUI/DWI Incidents	24	271	317	125	1	178
Elder Abuse or Neglect	67	79	105	53	46	70
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	37	13	24	15	12	16
Human Trafficking: Labor	28	2	3	4	3	3
Human Trafficking: Sex	81	87	67	47	60	65
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	32	872	817	351	108	537
Kidnapping (non-custodial)	27	85	77	65	4	57
Kidnapping (custodial)	25	7	2	2	12	5

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Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	16	0	0	0	0	0
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	28	699	737	311	48	448
Robbery	25	138	166	120	100	131
Stalking/Harassment	82	642	523	311	239	428
Survivors of Homicide Victims	48	227	179	154	63	155
Teen Dating Victimization	83	52	42	18	15	31
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	15	1	1	0	0	0
Other	8	1228	1706	792	235	990

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	37	28	29	28	172
Homeless	457	427	339	364	2072
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	134	121	95	80	483
LGBTQ	187	187	100	109	688
Veterans	48	35	12	19	121
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/Physical /Mental	740	540	316	439	2358
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	142	111	86	63	478
Other	116	145	146	128	752

General Award Information

Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	28867	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	497	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	17509	60.65 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	2275	7.88 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	1731	

Demographics

Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	102	0.58 %
Asian	198	1.13 %
Black or African American	451	2.58 %

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Hispanic or Latino	272	1.55 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	107	0.61 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	10402	59.41 %
Some Other Race	62	0.35 %
Multiple Races	186	1.06 %
Not Reported	3700	21.13 %
Not Tracked	2029	11.59 %
Race/Ethnicity Total	17509	
Gender Identity		
Male	3463	19.78 %
Female	12054	68.84 %
Other	275	1.57 %
Not Reported	670	3.83 %
Not Tracked	1047	5.98 %
Gender Total	17509	
Age		
Age 0- 12	1501	8.57 %
Age 13- 17	1401	8.00 %
Age 18- 24	2096	11.97 %
Age 25- 59	9172	52.38 %
Age 60 and Older	1240	7.08 %
Not Reported	1673	9.56 %
Not Tracked	426	2.43 %
Age Total	17509	

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	59	21034	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	18297
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	12340
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	6069

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			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	11612
B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	47	6927	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	155
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	145
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	1340
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	18472
			B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	35
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	39
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	643
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	1186
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	1080
			B10. Interpreter services	285
C. Emotional Support or Safety Services	48	11316	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	7320
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	27326
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	216
			C4. Individual counseling	31379
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	2777
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	133
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	1495
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	25	2000	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	59680
			D2. Transitional housing	20926

			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	441
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	48	12947	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	14255
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	1554
			E3. Assistance with restitution	880
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	4186
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	2225
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	883
			E7. Immigration assistance	117
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	900
			E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	724
			E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	5311
E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	3536			

ANNUAL QUESTIONS

Grantee Annually Reported Questions

Question/Option	Count
Were any administrative and training funds used during the reporting period?	
Yes	1
No	0
Did the administrative funds support any education activities during the reporting period?	
Yes	1
No	0
Number of requests received for education activities during the reporting period.	35
Number of people trained or attending education events during the reporting period.	41
Number of events conducted during the reporting period.	2
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.	

Each year, the Center creates a series of materials to support the trainings that we offer. This year we: - Updated web page location to support the increase in media coverage and providing a more central location for easy access - Created an Apple iTunes - Created Soundcloud/iTunes accounts to support the various formats of the podcast - Continued Bi-weekly email blast

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

We held 2 trainings this reporting period. The events were Section I and II of the of the 2019-2020 Vermont Victim Assistance Academy. The outbreak of COVID-19 forced us to cancel our second two VVAA sections. From there, we have put our time and focus into transitioning into virtual online training sessions. CCVS also received NAVAA CAP funding to conduct a large-scale community awareness program in 2020. However, due to the pandemic, the event also had to be cancelled and funds sent back to the funding source. To absorb more information on how to create and develop online trainings and webinars, Training Coordinator Samantha Giroux has taken approximately 10 hours or 5 separate trainings to develop skills. Additionally, she has had conversations and has a planning meeting in the new year with a coordinator from Orion Consulting on the content as well as development. There has been three check in meetings with the trainers and the presenters from the Vermont Victim Assistance Academy to discuss the transition into virtual training. There have been multiple meetings to develop and complete the CAP Training Grant application for Crime Victims Rights Week 2021. Additional coordination activities took place during the reporting period. These related to: supporting the VT Human Trafficking Task Force, supporting restorative justice programs, Legal services provision, outreach to underserved populations in VT, etc.

Describe any program policies changed during the reporting period.

The Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services had revised its policies and procedures around risk assessment and on-site monitoring to be compliant with the VOCA Assistance regulations. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, CCVS moved to format of all monitoring site visits to enhanced desk reviews using the zoom virtual platform. In addition, per DOJ audit recommendation, language was added to CCVS Grant Plan Guidelines outlining procedures and timeline for ensuring timely completion for filing FFATA reports. Lastly, per VT single audit recommendations, CCVS added information to our Grants Plan Guidelines to ensure the timely completion of VOCA SARs.

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

Though not VOCA funded, it is important to mention that the CCVS podcast received media coverage and an award for the production and community impact that the podcast has. The Mend received a third-place award in the 2020 ACM-NE Nor'Easter Awards. This was presented in a press release as well as recorded presentation. Additional media coverage during the reporting period pertained to prevention and availability of trauma informed services to combat human trafficking in VT.

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

All of Vermont's VOCA funded Subgrantees serve on local multi-disciplinary task forces to coordinate and improve services to victim. During the reporting period, all VOCA subgrantees have taken measures to continue to provide high quality services to victims of crime in VT during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional CRF funding was awarded to all VT Network programs to support their service provision to victims of domestic and sexual violence during these uncertain times.

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

During the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic, most VOCA Assistance subgrantees have adapted their service delivery to comply with federal and state guidelines for safety and health measures. Some programs adopted online/virtual formats for service delivery, some continued in person while staggering staff in buildings, some other programs had a mix of staggering staff and services and using online platforms. As COVID-19 continues to spread across VT, service providers face additional challenges in providing the highest levels of care to all survivors and victims of crime. Coping with a pandemic is new to all of us, and the effects of the disruption will be felt by both crime victims, survivors, and those that support them. Technological and communication difficulties may slow efforts to empower crime victims and survivors, and the sense of urgency caused by the pandemic may result in higher levels of stress for all. For example, the Legal partners have seen a vast increase on the request for services-reportedly, almost doubled during the pandemic. While they continue to move forward and innovating ways to provide quality legal services to victims of crimes, they face great challenges including the technological shortcomings that continue to distance disenfranchised victims from achieving justice. Underserved/marginalized populations in Vermont continue to suffer from both implicit and explicit forms of discrimination and bias. These maladies permeate the structures and organizations that ultimately are supposed to serve all victims of crime. Thus, steps need to be continuously and proactively taken to remove barriers to access and utilization of services to victims and survivors identifying as LBGQTQ, racial and ethnic minorities, immigrants, older adults, and persons with disabilities. CCVS and the Vermont Network have both initiated conversations with subgrantees regarding best practices on racial equity and expect to report on these findings while conducting strategic planning to address the needs of victims in VT. Furthermore, there are perennial, insurmountable resource barriers that rural victims encounter including: the lack of safe, affordable housing, lack of transportation resources, and lack of employment opportunities. Often survivors are faced with these three barriers at once. leading to feelings of despair and anxiety. In addition, survivors often

lack the resources to secure legal representation in civil matters such as custody and divorce. Without legal supports, survivors are at an extreme disadvantage, often being re-victimized through the legal process and receiving less favorable outcomes. An increased number of survivors seeking services are facing complex issues including substance misuse and significant mental health diagnoses. We are actively training and working with community partners to ensure staff are equipped to effectively support survivors and make appropriate referrals.

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.

In 2019 The Vermont Center for Crime Victim services continued to support a comprehensive demonstration project to place dedicated victim services liaisons in a variety of restorative and parallel justice programs to better serve victims and those affected by crime. The development of the Voice and Choice for Victims Demonstration Project was initially funded by an AmeriCorps Planning Grant through Vermont, that was informed and guided by an Advisory Group that met monthly for 6 months. That process crystalized our vision and commitment to empower crime victims by honoring their voice and acting upon coordinated public/private solutions in repairing the harm done to them. VCCVS received applications from nine programs and was able to fund five, with the intention of renewed, non-competitive funding for three years, pending federal funding and performance. At the end of the reporting period, these 5 Voice and Choice Demonstration Programs have served a total of 917 individuals. Most of these individuals served were Caucasian ages 25-29 years old. The crimes they were victims to included: vehicular victimizations (e.g. hit and run), robbery, identity fraud, adult physical assault, stalking/harassment, burglary, and bullying. In addition to the important work they do serving victims of crimes in VT, these programs are also key partners in educating criminal justice related agencies and service programs on trauma informed practices. They have developed an implementation guide to replicate the program nationwide. Furthermore, they have also developed an Agency Self-Assessment Tool of victim-centered practices. This tool is intended for organizations to build awareness about how they respond to people who have experienced victimization. The assessment tool follows the Guiding Principles of Parallel Justice. Access to the tool is free online and once completed the assessment, agencies can request follow-up support from the Parallel Justice Program to guide them move towards more victim-centered practices. In addition, CCVS has set aside \$500,000 in VOCA funds for The Vermont Legal Partnership (VLP). This partnership was established in 2016 as a direct result of addressing Vermont's most urgent needs for crime victims in the state as identified in the VOCA strategic plan. It is made up of 7 non-profit organizations: Legal Services VT, Vermont Legal Aid, Disability Rights VT, Have Justice Will Travel, The VT Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, The South Royalton Legal Clinic at VT Law School, The Vermont Bar Association. CCVS subgrants with all the agencies within VLP to ensure that victims rights are enforced and if needed, they obtain legal representation in the aftermath of their crimes. Collaboratively, these partners have provided legal services to 2386 victims of crimes in VT during the reporting period. Most of these individuals were female, victims of domestic/family violence ranging from ages 25-59 years old. CCVS continued to support the work against human trafficking in VT. During the reporting period, a total of 272 victims of human trafficking (260 sex trafficking cases and 12 victims of labor trafficking) received services by VOCA Assistance subgrantees. A total of 141 victims of sex and labor trafficking received services by a specialized human trafficking case manager co-located in a Police Department (South Burlington PD & Rutland PD) or a statewide Rapid Response Program (Give Way to Freedom).

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

CCVS continues to reach out to all VOCA subgrantees to offer technical assistance during the COVID19 pandemic. We have streamlined and informed subgrantees about the updated match policies and procedures. We continue to conduct monitoring via enhanced desk reviews using the zoom platform. In addition, we are planning to conduct our strategic planning assessment while including the voices of victims of crime and/or survivors. As VOCA funding has drastically diminished, we firmly believe that incorporating their voices in our strategic planning is a valuable way to inform both policy and funding decisions going forward. In 2019, Crime Research Group, Inc. (CRG), Vermont's Statistical Analysis Center, (SAC), and the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services (CCVS) partnered on the VOCA-SAC Partnerships to Enhance Victim Services RFP to collect and analyze victim-and victim-services related data in Vermont. The purpose of this project was to enhance the capacity of CCVS and the local providers to use data and empirical evidence to improve services to crime victims. Specifically, this project worked with a specific group of VOCA Assistance subrecipients: the Vermont wraparound legal network called the Vermont Legal Partnership for Crime Victims (VLP). The intention of the project was to promote and expand data collection beyond the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) Performance Measurement Tool (PMT), improve victim service planning and implementation in the area of legal services, and identify trends and gaps in the use of legal services to ensure that the needs of victims are met, and improve outcomes. This project proposed using data to identify service delivery gaps, a plan to meet those gaps, as well as developing, implementing, and assessing performance measures for more effectively using the current PMT data. The VLP has been working towards capturing and measuring best practices. To this end, they have: 1. Created a data dictionary so that the VLP understand where to put the legal services data. 2. Added modifications to their databases and spreadsheets to include (who the cases were referred by, referral date, etc.) 3. Agreed and added a Likert Scale for achieving client outcomes. 4. Created common questions for the client satisfaction survey for use by the VLP partners. Client satisfaction is a superior performance indicator and a way to determine if the client ultimately feels that they are better off. Through the VOCA-SAC partnership CRG, CCVS, and the VLP

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were able to identify areas of improvement in the data collection and analysis process in order to improve the accuracy, relevance, and usefulness of the data regarding legal services provided by these subgrantees. As a result, going forward, enhanced data collection can be used for improving victim service planning and implementation of legal services and identifying trends and gaps to ensure that the needs of the victims are met. During this reporting period the Center for Crime Victim Services, with the support of the VOCA grant, continued to fund a Social Media and Communications specialist. The primary goal of the communications plan is to increase statewide awareness about the Center for Crime Victim Services, specifically, what services the Center offers, and how to access those services when they are needed. With improved access to information, crime victims in Vermont are better informed about how and where to get the materials they need in the wake of a crime.

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

Child Abuse: The Vermont Child Advocacy Centers, who respond to child sexual assault crimes will receive VOCA funding to implement direct victim services, enhance trainings, and build capacity necessary to attain accreditation from the National Children's Alliance, with a focus on multidisciplinary teams, cultural competency and diversity, victim support and advocacy, mental health support, and forensic interviewing. Domestic Violence: All the program members in the Vermont Network receive VOCA funding. Sexual Assault: Approximately \$150,000 is enabling Vermont's current part-time statewide Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Coordinator to increase to a full-time Clinical Coordinator who can recruit and train additional pediatric and adult SANEs to improve 24/7 availability of SANEs in Vermont medical facilities. Of the 14 VOCA funded programs of Vermont's domestic and sexual violence coalition, 12 are dual sexual/domestic violence programming, and 2 are sexual violence programs. All of Vermont's Special Investigative Units serve sexual assault victims, these SIUs are collocated with the Child Advocacy Centers. This past year continued VOCA funding supported 2 Human Trafficking Case Managers at the Rutland City Police Department (to serve Southern Vermont) and the South Burlington Police Department (to serve Northern Vermont). In addition, VOCA funding is used to support the VT Rapid Response Support System ensuring that victims and potential victims of Human Trafficking receive services tailored to their unique needs through Give Way to Freedom. Underserved Populations: Organizations that serve traditionally marginalized populations receive VOCA funding to improve delivery of Victim Services. Those organizations include Association of Africans Living in Vermont (who serve many different nations with needs to understand 40 different languages), the Deaf Victim Advocate Program at the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, and Disability Rights Vermont and the Pride Center which serves LGBTQ victims who are victims of domestic and sexual violence. The Community of Vermont Elders also serves to educate and advocate for the needs of older Vermonters a highly marginalized population in the state.

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

The US Attorney's Office staffs a full-time victim advocate who assists Victims of Federal crime navigate the justice system. This individual is responsible for informing these victims of their rights under federal law, provides information about the status of the case, refers victims to other supports and services, assists with Victims Compensation applications (logistical information with respect to reimbursement of crime related losses), accompanies victims to court, assists with victim impact statements, and assists with requests for restitution. The advocate in this office also compiles and updates resource directories for crime victims, some of these directories are for specialized services to victims with disabilities or sources for alternative therapies. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated issues of access to justice amongst victims of federal crimes. VOCA funded legal service providers continue to work this past year in obtaining U visas for victims of domestic abuse who work with the US Attorney's Office. Language barriers and isolation continue to make it difficult for these victims to come forward; the efforts of Vermont's legal services and underserved populations program has given these victims a place to go for help.

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

While violent crime is decreasing during the pandemic, domestic violence calls for service are on the rise nationwide. People are more isolated. Abusive partners are under more stress. The options for escape are limited. These realities hold true in VT, as reported by the VT Network. Further, the VT Network programs and many of our VOCA subgrantees have not only seen an increase for services, they have seen an increase in the severity of domestic violence cases overall during quarantine. This is exacerbated by the lack of access to services in the most rural areas around the state. Other emerging issues in VT relate to bias incidents, restorative justice, and advocating for racial equity. In 2019 a bill was introduced to enforce civil penalties against hate crimes and bias incidents. This bill also creates a bias incident reporting working group to analyze how to appropriately intake, respond to, and report on bias incidents consistently among all law enforcement agencies or entities. The goal of the group is to ensure that from each point of contact with law enforcement, victims or communities impacted by bias incidents receive appropriate law enforcement response; standardized data is collected regarding bias incidents and, when appropriate, reported to the Office of the Vermont Attorney General or other appropriate local, State, and federal law enforcement agencies. Also, in 2019 the Act 146 Study Committee was created by Vermont's General Assembly to examine the potentials for using restorative justice approaches to domestic violence, sexual violence and stalking. A recent report from the University of Alberta defines restorative justice as a collaborative approach to addressing harm caused or revealed by criminal behavior. It involves a trained facilitator.

Office for Victims of Crime - Performance Measurement Tool (PMT)

the people with a legitimate stake in the situation, and a focus on accountability and repairing the harm. The Act 146 Study Committee met throughout the course of the past year, elicited feedback from stakeholders and survivors of violence and concluded that restorative justice ought to be pursued as a means to address domestic violence, sexual violence and stalking but only following a careful and thoughtful development of offerings formally housed within a public body or agency. The Act 146 Study Group agreed that restorative justice approaches could be helpful in addressing domestic violence, sexual violence and stalking in Vermont. As such, the group recommends that restorative justice occur as part of an integrated justice system, operating within current justice responses, alongside those responses and as an alternative outside of existing responses. However, these restorative justice options should not function in isolation, or as a watered-down version of an otherwise punitive justice system. Issues of racial justice are also important to be addressed in our state. The Vermont Racial Justice Alliance is currently working on several acts including: A. An Act relating to data collection in the criminal justice system. This bill proposes to require the Judiciary, the Center for Crime Victim Services, the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs, and the Department of Corrections to collect and publicly post criminal justice data. B. An act relating to law enforcement training on appropriate use of force, de-escalation tactics, and cross-cultural awareness. This bill proposes to require 1) the collection and distribution of data regarding the use of force used in a traffic stop; 2) the Criminal Justice Training Council to develop a model policy regarding the use of force, de-escalation, and cross-cultural awareness, and for law enforcement agencies to adopt a policy containing each component of the model policy; and 3) the Criminal Justice Training Council to report to the Executive Director of Racial Equity regarding trainings on the model policy and race based data collection.

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

None

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

Victim Assistance funding is announced via press releases from our congressional delegation. VOCA is used as a stable funding source for Vermont's core victim services, so not all the sub grants are competitive. VOCA funding has fluctuated quite a bit these past few years; in 2018 Vermont's federal grant was \$6,748,807 but in 2020 the amount was \$3,585,905. We are trying to support any new initiatives for least three years based on the four-year average of the VOCA grants the state has received. We are currently supporting the maximum amount of subgrants, given those parameters. If the proposed FFY 20 omnibus bill passes in Congress, we will expect to see a 21% reduction in VOCA funding. We are very concerned, looking down the road, given the decrease in federal fines and fees to the Crime Victim's Fund. Therefore, we feel advertising and increasing initiatives at this time would be poor planning.

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

Underserved populations supported with VOCA funding include; the Association of Africans Living in Vermont (who serve many different nations with needs to understand 40 different languages), Community of Vermont Elders (COVE), the Deaf Victim Advocate Program at the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, and Disability Rights Vermont and the Pride Center which serves LGBTQ victims who are victims of domestic and sexual violence. Each of those programs provide training and technical assistance to other victim service organizations. This past year VOCA funding was used to support families experiencing domestic violence in Vermont's most rural communities.

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

The state of Vermont continued to work from the VOCA strategic planning process conducted in 2016 which identified the unmet needs in Victim Services in our state. Given the economic uncertainties, we are currently updating our strategic plan and reviewing our programmatic evaluations to inform the most judicious use of VOCA funding. In addition, we are planning to include the voices of victims of crime and/or survivors in our strategic planning. As VOCA funding has drastically diminished, incorporating their voices in our strategic planning is a valuable way to inform both policy and funding decisions going forward. We hope to publish our updated needs assessment sometime next year which will identify the gaps in victim services in Vermont. Currently, our human trafficking case managers are also collaborating in conducting a needs assessment for specific services for victims of human trafficking in VT. Our VOCA funded Legal Partnership has just agreed upon a set of questions that will help to evaluate the satisfaction of their services, which will help to identify and better respond to gaps in services.

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

What follows are key excerpts from the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services report to the Vermont Legislature regarding outcome measures of its programming.

Restitution Unit The Restitution Unit collects restitution owed to victims by criminal offenders, enforces restitution orders, and processes claims for Special Fund advancements of up to \$5,000 to eligible victims. Of 981 restitution orders, 408 were eligible for advanced payment totaling \$452,050.39. \$1,133,428.09 of restitution owed was collected from offenders.

Compensation Program The Compensation Program provides limited financial assistance to victims who have experienced an uninsured financial loss as a direct result of a crime. This program is funded through the Victims Compensation Fund. Compensation Claims FY 2019: ` Victims Compensation 528 claims = \$472,573.87* * Top allocations were lost wages & counseling. ` Sexual Assault Program 230 claims = \$93,022.33 Of the 53 surveys received, 89% of the victims rated their experience with CCVS as very satisfactory! This is such a wonderful program to help victims/survivors and is greatly appreciated. This will help out my family tremendously. - survey feedback

Training CCVS provides basic and advanced training opportunities on issues related to crime victimization for advocates, community members, prosecutors and law enforcement officers. 419 Participants in trainings around VT. 30 Organizations receiving trainings. 14 Training Events; 13 were to Service Providers. The Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services serves as a voice within government for the needs of victims of crime in Vermont, serving victims by: 1.) Providing direct services to victims of crime. 2.) Organizing and providing training for volunteers, community members, advocates, allied professionals and others on issues related to working with victims of crime. 3.) Soliciting and issuing grants for community and statewide programs working with victims of crime.

HOW MUCH DID WE DO? CCVS s grants provide crucial services for the safety and security of Vermonters. Because CCVS is the hub for many victim service grant programs and key services, it is uniquely positioned to thoughtfully plan funding to avoid duplication.

Domestic and Sexual Violence Programing Numerous CCVS grants support this crucial safety net, without which the lives of individuals impacted by domestic and sexual violence would be at risk in our state.

Supervised Visitation Programs (SVP) Supervised Visitation Programs (SVPs) provide a neutral and safe space in which a child may have contact with a non-custodial parent. These programs are geographically situated to best serve all 14 counties. Absent of supervised visitation, people end up using other alternatives that are not as safe.

Child Advocacy Centers (CAC/SIUs) Vermont s 13 Child Advocacy Centers house multi-disciplinary teams to make decisions about the investigation, treatment, management and prosecution of cases of child physical and sexual abuse and neglect. The CAC funding supports the coordination of wrap-around services to support the child and family. The Vermont Victim Assistance Program

Advocates in the State s Attorneys offices in all 14 counties empower victims of crime by helping them access the criminal justice system through empathy, support, information, resources, and referrals to community partners.

Legal Network for Crime Victims Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding has made it possible for attorneys from seven state-wide legal service organizations to come together to help people who have suffered physical, financial or emotional harm because they were a victim of crime. They help with a wide range of legal issues resulting from victimization. Services are provided regardless of income, age, immigration status, cognitive or physical limitations. There is no cost for this service.

The Voice and Choice Demonstration Project: Restorative Justice Centers In 2017, CCVS received proposals for a comprehensive statewide initiative, supporting dedicated victim liaisons at Vermont community, restorative and parallel justice programs.

Advocates Dedicated to Underserved Communities: CCVS grants support specialized advocates who provide direct services and training to allied organizations to improve victim services specifically to elders, people with disabilities, people who are deaf or hard of hearing, have limited English proficiency, have mental health issues, people living in rural isolation or indigenous people.

ARE VICTIMS OF CRIME BETTER OFF? A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS Vermont s 60 VOCA programs provided direct victim services to 23,900 Victims of Crime. 331 families received services from Supervised Visitation Programs. 641 women, 76 men and 394 children were provided shelter from abusers. A total of 57,875 nights of shelter. 17,638 domestic violence hotline calls were answered. 1303 children and 298 adults (FY 2019) received services from Child Advocacy Centers: