

MN Annual State Performance Report

Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program

Reporting Period: [Oct 1, 2020 to Sept 30, 2021]

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

OVC VOCA Assistance Funds				
	2018-V2-GX-0069	2019-V2-GX-0033	2020-V2-GX-0018	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00579-ASSI
Federal Award Amount	\$56,375,478.00	\$38,257,832.00	\$28,390,503.00	\$17,724,617.00
Total Amount of Subawards	\$55,402,913.00	\$27,628,439.00	\$832,135.00	\$0.00
Total Number of Subawards	313	194	17	0
Administrative Funds Amount	\$972,565.00	\$323,017.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Training Funds Amount	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance Remaining	\$0.00	\$10,306,376.00	\$27,558,368.00	\$17,724,617.00

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	2018-V2-GX-0069	2019-V2-GX-0033	2020-V2-GX-0018	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00579-ASSI
Government Agencies Only	98	63	1	0
Corrections	2	0	1	0
Courts	0	0	0	0
Juvenile Justice	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	2	2	0	0
Prosecutor	88	57	0	0
Other	6	4	0	0
Nonprofit Organization Only	203	122	12	0
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	40	22	0	0
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	12	12	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	55	31	6	0
Faith-based Organization	0	0	0	0
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	31	16	3	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	10	6	0	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	14	10	0	0
Multiservice agency	39	23	3	0
Other	2	2	0	0

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Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Agencies, and Organizations Only	12	9	4	0
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	0	0	0	0
Court	0	0	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence organization	3	3	2	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	9	6	2	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	313	194	17	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				
	2018-V2-GX-0069	2019-V2-GX-0033	2020-V2-GX-0018	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00579-ASSI
A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	250	177	15	0
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	2	2	0	0
C. Start up a new victim services project	61	16	2	0
D. Start up a new Native American victim services project	0	0	0	0
E. Expand or enhance an existing Native American project	0	0	0	0

VOCA and Match Funds				
A single SAR can select multiple service types. Numbers are not unique				
	2018-V2-GX-0069	2019-V2-GX-0033	2020-V2-GX-0018	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00579-ASSI
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	88	165	15	0
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	57	96	15	0
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	91	106	17	0
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	30	22	14	0
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	43	69	1	0
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	122	178	17	0

Priority and Underserved Requirements				
Priority Area	2018-V2-GX-0069	2019-V2-GX-0033	2020-V2-GX-0018	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00579-ASSI
Child Abuse				
Total Amount	\$6,855,945.00	\$4,128,232.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	12.00 %	11.00 %	0.00 %	
Domestic and Family Violence				
Total Amount	\$29,045,984.00	\$13,402,774.00	\$593,567.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	52.00 %	35.00 %	2.00 %	
Sexual Assault				
Total Amount	\$10,176,376.00	\$5,454,501.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	18.00 %	14.00 %	0.00 %	
Underserved				
Total Amount	\$9,224,558.00	\$4,642,932.00	\$213,568.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	16.00 %	12.00 %	1.00 %	

Budget and Staffing				
Staffing Information	2018-V2-GX-0069	2019-V2-GX-0033	2020-V2-GX-0018	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00579-ASSI
Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	3747	2449	472	
Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	2583558	1586157	357603	
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	10388	6013	1150	
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	641399	337215	23147	

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)	88	4460	4425	6096	5218	5049
Adult Sexual Assault	134	3690	2374	2413	3556	3008
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	130	679	551	644	650	631
Arson	81	112	106	119	117	113
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	81	516	569	644	680	602
Burglary	81	1612	1542	1365	1528	1511
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	129	1627	1741	1766	1600	1683
Child Pornography	94	68	94	103	110	93
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	137	2878	2820	3076	2927	2925
Domestic and/or Family Violence	177	34804	33940	34849	35903	34874
DUI/DWI Incidents	83	581	703	721	679	671
Elder Abuse or Neglect	83	302	297	1335	513	611
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	81	81	125	77	150	108
Human Trafficking: Labor	80	46	49	71	65	57
Human Trafficking: Sex	82	461	441	481	596	494
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	80	1826	1924	1670	1798	1804
Kidnapping (non-custodial)	80	125	99	110	113	111
Kidnapping (custodial)	79	48	47	43	39	44
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	79	40	64	19	24	36
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	79	1004	1054	881	979	979
Robbery	79	558	541	513	536	537
Stalking/Harassment	81	7996	4976	4280	4069	5330
Survivors of Homicide Victims	80	677	709	699	851	734
Teen Dating Victimization	79	197	141	146	181	166
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	78	266	250	626	248	347
Other	0	20614	16774	21457	24514	20839

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	123	106	120	136	1084

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Homeless	3306	2393	2415	2907	20281
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	1855	1533	1356	1313	9898
LGBTQ	660	636	1050	618	4642
Veterans	203	105	112	104	817
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/ Physical /Mental	3471	3998	3062	3298	21528
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	2860	1338	1455	1320	9675
Other	495	457	322	489	4484

General Award Information		
Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	247504	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	43038	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	129078	52.15 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	43075	17.40 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	11194	

Demographics		
Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	5761	4.46 %
Asian	7741	6.00 %
Black or African American	15406	11.94 %
Hispanic or Latino	7103	5.50 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	194	0.15 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	53317	41.31 %
Some Other Race	1721	1.33 %
Multiple Races	3587	2.78 %
Not Reported	25088	19.44 %
Not Tracked	9160	7.10 %
Race/Ethnicity Total	129078	
Gender Identity		
Male	34550	26.77 %
Female	83101	64.38 %
Other	956	0.74 %
Not Reported	6692	5.18 %
Not Tracked	3779	2.93 %
Gender Total	129078	
Age		
Age 0- 12	12486	9.67 %
Age 13- 17	6637	5.14 %
Age 18- 24	13720	10.63 %

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Age 25- 59	64859	50.25 %
Age 60 and Older	9087	7.04 %
Not Reported	14976	11.60 %
Not Tracked	7313	5.67 %
Age Total	129078	

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	170791	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	241440
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	206621
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	59055
			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	124601
B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	137	59364	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	1395
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	1168
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	6857
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	152960
			B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	2016
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	1809
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	14546
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	9408
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	22800
			B10. Interpreter services	8977
C. Emotional Support or Safety	141	143944	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	156180
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	131600
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	4047

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Services			C4. Individual counseling	291497
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	29777
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	22872
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	74513
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	91	15349	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	128619
			D2. Transitional housing	23262
			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	24890
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	150	124671	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	284111
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	14356
			E3. Assistance with restitution	18242
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	44310
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	16504
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	7861
			E7. Immigration assistance	7383
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	25076
			E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	3871
			E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	52625
E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	8071			

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.	12
Number of people trained or attending education events during the reporting period.	3100
Number of events conducted during the reporting period.	64
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.

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, reparations, 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, as well as the MN Victim Assistance Academy (MNVAA). The conference was the training event with the most attendees and we experimented with a more drawn out schedule over a week to allow for attendees to choose sessions that most fit their needs and ones that might fit their busy schedules. The MNVAA was smaller due to fitting the training into an online format. Keeping the number smaller helped attendees connect with each other, which is a challenge in an online only format. There also stakeholder/community meetings, fairs and other webinars.

Describe any program policies changed during the reporting period.

We are in the process of reviewing all of our program policies and creating process documentation documents to details all types of processes in the administration of VOCA funding. There have not been significant changes to any program policies to report at this time.

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. The Governor annually signs a proclamation for Crime Victim Rights Week, which is highlighted in the press conference.

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. The Reparations team came together with MN Alliance on Crime, (MAC), the general crime victim coalition program, to address the shooting that occurred in St. Paul at the Truck Stop bar where one person was killed and 17 were wounded. Our office coordinated with Survivor Resources to provide support groups for those victims who witnessed the violence and requested additional support. MAC provided a lot of support and worked closely with the St. Paul Police Dept. as well as the victims. We were grateful for their assistance.

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

Of course, the major issue is the pandemic. Crime victim programs quickly adjusted to providing services online, but exposure to Covid-19 impacted the number of available staff. For most programs the pandemic completely wiped out volunteer-supported activities. We got additional funding to programs to assist with technology needs, funds to address housing and hotel/motel costs, hazard pay for staff, and additional direct client assistance funds. The coalitions conducted weekly online meetings with grantees statewide and we participated when requested. We had close contact with the coalitions to brainstorm how to meet the needs they were hearing from programs. This has continued since the start of the pandemic, and as funds come through to meet needs (American Rescue Plan Act funding and state funds). These needs are still present and we continue to address them. Program directors are struggling to maintain adequate staffing and we've had directors leave the field as well. This creates a barrier in simply having enough staff to meet the needs of victims as they seek services. We are trying to be flexible and agile – not words one usually attributes to state government, but we work to coordinate with other state agencies to create better outcomes, and we listen to the needs and issues identified by crime victim programs and seek ways to assist. Other than having to do with the pandemic, 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 or internet 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 racially diverse populations moving to more 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 primarily Caucasian-staffed 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 Native American 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 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 programming includes 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.

The OJP Executive Director and Cecilia Miller meet every other month with the directors of the 6 coalitions (Violence Free MN, 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. OJP has been working to increase the funding for general crime victims through expanding the hospital-based violence intervention program at the primary trauma hospital in Minneapolis, to two other hospitals nearby that also deal with a significant number of gunshot wounds and assault victims. We also have expanded funding to Child Advocacy Center programs, growing a new program at least every two years, in an effort to reduce the distance a child has to travel to obtain a forensic exam.

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

OJP coordinates with the Minnesota District of the U.S. Attorney's Office and seeks participation from them for the training committee that plans the annual conference and assists with MNVAA, the Victim Assistance Academy committee. 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 Native American coalitions, (Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition and the Sacred Hoop Coalition), participate in regular meetings between the victim services coalitions and OJP. These two directors and their staff advise OJP regarding service delivery challenges for American Indian 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 grant managers to address issues between reservation-based victim service programs and local law enforcement and Tribal law enforcement, to improve the response to American Indian crime victims. OJP has also worked closely with the U.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 much 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 limited improvement, even though it is a focus area for the state and across state agencies. OJP funds a Housing Specialist position to work with other state agencies and the domestic violence coalitions to address housing issue for individuals and families impacted by domestic violence. It is difficult to quantify just how large of a problem this is, but we consistently hear of the struggles shelter programs face in helping families secure affordable housing. We are working with the Violence Free MN and member programs to explore alternative housing strategies to see how we can ease the problem in Minnesota. We have funded a new position within VFMN as a housing coordinator who works on policy development and needed changes with other state agencies toward improving the housing situation for domestic violence victims statewide. 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. 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), but have not seen much improvement. 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 Attorneys 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 many barriers to having this happen. 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 is limited for after-treatment options. Most of the federal funding that used to support re-entry programs and halfway houses disappeared years ago. The treatment centers for American Indian Tribal members are consistently filled to capacity and there are limited treatment options that are culturally proficient. 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 had minimal staff changes over the past 5 years and don't identify this as a problem, although we need more grant manager level staff and compliance monitoring staff that conduct desk reviews. In general staff have a heavy workload and we struggle to complete the required monitoring as defined by our MN Office of Grants Management.

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

Notices of this funding are 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 FY20/21 and FY22/23. We will have a competitive process for all VOCA funding in 2023.

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 plan to release an RFP for pilot projects for programs serving traditionally underserved populations who have not received our funding for ongoing direct services to crime victims. The grant will be awarded at least a year before our next competitive funding process for all VOCA funds in the summer of 2023, to help these agencies handle the funding and compete better in the competitive process.

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

We conduct the open competitive process approximately 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 we offer 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 recent past we provided bridge funding to a hard of hearing/deaf program, a start-up 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. These programs have continued to receive funding and are stable. This is an excellent way to help programs put themselves in a stronger position to compete in the competitive process, and to expand program 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. We create a report utilizing data from The Day One program depicting calls on the hotline, requests for shelter, etc. The needs assessment report is also on our website and we will be utilizing the data as we make a case for more state funding for crime victim services and for administrative funds for increased staff.