

# PA 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.*

<b>OVC VOCA Assistance Funds</b>				
	<b>2018-V2-GX-0068</b>	<b>2019-V2-GX-0026</b>	<b>2020-V2-GX-0063</b>	<b>2021-15POVC-21-GG-00594-ASSI</b>
<b>Federal Award Amount</b>	\$128,806,626.00	\$86,679,182.00	\$63,811,563.00	\$39,420,513.00
<b>Total Amount of Subawards</b>	\$131,948,219.00	\$67,593,207.00	\$64,349,925.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Number of Subawards</b>	573	176	177	0
<b>Administrative Funds Amount</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Training Funds Amount</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Balance Remaining</b>	(\$3,141,593.00)	\$19,085,975.00	(\$538,362.00)	\$39,420,513.00

<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>2018-V2-GX-0068</b>	<b>2019-V2-GX-0026</b>	<b>2020-V2-GX-0063</b>	<b>2021-15POVC-21-GG-00594-ASSI</b>
<b>Government Agencies Only</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>0</b>
Corrections	0	0	0	0
Courts	1	0	1	0
Juvenile Justice	6	3	3	0
Law Enforcement	0	0	0	0
Prosecutor	58	23	28	0
Other	9	4	4	0
<b>Nonprofit Organization Only</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>0</b>
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	67	18	18	0
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	6	3	3	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	114	28	27	0
Faith-based Organization	0	0	0	0
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	77	21	20	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	36	13	13	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	28	9	8	0
Multiservice agency	126	36	35	0
Other	45	18	17	0

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

<b>Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Agencies, and Organizations Only</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	0	0	0	0
Court	0	0	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence organization	0	0	0	0
Faith-based organization	0	0	0	0
Juvenile justice	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	0	0	0	0
Organization provides domestic and family violence and sexual assault services	0	0	0	0
Prosecutor	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	0	0	0	0
Other justice-based agency	0	0	0	0
Other agency that is NOT justice-based (e.g., human services, health, education)	0	0	0	0
Organization by and/or for a specific traditionally underserved community	0	0	0	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
<b>Campus Organizations Only</b>	<b>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>573</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>0</b>

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

<b>Subaward Purpose</b>				
A single SAR can select multiple purposes. Numbers are not unique				
	<b>2018-V2-GX-0068</b>	<b>2019-V2-GX-0026</b>	<b>2020-V2-GX-0063</b>	<b>2021-15POVC-21-GG-00594-ASSI</b>
A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	515	174	177	0
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	95	3	0	0
C. Start up a new victim services project	5	0	0	0
D. Start up a new <b>Native American</b> victim services project	0	0	0	0
E. Expand or enhance an existing <b>Native American</b> project	0	0	0	0

**VOCA and Match Funds**

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

	2018-V2-GX-0068	2019-V2-GX-0026	2020-V2-GX-0063	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00594-ASSI
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	379	10	169	0
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	365	9	148	0
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	308	7	131	0
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	145	1	61	0
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	296	9	143	0
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	418	12	176	0

**Priority and Underserved Requirements**

Priority Area	2018-V2-GX-0068	2019-V2-GX-0026	2020-V2-GX-0063	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00594-ASSI
<b>Child Abuse</b>				
Total Amount	\$22,086,427.00	\$10,382,039.00	\$10,383,047.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	17.00 %	12.00 %	16.00 %	
<b>Domestic and Family Violence</b>				
Total Amount	\$54,144,908.00	\$27,516,098.00	\$26,415,203.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	42.00 %	32.00 %	41.00 %	
<b>Sexual Assault</b>				
Total Amount	\$12,629,449.00	\$6,523,890.00	\$6,100,425.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	10.00 %	8.00 %	10.00 %	
<b>Underserved</b>				
Total Amount	\$39,541,042.00	\$23,171,039.00	\$21,450,527.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	31.00 %	27.00 %	34.00 %	

**Budget and Staffing**

Staffing Information	2018-V2-GX-0068	2019-V2-GX-0026	2020-V2-GX-0063	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00594-ASSI
Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	4498	2640	2728	
Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	263209	102600	103364	
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	1406	575	528	
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	36118	17078	16854	

## 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)	172	6149	6159	6318	6672	6324
Adult Sexual Assault	213	3002	3009	3342	3459	3203
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	168	684	760	748	759	737
Arson	92	153	217	229	218	204
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	131	121	137	122	114	123
Burglary	123	1798	1253	1512	1462	1506
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	234	3348	3433	3344	3149	3318
Child Pornography	118	93	149	128	125	123
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	267	6048	7296	7576	7467	7096
Domestic and/or Family Violence	305	19646	19538	21545	22945	20918
DUI/DWI Incidents	117	1425	1398	1652	1697	1543
Elder Abuse or Neglect	160	729	753	691	706	719
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	102	16	26	37	37	29
Human Trafficking: Labor	129	99	141	187	182	152
Human Trafficking: Sex	173	615	389	337	350	422
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	123	717	999	2240	2200	1539
Kidnapping (non-custodial)	72	43	47	52	39	45
Kidnapping (custodial)	77	26	26	21	44	29
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	68	8	154	28	21	52
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	98	705	656	822	754	734
Robbery	125	1255	1289	1377	1113	1258
Stalking/Harassment	175	1282	1357	1356	1497	1373
Survivors of Homicide Victims	153	2750	3009	3447	3446	3163
Teen Dating Victimization	156	112	112	95	88	101
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	97	43	42	34	34	38
Other	97	6374	49446	61314	71795	47232

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	207	207	208	210	1564

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

Homeless	1711	1641	1737	1989	14965
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	1241	1403	1581	1712	7430
LGBTQ	581	695	739	787	4237
Veterans	216	270	261	258	1770
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/ Physical /Mental	3086	3298	3666	3543	25630
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	1595	1679	1785	1854	10288
Other	0	0	0	0	1

General Award Information		
Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	229144	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	163021	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	162559	70.94 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	17895	7.81 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	6156	

Demographics		
Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
American Indian or Alaska Native	172	0.11 %
Asian	1446	0.89 %
Black or African American	26624	16.38 %
Hispanic or Latino	10226	6.29 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	163	0.10 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	61684	37.95 %
Some Other Race	2574	1.58 %
Multiple Races	2840	1.75 %
Not Reported	56830	34.96 %
Not Tracked	0	0.00 %
<b>Race/Ethnicity Total</b>	<b>162559</b>	
<b>Gender Identity</b>		
Male	38135	23.46 %
Female	101475	62.42 %
Other	413	0.25 %
Not Reported	22536	13.86 %
Not Tracked	0	0.00 %
<b>Gender Total</b>	<b>162559</b>	
<b>Age</b>		
Age 0- 12	13336	8.20 %
Age 13- 17	9007	5.54 %
Age 18- 24	13266	8.16 %

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

Age 25- 59	81321	50.03 %
Age 60 and Older	13520	8.32 %
Not Reported	32109	19.75 %
Not Tracked	0	0.00 %
<b>Age Total</b>	<b>162559</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	114896	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	66375
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	116681
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	36477
			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	53998
B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	155	80406	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	563
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	993
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	4370
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	300837
			B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	5463
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	11782
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	2972
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	215
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	2626
			B10. Interpreter services	2082
C. Emotional Support or Safety	131	77189	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	55224
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	60447
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	52

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

Services			C4. Individual counseling	141315
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	24248
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	34874
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	1602
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	58	4284	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	109463
			D2. Transitional housing	27297
			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	2993
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	137	914722	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	914812
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	16956
			E3. Assistance with restitution	26834
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	13843
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	18457
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	29469
			E7. Immigration assistance	4941
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	552
			E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	101
			E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	77065
E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	5525			

**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.	92
Number of people trained or attending education events during the reporting period.	3769
Number of events conducted during the reporting period.	52
<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

**Describe any program or educational materials developed during the reporting period.**

The Pennsylvania State University provides online trainings for victim advocates at PCCD-funded programs and allied professionals whose work brings them into contact with crime victim populations. During this annual reporting period, the following courses were added to the website: Working with Victims of Domestic Violence (3 Parts), Victims Rights, Understanding Rural Victims, Mental Health & Criminal Victimization, Working with Victims of Sexual Assault & Violence, and Understanding & Helping Crime Victims on the Spectrum. A two-part training on African American Victims is currently in production and will be added to the website upon completion. In an effort to better provide information to victims of crime, at the time of the crime, the Access to Services Subcommittee under the Victims Services Advisory Committee enhanced and is in the process of making available three (3) Law Enforcement Notification documents for Law Enforcement to provide to victims of crime. The three (3) new options each have the same information, however, are formatted in different ways for law enforcement to choose the easiest method for them to use the forms. These single page documents provide the necessary information to victims of crime in a trauma informed manner. In addition to the updated law enforcement victims rights notification documents, the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association (PCPA) developed a short video announcing the new informational documents and law enforcement's responsibilities to distribute basic victims rights information along with the Victims Compensation Application. This video will be used during the annual Legal Update training that all municipal police officers must attend annually. Pennsylvania is in the process of awarding a grant that will create a 5-minute video that will go into further detail about law enforcement's responsibility to notify victims of their rights. This video is projected to be completed in the Spring of 2022.

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

A. PCCD provides a grant to the Pennsylvania District Attorney's Institute (PDAI) to carry out PCCD's statewide training project for victim service providers. PDAI coordinated four (4) different topical trainings: Pennsylvania Health Law Project presents Medicaid: What Every Victim Advocate Needs to Know (2 sessions), Immigration Services for Victims of Crime, Social Media & Electronics – Impacts on Victims & Related Considerations (2 sessions), A Victim's Journey Through Post Sentencing: OVA Overview. These training opportunities were for Victim/Witness program staff in District Attorney's offices and community-based victim service agencies to enhance the quality and effectiveness of services provided to crime victims in the Commonwealth as well as fulfill obligations to provide crime victims with the rights to which they are entitled under the Crime Victims Act. B. PCCD provides a grant to the Pennsylvania District Attorney's Institute (PDAI) to carry out the Pennsylvania automated victim notification system (PA SAVIN). As a victim of crime, this service provides free confidential notification regarding an offender's release, transfer or escape. The PA SAVIN service includes offenders under the supervision of county jails, state prisons, and state parole. PDAI provides training and technical assistance daily to prison staff, law enforcement officers, victim service agencies, and the general community. C. Three (3) Victim Services Foundational Academies were held in fiscal year 2020-2021. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic two of the three Academies were held virtually. Attendance is mandatory for new victim service professionals providing direct services to victims. The foundational academy teaches participants to identify and understand their roles and job responsibilities as outlined by PCCD's Consolidated Victim Service Program Standards. Topics include, but are not limited to: 1. Advocacy skills 2. Communication 3. Counseling skills/Trauma Informed Service Delivery 4. Crisis Intervention 5. Mandated Reporting 6. Disabilities 7. Diversity and Cultural Competence 8. Ethics in Victim Services 9. Overview of the Criminal, Juvenile and Civil Justice system including the appeal process 10. Select trainings of types of victims served through the Victims Services Program 11. Self-care 12. Values clarification 13. Confidentiality 14. Victim's Rights D. KCIT held the following trainings: Basic Crisis Response Training/Group Crisis Intervention Training and Simulation Trainings o The Basic Crisis Response Training/Group Crisis Intervention Training highlights working as a team to help people in crisis cope with the physical, behavioral and emotional reactions to trauma in the aftermath of a community crisis. Simulation Trainings focus on KCIT members maintaining their crisis response skills levels by training on different aspects of crisis intervention. Validating Trauma o This training is dedicated to working with victims experiencing or have experienced trauma. Trauma Informed Death Notification Trainings o Trauma Informed Death Notification Trainings educate victim service providers and first responders on how to provide death notifications in a trauma informed way. Spirituality and Trauma o This training discusses the intersection between spirituality and healing where a traumatization has occurred. o Trauma often leaves us split in two. There is life before the trauma and life after it. Spirituality can be a tool to orient towards our own truth and to redefine what meaning, purpose, and connection look like in the after. This training will look at spirituality as the distilled components shared and found in any faith tradition or community, which are meaning, purpose, and connection.

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

A. Monitoring On March 16, 2020, the Governor issued a Stay At Home Order due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and OVS was not able to conduct on-site monitoring visits. OVS developed an alternative monitoring plan for them to be conducted virtually. This alternative plan was submitted and approved by the OVC Grant Manager. The virtual monitorings occurred in the same manner as on-site monitoring visits. OVS staff and subrecipient staff meet virtually to conduct the monitoring visit, interview staff, review personnel files, client files, review databases, observe equipment and areas of the building. On July 13, 2021, PCCD transitioned to an internal staffing plan that involves the majority of the staff complement moving to a nearly permanent part-time remote working status. PCCD has experienced the virtual platform as an efficient means to facilitate business functions including the monitoring of subrecipients. During virtual monitoring activities, staff have been able to interview agency personnel of the funded agency as well as review all relevant documents. This includes the review of personnel and volunteer files and any equipment purchases. Utilizing video functionality, we have been able to meaningfully connect with agency staff. Given the success of virtual monitoring, Pennsylvania has benefited financially and related to staff resource allocation, reduced the travel time and travel expenses while still ensuring accountability and providing support for subrecipient project implementation. On July 19, 2021 PCCD requested to modify our previously approved Alternative Monitoring Plan (approved 2019) to facilitate virtual monitoring activities based on assigned subrecipient risk. PCCD continues to use a scored risk assessment to assess both financial and programmatic risk for all PCCD subrecipients. The risk category an agency is assigned continues to guide the frequency and intensity of its monitoring. Staff will use their professional judgment and experience working with an agency to determine the frequency and intensity of additional monitoring. PCCD proposed the following modifications to the previously approved alternative monitoring plan, specifically to the type (on-site or virtual) of monitoring to be conducted: High Risk Designation \*Agency will receive an on-site monitoring every two years. Medium Risk Designation \*Agency will receive a virtual monitoring every three years. Low Risk Designation \*Agency will receive a virtual monitoring every four years On September 9, 2021, OVC approved the request for the updated Alternative Monitoring Plan. This plan will be effective beginning on January 1, 2022. The remainder of the monitorings for 2021 will all be completed virtually. B. Funding As a result of the significant reductions of deposits into the VOCA fund, a decision was made by the Victims Services Advisory Committee (VSAC) in November 2019, to forgo a new VOCA competitive funding announcement in 2020 and continue funding existing programs to maintain the expanded programs and service provision to victims that had been built. Funding continues to be monitored very closely. With the passage of the VOCA Fix Bill in August 2021, it alleviated the need to



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

make any reductions to the subrecipients that were awarded grants from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2023. The possibility of a new competitive solicitation in the future will be discussed as more information is known about the future of the Fund. Specifically, the amount of deposits that will now go into the Fund as a result of the VOCA Fix and in turn if our VOCA federal awards will increase.

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

During this time period, there were a number of media announcements from local legislators or local agencies regarding the VOCA Fix and VOCA funding. They include:

<https://www.mcall.com/opinion/mc-opi-crime-victims-assistance-bill-goetz-20210714-q7rnfltzjvdfimhud5j4fsnveu-story.html> o Your View by nine agencies: Why Congress must act quickly to help crime victims. This article explains how during the past four years, fines previously directed to VOCA have decreased significantly due to the Department of Justice s increasing reliance on deferred prosecution and nonprosecution agreements. The penalties associated with these agreements were deposited in the General Fund of the Treasury, not the Crime Victims Fund. As a result, the VOCA fund is at an all-time low. This article was written after the House of Representatives approved the VOCA Fix Act in March 2021 and was awaiting approval in the Senate. The article stated that the VOCA Fix could rectify current funding issues and improve the long-term viability of VOCA and all of the organizations across the US that rely on VOCA funding. The article stated that Sen. Pat Toomey had blocked the bipartisan VOCA Fix Act twice from passing and Pennsylvania residents were asking him to pass the VOCA Fix Act with no amendments. <https://buckscountyherald.com/stories/its-time-to-pass-the-voca-fix-act,10854> o It s time to pass the VOCA Fix Act This article explains how during the past four years, fines previously directed to VOCA have decreased significantly due to the Department of Justice s increasing reliance on deferred prosecution and nonprosecution agreements. The penalties associated with these agreements were deposited in the General Fund of the Treasury, not the Crime Victims Fund. As a result, the VOCA fund is at an all-time low. The article specifically speaks to that without the VOCA Fix, tens of thousands of crime victims in the Delaware and Lehigh valleys would have nowhere to turn to receive specialized services due to the decrease in VOCA funds. In addition, the Victim Compensation Assistance Program would be grossly reduced, if not eliminated. The article also stated that Sen. Pat Toomey blocked the VOCA Fix Act twice, most recently on June 17th.

<https://www.inquirer.com/opinion/commentary/gun-violence-victims-support-philadelphia-pennsylvania-voca-20210913.html> o Amid alarming violence, we've had an important win for victims This article discussed the decline in the VOCA fund and how it was projected to reach a 10-year low by the end of 2021. It explained hoe the House approved the bill, then the Senate, and finally signed by the President. The article went on to explain that with the passing of the VOCA Fix Act, victims of crime will have help paying medical bills, covering lost wages, and receiving the critical services that they need.

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

On September 1, 2021, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) announced it was accepting applications for funding under the FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program. The primary purpose of the program is to provide funding to support effective, community-based strategies to prevent and reduce gun violence in areas of Pennsylvania with the highest rates of shootings, homicides, and firearm-related crime. These projects are up-to-33-month projects with a start date of October 1, 2021 and an end date of June 30, 2024. The goals of the FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program are to: Promote immediate safety for individuals living and working within neighborhoods in the City of Philadelphia and other municipalities in Pennsylvania experiencing high rates of gun violence; Support effective, community-designed and community-led strategies to decrease shootings and increase public safety in the short and long term; and Prioritize support for nonprofit organizations working at the neighborhood and community levels to prevent and reduce gun violence, especially those that have not previously received funding from PCCD. B. OVS continues to aid in the response to the events of Saturday, October 27, 2018, in which a gunman entered Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh and opened fire killing eleven (11) and wounding another six (6). At the time of the shooting, there were 30-40 people inside the Synagogue. The initial response to this tragic event was coordinated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). A Family Resource Center was established during the first week to meet the immediate needs of those inside the synagogue; family members; community members, etc. There was a diverse response at the Family Resource Center that included the PCCDs Office of Victim Services, and a local victim service agency located in Pittsburgh. Since this was deemed a federal crime, PCCDs Office of Victim Services has worked closely with federal partners on this incident, to include Victim Compensation Assistance. This tragic event will have long term effects on the victims, family members and community at large. Ongoing efforts include working with the federal government to manage Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program (AEAP) Grant that was awarded to Pennsylvania on May 6, 2020. On June 2, 2021, OVS requested a no cost extension for the AEAP grant until September 30, 2023 due to how the COVID-19 pandemic substantially impacted the method and availability of the services provided to affected by the shooting. Due to the pandemic, services were required to be altered and administered remotely but with the same level of care in-person services would have provided. Without the opportunity to properly prepare for this significant shift in service provision during a worldwide pandemic, it has been extremely difficult for the subrecipients to meet all of their objectives within the given timeframe. OVS believes a no-cost time extension to September 30, 2023 will ensure that the program goals and objectives are fully and executed, and most importantly, vital services will be provided in a meaningful way.

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

A. There are four issues that may prevent a victim from seeking services or filing for compensation benefits. 1. The first major issue was the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of the pandemic, On March 16, 2020, the Governor of Pennsylvania enacted a Stay-at-Home Order for all non-essential employees to work remotely if possible. This order affected the criminal justice system, victim/witness advocates, and victim service providers in their ability to provide the necessary services to victims. However, the programs quickly adapted and changed the way they provided services. Domestic violence shelters had to seek alternatives such as hotels in order to ensure social distancing was occurring as well as proper cleaning of the living space. Victim service providers had to implement strategies to work remotely and provide services such as tele-counseling for victims to ensure everyone s health and safety. Immigration and refugee victims saw an increased need in emergency financial assistance after employers closed abruptly and many from this population could not access systems such as unemployment, public welfare benefits and housing systems. The COVID-19 Pandemic created additional challenges for victims. Pennsylvania s 67 counties each operate their own county court systems. During the restrictions put in place due to the pandemic, the availability of critical safety tools like protection from abuse orders and sexual violence protection orders has varied by county. Some local courts used technology to have hearings remotely, while others continued holding these hearings in-person. PCCD works with the Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts on STOP issues, and this lack of uniformity is of great concern to both organizations. 2. The second barrier continues to be a language barrier. This can be difficult for local programs, especially when victims are seeking services from them or when they try to assist crime victims in filing for crime victims compensation. Some of the victim service programs have bi-lingual advocates and/or contract with Language Line to provide services to non-English speaking victims of crime. At the statewide level, PCCD has contracted with Language Line to assist non-English

speaking crime victims. With the help of Language Line, PCCD's Office of Victims Services (OVS) can ensure that any crime victim can be informed of victims compensation eligibility requirements, available benefits, and have any of their questions answered. Additionally, OVS Victims Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP) has expanded the number of languages for the VCAP short claim form. The form has been translated into Spanish, Korean, German, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Russian. In addition to the short claim form, VCAP is also translating commonly used VCAP forms into these same languages. Lastly, in an attempt to aid victim services program in working with victims that have a language barrier, the Services and Standards Subcommittee developed a Language Access standard that was included in the Consolidated Victim Service Program Standards. This standard was adopted on November 20, 2020. 3. The third challenge is a lack of public transportation in rural areas. Because of this barrier, some crime victims do not even attempt to contact a victim service agency because they feel they would not be able to access their services without transportation. VSAC made the determination to solicit funds in a non-sustainable competitive funding announcement that would allow agencies to further develop their infrastructure. A number of agencies applied for funding to purchase vehicles in order to address the need for transportation. 4. The fourth challenge that continues to be identified by Pennsylvania's subrecipients is the lack of awareness of the availability of services and victims compensation. This continues to be a challenge identified by the state. In addition, despite victim service programs offering victims compensation assistance, many victims are not using the service, and some identify compensation as an unmet need. The Access to Services Subcommittee enhanced the Law Enforcement Notification Information that police provide to victims. Law Enforcement will be able to choose from one of three options of the Law Enforcement Notification Card: 1) A 5x8 postcard, containing information on the front and back with a 12-point font; 2) A full sheet one page flyer with 14-point font; 3) A full sheet document, front and back with 16 point font.

**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.**

PCCD highly encourages collaboration at the local level. Collaborative planning and establishing partnerships enhance and strengthens services to victims. As part of all VOCA funding announcements, all applicants are required to describe how they currently collaborate with other victim service providers and community partners. VOCA funding requires subrecipients to collaborate with other victim service providers and community partners. PCCD's Consolidated Victim Service Program Standards contains a Collaboration with Community Agencies Standard in which subrecipients shall develop and maintain partnerships with other community agencies that provide services to victims of crime to ensure that victims have the best access to services and to avoid duplication of services. B. VOCA subrecipients provide information pertaining to coordination efforts on their annual reports to PCCD. Many of the victim service agencies receiving VOCA are involved with their county's Criminal Justice Advisory Boards (CJABs). CJABs use a collaborative approach to formulate justice planning and innovative problem solving within all aspects of the Criminal Justice System. Pennsylvania has CJABs in all of its 67 counties.

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

A. A collaborative initiative amongst state funders has provided all victim service programs a streamlined, standardized data collection, reporting and outcomes system called Efforts to Outcome (ETO). The importance of data collection is recognized as integral to the work of victim service providers. Accurate data not only paints a picture of the amazing work victim service providers are doing and give a more realistic image of the impact of violent crime, but it also aids in the ability of organizations to assess and enhance the effectiveness of programs. All victim service programs that receive PCCD (VOCA), Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) or Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) funding now provide funder reports as well as outcome data through ETO. PCCD, PCAR, and PCADV continue to work collaboratively on enhancements to ETO. Virtual user group meetings are held twice per year to engage with ETO Users and provide them with information on the most recent improvements in addition to providing training opportunities to assist them in leveraging the enhanced features that ETO has to offer. Domestic violence agencies receiving HUD funding have been given the opportunity to install the HMIS Program into their ETO Sites. PCCD continues with weekly phone calls with Social Solutions and monthly meetings with PCAR and PCADV to stay abreast of any ETO issues and concerns. B. The Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) is a nationally recognized, evidence-based initiative with demonstrated success in strengthening partnerships between law enforcement and domestic violence service providers. LAP is a two-pronged intervention process featuring a research-based lethality screening tool and accompanying protocols that enable law enforcement and other first responders to assess domestic violence victims, identify those at highest risk of being killed and immediately initiate contact. LAP provides on-scene police officers a brief screening tool to identify domestic violence victims at highest risk of being killed by their abusers. Officers can then connect those victims of domestic violence with life-saving services, thereby reducing domestic violence fatalities. The Lethality Assessment Program is currently being used in 50 counties across the state by 47 domestic violence programs working with 384 police departments. In 2019 Pennsylvania's Governor, Tom Wolf, signed an Executive Order that established a Special Council on Gun Violence within PCCD. The Special Council on Gun Violence consisted of 18 members representing public health, public safety, law enforcement, victim services, education, human services, criminal and juvenile justice, research and state and local government. One of the five workgroups of the Special Council focused on preventing domestic violence-related shootings. Among the recommendations made by the Special Council on Gun Violence was that Pennsylvania should continue to support voluntary statewide deployment/adoption of and fidelity to the Domestic Violence Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) by counties and the Pennsylvania State Police. C. To ensure that every victim, regardless of location or crime, has access to quality, timely, and appropriate services, the Victims Services Advisory Committee (VSAC) and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) adopted operational standards in 2007, for those agencies receiving grant funding. In addition, as part of receiving VOCA funding, sub grantees must meet standards established by the relevant oversight organizations, i.e. PCCD, PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV), PA Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) and/or National Children's Alliance (NCA). With the introduction of the new services that were identified in the 2016 federal VOCA guidelines, many of which were not previously eligible for VOCA funding in Pennsylvania, VSAC identified a need to analyze existing program service standards and develop a strategy to align services and/or activities provided to victims that may not currently be covered by the existing program standards of the relevant oversight organization(s) (PCCD, PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence, PA Coalition Against Rape, National Children's Alliance). As a result, VSAC tasked the Services and Standards Subcommittee to facilitate this work.

**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**

A. Case #1 - Child Abuse In August of 2019, a young boy was shot, and later died at the hospital. An individual, in whose care the child had been entrusted, has been charged in the case with multiple crimes, including endangering the welfare of a child and illegally possessing a firearm, after leaving the young boy in a car with a loaded gun nearby. The local CAC was immediately contacted to provide emergency forensic interviews for the siblings that were present at the time of the shooting. One child was too young to interview (the CAC starts interviews at age 3). In this case, their father, who lives in Florida, came and took custody of the children as there were no appropriate caregivers in York County. Our Family Advocate spent significant time researching and reaching out to providers in Florida. She maintained contact repeatedly with the father, helping him access services. He has communicated that the children are in counseling and are doing well. Finding resources in Pennsylvania is one thing but reaching out to Florida and continuing to provide support for a caregiver there is a step beyond our normal services. This case will continue to move through the legal channels, and the children may or may not need to testify.

B. Case #2 - Domestic Violence A Court Advocate encountered a victim involved in a non-intimate partner domestic through a referral from an officer with the police department. The Court Advocate met the victim at the PFA Office in order to provide filing assistance, explain the filing process, and discuss available services. The Court Advocate discovered there was a second victim, a minor, whom currently was in the hospital being treated for his severe injuries. The victim was granted a full protection order which included protection for the minor victim as well. A referral was completed for PFA representation at the final PFA hearing. Sadly, the minor victim passed away before the final PFA hearing due to his injuries. The Court Advocate provided support and encouragement to the victim at the final PFA hearing, where a final full order was granted for 3 years. The Court Advocate provided information to a local funeral home on the Victim's Compensation Program due the victim not having the sufficient amount of funds needed to provide a proper burial for the minor victim. The victim continues to seek closure through counseling sessions. The victim was able to meet with civil legal attorneys regarding filing for grandparents rights due to the minor victim having a child. The victim expressed her desire to relocate. She is in the process of viewing apartments and communicating with landlords for their acceptance of relocation funds from the agency's relocation program.

C. Case #3 - Sexual Assault Six-year-old Jane Doe had been increasingly afraid of leaving the house. After a family discussion about an incident that happened while in the care of what the family thought were trusted people, Jane Doe shared a horrific story with her mother about years of abuse at the hands of these same so-called trusted people. Mom immediately reported this information to the local police department who immediately contacted the CAC to set up a forensic interview. Once at the CAC, Jane Doe was clearly afraid to talk to anyone else about her secret. She even said to her mother, I told you not to tell. During the years of abuse this child had been groomed to believe that police were bad and if she told anyone her family would be hurt. The trained Forensic Interviewer was able to convince Jane Doe to go into the interview room. Once in there she talked about many things but would not address the alleged abuse. She even went so far as to say it was a dream. Following the interview, where she did not disclose, Law Enforcement continued to question the child. Believing that there was a good possibility that there were other victims. Again, Jane Doe refused to share the story she had told her mother. It was then decided by the CAC and Law Enforcement to contact the FBI for assistance. All three agencies continue to work together at solving this case. All three agencies involved, CAC, Law Enforcement, and FBI have agreed to ongoing therapy to assist Jane in feeling safer here and prepare her for a second interview. This is currently ongoing. The next interview will only be scheduled when all agencies feel that the child feels safe enough to disclose.

D. Case #4 - Elderly (Underserved) There was a senior who was a victim of deed fraud where the victim had filed a pro se quiet title action in court. The local victim service provider amended his complaint so that the senior could avoid a mortgage obtained by the perpetrator against the property and regain title to his home. The agency assisted the senior with service of the Complaint and was successful at trial. The mortgage was voided against the Property and senior's legal ownership of his home was restored.

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

Pennsylvania continues to recover from the events of Saturday, October 27, 2018, when a gunman entered Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh and opened fire killing eleven (11) and wounding another six (6). At the time of the shooting, there were 30-40 people inside the Synagogue. The initial response to this tragic event was coordinated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). A Family Resource Center was established during the first week to meet the immediate needs of those inside the synagogue; family members; community members, etc. There was a diverse response at the Family Resource Center that included the PCCD's Office of Victim Services, and a local victim service agency located in Pittsburgh. Since this was deemed a federal crime, PCCD's Office of Victim Services have worked closely with federal partners on this incident, to include Victim Compensation Assistance. The Office of Victims Services (OVS) applied for the Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program (AEAP) Grant. Funding was awarded to OVS and subgrant awards were made to the following agencies: Jewish Family & Children's Service for Pittsburgh; New Light Congregation; Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh; Congregation Dr Hadash; JCC of Greater Pittsburgh; Center for Victims; and Tree of Life Congregation. Pennsylvania recently applied for an extension of the AEAP grants through September 30, 2023. Additionally, many of the victim services agencies that receive VOCA funding in Pennsylvania are rape crisis centers and/or domestic violence agencies. All the victim services agencies provide the same level and quality of services to federal crime victims as are provided to state crime victims. Sub-grantees have reported that in order to serve federal crime victims they have created and/or maintained relationships and responded to referrals from the FBI Victim Witness Specialist and the US Attorney's Office Victim Witness Coordinator; received extensive training in trafficking and related offenses; provided services for victims of federal crime served by the Federal Courthouse; and developed a productive working relationship with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to address the financial exploitation of seniors.

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

A. Human Trafficking Since 2014, Pennsylvania's Legislature has passed three laws to strengthen the state's response to human trafficking. These include: Act 105 of 2014 – Pennsylvania's Comprehensive Human Trafficking Law Act 130 of 2018 – Pennsylvania's Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Act 1 of 2020 – Pennsylvania's Buyer Beware Act. The addition of these laws enables county prosecutors to bring human traffickers before local courts for prosecution. These laws have also spawned a number of county-led Human Trafficking Task Forces that are providing information, education and outreach to a variety of stakeholders in local communities, helping to increase awareness and identification of victims of trafficking. Pennsylvania used its increase in VOCA funds to encourage local victim service agencies to expand their services to victims of human trafficking. Through STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Funding, Pennsylvania supported a pilot project to develop cross-system, collaborative response protocols for adolescent and adult victims of sex trafficking. Also through STOP, Pennsylvania convened a cross-system statewide planning committee to develop a four-year implementation for the use of STOP funds. The statewide implementation planning committee emphasized, and the STOP Implementation Plan reflects, the prioritization of projects that create or maintain quality services for all victims of crime, with a special emphasis on victims of human trafficking as one of several underserved populations in the state. Finally, PCCD continues to foster collaborative resource sharing, problem solving and training on human trafficking with its partners at the state level. PCCD is currently working with representatives from the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association, and the Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts to create a model response protocol development guide for Sexual Assault. This protocol will have an entire section devoted to considerations for trafficking victims.

B. Elderly Victims and People with Disabilities In 2019, Pennsylvania was awarded funding under OVC's Building State

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

Technology Capacity and Elder Abuse Hotlines Grant Program. PCCD applied as the VOCA Administrating agency on behalf of the Pennsylvania Department of Aging (PDA). During the first year of the project, the state s antiquated elder abuse hotline was switched to a different provider with live, 24/7 coverage. The biggest improvement has been the addition of a live operator who can make a warm handoff to the appropriate Area Agency on Aging as well as ensure that calls coming into the hotline are answered promptly, which has dramatically decreased the number of calls dropped. Pennsylvania s Department of Aging now has access to statistics on calls that it never had before and is able to have a better picture of the response of county protective services (AAA s). This second year of the project has focused on building a dashboard alert system to keep track of elder abuse reports coming into the counties, response times to those reports, caseworker workloads and implement a series of alerts at the caseworker, county administrator and PDA levels when legally mandated response deadlines are in danger of not being met. The dashboards are currently being rolled out to a series of county AAA s for testing and will be rolled out across the state in early 2022. C. Limited English Proficient (LEP) victims There is a gap in linguistically and culturally appropriate service provision for immigrant/limited English proficient victims of crime. The barriers of language, culture, complicating factors of poverty, low education and transportation continue to grow. Pennsylvania is increasingly considered a safe place for refugees to resettle. This has resulted in Pennsylvania significantly strengthening its capacity to serve these victims. Pennsylvania has used VOCA funding to support the following: \*The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) funds a full-time Language Access Coordinator who oversees a statewide contract for interpretation and translation as well as coordinates statewide trainings for both rape crisis advocates and interpreters to improve the understanding of the needs of LEP victims of sexual assault and best practices for serving such victims. \*In the City of Philadelphia, several organizations have collaborated to ensure that immigrant and LEP victims are identified, assessed and connected to services. \*The Pennsylvania Immigrant and Refugee Center (PIRC) has used VOCA funding to increase its capacity to serve immigrant victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking across the state. \*Friends of Farmworkers uses VOCA funds to maintain two full-time Immigrant Victim Rights Attorney and paralegals who provide services to victims of labor trafficking across the state.

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

Staff who have left over the past few years have left due to relocating out of state; promotions within the program; or through other promotional opportunities. When staff have left, we have been able to fill the positions relatively quickly without issue.

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

Prior to a VOCA funding solicitation being released, an article is always included in the OVS Newsletter to inform of the upcoming release and encourage applications. In addition to soliciting applicants to apply for funding, PCCD announces all funding opportunities on its website <http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Funding/Pages/default.aspx> and interested applicants can subscribe to receive email notifications via Egrants, when funding opportunities are available.

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

The competitive VOCA projects that were being funded in this reporting period were focused on services to meet the needs of underserved populations and address emerging forms of victimization. Specifically, areas of priority that have encouraged the development of services to meet the needs of underserved populations included: A. Emergency Civil/Legal Services B. Credentialed Therapists C. Services for Victims of Human Trafficking D. Sexual Violence Protection Orders E. Increasing/Strengthening Services for Elderly Victims of Crime F. Child Advocacy Centers G. Services/Programs for Victims of Crime Who are Young Men of Color H. Services for Victims with Mental Illness I. Services for Victims with Low English Proficiency J. Services/Programs for the Homeless K. Mobile Service Provision particularly in areas where public transportation is sparse or non-existent. All of these competitive projects were designed to: \*Maintain core direct services \*Expand or enhance service provision \*Increase the diversity and scope of services available \*New services to fill gaps in service delivery \*Provide services to underserved/unserved victim populations The competitive VOCA solicitations have enabled Pennsylvania, during this reporting period, to increase the diversity of direct services available to crime victims in communities across Pennsylvania. It also has enabled communities to identify underserved populations of crime victims within their borders and fund victim service providers to serve those individuals. In the spring 2020, the Office of Victims Services announced a \$171 million dollar, three (3) year VOCA Funding Announcement that will sustain projects in good standing arising from the 2016 and 2018 competitive and non-competitive, funding announcements to continue to support underserved populations and to bridge gaps in service provision. This announcement will provide funding to some of Pennsylvania s most vulnerable victim populations through September 2023.

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

The Victims Services Advisory Committee (VSAC), as part of their strategic planning, identified as a goal to ensure statewide access to core services for victims of crime. The Access to Services Subcommittee was established to look at the needs of victims statewide are being addressed. This Subcommittee continues to meet and use relevant information available from the previous needs assessments that were conducted. Additionally, at each quarterly VSAC meeting, a portion of time is dedicated to continuing to review strategic planning efforts to identify and determine what, if any, gaps exist. As VOCA funding is available, VSAC prioritizes the funding to ensure current core services are being provided and then at the gaps in services that can be addressed using the funding available.

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

As part of the annual report submitted to the Governor s office, PCCD reports that VOCA funding is utilized to provide direct services to help victims of crime to cope with the physical, emotional and financial needs associated with crime and help them stabilize their lives in the aftermath of trauma. In addition, PCCD reports on the number of victims served on an annual basis.