

AK Annual State Performance Report

Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program

Reporting Period: [Oct 1, 2021 to Sept 30, 2022]

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

OVC VOCA Assistance Funds					
	2018-V2-GX-0019	2019-V2-GX-0013	2020-V2-GX-0003	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00609-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00695-ASSI
Federal Award Amount	\$7,912,465.00	\$5,462,248.00	\$4,117,817.00	\$2,726,119.00	\$3,573,803.00
Total Amount of Subawards	\$7,516,841.00	\$5,224,481.00	\$3,877,777.00	\$2,275,687.00	\$0.00
Total Number of Subawards	38	21	13	14	0
Administrative Funds Amount	\$395,623.00	\$237,564.00	\$205,890.00	\$136,305.00	\$0.00
Training Funds Amount	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance Remaining	\$1.00	\$203.00	\$34,150.00	\$314,127.00	\$3,573,803.00

Subgrantee Organization Type					
The total number of subgrants represents all subgrants funded across all federal awards active during the reporting period. The number is not unique as there are subgrantee organizations that are continuously funded from each federal award.					
Type of Organization	2018-V2-GX-0019	2019-V2-GX-0013	2020-V2-GX-0003	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00609-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00695-ASSI
Government Agencies Only	0	0	0	0	0
Corrections	0	0	0	0	0
Courts	0	0	0	0	0
Juvenile Justice	0	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	0	0	0	0	0
Prosecutor	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Nonprofit Organization Only	38	21	13	14	0
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	11	1	7	0	0
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	0	0	0	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	2	0	1	0	0
Faith-based Organization	0	0	0	0	0
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	19	13	4	7	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	0	1	1	0	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	1	2	0	1	0
Multiservice agency	5	4	0	6	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Agencies, and Organizations Only	0	0	0	0	0
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	0	0	0	0	0
Court	0	0	0	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence organization	0	0	0	0	0
Faith-based organization	0	0	0	0	0
Juvenile justice	0	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	0	0	0	0	0
Organization provides domestic and family violence and sexual assault services	0	0	0	0	0
Prosecutor	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	0	0	0	0	0

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Other justice-based agency	0	0	0	0	0
Other agency that is NOT justice-based (e.g., human services, health, education)	0	0	0	0	0
Organization by and/or for a specific traditionally underserved community	0	0	0	0	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Campus Organizations Only	0	0	0	0	0
Campus-based victims services	0	0	0	0	0
Law enforcement	0	0	0	0	0
Physical or mental health service program	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Subawards	38	21	13	14	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-0019	2019-V2-GX-0013	2020-V2-GX-0003	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00609-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00695-ASSI
A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	23	21	13	14	0
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	15	0	0	0	0
C. Start up a new victim services project	0	0	0	1	0
D. Start up a new Native American victim services project	0	0	0	0	0
E. Expand or enhance an existing Native American project	0	0	0	0	0

VOCA and Match Funds					
A single SAR can select multiple service types. Numbers are not unique					
	2018-V2-GX-0019	2019-V2-GX-0013	2020-V2-GX-0003	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00609-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00695-ASSI
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	35	18	13	9	0
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	31	17	13	6	0
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	35	21	12	14	0
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	14	13	5	1	0
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	32	17	13	6	0
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	38	21	13	14	0

Priority and Underserved Requirements					
Priority Area	2018-V2-GX-0019	2019-V2-GX-0013	2020-V2-GX-0003	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00609-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00695-ASSI
Child Abuse					
Total Amount	\$2,372,124.00	\$895,707.00	\$1,780,775.00	\$571,282.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	30.00 %	16.00 %	43.00 %	21.00 %	
Domestic and Family Violence					
Total Amount	\$1,548,813.00	\$1,436,226.00	\$486,631.00	\$910,943.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	20.00 %	26.00 %	12.00 %	33.00 %	
Sexual Assault					
Total Amount	\$890,016.00	\$825,167.00	\$295,846.00	\$276,467.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	11.00 %	15.00 %	7.00 %	10.00 %	
Underserved					
Total Amount	\$2,650,868.00	\$2,067,380.00	\$1,314,523.00	\$516,995.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	34.00 %	38.00 %	32.00 %	19.00 %	

Budget and Staffing					
Staffing Information	2018-V2-GX-0019	2019-V2-GX-0013	2020-V2-GX-0003	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00609-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00695-ASSI

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Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	638	268	220	185
Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	299436	340583	111619	68475
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	240	183	103	58
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	24205	23532	4973	14686

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)	10	102	121	86	4	78
Adult Sexual Assault	12	80	79	94	30	70
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	11	18	19	9	14	15
Arson	3	1	3	2	0	1
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	11	122	111	134	67	108
Burglary	4	5	5	2	0	3
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	24	205	197	212	127	185
Child Pornography	17	1	3	2	0	1
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	27	189	207	203	62	165
Domestic and/or Family Violence	25	419	496	496	162	393
DUI/DWI Incidents	2	1	0	0	0	0
Elder Abuse or Neglect	10	2	1	0	0	0
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	5	41	14	7	0	15
Human Trafficking: Labor	8	1	1	3	0	1
Human Trafficking: Sex	18	4	5	5	0	3
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	4	10	20	17	0	11
Kidnapping (non-custodial)	3	3	3	11	0	4
Kidnapping (custodial)	6	2	3	4	1	2
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	3	0	0	0	0	0
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	2	0	2	1	0	0
Robbery	4	4	5	5	0	3
Stalking/Harassment	14	62	53	57	5	44
Survivors of Homicide Victims	9	21	32	43	0	24
Teen Dating Victimization	20	9	13	9	14	11
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	1	0	0	0	0	0
Other	2	56	41	29	1	31

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	4	5	4	2	114
Homeless	49	49	46	8	1303
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	134	137	105	1	311
LGBTQ	38	47	39	35	147
Veterans	18	9	8	2	91
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/ Physical /Mental	101	106	101	23	1009
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	75	78	70	2	247

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Other	44	52	56	1	125
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General Award Information		
Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	3074	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	41	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	1599	52.02 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	846	27.52 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	438	

Demographics		
Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	438	27.39 %
Asian	32	2.00 %
Black or African American	74	4.63 %
Hispanic or Latino	64	4.00 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	21	1.31 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	647	40.46 %
Some Other Race	34	2.13 %
Multiple Races	56	3.50 %
Not Reported	231	14.45 %
Not Tracked	2	0.13 %
Race/Ethnicity Total	1599	
Gender Identity		
Male	416	26.02 %
Female	1101	68.86 %
Other	7	0.44 %
Not Reported	57	3.56 %
Not Tracked	18	1.13 %
Gender Total	1599	
Age		
Age 0- 12	310	19.39 %
Age 13- 17	400	25.02 %
Age 18- 24	160	10.01 %
Age 25- 59	453	28.33 %
Age 60 and Older	44	2.75 %
Not Reported	42	2.63 %
Not Tracked	190	11.88 %
Age Total	1599	

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	18	992	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	587
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	558
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	384
			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	719
			Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	37
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	156
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	283
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	2563

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B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	17	1241	B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	546
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	1232
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	71
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	73
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	162
			B10. Interpreter services	49
C. Emotional Support or Safety Services	20	1847	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	1031
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	882
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	212
			C4. Individual counseling	3513
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	443
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	3846
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	158
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	10	111	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	1195
			D2. Transitional housing	624
			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	57
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	15	1293	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	912
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	31
			E3. Assistance with restitution	39
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	642
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	2940
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	26
			E7. Immigration assistance	1229
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	86
			E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	286
			E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	387
E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	180			

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	0
No	1
Number of requests received for education activities during the reporting period.	0
Number of people trained or attending education events during the reporting period.	0
Number of events conducted during the reporting period.	0
Did the grant support any coordination activities (e.g., with other service providers, law enforcement agencies) during the reporting period?	
Yes	0
No	1
Describe any program or educational materials developed during the reporting period.	
N/A: No VOCA funds were used for education materials this reporting period.	
Describe any planning or training events held during the reporting period.	
N/A: No planning or training events were held this reporting period with VOCA funds. The CDVSA Executive Director and Criminal Justice Planner did meet in Anchorage with Senator Lisa Murkowski and other constituents to discuss the impact of decreased VOCA funds on our state. The travel for this trip was funded by VOCA dollars.	
Describe any program policies changed during the reporting period.	

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During this reporting period, no policies were changed on the SAA level, however CDVSA did undergo a new financial grants management system (Grant Vantage: GV) which changed the process for sub-grantee financial reporting. The implementation of GV has been a large undertaking, with significant amount of staff time directed toward developing the system and on-boarding of CDVSA's sub-grantees. This has resulted in a more efficient and timelier function for receiving and reviewing financial reports. As stated, no actual policies were changed though office operations continue to evolve as we implement this new and improved system.

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

The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) works closely with statewide media focusing on keeping key issues of violence, victims of crime, and interpersonal violence in the public's eye. VOCA funds do not cover our time and efforts related to earned media coverage of important topics, but it is a critical component of the work CDVSA does. Funding for our media and social media work comes from state-designated general funds, associated with funding specifically focused on community-based prevention. Additional state general fund dollars are added as needed to expand and enhance CDVSA's ongoing media messaging. Funding for media and social media is, unfortunately, limited due to both staff and funding resources. While our goal is to have a year-round and consistent presence in the media, much of our efforts are focused on three designated months: February (Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month); April (Sexual Assault Awareness Month); and October (Domestic Violence Awareness Month). Each year the Alaska Governor issues a Proclamation during a media event to bring attention to Alaska's responsibility to reduce interpersonal, sexual, and other violent crimes and to create opportunities and services to promote healing and health. During these highlighted months, CDVSA staff are called upon to respond to media calls and participate in radio and/or television programs highlighting the issues and work being done to reduce and eliminate violent crimes. State fiscal year 2022 was CDVSA's sunset year, requiring the Division of Legislative Audit to conduct an audit of the Council, its board, and programs subject to termination under AS 44.66. The audit report, along with other reports and testimony, is considered by the Legislature when determining if there is a continuing public need for a board, commission, or program. During our sunset years, there is considerable attention paid to the Council, especially during the 90–120-day legislative session that begins each January. Once the audit report is concluded, a bill is introduced in the legislature (HB 291) and the bill is heard before 2-3 committees to respond to questions and document the continuing need for the sunseting Council. During the 2022 Legislative session, CDVSA and the issues related to domestic and sexual violence were given considerable time and attention as the process proceeded to a vote to continue CDVSA. HB291 was passed and signed by the Governor to continue to work to end domestic violence and sexual assault. Domestic and sexual violence received significant attention throughout the legislative session with needed funding, additional staff position for CDVSA, and the passage of HB 325 bill passage – a monumental bill that redefined consent, amended the definition of crime involving domestic violence to include harassment 2, requires all sexual assault exam kits to be tested within 6 months of receipt, among other provisions. The passage of this bill provided considerable positive attention, discussion, and support for the overall improvement of Alaska's laws and actions to reduce and end domestic and sexual violence.

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

CDVSA continues to expand coordination and partnerships with a diverse group of agencies responding to and working to improve services to crime victims in Alaska. During the reporting period, one of the most critical coordinated responses was to assist the Alaska Victims Crime Compensation Board (VCCB) when their Executive Director resigned with little notice. CDVSA staff, MaryBeth Gagnon, Criminal Justice Planner, and L. Diane Casto, Executive Director worked closely with the two remaining staff and an OVC support team, to help prioritize work and next steps to keep the process for victim compensation moving forward. Because of the relationship between CDVSA and VCCB, it was important for the Council to assist as the Department of Public Safety recruited a new VCCB Executive Director. Ms. Gagnon continues to work closely with the new VCCB Director to ensure that our two organizations are working collectively to guarantee services and compensation to Alaska victims of crime. Another key coordinated response to increase services for victims of crime is the implementation of the CDVSA Language Access Plan. Alaska has over 110 different languages spoken in its largest school district in the state; additionally, according to the US Census approximately 16% of people in Alaska do not speak English at home and 31.4% do not speak English very well. These statistics indicate how many victims of crime may not have easy access or any access to service at all. In partnership with the Alaska Institute for Justice, we have undertaken a project to translate a significant amount of services information on our website in the top 8 spoken/requested languages in Alaska: Spanish, Tagalog, Korean, Russian, Hmong, Samoan, Yupik, and Chinese. At the time of this report, we have the translations completed, the webpage structure built, and the information posted and ready to go live soon. While the information will be posted on the CDVSA website, our intention is to share the link to our site with all agencies and organizations providing services to victims of crime, expanding language accessibility as broadly as possible. We are excited to have this project near completion and anticipate an expansion of non-English or limited English-speaking victims of crime to have easier access to welcoming services. While not funded by VOCA dollars, one additional new project this reporting period has been the Perpetrator Rehabilitation Workgroup, a multidisciplinary approach to reviewing and recommending improved services, accountability, and healing for individuals who use violence in their interpersonal and intimate partner relationships. We know that without a strong program to end violence in relationships, we will never truly make long-term progress to end domestic violence. The 28-member workgroup met for 18 months to identify current gaps in service, varied programming to meet the many communities and cultural service needs, and what programming is currently evidence-informed. Through the efforts of this workgroup, CDVSA will continue to work in partnership with law enforcement, Alaska Courts, prosecutors and defense attorneys, child welfare workers, victim advocates, and others to redesign our existing one-size-fits-all approach to serving perpetrators of violence with the intent to provide safety to victims and interrupt the generational cycle of violence. As reported last year, CDVSA and its sub-recipients continue to collaborate with Alaska's community-based sexual assault response team (SART). Agency staff participate as either the coordinator and/or provides victim advocates. CDVSA continues to coordinate bi-annual training for SART teams throughout the state via the federal STOP/VAWA grant. Training occurs in November (fall) and April (spring) of each year. Our ongoing partnership with the University of Alaska Anchorage, School of Nursing supports the Alaska Comprehensive Forensic Training Academy (ACFTA) to train nurses, healthcare providers, and community health aids to enhance their skills related to conducting general forensic exams (not just sexual assault), learning to collect critical forensic evidence resulting from a crime. ACFTA is funded with state general funds and is prioritized to strengthen the skills of those who provide medical care to victims of crimes, especially in rural Alaska where there are few Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) or other forensic specialists. CDVSA subgrantees receiving VOCA grant funds participate in multidisciplinary teams to support child victims of sexual and physical assault. This participation serves to increase the team's knowledge of and response to the dynamics of domestic and sexual violence, as well as accept referrals for services that may arise from law enforcement, prosecution, or the Office of Children's Services.

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

One of the major issues in the State of Alaska preventing victims from receiving assistance is the overall shortage of labor. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the workforce have continued to impact providers of all disciplines in hiring and retaining staff, ranging from law enforcement to direct service providers and state government positions. As noted in previous years, the struggle to recruit and retain law enforcement continues throughout the state despite aggressive recruiting and increased incentives being offered to those wanting to relocate to the State of Alaska. This lack of law enforcement is especially detrimental to our rural villages who are often days away from assistance due to weather and/or lack of available officer to assist. Victims also continued to experience long delays for the processing of protective orders and court hearings this reporting period due to the ongoing impacts of the pandemic on the labor force. Alaska continues to suffer from a lack of mental health and substance use resources throughout the state. Substance use is reported to be significantly increased, as is the need for mental health services. Without providers, shelters continue to experience high volume of victims with co-occurring issues that require more staff resources for safety, with limited staffing. Many agencies are operating with "skeleton crew" staffing despite offering more incentives and bonuses for staff. Subgrantees continue to work on housing and homelessness issues which is a chronic issue in Alaska, influencing housing policy related to crime victimization. Many sub-grantees assist with the coordination of transitional housing options for survivors by working with other service providers, such as public assistance, Alaska Housing, and Finance Corporation (AHFC), and tribal entities. Efforts to find safe and affordable housing for victims continues to be a critical and consistent issue confronting providers on a regular basis. The relationship between victimization and vulnerability to interpersonal and intimate partner violence is a critical risk factor. These efforts have become critically important due to the significant changes that have occurred since the pandemic and our new normal.

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.

CDVSA can only be successful if we maintain strong and active collaborations and partnerships with diverse stakeholders across the state, as identified in our CDVSA 5-Year Strategic Plan (2020-2025). One key initiative in our Strategic Plan is collaboration with stakeholders. During this reporting period we have continued to expand our partnerships with the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center, the Denali Commission (a recipient of a portion of the VOCA tribal set aside funds), the Alaska Public Health Association, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (a new statutorily required Board member, and Rural Alaska Community Action Program (Rural CAP) to name a few. We continue to strengthen our partnership with the Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB), the recipient of VOCA state compensation funds, located with the same department as CDVSA, the state Department of Public Safety (DPS). During the past legislative session, the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission was sunset creating a new membership workgroup, Criminal Justice Data Analysis Commission. CDVSA will work in close partnership with this Commission, sharing data to have a robust and useful set of data related to all aspects of criminal justice for analysis.

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

Due to the challenges faced in service delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic, several of our sub-grantees have developed new and innovative ways to support and reach victims. Anchorage Community Mental Health Services report they increased services in schools via agreements to provide co-located mental health services for children experiencing trauma, while another program-Volunteers of America Alaska, added a new Day Treatment program which combines academic and therapeutic services to support youth in their home environment while providing increased interventions to avoid residential treatment placements. Another sub-grantee, the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, switched to a new case management program for their Legal Project, allowing them to text clients directly, which is a more accessible method of communication for the client community. Aside from improving ways to reach victims directly, one sub-grantee, Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (AWAIC), addressed the issue of low morale and toxic work culture amongst employees by holding skip meetings. Skip meetings are defined by the action of skipping a step in management order for someone with more seniority to reach out to direct service staff. This activity was a suggestion stemming from the results of a survey done in the last reporting period that recognized that morale was very low. Skip meetings give the Executive Director a chance to hear directly from all staff their concerns, frustrations, ideas, suggestions, and thoughts on the operations at AWAIC. Three issues that came from the interviews was the lack of staffing due to high turnover, staff having to train staff creating confusion on messaging and following procedures, and the atmosphere of the agency was described as toxic by several

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staff pointing to issues of gossip and inequitable treatment by other staff. In order to address these issues the Executive Director worked with all staff in establishing guidelines for communication, creating more opportunities for group meetings and increased trainings. Addressing issues with personnel and workplace culture inadvertently results in improved delivery of victim services, and CDVSA is excited to see these crucial areas being addressed.

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

CDVSA is on its fourth year within the Request for Proposals (RFP) cycle. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CDVSA chose to extend the current RFP for one additional year due to staff capacity levels at both the provider and SAA level, and to use this time to assess funding levels in light of recent VOCA decreases. It is important to note that CDVSA administers several federal awards as well as state general dollars for victims; therefore, our percentages of victims served are in actuality much higher overall than is reported to OVC. With the influx of time-sensitive ARPA funds, CDVSA chose to distribute these funds to avoid a decrease in sub-grant amounts at a time when more dollars are needed. The use of such funds led to our percentage categories appearing under-reported, such as Sexual Assault for VOCA FFY20 funds. CDVSA was able to obtain a waiver for this year due to the use of additional funding sources used to fund victim service providers. CDVSA has not changed the methodology in which it delineates the priority categories: Domestic Violence: This category is met by counting victims of domestic violence seeking either emergency services (shelter) or other services such as legal advocacy, referral linkage, housing assistance, etc. In SFY22, CDVSA funded 3 dual DV/SA programs providing crisis shelter with VOCA funding. Sexual Assault (Adult): This category is met via those seeking either emergency shelter services and/or legal advocacy or referrals. One agency, Standing Together Against Rape in Anchorage, focuses solely on sexual assault victims. In SFY22, CDVSA funded STAR and 3 dual DV/SA programs with VOCA funding. Child Abuse (Physical and Sexual): This category is met by serving child victims accompanying victims to shelter services and/or receiving direct services, child advocacy centers, and targeted mental health counseling services for children. In SFY22, CDVSA funded 9 CAC programs, 5 child-targeted mental health projects, and 3 DV/SA dual programs with VOCA funds. Underserved Victims: Alaska counts Native Alaskan victims within this category, as well as victims of other violent crimes who receive services either through our other funded agencies or are served via Victims for Justice located in Anchorage, AK. In SFY22, CDVSA funded 22 VOCA projects that served either Alaska Natives and/or victims of other violent crimes.

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

During this reporting period, the Governor of the State of Alaska established the Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking within the Department of Public Safety through Administrative Order 328. This initiative is not funded through VOCA dollars, though may become the statutory responsible of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in the future. Currently, the membership consists of 13 voting members that consist of appointed Commissioners or designees, the Attorney General, 7 Public members, and two ex-officio members-one who is a member of the Alaska State Senate, the other a member of the Alaska House of Representatives. The initial duties of the Commission is to identify gaps in gathering of human trafficking information, increase responsiveness to reports of human trafficking, establish and fund safe shelters, implement media awareness campaigns, increase victims advocacy services, provide recommendations for education, and improve outreach information in multiple languages. Another major effort taken this reporting period was the establishment through Administrative Order 329 of the Governor's Council on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP Council) within the Office of the Governor. This Council was formed for the purpose of facilitating interagency collaboration to significantly reduce violence against Alaska Native people and the numbers of missing and murdered indigenous persons specifically. The MMIP Council is comprised of 11 voting members and 2 ex-officio members, similar to the Human and Sex Trafficking Commission described above. CDVSA participates in this Council through the participation of our Board member Lydia Hayward, who is an Alaska Native woman. This Council provides recommendations for the development of public awareness, education and outreach campaigns, interagency cooperation relative to missing person protocols, improvement of public safety in tribal communities that have little or no law enforcement, and ways to improve investigations including data/information sharing and collection.

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

Many programs reported concerns about costs of fuel and food for both staff and participants. The steep rise in costs has made poverty a reality for those who were previously able to support themselves and their family. Direct financial assistance is one thing survivor programs often cannot provide, and from the staffing point of view higher personal costs often prohibit people from accepting employment at non-profit, victim service agency. Furthermore, housing is not available in many, many Alaskan communities and/or waiting lists are 6 months to 1 year or more, causing clients to remain in shelter for long periods of time. As mentioned, finding and retaining staff, especially in competition with tribal agencies or state agencies that can provide higher salaries and benefits, is an ongoing issue for many programs. Lack of law enforcement continues to plague many communities, especially villages as was noted in question #12 above. The high rate of turnover or absence of staff in critical partner agencies like forensic medical staff, OCS is also a continued issue for our state. Alaska is also experiencing a backlog of court cases. An example of impact is long term protection orders Are taking as long as 6 months to process, which leaves the victim at a heightened risk of lethality.

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

CDVSA has experienced significant staffing issues again in SFY22. Throughout the State of Alaska, as mentioned, there has been a critical labor shortage amongst all trades and professions. CDVSA is amongst one of them. In SFY22, CDVSA had limited administrative and financial support due to the loss of staff and difficulty finding interested persons. Not only did turnover occur within our division, but the entire Department of Public Safety experienced a high rate of turnover and position re-shuffling. This led to existing staff taking on additional roles and tasks not necessarily within their normal scope of duties. The reason is believed to be after-effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, appropriately referred to as The Great Resignation. CDVSA continues to struggle to find qualified applicants for these positions despite extended recruitment efforts.

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

The CDVSA website is our most prominent tool for publicizing available services available to victims of violent crimes and their families. CDVSA has continued to make improvements in updating the information on our website. CDVSA also shares information regarding new Request for Proposals solicitations to our partners within the state to reach potential new sub-grantees who may not be aware that funding is open to new agencies and not just those "legacy" programs who already receive funding.

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

CDVSA sub-grantees direct funding to new and underserved populations in many unique and interesting ways. One sub-grantee, the Maniilaq Family Crisis Center (MFCC), serves mainly Alaska Natives. As such, MFCC provides materials such as skins, hides, and sewing materials to village communities and schools to maintain cultural traditions and to educate younger populations so these activities continue. Another project led by Volunteers of America (VOAA) is in the process of developing a telehealth program to provide therapeutic services to populations in rural Alaska. Many youths seek services outside of the local community at VOAA's residential facility. Upon transition back to their home community, telehealth services are included to support the youth in their transition, link them to other local providers, and provide mental health and substance use services in a remote format.

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

One of our sub-grantees, Aiding Women in Abuse and Rape Emergencies (AWARE) is leading the state in gender inclusive services. When AWARE became a gender integrated shelter in 2018, they agreed to screen in individuals who were struggling with housing due to gender identity or sexual orientation. Recently, they made another special case for Elders who have become homeless, given the likelihood of victimization when elderly folks are unhoused. They have found that while a person who identifies with any of these underserved populations may not volunteer their victimization status, in actual fact almost everyone they have served has a story of trauma caused by violence. AWARE hopes to make it easier to ask for help by welcoming people to emergency shelter without putting them through an intensive screening process that often leaves the participant feeling like a burden on the system. Another sub-grantee, Women in Safe Homes (WISH) focused on addressing participants that are in active addiction to assist them with getting into shelter. As we know, victims in active addiction have additional barriers to leaving perpetrators and often have a difficult time checking into shelter programs. WISH partnered with Ketchikan Indian Community's Behavioral Health Department to provide support services in the shelter, helping participants see 2 providers in the same location. A substance abuse counselor comes once a week to respond to the needs of the participants at that given moment, which sometimes leads to a substance abuse assessment, an in-take to services, mental health counseling, etc. This intervention has proven to be successful with multiple participants successfully entering the appropriate treatment.

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

Since 2013, Alaska has collected Comprehensive Integrated Performance Measures, from each department, to track annually over time. As defined in our Performance Details, the Core Services of CDVSA are Safety, Prevention, and Accountability. CDVSA tracks and reports a total of nine performance measures related to services to victims; prevention; and accountability. While we continue to report on these original performance measures, recognizing that they are almost 10 years old, it is time to review and revise and update these outcome measures to better represent our current work and the work of our 33 funded sub-grantees. Collecting quality data is a high priority for CDVSA, yet we continue to struggle with identifying and collecting measurable data that reflects our work. Ideally, our data should be used to improve the effectiveness of how we utilize our state and federal public funds. During SFY2023, CDVSA is creating new performance outcomes that are measurable, reportable, and informative for decision-making and understanding the service needs of victims, survivors, perpetrators, and communities. Annually we share our outcome data with the Governor, legislator and stakeholders, and partners through our CDVSA Annual Report (0170_22_dps_2020-2021-Annual-Report_Final-Web_V2.pdf (alaska.gov)). Additional outcome data collected and published by CDVSA is the statewide Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Dashboard, representing annual data for several DVSA measures from various state agencies. This document is updated annually since 2010. The most recent version, 2021 is available at Alaska Dashboard - Resources - CDVSA - Alaska Department of Public Safety. To improve our data collection for all CDVSA sub-grantees, we are currently exploring a new data management system. Our current system is outdated and no longer supported by the state's Office of Information Technology. We hope to select a new system by early 2023 and

begin implementing and migrating our data to an improved system.