

# CO 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-0050	2019-V2-GX-0027	2020-V2-GX-0024	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00614-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00711-ASSI
<b>Federal Award Amount</b>	\$56,681,557.00	\$38,825,662.00	\$28,979,526.00	\$18,182,462.00	\$24,883,530.00
<b>Total Amount of Subawards</b>	\$53,847,479.00	\$36,629,030.00	\$11,862,999.00	\$234,375.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Number of Subawards</b>	388	199	157	1	0
<b>Administrative Funds Amount</b>	\$2,834,077.00	\$1,941,283.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Training Funds Amount</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Balance Remaining</b>	\$1.00	\$255,349.00	\$17,116,527.00	\$17,948,087.00	\$24,883,530.00

Subgrantee Organization Type						
<small>The total number of subgrants represents all subgrants funded across all federal awards active during the reporting period. The number is not unique as there are subgrantee organizations that are continuously funded from each federal award.</small>						
Type of Organization	2018-V2-GX-0050	2019-V2-GX-0027	2020-V2-GX-0024	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00614-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00711-ASSI	
<b>Government Agencies Only</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Corrections	1	1	1	0	0	
Courts	2	1	1	0	0	
Juvenile Justice	0	0	0	0	0	
Law Enforcement	82	44	37	0	0	
Prosecutor	42	20	19	0	0	
Other	18	8	5	0	0	
<b>Nonprofit Organization Only</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	57	29	24	0	0	
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	10	5	2	0	0	
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	41	21	16	0	0	
Faith-based Organization	6	3	3	0	0	
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	41	20	16	0	0	
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	18	10	7	0	0	
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	12	5	4	0	0	
Multiservice agency	28	17	10	1	0	
Other	25	12	11	0	0	
<b>Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Agencies, and Organizations Only</b>	<b>0</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	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	
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	
<b>Campus Organizations Only</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Campus-based victims services	4	2	1	0	0	
Law enforcement	0	0	0	0	0	
Physical or mental health service program	0	0	0	0	0	
Other	1	1	0	0	0	

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

<b>Total Number of Subawards</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
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\*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					
	2018-V2-GX-0050	2019-V2-GX-0027	2020-V2-GX-0024	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00614-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00711-ASSI
A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	317	169	133	0	0
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	43	4	2	0	0
C. Start up a new victim services project	29	26	22	1	0
D. Start up a new <b>Native American</b> victim services project	0	0	0	0	0
E. Expand or enhance an existing <b>Native American</b> project	0	0	0	0	0

<b>VOCA and Match Funds</b>					
A single SAR can select multiple service types. Numbers are not unique					
	2018-V2-GX-0050	2019-V2-GX-0027	2020-V2-GX-0024	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00614-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00711-ASSI
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	178	41	154	1	0
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	157	36	143	0	0
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	151	36	128	1	0
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	79	16	52	1	0
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	143	31	124	1	0
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	189	43	156	1	0

<b>Priority and Underserved Requirements</b>					
Priority Area	2018-V2-GX-0050	2019-V2-GX-0027	2020-V2-GX-0024	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00614-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00711-ASSI
<b>Child Abuse</b>					
Total Amount	\$9,076,502.00	\$6,218,612.00	\$1,739,455.00	\$5,515.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	16.00 %	16.00 %	6.00 %	0.00 %	
<b>Domestic and Family Violence</b>					
Total Amount	\$22,929,722.00	\$15,195,465.00	\$4,509,865.00	\$41,360.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	40.00 %	39.00 %	16.00 %	0.00 %	
<b>Sexual Assault</b>					
Total Amount	\$7,093,008.00	\$4,939,582.00	\$886,831.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	13.00 %	13.00 %	3.00 %	0.00 %	
<b>Underserved</b>					
Total Amount	\$14,748,247.00	\$10,275,371.00	\$4,726,842.00	\$187,500.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	26.00 %	26.00 %	16.00 %	1.00 %	

<b>Budget and Staffing</b>					
Staffing Information	2018-V2-GX-0050	2019-V2-GX-0027	2020-V2-GX-0024	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00614-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00711-ASSI
Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	3515	1784	1367	8	
Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	4464277	2306880	1750895	12376	
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	10322	5497	4954	0	
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	2229673	968602	743539	0	

## AGGREGATED SUBGRANTEE PERFORMANCE MEASURE DATA

<b>Victimization Type</b>						
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)	106	7095	6779	6519	7429	6955
Adult Sexual Assault	137	3405	3433	3914	3277	3507
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	70	690	726	543	585	636
Arson	33	54	47	60	47	52
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	48	717	726	626	611	670
Burglary	68	882	928	1031	1090	982
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	150	5332	5239	5556	5192	5329
Child Pornography	39	106	117	145	90	114
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	160	4628	4655	4709	4671	4665

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

Domestic and/or Family Violence	180	20880	21650	21772	22433	21683
DUI/DWI Incidents	52	474	317	431	437	414
Elder Abuse or Neglect	89	459	483	488	785	553
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	50	47	59	80	64	62
Human Trafficking: Labor	36	72	80	66	82	75
Human Trafficking: Sex	76	362	269	234	307	293
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	48	1211	1419	1425	1311	1341
Kidnapping (non-custodial)	50	224	178	205	205	203
Kidnapping (custodial)	34	41	76	50	81	62
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	10	200	259	182	153	198
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	57	926	1384	1226	1508	1261
Robbery	71	594	572	539	615	580
Stalking/Harassment	120	4748	4766	4398	4127	4509
Survivors of Homicide Victims	79	574	855	672	727	707
Teen Dating Victimization	64	163	287	228	181	214
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	4	8	8	34	51	25
Other	50	9691	9815	8699	7664	8967

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	137	143	180	171	840
Homeless	1671	1451	1578	1819	8118
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	1183	1231	1221	1530	7328
LGBTQ	606	608	561	710	2911
Veterans	361	503	405	519	2558
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/ Physical /Mental	1898	2027	2161	2086	11860
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	2778	2224	2246	2290	15011
Other	715	1011	991	1324	7838

General Award Information		
Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	173257	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	1872942	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	111544	64.38 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	45909	26.50 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	51156	

Demographics		
Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
American Indian or Alaska Native	1470	1.32 %
Asian	1081	0.97 %
Black or African American	6537	5.86 %
Hispanic or Latino	20604	18.47 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	310	0.28 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	51282	45.97 %
Some Other Race	5136	4.60 %
Multiple Races	1971	1.77 %
Not Reported	13862	12.43 %
Not Tracked	9291	8.33 %
<b>Race/Ethnicity Total</b>	<b>111544</b>	
<b>Gender Identity</b>		
Male	29672	26.60 %
Female	62616	56.14 %
Other	525	0.47 %
Not Reported	9771	8.76 %
Not Tracked	8960	8.03 %
<b>Gender Total</b>	<b>111544</b>	
<b>Age</b>		

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

Age 0- 12	12908	11.57 %
Age 13- 17	8106	7.27 %
Age 18- 24	10869	9.74 %
Age 25- 59	50264	45.06 %
Age 60 and Older	7877	7.06 %
Not Reported	10903	9.77 %
Not Tracked	10617	9.52 %
<b>Age Total</b>	<b>111544</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	197	1988298	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	129115
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	1936419
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	55447
			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	109308
B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	176	65799	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	2240
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	1943
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	11808
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	102285
			B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	3449
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	3409
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	13383
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	10800
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	8797
B10. Interpreter services	12222			
C. Emotional Support or Safety Services	171	82733	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	60422
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	59082
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	8666
			C4. Individual counseling	65177
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	12992
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	11561
C7. Emergency financial assistance	9819			
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	97	7919	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	30868
			D2. Transitional housing	12233
			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	11929
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	152	1934117	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	1950424
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	16525
			E3. Assistance with restitution	22179
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	11340
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	9597
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	6859
			E7. Immigration assistance	3089
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	8269
			E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	6103
			E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	24804
E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	7359			

## ANNUAL QUESTIONS

Grantee Annually Reported Questions	
Question/Option	Count
Were any administrative and training funds used during the reporting period?	

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

Yes	1
No	0
<b>Did the administrative funds support any education activities during the reporting period?</b>	
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
<b>Did the grant support any coordination activities (e.g., with other service providers, law enforcement agencies) during the reporting period?</b>	
Yes	1
No	0
<b>Describe any program or educational materials developed during the reporting period.</b>	
n/a	
<b>Describe any planning or training events held during the reporting period.</b>	
n/a	
<b>Describe any program policies changed during the reporting period.</b>	
No VOCA program policies changed during the reporting period. The OVP continued to work to try to make grant management as streamlined as possible to continue our ongoing efforts to make funding accessible. We continue to help programs navigate often complicated State and Federal special conditions – such as our Audit requirements and the Federal determination of suitability to interact with minors.	
<b>Describe any earned media coverage events/episodes during the reporting period.</b>	
<p>The OVP and DCJ were in the media a few times this last year surrounding OVP's involvement and response to the Club Q and King Soopers shootings. Our office spearheads obtaining and providing AEAP funding needed to support and create resiliency centers to respond to these mass tragedies as well as work with stakeholders in the communities to identify and address the needs in these tragic times. Additionally, our Victim Rights Advocate Subcommittee (VRA) was also in the media for forwarding along four victim complaints to the Attorney General regarding victim rights violations by the 12th District Attorney's Office. This was the first time since the creation of the VRA subcommittee that a case has been referred to the Attorney General's Office for review – often this is a step of absolute last resort. You can read more about this case and the outcome here: <a href="https://kdvr.com/news/local/ag-investigating-12th-judicial-da-for-victim-rights-act-violations/">https://kdvr.com/news/local/ag-investigating-12th-judicial-da-for-victim-rights-act-violations/</a> Many subrecipient programs reported having articles, new reports and interviews done about their programs over the last year. Our Human Trafficking Council's project continues to be a pioneer within the state and nationally developing innovative ways to reach victims and spread the word about services. They continue to have ads on t.v., distribute fliers in bars, gas stations and restaurants across the entire state promoting the Human Trafficking hotline. We also had a number of grantees report to us that they were featured in local papers, news reports and even recognized nationally for their work. Here are a few of them: W.I.N.G.S. Foundation, Inc. was recognized with a National Community Hero Award by Insperty, our PEO provider, and celebrated at their national PGA invitational event in Houston, Texas this summer. More coverage can be found here: <a href="https://www.insperty.com/community-hero/giving-survivors-the-tools-to-fly/?pid=ThoughtHorizons&amp;cid=300000214325639&amp;utm_source=ThoughtHorizons&amp;utm_medium=social&amp;utm_campaign=ThoughtHorizons">https://www.insperty.com/community-hero/giving-survivors-the-tools-to-fly/?pid=ThoughtHorizons&amp;cid=300000214325639&amp;utm_source=ThoughtHorizons&amp;utm_medium=social&amp;utm_campaign=ThoughtHorizons</a> Denver Indian Health and Family Services, Inc. (DIHFS) was featured in Provider Newsletter from Colorado Access'. The article mentioned the services provided by DIHFS and specifically our integrated care approach and telehealth therapy services Alpine Legal Services bilingual staff attorney was interviewed on Facebook Live through a local Spanish radio station (La Tricolor), and the same bilingual staff attorney writes a monthly column in Spanish for a local paper, Sopris Sun. In these interviews and columns he often describes what Alpine Legal Services does to support and provide legal services for victims of crime as well as informing victims of their rights.</p>	
<b>Describe any coordinated responses/services for assisting crime victims during the reporting period.</b>	
<p>The Office for Victims Programs (OVP), within the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ), continues to oversee the federal VOCA Assistance grant (VOCA), the federal Violence Against Women Act grant (VAWA), the federal Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) grant, our state Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement grant (state VALE) and the federal VOCA Victim Compensation grant (VC). This last year our office also received Federal American Rescue Act Plan (ARPA)/ State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) and General Funds to supplement loss on federal funds for victim services. Because all of these programs are housed within one office, coordination between these programs happens regularly, which in turn helps the agencies that assist crime victims. The Office for Victims programs continues to house the state Human Trafficking Council. Having this program in our office means that we have access to the latest information regarding human trafficking crimes in Colorado. In addition, the Human Trafficking staff also conducts training to local stakeholders, many of whom are VOCA subgrantees. The Human Trafficking program within our office is currently receiving VOCA funds to conduct a statewide public awareness campaign to address both labor and sex trafficking. Our office also houses the Victims Rights Act (VRA) Coordinator for the state. The Coordinator works with a VRA subcommittee of our advisory board to review victims rights act complaints and to determine whether a victim's rights have been violated when a complaint is filed. The Coordinator provides training on victims rights in Colorado that many of our subgrantees attend. The Coordinator collaborates with other stakeholders to travel around that state to provide these key and necessary trainings. We highly encourage all our subaward staff/volunteers to attend or view the VRA trainings. We continue to fund the Statewide Emergency funds grant and the fellowship program that provides a fellowship experience for recently graduated law students from the University Of Denver Sturm College Of Law by placing them in local victim service agencies to work with victims of crime on their civil legal service needs. Both our Unit Manager and Grants Team Lead continue to serve on the Gender Based Violence Committee which is partnership: our office, the Domestic Violence Program (DVP) the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and both State Coalitions for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. This Committee is key in fostering collaboration between the offices, exploring avenues to increase funding availability to communities that are impacted by inequity, streamlining funding and making it more cohesive and consistent across the three different State Departments and more. In addition to all these ongoing initiatives and continued collaborations this last fiscal year, our Unit Manager was tasked with spearheading the Victims of a Violent Crime Brain Injury Task Force (Task Force). This 17-member advisory board was created under the Colorado Senate Bill Senate Bill 21-138 to develop a plan for the creation and implementation of a pilot program that would identify and screen for the identification, screening, support, and services of victims of violent crimes for symptoms of possible brain injury and provide those who screen positive with the appropriate support and services.</p>	
<b>Please discuss the major issues in your state that either assist or prevent victims from receiving assistance during the reporting period.</b>	
<p>In order to best answer this question, we compiled answers from our Quarterly Reports and PMT Responses from our subgrantees. Last year we reported that staff within our programs were experiencing severe burnout, fatigue and were resigning in unprecedented numbers. This unfortunately is still true this year, however, it seems to be plaguing local law enforcement and prosecution offices that are often partners for local programs. A great number of our programs reported that staff shortages within law enforcement and prosecution offices has impacted services – especially for our CACs and CASAs. One program wrote: "The most notable issue preventing child victims of crime in receiving services in not only the communities that we serve but around the country is due to our MDT partners; in particular child protective services and law enforcement who have shared that they are significantly understaffed and are struggling to recruit new staff. Without as many detectives investigating crimes against children, or patrol spotting suspicious behavior or noticing a child's bruise or case workers investigating outcries of abuse; child victim referrals to Ralston House are impacted." – Ralston House This is an issue that is affecting both our metro and rural areas. Another program in the metro Denver area noted that because of the lack of staff in law enforcement agencies, [...] victims of domestic violence are having to wait much longer for their cases to be investigated and an arrest made, causing significant delays and safety concerns for them. Legal advocates have seen an increase of survivors reaching out for a civil protection order because of criminal investigations being delayed. When these system based agencies are adequately staffed, programs are noting that there's still a deep rooted distrust and fear of the criminal justice system that worsens the reluctance of victims to receive needed protective services as well as work with victim advocate agencies – like CACs. Delays in investigations, lack of access to protective orders in a timely manner, and a deep rooted distrust in the systems meant to protect victims means the victims are having more contact with their perpetrator for longer, impacting their willingness to seek services due to intimidation, harassment or inappropriate influence. Another issue programs noted that is impacting services was the lack of mental health resources and/or resistance to receive mental health services – especially for marginalized communities. At the end of last year, programs were noting there was a profound lack of professional services that they traditionally relied on to serve victims due to: staff turnover, professionals moving to more affordable areas, or professionals just not willing to negotiate lower service rates to serve victims of crime. Programs that relied on legal and SANE services were the most affected, but this year, the response related to lack of mental health services has been overwhelming. Programs across the state have expressed that many mental health providers either have long waitlists that makes it virtually impossible for victims to receive services in a timely manner or that therapy have skyrocketed that it's impossible to afford assistance for victims. One program noted that "[...] agencies who have individuals trained in working with kids/families who have experienced trauma or specific TF-CBT have substantial waiting lists and report a lack of budget availability to hire or an inability to hire trained professionals to do the work." Just like with the law enforcement staff shortages noted above, even when mental health services are available there's still gaps in providing culturally appropriate services to victims. Programs are noting services that are available often lack adequate, culturally specific mental health services, especially for the Latino/a community as well as the deaf community. Many therapists are not able to provide bi-lingual services or services appropriate for individuals with health conditions or impairments, further exacerbating the gap in services for these vulnerable populations. Additionally, programs are also noticing there's still a deep rooted stigma associated with receiving mental health services, thus victims are not willing to receive this needed assistance, even when available. In addition to all these issues that are plaguing victim services in Colorado, we continue to see themes such as: continued lack of resources/capacity to serve victims, affordable housing/shelter options and transportation. This last part is especially exasperated by declining funds for victim services in a time when crime rates and demand for services is at an all-time high.</p>	
<b>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.</b>	

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

Addressing the Statewide Emergency Fund, civil legal services and housing needs of crime victims continues to be a priority for our office. Building upon the collaborations mentioned in last year's report, as you'll read in responses to come, Colorado continues its hard work to increase the accessibility of our funding and expand eligibility for programs who serve communities impacted by inequity and/or who are not mainstream programs. This last year, OVP announced funding for its two year grant cycle that goes from January 2023 – December 2024. Leading up to this funding announcement, our office worked with consultants and our board to revise our funding philosophy and application to make both more inclusive to communities impacted by inequity. We hosted specific application webinar Q&A sessions specifically geared towards new programs, especially those that are by-and-for programs. During these sessions we received great questions especially surrounding language accessibility of the application and related grant materials. We were asked if responses could be written in the language the applicant was more comfortable using, etc. Through these efforts we were able to provide funding to eleven new programs, three of them being by-and-for organizations serving communities impacted by inequity. We continue to review the make-up of our Board members and are still actively seeking applications for eight open positions, three of which are culturally specific positions. We are actively recruiting applicants from throughout the state and especially from programs that are either by-and-for organizations, or provide culturally specific services to victims. Our Unit Manager and Grants Team Manager continues to serve on the Gender Based Violence Committee where the topic of making funding more inclusive and accessible is a common topic. Over the last year, our Grants Team Manager has been working closely with the Latino Coalition setting up their Incubator project for small grass root agencies that serve communities impacted by inequity. Recently the Coalition just reviewed and intends on awarding five agencies beginning January 2023 to work with them and build up their administrative capacity to hopefully be able to apply for VOCA funding on their own in our next CY 2025-2026 cycle.

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

As has been mentioned in an earlier section, the Office for Victims Programs administers the federal VOCA Assistance grant (VOCA), the federal Violence Against Women Act grant (VAWA), the federal Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) grant, a state Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement grant (state VALE) and the federal VOCA Victim Compensation grant (VC). Coordination between these programs and with our Human Trafficking and Victims Rights programs happen on a daily basis, which helps with the delivery of victim services. With the Mandatory Match Waiver requirement, we were able to continue to provide continued match waivers for VOCA subgrantees for the 2022 calendar year period. Waiving this requirement, especially in a time of low volunteer recruitment, significant staff turnover, low donations and decline state funds – all of which help program meet this requirement – has been a welcoming relief to not only us as SAAs, but our programs as this is one less stress for them in managing their grants. Additionally, our office worked diligently with programs to critically review their grant budgets and engage in difficult conversations about de-obligating unused funds early in order to provide more grant funding for future cycles. Many programs were seeing six, nine even twelve month vacancy savings for positions resulting in over a million dollars in cost savings. By encouraging programs to de-obligate unspent funds early, we were able to increase our funding announcement and availability of funds by close to one-million dollars, which was much needed in this time of declining funds. Additionally with the anticipation of the release of our application for our upcoming CY 23-24 cycle we also held many Town Halls to discuss the declining VOCA funds and potential impacts on victim services and future funding cycles. These were difficult conversations to have, but many programs expressed appreciation for our office being transparent and timely with our updates – even if it was changing day by day. While this didn't directly impact victim services, it did help many programs get a head start in budget and program planning for the future. We in turn saw many programs that only requested the essentials (i.e. personnel costs) in this last application cycle and eliminating many other costs, like supplies and operating and travel expenses. This in turn enabled our office to make streamlined and consistent recommendations for funding that were in line with our Funding Philosophy of supporting direct services.

## **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**

As mentioned in an earlier response, service providers for victims of child abuse are reporting that staffing shortages in law enforcement, prosecution and other MDT partner agencies is significantly impacting services to children of crime. Specialized services are key to many CACs adequately severing children of crime and overwhelmingly, many are reporting that they cannot due to these staffing shortages. Reports are not being followed up in a timely manner, investigations and prosecution of crimes are delayed, all of which further traumatize children who often have to stay in the same home as their perpetrator. Furthermore, now that schools are back open, some programs are seeing increase demand for services as children are now in contact with trusted adults whom they can disclose things to. Unfortunately, as just mentioned, often these services can only go so far when partner agencies are either backlogged, understaffed or just don't exist anymore in the region. CACs are noting that they're seeing an increase in peer violence and cyberbullying and CASAs are noting that now that people are being told to go back into the office to work, recruiting and retaining needed volunteers has been a struggle as of late. Whereas we reported last year that non-profit organizations saw a decline in DV and SA victims, this year, we're hearing from the same programs that not only are the cases they're getting more severe, but that they're also seeing a record high in requests for services. One project in a rural mountain community noted that the amount of sexual assault victims they're serving, which traditionally this program served primarily DV victims, is rising and cases are becoming more violent in their region. They reported that their area is serving more incidents of laced drinks and drugs especially among the high school community and that because the crimes they're now serving, compared to previous years are, significantly different in terms of victimization type and violence they're seeing a greater need for financial assistance among our clients and community, as well as an increase in need for mental health and other healing therapies – both of which are lacking here in Colorado. System-based agencies are not without their struggles too in serving DV and SA victims here in Colorado, as mentioned a new law was passed by the CO Supreme Court in 2022 that states that prosecutors must disclose all information, regardless of admissibility, that the prosecutor knows or reasonably should know tends to negate the guilt of the accused or mitigates the offense or that would affect a defendant's decision about whether to accept a plea agreement. This has raised confidentiality issues for victims when working with advocates and prosecutors and for many, has prompted them to look elsewhere for services. Despite all these negative trends, much brought upon by the pandemic and the shutdowns, one District Attorney's office did mention that once courts were able to reopen, that their court decided to continue to offer virtual hearings in which this office noted higher rates of attendance by victims and other related parties – much different than in the past when cases were heard in person and things like being in the same room as the perpetrator, transportation and childcare prevented many victims from being able to attend. VOCA-funded programs continue to create and implement specialized services to reach underserved victims where they are at, whether that be through hiring more bilingual staff, offering legal clinics within the community, or building relationships with other programs that specialize in serving those underserved populations. We continued to fund the programs highlighted in last year's report that provide specialized services to underserved communities. While we don't specifically fund this portion of the agency, Eagle County Sheriff's Office, a VOCA funded agency, has been nationally recognized for their Law Enforcement Immigrant Alliance that was in development with Catholic Charities, which consists of representatives from the immigrant community who meet regularly with the heads of Eagle County's law enforcement agencies. The goal of this program and collaboration is to share resources, information and build trust and collaboration with the immigrant community. This has been a successful model for this agency and region that other departments around the state and nationally have reached out to the Eagle County Sheriff's Office to learn more on how to replicate the programming.

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

No specific efforts were undertaken by OVP directly; however, it is the expectation of the Office for Victims Programs at the Division of Criminal Justice that subgrantees serve victims of federal crimes in the same manner in which they would provide services to other victims. Many program this year, probably much thanks to the successful Human Trafficking Public Awareness Campaign, noted they served a number of human trafficking victims and assisted in their cases. One CAC in the mountain area signed an MOU with the FBI to do forensic interviews at their site for both the FBI and Homeland Security. Additionally, another CAC in the Denver Metro area reported on working with the FBI and Homeland Security on three separate cases providing: culturally appropriate services in Spanish to victims, forensic interviews to those victims, as well as victim advocacy from our center.

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

The issue that continues to affect crime victim services in Colorado is the amount of Local, State and Federal funding losses programs are continuing to experience all the while programs are struggling to retain staff and pay them adequately for the level of work and services that are demanded of them. Our FFY21 and FFY22 VOCA awards have been significantly decreasing forcing us as SAAs to eliminate funding for many benefits programs could provide to staff to retain them like: trainings, office supplies and travel assistance. This funding not only supports importing housing stability for victims, mental health services, child services, and more, it also supports increases in salaries for victim advocates in a state where housing prices and cost of living has exploded over the last two years. While our office was able to obtain State funding, for the first time, for victim services, this has barely begun to fill the gap in terms of money needed to adequately meet the needs of victims around the state. Staff shortages is even more evident when it comes to the size of caseloads people are handling, along with staff shortages, our agency attempts to provide as much support as we can to help fill some service gaps, especially when it comes to our victim advocate needing to talk with families and provide supports. While staffing shortages and turnover have impacted services greatly, they can be good in some aspects. One program located in a mountain resort town wrote the following: We've notice ongoing changes in leadership in our community, i.e. long-standing executive directors are retiring, and a new wave of leadership is emerging that is focusing on community partnerships, accountability, elimination of redundancy, capturing good data, identifying and advancing opportunities for equity training, and overall a much more trauma-informed approach to identifying the root causes of victimization and the best ways to prevent harm to vulnerable populations. We've seen less of a competitive mindset and more of a collaborative attitude amongst many new leaders. So while, it's easy to see all the negatives about staff turnover and retention, there are some positives to having some of these longstanding programs come into new leadership and ways of collaborating with each other. Another emerging trend is the sheer amount of violence and crime happening across the state, particularly in the Denver Metro area where they're experiencing a 47% increase in homicide over 2019 rates. Car thefts are at a National high, gun violence between youth, drug use and overdose are plaguing communities and violent property crimes and crimes against persons are increasing. One metro program noted that because of the increase in violent situations, one of their forensic interviewers shared that the cases that used to be "once in a blue moon" severe cases, now make-up our standard case-load – putting a strain on professionals to serve these victims appropriately. A metro based program noted that their, [...] community has seen an increase in crime rates over the last year. The increase includes more homicides and more violent crimes than in years prior. Due to these rising crime rates our crime victim services has been greatly impacted. As an example, so far during 2022 [they] have responded to nine homicide cases; whereas in 2021 [they] responded to a total of three. (Jefferson County Sheriff's Office). Naturally programs are struggling to appropriately serve these clients due to the staffing shortages and lack of professional expertise to do so from partnering agencies or other professionals – such as mental health providers. While they are not emerging, we continue to see that limited housing, transportation, mental health services and legal services still continue to affect victim service delivery. I also want to mention, while not specifically called out in this question, the issues that prevent victims from receiving services as noted in Question 12 above, are also large and emerging trends in communities as well – especially lack of mental health services.

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

The majority of staff employed at the Office for Victims Programs have been employed with the office for multiple years. Just like our subgrantees, State agencies are seeing rapid turnover and resignations across all departments and difficulty obtaining qualified applicants. During the October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022 there were a few transitions in our office. We lost our Grant Program Specialist, which was great loss for our Grants team as she was integral in helping us in so many aspects of our funding process, ongoing grants management and reporting. After learning of the VOCA award decrease our office decided that we would not rehire for her position and instead save money to partially support a research position that would specifically work with our office and provide Victim Service data to us – something that has been lacking significantly in the state of Colorado. Additionally, because of new State and Federal funds that our office was given in the last legislative session, we've been trying to hire for a new Grant Manager that would work with our Grants Team Lead in managing these brand new funds for over 40 grantees. Unfortunately, due to our HR process and the time it takes to offer jobs, we've lost out on some great candidates as they were offered another job much faster. While this didn't happen in the last fiscal year, we just learned that our Grant Financial Team will be down yet another member, leaving the team with only three instead of being fully staffed at four – five individuals. We anticipate that in meantime until we can post and hire, that Grant Program Managers will step up to help fill gaps where needed.

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

As mentioned in last year's annual report, Colorado's process for publicizing its victim assistance funding process is primarily to conduct a mass email campaign in which we send a link to our announcement of available funds and application materials to existing subgrantees and to everyone on our newsletter/email list. We ask everyone who receives our materials to forward them to interested parties. We also post our announcement and application materials on our state website and in our office newsletter. We also ask our partnering agencies to forward along important information to their stakeholders as well. Staff has also shared via social media as well.

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

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

Since this was a funding year for OVP, we worked hard leading up to this latest announcement of funding to review, revise and revamp our funding opportunity documents to make them more accessible and encourage programs that serve underserved population to apply. We worked with EDI consultants who reviewed our language and requirements and provided suggestions on how to simplify the process to encourage more applicants to apply. We did things like use common language in our instructions, limit the amount of text we were using, used graphics and tables instead of writing things out (i.e. instead of writing a paragraph about funding and what's expected, we instead moved this all to table to simply the look and eliminate the overwhelming feeling people may have when seeing long, complicated text). We also held a special training just for by-and-for and new applicants to ask us questions about our funding and what's expected. We successfully funded eleven small and new agencies that serve underserved regions, with three of them being by-and-for organizations.

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

Colorado has historically kept our application process as broad as possible so that we fund a wide-variety of programs serving a wide-variety of victims across the state. Every year since our need assessment in 2015: civil legal services, housing and money for the emergency needs of victims continues to come up. We ask programs to report to us quarterly, gaps in services and needs in the area. From this we compile the information to help us inform our funding decisions in the future. For instance, leading up to our funding process this year, we knew there was a gap in providing services to communities impacted by inequity. Thus, our office and CVS Advisory Board made it a priority to intentionally outreach and provide funding for new applicants that were specifically by-and-for programs or served under-resourced communities. Our office also continues to keep a running list of costs we have deemed eligible or ineligible and refer and update it often to help expand what we can and cannot support with VOCA funds. This has helped particularly this year as agencies are shutting down and other programs need to fill gaps in services.

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

The only information that is shared with the governor and/or legislature regarding VOCA is the list of VOCA awards that are made every 2 years. For our upcoming CY 23-24 grant period, we have compiled this list and sent it to him in the Fall of 2022.