

GA 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-0066	2019-V2-GX-0019	2020-V2-GX-0014	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00619-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00691-ASSI
Federal Award Amount	\$104,998,424.00	\$71,285,938.00	\$53,007,906.00	\$33,108,235.00	\$45,807,711.00
Total Amount of Subawards	\$95,847,039.00	\$66,322,048.00	\$45,216,583.00	\$12,954,028.00	\$0.00
Total Number of Subawards	496	230	232	7	0
Administrative Funds Amount	\$5,249,921.00	\$3,564,296.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Training Funds Amount	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance Remaining	\$3,901,464.00	\$1,399,594.00	\$7,791,323.00	\$20,154,207.00	\$45,807,711.00

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-0066	2019-V2-GX-0019	2020-V2-GX-0014	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00619-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00691-ASSI
Government Agencies Only	41	12	25	3	0
Corrections	1	1	1	0	0
Courts	1	1	1	0	0
Juvenile Justice	2	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	22	3	13	2	0
Prosecutor	4	3	2	1	0
Other	11	4	8	0	0
Nonprofit Organization Only	446	215	207	4	0
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	159	87	98	0	0
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	2	1	1	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	125	74	54	3	0
Faith-based Organization	2	0	1	0	0
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	21	10	10	0	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	32	8	16	1	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	68	29	11	0	0
Multiservice agency	8	2	3	0	0
Other	29	4	13	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

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

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	9	3	0	0	0
Campus-based victims services	9	3	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	496	230	232	7	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-0066	2019-V2-GX-0019	2020-V2-GX-0014	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00619-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00691-ASSI
A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	421	227	230	7	0
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	64	1	1	0	0
C. Start up a new victim services project	13	3	1	0	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	1	0	0	0	0

VOCA and Match Funds					
A single SAR can select multiple service types. Numbers are not unique					
	2018-V2-GX-0066	2019-V2-GX-0019	2020-V2-GX-0014	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00619-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00691-ASSI
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	444	202	209	7	0
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	422	179	192	6	0
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	360	159	156	6	0
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	184	94	79	4	0
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	297	136	144	5	0
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	494	230	231	7	0

Priority and Underserved Requirements					
Priority Area	2018-V2-GX-0066	2019-V2-GX-0019	2020-V2-GX-0014	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00619-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00691-ASSI
Child Abuse					
Total Amount	\$25,937,682.00	\$18,098,858.00	\$14,370,425.00	\$1,468,894.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	25.00 %	25.00 %	27.00 %	4.00 %	
Domestic and Family Violence					
Total Amount	\$31,867,498.00	\$25,492,210.00	\$20,797,081.00	\$3,044,466.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	30.00 %	36.00 %	39.00 %	9.00 %	
Sexual Assault					
Total Amount	\$19,060,966.00	\$7,805,185.00	\$4,329,412.00	\$194,899.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	18.00 %	11.00 %	8.00 %	1.00 %	
Underserved					
Total Amount	\$18,719,560.00	\$14,890,511.00	\$5,696,396.00	\$8,236,769.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	18.00 %	21.00 %	11.00 %	25.00 %	

Budget and Staffing					
Staffing Information	2018-V2-GX-0066	2019-V2-GX-0019	2020-V2-GX-0014	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00619-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00691-ASSI

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

Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	9326	3763	2735	490
Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	4727076	2221000	1506309	462568
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	6129	21349	1050	3
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	555922	84713	63726	2712

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)	69	8956	9317	9500	10070	9460
Adult Sexual Assault	104	1646	1614	1660	1702	1655
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	81	179	200	162	172	178
Arson	22	147	146	141	147	145
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	76	52	46	41	40	44
Burglary	27	1748	1839	1787	1777	1787
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	150	1341	1539	1361	1374	1403
Child Pornography	71	96	124	95	83	99
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	148	3640	4010	3383	3801	3708
Domestic and/or Family Violence	161	13305	12528	12605	14765	13300
DUI/DWI Incidents	25	756	753	4238	874	1655
Elder Abuse or Neglect	62	315	297	280	300	298
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	36	17	10	10	7	11
Human Trafficking: Labor	42	11	13	7	4	8
Human Trafficking: Sex	113	246	249	424	117	259
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	27	1516	1708	117	1521	1215
Kidnapping (non-custodial)	40	139	330	1580	351	600
Kidnapping (custodial)	35	0	0	311	0	77
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	29	21	9	11	5	11
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	26	989	1090	3747	3543	2342
Robbery	28	1109	1096	1019	1052	1069
Stalking/Harassment	106	1166	1162	1138	1230	1174
Survivors of Homicide Victims	53	1349	1538	1541	1503	1482
Teen Dating Victimization	106	23	18	16	14	17
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	21	176	193	218	244	207
Other	12	66176	72735	72869	86817	74649

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	39	62	45	49	326
Homeless	1483	1324	1352	1826	6574
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	997	817	538	669	4807
LGBTQ	400	353	373	415	1594
Veterans	87	65	84	80	401
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/ Physical /Mental	925	1016	1132	958	7271
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	977	866	655	699	4919

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

Other	0	0	53	0	3033
-------	---	---	----	---	------

General Award Information		
Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	461184	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	6191	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	179583	38.94 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	0	0.00 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	8703	

Demographics		
Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	5161	2.87 %
Asian	933	0.52 %
Black or African American	36057	20.08 %
Hispanic or Latino	18695	10.41 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	417	0.23 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	33214	18.50 %
Some Other Race	580	0.32 %
Multiple Races	1472	0.82 %
Not Reported	32223	17.94 %
Not Tracked	50831	28.31 %
Race/Ethnicity Total	179583	
Gender Identity		
Male	40097	22.33 %
Female	68434	38.11 %
Other	4839	2.69 %
Not Reported	15382	8.57 %
Not Tracked	50831	28.31 %
Gender Total	179583	
Age		
Age 0- 12	11162	6.22 %
Age 13- 17	7359	4.10 %
Age 18- 24	9555	5.32 %
Age 25- 59	44778	24.93 %
Age 60 and Older	6163	3.43 %
Not Reported	31886	17.76 %
Not Tracked	68680	38.24 %
Age Total	179583	

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	194	205898	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	164196
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	96888
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	34842
			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	36367
			Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	5355
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	4851
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	4604
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	368446

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

B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	200	93056	B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	7666
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	2467
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	55514
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	7128
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	30631
			B10. Interpreter services	19171
C. Emotional Support or Safety Services	193	35597	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	104915
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	55533
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	533
			C4. Individual counseling	24237
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	24152
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	13624
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	5938
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	124	4156	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	77520
			D2. Transitional housing	44842
			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	5717
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	197	360382	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	225459
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	45276
			E3. Assistance with restitution	47718
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	3759
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	7079
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	17669
			E7. Immigration assistance	1196
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	6524
			E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	2145
			E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	188844
E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	31109			

ANNUAL QUESTIONS

Grantee Annually Reported Questions	
Question/Option	Count
Were any administrative and training funds used during the reporting period?	
Yes	0
No	0
Did the administrative funds support any education activities during the reporting period?	
Yes	0
No	0
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	0

FFY 2022 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Annual Report

Coordinated Efforts

“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.”

This year, the CJCC collected responses from 205 responses to this question. Partner agencies were successful in continuing their outreach efforts this year, building off of the momentum coming out of COVID-19 last year. There was less mention of being constrained to the virtual medium this year compared to the last, and more agencies were able to conduct in-person outreach events to disseminate resources and information to their partners and clients. Many agencies have gone back to in-person community events all the while leveraging some of the virtual methods of outreach that they have learned from operating through COVID-19.

“Our program has continued to reach out to the community via community events such as health fairs, holidays festivals and health fairs We are also reaching out to the community via social network and media Our staff have been attending trainings from various organizations and state departments to strengthen staffs skills and knowledge”

“One of the ways we promote coordinated public and private efforts within our community to aid crime victims is hosting resource fairs to fortify and keep strong partnerships among community organizations with like-minded efforts This not only helps our agency to keep a strong partnership but other organizations to strengthen and maintain their partnerships as well With efforts like this, we are able to better assist victims of crime holistically”

Following the same pattern as the previous year, no agencies indicated any participation in national associations or professional organizations. This is surprising, given that last year, COVID-19 seemed to be the driving factor for non-participation, whereas it was not as impactful this year. Although it is not expected to return to pre-pandemic levels, it is still surprising nonetheless that there were no national events at all. Despite there being no efforts on the national scale, collaborative efforts within the state continued to grow and prosper: local level partnerships and outreach campaigns have continued to go strong, and agencies have built more new relationships with new partners. This is unlike previous years where they generally just maintained pre-existing relationships, which were a result of the hardships from working through COVID-19, which are not as prevalent as before.

“We continue to build on current collaborations and establish new partnerships We attend various health, informational and wellness fairs around out circuit to promote the services our centers provide”

“In the Atlanta Metro Area, coordinated activities include staff engagement and participation in the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, as well as the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council CJCC Statewide Trafficking Task Force and the Georgia Immigrant Working Group Further, we collaborate with the following organizations Tapestri, CJCC, Sur Legal Collaborative, Law Lab, Kids in Need of Defense, Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network, Atlanta Legal Aid, Latin American Association, City of Atlanta Office of Immigrant Affairs; Georgia Legal Services Program; and Inspiritus to better enable immigrant survivors to find the resources and assistance they need to recover from domestic and sexual violence and build safe, violence free lives In this past

year, we are especially pleased to have connected with new coalitions and taskforces, including the Unaccompanied Minors Georgia Service Providers, Atlanta Fulton Family Connections, Cobb Collaborative, Gwinnet County Domestic Violence Taskforce, and Georgia Network to End Sexual Assault”

Federal Victims

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

Approximately only 60% of the victims services providers offered services to federal crime victims, a 10% decrease from last year, which had a 70% participation rate. There were no stated reasons for why less providers were serving federal victims, but several themes from the previous year remained: many providers stated that they were open and willing to provide services for federal victims, but often just did not have any come to them or were referred. Many providers do have connections and relationships with federal or national agencies or organizations, but it is still rare to have those cases come through.

“CLandSH rarely serves federal crime victims However, we have a relationship with our US Attorneys Office, victim advocates, and FBI agents who understand the services provided by our organization and refer as needed We also work with Robins Air Force Base to provide Sexual Assault Services, specifically forensic examinations”

Since most agencies do not handle and serve many federal cases for victims, much of their efforts are focused on referrals and providing resources/information to their clients and partners; they prepare to provide services if requested and support their clients in other ways, such as coordination between their other various partners, both federal and local, in order to assist them in providing services to victims.

“Our services are provided to victims of sexual regardless of age, gender, race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, citizenship status, language or sexual orientation We have a 24 hour hotline that allows us to connect with victims outside of our immediate area Regardless of their location we can offer support and find resources that are in their vicinity We have had instances where victimization has occurred across state lines, ie sex trafficking, and have notified federal law enforcement to get assistance for victim”

“We inform and provide awareness of social services programs that may be available to victims We also work to connect them with additional resources that may be beneficial in assisting them through their victimization”

“Similar to the services and support we provide to local survivors, we make every effort to serve federal crime victims if they request support If we are not a good fit we make sure to connect them to other agencies resources, such as Tapestri, to provide support”

Improved Delivery

“Please briefly describe efforts to improve delivery of services to victims of crime”

Many agencies are taking steps to improve delivery of services to victims of crime. Ensuring that staff get sufficient training is one means, as well as providing training to the community such as law enforcement, public health agencies, and mental health providers about services such as transportation, housing, etc. Another means to improve services is to update

brochures and other materials for clients to adjust to new laws. Some organizations have on-line surveys that they email to clients, and other organizations call clients over the phone to provide the link in case clients do not have email addresses. Some organizations engage in needs assessments to see what are needs for training in the community. One agency describes their community outreach attempts:

“Provide training to other agencies including the GBI, State Intelligence Network, local law enforcement trainings and community presentations Providers attend IAFN training and the annual conferences, including state domestic violence and CAC conferences Providers have also attended the sexual assault symposium”

Below is another agency describing their attempts at outreach to the community on how to better provide for clients in need:

“We are working on a needs assessment in our areas, along with other agencies and we provide training to our law enforcement partners, DFCS partners and the community as a whole on the available resources our agency provides During the previous grant year, forensic and clinical staff received advanced training staff to help provide more effective services ie, advanced CSEC training and consultation, advanced forensic interviewing training, advocate and MDT coordinator training, CFTSI therapy training, etc The forensic department also has advocates, volunteers, and interns calling families to complete the VOCA OPM Surveys and to follow up on a regular basis, which we were unable to do when we had less staff We are re assessing clients more often in therapy, so we have been better able to track outcomes and progress of our clients”

“Community outreach is a major component of The Gateway Centers service provision The goal of this outreach is to provide information to vulnerable people who are at risk of being exploited or who may have already been exploited or assaulted to identify what is happening and the help available Additionally, The Gateway Center hosted CACGA CEO Amy Boney to provide a CSEC training for all members of the Cordele Judicial Circuits MDT and victim service agencies interested in learning more about the exploitation of children The Gateway Center also provided a full SART Protocol training for the judicial circuit which included a full review of the language of the protocol, expectations for each member, and the legal requirement of participation The primary goal was to enhance the quality of care victims receive and attempt to invigorate a stagnant SART All attendees were required to sign the protocol for their represented agency”

Some agencies are requesting evaluation and feedback from partners to help improve their training as well as engaging in surveys with victims of crimes themselves. Such partners include DFCS, prosecuting attorney offices, healthcare agencies, law enforcement, courts, foster care agencies, immigration agencies, etc. Such trainings include what services organizations provide, who qualifies for such services, how to identify and provide needs for victims such as transportation, etc. Other outreach programs include those at churches, libraries, and other community organizations to raise awareness about domestic violence and other issues, including resources such as childcare services. Social media is another avenue to provide community awareness. Some agencies participate in community health fairs and career fairs or attend colleges and other academic institutions for outreach. In addition to community outreach on domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking awareness are other outreach campaigns. Community support groups are provided in issues such as teen dating violence, human trafficking, consent, etc. As many victims are not eligible for Crime Victims Compensation, they still need mental health services, which some organizations provide via

therapy programs. In addition to training for the community, many agencies have internal staff trainings as well as obtaining VOCA-funded 24-hour crisis response certification training. Many staff also attend conferences for trainings as well as webinars conducted by agencies such as prosecuting attorney's offices.

“MADD attended the Office of Victim Services Conference and Parole Training in May where they connected with VWAP directors, advocates, and District Attorneys from across Georgia They were able to secure updated MOUs with three judicial circuits Clayton, Northeastern and Northwestern Plus, they were able to secure referrals for cases by connecting with the court advocates MADD provided victim services educational material on grief and injury specific to DUI for the court advocates to provide to their own clients MADD gave a presentation to the Gwinnett County District Attorneys offices to inform them about MADDs free services MADD victim services staff were able to attend training to improve the delivery of services, including victim compensation training, advanced victim compensation training, and MADD victim assistance training MADD victim services specialists attended the July in person and September virtual NOVA trainings Other online trainings taken this grant cycle include the NVAA Effective Management Series Outreach and Marketing, OVS Establishing Victim Services Vicarious Trauma Response Collaborations, NOVA Ethical Commitments for People in Helping Positions, Ethics Trauma Informed Practice 101, NCVRW webinars sponsored by NOVA included The Myth of Closure, Incorporating Anti Ableism into Victim Services, and Wellness for Advocates”

“This year, we again implemented the CJCC Outcomes Performance Measures survey among clients who have received substantial completion of services In addition to the CJCC questions assessing our legal services, we added our own questions to the survey to assess their experience with our non legal services, as well as an open ended question about what we have done well and where we can improve In addition to our internal client feedback loops, we have participated in outreach and education activities, including a joint presentation with Tahirihs Forced Marriage Initiative at the GCFVs Annual Statewide Family Violence Conference, as well as at the United Way Forum Against Human Trafficking Weve also presented to members of a local grassroots know your rights group, Vecinos of Buford Highway Our staff also continue to attend monthly trainings spanning topics such as holistic safety planning, legal conflicts of interest, and changes in immigration policies and practices to ensure staff have the expertise to provide high quality, trauma informed, client centered, culturally competent services”

Challenges

There are still challenges stemming from the coronavirus pandemic affecting victims and service providers. Maintaining contact with victims has continued to remain challenging, especially in cases where in-person contact is the most ideal way of referring and supporting these victims

“Challenges included needing to get COVID tests for victims before than can be placed in transitional housing This has not always been the best in counties of metro Atlanta areas Transportation for the victims to transitional housing placements Behavioral issues of victims which causes them to be displaced and the team needing to find emergency transitional housing Termination of services from providers due to behavioral issues with victims Several victims absconding from the program despite being connected with resources such as benefits which they qualify for, housing, etc;”

“With Covid and inflation, Alcovy CASA was constantly struggling to keep our staff, volunteers, community partners, and the child victims we serve safe from Covid Inflation came in to play as the price of all items increased, volunteers sometimes struggled to meet requirements as they needed to either work more hours and or did not have the funding to provide all services.”

In addition, staffing issues have become more prevalent as well with agencies needing more people to deal with increased case numbers while at the same time having a deficit in the number of people available to work. There are less volunteers willing and available to work, and for those that do there is a lack of adequate training. The pandemic has also made it difficult for staff to provide services as it is difficult to provide services virtually, especially when clients lack computer literacy and access to technology.

“not enough money for specific needs; not enough people to work; not enough people to fill open jobs; not enough people with partner agencies to help with needs, our field is difficult and overwhelming, providers leave due to too much work, too much grief and not enough pay”

“Initially, it was challenging to find ways to engage with current volunteer attorneys and recruit new volunteer attorneys We worked to provide creative, safe ways to connect, such as through our lunch and learns, but it has was challenging to not be able to attend the events and conferences we rely on to maintain and build relationships Fortunately, as the mandate was lifted we were able to resume our relationship building activities Some of our active volunteer attorneys expressed that, as a result of the pandemic and moving to virtual TPO hearings, some of the requirements, including being able to share evidence remotely and provide it to the Court 24 hours in advance was a challenge, especially for those cases where there is very little prep time Additionally, the transition to fully remote hearings was beneficial for some clients, but it was a challenge for our less tech savvy clients We assisted clients by providing smartphones with Zoom preloaded, but some clients still struggled with the terminology and practical knowledge of app based technology Fortunately, as the mandate was lifted we were able to resume our relationship building activities and meet clients in person We host monthly trainings in which we train attorneys working in the Atlanta area to represent our clients pro bono at their evidentiary hearings for Protective Orders The ability to do this virtually has allowed us to increase our number of trainings so attorneys have more options to attend We also host periodic Ask a Lawyer sessions directed at students from Spelman College with varying topics We resumed quarterly lunch and learn events for family law attorneys aimed at providing ongoing education and support that is specific to representing survivors of intimate partner abuse and or low income clients We also seek out and establish new partnerships with other organizations serving the community in order to provide the best possible services to our clients”

Another issue is getting enough funding to adequately provide all agencies with the resources they need to provide the services for these victims, which includes having sufficient funds for staffing needs. Common threads in this regard are lack of safe housing for victims and transportation to/from services. Another issue is obtaining financial assistance for matters such as medical bills, other cost of living expenses, or childcare costs.

“Decreased Funding In total, our agency has experienced funding cuts and challenges NOT including the VOCA cuts that total an annual loss of just under \$100,000
Increased Expenses While experiencing decreased funding, the organization has also been enduring increased expenses due to trying to keep clients and staff safe during the Covid pandemic
Increased Number of Clients As the country has reopened, there has been an increase in the number of children and families that need services as children are now being identified at increasing rates, with ACCC seeing a 25 percent increase in new clients served from 2020 to 2021
Increased Severity of Abuse and Needs ACCC has encountered an increase in the severity of trauma related symptoms that children are experiencing, as they have been required to deal with the anxiety and stressors of the pandemic, on top of the severity of trauma from the abuse and or violence they have suffered
Further, ACCC has seen an increase in children with maladaptive coping skills, self harming behaviors and or suicidal thoughts and gestures
We are also in need of employing additional mental health therapists to meet the needs of our clients
Our mental health staff members caseloads stay at full capacity and we have to place many children and families on a waiting list for therapy
These children and families are also provided outside therapy referrals; however, far fewer families follow up with therapy when referred to outside providers
Increased Stress and Health Concerns for ACCC staff
During the Covid pandemic, while working diligently to continue to meet the needs of the children and families we serve, ACCC staff had to also manage the negative effects of Covid in their own personal and family lives
ACCC staff had to deal with the challenges of trying to keep themselves and their family members safe and healthy while still serving clients”

“Transportation for clients has been difficult, and we have previously used VOCA funds to pay for uber lyft
These ride share services do not always serve our rural area, and are incredibly expensive to transport clients in this way
There are very few counselors in our area who offer effective, trauma focused counseling and those who do are very full so clients have long wait times to initiate services
We estimate that we have served 3x the number of clients who are limited English speakers
In order to best serve these clients, it takes additional time and resources”

“A couple of ongoing challenges that Case Management encounters is for clients to have access to affordable housing and transportation in Forsyth County
There is a lack of public transportation network to allow clients to go to work and most of them end up having to move out of the county for this very reason
Upon completion of the shelter program, a good number of clients cannot afford housing due to the high rent prices
Another challenge that is very pressing is the lack of access to mental health services
Even though there is a Mental Health Mobile Unit, there is no intervention
We have seen a higher number of clients suffering mental illness in varying levels of severity”

Emerging Issues

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

There are still residual effects from the COVID-19 pandemic that are continuing to affect service providers and agencies in their support of crime victims, although mentions of it are significantly reduced from last year. Many service providers have been able to successfully adapt, although there are still concerns as a result from these lingering effects from the COVID-19 pandemic that have exacerbated some of the already preexisting issues:

“As mentioned earlier, thankfully, most of the COVID restrictions have been lifted and most services are resuming as before the pandemic. We do continue to struggle with transportation issues for our child victims. DFCS still transportation resources are minimal. We also are limited on play therapy providers in our area for the younger child victims that our trying to work through traumatic events and there are waiting lists. We also still encounter foster children aging out of the system and with no place to go in our area.”

“The broader impact of the COVID pandemic has affected crime victim services across all service areas including housing, employment, mental health etc. Families are also reporting an increase in family discord, domestic violence, and behavioral problems among children. The current economic challenges have had a negative impact on the overall well being of families.”

From the 205 responses gathered from the CJCC’s sub-grantees, the biggest concerns this year were budget/financial issues with regards to staffing, housing and transportation needs, and increases in demand for services, much like the previous year. The following quote from one of the sub-grantees highlights the key issues that they, alongside many other agencies are facing:

“Funding continues to be an issue due to the increasing needs for victims. We have victims who could benefit from continued individual counseling, but many may not be able to afford it after we reached our financial limit and victims compensation was not an option. We also have some who need childcare to be able to take advantage of these services. We see a need in transportation services for those who live in rural areas. Our resources for mental health services and affordable service are in great need as well for our victims. We see victims who do not get a forensic medical exam but rather receive services for STD HIV check. Homelessness and the lack of available shelter continues to be an issue. The local shelters homeless and domestic violence are always full or are not what our victims needed.”

The largest issue mentioned is the lack of housing to victims, and there are several factors that make this a concern for the sub-grantees: the main culprit noted is the lack of available and affordable housing, which can be the result of residual effects from COVID-19, inflation/increased cost of living, or housing shortages. This is crucial, especially for victims of sexual violence and domestic violence, because those victims may be living with their abusers and have no recourse in leaving those situations. The issues regarding the lack of transportation are similar to the lack of housing for victims; for sexual violence and domestic violence victims, having access to transportation is important to get out of that dangerous situation; it is also crucial for employment and for receiving services in general, especially since many employers and service providers are back in-person, and those virtual services may no longer be provided. Therefore, having access to transportation, either provided by the services providers or by the victims themselves with assistance by the sub-grantees, is a significant issue that they deal with.

A new emerging issue that was prominent for the sub-grantees this year was dealing with mental health issues and providing the appropriate mental health services; a little over 10% of the issues mentioned specifically mentioned difficulties working with those with mental health issues or the lack of resources for adequate mental health services. Some of this stems from increased mental health issues from the COVID-19 pandemic, while others have noted just a more increased focus and concern in combating these issues in general.

“We have seen an increase in victims with medical and mental health concerns There is a lack of access to community resources for mental health needs and as victims come into our program, we are working to ensure they are stabilized and have access to all the medical and mental health services needed”

Victim Compensation Issues

"What are the major issues, in your area, that hinder victim assistance programs in assisting crime victims in filing for compensation benefits and in understanding State victim compensation eligibility requirements?"

Various agencies use VOCA and other grant funds to compensate victims of crime for transportation, living expenses, etc. There are both successes and challenges associated with ensuring that victims can utilize such funds. Here are quotes from some of our partners that exemplify both successes and challenges with victim compensation.

“There have been no major hindrances On occasion, we have caregivers that do not know how to read In those cases, we offer additional assistance to the caregivers”

“For our agency we have not had issues with assisting victims with crime victims compensation benefits Our staff are seasoned and trained to provide this information and assist with the process when applicable”

“Thankfully, The Gateway Center has not experienced any hindrances or challenges with assisting crime victims who need victims compensation fund reimbursements The Gateway Center employed a Legal Advocate for the 2022 VOCA grant year who oversaw the dissemination of crime victims compensation information to all victims and secondary victims This Legal Advocate has created comprehensive handout folders with containing crime victims compensation, community resources, and legal system information After this point, victims are referred to Advocates within the District Attorneys Office who prefer to complete victim compensation paperwork during their judicial system advocacy with victims If victims need further assistance, they are to contact the Legal Advocate or inform the Victim Advocacy during follow up calls”

Client Issues:

One of the major barriers is the difficulty for clients to obtain and file the necessary paperwork. Some clients lack transportation to go to the offices of agencies that assist them. While much of this can be done remotely, many clients do not have internet access or an email, making it difficult to scan in documents or provide electronic signatures. Lack of access to technology and transportation is also an issue when obtaining documents such as police reports, employment document, medical bills, etc. This is especially difficult when clients are transient and thus change their addresses frequently, making follow-up difficult. Other victims are unaware or are in disbelief that such services exist and thus they do not want to take the time to

provide the necessary paperwork. Many victims are afraid to report crimes to authorities and would rather keep a low-key or get assistance from family members. This is especially difficult when the abuser is a spouse and head of household. Also, many victims are undocumented, causing them to be reluctant to file reports or lack the paperwork necessary. Difficulty speaking English is another issue with such populations. Even when victims have documentation and source of income, they may have difficulty taking time off from work to obtain such services. Victims also need therapy to provide for psychological needs, which becomes difficult to balance with the demands needed in the victim compensation application process. Some of our partner agencies describe the challenges of this issue:

“While Victim Compensation is a helpful resource for many Georgia victims, immigrant survivors face barriers to accessing assistance. One barrier is documentation requirements to prove need; many immigrant survivors lack formal leases, paystubs, and official forms of identification required to access benefits. Georgia policies limiting access to drivers licenses create challenges for immigrant victims in accessing support services, receiving health care, finding work, and applying for victim compensation benefits. Many live in areas where public transportation is limited or nonexistent, and accessing transportation is a major expense and stressor on our clients and other immigrant survivors. Many immigrant survivors also face barriers to opening bank accounts due to a lack of social security number or Individual Tax Payer Identification Number, creating additional hurdles in receiving financial assistance. Moreover, filing a police report is still required for applying for funds. Many of our clients do not have legal permanent status or are even dependent on their abuser/perpetrator for legal, financial, and housing security, and have fears of retaliation or other consequences of contacting the police. Other barriers include a website that is not user friendly for immigrant victims, requiring social service agency support for applying, as well as eligibility information made available primarily in English.”

“Domestic violence DV survivors in our jurisdiction continue to fear calling law enforcement to report the crimes that are committed against them by their loved ones and intimate partners. Our clients are sometimes reliant on financial assistance from their partners and may not want them arrested, which could jeopardize their socioeconomic status. In addition, victims are often concerned about the way that their minor children may be impacted by exposure to law enforcement's response and intervention. Due to crime victims compensation benefits being correlated to the filing of formal police reports, it is a barrier for many victims in our jurisdiction.”

“In our work, we have faced two major barriers to assisting crime victims in filing for compensation benefits including victims' distrust in the justice law enforcement system leading to underreporting, unavailability of paperwork along with a lack of awareness about the program. There is a significant level of distrust in the city of Atlanta with the judicial system and police officers, especially for those with mental health needs. The widely publicized incidents of people dying by police brutality after arriving to the scene where someone is experiencing a mental health crisis have further contributed to this problem. For example, Brianna Grier's parents called 911 to get her daughter assistance during a mental health crisis. She was taken into custody, handcuffed in the front of her body, and placed into the back seat of the car without wearing a seat belt. According to the GBI investigation, Grier fell out of the car's rear passenger door after it was not closed prior to transporting her to the sheriff's office. Brianna Grier was transported to Grady Memorial Hospital for two fractures, hemorrhaging and a subdural hematoma. Brianna Grier later died from these injuries in July 2022. She had not committed a crime and

deserved to be protected by the police Unfortunately, these types of occurrences are common and prevent victims survivors from filing a police report or speaking to the police Without a police report, survivors cannot apply for compensation benefits The other barrier is lack of knowledge Most of the time patients have not heard of the Victims Compensation Program upon entering the Trauma Recovery Center program Grady Health System is supposed to catch these survivors while they are inpatient and review these resources, but many report they never spoke to anyone about Victims Compensation We are grateful we get to provide this opportunity to survivors to assist them with their financial needs after incurring their injuries”

Many victims are children, who are unable to file for compensation themselves, thus they are reliant on parents or guardians to file on their behalf. This is especially difficult when parents or guardians are perpetrators of abuse. While some child victims of crime are in DFCS custody, this makes it difficult to be eligible for such compensation.

“I think it would be helpful for DFCS and Law Enforcement and VAs from the court system to also let victims know their rights It is most often our office who is the first to tell them about this information It should be a requirement for the agencies that come in contact with them before us”

Agency and Staffing Difficulties:

Another common issue is that staff trainings for victim compensation fills-up quickly, making it difficult to have sufficient staff for various agencies to provide such services to clients in a timely manner. Other organizations do not have knowledge of such training and thus lack any trained staff for this purpose. Some organizations lack access to the Crime Victims Compensation portal, causing them to have to work with other organizations to provide direct assistance to victims and follow-up with issues regarding the compensation application process. Many organizations still provide in-person services, but at a reduced volume to balance out needs of clients with safety needs to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

“Major issues in the area that hinder victim assistance programs in assisting crime victims in filing for compensation benefits and understanding state victim compensation eligibility requirements are lack of funding to allow hiring an advocate that is an expert in victim compensation Also not being able to allow advocates to get the proper training because of being short staff and heavy caseloads”

“Program is undergoing staff turnover, we will be retraining at the onset of new hire onboarding Current veteran victim advocate is referring out as needed to support with shadowing, training and new hires”

“Since the beginning of the pandemic, newly hired employees have not been able to attend victim compensation training in person Agency leadership at each of the victim assistance programs in our area is not consistently knowledgeable that this training is available through CJCC via web based or Zoom Our agency serves children in foster care, so the State is required to cover almost all expenses for child abuse victims served in our program For this reason, our agency does not often serve victims needing assistance with filing for benefits However, over half of my employees have not been trained in the victim compensation program and must rely on those of us who were trained in the past for guidance Eight of our employees, including myself, are scheduled to complete the training in November I believe the major issues in our area include lack

of knowledge about the program by staff working in victim serving agencies and the large number of victims who do not follow through with providing information needed for the application, often because these victims do not choose to seek any type of remedy related to their victimization especially when the perpetrator was a family member spouse significant other”

Services Not Provided

Elaborating on the responses from the challenges and emerging issues provided in the previous questions, similar concerns are echoed in the kinds of services that have or have not been provided to victims by agencies. Common amongst these issues are lack of housing, especially in rural areas or areas of high demand, and transportation issues for those that rely on public transportation or transportation services provided by these agencies. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbates these issues.

“The primary service that victims need help with is housing. While we have funding to provide emergency hotel/motel stays and move-in costs, we don't have funding to provide ongoing financial housing assistance i.e. rent, arrears, and utility assistance”

“Due to COVID-19 and the housing crisis, victims/pets have needed longer stays in our program, and we are unable to provide the length of stay many of them have required due to needing to accommodate new victims trying to escape. Additionally, we have had to limit capacity of our program to only survivors actively escaping domestic violence rather than those who have requested our services because they are displaced due to previous abuse”

“As a recipient of federal Legal Services Corporation funding, we are unable to represent our clients in criminal legal matters. Several of our clients experience issues around transportation and childcare. Our clients who are victims of domestic violence are often impacted because the abuser isolated them from family and friends who were the providers of childcare and transportation. When these domestic violence victims had gathered up the courage to ask for help, they did not have rides to meet with the attorneys, attend hearings, pick up the police report, or go to the doctor's office. They often also have to start working, and the challenge was who was going to watch their babies. Childcare is expensive and leaving children with people you do not know during an already frightening situation for the first time can be very difficult for mothers”

“Housing assistance, transportation services, and language assistance. We don't have direct funding to address housing and transportation, plus there is no comprehensive public transportation in this rural part of the state. Regarding language assistance, we work with partner agencies to help with basic needs, but we don't have a reliable interpreter. The only people we couldn't serve but still provided case management services were those who didn't meet our eligibility criteria, had transportation problems, or could not come due to scheduling issues. Some children were also referred out for therapy because they needed a higher level of care/more intensive therapy services. We also have families every year that need to move to another location for safety reasons, but there are limited funds to help them. No victims' comp and other agencies rarely have money to help with housing and utility deposits if the families even qualify for their services”

Staffing issues also affect agencies being able to meet victims to provide services. Staff shortages exist across many organizations, putting a larger burden on those that are still available to work and extending the timelines for cases, taking longer to resolve them. This has worsened with the combination of an influx of new cases as well as the backlog of old cases from before/early on in the pandemic.

“We had child victims we were unable to help due to a lack of advocates, and the distance away they are being placed”

“The major barrier is when child victims are placed a great distance away from his her home county It makes it incredibly challenging to assign a willing advocate who is able to travel frequently to provide a high level of service to these child victims”

“This fiscal year was challenging from a logistical and staffing standpoint There is a state wide shortage in SANE nurses and our services were impacted by this shortage For the majority of this fiscal year, we only had one SANE nurse who remained on call 24 hours per day This led to extreme burnout and employment concerns We have added one new nurse and are recruiting for a minimum of 2 more in order to sustain services We are also in need of a full time therapist Our ability not to hire one impacted our ability to provide clinical services to every client we would have liked to have served”

“Legal services Many of my clients require legal representation through the TPO process and other issues that arise with it They are often unable to private pay an attorney, we lack lawyers willing to do pro bono cases and GLS is often not available”

That all being said, there is some hope for these agencies that are struggling with resources or providing services to victims; many have a strong enough relationship/connection with other organizations to work in conjunction with one another to aid victims. Often when one cannot provide the services necessary, they can refer to other sister organizations to aid these victims. This could be due to specialization in the services they provide or just due to their lack of funding or resources.

“One of the services that many of our participants need is immigration services While we are able to refer them to other community organizations that provide these services, have a long waitlist, which results in our participants having to wait a long time to submit applications for an immigration process”

“Overall, when our program cannot directly provide the service a victim may need we can refer them to another program who can assist. However, sometimes those needs are not met as quickly as a victim might want. Sometimes our victims may need civil legal referrals which we cannot provide (other than referrals for TPOs or family law/GA legal services).”

“The program was not able to provide rental assistance which continues to be an ongoing need within the refugee and immigrant populations that we serve This is due to the lack of financial resources to meet these needs CVT provided referrals to agencies that could provide rental assistance and helped clients in navigating other social service agencies able to provide these resources”

Success Stories

“Please discuss each priority (i.e., child abuse, domestic assault, sexual assault, and underserved) in which VOCA funds have been used to assist crime victims during the reporting period.”

Child Abuse:

Agencies have been able to leverage the VOCA funds for a variety of uses when addressing the abuse and trauma inflicted upon children in the past year; the funds provided additional staffing capabilities to handle more child abuse cases and serve them across communities. They also provided housing to relocate them into safe living conditions, while access to equipment and goods helped alleviate the trauma and stress of these children in their transitions into new housing and schooling.

“VOCA funds provide for recruitment, training and retention of more than 140 CASA volunteers who are actively serving child victims of crime We wouldnt be able to do this work or provide these services without VOCA”

“CASA Volunteer, Brooke, was sworn in on 3 18 21 and was appointed on 10 26 21, to a sibling group of 2 children ages 2 and 11 months The children entered foster care on 8 11 21 and were placed with their maternal grandparents after allegations of inadequate supervision and physical abuse The youngest child of the sibling group was found with respiratory failure, subdural hematoma, and had a history of seizures Brooke met with the children, grandparents, mother, and DFCS Case manager The father chose not to participate in the case, however, Brooke attempted contact with him several times Brooke gathered information from community partners to include law enforcement, medical providers of both children, day care providers, and services providers Brooke reviewed medical notes, police reports, recommendations from assessments, and most importantly worked to coordinate transportation, to ensure that the mother could get the youngest child to his medical appointments at CHOA When the mother could not reach her case manager or counselor, Brooke communicated with them to ensure the mothers concerns were addressed and her services didnt lapse The mother worked tirelessly to comply with her case plan which included stable housing and income, counseling, parent aid service, negative drug screens, meaningful family time, and resolution of criminal charges Through services advocated for by Brooke, the mother was able to learn parenting skills and techniques to better manage stress She also found her voice and left an unhealthy relationship She began to build stronger relationships with her family and utilize them as a support system! After spending 259 days in foster care, the children were reunified and custody was returned to their mother on 4 27 22! The support of VOCA funds allowed CASA to serve as a consistent advocate in these childrens lives and ensure that services were ordered, available, and completed leading to successful outcomes and brighter futures”

“During the 2021 2022 grant year, attorneys and paralegals obtained legal outcomes for crime victims including benefits valued at over \$48 million These benefits included over \$24 million in family law benefits such as child support and medical coverage, over \$1 million saved in home equity and property tax savings, and over \$500,000 in rental housing benefits Domestic violence and child abuse victims also accessed over \$200,000 in health benefits, over \$270,000 in income maintenance benefits and nearly \$170,000 in consumer benefits VOCA funds were used to protect families from violence and access

benefits and other supports to help low income families maintain financial stability and meet basic life needs”

Domestic Assault:

The VOCA funds have provided resources for agencies to aid in relocating victims of domestic abuse to safer housing conditions or providing resources/services to help them get back on their feet after leaving the abusive situation; these can range from financial support for improved economic stability or legal support through the courts system or with law enforcement.

“VOCA funds assist our program in many ways Through VOCA funding we are able to help over 600 individuals with shelter, over 300 individuals with protective order services We are able to provide clients with transportation to get to work, medical appointments, housing interviews, and other important meetings This funding helps support our childrens program to ensure our younger survivors get their needs met”

“VOCA funds have been instrumental in providing resources to allow Kate to flee her abusive relationship She obtained a TPO and received financial assistance, which allowed her to prepare her children for the start of a safe, successful new school year Kate and her children were able to continue to feel safe in their own home without the threat of violence Kate has regular access to support groups and supportive services when she needs assistance, and when coping with the effects of surviving abuse Susie first contacted WRC the day after she was physically assaulted by her boyfriend Susie was able to speak with one of our legal advocates and get assistance with filing a Temporary Protective Order; however, her boyfriend was released from jail before he could be served with the order Due to the Respondent continuing to evade service over the next several months, Susie re filed her order a total of 10 times before the other party was finally served She regularly contacted our office for emotional support as she endured this experience WRC provided Susie financial assistance to help secure safe housing, since she fled the residence where she previously lived with the Respondent for almost a decade prior to their relationship Susie was finally granted a 12 month protective order In addition, Susie often had to take time off work to appear in court Throughout this process, Susie continued to be contacted by the other party as he sent harassing messages to her phone Now, Susie can focus on moving forward and healing from the incident After working with the Womens Resource Center, Susie has begun the process of finding permanent housing and is working toward opening her own business”

Sexual Assault:

For sexual assault cases, many agencies noted that these additional funds have allowed them to provide additional services on a variety of fronts for these survivor victims: 24/7 access hotlines and additional advocates/staff members available to work these cases due to the extra VOCA funds give guidance to these victims to find the services they need, and allow for them to tailor their services to their specific case and provide access to things like therapy, medical services, and legal assistance.

“Examples of the impact of VOCA funds for direct victim services is represented with the multiple coordinated services provided for each case Mosaic Georgia provides comprehensive services and a coordinated response for each victim Services include personal family advocacy, FMEs, child FIs, 24 hour crisis intervention, counseling

referrals, civil legal assistance, and interpreters. JL is a 23y o female who called our crisis line due to a recent sexual assault. Our advocate provided JL with her options and JL decided to move forward with a non investigative forensic medical exam FME. After completing the FME and being at the center, JL decided to report it to law enforcement. Mosaic Georgia advocates assisted with victim advocacy, reporting the assault to law enforcement and counseling assistance. Our legal navigator assisted with CVCP. SAV is a 12 year old female who made an outcry of ongoing sexual abuse by her step father. SAVs mother has limited English Proficiency and her primary language is Spanish. SAV presented to Mosaic Georgia for a forensic interview FI and forensic medical exam FME accompanied by her mother. SAVs mother was assigned an interpreter and our advocates provided victim and family advocacy. Due to safety concerns and the suspect being the sole income provider, Mosaic Georgias legal department got involved and assisted the SAVs mother with representation during a TPO hearing. A 12 month TPO was awarded to SAVs mother against the suspect. Our advocates also assisted making warm referrals to partner organizations to assist with rent, utilities and food”

“Bobby, a 10 y o male, was being sexually abused by his mothers boyfriend, who had been acting as Bobbys father for over 6 years, and Bobby referred to him as Dad. Bobbys dad had told Bobby not to tell anyone but Bobby eventually told his mother, who responded by calling him a liar and telling him that his dad would never do something like that. The abuse continued. Several months after telling his mother, Bobby disclosed to a friend who then made the decision to tell their school counselor. The school counselor asked Bobby about what his friend had reported. Bobby disclosed the abuse to the school counselor who then made a report to DFCS and law enforcement. DFCS took Bobby into foster care that day. Bobby received a forensic interview that same day, followed by an on site forensic medical exam. Bobby was accompanied by his ACCC Advocate who explained the process and allowed him to ask questions. The Advocate stayed with Bobby during the exam and they engaged in relaxation techniques to help ease his anxiety. The Advocate also spent time supporting Bobbys foster parents and providing guidance on how to best support Bobby. The Advocate began making referrals to get Bobby on the path to safety and healing. Bobby and his foster mother have been coming to the Center for therapy for over 6 months now. Bobbys foster mother was also able to participate in a support group with other non offending caregivers. As Bobbys stepfathers trial approaches, Bobbys ACCC Advocate and his ACCC therapist will work with Bobby and his foster mother to ensure they are educated about the legal process and are emotionally prepared for the process. The forensic interviewer will provide expert testimony to help the jury understand the complicated dynamics of child sexual abuse. The ACCC Forensic Medical provider will also likely testify about the medical exam. The ACCC Advocate will accompany Bobby throughout the trial, ensuring he feels supported”

Underserved:

And more generally, the VOCA funds give extra financial assistance for these agencies to address concerns apart from domestic/familial violence, child abuse, and sexual assault; other issues such a immigration concerns requiring legal services, or those with disabilities or specific medical/mental health needs have also been assisted through the addition of these funds with an increased focus this year.

“A limited English speaking woman came to us seeking representation at a Temporary Protective Order hearing. The opposing party was her spouse. She had left the home, but

returned to get her belongings. They began to argue and the client's spouse physically assaulted her by locking his arms and legs around the client, not allowing her to move. He pulled her hair and pushed her onto the floor where she landed on her back. They had been married for approximately 6 months. During that time she wasn't allowed to go out by herself. The husband was controlling. He would tell her that if she ever called the police they wouldn't believe her because he was a veteran. He would tell her to commit suicide because no one cared about her or loved her. They did not have children together, but she had two teenage children who she had custody of. After the client left the home, the spouse continued to harass her and sent revenge porn of her to her sister. The client filed for a Temporary Protective Order. At the hearing, the spouse was represented by two attorneys. The spouse wanted to negotiate dismissing the TPO. Those negotiations fell apart. A hearing was held and the Judge granted a 12-month order of protection. The spouse was ordered to have no contact with our client or her minor children. The spouse was ordered to turn over his firearms to the Whitfield County Sheriff's office. He was also ordered to delete or destroy any photographs that he had of the client and was prohibited from sending them to anyone."

"Crisp County Sheriff's Office worked a case involving a 30-year-old female with mental and physical challenges that was kept in a shed in the back of the offender's residence with the shed door locked. The victim was totally dependent on the offender for all her basic needs, which he was not providing. The victim was located in the shed in a fetal position due to her illness; she is unable to move. The offender had a pot for her to use the bathroom, however, she needed him to place her on it. The offender would give her illegal drugs and then have sex with her. Our Victim Advocate worked with Crisp Regional Hospital, Adult Protective Services, Law Enforcement, Nursing Home Faculty, and Probate Court advocating for her safety and wellbeing, which led to the victim being removed and placed in a Nursing Home Faculty where she receives the care that she deserves. Once the victim was placed in the Nursing Home Faculty and before the offender could be arrested, he attempted to contact the victim. The Victim Advocate responded to the faculty to explain the offender was not allowed to have any contact with the victim. Upon the arrest of the offender, the advocate spoke with the Crisp County Detention staff and presented the Victim's Notification upon the release of the offender. The advocate used the voca-funded vehicle to continue check on the victim, where she is doing much better and gaining weight. The advocates keep the family up to date on the case."