MN 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				
	2019-V2-GX-0033	2020-V2-GX-0018	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00579-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00764-ASSI
Federal Award Amount	\$38,257,832.00	\$28,390,503.00	\$17,724,617.00	\$24,444,368.00
Total Amount of Subawards	\$36,121,592.00	\$27,074,506.00	\$15,877,137.00	\$10,943,187.00
Total Number of Subawards	364	181	171	170
Administrative Funds Amount	\$1,879,407.00	\$1,139,000.00	\$886,230.00	\$1,222,218.00
Training Funds Amount	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance Remaining	\$256,833.00	\$176,997.00	\$961,250.00	\$12,278,963.00

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	2019-V2-GX-0033	2020-V2-GX-0018	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00579-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00764-ASSI	
Government Agencies Only	124	63	61	61	
Corrections	0	2	1	1	
Courts	0	0	0	0	
Juvenile Justice	0	0	0	0	
Law Enforcement	4	2	2	2	
Prosecutor	112	55	54	54	
Other	8	4	4	4	
Nonprofit Organization Only	224	108	103	102	
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	43	21	21	21	
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	18	6	6	6	
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	58	29	27	27	
Faith-based Organization	0	0	0	0	
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	31	17	15	15	
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	12	6	6	6	
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	18	8	8	8	
Multiservice agency	40	19	18	17	
Other	4	2	2	2	
Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Agencies, and Organizations Only	16	10	7	7	
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	0	0	0	0	
Court	0	0	0	0	
Domestic and Family Violence organization	5	3	2	2	
Faith-based organization	0	0	0	0	
Juvenile justice	0	0	0	0	

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Law Enforcement	0	0	0	0
Organization provides domestic and family violence and sexual assault services	11	7	5	5
Prosecutor	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	0	0	0	0
Other justice-based agency	0	0	0	0
Other agency that is NOT justice-based (e.g., human services, health, education)	0	0	0	0
Organization by and/or for a specific traditionally underserved community	0	0	0	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Campus Organizations Only	0	0	0	0
Campus-based victims services	0	0	0	0
Law enforcement	0	0	0	0
Physical or mental health service program	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Subawards	364	181	171	170

^{*}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							
	2019-V2-GX-0033	2020-V2-GX-0018	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00579-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00764-ASSI			
A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	344	176	168	167			
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	4	2	2	2			
C. Start up a new victim services project	20	6	4	4			
D. Start up a new Native American victim services project	1	1	1	1			
E. Expand or enhance an existing Native American project	1	1	1	1			

VOCA and Match Funds A single SAR can select multiple service types. Numbers are not unique							
	2019-V2-GX-0033	2020-V2-GX-0018	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00579-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00764-ASSI			
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	172	8	1	169			
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	103	7	1	105			
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	113	9	1	104			
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	29	6	1	57			
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	69	2	1	91			
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	185	10	1	170			

Priority and Underserved Requirements							
Priority Area	2019-V2-GX-0033	2020-V2-GX-0018	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00579-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00764-ASSI			
Child Abuse							
Total Amount	\$5,058,290.00	\$3,362,500.00	\$2,121,182.00	\$1,274,614.00			
% of Total Federal Award	13.00 %	12.00 %	12.00 %	5.00 %			
Domestic and Family Violence							

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Total Amount	\$17,583,282.00	\$13,060,665.00	\$7,453,538.00	\$5,358,151.00
% of Total Federal Award	46.00 %	46.00 %	42.00 %	22.00 %
Sexual Assault				
Total Amount	\$6,483,061.00	\$5,250,275.00	\$3,146,748.00	\$2,361,323.00
% of Total Federal Award	17.00 %	18.00 %	18.00 %	10.00 %
Underserved				
Total Amount	\$6,948,959.00	\$5,205,856.00	\$3,155,669.00	\$1,374,869.00
% of Total Federal Award	18.00 %	18.00 %	18.00 %	6.00 %

Budget and Staffing				
Staffing Information	2019-V2-GX-0033	2020-V2-GX-0018	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00579-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00764-ASSI
Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	4908	2712	2504	2467
Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	3029893	1672655	1486334	1450754
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	8676	3141	2677	2493
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	590742	266760	255192	253186

AGGREGATED SUBGRANTEE PERFORMANCE MEASURE DATA

Victimization Type							
Victimization Type	Number of Subgrantees Indicating	Number of Individuals Who Actually Received Services Based on a Presenting Victimization					
Victimization Type	Intent to Serve This Victim Type	Quarter 1 Total	Quarter 2 Total	Quarter 3 Total	Quarter 4 Total	Per Quarter Average	
Adult Physical Assault (includes Aggravated and Simple Assault)	81	5917	5271	4590	4887	5166	
Adult Sexual Assault	120	2477	2503	2428	2307	2428	
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	114	914	721	641	621	724	
Arson	81	117	111	99	105	108	
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	81	742	1114	829	858	885	
Burglary	81	1488	1428	1410	1445	1442	
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	120	3525	2339	2004	1803	2417	
Child Pornography	89	111	74	96	95	94	
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	124	3121	3411	3364	3217	3278	
Domestic and/or Family Violence	138	32905	32986	30045	35793	32932	
DUI/DWI Incidents	87	589	701	678	636	651	
Elder Abuse or Neglect	82	252	238	368	340	299	
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	81	108	75	113	110	101	
Human Trafficking: Labor	81	55	42	100	109	76	
Human Trafficking: Sex	82	453	493	614	766	581	
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	81	2347	2170	1940	2010	2116	
Kidnapping (non-custodial)	81	85	96	113	132	106	
Kidnapping (custodial)	81	77	54	65	65	65	
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	81	19	29	69	98	53	
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	81	1078	1073	1007	1130	1072	

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Robbery	81	624	512	529	581	561
Stalking/Harassment	81	3163	3125	3519	3133	3235
Survivors of Homicide Victims	82	967	1121	1095	773	989
Teen Dating Victimization	81	237	231	226	231	231
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	81	230	257	224	262	243
Other	0	22002	17242	23569	18771	20396

Special Classifications of Individuals									
Special Classifications of Individuals		Number of Individuals Self Reporting a Special Classification							
Special Classifications of findividuals	Quarter 1 Total	Quarter 2 Total	Quarter 3 Total	Quarter 4 Total	Per Quarter Average				
Deaf/Hard of Hearing	198	152	129	142	1229				
Homeless	8328	3256	3642	3715	23163				
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	1493	1279	1398	1167	11254				
LGBTQ	1372	689	1248	1159	5522				
Veterans	229	123	94	133	921				
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/ Physical /Mental	6110	3172	3736	3906	24859				
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	1351	1323	1232	1306	10937				
Other	2387	923	198	524	4999				

General Award Information		
Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	246352	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	49068	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	137114	55.66 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	44070	17.89 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	7295	

Demographics		
Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
Race/Ethinicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	6027	4.40 %
Asian	2885	2.10 %
Black or African American	19576	14.28 %
Hispanic or Latino	7789	5.68 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	322	0.23 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	55901	40.77 %
Some Other Race	2278	1.66 %
Multiple Races	3974	2.90 %
Not Reported	26330	19.20 %
Not Tracked	12032	8.78 %
Race/Ethnicity Total	137114	
Gender Identity		
Male	36995	26.98 %
Female	87882	64.09 %
Other	932	0.68 %
Not Reported	6979	5.09 %
Not Tracked	4326	3.16 %
Gender Total	137114	
Age		
Age 0- 12	14355	10.47 %
Age 13- 17	7808	5.69 %

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Age 18- 24	14428	10.52 %
Age 25- 59	64876	47.32 %
Age 60 and Older	8578	6.26 %
Not Reported	16546	12.07 %
Not Tracked	10523	7.67 %
Age Total	137114	

Direct Services				
Service Area	# of Subgrantees That Provided Services in This Category	# of Individuals/Contacts Receiving Services	Specific Service	Frequency of Service
			Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	259302
A. Information & Referral	167	174102	A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	211304
Referrar			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	60824
			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	121728
			Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	2887
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	1717
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	4874
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	160027
B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	137	58144	B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	2476
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	1598
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	10868
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	9759
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	24752
			B10. Interpreter services	9315
			Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	124291
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	133798
C. Emotional Support or Safety Services	138	122760	C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	3104
·			C4. Individual counseling	249621
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	31966
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	18109
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	63303
			Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
D. Shelter/ Housing	89	20893	D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	166261
Services	0.9	20093	D2. Transitional housing	19799

			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	27169
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System 151 Assistance		. 125547	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	264262
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	15053
			E3. Assistance with restitution	19785
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	40921
	151		E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	13581
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	7846
			E7. Immigration assistance	6004
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	26959
			E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	5243
			E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	57669
			E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	9585

ANNUAL QUESTIONS

Grantee Annually Reported Questions			
Question/Option	Count		
Were any administrative and training funds used during the reporting period?			
Yes	1		
No	0		
Did the administrative funds support any education activities during the reporting period?			
Yes	1		
No	0		
Number of requests received for education activities during the reporting period.	12		
Number of people trained or attending education events during the reporting period.	446		
Number of events conducted during the reporting period.	2		
Did the grant support any coordination activities (e.g., with other service providers, law enforcement agencies) during the reporting period?			
Yes	1		
No	0		

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

None. (These materials are routinely developed and updated with state administrative funding, and consist of: brochures for programs to distribute to crime victims about their rights, reparations, the juvenile justice process, financial assistance, language access, testifying in court, victim impact statements, plus the law enforcement cards given to victims when interacting with law enforcement providing contact information for advocacy services.)

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

The 2022 OJP Annual Conference was held online this year with 30 sessions over a two week period. The sessions varied between webinar and meeting formats, and included hosting and facilitation by OJP and Training Advisory Committee staff. Our attendance grew from last year. Data collection revealed most people attended one session (106 people) and 54 people attended two sessions. There were 37 people who attended more than ten sessions! The Minnesota Victim Assistance Academy was offered on a hybrid platform in 2022 with spots offered to 24 attendees, with 22 students completing the program. MNVAA carries continuing education credits and the ability for students to pursue additional educational opportunities through our academic partner, St. Cloud State University in Minnesota, for a fee. The Office of Justice Programs participated in the Department of Public Safety's contribution to the 2022 Minnesota State Fair this year over a two-day period (September 1 & 2) and on average interacted with 1,000 people each day.

Describe any program policies changed during the reporting period.

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

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

We had press coverage for Crime Victim Rights Week. This is an annual event that begins with a press conference, followed by daily blogs on the MN Dept. of Public Safety website. The Governor annually signs a proclamation for Crime Victim Rights Week, which is highlighted in the press conference.

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

Within our broader office is the Crime Victim Justice Unit (CVJU), which responds directly to crime victims that feel they were not treated fairly or appropriately by criminal justice personnel in relation to the crime victimization they experienced. CVJU staff assist victims and conduct investigations to address their allegations, acting in many ways as a crime victim ombudsman. CVJU staff work together with OJP grant managers when crime victim grantee programs are involved. OJP grant managers also work with the Crime Victim Reparations staff through coordinated training for grantee service providers on better assisting crime victims in filing for Compensation claims. Grant managers include hands-on training about VOCA compensation during the comprehensive site visits they conduct with grantees. Together we are working to improve assistance provided to victims, and increase the number of claims filed.

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

Of course, the major issue is the pandemic. Crime victim programs quickly adjusted to providing services online, but exposure to Covid-19 impacted the number of available staff. For most programs the pandemic completely wiped out volunteer-supported activities. We were able to get additional Covid-19 specific funding to programs to assist with technology needs, funds to address housing and hotel/motel costs, hazard pay for staff, and additional direct client assistance funds. The coalitions conducted weekly online meetings with grantees statewide and we participated when requested. We had close contact with the coalitions to brainstorm how to meet the needs they were hearing from programs. This has continued since the start of the pandemic, and as funds have come through to meet pandemic related needs (American Rescue Plan Act funding and state funds). These needs are still present and we continue to address them. Program directors are struggling to maintain adequate staffing and we ve had a number of directors leave the field as well, citing burnout and exhaustion. This creates a barrier in simply having enough staff to meet the needs of victims as they seek services. We are trying to be flexible and agile - not words one usually attributes to state government, but we work to coordinate with other state agencies to create better outcomes, and we listen to the needs and issues identified by crime victim programs and seek ways to assist. Beyond issues related to the pandemic, victims face barriers of many kinds in accessing services. While we have worked to extend service coverage over the entire state, rurally isolated victims have barriers to services related to lack of transportation, cell phone or internet coverage issues, or not wanting to receive services in a small town where they re known. Language access for all is an ongoing challenge. There has been an increase in racially diverse populations moving to rural areas of Minnesota, a trend we ve been seeing over the past ten years. Often these small towns do not have many culturally specific agencies or services, including crime victim services. Even though agencies use Language Line or have Limited English Proficiency plans, some crime victims are reluctant to seek assistance from a primarily Caucasian-staffed agency for fear their particular circumstance will not be understood from someone not representative of their culture. Our office funds 10 of the 11 federally recognized Tribal reservations in Minnesota to provide direct services to Native American crime victims. These programs are growing and expanding their reach, and their service numbers continue to rise. Overall the exposure to crime victim issues through media and public awareness campaigns has helped assist victims in receiving assistance.

Please describe ways that your agency promoted the coordination of public and private efforts within the community to help crime victims during the reporting period.

OJP consistently promotes coordinated public and private efforts to aid crime victims in Minnesota, including supporting VINE and VICTIM AICE, and funding the Day One line - Minnesota's Domestic Violence Crisis Hotline and Sex Trafficking Hotline. Victim Information & Notification Everyday (VINE): VINE is a fully automated information and notification service that nearly all of the 87 Minnesota counties and the Department of Corrections have joined. Registered users are immediately notified upon a change in an offender's status for offenders housed in county jails and detention facilities. VINE can relay important custody or arrest information in a matter of minutes, anywhere in the US, via telephone. Users can access information about an offender's custody status in "real time," 24 hours a day. Standard information available through the VINE service includes inmate custody status and location, criminal charge information, sentence expiration date and referral information for law enforcement and victim service provider organizations. Notifications are placed to registered persons upon the transfer, release, escape or death of an inmate. Victims can access the VINE system through an 800 number or the VINELink Website and notification can be delivered by phone and/or email. VINE was launched in Minnesota in 2002. In addition to VINE, Minnesota worked with the vendor, Appriss, to create VICTIM AICE, an expanded notification system that includes information on inmates of a Dept. of Corrections facility. This has broadened the options for victims statewide, as notification information is available to victims of offenders housed in all types of detention facilities. VICTIM AICE is implemented (the first state in the nation), and we are continuing to make improvements, plus working with Appriss to fix issues. Day One - Minnesota's Domestic Violence Crisis Hotline: OJP provides on-going funding for this critically important program. Day One is housed at Cornerstone, Inc., a domestic violence shelter and community advocacy service program in the metropolitan Twin Cities. The Day One system electronically connects victim service programs providing shelter and hotel/motel services. Through one phone call a victim of domestic violence can access information about available shelter services statewide. Shelter providers must update the web-based system every time their bed space changes, or at least once every 24 hours. The Day One website gives immediate information on available shelter bed space, which can ensure that safety and services are appropriate and immediately available for women and children who need them. Day One also assists in arranging transportation to safe shelter and has greatly increased the number of women and children who are able to secure safe shelter with one phone call. Day One programming includes domestic violence community advocacy agencies across the state that assist victims with an array of services, including securing emergency housing with other agencies. Day One is also now the statewide hotline for youth trafficking victims. Minnesota launched a statewide trafficking initiative in conjunction with the MN Department of Health (MDH) and the Women's Foundation, entitled, No Wrong Door. This initiative included changes to legislation - the Safe Harbor law. Starting August 1, 2014, Minnesota youth who engage in prostitution are no longer seen as criminals, but instead as victims and survivors. The Safe Harbor law treats these youth with dignity and respect, and directs them to appropriate services including shelter and housing. MDH received state funding to support youth trafficking shelter programs and the hiring of 8 Regional Navigators (including one Tribal navigator). Regional Navigators offer training and tools to increase the understanding in their region of juvenile sexual exploitation, which is too often misidentified as truancy, addiction, mental health, gang and other adolescent issues.

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

The OJP Executive Director and Cecilia Miller meet every other month with the directors of the 6 statewide victim coalitions (Violence Free MN, MN Coalition Against Sexual Assault, MN Alliance on Crime, MN Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition, Sacred Hoop Coalition, and MN Children's Alliance). This meeting focuses on how best we can together help the field of victim service programs. We discuss training needs and joint training initiatives we can coordinate and sponsor statewide, unmet needs and issues expressed from direct service programs, legislative initiatives impacting crime victims and services, and strategic planning to improve the delivery of services statewide. The coalitions each have unique links of communication with their member programs and have been an excellent source of information about the difficulties occurring in the field.

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

VOCA funds support 74 agencies that serve domestic violence victims, 51 serving sexual assault victims, 68 serving underserved (general crime) victims and 48 serving child abuse victims. Each priority area has program standards that sub-grantees must follow as a recipient of the various types of funding. While each set of program standards are specific to a type of victimization (priority area), they all require provision of services, direct service staff development, systems change and partnering with the other direct service providers in their geographic areas. OJP has been working to increase the funding for general crime victims through expanding the hospital-based violence intervention program at the primary trauma hospital in Minneapolis, to two other hospitals nearby that also deal with a significant number of gunshot wounds and assault victims. We also have expanded funding to Child Advocacy Center programs, growing a new program every two or three years, in an effort to reduce the distance a child has to travel to obtain a forensic exam.

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

OJP coordinates with the Minnesota District of the U.S. Attorney's Office and seeks participation from them for the training committee that plans the annual conference and assists with MNVAA, the Victim Assistance Academy committee. OJP provides crime victim funding to 10 of the 11 federally recognized Tribal reservations in Minnesota, for domestic violence and sexual assault services. Grant Managers work closely with these programs in addressing their unique cultural and geographic needs and challenges. They conduct site visits frequently to engage with program staff, provide training for capacity building, address program needs, assist in coordination with local non-Tribal victim service programs, and address resource needs for greater program stability. The directors of the two Native American coalitions, (Minnesota Indian Women s Sexual Assault Coalition and the Sacred Hoop Coalition), participate in regular meetings between the victim services coalitions and OJP. These two directors and their staff advise OJP regarding service delivery challenges for American Indian programs, both on and off reservation. They work together with OJP grant managers to provide training and technical assistance to grantees regarding capacity building and programming issues. Grant managers attend their annual training events and work hand-in-hand with Tribal reservation programs on issues. Other OJP staff overseeing JAG funding to Tribal reservations work in concert with grant managers to address issues between reservation-based victim service programs and local law enforcement and Tribal law enforcement, to improve the response to American Indian crime victims. OJP has also worked closely with the U.S. Attorney s Office to address the

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payment of sexual assault forensic exams for women from the Red Lake Reservation, a non-PL280 reservation.

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

Affordable housing options continue to be very limited, which puts much pressure on agencies trying to assist crime victims that need to relocate or transition from shelter to stable housing. This has been a significant issue for the past 15 years, with limited improvement, even though it s a focus area for the state and across state agencies. OJP funds a Housing Specialist position to work with other state agencies and the domestic violence coalitions to address housing issues for individuals and families impacted by domestic violence. It is difficult to quantify just how large of a problem this is, but we consistently hear of the struggles shelter programs face in helping families secure affordable housing. We are working with Violence Free MN and member programs to explore alternative housing strategies to see how we can ease the problem in Minnesota. We have funded a position within VFMN as a housing coordinator who works on policy development and needed changes with other state agencies toward improving the housing situation for domestic violence victims statewide. Programs (especially shelter programs) have been reporting for years that crime victims are presenting with more complex issues around joblessness, lack of familial support, housing difficulties, and a general inability to secure resources - all things that greatly impact their economic stability. Additionally, shelter residents experiencing challenges with mental health has a dramatic impact on programs and services. Rural programs have great difficulty referring crime victims for mental health services, due to a lack of mental health professionals in their rural area. Prosecution of reported sexual assault has been an ongoing issue, despite training for law enforcement and prosecutors. We continue to work with the sexual assault coalition on initiatives to address this (mostly with VAWA funding), but have not seen much improvement. Reporting of sexual assault seems to be on a gradual rise, however, and our funded sexual assault programs are busy serving victims and addressing sexual assault evidentiary exam issues. The MN County Attorney s Association has talked with us about the lack of coordination between city attorney and county attorney offices that impacts the charging of crimes and follow-up. Many smaller city attorneys are on contract from their local law firm, working part-time. There is some discussion about moving anything involving domestic violence to the county attorney office to pursue so that they don't get dropped so readily, but this would be a big change and there are many barriers to making this change. Drug and alcohol problems are a significant factor in cases of domestic and sexual violence on Tribal reservations. The issues are exacerbating each other, and the availability is limited for after-treatment options. Most of the federal funding that used to support re-entry programs and halfway houses disappeared years ago. The treatment centers for American Indian Tribal members are consistently filled to capacity and there are limited treatment options that are culturally proficient. Addressing domestic and sexual violence issues on Tribal reservations without also addressing chemical use is potentially not very effective.

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

We have had minimal grant manager staff changes over the past 6 years and have added compliance monitoring staff that conduct desk reviews.

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

Notices of crime victim funding opportunities are distributed widely (through e-mail) to over 3,000 direct contacts representing BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, Community of Color) and culturally specific agencies, criminal justice system personnel, social service agencies, current grantees, etc. We awarded 2-year renewals for our grantees for FY20/21 and FY22/23. We will have a competitive process for all VOCA funding in 2023.

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

Our plan, through the previous competitive process, was to continue funding priority for programs serving traditionally underserved populations across the state. The grant review process considered the unmet need for services for traditionally underserved populations, and geographic location and distribution of funding statewide, as well as other factors. We publicized the RFPs widely as the goal was to address emerging needs and allow new applicants to come in to the funding process. Of the 168 applications submitted, 17% were from agencies we did not currently fund and 10% of the new applicants were from agencies that primarily serve communities of color. Significant expansion funding was also awarded to a variety of long standing and capable victim service agencies, including agencies that primarily serve communities of color. We will have a new competitive process in 2023, again with a funding priority for traditionally underserved populations of crime victims. This funding from other sources, we funded programs have not received our funding previously, for services for traditionally underserved populations of crime victims. This funding has given these new programs an opportunity to get needed services to their communities, and to build their program capacity for managing an OJP grant. This opportunity will make them a stronger applicant in the upcoming competitive process.

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

We conduct the open competitive process approximately every five years, with grantees completing an annual renewal application in the intervening years. When we discover a specific gap in services during the intervening years we offer a small bridge grant to bring the program into the network of crime victim service grantees, until the next competitive process. This helps those agencies build up their services and programming for crime victims, so that they can compete better in the next competitive process. In the recent past we provided bridge funding to a hard of hearing/deaf program, a start-up hospital based violence intervention program, an Indian Tribal reservation program, an elder abuse and legal services program, and a new domestic violence shelter for African Immigrant families. These programs have continued to receive funding and are stable. This is an excellent way to help programs put themselves in a stronger position to compete in the competitive process, and to expand program to traditionally underserved victims of crime. The Covid-19 specific funding has given us additional opportunities to respond to service gaps and address pandemic related needs for crime victims statewide. We did not release any bridge funding during the reporting period because the Covid-19 specific funding was able to fill those gaps. We continue to seek information on unmet needs and gaps from the coalitions, our strategic partners in state government, our statewide criminal justice association partners, and through community outreach by our Community Outreach Specialist. This staff person has been instrumental in educating in traditionally underserved communities about the existence of VOCA funding, OJP s crime victim services funding in general, VOCA Comp, and ways to connect with our office and our services.

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

We provide a compilation of stats from the victim service programs that details the services and demographics of victims served by our grantee agencies. This is provided to the legislature, and is available on our website for anyone to access. We create a report utilizing data from The Day One program depicting calls on the hotline, requests for shelter, etc. The needs assessment report is also on our website and we will be utilizing the data as we make a case for more state funding for crime victim services and for administrative funds for increased staff.

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