

# MO 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-0035	2019-V2-GX-0044	2020-V2-GX-0059	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00633-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00766-ASSI
<b>Federal Award Amount</b>	\$61,755,273.00	\$41,725,123.00	\$30,852,327.00	\$19,229,300.00	\$26,377,562.00
<b>Total Amount of Subawards</b>	\$59,582,263.00	\$40,615,517.00	\$29,935,767.00	\$17,420,299.00	\$24,969,082.00
<b>Total Number of Subawards</b>	127	212	297	101	115
<b>Administrative Funds Amount</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Training Funds Amount</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Balance Remaining</b>	\$2,173,010.00	\$1,109,606.00	\$916,560.00	\$1,809,001.00	\$1,408,480.00

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-0035	2019-V2-GX-0044	2020-V2-GX-0059	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00633-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00766-ASSI
<b>Government Agencies Only</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>
Corrections	1	1	0	0	0
Courts	2	2	2	0	0
Juvenile Justice	1	1	2	0	0
Law Enforcement	5	5	7	0	1
Prosecutor	10	12	17	4	4
Other	4	6	5	1	2
<b>Nonprofit Organization Only</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>97</b>
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	22	25	62	23	17
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	0	0	1	1	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	19	43	41	17	17
Faith-based Organization	2	4	4	1	2
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	32	64	71	20	30
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	3	4	13	9	3
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	1	3	2	1	1
Multiservice agency	7	11	15	4	7
Other	9	15	34	7	20
<b>Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Agencies, and Organizations Only</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	0	0	0	0	0
Court	0	0	0	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence organization	0	0	0	0	0
Faith-based organization	0	0	0	0	0
Juvenile justice	0	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	0	0	0	0	0
Organization provides domestic and family violence and sexual assault services	0	0	0	0	0
Prosecutor	0	5	5	6	6
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
<b>Campus Organizations Only</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>
Campus-based victims services	6	10	12	5	4
Law enforcement	0	0	0	0	0
Physical or mental health service program	1	0	0	0	0
Other	2	1	4	2	1
<b>Total Number of Subawards</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>115</b>

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

<b>Subaward Purpose</b>					
A single SAR can select multiple purposes. Numbers are not unique					
	2018-V2-GX-0035	2019-V2-GX-0044	2020-V2-GX-0059	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00633-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00766-ASSI
A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	110	165	266	92	106
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	30	77	56	20	14
C. Start up a new victim services project	7	6	7	1	2
D. Start up a new <b>Native American</b> victim services project	1	1	1	0	0
E. Expand or enhance an existing <b>Native American</b> project	0	0	0	0	0

<b>VOCA and Match Funds</b>					
A single SAR can select multiple service types. Numbers are not unique					
	2018-V2-GX-0035	2019-V2-GX-0044	2020-V2-GX-0059	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00633-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00766-ASSI
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	2	61	125	51	105
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	2	56	119	49	104
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	2	56	103	47	108
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	0	46	68	24	75
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	1	57	108	51	101
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	2	66	129	55	115

<b>Priority and Underserved Requirements</b>					
Priority Area	2018-V2-GX-0035	2019-V2-GX-0044	2020-V2-GX-0059	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00633-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00766-ASSI
<b>Child Abuse</b>					
Total Amount	\$14,880,883.00	\$9,826,132.00	\$7,893,158.00	\$4,184,162.00	\$6,687,123.00
% of Total Federal Award	24.00 %	24.00 %	26.00 %	22.00 %	25.00 %
<b>Domestic and Family Violence</b>					
Total Amount	\$30,219,188.00	\$20,786,287.00	\$13,942,269.00	\$8,361,165.00	\$11,697,816.00
% of Total Federal Award	49.00 %	50.00 %	45.00 %	43.00 %	44.00 %
<b>Sexual Assault</b>					
Total Amount	\$6,519,880.00	\$4,821,139.00	\$3,146,345.00	\$1,974,115.00	\$2,975,841.00
% of Total Federal Award	11.00 %	12.00 %	10.00 %	10.00 %	11.00 %
<b>Underserved</b>					
Total Amount	\$6,851,806.00	\$4,902,011.00	\$4,902,446.00	\$2,742,541.00	\$3,190,625.00
% of Total Federal Award	11.00 %	12.00 %	16.00 %	14.00 %	12.00 %

<b>Budget and Staffing</b>					
Staffing Information	2018-V2-GX-0035	2019-V2-GX-0044	2020-V2-GX-0059	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00633-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00766-ASSI

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

Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	2392	4195	105442	2003	102405
Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	49319812	50403859	50914618	1421973	1244587
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	7786	10951	14390	5843	3872
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	789649	906674	970102	158666	126286

### 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)	144	4635	5128	5580	6789	5533
Adult Sexual Assault	174	2603	2545	3018	3113	2819
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	137	748	785	3653	828	1503
Arson	57	152	140	160	140	148
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	116	568	730	1001	1388	921
Burglary	53	1808	1766	1867	1757	1799
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	214	8708	8507	9054	13155	9856
Child Pornography	124	265	289	361	171	271
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	200	6846	7241	6595	5338	6505
Domestic and/or Family Violence	232	26672	24780	26313	31288	27263
DUI/DWI Incidents	73	1424	2685	1048	1024	1545
Elder Abuse or Neglect	113	215	272	272	277	259
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	76	35	23	15	25	24
Human Trafficking: Labor	91	24	15	16	18	18
Human Trafficking: Sex	151	117	150	240	220	181
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	65	1794	1785	1867	1696	1785
Kidnapping (non-custodial)	87	181	163	187	184	178
Kidnapping (custodial)	82	90	132	111	86	104
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	54	98	204	212	97	152
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	65	2294	2139	2033	2014	2120
Robbery	59	571	482	521	683	564
Stalking/Harassment	167	2167	2282	2350	2331	2282
Survivors of Homicide Victims	92	1217	1200	1349	2190	1489
Teen Dating Victimization	137	94	115	146	293	162
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	42	132	111	67	119	107
Other	39	17563	17320	15750	13248	15970

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	315	518	724	848	3144
Homeless	2540	2541	2421	2958	21197
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	492	615	634	395	2105
LGBTQ	629	577	621	595	3328
Veterans	128	137	152	152	840
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/ Physical /Mental	2396	2396	3029	2607	16473
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	904	1152	826	1190	4486

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

Other	290	3894	408	132	4014
-------	-----	------	-----	-----	------

General Award Information		
Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	259099	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	34904	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	141611	54.66 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	30707	11.85 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	8486	

Demographics		
Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
American Indian or Alaska Native	487	0.34 %
Asian	638	0.45 %
Black or African American	22128	15.63 %
Hispanic or Latino	3495	2.47 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	345	0.24 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	72130	50.94 %
Some Other Race	565	0.40 %
Multiple Races	2407	1.70 %
Not Reported	25260	17.84 %
Not Tracked	14156	10.00 %
<b>Race/Ethnicity Total</b>	<b>141611</b>	
<b>Gender Identity</b>		
Male	36921	26.07 %
Female	78982	55.77 %
Other	264	0.19 %
Not Reported	12331	8.71 %
Not Tracked	13113	9.26 %
<b>Gender Total</b>	<b>141611</b>	
<b>Age</b>		
Age 0- 12	19364	13.67 %
Age 13- 17	10598	7.48 %
Age 18- 24	11964	8.45 %
Age 25- 59	57547	40.64 %
Age 60 and Older	8808	6.22 %
Not Reported	19624	13.86 %
Not Tracked	13706	9.68 %
<b>Age Total</b>	<b>141611</b>	

Direct Services				
Service Area	# of Subgrantees That Provided Services in This Category	# of Individuals/Contacts Receiving Services	Specific Service	Frequency of Service
A. Information & Referral	178	147970	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	113991
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	81082
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	43931
			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	78552
			Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	1947
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	3218
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	4608
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	197419

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

B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	168	59910	B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	5313
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	661
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	4993
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	6872
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	22098
			B10. Interpreter services	3329
C. Emotional Support or Safety Services	165	116353	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	98703
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	68088
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	4573
			C4. Individual counseling	55677
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	18847
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	32629
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	7271
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	100	22402	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	187756
			D2. Transitional housing	47056
			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	5144
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	163	136647	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	179376
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	21431
			E3. Assistance with restitution	15666
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	17149
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	14723
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	2951
			E7. Immigration assistance	254
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	9507
			E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	3523
			E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	116851
E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	10623			

**ANNUAL QUESTIONS**

Grantee Annually Reported Questions	
Question/Option	Count
<b>Were any administrative and training funds used during the reporting period?</b>	
Yes	1
No	0
<b>Did the administrative funds support any education activities during the reporting period?</b>	
Yes	1
No	0
Number of requests received for education activities during the reporting period.	677
Number of people trained or attending education events during the reporting period.	22297
Number of events conducted during the reporting period.	68
<b>Did the grant support any coordination activities (e.g., with other service providers, law enforcement agencies) during the reporting period?</b>	
Yes	1
No	0
<b>Describe any program or educational materials developed during the reporting period.</b>	

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

The Department of Social Services (DSS) created a series of short 30 minute educational videos on a variety of topics including but not limited to: Nutrition Assistance, Low Income Home Energy Assistance, Food Distribution, Child Support, Temporary Assistance, Adult Education and Literacy, Work Assistance Programs, Crime Victim Compensation, etc. These videos were recorded and posted on the DSS LinkedIn Learning website for VOCA agency staff to utilize as well as members of the public. MOCADSV created nine (9) educational materials including: o Tip Sheet- Confidentiality on the Cloud o Tip Sheet- Fiscal Audit: What is it? And does your organization need one? o The Resource: Advocating with Immigrant Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence o The Resource: Navigating Confidentiality- Guidance for Licensed Counseling Professionals o And Justice for All: Court Advocacy with Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence o 2021 Regional and Statewide Domestic and Sexual Violence Stat Sheets o 2021 Impact Snapshot: COVID Effects of Domestic and Sexual Violence o 2022 Missouri Law: Criminal and Civil Responses to Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence and Stalking Missouri KidsFirst o ProtectMOKids: In the fall of 2021, Missouri KidsFirst released the updated ProtectMOKids.com, a statewide online reporter training to reflect updated laws surrounding mandated reporter and best practices. This previous update was in 2017. ProtectMOKids is a free, online training recommended by the Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children and supported by the Department of Social Services. The training covers the legal requirements for mandated reporters, definitions and indicators of child abuse and neglect and details, how to effectively report abuse and what to expect when making a report. The top three professions who participate in this training are school professionals, day care workers, social workers and medical providers. The improvements include more detailed information about sentinel injuries, indicators of neglect and youth with problematic sexual behaviors. o During the reporting period, training was approved for two hours of POST (Peace Officer Standards and Training) training, for the continuing law enforcement education program in Missouri. Out of all mandated reporters, Peace or Law Enforcement Officials make up the largest number of reports of suspected child abuse/neglect. In 2021, Law Enforcement made 10,048 reports to the Missouri Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline. o During the reporting period, Missouri KidsFirst Executive Director served on the Missouri Rights of Victims of Sexual Assault Task Force which released its final report in December 2021 outlining recommendations regarding: The development and implementation of an effective mechanism for submitting, tracking, and investigating complaints regarding the handling of, or response to, a sexual assault report or investigation by any agency or organization involved in the response; The development of documentation for medical providers and law enforcement officers, in conjunction with the department of public safety, to provide to survivors informing them of their rights; Whether a need exists for additional employees or volunteers of a rape crisis center for victims of sexual assault, Whether a need exists to expand the right to an employee or volunteer of a rape crisis center beyond the medical examination and law enforcement interview settings; and Whether a need exists to provide for ongoing evaluation of the implementation of these rights. This report was informed by public hearings. It was submitted to the Governor and General Assembly and is publicly available on a website hosted by the Missouri Department of Public Safety.

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

MOCADSV held 25 training events statewide on topics such as: Regional developments in the law, Children Services Roundtable, Case Management Roundtable, Quarterly Immigrant and Refugee Services Roundtable, Regional Orders of Protection training, Investing in Leadership, Directors Academy: Improving your Agency's Financial Health, Advocacy Caf: Financial Capability Programming, Quarterly Court Advocates Collaborative Meeting, Sexual Assault Services Capacity Building quarterly call, Public Benefits series: Child Care Assistance and Temporary Assistance (TANF) Options for Survivors, Directors Academy: Coaching and Building a Team, Onsite training: Shelter services, hotline calls and responsibilities, Onsite training: Shelter hotline training and Shelter Board training Missouri KidsFirst held multiple training events during the reporting period including: Mandated Reporter Training- double the number of completions from the previous reporting period (20,840 completions) Victim Advocate Training- 6 trainings (150 attendees) Forensic Interviewers and Multi-Disciplinary Team Trainings- 6 trainings (139 attendees) Forensic Interviewer specific training- 3 trainings (69 attendees) Administrative/Leader Training- 2 trainings (27 attendees) Mental Health Provider Monthly Groups- 8 trainings (36 attendees) All Child Advocacy Center Staff Training- 2 trainings (112 attendees) Medical Provider trainings in response to child abuse/neglect- 16 trainings (500 attendees) Planning Events- at least 20 Missouri KidsFirst held ongoing planning and technical assistance events with Child Advocacy Center leadership (bimonthly meetings and biweekly calls) 114 in total to inform staff of statewide training opportunities and address technical assistance and education needs. Additionally they organize two work groups of Child Advocacy Center (CAC) and MDT staff.

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

N/A

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

The State of Missouri's Crime Victims Rights Week event held at the State Capitol building in Jefferson City during the month of April, was attended by several victim service stakeholder agencies including but not limited to: The Department of Public Safety- Office of Victims of Crime, The Attorney General's Office, The Secretary of State's Office, The Department of Social Services - Victim Services Unit, Department of Corrections- Office of Victim Services, Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Missouri KidsFirst etc. Several members of the State Legislature also attended the event as well as the public. The State of Missouri also received media coverage for our annual Sexual Assault Awareness campaign during the month of April, where our State Capitol dome was lit teal in honor everyone affected by sexual assault. Several agencies held public awareness events, which included participating in Denim Day and wearing teal on Day of Action. The State of Missouri also received media coverage for our annual Domestic Violence Awareness Events throughout the month of October. Several of our VOCA providers held events attended by the public including fundraisers, rallies, candle light vigils, training events etc. Our service providers in Saint Louis participated in the awareness event Paint The Lou Purple during the Week of Action to bring awareness to the effects of domestic violence. Several staff statewide wore purple in honor of everyone affected by domestic violence. Additional media events include: Missouri sexual assault task force recommends revised rights for victims, additional funding for programs, testing (January 4, 2022 The Missouri Times) o <https://themissouritimes.com/missouri-sexual-assault-task-force-recommends-revised-rights-for-victims-additional-funding-for-programs-testing/> Missouri sexual assault task force releases report designed to help survivors (January 4, 2022, MissouriNet) o <https://www.missourinet.com/2022/01/04/missouri-sexual-assault-task-force-releases-report-designed-to-help-survivors/> Sexual Assault Survivors Bill of Rights Becomes Law in Missouri (August 29, 2022, MissouriNet) o <https://www.northwestmoinfo.com/local-news/sexual-assault-survivors-bill-of-rights-becomes-law-in-missouri/> Out of pocket expenses for sexual assault victims can be high; Missouri offering only forensic exam for free (March 21, 2022, KY3) o <https://www.ky3.com/2022/03/22/out-of-pocket-expenses-sexual-assault-victims-can-be-high-missouri-offering-only-forensic-exam-free/> EXPLAINER: How Missouri's Sexual Assault Survivors Bill of Rights Law Works (August 25, 2022, KY3) o <https://www.ky3.com/2022/08/25/explainer-how-missouris-sexual-assault-survivor-bill-rights-law-works/> Senate Bill to help sexual assault survivors goes into effect Sunday o <https://www.kmov.com/2022/08/27/senate-bill-help-sexual-assault-survivors-goes-into-effect-sunday/>

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

All of our VOCA agencies maintain a contractual responsibility to assist crime victims and coordinate their service response with other providers. They work together to ensure that victims are referred to other agencies, when they are unable to meet a victim's need. MOCADSV held 45 collaborative meetings with other service providers such as: Missouri Supreme Court Commission on Combatting Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence also a Data subcommittee for the same training. Collaborative trainings with the Department of Social Services VOCA unit National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) Coalition Assessment Tool Subcommittee, NNEDV Fiscal Management, NNEDV Voluntary Services workgroup Missouri Interagency Council on homelessness Resource sharing project communication call Veterans Administration Upper Midwest Regional Meeting with sexual assault coalitions Attorney General Office's Human Trafficking Taskforce Futures Without Violence Coalitions Health workgroup National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (NIWAP): Community of Practice National Resource Center on Domestic Violence Regional meetings with victim service providers. Missouri KidsFirst collaborated with the Missouri Office of Prosecution Services on February 23-25 and Child Advocacy Services of Greater Saint Louis on a train the trainer offering of the National Crime Scene to Trial. The 3-day course taught MDT how to respond to a report of child maltreatment involving abusive head trauma, child sexual abuse, neglect, emotional abuse, witnessing domestic violence and animal cruelty. Missouri KidsFirst also launched a MDT enhancement initiative in June of 2022. The planning phase will run through early 2023, but during this reporting period, Missouri KidsFirst engaged in outreach meetings and held four listening sessions with MDT members across the state. The MDT enhancement initiative seeks to improve effective team functioning statewide and increase access to services for children impacted by abuse through increasing the capacity and overall coordination of MDTs. The Department of Social Services VOCA staff presented at the National Joint Training Conference for VOCA Assistance and CVC Administrators on August 19, 2022 hosted by the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators. This allowed our staff to present on moving from a statewide approach to a regional approach for funding victim service providers in the State of Missouri.

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

Currently our biggest issues that prevent victims from receiving assistance are the retention and recruitment of staff both paid and unpaid, affordable access to transportation, housing and mental health services, as well as an overall reduction in funding. VOCA staff identified these issues by completing in person site visits with 60 agencies from April 1 to November 30 2022. The VOCA staff met with the agency staff and discussed current gaps in services, barriers they are facing, needs for training and/or technical assistance, goals and milestones they have and any issues that is preventing them from attaining those goals and milestones. The feedback that was received from the site visits has been instrumental in addressing barriers as well as gaps in services. The VOCA staff have been consistent and transparent with all of the VOCA subrecipients regarding issues that have been identified. We have created a safe space to communicate and continuously encourage collaboration amongst all of the subrecipients to maximize service delivery. In terms of the funding concerns, Missouri like every other state is facing the critical need for sustainable and flexible funding. Many agencies have been struggling to fundraise, have increased programmatic expenses and are struggling to maintain or expand services to meet current demands. In addition, many agencies are facing difficulties filling vacant positions. Providers have reported they are uncertain when they will be able to fill open positions due to a lack of applicants and uncertainty about ongoing funding from their core grants. Many agencies are also struggling to pay adequate wages to attract and retain quality staff. Even with an increased demand for services, many agencies feel they may not be able to meet the need due to insufficient staffing. Despite an increased need for housing services, many agencies struggle to access sufficient affordable housing for victims and their families. As a result of COVID, many shelters and agencies operate at a reduced capacity and are looking for innovative ways to modify or add additional housing options to their current available services. Many communities have limits on affordable housing units, resulting in increasing shortages. These barriers have led many survivors to not have access to safe and affordable housing at their most vulnerable time. Additional training and resources are also

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

needed to support immigrant survivors of domestic violence. The processing time for U- Visas continues to increase, and has nearly doubled since 2017. This increase has affected wait times resulting in increased danger for immigrant survivors of violence as they may be forced to remain in an abusive relationship to avoid deportation and other legal issues. Due to staffing shortages, overwhelming caseloads has also been raised as a concern by many providers. Recruiting and retaining volunteers has also been difficult especially for many of the CASA s who are dependent on volunteers. Like many other states, there is also a backlog of court cases, and an increase in crime. In Missouri the rape kit backlog is being addressed however due to a lack of funding for community response, many sexual assault advocacy programs will carry the most significant implementation burden of the backlog cleanup. Sexual assault agencies will be called upon to coordinate and lead community Sexual Assault Response Teams, assist with victim notification and expand service areas and hospitals they are responding to. Unfortunately, the State of Missouri has not secured any additional funding to help local programs increase their capacity to respond to the increased demand for services although the state has received additional SAKI funding to clear the backlog. Without additional victim service funding, sexual assault survivors may experience delays in accessing critical supportive services and receiving notification about their case status.

## **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.**

The department works closely with several stakeholders including but not limited to: victim advocates, law enforcement, prosecuting attorney s, other state agencies and community partners to identify the most effective way to serve victims of crime. The department also serves on the Missouri Justice Reinvestment initiative- Victim Focused Workgroup, which is working to identify and reduce several current barriers within the criminal justice system for victims of crime. Those barriers include: access for people with disabilities, accountability within the restitution process, creating a state standardization process so that victims have an easier time understanding their right to restitution and receiving restitution payments. Also improving access to general criminal justice information for crime victims, the general public and criminal justice stakeholders. The department also meets regularly with our designated VOCA training and technical assistance providers to address any identified issues that are preventing victims from seeking the proper level of service. During the reporting period, the state of Missouri convened the coordinated, interagency statewide Missouri Rights of Victims of Sexual Assault Task Force, which released its final report on December 31, 2021. The Task Force convened lawmakers, state agencies including the MO Highway Patrol, MO Office of Prosecution Services, Department of Health and Senior Services, and representatives of victims service providers including Missouri KidsFirst and the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. The Missouri Rights of Victims of Sexual Assault Task Force recommended nine proposals in its report given to the governor and legislators: o Promote healing for survivors by improving a survivor s experience through the system response. o Reduce the number of survivor unmet requests for services from rape crisis centers and increase community awareness of available resources. o Ensure that survivors throughout the state have access to Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE), and that survivors are able to obtain a medical forensic exam, along with diagnostic testing, treatment, and prophylactic needs, arising from the sexual assault, and at no cost to the survivor. o Increase salary and funding to reduce crime laboratory backlogs to affect more timely processing of a kit after its delivery. o Pass an enhanced Sexual Assault Survivors Bill of Rights to ensure awareness of survivors rights and to guide practitioners in honoring those rights on an individual, local, and statewide basis. o Increase trauma-informed practices and outreach to underserved populations. o Modify statutes to further protect survivor privacy in public or court records. o Review the sexual assault survivor s bill of rights and make recommendations for legislative enhancements. o Stakeholders continue working together to implement these recommendations. During the reporting period, Missouri lawmakers also passed SB 775, legislation making a number of changes to the judicial process, specifically concerning cases of sexual assault and child trafficking, designed to improve protections for survivors. The new law would protect victims of child trafficking by removing the need for minors arrested for prostitution to show coercion for them to be immune from prosecution and establishes the Statewide Council on Sex Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children. Along with legislators and state agency leadership, Missouri KidsFirst, the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and service providers will serve on the Council which will collect data related to the sex trafficking of children, review best practices regarding the prevention of and response to the issue and submit recommendations to the governor and General Assembly by the end of 2023. The new law also included clarifications to victim orders of protection, revises the Sexual Assault Survivor Bill of Rights to include the right of a victim to access a rape crisis center and the right to an interpreter and expanded the rape shield law to extend protections to crime victims.

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

Department staff implemented a streamlined process improvement effective 4/1/22 with the beginning of our contract cycle. Prior to April 2022 VOCA staff handled all elements of the VOCA project including invoicing, monitoring, data reporting, etc. Effective April 2022 invoicing and monitoring transitioned to previously established invoicing and monitoring units to allow the VOCA staff to be able to conduct site visits, address issues and concerns through collaborative communication, reduce the us vs. them mentality that was in place and increase subrecipient empowerment. The department also implemented a regional service structure change effective April 2022 from a statewide approach. This divided the state into seven regions, and allowed providers to bid for contracts on a regional allocation versus a statewide allocation. The regional methodology allowed areas to be funded equitably and allowed for many different service providers statewide. Many Missouri domestic and sexual violence agencies have quickly adapted their services to meet the increasing demand of virtual and telehealth services and have increased their outreach and mobile advocacy services. Agencies have continued to evolve and adjust their service delivery to ensure those in need continue to have access to services. Agencies have also increased their collaborative efforts to meet the evolving needs of survivors. The creation of the National 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline has increased access to emergency mental health services. Domestic and sexual violence agencies have been able to supplement their current services with trained mental health providers by using the 988 system. Agencies have also increased public awareness about effective safety planning, by creating a toolkit that outlines tangible actions to decrease crime and increase safety.

## **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: The Department continues to work with the Children s Advocacy Centers as well as the Court Appointment Special Advocates (CASA) programs across the state. We also work with our training and technical assistance provider Missouri KidsFirst who oversees the Child Advocacy Centers to address any needs or gaps in service. Domestic Violence: The department works closely with the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MOCADSV) to combat domestic and sexual violence in the state. The largest percentage of VOCA funds go to agencies who serve victims of domestic violence. We currently fund 50 domestic violence shelters in the state. Sexual Assault: The department continues to work with several agencies who serve victims of sexual assault, such as the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault. Through this collaboration and others, Missouri is able to meet the 10% requirement in this priority category. Underserved: The department continues to work with several agencies who are dedicated to serving victims from underserved and underrepresented communities. The Department has collaborated with several agencies who provide services to underserved communities including but not limited to the LGBTQ community, Deaf, Deafblind and late-deafened communities, communities of color, rural and low-income communities, faith based communities, LEP or immigrant communities, communities affected by drunk driving and/or homicide, as well as the elderly community. The department created a list for all VOCA subrecipients that identifies agencies that specialize in serving communities within the underserved category. We also provided funding to several new subrecipients effective April 2022 that serve victims within the underserved and underrepresented communities that had previously never received VOCA funding. This has allowed an expansion of services within this category.

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

All subrecipients are required to certify they will serve all victims of Federal Crimes. We recently hosted a training in conjunction with the Department of Public Safety- Office of Victims of Crime on VINE and a victim s right to notification. During the training, we identified the difference between state, local and federal notification processes. We are also in the process of creating a webinar with our federal victim service partners to go over the federal criminal justice process, list of contacts etc.

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

The top five challenges consistently reported by our agencies on their annual report narrative questions were reduced shelter space capacity due to COVID, not having enough CASA volunteers, lack of mental health counselors, maxed out staff caseloads, and a lack of funding to provide all expected services. Many of the shelters had to reduce their shelter capacity due to COVID that resulted in less victims being able to be served at one time. The Court Appointed Special Advocates reported they are having a hard time recruiting and retaining enough volunteers to keep up with their increasing workloads. Now that many counties have started their court proceedings again following the pause/slowdown from COVID in 2020-2021, there has been a substantial backlog created as well as an increase in the number of children who are now in foster care. Many of our subrecipients also reported the lack of qualified mental health counselors statewide, this is due to several things including retirement, increased workloads, smaller workforce etc. This has caused an increase in the number of victims on waitlists. Many of our agencies have also reported out that several of their staff have maxed out caseloads, and are doing more with less. This is also resulting in victims being placed on waitlists, or being referred to other agencies for services. Several agencies have expressed concern regarding not enough funding. Department VOCA staff have been transparent and informative regarding the status of the Crime Victims Fund, the importance of fundraising etc. We have also worked with our designated training and technical assistance providers to educate our subrecipients on the importance of resource maximization, collaboration, and sustainability. Many agencies have also advised that access to affordable housing has been a notable barrier in providing services. Rent and housing costs have increased dramatically over the past year or so, making safe and affordable housing difficult to obtain. Recently there has been a rise in the Fair Market Rate allowing affordable housing vouchers rates to increase, but there continues to be a shortage of affordable units available statewide. Domestic and sexual violence agencies have reported an increase in the severity of abuse, increased cases of strangulation and increased gun violence. DV agencies in our Kansas City area have reported an 18% increase in Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) calls from law enforcement between 2019 and 2021. This increase in calls is due to increased lethality factors such as abusive partners threatening to kill the victim, increased access to guns, a history of strangulation, and continuous strangulation.

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

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

Department VOCA staff have not had any staff retention issues. However, several of our VOCA subrecipients have raised concern over staff retention and staff recruitment as a major challenge that they face. Several of the providers are unable to provide a competitive wage, and are losing staff to higher paying jobs as well as remote jobs. The department is working with our training and technical assistance providers to review current agency standards and requirements for staffing and hiring. DV and sexual violence agencies throughout the state are experiencing significant staffing and retention issues. The most significant factor is the inability to keep up with the rising cost of living, rapid increases in salaries in other professions and available qualified staff. Agencies are struggling to keep up with the increased costs and ability to meet staffing salary and wage requirements. Agencies are experiencing high turnover due to employees requesting remote or hybrid work options, increased benefits, more flexible schedules, and less stressful work environments. There is also a lack of qualified applicants due to a reduced workforce.

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

The department publicizes the availability of funding through our agency website, email communications, word of mouth and social media. Department staff also send out emails to our subrecipients periodically regarding current state and federal funding opportunities that are available.

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

The department is able to fund new/underserved populations through discretionary awards and a competitive bid process. Through our most current Notice of Funding Opportunity, we provided funding to 14 new providers in five of the seven regions. New service providers included a Human Trafficking Coalition, survivors of homicide agency, additional Court Appointed Special Advocate agency, child abuse specific agency, male sexual assault survivor specific agency, domestic violence and a multi service agency.

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

The department provides resources to organizations to connect them with similar agencies throughout the state to provide a more streamlined service coordination. Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) and letters of collaboration between entities are required at the time they submit their proposal to ensure gaps in services are kept to a minimum. The department highly encourages all subrecipients to collaborate with each other in order to meet the needs of all victims statewide. The department also created a gap analysis based on the identified barriers and gaps in service reported by the subrecipients during site visits. The department is working with stakeholders to address and reduce those identified barriers and gaps in service.

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

The Director of Social Services, Governor, and the Legislature utilize data collected during the budget review process to create efficiency and effectiveness measures. Quarterly and annual reports are also made available to the Governor, legislature and other entities upon request. Department VOCA staff also track the number of victims served both continuing and new on a monthly basis as well as staffing hours both paid and not paid throughout the grant period.