

# NJ 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-0052	2019-V2-GX-0051	2020-V2-GX-0041	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00587-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00782-ASSI
<b>Federal Award Amount</b>	\$90,733,139.00	\$60,445,762.00	\$44,426,403.00	\$27,543,696.00	\$39,378,641.00
<b>Total Amount of Subawards</b>	\$86,052,508.00	\$55,500,582.00	\$42,325,349.00	\$11,048,231.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Number of Subawards</b>	293	175	146	23	0
<b>Administrative Funds Amount</b>	\$4,536,656.00	\$3,022,288.00	\$222,132.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Training Funds Amount</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Balance Remaining</b>	\$143,975.00	\$1,922,892.00	\$1,878,922.00	\$16,495,465.00	\$39,378,641.00

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-0052	2019-V2-GX-0051	2020-V2-GX-0041	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00587-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00782-ASSI
<b>Government Agencies Only</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>
Corrections	0	3	0	0	0
Courts	0	2	0	1	0
Juvenile Justice	0	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	0	2	0	2	0
Prosecutor	44	43	0	20	0
Other	15	10	4	0	0
<b>Nonprofit Organization Only</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	44	13	24	0	0
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	4	3	2	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	47	21	34	0	0
Faith-based Organization	1	0	1	0	0
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	20	13	14	0	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	14	4	4	0	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	8	4	5	0	0
Multiservice agency	61	34	47	0	0
Other	32	22	9	0	0
<b>Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Agencies, and Organizations Only</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	0	0	0	0	0
Court	0	0	0	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence organization	0	0	0	0	0
Faith-based organization	0	0	0	0	0
Juvenile justice	0	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	0	0	0	0	0
Organization provides domestic and family violence and sexual assault services	0	0	0	0	0
Prosecutor	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	0	0	0	0	0

# 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>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Campus-based victims services	3	1	2	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
<b>Total Number of Subawards</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</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-0052	2019-V2-GX-0051	2020-V2-GX-0041	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00587-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00782-ASSI
A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	211	145	134	23	0
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	1	0	2	0	0
C. Start up a new victim services project	82	30	10	0	0
D. Start up a new <b>Native American</b> victim services project	0	0	0	0	0
E. Expand or enhance an existing <b>Native American</b> project	0	0	0	0	0

<b>VOCA and Match Funds</b>					
A single SAR can select multiple service types. Numbers are not unique					
	2018-V2-GX-0052	2019-V2-GX-0051	2020-V2-GX-0041	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00587-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00782-ASSI
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	254	151	124	22	0
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	225	137	110	21	0
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	210	129	109	21	0
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	101	71	36	17	0
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	188	99	90	23	0
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	280	160	130	23	0

<b>Priority and Underserved Requirements</b>					
Priority Area	2018-V2-GX-0052	2019-V2-GX-0051	2020-V2-GX-0041	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00587-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00782-ASSI
<b>Child Abuse</b>					
Total Amount	\$18,775,917.00	\$3,272,471.00	\$7,512,363.00	\$419,019.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	21.00 %	5.00 %	17.00 %	2.00 %	
<b>Domestic and Family Violence</b>					
Total Amount	\$15,655,700.00	\$14,376,774.00	\$13,169,742.00	\$1,229,825.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	17.00 %	24.00 %	30.00 %	4.00 %	
<b>Sexual Assault</b>					
Total Amount	\$13,842,642.00	\$8,402,970.00	\$10,506,451.00	\$97,057.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	15.00 %	14.00 %	24.00 %	0.00 %	
<b>Underserved</b>					
Total Amount	\$37,777,946.00	\$29,430,582.00	\$11,136,793.00	\$9,302,327.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	42.00 %	49.00 %	25.00 %	34.00 %	

<b>Budget and Staffing</b>					
Staffing Information	2018-V2-GX-0052	2019-V2-GX-0051	2020-V2-GX-0041	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00587-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00782-ASSI

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

Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	3778	2238	7312	12882
Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	2370501	1146185	1085404	202757
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	5808	7451	5765	18
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	530391	119012	216096	2845

## 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)	157	10125	11442	11305	12767	11409
Adult Sexual Assault	220	4525	3433	3349	3870	3794
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	167	781	791	825	979	844
Arson	67	200	196	161	208	191
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	111	600	790	833	806	757
Burglary	81	3263	3835	3535	3715	3587
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	149	4651	4424	9326	4675	5769
Child Pornography	111	154	160	165	325	201
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	190	3647	3446	4506	3728	3831
Domestic and/or Family Violence	262	19419	21416	21042	22711	21147
DUI/DWI Incidents	76	346	268	325	322	315
Elder Abuse or Neglect	111	98	59	281	308	186
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	90	82	91	148	150	117
Human Trafficking: Labor	118	153	92	97	111	113
Human Trafficking: Sex	161	272	234	201	249	239
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	61	2382	2487	2191	3760	2705
Kidnapping (non-custodial)	74	66	93	109	106	93
Kidnapping (custodial)	77	32	39	35	28	33
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	62	16	40	43	44	35
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	79	789	721	767	963	810
Robbery	93	1442	1857	1460	1922	1670
Stalking/Harassment	175	2464	3029	2576	3354	2855
Survivors of Homicide Victims	122	1915	2031	2000	2106	2013
Teen Dating Victimization	164	256	269	86	773	346
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	59	241	31	137	57	116
Other	57	58459	80908	113256	119171	92948

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	99	84	87	103	510
Homeless	1309	1564	1565	1525	6847
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	2043	2032	1869	2467	10807
LGBTQ	625	651	577	679	3025
Veterans	86	83	66	137	645
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/ Physical /Mental	1760	2574	1985	2132	10332
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	3088	3894	4146	4556	21789

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Other	421	32941	64676	68413	76748
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General Award Information		
Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	502972	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	142963	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	141304	28.09 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	42933	8.54 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	14817	

Demographics		
Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
American Indian or Alaska Native	168	0.12 %
Asian	2071	1.47 %
Black or African American	22832	16.16 %
Hispanic or Latino	19442	13.76 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	209	0.15 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	27776	19.66 %
Some Other Race	1393	0.99 %
Multiple Races	1490	1.05 %
Not Reported	52369	37.06 %
Not Tracked	13554	9.59 %
<b>Race/Ethnicity Total</b>	<b>141304</b>	
<b>Gender Identity</b>		
Male	28256	20.00 %
Female	61852	43.77 %
Other	364	0.26 %
Not Reported	37802	26.75 %
Not Tracked	13030	9.22 %
<b>Gender Total</b>	<b>141304</b>	
<b>Age</b>		
Age 0- 12	6993	4.95 %
Age 13- 17	7023	4.97 %
Age 18- 24	9608	6.80 %
Age 25- 59	53294	37.72 %
Age 60 and Older	5261	3.72 %
Not Reported	46290	32.76 %
Not Tracked	12835	9.08 %
<b>Age Total</b>	<b>141304</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	336	195466	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	226831
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	138389
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	60335
			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	91812
			Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	1611
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	1750
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	4433
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	106998

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

B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	261	45542	B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	1127
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	2532
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	12270
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	2036
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	9223
			B10. Interpreter services	14587
C. Emotional Support or Safety Services	269	54423	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	31098
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	22943
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	1799
			C4. Individual counseling	50564
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	6902
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	6489
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	5902
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	133	7455	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	33263
			D2. Transitional housing	1088
			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	7191
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	211	477597	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	921184
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	24248
			E3. Assistance with restitution	20451
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	8292
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	4650
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	15346
			E7. Immigration assistance	2551
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	13742
			E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	4232
			E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	60580
E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	5208			

**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	0
No	1
Number of requests received for education activities during the reporting period.	0
Number of people trained or attending education events during the reporting period.	0
Number of events conducted during the reporting period.	0
<b>Did the grant support any coordination activities (e.g., with other service providers, law enforcement agencies) during the reporting period?</b>	
Yes	0
No	0
<b>Describe any program or educational materials developed during the reporting period.</b>	
N/A.	
<b>Describe any planning or training events held during the reporting period.</b>	
N/A.	
<b>Describe any program policies changed during the reporting period.</b>	

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

Policies have remained constant from the previous year. The Office of the Attorney General (OAG), Grant Operations Unit continues to require source documentation requirement for all expenditures listed on the Detailed Cost Statement that was previously to ensure proper usage of funds. This program policy remains effective for all sub-recipient agencies. It has been difficult from some grantees to comply with this requirement. Grant Operations and OAG staff continue to provide guidance to sub-recipients for compliance with this policy requirement.

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

Although there was no earned media coverage, the Notice of Available Funds for various VOCA grant programs continues to be accompanied with press releases from the Office of the Attorney General's Communications Office, in an effort to get the word out about available grant opportunities.

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

Services for victims of Sexual Violence continue to receive our support through a coordinated response from the 21 Counties Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART). SART is a collaboration of Law Enforcement Officers, Forensic Nurse Examiners, and Confidential Sexual Violence Advocates. If a victim elects to activate the SART, those members of the team are called to provide victim-centered medical care, crisis intervention and support to victims. The coordination among these team members is critical in achieving positive results, such as a successful prosecution or therapeutic healing, and the SART meets regularly to ensure that current procedures are working to ensure the best responses for our sexual assault victims. Increased allocation of funding to support the Confidential Sexual Violence Advocacy Services has increased the capacity for sexual violence service programs to respond to survivors in crisis as part of the county-based SARTs. The Victim Information Notification Everyday (VINE) Program is supported as a line item of the VOCA budget. VINE is a fully automated telephone system that provides custody status information to victims notifying them when an offender is released, transferred or escapes from prison. Enhanced VINE is an information and notification delivery system focused on an entirely new experience for victims of crime. With the increasing prominence of mobile technology, social media, web services and smartphones, New Jersey VINE continues to be a valuable tool providing victims with up-to-date information.

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

The major issue that originally plagued the State of New Jersey was the Covid-19 pandemic. However, through budget modifications, most victim assistance agencies and providers were able to use VOCA funding to purchase additional supplies and equipment to increase victim services through both in-person and virtual options, thus allowing more victims to obtain critical services.

## **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 Office of the Attorney General also continues to fund our existing community response teams that involve public/private partnerships including the Forensic Nurse Examiners/Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Programs, which utilize various private and public participating hospitals, as well as nurses who are not government employees. Additionally, many of the community based nonprofit agencies we fund in our competitive VOCA grant program continue to partner with county and state agencies, such as the Prosecutor's Offices, to ensure crime victims are provided with timely and valuable specialized services.

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

Although federal funding under the VOCA Grant Program continued to decrease, the State was still able to fund victim services programs. Funding was also continued for the Hospital Based Violence Intervention Program and the Trauma Recovery Centers Program. This effort continued to provide services to victims in urban areas and victims of violent crime. Victims through these programs are able to access services almost immediately to assist in their recovery. During this reporting period, the State's first statewide human trafficking program: the New Jersey Enhanced Statewide Human Trafficking Victim Services Program continued into a fifth sub-award funding period. Using VOCA funding, the State was able to create a robust program with accessibility to services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## **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 Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program is supported with VOCA funds and helps monitor abused and neglected children in out-of-home placements. CASA-NJ services are available in all 21 counties. The program recruits, trains and supervises community volunteers who are assigned to a child in the foster care system. The primary objective of CASA is to represent to the court the best interests of the abused and neglected child to whom he or she has been assigned. CASA has investigative authority to examine all aspects of a child's case and to explore all viable avenues to achieve a stable home environment for that child. CASA is the child's voice in court. The Office of Attorney General continues to fund a project with the New Jersey Division of Law. This project provides legal services to child victims who are identified through the New Jersey Department of Children and Families. **Sexual Assault:** The state has 21 Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) comprised of law enforcement, service providers and volunteers. The SART volunteers are trained to meet victims of sexual assault at hospitals to provide information and support at the time of reported incidents or upon request. They link victims with services in the community. Additionally, VOCA supports the Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE) programs in each of our 21 counties. The FNEs perform forensic medical examinations for sexual assault victims. VOCA supports the on-call pay, activation pay, exam pay and supplies for the FNEs deployed as part of the SART. The Office of the Attorney General also funds many Child Advocacy Centers (CACs), which provide safe, age appropriate spaces and trained staff to interview child victims of sexual assault. Lastly, the Office of the Attorney General has awarded sub grant funds to Rutgers University and the College of New Jersey to address campus sexual assault through various programs and through the expansion of the Office of Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance (VPVA) on the main campus and the replication of the VPVA on the satellite campuses. **Domestic Violence:** VOCA grant funding supports our bi-lingual Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline, administered by Womanspace, Inc. Services are provided to domestic violence victims, their family members or friends, or to any individual interested in receiving information about domestic violence. Additionally, the hotline serves organizations and professionals throughout the state who need information and/or referrals to other service providers. The hotline assists all callers with support, crisis intervention, information, and referrals to the domestic violence providers. The Office of the Attorney General also supports many nonprofit organizations, as well as the Statewide Coalition to End Domestic Violence, to ensure that each County has the resources to provide services to survivors of domestic violence. **Underserved Victims:** Underserved victim populations in New Jersey face challenges that require a range of services, such as overcoming cultural and language barriers, accessible transportation, and translation services. As you will glean from other parts of this report, we have responded to some of these needs through a multiple of VOCA-grant funded projects. You will see these projects further explained in the answer to question #20. These projects focus on providing specialized services to minor trafficking victims, minor incarcerated victims, disabled and elderly victims. We also have many nonprofit agencies funded under our competitive VOCA program which provide culturally and linguistically specific services, including translation services for non-English speaking victims and programming that is sensitive to the religious and cultural values of specific populations in New Jersey like the Latin community, Southeast Asian community and Muslim community. Additionally, the State's 21 County Offices of Victim Witness Advocacy are supported with VOCA monies, and each of these County offices assists ALL victims of crime, including child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, and underserved populations. The role of each office is to help crime victims and to make sure that a victim's rights are protected. The most crucial responsibility is keeping victims advised of their current case status.

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

The U.S. Attorney's Office is able to make referrals and access services for federal victims in their own communities through the 21 County Prosecutor's Office of Victim Witness Advocacy. The County Offices of Victim Witness Advocacy will then coordinate efforts with the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Federal Courts for victims and their families to observe sentencing on site and via teleconference.

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

The rise in opioid use continues to create more crime in the state, as well as drug induced deaths. Although VOCA funding has not yet been utilized in this context, it is something the State is closely monitoring, as the rise of certain crimes, such as burglaries, robberies and assaults have been linked to the rise in heroin and opioid use. New Jersey continues to be vulnerable to human trafficking due to its location between New York and Philadelphia and its many highly traveled thoroughfares. Victims can be transported back and forth daily from New York or Pennsylvania to New Jersey. Therefore, the state continues to invest VOCA funding into a Statewide Human Trafficking Program to address the special needs of human trafficking victims. The program is designed to respond to victims whenever they present, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

## **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 lost staff primarily due to retirements and to leaving and pursuing advancement opportunities with other State agencies. With the loss of staff, there has also been a loss of institutional knowledge and expertise in grant administration. Hiring has been challenging due to the State's civil service system, but efforts to hire more staff during the reporting period continued to be a priority.

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

Any VOCA sub-award opportunities were publicized on the Office of the Attorney General's Website and/or in the NJ Register through a Notice of Availability of Funds (NOAF). The NOAFs include the name of the grant project, Federal funding source, purpose of the project, available funding, organization eligibility and required qualifications, application instructions, and application evaluation and scoring criteria. Lastly, we used our mass email list-serve to notify agencies when the VOCA Notice of Availability of Funds were published on the Office of the Attorney General's Website and/or the NJ Register

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

There is an ongoing effort to identify underserved and/or new populations. Collaborative projects between state agencies such as the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Human Services Office of the Public Guardian is one example. Prior to this collaboration, the Office of the Public Guardian had never received grant funding to expand their services to incapacitated elderly adults who are often victimized, including financial crime victimization. The target population is deemed incapable of managing their own affairs by a New Jersey court and presents a unique category of victims who are truly underserved and/or unserved at the present moment in New Jersey. With the appropriate methodology and dedicated resources, the project will help enforce and restore the rights of the incapacitated elderly victims who have been financially victimized on a wider scale than what is currently possible. Additionally, conversations continue to take place between our Statewide Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions, representatives of law enforcement, and various service providers to discuss how the state can better serve those who fall outside of traditional service populations. We are looking into programs that can assist urban environments and the types of crime that often afflict these communities. Due to some unfavorable views of law enforcement, victims may be reticent to seek out traditional services, especially when offered by the County Prosecutors Offices. So, we are exploring ways to reach these under served, and at some points, unserved victims. The State of New Jersey continued to provide funding for 9 Hospital Based Violence Intervention Programs and 4 Trauma Recovery Centers in an effort to get more services to victims in urban areas, including victims of violent crime as a result of gun violence. By making the services available in hospitals or trusted settings, victims can receive services and referrals to programs almost immediately. The department's State Office of Victim Witness Advocacy (SOVWA) conducts outreach to these types of communities and grassroots organizations to familiarize them with SOVWA services and the grant opportunities through the Office of the Attorney General. These efforts may have contributed to the introduction of new applicants to our VOCA competitive grant process, many of whom reach these unserved and under served communities in our inner cities. The State has also funded the Hospital Based Violence Intervention Program that operates in partnership with hospitals and community organizations to assist crime victims with services almost immediately after victimization. The State has also funded a project to Manavi, Inc. with goals of strengthening and extending the culturally specific and linguistically accessible services to victims of domestic and sexual violence in the South Asian community. Among the services offered to this population are legal services, court accompaniment, legal referrals and expert testimony for domestic and sexual abuse, stalking, trafficking and/or other forms of violence. The State continues to fund a project with the New Jersey Division of Law. This project provides legal services to child victims who are identified through the New Jersey Department of Children and Families. This population has been previously overlooked, but now has a voice to help represent them in the legal system.

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

Gaps in services often present themselves around cultural and language differences. Given the diversity of populations residing in New Jersey, the Office of the Attorney General has strived to fund services that are culturally appropriate and specific to the needs of those diverse communities. For example, we currently fund organizations that have the capability of offering services in multiple languages, such as Spanish, Chinese, Filipino, and a variety of South Asian dialects. Additionally, most funded service providers have the resources to connect with Language Line to enhance their ability to communicate and respond to victims whose first language is not English. The high cost of housing in New Jersey also creates a services gap. Affordable housing is scarce everywhere in the state and there is a shortage of safe housing for survivors escaping abusive relationships. Additionally, for some victims, gang violence and intimidation in residential neighborhoods pose a safety and housing issue. To address these problems, the Office of the Attorney General has encouraged agencies to use VOCA funding for emergency shelter and hotel stays, transitional housing, and relocation assistance. And due to the relaxation of the VOCA Rule in this area, agencies have been able to make a more meaningful impact for victims who need safe housing. Further, for victims who do not report to law enforcement, thus not qualifying for Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) housing benefits, they now have recourse. This is also true for other victims who do report to law enforcement, but otherwise cannot qualify for VCCO housing benefits. We see this has a huge benefit, especially in New Jersey, where housing affordability continues to be a persistent barrier to safety for our victims. Financial independence is also a major gap for our victims, especially our domestic violence survivors who are trying to leave an abusive relationship and achieve independence. Survivors need assistance with employment training and education to improve their financial stability. Victims often cannot afford a divorce attorney to handle the lengthy and complex matters, especially where children and property are involved. NJ has responded to these issues through additional funding for legal services. Another identified gap in service was child victims where the New Jersey Division of Children and Families has been involved. A project with the New Jersey Division of Law continues to provide legal services to these child victims.

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

All VOCA sub-awards are sent for review to the Governor's Office through a grants report sent by OAG, which includes the agency's name, funding amount, and project description. Not only does this report apprise the Governor about the Office's activities, it also enables the Governor to connect with Legislators whose constituents may be a sub-recipient of our funding.