

# VT 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-0049	2020-V2-GX-0053	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00604-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00693-ASSI
<b>Federal Award Amount</b>	\$4,714,389.00	\$3,585,905.00	\$2,397,872.00	\$3,208,377.00
<b>Total Amount of Subawards</b>	\$4,493,393.00	\$3,511,572.00	\$2,423,137.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Number of Subawards</b>	60	53	49	0
<b>Administrative Funds Amount</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Training Funds Amount</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Balance Remaining</b>	\$220,996.00	\$74,333.00	(\$25,265.00)	\$3,208,377.00

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-0049	2020-V2-GX-0053	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00604-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00693-ASSI
<b>Government Agencies Only</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
Corrections	0	0	0	0
Courts	0	0	0	0
Juvenile Justice	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	3	3	1	0
Prosecutor	3	2	1	0
Other	7	9	2	0
<b>Nonprofit Organization Only</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	12	11	13	0
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	4	3	3	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	3	3	3	0
Faith-based Organization	0	0	0	0
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	11	9	10	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	3	1	3	0
Multiservice agency	12	10	10	0
Other	2	2	3	0
<b>Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Agencies, and Organizations Only</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
Court	0	0	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence organization	0	0	0	0
Faith-based organization	0	0	0	0
Juvenile justice	0	0	0	0

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

Law Enforcement	0	0	0	0
Organization provides domestic and family violence and sexual assault services	0	0	0	0
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
<b>Campus Organizations Only</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
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
<b>Total Number of Subawards</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>49</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				
	2019-V2-GX-0049	2020-V2-GX-0053	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00604-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00693-ASSI
A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	60	53	47	0
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	0	0	3	0
C. Start up a new victim services project	0	0	1	0
D. Start up a new <b>Native American</b> victim services project	0	0	1	0
E. Expand or enhance an existing <b>Native American</b> project	0	0	1	0

<b>VOCA and Match Funds</b> A single SAR can select multiple service types. Numbers are not unique				
	2019-V2-GX-0049	2020-V2-GX-0053	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00604-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00693-ASSI
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	60	53	47	0
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	54	48	44	0
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	45	43	36	0
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	26	21	18	0
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	48	44	40	0
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	60	53	47	0

<b>Priority and Underserved Requirements</b>				
Priority Area	2019-V2-GX-0049	2020-V2-GX-0053	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00604-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00693-ASSI
<b>Child Abuse</b>				
Total Amount	\$770,287.00	\$615,892.00	\$434,309.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	16.00 %	17.00 %	18.00 %	
<b>Domestic and Family Violence</b>				

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

Total Amount	\$1,306,653.00	\$980,348.00	\$721,467.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	28.00 %	27.00 %	30.00 %	
<b>Sexual Assault</b>				
Total Amount	\$980,773.00	\$655,364.00	\$509,638.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	21.00 %	18.00 %	21.00 %	
<b>Underserved</b>				
Total Amount	\$995,740.00	\$1,149,476.00	\$750,972.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	21.00 %	32.00 %	31.00 %	

<b>Budget and Staffing</b>				
<b>Staffing Information</b>	<b>2019-V2-GX-0049</b>	<b>2020-V2-GX-0053</b>	<b>2021-15POVC-21-GG-00604-ASSI</b>	<b>2022-15POVC-22-GG-00693-ASSI</b>
Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	303	245	1596	
Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	168661	89674	58592	
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	406	348	320	
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	26177	17543	18049	

**AGGREGATED SUBGRANTEE PERFORMANCE MEASURE DATA**

<b>Victimization Type</b>						
<b>Victimization Type</b>	<b>Number of Subgrantees Indicating Intent to Serve This Victim Type</b>	<b>Number of Individuals Who Actually Received Services Based on a Presenting Victimization</b>				
		<b>Quarter 1 Total</b>	<b>Quarter 2 Total</b>	<b>Quarter 3 Total</b>	<b>Quarter 4 Total</b>	<b>Per Quarter Average</b>
Adult Physical Assault (includes Aggravated and Simple Assault)	58	1641	1787	1667	284	1344
Adult Sexual Assault	83	664	695	679	443	620
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	76	78	110	137	85	102
Arson	21	45	137	46	2	57
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	41	50	50	49	76	56
Burglary	25	327	339	359	12	259
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	59	341	338	455	186	330
Child Pornography	54	27	35	22	6	22
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	74	916	762	874	474	756
Domestic and/or Family Violence	73	4210	3779	4061	2544	3648
DUI/DWI Incidents	24	341	385	435	15	294
Elder Abuse or Neglect	58	69	47	70	42	57
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	32	29	16	33	9	21
Human Trafficking: Labor	31	2	4	3	5	3
Human Trafficking: Sex	70	67	58	51	35	52
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	25	848	794	1116	167	731
Kidnapping (non-custodial)	23	80	112	143	4	84
Kidnapping (custodial)	24	3	10	7	2	5
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	15	0	0	0	0	0
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	25	768	778	881	102	632

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

Robbery	23	170	227	253	159	202
Stalking/Harassment	64	556	437	489	324	451
Survivors of Homicide Victims	37	295	289	271	61	229
Teen Dating Victimization	70	17	39	23	19	24
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	14	3	1	0	0	1
Other	7	2274	2313	2729	284	1900

### 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	44	42	44	40	270
Homeless	402	415	421	376	3071
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	89	67	112	84	717
LGBTQ	132	162	183	129	1019
Veterans	44	28	29	24	181
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/ Physical /Mental	502	443	445	422	3469
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	85	78	96	81	702
Other	167	168	220	114	1166

### General Award Information

Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	31038	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	520	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	18177	58.56 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	2309	7.44 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	1826	

### Demographics

Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
American Indian or Alaska Native	44	0.24 %
Asian	118	0.65 %
Black or African American	512	2.82 %
Hispanic or Latino	232	1.28 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	34	0.19 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	11162	61.41 %
Some Other Race	78	0.43 %
Multiple Races	218	1.20 %
Not Reported	3815	20.99 %
Not Tracked	1964	10.80 %
<b>Race/Ethnicity Total</b>	<b>18177</b>	
<b>Gender Identity</b>		
Male	3630	19.97 %
Female	11898	65.46 %
Other	287	1.58 %
Not Reported	1273	7.00 %
Not Tracked	1089	5.99 %
<b>Gender Total</b>	<b>18177</b>	
<b>Age</b>		
Age 0- 12	1747	9.61 %
Age 13- 17	1445	7.95 %

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

Age 18- 24	2014	11.08 %
Age 25- 59	9939	54.68 %
Age 60 and Older	1653	9.09 %
Not Reported	1337	7.36 %
Not Tracked	42	0.23 %
<b>Age Total</b>	<b>18177</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	50	23358	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	19293
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	15708
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	6267
			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	10552
B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	39	8417	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	210
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	84
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	1071
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	28155
			B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	445
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	40
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	1029
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	1984
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	1167
			B10. Interpreter services	548
C. Emotional Support or Safety Services	43	11731	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	8500
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	25382
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	482
			C4. Individual counseling	43357
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	3105
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	237
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	1347
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	24	1878	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	51493
			D2. Transitional housing	19403

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

			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	700
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	39	17768	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	20990
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	1697
			E3. Assistance with restitution	1456
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	4902
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	1562
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	1201
			E7. Immigration assistance	82
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	1541
			E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	848
			E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	7575
			E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	4859

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.	42
Number of people trained or attending education events during the reporting period.	470
Number of events conducted during the reporting period.	13
<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>	
<p>This was an productive year for the Center's Training Program. The pandemic brought to light the urgency of transitioning to on-line/remote learning and it is clear that this format is here to stay. As we look to the future we know that we must provide all of our trainings in a hybrid format, where both the in-person attendees as well as those "zooming" in feel that their needs are met, are given opportunities to connect with other colleagues and that the powerful connections made with face-to-face trainings are not lost in the migration. Equally important, the Center strives to ensure that any one participating in our training programs feel that their victim services toolbox was strengthened. The Center recognized that it is not possible to transition course work that was created for in-person training to an online platform without modification. To do that effectively, the Center created a guide to aid the Subject Matter Experts in creating meaningful, engaging and valuable lessons. This guide was helpful as we transitioned out Victim Assistance Academy to an entirely virtual format. The guide can be accessed here: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fkqNj5ImPCfKvpstfcl2ml7Y3MJ-9HRU/view?usp=share_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fkqNj5ImPCfKvpstfcl2ml7Y3MJ-9HRU/view?usp=share_link</a> A more detailed description of the on-line academy can be found in question #7.</p>	
<b>Describe any planning or training events held during the reporting period.</b>	
<p>During this the FFY 22 Fiscal year, the Center successfully conducted three on-line training events, the Center's Restitution Unit and Compensation Programs conducted outreach and trainings to 1) State's Attorney's Victim Advocates, 2) Vermont Law School Students 3) Burlington Community Justice Center, Prevent Child Abuse Vermont, BARJ and Diversion and we successfully launched the Vermont Virtual Victim Assistance Academy. Additionally, the Center hosted nine Mend Podcasts. We express gratitude to OVC TTAC for their assistance in January 2022 providing an outstanding online training on the Vicarious Trauma Toolkit. Participants were agency directors and managers who could use this training to begin a conversation about organizational response to vicarious trauma using the process outlined in the VTT Blueprint for a Vicarious Trauma-Informed Organization. plus the staff at CCVS was able to learn very important tips in providing training in an online format, which were incorporated in the development of our on-line Victim Assistance Academy. The training took place over two days 1/14/2022 was attended by 70, and day two 1/21/2022 which was aimed to policy makers in organizations was attended by 55. As part of the Crime Victims Rights Week Celebration on April 8, 2022: Dr. Etan L. J. Nasreddin-Longo, Co-Director, Fair and Impartial Policing and Community Affairs, Vermont State Police, and Equity Advisor, Department of Public Safety presented, The Perils of Cultural Competency. Cultural competency has become a buzz phrase in social justice. It is often used without definition which makes it problematic. It is an idea that has roots in nineteenth century comparative ethnology and other related fields such as anthropology. Unfortunately, the roots are sometimes misunderstood. Etan discussed the issues surrounding cultural competency and offered some practical suggestions about how we can handle racially diverse victims in our work as victim advocates. The Perils of Cultural Competency was attended by 85. In May, The National Crime Victim Law Institute and the Center for Crime Victim Services hosted a virtual afternoon symposium, "Victims' Rights, Our Collective Responsibility, which examined the national landscape of victims rights. Presenters shared lessons from across the country regarding how to make victims' rights meaningful and explored Vermont's challenges and successes surrounding victims rights. The first session was designed for all individuals who work with victims navigating the criminal justice system and have a responsibility to see that their rights are afforded; judges, prosecutors, victim advocates, law enforcement, private bar attorneys and others are critical to this conversation. The second session focused more deeply on the legal practice of asserting and seeking enforcement</p>	

of victims rights. The Victims Rights Training was attended by 56 Advocates, and Attorneys. This past year, the Center for Crime Victim Services continued the award-winning "the Mend" podcast. The episodes are on the CCVS website and can be found here: <https://www.ccvs.vermont.gov/about/mend-podcast> This year's podcasts included 1) Jennifer Poehlmann, ED : An overview of the the Center for Crime Victim Services, 59 Views; 2) Stand Up for Safety: A first of its kind in the nation community initiative for anyone who doesn't feel safe in their community, 32 Views; 3) Start by Believing: End Violence Against Women International, 39 Views 4) A Survivor s Story: Taylor Fontaine: Taylor is a Vermont teacher and survivor of sexual assault, 47 views 5) Veteran, Activist, Speaker Hali Piccano: Hali retired major in the army, an activate for victims of domestic and sexual violence and has appeared on a special congressional panel for assault victims, 21 views 6) Ashley Bendiksen, Survivor/Speaker Activist, 17 views; 7) Dr. Ronnie Gladden: Author, Actor, and Motivational Speaker came to talk about Pride month, the LGBTQ community and trauma, 48 views 7) Selina Boonen: On toxic and narcissistic relationships, 25 views and most recently 8) Tom Tremblay: Retired Chief of Police talks about trauma informed policing, and national expert, 89 views. Our most significant accomplishment of our training program this year was the successful transition of Session I of the Victim Assistance Academy to a completely virtual format. The Academy was supported by 34 volunteer subject matter experts who delivered a Victim Services 101 training to 36 learners for the live presentations, and 12 more learners who have signed on to the recorded sessions. The training took place over 3 and a half days in the spring, Day One: The Foundations of Victim Services in VT, Day Two: Ethics and Rights, Day Three: Programs and Resources and Day 4: Capstone: A Crime Victim Shares Her Experience and a Look Ahead to Session

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

Vermont, one of VOCA s smallest allocations nationally, received a significant drop, from \$3.5 million in FFY 20 to \$2.3 million in in FFY 21. These VOCA grants supported our most recent round of subgrants. Vermont currently provides funding to 47 VOCA subgrantees. With this funding we struggling to support a \$2.5 million dollar Victim Assistance Program. We did this with \$1.75 million in VOCA, augmented with an additional \$750,000 in (declining) Special Funds. The cost of the Victim Assistance Program was also increasing at the rate of 8% a year. Because the situation was unsustainable, during the most recent legislative session, CCVS asked the State for a \$2.5 million General Fund Appropriation to make up for the VOCA and state special fund shortfall for the Victim Assistance Program. In Vermont there is a complicated statutory relationship between the State's Attorneys' Office (aka prosecutors' office), the Victim Advocate Program and the Center for Crime Victim Services. VT statute states that the Center "shall create and maintain a Victims Assistance Program" whose members carry the responsibility of victim rights enforcement, the very heart of the evolution of the victims' rights movement. The statute also says that the advocates "serve at the pleasure of the state's attorney." This can cause a conflict, if a prosecutor feels that the case must move forward, and sentencing or plea agreements are held without notice to the victims. Because the advocates in the Victim Assistance Program are state employees under the State's Attorneys' Office, the State allocated that \$2.5 million in State General Funds for this year's Victim Assistance Program, directly to the State s Attorneys Office, (despite the Center initiating the request) thereby averting any cuts. On the surface this may have appeared to be a logical decision, given the flow of funding to the State s Attorneys Advocates paychecks, from the funding source, and given the fact that the advocates statutorily served "at the pleasure of the state's attorney," not the victim. However, the decision cut at the core of the Center's mission to "provide leadership to the state to ensure that justice is delivered to all victims and survivors of crime through recognition of harm done and advocacy for their rights and needs." The construct of the Center is to uphold and advance victim rights and serve victims first; our charge is not to the "state," in criminal cases, but to the people who were directly harmed by the crime. In this regard the move to direct funding for the State's Attorneys' Office for the Victim Advocate Program was a step backwards in the evolution of the justice system; which since the 1970's sought to give victims a seat at the table equal to that of the state, and the defendants. This was said with all due respect for the incredible prosecutors who do work on behalf of the state, and often for the victims. But we are afraid that victims rights enforcement in Vermont took a step back this year. So, while this challenge does not describe an actual policy or statutory change during the reporting period, it does send out an alarm bell of caution regarding forty years of progress in the evolution of the justice system regarding victims rights enforcement.

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

These television news programs are worth watching: VOCA funded a model program for restorative justice for the adult survivors who were children abused at the St. Joseph s Orphanage in Burlington, VT, one of the many projects that the survivors worked on was an oral history exhibition at the Vermont Folk Life Museum: <https://www.vtfolklife.org/exhibits-feed/the-voices-of-st-josephs-orphanage-vermont-history-museum> March 28, 2022, the local CBS Affiliate ran this news story on the OVC funded victim advocates: <https://www.wcax.com/2022/03/29/vsp-victim-services-taking-care-those-impacted-by-crime/> On May 11, 2022 - Local NBC Affiliate: Traumatized Families Uplifted by VT Social Workers During Major Investigations: <https://www.necn.com/news/local/traumatized-families-uplifted-by-vt-social-workers-during-major-investigations/2736041/>

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

On a state wide level, the Vermont s Center for Crime Victim Services houses many key victims service programs including: the Victims Compensation & Sexual Assault Program; the Vermont Restitution Unit; and our Community Engagement and Training Department which runs the Vermont Victim Assistance Academy. VCCVS also staffs personnel to serve the following advisory boards: Vermont Council on Domestic Violence; SANE Advisory Board; Criminal Justice Training Council; the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission; the Vermont Human Trafficking Task Force; and the Restorative Justice Work Group. VCCVS intentionally meets with a statewide integrated strategic planning group for the propose of planning and priorities around domestic and sexual violence quarterly. This leadership team informs a collaborative planning process for the VCCVS also engages key stakeholders working with victims in Vermont: The Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Disability Rights Vermont, The Vermont Center for Independent Living, The Vermont Children s Alliance, The Vermont Attorney General s Office, the Vermont Department for Children and Families, Vermont Adult Protective Services, the Vermont Agencies on Aging, the Vermont Department of Corrections, The Department of Mental Health, The Association of Africans Living in Vermont, SafeSpace at the Pride Center of Vermont (LGBTQ), the Vermont State s Attorney s Victim Assistance Program, the Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police, the Vermont Department of Public Safety, the Vermont Association of Court Diversion Programs, and the Community Justice Network of Vermont. VCCVS also has a strong working relationship with the Crime Research Group in Vermont which provides statistics on the incidence of domestic violence in the state. Locally, most, if not all of Vermont s VOCA funded Subgrantees serve on local multi-disciplinary task forces to coordinate and improve services to victim.

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

Challenges shared by our programs: ~Lack of safe and affordable housing. ~ People don t want to answer surveys, even with a QR code.~ Restorative justice programs are challenged with receiving referrals from organizations other than the police department, which is antithetical to the idea that they are serving under-reported crimes. ~ Keeping impacted parties engaged in restorative justice practices.~ Dearth of trauma-informed mental health practitioners or any mental health providers for that matter.~ The crisis in staffing and staff turn over in victim services organizations was reported by nearly all of Vermont s VOCA funded programs. Staffing challenge is seen for recruitment of domestic violence advocates as well as attorneys for the Legal Partnership for Crime Victims.~ Putting victims in hotels is not the best option, it would be much safer to have more housing or apartments dedicated to victim services.~ Transportation continues to be a serious challenge in most of Vermont, especially for victims that have numerous appointments in one day. ~ Huge backlog of court cases because of the pandemic. ~ Substance abuse exacerbates service.~ The needs of crime victims outstrips available resources in communities. ~ For traditionally underserved populations we hear: ~ For refugees and immigrants: 1) access to the court system continues to be challenging for clients as most court hearings continue to be online. 2) Mostly women continue to face financial hardship when they become the sole provider for family needs. More short-term financial assistance would be helpful, such as reach up and food stamps.3) Language Justice. For elders, 1) it s best to conduct outreach and services in-person which is challenging as Vermont has only one dedicated elder victim services advocate funded with VOCA (outside of Adult Protective 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.**

In 2002, CCVS worked with the City of Burlington to help establish the Parallel Justice Program in the Community Justice Center there. It was one of three pilot sites chosen nationwide. To date, it is the longest running of the three, and the most successful program nationwide. Since 2002, CCVS has provided Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant funding to support the Parallel Justice Program housed at the Burlington Community Justice Center. In SFY 2023, the program is receiving a \$140,164 grant which helps to support two dedicated victim advocates; one housed in the Burlington Police Department and the other at the Community Justice Center. In SFY 22, the program reported serving 232 new crime victims. Susan Herman is the visionary behind the Parallel Justice model. This model is based on the framework that in addition to holding people that commit crimes accountable, we have an equally important obligation to repair the harm that is created. So, in addition to the traditional criminal justice responses after a crime is committed, the Parallel Justice model offers a separate set of justice responses for the victim. These services involve immediate response, practical assistance, crisis intervention, safety and long-term assistance for the on-going needs that arise from the crime. This framework puts our responsibility to victims in the justice, framework, rather than passing that responsibility on to charity or discretionary government programs. An unmet need to provide funding opportunities to Community Justice Centers to replicate the Parallel Justice Model and increase support and services to crime victims was identified nationally by the Department of Justice's Vision 21 report, as well as strategic planning conducted by the Center for Crime Victim Services. The following statistics from the Bureau of Justice statistics help to put this need in perspective: Only 42% of serious violent crimes and 40% of property crimes are reported to law enforcement. Only 9% of violent crime victims receive direct assistance. In 2018, as a result of the unprecedented increase in Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding, the Center was able to establish the Voice and Choice Demonstration Project, with the following desired outcomes: Sustainably increase Vermont's capacity to serve people affected by crime at the community level. Better identify and address victim's self-defined needs, regardless of whether charges are filed. Increase opportunities for meaningful and voluntary victim involvement in restorative and parallel processes. Increase victim satisfaction and restore people's faith in their communities. The Center initiated a competitive application process and received applications from nine counties. Given the funding, the Center was able to support the following five: BROCC Community Action (to establish a dedicated victim liaison) Franklin/Grand Isle Restorative Justice Center (to establish a dedicated victim liaison) Lamoille Restorative Center (to build Parallel Justice programming) Orange County Diversion Program (to build Parallel Justice Programming and establish a dedicated victim liaison) South Burlington Community Justice Center (to build Parallel Justice Programming) The Center has supported these programs since October 1, 2018, with \$200,490 annually, which has remained level since 2018. This past year, these programs supported 842 new crime victims, with 1,289 crimes indicated as some incidents of victimization involve more than one crime. 69% of the crimes fell into these top four categories; robbery, vehicular, identity theft/fraud, and adult physical assault. Victims received support in many ways; information about the criminal justice process, referral to other services, information about victim rights and referral to other victim programs, advocacy in applying for public benefits, intervention with employers, creditors, landlords, or academic institutions, law enforcement interview accompaniment, or interpreter services. The St. Josephs Inquiry In SFY's 20 and 21 the Center supported the St. Josephs Inquiry with \$34,106 in VOCA grants each year, to document and understand the events of the orphanage through the voices, experiences, and the stories of those most impacted (former residents). In SFY 22, the State supported the project with \$25,000 in General Funds.

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

The Center for Crime Victim Services worked with an intern from Middlebury College over the summer of 2022 to conduct a needs assessment and create a resource guide for all of our subgrantees. This guide covered 1) Why Language Access Matters, 2) Legal Basis and Civil Rights Implications 3) Language Access in Crime Victim Services 4) Challenges in Providing Language Justice 5) Mapping of Language Data Spoken in Vermont, 6) Resources, and 7) Language Access Plans. This guide is being provided in addition to each of our subgrantees having access to Language Line Telephonic Interpretation Services that is paid for out of the VOCA grant. Also the Restitution and Compensation Unit translated their documents into the 9 most prominent languages in the state.

**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: Each of Vermont's 13 Child Advocacy Centers, that respond to child sexual assault crimes will receive VOCA funding to implement direct victim services, enhance trainings, and build capacity necessary to attain accreditation from the National Children's Alliance, with a focus on multidisciplinary teams, cultural competency and diversity, victim support and advocacy, mental health support, and forensic interviewing. The Center also provides funding to Prevent Child Abuse Vermont. The VOCA grant also supports two Human Trafficking Case managers that are embedded in law enforcement, and there is a very large intersection with youth who are trafficked in our state. Domestic Violence: All of the programs in the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence receive VOCA funding; this includes 10 dual sexual assaults/domestic violence services programs, 2 stand alone domestic violence services programs and 2 stand alone sexual violence services programs. Also, Additionally for sexual Assault: Approximately \$150,000 support's Vermont Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Coordinator who recruits and train additional pediatric and adult SANEs to improve 24/7 availability of SANEs in Vermont medical facilities. Also, 44% of the victims that seek help with our Legal Partnership for Crime Victims, indicate that they are calling relating to domestic violence. The legal partnership responds to calls from over 2,200 victims a year, and helps survivors with civil legal assistance with family law issues, protection orders, criminal advocacy, notification of criminal justice events and victim impact statements. Underserved Populations: Organizations that serve traditionally marginalized populations receive VOCA funding to improve delivery of Victim Services. Those organizations include Association of Africans Living in Vermont (who serve many different nations with needs to understand 40 different languages), the Deaf Victim Advocate Program at the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, and Disability Rights Vermont and the Pride Center which serves LGBTQ victims who are victims of domestic and sexual violence. The Community of Vermont Elders supports the one victim advocate, dedicated to elders, in the state, outside of Adult Protective Services.

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

As many hate crimes reach the federal level, this year the US Attorney's Office, the Vermont Attorney Generals office and the Rutland Area NAACP co-hosted a Hate-Free Vermont Forum in Bennington to bring policy makers, stakeholders and community members together for productive and difficult conversations to take the pulse of Vermonters' experience of discrimination. The event was attended by about 70 people. The forum drilled into questions like: Who should people contact when they experience discrimination? How can complaints ensure their safety if they report a perpetrator who remains a member of their community? Who will hold the police accountable for bias-motivated behavior? Individuals who indicated that they were being profiled by law enforcement were able to get answers from the civil rights experts that were present who indicated the US Department of Justice has brought cases against the police all over the US, citing law enforcement agencies in Baltimore, Chicago, and Ferguson Missouri. Jules Torti, the civil division chief at the US Attorney's Office in Vermont was on hand to go over the fact that there are laws in place to protect people from racial profiling. Also, The US Attorney's Office staffs a full-time victim advocate who assists Victims of Federal crime navigating the justice system. This individual is responsible for informing these victims of their rights under federal law, provides information about the status of the case, refers victims to other supports and services, assists with Victims Compensation applications (logistical information with respect to reimbursement of crime related losses), accompanies victims to court, assists with victim impact statements, and assists with requests for restitution. The advocate in this office also compiles and updates resource directories for crime victims, some of these directories are for specialized services to victims with disabilities or sources for alternative therapies.

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

There were a number of legislative initiatives that improved victim services in our state this year. H. 330 – An act relating to repealing the statute of limitations for civil actions based on childhood sexual abuse: Lifts statutes of limitations on civil claims related to child sexual abuse. Seals all complaints until a motion to dismiss is ruled upon. Lifts the lookback window on claims against entities retroactively – lifted completely for claims that occurred or were discovered within 6 years and creates a gross negligence standard for claims brought against entities regarding claims outside of the 6 year window. S. 169 – Miscellaneous Firearms Bills: Establishes a 24-hour waiting period on all handgun transfers in Vermont requiring a background check. Makes other technical changes to firearms laws to allow for high capacity magazines for shooting sports events. H. 7 (Act 7) - An act relating to second degree aggravated domestic assault: Allows out-of-state domestic assault conviction to qualify as a prior conviction for purposes of a second degree aggravated domestic assault prosecution in Vermont. H. 19 (Act 8) - An act relating to sexual exploitation of a person in law enforcement officer custody: Creates a crime of sexual exploitation of a person detained, arrested or in the custody of a law enforcement officer. H. 460 – Expungement :Permits victims of human trafficking to vacate a conviction (for a nonlisted crime) that was

obtained as a result of being a victim of human trafficking (i.e. drug possession).

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

Hiring and retaining employees is one of the biggest challenges facing Vermont's non-profits, according to a report released by Common Good Vermont. The report surveyed 141 non-profits in the state and 53% reported job vacancies. The greatest number of vacancies 55% involved positions that provide direct help to people the organizations serve. These challenges were echoed by nearly all of the Center's VOCA subgrantees with the following challenges noted in a survey CCVS distributed in early 2022. 1) Burnout is higher with employees own families getting sick with Covid 2) there is less in person staffing and more remote work 3) there is the stress of the continued unknown, 4) it is harder to provide full services for clients, 5) advocates do not feel that they are recognized along with other essential employees, 6) the recruiting challenges in the general employment population are exacerbated in victim services as it sometimes requires 24/7 responses and secondary trauma compounds stress, 7) staff with children have constant uncertainty with regard to sick days for their children 8) the pandemic has created higher demand, and cases are much more complex-requiring more staff time, 9) the dearth of mental health providers has gotten worse during the pandemic, 10) extra caution is now needed with in-person client interactions 11) there is added stress for DV shelters/congregate housing, 11) staff are exhausted. Ways that resources/funding may help to alleviate these challenges would be 1) tools for vicarious trauma, meditation programs, stress reduction, 2) payment for CTO time being consumed by COVID-19 increased vacation time 3) Assistance in work-from-home technology (internet access etc.) 4) remote work ergonomic needs, 5) retention bonuses, pay raises 6) increase ways to assist service users to get vaccinated/boosted and 7) pay for staff cell phones.

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

Victim Assistance funding is announced via press releases from our congressional delegation. VOCA is used as a stable funding source for Vermont's core victim services, so not all the sub grants are competitive. During the years of the VOCA increase we issued competitive applications for the Human Trafficking Case Managers, the Voice and Choice Demonstration Project, and the Legal Partnership for Crime Victims. In giving these programs a chance to take root, we have not issued another round of competitive applications, especially given the challenges that the pandemic presented. VOCA funding has fluctuated quite a bit these past few years; in 2019 Vermont's federal grant was \$4,714,389, in 2020 the amount was \$ 3,585,905, in 2021 it plummeted to \$2,397,879 and we are up to \$3,208,377. Our goal these past couple of years has been to stabilize victim services. When people are afraid that they are going to lose their job because of grant funding it further aggravates the challenges that our programs have in recruitment. We feel that the programs we are supporting are core victim services, that are essential building blocks to the safety and security of Vermonters. We are currently supporting the maximum amount of subgrants, given those parameters. We are very concerned given these decreases in funding. Therefore, we feel advertising and increasing initiatives at this time would not be in the best interest of the victim services infrastructure in the state.

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

We are seeing that people from significant populations, for example, those with disabilities, who identify as LGBTQ++, are immigrants and refugees, who speak languages other than English, or are elderly, are most comfortable seeking services with organizations that have staff that reflect their identities and whose missions are to serve the populations with which they identify. However, many of these population specific programs are housed in the more populated areas of our state. So, we know we must strive to ensure that all organizations have the capacity and knowledge to serve everyone. Also, most people don't neatly ascribe to only one cohort of population type. In fact, that is hardly the case as most people attribute their identities to more than one of the diverse groups that make up humanity. In Vermont the traditionally marginalized populations we have identified and support with all our grant funding sources (VOCAM STOP, state funds, and FVPSA ARPA funds) include 1) The Abenaki, 2) Individuals Isolated with Rurality, 3) Vermonters living with Disabilities 5) LGBTQ people 6) Refugees and Immigrants and 7) and the Elderly. The organizations that CCVS supported this current fiscal year with VOCA and other sources of funding that address the unique needs of underserved populations: 1) the Association of Africans Living in Vermont, 2) the Community of Vermont Elders, 3) Disability Rights Vermont, 4) the Maquam Bay of the Missisquoi, Inc (Abenaki tribe), 5) Prevent Child Abuse Vermont, 6) the Pride Center at Safe Space.

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

We have been fortunate to have received state funding to cover significant gaps in the VOCA grant this past year. Additionally, American Recovery Act Plan funding has helped to fill the needs that resulted from COVIC.

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

This past year the following outcome measures were reported during our annual meeting to which legislators and the general public were invited to attend. 1) The Victims Compensation Program provides limited financial assistance to eligible victims who have experienced an uninsured financial loss as a direct result of that crime. Each eligible claim has a \$10,000 maximum cap for payment of crime related losses. Eligible crime related expenses include, but are not limited to, medical and dental care, mental health counseling, funeral costs, lost wages, relocation, and travel expenses. The top four crime categories in the Compensation Program were domestic violence, homicide, assault, and child sexual abuse. This past year there were 388 Victims Compensation claims received and the staff distributed \$366,914.22 to eligible claimants. The Sexual Assault Program received 216 new applications, and provided financial support to 62 claimants. The Center's Restitution Unit made 3,420 payments, totaling \$900,505, advancing \$161,770 to crime victims, and the unit paid \$738,735 to crime victims as it was collected from responsible parties. The Grants Program supports: Domestic and Sexual Violence Programs, Advocates for Marginalized Populations, (Elders, LGBTQ, Immigrants, Refugees, Child Abuse Prevention, People with Disabilities), Legal Services for Crime Victims, Supervised Visitation Programs, Child Advocacy Centers/Special Investigative Units, Victim Advocacy in Law Enforcement, Human Trafficking Advocacy and Restorative Justice Programs. This past year, the Vermont Network Programs responded to the needs of 7,430 individuals whose lives were impacted by domestic and sexual violence. The Network Programs provided shelter to 2,141 people through their shelters or motels and safe homes for a total of 29,445 bed nights. Vermont's CAC/SIUs served 1,440 victims of sexual assault, of which 1,183 (82%) were children and 257 were adults (18%). Of all reported Sexual Assaults (including adults) nearly 70% occur to children ages 17 and under. 44% of all rapes with penetration occur to children under the age of 18. Adolescents who were sexually abused have a 3-to-5-fold risk of delinquency. All 12 of Vermont's dual domestic and sexual violence programs receive FVPSA (Family Violence Prevention and Services Act) funding. This past year, FVPSA funds in Vermont helped programs to serve: 6,681 people- 4,575 women, 834 children and 338 men with non-shelter services. 881 people with shelter services, provided 103 Community Education Presentations and supported 19,813 Hotline Calls. The FVPSA grant asks outcome data relating to increased knowledge of community resources after interacting with programs, and 94% of the clients indicated that they knew more about community resources. The SASP (Sexual Assault Services Program) Grant from the Office on Violence Against Women supports Vermont's two stand-alone sexual assault services programs and this past year supported 3.5 FTE sexual assault crisis workers, who assisted, 292 victims of sexual assault with legal advocacy, crisis intervention, hospital/clinic/other medical response material assistance and case management to help the survivor receive other support and resources. SASP funding supported 24/7 sexual assault hotline services, which responded to 789 calls. OVW's STOP (Services, Training, Officers and Prosecution) grant which is used to develop and strengthen effective responses to sexual assault, DV, dating violence and stalking and to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration, reported the following: 906 victims were served with STOP funds. 14.5 FTE positions were supported across 20 different sub-grants, 442 DVSV cases were accepted by STOP prosecutors, 115 DVSV cases were investigated by STOP LE investigators, 723 DVSV victims were served by community-based advocacy and 282 Professionals were trained through 64 training events. And the cornerstone of our grant programs VOCA served 30,793 crime victims through 48 diverse victim service programs.