

# CT Annual State Performance Report

## Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program

Reporting Period: [Oct 1, 2022 to Sept 30, 2023]

*This aggregated data is self-reported by the grantees and subgrantees in each state/territory.*

OVC VOCA Assistance Funds				
	2020-V2-GX-0023	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00615-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00715-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00433-ASSI
<b>Federal Award Amount</b>	\$18,131,939.00	\$11,329,832.00	\$15,626,659.00	\$14,742,118.00
<b>Total Amount of Subawards</b>	\$17,633,470.00	\$11,152,126.00	\$9,386,720.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Number of Subawards</b>	46	25	32	0
<b>Administrative Funds Amount</b>	\$498,469.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Training Funds Amount</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Balance Remaining</b>	\$0.00	\$177,706.00	\$6,239,939.00	\$14,742,118.00

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	2020-V2-GX-0023	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00615-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00715-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00433-ASSI
<b>Government Agencies Only</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
Corrections	0	0	0	0
Courts	1	1	0	0
Juvenile Justice	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	0	0	0	0
Prosecutor	0	0	0	0
Other	1	0	1	0
<b>Nonprofit Organization Only</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>0</b>
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	0	1	1	0
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	2	1	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	2	5	2	0
Faith-based Organization	3	0	2	0
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	0	0	0	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	5	4	4	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	0	0	0	0
Multiservice agency	31	13	21	0
Other	1	0	1	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
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

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

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>46</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>32</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				
	2020-V2-GX-0023	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00615-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00715-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00433-ASSI
A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	46	20	32	0
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	0	3	0	0
C. Start up a new victim services project	0	2	0	0
D. Start up a new <b>Native American</b> victim services project	0	0	0	0
E. Expand or enhance an existing <b>Native American</b> project	0	0	0	0

<b>VOCA and Match Funds</b>				
A single SAR can select multiple service types. Numbers are not unique				
	2020-V2-GX-0023	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00615-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00715-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00433-ASSI
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	44	24	31	0
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	42	21	30	0
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	44	23	30	0
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	15	9	13	0
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	32	19	22	0
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	45	24	32	0

<b>Priority and Underserved Requirements</b>				
Priority Area	2020-V2-GX-0023	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00615-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00715-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00433-ASSI
<b>Child Abuse</b>				
Total Amount	\$5,240,396.00	\$2,440,790.00	\$1,208,692.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	29.00 %	22.00 %	8.00 %	
<b>Domestic and Family Violence</b>				
Total Amount	\$5,370,685.00	\$5,022,757.00	\$5,204,815.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	30.00 %	44.00 %	33.00 %	
<b>Sexual Assault</b>				
Total Amount	\$2,392,900.00	\$1,378,059.00	\$362,942.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	13.00 %	12.00 %	2.00 %	
<b>Underserved</b>				
Total Amount	\$4,629,489.00	\$2,310,520.00	\$2,610,271.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	26.00 %	20.00 %	17.00 %	

<b>Budget and Staffing</b>				
Staffing Information	2020-V2-GX-0023	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00615-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00715-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00433-ASSI
Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	1262	943	721	

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

Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	562396	306848	243705
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	58	0	0
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	36925	0	0

## 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)	32	1450	1469	1513	1729	1540
Adult Sexual Assault	33	1664	1498	1626	1560	1587
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	33	622	580	591	643	609
Arson	10	16	11	16	15	14
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	33	489	594	527	531	535
Burglary	11	76	70	57	64	66
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	52	1112	1154	1012	995	1068
Child Pornography	10	58	77	78	62	68
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	55	2444	2979	2954	2838	2803
Domestic and/or Family Violence	62	20182	20604	20747	20928	20615
DUI/DWI Incidents	10	241	156	364	213	243
Elder Abuse or Neglect	14	62	65	66	83	69
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	16	46	43	41	39	42
Human Trafficking: Labor	6	9	11	12	8	10
Human Trafficking: Sex	30	115	149	179	157	150
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	8	66	67	52	53	59
Kidnapping (non-custodial)	8	36	40	38	33	36
Kidnapping (custodial)	0	10	19	10	9	12
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	10	127	102	117	80	106
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	12	103	73	75	59	77
Robbery	16	72	65	54	62	63
Stalking/Harassment	22	827	852	824	1313	954
Survivors of Homicide Victims	37	474	485	485	383	456
Teen Dating Victimization	14	91	94	95	85	91
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	4	7	7	6	9	7
Other	8	229	260	211	68	192

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	45	54	55	69	339
Homeless	1517	1432	1588	2217	10040
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	659	728	702	730	5877
LGBTQ	416	453	477	466	2719
Veterans	34	37	39	40	257
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/ Physical /Mental	1431	1430	1494	1901	9835
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	1813	2000	1819	1871	12252
Other	0	0	0	19	94

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

General Award Information		
Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	105971	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	824	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	67749	63.93 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	11486	10.84 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	10158	

Demographics		
Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
American Indian or Alaska Native	166	0.25 %
Asian	613	0.90 %
Black or African American	11687	17.25 %
Hispanic or Latino	16290	24.04 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	80	0.12 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	21252	31.37 %
Some Other Race	992	1.46 %
Multiple Races	1321	1.95 %
Not Reported	15348	22.65 %
Not Tracked	0	0.00 %
<b>Race/Ethnicity Total</b>	<b>67749</b>	
<b>Gender Identity</b>		
Male	13817	20.39 %
Female	50229	74.14 %
Other	168	0.25 %
Not Reported	3535	5.22 %
Not Tracked	0	0.00 %
<b>Gender Total</b>	<b>67749</b>	
<b>Age</b>		
Age 0- 12	3134	4.63 %
Age 13- 17	3349	4.94 %
Age 18- 24	8501	12.55 %
Age 25- 59	41139	60.72 %
Age 60 and Older	3692	5.45 %
Not Reported	7934	11.71 %
Not Tracked	0	0.00 %
<b>Age Total</b>	<b>67749</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	43	75176	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	66333
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	115492
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	40054
			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	28971
			Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	974
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	2854
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	14307
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	20840

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

B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	42	30165	B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	853
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	1447
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	18568
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	7785
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	2807
			B10. Interpreter services	4186
C. Emotional Support or Safety Services	44	87810	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	127694
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	48470
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	362
			C4. Individual counseling	113716
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	9002
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	5172
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	2419
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	25	1100	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	6970
			D2. Transitional housing	158
			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	1229
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	34	59550	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	63788
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	2027
			E3. Assistance with restitution	1057
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	13614
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	6959
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	4389
			E7. Immigration assistance	1877
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	21628
			E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	1620
			E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	45278
E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	5809			

## 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	1
No	0
<b>Describe any program or educational materials developed during the reporting period.</b>	
There were no program or education materials developed during the reporting period using VOCA administrative funds.	
<b>Describe any planning or training events held during the reporting period.</b>	
There were no planning or training events held during the reporting period using VOCA Administrative funds. Trainings offered to staff of VOCA-funded contractors were conducted by OVS staff, or other individuals, at no cost to the grant.	
<b>Describe any program policies changed during the reporting period.</b>	

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

There were no changes in program policies during the reporting period.

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

For each day of 2023 National Crime Victims Rights week, OVS posted tweets relative to the theme for the week to the Judicial Branch X (formerly Twitter) page. Information on OVS services and a link to the OVS webpage were also provided in tweets during the week. Examples of earned media coverage at the contractor/subcontractor level are as follows: Charlotte Hungerford Hospital-Charlotte's Place: The Coordinator of the CAIT NW team at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, Center for Youth and Families was a guest on local radio to speak about Human Trafficking awareness month. General information about how the CAIT NW works, Center programs, and Charlotte's Place (services to victims of crime) were highlighted. CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence Milford: The Rape Crisis Center of Milford's two staff members were interviewed by Channel 8 regarding the program's Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event. CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence New Britain: Program staff were featured in a recent Connecticut Public Radio article "When CT Police Investigate Sexual Assault, Some Victims Become Suspects", which highlighted the training provided by Advocates to new recruits at the Police Academy. CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence Stamford reported that the Patch newspaper highlighted the agency's programs, services, and community efforts in an article titled "We Must Do Better": Rowan Center, Officials Highlight Sexual Assault. CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence Willimantic reported the following: SACCEC was highlighted and recognized by CT Public for the comprehensive services it offers and the type of clients it assists, with a particular focus on supporting the Latina/Latino and male populations. SACCEC was also acknowledged in multiple social media posts by organizations such as United Way and Willimantic Soroptimist group. CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence Sharon reported that the local newspaper printed a three-part series on town social workers. Project SAGE was mentioned in two articles (Town Social Workers Fill Big Need and Social Workers Vital to Our Area), as important partners in the community's wellbeing. CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence Waterbury reported that The Voices, a local newspaper, continues to provide a weekly article detailing Safe Haven services including counseling, support, emergency shelter and support groups. Family Centered Services of CT reported that the VOCA program was featured on local television for its training with the CT Police Academy. The segment highlighted the need for trauma informed considerations when taking reports from victims, and the importance of partnerships between communities, advocates, and police. Human Resources Agency of New Britain reported that a Polish newspaper, the Polish Express, featured an article regarding HRA's participation in an outreach event at the Walnut Hill Park. Survivors of Homicide reported that Jessica Pizzano was interviewed by Nutmeg TV What's Your Story? about SOH, the program's services, and the effects of homicide on the community. Yale New Haven Hospital reported media coverage profiling the Hospital Violence Intervention Program.

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

OVS court-based victim services advocates work closely with OVS Compensation staff to obtain crime information, when necessary, from the State Attorney's office and court proceedings dates for victim compensation claims. The court-based advocates also coordinate services and assistance to crime victims in court with VOCA-funded contractors throughout the State. OVS advocates also work closely with the Department of Correction Victim Services Unit to provide timely inmate status notification to individuals who are registered for victim notification. Examples of efforts at the subcontractor level for coordinated responses/services are as follows: Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Hartford reported that the program connected clients with local food banks, diaper banks, basic needs programs to support household, utility, and some rent requests. Center for Family Justice reported that the Latine Advocates continued to collaborate with The Child and Family Guidance Center regarding referrals for minors who require higher level of clinical services. Charlotte Hungerford Hospital reported that Charlotte's Place staff continued to collaborate with the Susan B. Anthony Sexual Assault Victim Advocate during forensic interviews. Clifford Beers Clinic reported that CATCH Family Advocates continued to provide in-person services/support to non-offending caregivers during the forensic interviews at the Yale Child Sexual Abuse clinic. CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence Stamford provided office hours at Greenwich High School for survivors to speak confidentially with a counselor. The Adult Counselor and Advocate provides this service 2 hours each week at the school's wellness center. CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence Torrington reported that the agency continued to foster its relationship with McCall Behavioral Health Network, a substance abuse program in the area. The agency offers on-site DV counseling, which includes advocacy, support, and safety planning. McCall's has provided shelter to several victims who are receiving services through their residential and substance abuse programs. Domestic Violence Crisis Center Sustainable Futures reported that DVCC expanded its partnership with Mutual Securities Credit Union (MSCU) to help victims of financial abuse recover and build financial stability. MSCU provides financial workshops to clients. Gilead Community Services reported that the program continued to work with Women and Families Center, in Meriden, which refers clients to this program for more intensive services, such as trauma informed therapy and/or medication management. Hartford Communities That Care, Inc. reports that the project continually works with the city wide HVIP Collaborative, which includes Trinity Healthcare, Hartford Hospital, and CCMC to support gunshot victims. Hartford Behavioral Health reported that the program collaborated with St. Francis Hospital to coordinate/collaborate services and support to physical assault and DV victims from the Trauma units and Emergency Department. Human Resources Agency of New Britain reported that the program continued to collaborate and coordinate with the following organizations during this reporting period: Hartford Healthcare Financial Assistance Dept., Dept. of Labor, USCIS, Department of Social Services, Department of Elderly Protective Services, CMHA, and 4-CT Program. Human Services Council reported that the Child Advocacy Center and Multidisciplinary Team model revolves around collaboration, and it is the core goal of Children's Connection to bring together the necessary community partners to respond to child abuse cases. Klingberg Family Centers reported that the Child Advocacy Center worked with the Connecticut Children's Medical Center in the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect program, both in its co-located clinic and in supporting forensic medical exams completed at SCAN's CCMC site. LifeBridge Community Services reported that the program collaborated with DCF to better assist survivors of DV and their families by providing therapeutic support and case management needs. NAFI CT, Inc. The program continued collaborations with Windham Public Schools, Windham Region Chamber of Commerce, and the Town of Windham-Windham PRIDE Coalition during the reporting period. Saint Francis Hospital reported that the program collaborated with Interval House and Prudence Crandall for immediate shelter and services. Waterbury Youth Services, Inc. reported that the project continued to work closely with Safe Haven to provide support to non-offending caregivers during the time of the forensic interview and beyond. Yale New Haven Hospital reported that the YNHV began coordination with Urban Community Alliance (UCA), and their V.E.T.T.S program to assist victims of violence through referrals to services such as employment assistance and educational opportunities.

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

An issue that continues to impact service providers during the reporting period is the inability to retain qualified staff and to fill vacancies resulting from staff departures. Funding levels have remained stagnant due to continuing declines in federal funds. Service providers are lacking the resources necessary to offer competitive salaries and benefits compared to State agencies, for-profit service providers, and private practice. As staffing positions remain unfilled, client caseloads for existing staff increase, or wait lists are created, causing delays in providing services to victims in need. Economic issues in the state and across the country, and staffing problems in general, are also impacting service providers. Many State agencies are operating on fixed or reduced appropriations impacting the amount of funding that is available to nonprofit service providers throughout the state. The services provided by these agencies (access to affordable housing, access to legal aid, access to free medical care, access to counseling services, low-cost childcare, access to public transportation, etc.) are invaluable to victims of crime. A reduction in these services due to loss of funding or inability to staff the programs, has resulted in fewer options for victims seeking assistance, outside of the VOCA-funded services, as well as increased wait times for services that are still being provided.

## 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.

As the state's lead agency dedicated to providing services to victims of violent crime, OVS is charged with the responsibility to provide supportive services, financial assistance, and information to crime victims. As the needs of crime victims are continually changing, OVS prioritizes a close working relationship with its community partners to identify what those needs are and how best to meet them. Listed below are a few examples of ongoing and new collaborative efforts that OVS engaged in during the report period to enhance services to crime victims in Connecticut: OVS provided staff services to the Advisory Council for Victims of Crime, which represents victims of various crimes, including, but not limited to: homicide, family violence, sexual assault, and drunk driving. Council members also included representatives of Connecticut's Judicial Branch and Executive Branch agencies, low-income communities, and victims of human trafficking. The council recommends initiatives that would improve services to crime victims and develops needs assessments for both court-based and community-based victim services. Commission on the Standardization of the Collection of Evidence in Sexual Assault Investigations is responsible for reviewing and revising the Technical Guidelines for Health Care Response to Victims of Sexual Assault and the design of the sexual assault evidence collection kit. OVS Director member. Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee examines intimate partner homicides to identify systemic gaps and barriers to service and to recommend coordinated community responses that will enhance the safety of victims and accountability of batterers. OVS Director member. Domestic Violence Criminal Justice Response & Enhancement Advisory Council will assess and advise on a variety of criminal justice-related issues, including creating uniform policies and procedures as appropriate, and determining the feasibility of statewide implementation or expansion of criminal justice system best practices. OVS Director member. Governor's Task Force on Justice for Abused Children oversees the need for greater coordination of Multidisciplinary Team agencies involved in the investigation, intervention, and prosecution of child sexual abuse and serious physical abuse cases. OVS Victim Services Supervisor member. Human Anti-Trafficking Response Team (HART) multidisciplinary teams that respond to the needs of victims of domestic minor sex trafficking. OVS victim services advocates are members. Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision Connecticut State Council is charged with overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision, a formal agreement between member states that seeks to promote public safety by systematically controlling the interstate movement of certain adult offenders. OVS Director member. Interstate Compact for Juveniles Connecticut State Council is the rule-making authority of the Interstate Compact for Juveniles and has the statutory authority to enforce compliance between signatory states to promote the welfare protection of juveniles, victims, and the public by governing the states supervision of juveniles and the return of runaways, absconders, escapees, and juveniles who have fled prosecution. OVS Director member. Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT) coordinate the prompt investigation and prosecution of suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to reduce the trauma of any child victim and to ensure the protection and treatment of the child. Numerous OVS victim services advocates are members of their local MDT. Trafficking in Persons Council is responsible for determining what services are available to human trafficking victims and how to best coordinate a response. OVS Director member. Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Committee is a multidisciplinary group which includes representatives from both the criminal justice and victim advocacy community and is charged with making recommendations to standardize and facilitate the transfer, tracking and testing of sexual assault evidence collection kits as well as overseeing the process of victim notification for victims when evidence, once tested, may result in a CODIS hit or lead to a new investigation. OVS Director member.

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

OVS s Education Unit provides training to VOCA victim assistance providers and other service providers that work with crime victims through onsite trainings, the OVS training series for VOCA subcontractors, or training conferences. OVS provided trainings on the following topics during the report period: Collaboration with Anti-Sexual Violence Agencies Connecticut Criminal Court Connecticut Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification Court Orders of Protection Crime Victim Compensation Program Crime Victims Rights in Connecticut Human Trafficking OVS Programs and Services As a result of declining federal funds, the CT Judicial Branch/OVS worked with State Legislators to secure funding under the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Funding was secured for SFY 24 and SFY 25. In combination with existing VOCA funds, the receipt of ARPA dollars will allow OVS to maintain funding levels, without any reductions in contracts to our subrecipients. While not an activity that improved delivery of services, the additional funding will allow OVS funded service providers to maintain their existing services to crime victims.

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

VOCA Victim Assistance funds are awarded to service providers based upon the four priority categories of victimization. VOCA funded contractors provide services to victims of child abuse, domestic violence, adult sexual assault, and underserved categories including assault, DUI/DWI victims, adults abused as children, elder abuse, human trafficking, mass casualty victims, stalking victims, and survivors of homicide. Examples of services provided at the subcontractor level during the report period are as follows: # 1 The Bilingual ASC Community Case Manager assisted a female LBGQT individual after she arrived in CT fleeing from her abusive partner. The Case Manager informed client of victims rights in CT, discussed the impact of DV, and assisted her in safety planning. Although the abuser does not reside in CT, she continued to contact victim via text, phone calls, and social media. The police were informed as she violated a standing order of protection. The Community Manager, in collaboration with CCADV, assisted client with financial resources (security deposit, 1st month s rent, gift cards for gas and food). They also provided client with advocacy with landlord, Department of Housing, and law enforcement. Client has now established her residence in CT and is now employed. #2 A Safe Haven Advocate provided support to a 26-year-old female victim of sexual assault at a local hospital. The Advocate provided support and accompaniment during the evidence collection procedures. The mother of the victim was also present, and counseling was also provided to her. Other services provided include assistance with completing an OVS victim compensation application, and accompaniment during statement to the police. Client expressed interest in starting counseling sessions. #3 A female survivor of homicide victim reached out to the program to learn about its services and looking for housing assistance. After her 19-year-old son was murdered, there have been many ups and downs for the family. Client does not go to work consistently due to her depression, has made bad financial decisions, and has fallen behind on her bills. The Case Manager provided the following services to client: advocacy/accompaniment, individual counseling, assistance with completing a victim compensation application, notification of criminal justice events, information about the criminal justice system and victim rights. Additionally, client was referred to other victim service programs. #4 A 12-year-old Hispanic female disclosed sexual abuse by stepfather that had started at age 9. Her younger twin sisters witnessed the abuse and disclosed touching incidents by the stepfather. After the forensic interview and medical exam, client was referred to the Trauma Team for Trauma-focused therapy. The sisters and their mother were also referred to Safe Haven for additional services. #5 The CATS Program served an adolescent male who was the victim of physical abuse and witness to Domestic Violence. This child witnessed his father murder his girlfriend. Services provided include Information/referral to provide the foster parent with Parent Counseling Services to increase the psychoeducation regarding the child s trauma symptoms and the importance of co-regulation skills when parenting a traumatized child. The child is engaged in weekly Individual Therapy, and Family Therapy. #6 An elderly female was the victim of physical assault at the hands of her sister. Client stated that she had moved in with her sister but that almost immediately, her sister had become very controlling and both physically and mentally abusive. After an incident in the car, the victim called Elderly Protective Services, a case worker was assigned, and victim was then referred to HRA. Victim was placed in a hotel and the Elderly Victim Case Manager began looking into other avenues to assist her.

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

OVS is committed to working with its federal victim assistance partners to ensure that federal crime victims receive victim services. OVS provides the U.S. Attorney s Victim/Witness Coordinator, upon request, compensation forms, informational material about OVS victim services and referrals to participating agencies for victim assistance services (i.e. counseling, support groups, shelter services, etc.). In addition to OVS collaboration with Connecticut s federal crime victims assistance personnel, OVS and its contractors/subcontractors have taken the following initiatives: OVS maintains a contract with the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence to provide emergency shelter to victims of human trafficking through its coalition of 15 domestic violence service providers. These services are available as a referral source to both federal and state law enforcement officials. Examples of services provided to federal crime victims at the contractor/subcontractor level during the report period are as follows: Charlotte Hungerford Hospital reported that there are active cases of victims who are receiving treatment as part of Charlotte s Place who have cases associated with the FBI in conjunction with local police. Collaboration takes place to facilitate communication with the FBI and police in providing advocacy and information to these victims of crime. CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence Milford: The program served 1 primary and 2 secondary victims of federal crime. The advocate worked with the local court system to obtain a civil protection order that expanded past a military issued order. The family was additionally connected to mental health services in collaboration with school support systems. The advocate continues to work with the family and communicate with the federal court handling the case on behalf of the victim. CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence Willimantic: The agency continues to work with the FBI when they are investigating cases of online engagement of minors. During the reporting period, SACCEC assisted during two similar cases concerning teen girls using the Roblox online gaming platform who were contacted by adult men. The FBI requested the use of one of the program s child advocacy centers for interviews with SACCEC personnel present to advocate and provide crisis intervention. CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence Torrington reported that the program assisted a victim working with the FBI on a high-risk court case involving weapons that is being prosecuted in federal court. The local police department connected victim with the agency after a DV incident in the victim s home that involved a firearm. The FVVA continued to support victim throughout the criminal court case providing updates to victim and advocating on victim s behalf with multiple divisions of the court. Additionally, the FVVA provided safety planning and crisis counseling after the offender was released from custody with an ankle monitor. The agency collaborated with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives due to the federal court case. CT Institute for Refugees and Immigrants (CIRI) made the following report: When a victim of trafficking is screened through the immigration program, the client is referred to Project Rescue for social services. CIRI works closely with federal law enforcement, and if there is a victim of a federal crime, CIRI collaborates to ensure that the victim is protected. Human Services Council reports that Children s Connection works closely with the Human Anti-Trafficking Response Team at DCF to serve children who are either suspected of being trafficked or at high risk of being trafficked. Cases often include more than one jurisdiction, as kids are moved throughout the state and across state lines. The anti-trafficking team includes FBI, local and state police, DCF, and victim service providers. Klingberg Comprehensive Family Centers reported that during the report period, the program received a referral from DCF SIU regarding a 10-year-old male child that was suspected by the FBI to have been sexually abused and exploited by his older brother, who was caught offering his brother for sex trafficking to an undercover agent. The Family Advocate sent an outreach to partners to confirm the forensic interview while gathering pre-interview information. There was immediate outreach to the non-offending caregiver to offer initial support and information about the MDT/CAC process and victims rights. LOVE146 reported that the agency continued to work with several victims whose trafficking is being investigated by the FBI and/or prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney s Office. In these instances, LOVE146 s Survivor Care Program Director and Program Manager serve as the primary contact for federal government employees.

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

Emerging issues or notable trends impacting services to crime victims in Connecticut were compiled from the progress reports provided to OVS by each of the contractors/subcontractors that provide VOCA victim assistance throughout the state. Below is a sampling of the major trends/issues shared by both OVS and the recipients of VOCA funds: Clients reported difficulty finding affordable housing. Some landlords are asking for rental payment of up to 3 months in advance, in addition to the security deposit. Shelters are having a harder time moving families out of shelter into safe and sustainable housing. Consequently, this backlogs the waitlist for emergency sheltering programs. Victims are deciding to stay in DV relationships due to not being able to afford or find a safe housing option. Lack of mental health services for adults and children. Many mental health providers in the area that accept state insurance have long wait lists. There continues to be long waiting lists for children, most specifically, providers who speak Spanish and specialize in trauma. The clinician noted a lack of legal support for family law. Some DV survivors the clinician worked with had difficulty finding an affordable attorney to represent them in a divorce or child custody case. As the number of children requiring mental health services has increased, the supply of qualified providers to staff clinical vacancies has diminished. Clinicians are increasingly pursuing private practice and/or fully remote positions. Basic needs support continued to be an issue. Many of the resources have limited to no funding to support the basic needs requested by clients. Operational and staffing costs continue to increase without an increase in funding. There has been an increase in the number of abusers filing paperwork (Motion to Open, Motion to Vacate, Court Orders, ex parte Custody Apps., etc.) against victims almost immediately following the court proceedings, all in hopes of throwing the clients and families further off track. Increase in sex child-trafficking cases seeking services at the Center with greater number of cases with FBI involvement. A VOCA Clinician noted that he encountered a higher number of victims who are part of the LBGQT community. A recent training attended by staff indicated that research reveals that members of the LBGQT community are at a disproportionate risk of experiencing abuse/neglect. Staff turnover and reassignments continued to be an issue impacting services in MDT partner agencies. Law enforcement partners and child protective services leadership turnover impacts both the number of referrals to team meetings and attendance at review meetings. Lower rates of referrals and attendance challenges the program s ability to provide services to victims in need. The opioid epidemic continues to impact the area leading to increase in crime and multiple overdoses and deaths. Victim Rights Center has had several cases where victims are deterred from seeking certain legal remedies in fear of a retaliatory defamation lawsuit being filed, even though the case was not likely to be successful. Many school systems remain unclear in trauma-informed responses to disclosures of abuse. Many parents find themselves needing to work multiple jobs to cover childcare expenses. During the summer months, when schools are closed, parents spend additional time and effort to ensure their children are taken care of. There is a prevalent trend where male offenders deceive others on social media platforms such as Snapchat, TikTok, and dating sites by pretending to be younger than they are. More clients requested help with job readiness. Advocates worked with them to help create resumes, fill out job applications, and connect them to local resources in their community who also support job readiness. Advocates noted a trend in which victims must reach out to police multiple times for repeated violations by abusers of existing protective orders. Victims have expressed frustration that there appear to be limited consequences to the violator. One of the biggest trends affecting crime victims overall, is the lack of serious sentencing for offenders. There have been numerous cases involving felonies and offenders with prior histories that are receiving an insignificant punishment or lesser punishments than are warranted. This trend of lighter sentencing impacts crime victim

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

services as victims feel that their cases are not being taken seriously, diminishing the client's trust in the court process. Staff reported an increase in the number of intimate violence cases involving teens (high school/college) and non-fatal strangulation cases. Parents are struggling with how to help their teens date safely.

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

There are no retention issues impacting the Office of Victim Services. The Office is fully staffed. VOCA Assistance contractors/subcontractors reported the following staffing retention issues within their agencies: Staff retention issues due to the crisis work and composure needed for high volume of cases while providing quality care. This work causes vicarious trauma. Difficulties finding replacements due to budgetary constraints and low number of applicants. High caseloads and burnout. Balancing caseloads with compliance demands, and self-care. Salaries cannot compete with State and Private Sector. Clinicians returning to private sector for greater flexibility in hours and caseloads. Bi-lingual clinicians are overwhelmed due to lack of options for referrals. Lack of qualified candidates are causing positions to be vacant for longer periods of time.

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

All funding for service provision is awarded through a formal bid process. Notification of a Request for Proposals (RFP) is posted on the Connecticut Judicial Branch website and in legal advertisements in newspapers throughout the state. In FFY 2022, OVS issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for services to victims of crime for the state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022. Contracts awarded under that solicitation are in effect until June 30, 2025. On the Judicial Branch/OVS website, there is a list of agencies that currently receive victim assistance funding from OVS. The list provides a brief description of the program, the service area, contact information, and a link to the agency's website.

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

All funding for service provision is awarded through a formal bid process. If it is determined that funding for new/underserved populations or new services is needed, OVS will issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the identified populations and services. The bid solicitation will identify the specific populations to be served, or services that will be funded. In the prior fiscal year, FFY 2022, OVS issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for services to victims of crime for state fiscal years July 2022 - June 2025. In the RFP document, language was included outlining the President's Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government and the populations impacted by the order. OVS encouraged applicants to submit programs that specifically addressed services to the underserved populations as identified in the Order. In addition, all applicants were asked to address how their proposed programs will provide services to these underserved populations. Funds were awarded for forty-five contracts, including five new contracts for services to urban populations in the Cities of Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury, as well as rural towns in eastern Connecticut.

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

All funding for service provision is awarded through a formal bid process. OVS receives feedback from current VOCA-funded service providers on current issues in the victim services and what services are lacking or underfunded. This information is reviewed, and any bids for programs to serve specific populations or provide specific services are determined by OVS. OVS also reviews existing contracts and service populations to ensure that services are being provided to victims in accordance with the minimum requirements for the four priority categories of crime victims as outlined in the VOCA Final Rule. In FFY 2022, OVS issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for services to victims of crime for the state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022. Contracts awarded under that solicitation are in effect until June 30, 2025. There were no additional solicitations for services during the report period.

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

There are no outcome measures separate from the information that is reported each quarter in the OVC/PMT system.