

IL 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						
	2018-V2-GX-0070	2019-V2-GX-0024	2020-V2-GX-0017	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00624-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00740-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00418-ASSI
Federal Award Amount	\$128,771,417.00	\$86,235,200.00	\$63,167,824.00	\$38,824,602.00	\$53,660,957.00	\$49,916,616.00
Total Amount of Subawards	\$119,926,296.00	\$78,422,714.00	\$57,709,113.00	\$36,209,190.00	\$4,457,310.00	\$0.00
Total Number of Subawards	137	108	40	26	10	0
Administrative Funds Amount	\$6,438,570.00	\$4,311,760.00	\$3,158,391.00	\$1,941,230.00	\$2,683,047.00	\$2,495,830.00
Training Funds Amount	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance Remaining	\$2,406,551.00	\$3,500,726.00	\$2,300,320.00	\$674,182.00	\$46,520,600.00	\$47,420,786.00

Subgrantee Organization Type
The total number of subgrants represents all federal awards active during the reporting period. The number is not unique as there are subgrantee organizations that are continuously funded from each federal award.

Type of Organization	2018-V2-GX-0070	2019-V2-GX-0024	2020-V2-GX-0017	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00624-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00740-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00418-ASSI
Government Agencies Only	44	23	7	14	0	0
Corrections	0	0	0	0	0	0
Courts	4	1	3	0	0	0
Juvenile Justice	0	0	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	3	4	0	5	0	0
Prosecutor	14	11	1	9	0	0
Other	23	7	3	0	0	0
Nonprofit Organization Only	91	84	33	12	10	0
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	16	12	18	3	0	0
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	3	2	2	2	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	12	24	2	1	2	0
Faith-based Organization	3	3	1	0	0	0
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	7	6	1	0	1	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	2	3	2	0	0	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Multiservice agency	20	14	3	4	2	0
Other	28	20	4	2	5	0
Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Agencies, and Organizations Only	1	0	0	0	0	0
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Court	0	0	0	0	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence organization	1	0	0	0	0	0
Faith-based organization	0	0	0	0	0	0
Juvenile justice	0	0	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Organization provides domestic and family violence and sexual assault services	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prosecutor	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other justice-based agency	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other agency that is NOT justice-based (e.g., human services, health, education)	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Organization by and/or for a specific traditionally underserved community	0	0	0	0	0	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Campus Organizations Only	1	1	0	0	0	0
Campus-based victims services	0	0	0	0	0	0
Law enforcement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physical or mental health service program	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	1	1	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Subawards	137	108	40	26	10	0

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

Subaward Purpose						
A single SAR can select multiple purposes. Numbers are not unique						
	2018-V2-GX-0070	2019-V2-GX-0024	2020-V2-GX-0017	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00624-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00740-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00418-ASSI
A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	101	70	40	26	9	0
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	15	24	4	4	1	0
C. Start up a new victim services project	27	22	0	1	0	0
D. Start up a new Native American victim services project	0	0	0	0	0	0
E. Expand or enhance an existing Native American project	0	0	0	0	0	0

VOCA and Match Funds						
A single SAR can select multiple service types. Numbers are not unique						
	2018-V2-GX-0070	2019-V2-GX-0024	2020-V2-GX-0017	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00624-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00740-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00418-ASSI
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	96	96	37	26	7	0
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	90	91	33	26	5	0
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	84	92	28	25	3	0
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	63	58	16	15	1	0
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	90	80	27	23	10	0
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	109	107	40	26	10	0

Priority and Underserved Requirements						
Priority Area	2018-V2-GX-0070	2019-V2-GX-0024	2020-V2-GX-0017	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00624-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00740-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00418-ASSI
Child Abuse						
Total Amount	\$21,013,152.00	\$11,105,283.00	\$5,855,487.00	\$9,287,409.00	\$106,692.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	16.00 %	13.00 %	9.00 %	24.00 %	0.00 %	
Domestic and Family Violence						
Total Amount	\$50,083,052.00	\$37,498,502.00	\$24,859,946.00	\$11,508,293.00	\$3,758,426.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	39.00 %	43.00 %	39.00 %	30.00 %	7.00 %	
Sexual Assault						
Total Amount	\$23,488,839.00	\$15,944,547.00	\$18,095,749.00	\$8,492,750.00	\$450,717.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	18.00 %	18.00 %	29.00 %	22.00 %	1.00 %	
Underserved						
Total Amount	\$25,306,221.00	\$13,743,858.00	\$8,897,931.00	\$6,920,735.00	\$141,474.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	20.00 %	16.00 %	14.00 %	18.00 %	0.00 %	

Budget and Staffing						
Staffing Information	2018-V2-GX-0070	2019-V2-GX-0024	2020-V2-GX-0017	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00624-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00740-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00418-ASSI
Total number of paid staff for all grantee victimization program and/or services	2783	2677	1017	1213	289	

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Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	3044264	2322994	931135	972596	91484
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	5080	2305	3591	567	27
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	372722	263713	194296	39298	1900

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)	51	3389	3977	4527	4165	4014
Adult Sexual Assault	68	3890	4472	5144	3591	4274
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	41	1445	1425	1634	1265	1442
Arson	21	54	65	85	77	70
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	39	932	698	463	312	601
Burglary	25	466	631	869	808	693
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	72	4852	4288	5015	5548	4925
Child Pornography	35	90	79	72	148	97
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	69	4445	5103	5524	9151	6055
Domestic and/or Family Violence	110	27100	28508	30018	25802	27857
DUI/DWI Incidents	27	784	963	896	896	884
Elder Abuse or Neglect	34	211	187	187	167	188
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	33	133	113	112	105	115
Human Trafficking: Labor	39	30	35	27	44	34
Human Trafficking: Sex	53	124	126	213	218	170
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	26	252	302	468	290	328
Kidnapping (non-custodial)	28	97	71	135	107	102
Kidnapping (custodial)	30	22	40	21	27	27
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	19	130	152	172	31	121
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	21	407	597	695	722	605
Robbery	29	693	786	1156	1181	954
Stalking/Harassment	57	5854	5933	6248	5270	5826
Survivors of Homicide Victims	45	2478	2941	3147	3245	2952
Teen Dating Victimization	40	227	72	103	37	109
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	16	59	10	4	6	19
Other	20	2690	2469	2070	2834	2515

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	226	195	192	162	1215
Homeless	877	721	660	562	3735
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	1385	1631	1678	930	7023
LGBTQ	1568	1419	1645	1578	7525
Veterans	309	258	300	224	1567
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/ Physical /Mental	1812	1499	2429	2196	13290
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	3745	4195	4223	3137	25577
Other	78	108	477	99	1560

General Award Information

Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	204050	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	30588	

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Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	116280	56.99 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	48070	23.56 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	40361	

Demographics		
Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	442	0.38 %
Asian	1518	1.31 %
Black or African American	28206	24.26 %
Hispanic or Latino	18478	15.89 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	113	0.10 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	36796	31.64 %
Some Other Race	649	0.56 %
Multiple Races	2292	1.97 %
Not Reported	27001	23.22 %
Not Tracked	785	0.68 %
Race/Ethnicity Total	116280	
Gender Identity		
Male	19805	17.03 %
Female	73969	63.61 %
Other	922	0.79 %
Not Reported	20591	17.71 %
Not Tracked	993	0.85 %
Gender Total	116280	
Age		
Age 0- 12	13689	11.77 %
Age 13- 17	7938	6.83 %
Age 18- 24	11396	9.80 %
Age 25- 59	52071	44.78 %
Age 60 and Older	4497	3.87 %
Not Reported	25876	22.25 %
Not Tracked	813	0.70 %
Age Total	116280	

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	107	9492	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	90616
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	73408
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	33410
			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	27924
B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	102	68128	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	6258
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	691
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	1280
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	156831
			B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	3267
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	1023
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	24871
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	5363
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	17583
B10. Interpreter services	5144			
C. Emotional Support or	88	11288	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	46259
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	113619
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	3217

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Safety Services **	98	115001	C4. Individual counseling	200190
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	11511
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	19498
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	1970
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	68	4687	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	2581
			D2. Transitional housing	17606
			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	2454
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	93	90700	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	68164
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	2107
			E3. Assistance with restitution	1543
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	13170
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	20836
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	52368
			E7. Immigration assistance	4686
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	6930
			E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	793
			E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	49742
E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	1749			

ANNUAL QUESTIONS

Grantee Annually Reported Questions	
Question/Option	Count
Were any administrative and training funds used during the reporting period?	
Yes	1
No	0
Did the administrative funds support any education activities during the reporting period?	
Yes	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
Did the grant support any coordination activities (e.g., with other service providers, law enforcement agencies) during the reporting period?	
Yes	0
No	1
Describe any program or educational materials developed during the reporting period.	
N/A.	
Describe any planning or training events held during the reporting period.	
ICJIA began developing the 2022-2025 Victim Service Plan in January 2022 by convening a Victim Services Ad Hoc Committee (VSAHC) and presenting them with research and data that informed them of ICJIA's efforts to address the 2017-2021 plan's funding priority areas. The recommended priority areas and the final Victims of Crime Act Plan was presented for approval to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) Budget Committee on October 20, 2022, and the ICJIA Board on December 15, 2022. Using these priorities, staff drafted a set of program recommendations and funding amounts based on anticipated awards for the next three years.	
Describe any program policies changed during the reporting period.	
N/A.	
Describe any earned media coverage events/episodes during the reporting period.	
N/A.	
Describe any coordinated responses/services for assisting crime victims during the reporting period.	
N/A.	
Please discuss the major issues in your state that either assist or prevent victims from receiving assistance during the reporting period.	
<p>Several major issues prevented victims from receiving assistance in Illinois: Six-month waitlists for both children and adults, resulting in a delay of services. High turnover in other agencies serving children has resulted in a reduction of the quality of the services being provided. Decline in available mental health services. No services are available for youth with problematic sexual behaviors. Food insecurity. Court reporters are in short supply. Judges and juries do not fully understand the mindset of abuse victims. It is hard for people that have not experienced abuse to grasp why a victim would stay in a toxic situation. One judge told the victim she was partially at fault for the abuser's behavior because she kept going back. In most cases, judges deny allowing evidence of prior abuse by the same abuser. Juries only know about one isolated incident, making it difficult to build a case against domestic violence. Court dates/times being changed last minute with no notifications to victims or advocates. State's attorneys are not attending forensic interviews. They state their offices are too busy and backed up from the pandemic. The computer system for the state's attorney, public defender, circuit clerk, and law enforcement fails to report random cases. In these cases, victim advocates are unable to start a file or even know if there is a case. Victims of sex-based crimes are regularly faced with disbelief by law enforcement or even an outright denial of the seriousness of the crime. Over 70% of all new apartment buildings being built are luxury apartments, creating a housing barrier for those with few resources. In addition, landlords continue to increase their requirements, such as higher credit scores and minimum income-to-rent ratios. Landlords take advantage of immigrant survivors who lack high credit scores and sufficient financial resources. Access to housing continues to be a major concern. Access to affordable housing, the costs of deposits, and increase of rent have created barriers for many clients. Victims may not have sufficient funds and struggle with poor credit records, broken leases, and unpaid utility bills related to fleeing abusers. Domestic violence cases are sometimes reported to child protective services, creating difficulties for immigrant survivors with limited English proficiency in understanding child protective services' role. More abusers are exhibiting dangerous behaviors, such as stalking, physical violence, and possession of weapons. Lack of access to competent language interpretation and culturally sensitive services has a significant impact on immigrant survivors. Proper language access should not merely involve translation but also comprehensive cultural sensitivity. Many employers do not provide sufficient work leave or paid time off to cover the time needed for victims to heal and victims lose their jobs. The ability to receive assistance from the local mental health boards to pay for psychiatric services, especially medication for depression, anxiety, and bipolar disorder. Launch of an online system that assists victims in filing an Order of Protection. The website provides accessibility and a simplified way of petitioning the courts for a protective order. This system can also be utilized after the courts operating hours and can grant an Order of Protection overnight and over the weekend. The criminal court continues to allow victims of domestic violence to appear via Zoom in criminal cases, eliminating time away from work and finding childcare and transportation. Some offices have transitioned to paperless and eProsecutor. eProsecutor is a shared information system that provides access to various members of the criminal justice system. To</p>	

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address the housing issues for clients, one grantee provided early education on tenants' and victims' rights and connected clients to free housing attorneys, as needed. In response to heightening dangerous behavior by abusers, one grantee developed extensive safety planning, collaborating with police social workers, law enforcement, and teachers and exploring a safety network with clients. A grantee's program leadership and staff participated in community coalitions and committees of diverse community professionals for opportunities to share information about their program 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.

ICJIA began developing the 2022-2025 Victim Service Plan in January 2022 by convening a Victim Services Ad Hoc Committee (VSAHC) and presenting them with research and data that informed them of ICJIA's efforts to address the 2017-2021 plan's funding priority areas. The VSAHC is comprised of academics and specialist from the area of criminal justice and victim services, as well as other stakeholders from those areas. The recommended priority areas and the Victims of Crime Act Plan were presented to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority Budget Committee on October 20, 2022, and the Board on December 15, 2022 for approval. Using these priorities, staff drafted a set of program recommendations and funding amounts based on anticipated awards for the next three years.

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

In June 2023 the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to receive applications for the Trauma Recovery Center program. The purpose of this NOFO was to support comprehensive mental health and case management services through implementation of the TRC model. The TRC model serves victims of violent crime and their families in underserved communities with high levels of violence. Underserved communities are those in which significant numbers of people face substantial barriers to accessing needed services. Vulnerable and underserved populations include young people of color, those who are homeless, LGBTQ+ people, people with chronic mental health issues and/or substance use disorders, and non-English speaking people. Those living in poverty also face substantial barriers to treatment access. These barriers include, but are not limited to, a lack of transportation or childcare, language accessibility, and social stigma attached to seeking help. An ICJIA victim needs assessment confirmed these barriers to treatment and identified a lack of services that are sensitive to the needs of vulnerable victims in Illinois. The TRC model addresses both the psychological and tangible needs of violent crime victims and their families, particularly those in underserved groups. The model uses coordinated and comprehensive clinical case management to provide trauma-informed, evidence-based mental health services. Research indicates violent crime victims have a significant need for specialized mental health treatment and psychological services. For some victims, debilitating symptoms emerge and persist for years, impacting their overall functioning and quality of life. Trauma symptoms, such as a fear of leaving one's home, may cause financial burden, emotional distress, or social isolation that impact long-term safety and stability. These symptoms, as well as stereotypes about mental health, shame, and embarrassment, or fears of not being believed, can create a reluctance to engage in services, specifically mental health treatment. TRCs are designed to address the needs of crime victims who typically do not access services due to individual and cultural barriers to help seeking. The model uses early and assertive outreach and coordinated clinical case management to provide services to victims whose trauma needs require a greater level of engagement than traditional service models generally provide. In this model, a single clinician actively engages with victims to provide both clinical intervention and case management and works toward client-defined priorities. The model offers mental health interventions and advocacy services in tandem, simultaneously addressing the multifaceted social and tangible needs of victims. The model eases access to a variety of resources, allowing for services tailored to individual needs.

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: Ted (name has been changed), a recently discharged client, began his treatment with the grantee, at the age of nine. As an incoming client, Ted was unable to articulate what had happened to him and the feelings he held toward the trauma he endured. Through learning positive coping behaviors and building rapport with his therapist, Ted slowly acknowledged what had happened to him and began to verbalize his needs and the people around him. By the end of his treatment, he acknowledged the emotional damage he experienced and reconciled conflicting beliefs toward the family member who harmed him. Throughout his treatment, Ted grew from an emotionally withdrawn child filled with feelings of shame and self-doubt to a confident, outgoing child who could readily express his needs and willingly participated in social activities. Domestic Violence: Sheila (name has been changed), her newborn, and her school-aged child had fled an abusive father and sought (program) services. The father's rage toward the mother was so bad, he was escorted from the hospital when the baby was born. With her (program) counselor, Sheila and her children worked together for over nine months, sharing games, making art, and talking about the changes they were going through as they got used to a new home and made new friends. The family endured more challenges over these months -- legal, economic, family, and housing-related -- and they processed these difficult moments in sessions with their counselor. They met all goals they set as individuals and as a family, except for their financial goal, which is often a challenging, long-term goal due to the impact and complexity of financial abuse. Even though the mother was still struggling to make ends meet, by the end of counseling she was able to see that she is enough for her kids. She believes she is a good mom, realizes she is doing her best in a challenging time, knows that the abuse was not her fault, and understands that the efforts she is making to process trauma with her kids now, will help them feel safer and more secure in the long run. As her counselor noted, "It was a delight, in our last session, to see her younger child -- an infant in her arms when we first met -- happily squealing and running back and forth in our children's space." Sexual Assault: A VOCA-funded staff attorney had a case where she represented our client in both criminal and civil court. On the night in question, the perpetrator sexually assaulted the client, and she called the police, who came out to her home. The police did not take the client's complaint seriously, did not plan to arrest the perpetrator, and generally acted completely opposite of the way that all survivors of sexual assault should be treated by law enforcement. Having received no justice or assistance from the police; in the aftermath of her violation, the client called the referring law firm, who referred the client to the agency. Ultimately, following our agency's continued advocacy, the perpetrator was arrested for the assault. The attorney was also able to get client a default civil no contact order to protect her from her perpetrator. In addition, the agency provided victim's rights legal representation for the client during her criminal case. The defendant pleaded guilty in the criminal case. Overall, the plea deal and default civil no contact order were amazing legal results for the client, who now has safety and justice and can begin to heal from the trauma she has experienced. Underserved: Our CRU team responded to the Vera Lounge shooting where four people were shot, three fatally. We assisted with three of the four victims, two of which were from the same household. One of the young women who was killed left behind three children, and our CRU manager managed a complicated and fraught familial situation in assisting her divorced and estranged parents and extended family with funeral and burial arrangements, coordinating morgue and funeral home visits. Our manager also worked with the CPD Victim Advocacy staff and assisted the victim's wife to obtain legal help and referrals to secure her name on the deed of their shared home.

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

We have served trafficking victims that were victims of federal crimes including being taken across state lines. Federal agents have worked with these women to get them protection and help them to testify. Staff attended a training with federal employees to discuss human trafficking. Discussions took place regarding how local law enforcement advocates could collaborate with federal agencies. During intake interviews with clients, the service provider identified possible victims of human trafficking and tailored services to meet their specific needs. Several staff were trained during this time period to assist with identifying victims of a federal crime and assist with understanding how to fill out the victim's crime compensation forms. All CACs in Illinois have signed a new MOU in 2023 with the FBI to provide services to victims of federal crimes at local CACs.

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

Shortages with partner agencies, agency turnover at the highest in 30+ years. Cases staying in the court system longer. Lack of foster homes, separation of sibling groups. There has also been an increase in sibling sexual abuse cases. Delayed hearings and rescheduling of court dates. Identified an increase in complexity of child victims cases. Extremely high-risk cases were defined as multiple mental or cognitive disabilities coupled with maltreatment issues, parental substance abuse or use, and multiple sibling victimizations among the family compositions. Illinois saw a weak, making it difficult to hold perpetrators accountable for attempted murder in many instances. There is a lack of knowledge on the part of medical providers, so they do not routinely screen victims for the kind of injuries that can result from strangulation and subsequent disruption of breathing, as well as head injuries from being banged against walls and floors. Project attorneys have noticed more victims of domestic violence experiencing electronic/social media forms of harassment and surveillance, in addition to physical or verbal abuse. For example, abusers make posts about victims on Facebook, or other platforms, for the purpose of humiliating the client in front of their friends, coworkers, and families in public forums. Law enforcement often will not act on a social media post as a violation of an order of protection because it is not transmitted directly to the client, but this leaves a gap in protection for clients. An extremely concerning issue is how little resources are available for victims once they have left the offender and are looking for representation in divorce or child custody cases. Many legal aid organizations only take civil order of protection cases, not divorces. Victims do not want to proceed with cases due to the defendant being the primary breadwinner. There are not enough Spanish-speaking behavioral health professionals who are trained in evidence-based trauma therapies. Another provider states they have seen an increase in the severity of the cases referred by partner organizations. The incidence of sexual assault cases, both in adults and children, have been on the rise. There has been an increase in work with criminalized survivors. Advocates have used the term criminalized survivor to describe a person who is being prosecuted or penalized for alleged violence or inaction in response to domestic or gender violence. Among this group are women and female-identified people who have experienced domestic violence, sexual violence, human trafficking, and are imprisoned because of that experience. The InfoNet team is being asked for an increasing number of data requests by external stakeholders in the victim services field. While this requires more time and effort from the team, data are being used in ways that are helpful for the field. Childcare has ballooned to where parents spend, on average, 20% of their income on childcare. This only adds to financial instability. Throughout the reporting period, a grantee encountered a troubling trend where immigrant survivors often faced bias within the legal system, primarily due to their limited English proficiency. This has hindered their ability to navigate the complex legal processes. As migrants continue to arrive in Chicago, it is expected that service needs requiring bilingual staff will increase. Additionally, housing and food insecurity will continue to be an issue. Survivors are being evicted, facing homelessness, and being put into unsafe situations because of a lack of available shelter beds. Profound need is legal representation in civil matters like divorce and family cases. Family court system lack trauma informed practices and regularly re-victimizes survivors. State Department of Child and Family Services responses to domestic violence disproportionately impact survivors of color who are seeing their children removed from their care.

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

The reduction in VOCA funding was announced to programs in February 2023, causing many programs to pause filling vacant positions or start shifting services and eliminating those new positions. With the major loss in VOCA funding, there are concerns about staff retention. Direct service of highly traumatized victims often leads to exhaustion and a high burn-out rate. Front-line staff providing truly relational services need a meaningful break after 8 to 16 months. Strategies to keep staff include training, technological boundaries, on-demand individual therapy services, increased PTO, sabbaticals, and job rotations. Lack of health benefits make it difficult for single people to take jobs in this industry.

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

The Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) provides for a centralized and systematized grant application process. All VOCA funds have been designated through a competitive process as per GATA. Funding opportunities are announced through a GATA Notice of Funding Opportunity document, made public on the ICJIA website and announced via email to more than 6,000 subscribers and on four social media channels. Funded programs are listed on the website. As of October 1, 2023, 12 VOCA programs were administered via the GATA process and nearly 180 new grant programs were implemented throughout Illinois.

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

The ICJIA Victim Services Ad Hoc Committee, comprised of criminal justice and victim services professionals and members of the community, met in Spring 2022 to review crime and victimization trend data, information on current service efforts, and data on funded programs. Participants included the executive directors of major statewide victim service associations, including the state coalitions against domestic violence and sexual assault, the Child Advocacy Center Association of Illinois, and individual agencies representing underserved communities. The committee approved the following recommendations for the 2022-2025 Victim Service Plan: Priority #1: Fund initiatives that raise the public's awareness of victim services, including eligibility criteria, service options, and program efficacy. Priority #2: Increase funding for programs that improve victims' timely access to services, such as through co-located services and remote service options. Priority #3: Fund initiatives that advance victims' equitable service access and engagement in services, with a focus on underserved victim populations. Priority #4: Fund efforts to prevent (re)victimization through programming that increases victims' protective factors and decreases vulnerabilities. Priority #5: Increase funding to address fundamental needs of crime victims, or those needs, that if left unmet, inhibit victims' engagement in services needed for healing. Priority #6: Fund direct core direct services to victims of all crime types, including community violence. Priority #7: Fund services that address victims' long-term mental health, legal, and housing needs. Priority #8: Support programs that address the impact of multiple victimization experiences, such as the intersection of gender-based violence and community violence. Priority #9: Promote community-driven multidisciplinary responses to victimization, including coalition building efforts and expanded use of technology to facilitate collaboration. Priority #10: Expand trauma-informed and trauma-focused service availability and support efforts to mitigate staff vicarious trauma. Priority #11: Promote the use of evidence-informed (or promising) and evidence-based practices and programming that have been successfully implemented with diverse victim populations. Priority #12: Fund activities that support program evaluation efforts through data

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collection and reporting and increase providers capacity to document meaningful outcomes. With these priorities as guidance, the VOCA Strategic Plan was developed to provide direction in the creation of program funding opportunities that will be developed and published throughout 2023. Targeted populations served by these funding opportunities have included populations in underserved geographical areas of the state (both urban and rural), as well as vulnerable young men of color and victims with mental health or substance abuse issues. As of October 1, 2023 six VOCA funded programs, consisting of over 30 grants, were opened and another four programs, consisting of another 50 grants, will be opened by the end of calendar 2023.

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

Fund planning continues throughout the year in meetings of the ICJIA Victim Services Ad Hoc and Budget committees and meetings with individual subgrantees. At the last ICJIA Victim Services Ad Hoc Committee meeting, participants were presented with information and data concerning gaps in service. The two priorities recommended concerning gaps in services included: Priority #7: Fund services that address victims long-term mental health, legal, and housing needs. Funding should be made available for agencies to provide services beyond those that address the immediate crisis needs of victims. Continued support is needed for longer-term mental health and counseling services. One of the most notable themes identified was the lack of individual and family counseling and mental health services for crime victims in the state. This gap in services cut across every crime type examined. Research indicates that evidence-based clinical care can significantly improve the long-term well-being of child, adolescent, and adult victims. Recent planning efforts also highlighted gaps in longer-term legal services needed by survivors. Cases involving immigration, divorce, and child custody can often take years, particularly for domestic violence survivors. Longer-term housing is another service that most providers have limited to no capacity to provide. Priority #8: Support programs that address the impact of multiple victimization experiences, such as the intersection of gender-based violence and community violence. Funding should support programming that attends to the impact of multiple victimization experiences. Some individuals may experience different forms of victimization throughout their lifetimes or the same type of victimization multiple times. Multiple victimization experiences increase one's risk for future victimization and unaddressed trauma from previous victimization experiences can be further exacerbated by new ones, decreasing the long-term well-being of individuals, families, and communities. Research supporting this planning work showed most Illinois victim service providers are frequently managing cases of people with multiple victimization experiences, yet gaps exist in service capacity to address multiple victimizations. Many service providers specialize in just one form of victimization, partly encouraged by funders that are often geared toward singular victimization types. Researchers recommended that providers and funders receive more education on the needs of those with multiple victimization histories. Victim Services Ad Hoc Committee recommendations are applied in funding recommendations made by staff to the ICJIA Budget Committee.

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

N/A.