

MO 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-0059	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00633-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00766-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00426-ASSI
Federal Award Amount	\$30,852,327.00	\$19,229,300.00	\$26,377,562.00	\$24,764,263.00
Total Amount of Subawards	\$28,787,287.00	\$17,732,363.00	\$25,442,256.00	\$21,501,637.00
Total Number of Subawards	290	122	132	139
Administrative Funds Amount	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Training Funds Amount	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance Remaining	\$2,065,040.00	\$1,496,937.00	\$935,306.00	\$3,262,626.00

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-0059	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00633-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00766-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00426-ASSI
Government Agencies Only	32	11	12	7
Corrections	0	0	0	0
Courts	2	0	1	0
Juvenile Justice	2	1	1	0
Law Enforcement	7	3	2	0
Prosecutor	16	4	5	5
Other	5	3	3	2
Nonprofit Organization Only	240	100	110	121
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	59	24	18	35
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	0	0	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	40	18	17	20
Faith-based Organization	4	1	2	2
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	72	27	33	33
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	14	11	10	4
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	2	1	1	1
Multiservice agency	17	5	8	10
Other	32	13	21	16
Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Agencies, and Organizations Only	6	6	6	6
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	6	6	6	6
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
Campus Organizations Only	12	5	4	5
Campus-based victims services	8	3	3	3
Law enforcement	0	0	0	0
Physical or mental health service program	0	0	0	0
Other	4	2	1	2
Total Number of Subawards	290	122	132	139

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

Subaward Purpose				
A single SAR can select multiple purposes. Numbers are not unique				
	2020-V2-GX-0059	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00633-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00766-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00426-ASSI
A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	264	115	122	132
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	51	19	18	22
C. Start up a new victim services project	7	1	3	0
D. Start up a new Native American victim services project	1	0	0	0
E. Expand or enhance an existing Native American project	0	0	0	0

VOCA and Match Funds				
A single SAR can select multiple service types. Numbers are not unique				
	2020-V2-GX-0059	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00633-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00766-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00426-ASSI
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	114	6	32	128
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	106	6	29	124
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	96	7	27	126
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	67	3	9	85
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	98	6	30	124
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	116	7	33	139

Priority and Underserved Requirements				
Priority Area	2020-V2-GX-0059	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00633-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00766-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00426-ASSI
Child Abuse				
Total Amount	\$7,804,780.00	\$4,078,615.00	\$6,821,998.00	\$5,650,743.00
% of Total Federal Award	25.00 %	21.00 %	26.00 %	23.00 %
Domestic and Family Violence				
Total Amount	\$13,560,228.00	\$8,466,526.00	\$12,704,711.00	\$10,096,199.00
% of Total Federal Award	44.00 %	44.00 %	48.00 %	41.00 %
Sexual Assault				
Total Amount	\$2,854,047.00	\$1,980,784.00	\$2,741,472.00	\$2,491,221.00
% of Total Federal Award	9.00 %	10.00 %	10.00 %	10.00 %
Underserved				
Total Amount	\$4,553,283.00	\$3,017,307.00	\$2,966,269.00	\$3,191,073.00
% of Total Federal Award	15.00 %	16.00 %	11.00 %	13.00 %

Budget and Staffing				
Staffing Information	2020-V2-GX-0059	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00633-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00766-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00426-ASSI
Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	23529	19953	20817	3755

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	52612049	2970783	2193787	3175750
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	15287	6030	5827	7266
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	1117767	290301	240394	349693

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)	83	6163	6227	6131	5778	6074
Adult Sexual Assault	100	2686	2960	3266	3365	3069
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	84	793	859	856	691	799
Arson	31	148	134	120	133	133
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	71	889	1213	1306	927	1083
Burglary	31	1496	1465	1510	1517	1497
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	131	8568	9052	9362	14317	10324
Child Pornography	72	242	239	413	284	294
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	120	6148	6874	7047	6436	6626
Domestic and/or Family Violence	128	26540	26582	28256	31359	28184
DUI/DWI Incidents	42	1049	985	1108	1331	1118
Elder Abuse or Neglect	65	276	246	675	326	380
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	40	23	104	119	42	72
Human Trafficking: Labor	60	15	23	12	13	15
Human Trafficking: Sex	96	336	304	281	361	320
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	33	1694	1526	1609	1298	1531
Kidnapping (non-custodial)	51	122	127	146	158	138
Kidnapping (custodial)	48	78	88	85	81	83
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	29	72	119	169	475	208
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	32	1816	1828	2583	2083	2077
Robbery	33	475	467	529	541	503
Stalking/Harassment	106	1811	2135	2516	3393	2463
Survivors of Homicide Victims	54	2072	2617	4010	4043	3185
Teen Dating Victimization	81	130	120	118	90	114
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	23	165	162	178	172	169
Other	25	14332	16306	14551	14910	15024

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	782	782	405	98	3425
Homeless	2347	2485	2390	2722	22508
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	299	347	333	386	2288
LGBTQ	545	599	563	563	3633
Veterans	151	136	131	127	910
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/ Physical /Mental	2474	2714	2543	2722	17829
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	916	1037	700	597	4965
Other	114	272	190	716	4242

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.	251476	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	42226	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	94352	37.52 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	31042	12.34 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	7557	

Demographics		
Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	469	0.50 %
Asian	414	0.44 %
Black or African American	16012	16.97 %
Hispanic or Latino	2269	2.40 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	367	0.39 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	53013	56.19 %
Some Other Race	477	0.51 %
Multiple Races	2099	2.22 %
Not Reported	13337	14.14 %
Not Tracked	5895	6.25 %
Race/Ethnicity Total	94352	
Gender Identity		
Male	23970	25.40 %
Female	57369	60.80 %
Other	216	0.23 %
Not Reported	8895	9.43 %
Not Tracked	3902	4.14 %
Gender Total	94352	
Age		
Age 0- 12	13957	14.79 %
Age 13- 17	7121	7.55 %
Age 18- 24	8670	9.19 %
Age 25- 59	43693	46.31 %
Age 60 and Older	6476	6.86 %
Not Reported	10198	10.81 %
Not Tracked	4237	4.49 %
Age Total	94352	

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	170	142336	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	117290
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	83016
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	45274
			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	69690
			Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	1475
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	4192
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	8615
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	201931

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

B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	166	59648	B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	6027
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	535
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	4054
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	10072
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	32508
			B10. Interpreter services	1248
C. Emotional Support or Safety Services	157	134262	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	111028
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	71598
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	718
			C4. Individual counseling	60331
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	21301
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	62506
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	6452
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	102	19005	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	199910
			D2. Transitional housing	59291
			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	6552
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	153	131794	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	173902
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	21942
			E3. Assistance with restitution	15544
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	13876
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	8974
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	3486
			E7. Immigration assistance	305
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	10942
			E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	3928
			E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	140607
E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	2833			

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	1
No	0
Number of requests received for education activities during the reporting period.	52
Number of people trained or attending education events during the reporting period.	1324
Number of events conducted during the reporting period.	67
Did the grant support any coordination activities (e.g., with other service providers, law enforcement agencies) during the reporting period?	
Yes	1
No	0
Describe any program or educational materials developed during the reporting period.	

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

MOCADSV s VOCA administrative contract supported the development, publication, and distribution of seven (7) educational publications, including And Justice For All: Court Advocacy with Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence , 2022 Regional and Statewide Domestic and Sexual Violence Stat Sheets , 2023 New Missouri Laws: Criminal and Civil Response to Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence and Stalking , Child Custody , Know Your Rights posters, and Intimate Partner Violence in LGBTQ+ Relationships . The Department of Social Services (DSS) created a series of short 30 minute educational videos on a variety of topics including but not limited to: Nutrition Assistance, Low Income Home Energy Assistance, Food Distribution, Child Support, Temporary Assistance, Adult Education and Literacy, Work Assistance Programs, Crime Victim Compensation, etc. These videos were recorded and posted on the DSS LinkedIn Learning website for VOCA agency staff to utilize as well as members of the public. On August 15, 2023, Missouri KidsFirst released the updated ProtectMOKids.com, a statewide online reporter training to reflect updated laws surrounding mandated reporter and best practices. This update was last done in 2021 . ProtectMOKids is a free, online training recommended by the Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children and supported by the Department of Social Services. The training covers the legal requirements for mandated reporters, definitions and indicators of child abuse and neglect and details, how to effectively report abuse and what to expect when making a report. The updated content includes improved accessibility, audio and text prompts, and holds on slides to meet requirements of professional organizations so that continuing education credits can be awarded to individuals for the training. It also includes updated adult learning scenarios and information on recognizing poverty versus neglect. The top 3 professionals who participated in the training during the reporting period are teachers (5,750), day care workers (3,678) and social workers (1,895).

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

Mandated Reporters: Number of completions during reporting period: 20,995 Victim Advocates: (2 training opportunities for advocates total; 46 attendees) Forensic interviewers and Multi-Disciplinary Team trainings (ChildFirst Missouri): (2 trainings; 71 attendees) (Note: Multi-disciplinary teams include Children s Division workers, law enforcement, juvenile officers and prosecutors) Forensic Interviewers: (3 trainings; 55 attendees) Administrative/Leader Training: (13 trainings; 195 participants) Mental Health Providers—Monthly Groups: (14 groups; 51 attendees) Resiliency Statewide Project for All CAC Staff & MDT Members (3 trainings; 161 attendees) Medical Providers Trainings in the response to child abuse and neglect (15 training opportunities; approximately 414 attendees) MOCADSV s VOCA administrative contract supports the facilitation of statewide, regional, and onsite training events. Statewide trainings included: Survivor Centered Services, LGBTQ+ Roundtable, Understanding the Autism Spectrum and Working with Those on the Spectrum MOCADSV Data Summit, Directors Academy-Improving Your Agency s Financial Health, Directors Academy-Grant Management, and Directors Academy-Coalition Building. MOCADSV s VOCA administrative contract also supported 4 regional meeting trainings and two onsite training events.

Describe any program policies changed during the reporting period.

N/A

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

The State of Missouri s Crime Victims Rights Week event held at the State Capitol building in Jefferson City during the month of April, was attended by several victim service stakeholder agencies including but not limited to: The Department of Public Safety- Office of Victims of Crime, The Attorney General s Office, The Secretary of State s Office, The Department of Social Services - Victim Services Unit, Department of Corrections- Office of Victim Services, Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Missouri KidsFirst etc. Several members of the State Legislature also attended the event as well as the public. The State of Missouri also received media coverage for our annual Sexual Assault Awareness campaign during the month of April, where our State Capitol dome was lit teal in honor everyone affected by sexual assault. Several agencies held public awareness events, which included participating in Denim Day and wearing teal on Day of Action. The State of Missouri also received media coverage for our annual Domestic Violence Awareness Events throughout the month of October. Several of our VOCA providers held events attended by the public including fundraisers, rallies, candle light vigils, training events etc. Our service providers in Saint Louis participated in the awareness event Paint The Lou Purple during the Week of Action to bring awareness to the effects of domestic violence. Several staff statewide wore purple in honor of everyone affected by domestic violence.

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

All of our VOCA agencies maintain a contractual responsibility to assist crime victims and coordinate their service response with other providers. They work together to ensure that victims are referred to other agencies, when they are unable to meet a victim s need. Systems advocacy activities include building collaborations and partnerships with; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Missouri employers to increase understanding and enforcement of the Victims Economic Safety and Security Act (VESSA); Missouri Interagency Council on Homelessness and Missouri Continuum of Care to support survivors receiving services through mainstream homeless service providers; Statewide Sexual Trafficking and Child Sexual Exploitation Committee to improve identification of victims across all systems and connecting them to services; Missouri Department of Mental Health to identify statewide gaps in services; 988 to improve responses to victims mental health needs; American Bar Association Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence to improve training and technical assistance services and resources for LGBTQAI+ survivors; University of Missouri-Kansas City and Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council to develop a toolkit for survivors with disabilities; Missouri Department of Social Services: Child Support Enforcement to increase staff education on issues related to victims of crime and survivor safety; and Missouri Supreme Court Combating Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence Commission to increase victim access to legal resources.

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

Currently our biggest issues that prevent victims from receiving assistance are the retention and recruitment of staff both paid and unpaid, affordable access to transportation, housing and mental health services, as well as an overall reduction in funding. VOCA staff identified these issues by completing in person site visits with 100 agencies from October, 2022 to September 30, 2023. The VOCA staff met with the agency staff and discussed current gaps in services, barriers they are facing, needs for training and/or technical assistance, goals and milestones they have and any issues that is preventing them from attaining those goals and milestones. The feedback that was received from the site visits has been instrumental in addressing barriers as well as gaps in services. The VOCA staff have been consistent and transparent with all of the VOCA subrecipients regarding issues that have been identified. We have created a safe space to communicate and continuously encourage collaboration amongst all of the subrecipients to maximize service delivery. In terms of the funding concerns, Missouri like every other state is facing the critical need for sustainable and flexible funding. Many agencies have been struggling to fundraise, have increased programmatic expenses and are struggling to maintain or expand services to meet current demands. In addition, many agencies are facing difficulties filling vacant positions. Providers have reported they are uncertain when they will be able to fill open positions due to a lack of applicants and uncertainty about ongoing funding from their core grants. Many agencies are also struggling to pay adequate wages to attract and retain quality staff. Even with an increased demand for services, many agencies feel they may not be able to meet the need due to insufficient staffing. Despite an increased need for housing services, many agencies struggle to access sufficient affordable housing for victims and their families. Many communities have limits on affordable housing units, resulting in increasing shortages. These barriers have led many survivors to not have access to safe and affordable housing at their most vulnerable time. Additional training and resources are also needed to support immigrant survivors of domestic violence. Due to staffing shortages, overwhelming caseloads has also been raised as a concern by many providers. Recruiting and retaining volunteers has also been difficult especially for many of the CASA s who are dependent on volunteers. Like many other states, there is also a backlog of court cases, and an increase in crime. In Missouri the rape kit backlog is being addressed however due to a lack of funding for community response, many sexual assault advocacy programs will carry the most significant implementation burden of the backlog cleanup. Sexual assault agencies will be called upon to coordinate and lead community Sexual Assault Response Teams, assist with victim notification and expand service areas and hospitals they are responding to. Unfortunately, the State of Missouri has not secured any additional funding to help local programs increase their capacity to respond to the increased demand for services although the state has received additional SAKI funding to clear the backlog. Without additional victim service funding, sexual assault survivors may experience delays in accessing critical supportive services and receiving notification about their case status. Missouri programs continue to face a critical need for sustainable and flexible funding. With current funding stability concerns, reduction in local charitable giving, limited funding opportunities for victim services, and rising programmatic expenses, many programs struggle to maintain or expand services to meet current demands. In addition to funding concerns, many domestic and sexual violence programs face difficulties filling vacant positions. Subrecipients have reported they are uncertain when they will be able to fill open positions due to a lack of applicants and uncertainty about ongoing funding from their core grants. Due to funding instability and overwhelming caseloads, many programs struggle to pay adequate wages to attract and retain qualified staff. As a result, although the demand for domestic and sexual violence services continues to increase, programs fear they may not be able to meet the need due to insufficient staffing and the inability to sustain competitive employee wages and benefits. Victims of crime continue to lack adequate access to safe and affordable housing. Many communities throughout Missouri are seeing substantial increases in homeless populations post-COVID. Coupled with the reduced number of affordable housing units being constructed, the housing stock is insufficient to meet the demands. The increased need for housing and lack of available units has resulted in rapidly rising rental rates, which have outpaced the increases in families' earned income. Without a

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.

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

The department works closely with several stakeholders including but not limited to: victim advocates, law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys, other state agencies and community partners to identify the most effective way to serve victims of crime. The department also serves on the Missouri Justice Reinvestment initiative- Victim Focused Workgroup, which is working to identify and reduce several current barriers within the criminal justice system for victims of crime. Those barriers include: access for people with disabilities, accountability within the restitution process, creating a state standardization process so that victims have an easier time understanding their right to restitution and receiving restitution payments. Also improving access to general criminal justice information for crime victims, the general public and criminal justice stakeholders. The department also meets regularly with our designated VOCA training and technical assistance providers to address any identified issues that are preventing victims from seeking the proper level of service. During the reporting period, the state of Missouri convened the coordinated, interagency statewide Missouri Rights of Victims of Sexual Assault Task Force, which released its final report on December 31, 2021. The Task Force convened lawmakers, state agencies including the MO Highway Patrol, MO Office of Prosecution Services, Department of Health and Senior Services, and representatives of victims service providers including Missouri KidsFirst and the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. The Missouri Rights of Victims of Sexual Assault Task Force recommended nine proposals in its report given to the governor and legislators:

- o Promote healing for survivors by improving a survivor's experience through the system response.
- o Reduce the number of survivor unmet requests for services from rape crisis centers and increase community awareness of available resources.
- o Ensure that survivors throughout the state have access to Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE), and that survivors are able to obtain a medical forensic exam, along with diagnostic testing, treatment, and prophylactic needs, arising from the sexual assault, and at no cost to the survivor.
- o Increase salary and funding to reduce crime laboratory backlogs to affect more timely processing of a kit after its delivery.
- o Pass an enhanced Sexual Assault Survivors Bill of Rights to ensure awareness of survivors rights and to guide practitioners in honoring those rights on an individual, local, and statewide basis.
- o Increase trauma-informed practices and outreach to underserved populations.
- o Modify statutes to further protect survivor privacy in public or court records.
- o Review the sexual assault survivor's bill of rights and make recommendations for legislative enhancements.
- o Stakeholders continue working together to implement these recommendations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The top five challenges consistently reported by our agencies on their annual report narrative questions were reduced shelter space capacity, not having enough CASA volunteers, lack of mental health counselors, maxed out staff caseloads, and a lack of funding to provide all expected services. The Court Appointed Special Advocates reported they are having a hard time recruiting and retaining enough volunteers to keep up with their increasing workloads. Now that many counties have started their court proceedings again following the pause/slowdown from COVID in 2020-2021, there has been a substantial backlog created as well as an increase in the number of children who are now in foster care. Many of our subrecipients also reported out the lack of qualified mental health counselors statewide, this is due to several things including retirement, increased workloads, smaller workforce etc. This has caused an increase in the number of victims on waitlists. Many of our agencies have also reported out that several of their staff have maxed out caseloads, and are doing more with less. This is also resulting in victims being placed on waitlists, or being referred to other agencies for services. Several agencies have expressed concern regarding not enough funding. Department VOCA staff have been transparent and informative regarding the status of the Crime Victims Fund, the importance of fundraising etc. We have also worked with our designated training and technical assistance providers to educate our subrecipients on the importance of resource maximization, collaboration, and sustainability. Many agencies have also advised that access to affordable housing has been a notable barrier in providing services. Rent and housing costs have increased dramatically over the past year or so, making safe and affordable housing difficult to obtain. Recently there has been a rise in the Fair Market Rate allowing affordable housing vouchers rates to increase, but there continues to be a shortage of affordable units available statewide. Domestic and sexual violence agencies have reported an increase in the severity of abuse, increased cases of strangulation and increased gun violence. DV agencies in our Kansas City area have reported an 20% increase in Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) calls. This increase in calls is due to increased lethality factors such as abusive partners threatening to kill the victim, increased access to guns, a history of strangulation, and continuous strangulation. Kansas City also has 100% bond out rate and very low Bond amounts set.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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