



T-VSTTA

OVC TRIBAL VICTIM SERVICES TRAINING
AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Creating a Victim Services Referral Tree

Referral trees for victims and survivors of crime are valuable tools to ensure victims and survivors receive needed support and resources. Here is a step-by-step guide and fillable form for creating a referral tree.

Step 1: Identify Key Services and Providers

Start by identifying the key support services victims and survivors of crime might need. Next, organize the services into categories based on the type of support they provide. For example, emergency services, shelter and housing, and child and family services. Categories provide structure and make the referral tree easier to navigate.

These can include:

- Emergency Services: Police, ambulance, and fire services.
- Medical Services: Hospitals, clinics, and mental health services.
- Legal Services: Legal aid, victim advocates, and attorneys.
- Counseling Services: Therapists, support groups, and crisis hotlines.
- Financial Assistance: Victim compensation programs, financial counseling, and emergency funds (e.g., food, transportation, and housing).
- Shelter and Housing: Safe houses, shelters, and housing assistance programs.

Step 2: Gather Contact Information

Collect contact information for each of the identified services. Use the [Referral Tree fillable template](#) to collect and structure your Referral Tree:

- Name of the organization
- Contact person (if available)
- Phone number
- Email address
- Physical address
- Website

Examples for Using a Referral Tree

Advocates play a crucial role in ensuring victims and survivors receive comprehensive and compassionate support. A well-structured referral tree is a powerful tool in this process. Equally important is the advocate's ability to facilitate a warm referral and enhance victim and survivor access to trauma-informed care from partners. A referral tree assists staff with connecting victims and survivors to services, while supporting them on their healing journey at each stage of their recovery.

- 1. Initial Contact:** Encourage victims and survivors to contact emergency services if they are in immediate danger or need urgent assistance. Advocates can offer support through this process.
- 2. Medical Services:** Share contact information with victims and survivors to appropriate medical facilities for any physical injuries or health concerns.
- 3. Legal Assistance:** Connect victims and survivors to legal aid and advocacy groups to offer assistance with protecting their victim rights and navigating the legal system.
- 4. Counseling and Mental Health:** Offer victims and survivors resources for mental health support, including therapists and support groups.
- 5. Shelter and Housing:** Guide victims and survivors to emergency shelters or transitional housing if they need a safe place to stay.
- 6. Financial Assistance:** Inform victims and survivors about available financial aid and compensation programs.
- 7. Support Services:** Connect victims and survivors with hotlines and community organizations for additional support and resources.

Additional Resources

[OVC Help Brochure Series to Educate and Share Resources](#)

[OVC Training and Technical Assistance Center](#)

[Minnesota Office of Justice Programs Best Practices Guidelines: Crime Victim Services](#)

[State Victim Compensation and Assistance](#)

[Victim Connect Resource Center - Confidential Referrals for Crime Victims](#)

Referral Tree Fillable Template

The following template offers a starting point for creating a referral tree for victims and survivors of crime.

Immediate Assistance



Emergency Services: Call 911 for immediate danger or medical emergencies.

Local State Police Department: _____

State Troopers: _____

Local Tribal Police/Village Public Safety Officer: _____

Medical Assistance



Hospitals and Clinics: _____

Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART): _____

Hospital Clinics: _____

Medical Clinics: _____

Emotional & Psychological Support



Behavioral Health Clinic: _____

Mental Health Services: _____

[NAMI Support Groups](#)

NAMI Helpline: [800-950-6264](tel:800-950-6264), text "NAMI" to 62640

Disaster Distress Helpline: [Call or text 1-800-985-5990](tel:1-800-985-5990)

Crisis Hotlines



StrongHearts Native Helpline: [1-844-7NATIVE \(762-8483\)](tel:1-844-7NATIVE)

National Domestic Violence Hotline: [1-800-799-7233](tel:1-800-799-7233)

National Sexual Assault Hotline: [1-800-656-4673](tel:1-800-656-4673)

Behavioral Health Clinic: _____

Legal Assistance



Legal Aid: _____

Local Court Domestic Violence Office: _____

Victim Advocacy Groups: _____

Legal Advocate: _____

Shelter and Housing



Emergency Shelters: _____

Hub Emergency Shelter: _____

Transitional Housing Programs: _____

Faith-based Organization: _____

Social or Human Service Organization: _____

Financial Assistance



Victim Compensation Programs: _____

Tribal Nonprofit Organization: _____

Nonprofit Organizations: _____

Social Services: _____

Faith-based Organization: _____

Community Resources



Cultural and Support Groups: _____

Community Centers: _____

Food Bank: _____

Child and Family Services



Child Protective Services: _____

Family Counseling Services: _____

ICWA Contact: _____

Indian Health Service



Community Health Aide: _____

Behavioral Health Services: _____

Dental: _____

Vision: _____

Recovery: _____

Employment and Education Support



Job Placement Services: _____

Educational Programs and Scholarships



Educational Programs: _____

Scholarships: _____

Substance Abuse Treatment



Rehabilitation Centers: _____

Support Groups (e.g., AA, NA): _____

Outpatient Programs: _____

SAMHSA locator: [findtreatment.gov](https://www.samhsa.gov/findtreatment)

Elder Support Services



Elder Abuse Hotlines: _____

Senior Centers: _____

National Elder Fraud Hotline:

833-FRAUD-11 (833-372-8311)

Tribal Victim Services Training and Technical Assistance (T-VSTTA) is a capacity-building program providing tailored, hands-on training and technical assistance to victim service providers in American Indian and Alaska Native communities. With over 100 years of combined experience in victim services, the T-VSTTA team meets you where you are, working together to build on the resilience within your community.

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) funds the T-VSTTA program, which is available at no cost for grantees and potential grantees.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Email or call to request training and technical assistance. A member of the T-VSTTA team will respond promptly.

Web: ovc.ojp.gov/t-vstta/home

Email: Support@t-vstta.org

Phone: 833-887-8820

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