

Vision 21

Transforming Victim Services Initiative



The Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services initiative—supported by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice—expands the vision and impact of the crime victim assistance field. Initiated in 2013, Vision 21 was the first comprehensive examination into the crime victims field in 15 years. Vision 21 projects engage a broad spectrum of service providers, advocates, criminal justice professionals, allied practitioners, and policymakers to address crime victim issues through a lens broader than their everyday work.

Framework

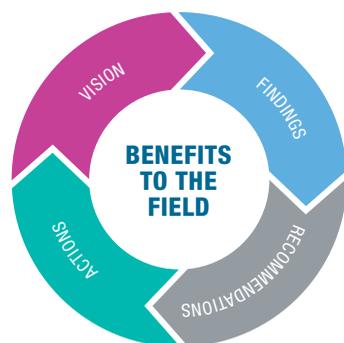
1. Examine the role of the crime victims field in the overall response to crime and delinquency in the United States.
2. Build capacity in the crime victims field.
3. Identify enduring challenges.
4. Address emerging challenges.

Progress in the Major Issue Areas

1

Conduct continuous rather than episodic strategic planning.

OVC established Vision 21 as a living framework to shape and allow apt future responses to crime victims.



2

Support research on victims and victimization.

OVC has funded a number of research and evaluation initiatives to help fill data gaps and inform program development to better serve victims. OVC supports building a body of evidence-based knowledge to generate, collect, and analyze quantitative and qualitative data on victimization, emerging victimization trends, services and behaviors, and enforcement efforts.

3

Ensure statutory, policy, and programmatic flexibility to address enduring and emerging crime victim issues.

OVC funds innovative responses to address traditional and new issues and challenges, the changing demographics in the United States, the impact of globalization and advances in technology, and to serve victims of evolving crimes (e.g., cybercrime, elder abuse, environmental crimes, human trafficking, and identity theft).

4

Build and institutionalize capacity.

OVC has undertaken a variety of steps to support and build the capacity of those who work in the field, including service providers, advocates, criminal justice professionals, allied practitioners, and policymakers. Through an infusion of technology, training, and innovation, OVC strives to build and institutionalize capacity to maintain basic services and extend assistance to all crime victims, including marginalized populations.

Visit www.ovc.gov/vision21 to learn more. Turn over for just one example of how OVC is implementing Vision 21 in the field.



Building Solutions
Supporting Communities
Advancing Justice



Office for Victims of Crime
OVC

Vision 21: National Resource Center for Reaching Victims



Addresses Vision 21 Recommendation #3

Ensure statutory, policy, and programmatic flexibility to address enduring and emerging crime victim issues.

Project Vision

Each year, millions of people in the United States become victims of crime. Yet, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey, only 1 in 10 victims of violent crime report receiving victim services. OVC's *Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services Final Report* asserts that all crime victims should have immediate access to a seamless continuum of evidence-based services and support that will assist them in recovering from their victimization. However, services are not always readily accessible to or designed for victims from all communities. The vision of the National Resource Center for Reaching Victims is that victim services will be accessible, culturally relevant, and trauma informed—and that the overwhelming majority of victims will access and benefit from these services.

Project Mission

The center is a one-stop shop where victim service providers, culturally specific organizations, criminal justice professionals, and policymakers may get information and expert guidance to enhance their capacity to identify, reach, and serve all victims, especially those from communities that too often have less access to healing services and avenues to justice. The resource center is working to increase the number of victims who receive the support they need to help them heal. To do this, the center is working to—

- understand who is underrepresented and why some people access services while others do not,
- design and implement best practices to guide organizations and service providers in how they connect people to the services they need, and
- empower and equip organizations with the services that are the most useful and effective in helping victims to recover from crime.

Project Activities

The resource center will deliver a comprehensive array of training and technical assistance to expand the capacity of victim service programs to identify and reach victims. These activities will include—

- a public awareness and communications campaign;
- training via webinars, regional and other in-person training opportunities, and national conferences;
- expert guidance and peer-to-peer learning via phone, video, and in-person visits;
- links to resources and information on promising practices;
- new resources that address unmet needs; and
- mini-grants to spur innovation.

Project Partners

The resource center is a collaboration among the following nine organizations: Caminar Latino; Casa de Esperanza; Common Justice; FORGE; the National Children's Advocacy Center; the National Center for Victims of Crime; the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life; Women of Color Network, Inc.; and the Vera Institute of Justice. It has also built a consortium of more than 50 subject-matter experts who will provide support to the field. The resource center is also working in partnership with federal, state, and local stakeholders across the victim services field to leverage resources and avoid duplicating them.

For more information,
contact OVC at
askovc@ncjrs.gov
and identify the
name of the
Vision 21 project
in the subject line
of your email.