

# 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

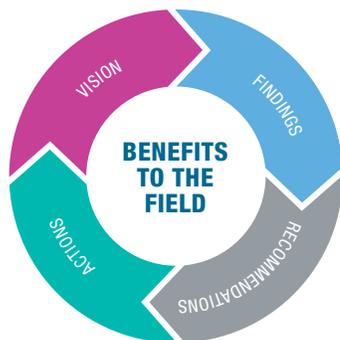
1. Examine the role of the crime victims field in the overall response to crime and delinquency in the United States.
2. Build capacity in the crime victims field.
3. Identify enduring challenges.
4. Address emerging challenges.

### 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](http://www.ovc.gov/vision21) to learn more. Turn over for just one example of how OVC is implementing Vision 21 in the field.

# Vision 21

## Supporting Male Survivors of Violence Initiative



### Addresses Vision 21 Recommendation #3

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

### Project Vision

Despite disproportionate exposure to crime, male survivors of violence often do not get the help they need to fully recover and to live safe, productive lives. OVC's *Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services Final Report* acknowledges that existing systems do not have the cultural competency and capacity to engage, respond to, and treat male victims. Too often, these survivors are left to cope silently with the harmful effects of trauma, which makes them less likely to heal. In 2015, OVC partnered with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the National Institute of Justice to launch the Supporting Male Survivors of Violence Initiative to bolster the field's ability to provide effective, culturally appropriate, and trauma-informed services for boys and men harmed by violence and to expand services that help normalize their lives and promote their healing.

### Project Objectives

This 5-year multidisciplinary demonstration initiative is designed to—

- establish and expand multidisciplinary partnerships that provide coordinated services for male survivors of violence and their families.
- improve access to system- and community-based services for boys and men who have experienced trauma.
- educate stakeholders on the adverse effects of trauma and violence to encourage widespread adoption of trauma-informed interpretations of survivor behavior.
- support community- and system-based services that consistently communicate and expand policies, procedures, and messaging to enhance efforts to reach and appropriately serve these survivors.

### Project Components

- Twelve demonstration sites across the country are following a multidisciplinary, phased approach to develop and use innovative techniques to identify male survivors of violence, remove the stigma of receiving services, and break the cycle of violence that unattended trauma can breed.
- Sites are receiving comprehensive training and technical assistance related to administrative, programmatic, and communications concerns from the Healing Justice Alliance: a collaboration of Youth ALIVE!, Cure Violence, the Berkeley Media Studies Group, and the National Network of Hospital-based Violence Intervention Programs. Each of these organizations has been in the field for years working to serve these young men.
- A tiered evaluation approach is being used with a national-level evaluation led by RTI International and local research partners paired with each demonstration site.

### SMSV Sites

#### Make It Happen

Center for Court Innovation, Brooklyn, NY

#### Healing Hurt People

Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA

#### West Ward Victims Outreach

Newark, NJ

#### Safe Horizon

Brooklyn, NY

#### White Buffalo Calf Woman Society

Rosebud Reservation, SD

#### Project Change

Washington, DC

#### Violence Intervention

#### Advocacy Program

Boston, MA

#### Young Men's Empowerment

#### Collaborative

California School-Based Health Alliance,  
West Contra Costa, CA

#### Seeking Safety

Grand Rapids, MI

#### Kansas City Violence and

#### Trauma Response Network

Kansas City, MO

#### Project Thrive

Santa Cruz County Probation, Santa Cruz, CA

#### Safe Streets

Baltimore, MD

### Contact Us

To learn more about Vision 21 projects, visit <https://ovc.ncjrs.gov/vision21/outcome.html>.

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