

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

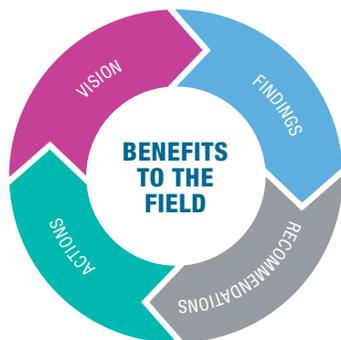
1. Examine the role of the crime victims field in the overall response to crime and delinquency in the United States.
2. Build capacity in the crime victims field.
3. Identify enduring challenges.
4. Address emerging challenges.

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.



Vision 21

Tribal Victim Services Resource Mapping Project



Addresses Vision 21 Recommendation #4

Build and institutionalize capacity.

Project Purpose

American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) have the highest crime victimization rates in the Nation but often have difficulty connecting with existing services to help them recover from crime and abuse. The purpose of this project is to develop a web-based tool that will enable victims and service providers to quickly access information about critical services wherever they are seeking help.

AI/AN survivors and others face additional barriers that can include navigating a complicated system that includes federal, state, tribal, and private actors; identifying services available on and off the reservation; and encountering gaps in services that meet the unique needs of AI/AN survivors of crime and abuse.

Project Participants

OVC has provided funding for the National Center for Victims of Crime, the National Congress of American Indians, and the Tribal Law and Policy Institute to create a web-based resource mapping tool that—

- links AI/AN survivors of crime and abuse to services anywhere in the country, and
- helps identify gaps in the network of existing services.

Project Objectives

The grantees plan to gather input from tribal stakeholders regarding the design and content of the Tribal Resource Mapping tool. They intend to include services for victims of all ages; all forms of victimization; any location (on or off reservations, including areas that are remote, rural, urban, or suburban); and all victim needs, including justice, safety, healing, and support.

Phase 1: Consult and Collect

- Collaborate with stakeholders to identify the service needs of AI/AN survivors of crime and abuse
- Identify existing services for AI/AN

Phase 2: Design and Release

- Use stakeholders' feedback to develop an online resource mapping tool
- Raise awareness of the tool
- Use the tool to identify gaps

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Actions

Input is crucial. If you are involved with AI/AN survivors of crime and abuse—

- let us know about other similar efforts for potential coordination,
- share your insights and ideas, and
- sign up for project updates at www.VictimsofCrime.org/Tribal_Mapping.

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.