

# 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

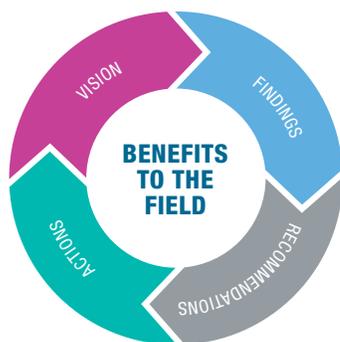
1. Examine the role of the crime victims field in the overall response to crime and delinquency in the United States.
2. Build capacity in the crime victims field.
3. Identify enduring challenges.
4. Address emerging challenges.

### 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: Linking Systems of Care for Children and Youth



## Addresses Vision 21 Recommendation #4

Build and institutionalize capacity through an infusion of technology, training, and innovation.

### Project Vision

Our Nation's children and youth experience crime and victimization at alarming rates. OVC's *Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services Final Report* found that these young victims are underserved, and the systems charged with caring for them provide fragmented and ineffective responses for children and their families.

Through this demonstration project, OVC wants to learn what is needed to bring healthcare, child welfare, justice, and other systems together at a statewide level to coordinate and align efforts to ensure a timely and seamless response to young victims, their families, and caregivers, no matter the system of entry.

### Project Objectives

- Identify and promote healing for victims of crime.
- Provide or coordinate prevention and intervention services to youth and families experiencing trauma and victimization.
- Build capacity within communities to meet the needs of youth exposed to violence.

### Project Participants

Each demonstration site has a project period of up to 6 years, during which they are working to bring together relevant systems and professionals in their state to provide early identification, intervention, and treatment for child and youth victims and their families and caregivers. The sites work strategically and collaboratively with multidisciplinary stakeholders to ensure that prevention and intervention services are determined by the needs of the family, and that community resources are provided with holistic and coordinated intent. Sustainable practices and policies are being explored for long-term use and potential replication in other communities. The 4 states participating in this transformative work are **Illinois, Montana, Ohio, and Virginia**.

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges will provide ongoing training and technical assistance to the two demonstration sites. Coordinated strategies to identify, intervene, and treat child and youth victims, their families, and caregivers will be planned and developed.

ICF International is conducting an evaluation of this project, with funding from the National Institute of Justice, to determine project impact, effectiveness, and lessons learned.

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### Actions

- Embrace our youngest victims and ensure that every young person who experiences victimization receives timely and meaningful responses and services.
- Proactively identify young victims and work integrally with their families and caregivers to provide for their array of needs.
- Ensure these young victims and their families are set on a path to healing and achieving their full potential in life.

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.