

CO Annual State Performance Report

Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program

Reporting Period: [Oct 1, 2017 to Sept 30, 2018]

This aggregated data is self-reported by the grantees and subgrantees in each state/territory.

OVC VOCA Assistance Funds				
	2015-VA-GX-0040	2016-VA-GX-0070	2017-VA-GX-0037	2018-V2-GX-0050
Federal Award Amount	\$32,553,473.00	\$37,271,902.00	\$31,335,524.00	\$56,681,557.00
Total Amount of Subawards	\$30,925,800.00	\$12,657,290.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Number of Subawards	346	161	0	0
Administrative Funds Amount	\$1,627,673.00	\$1,863,595.00	\$1,566,776.00	\$2,834,077.00
Training Funds Amount	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance Remaining	\$0.00	\$22,751,017.00	\$29,768,748.00	\$53,847,480.00

Subgrantee Organization Type				
<small>The total number of subgrants represents all subgrants funded across all federal awards active during the reporting period. The number is not unique as there are subgrantee organizations that are continuously funded from each federal award.</small>				
Type of Organization	2015-VA-GX-0040	2016-VA-GX-0070	2017-VA-GX-0037	2018-V2-GX-0050
Government Agencies Only	122	55	0	0
Corrections	2	1	0	0
Courts	1	1	0	0
Juvenile Justice	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	70	31	0	0
Prosecutor	43	19	0	0
Other	6	3	0	0
Nonprofit Organization Only	219	104	0	0
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	62	25	0	0
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	4	4	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	48	22	0	0
Faith-based Organization	2	2	0	0
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	47	26	0	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	14	6	0	0

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Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	10	5	0	0
Multiservice agency	15	8	0	0
Other	17	6	0	0
Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Agencies, and Organizations Only	2	0	0	0
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	0	0	0	0
Court	0	0	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence organization	0	0	0	0
Faith-based organization	0	0	0	0
Juvenile justice	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	0	0	0	0
Organization provides domestic and family violence and sexual assault services	0	0	0	0
Prosecutor	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	0	0	0	0
Other justice-based agency	0	0	0	0
Other agency that is NOT justice-based (e.g., human services, health, education)	2	0	0	0
Organization by and/or for a specific traditionally underserved community	0	0	0	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Campus Organizations Only	3	2	0	0
Campus-based victims services	3	2	0	0
Law enforcement	0	0	0	0
Physical or mental health service program	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Subawards	346	161	0	0

*This number is not unique across fiscal years as there are subgrantee organizations that are funded from multiple federal awards.

Subaward Purpose A single SAR can select multiple purposes. Numbers are not unique				
	2015-VA-GX-0040	2016-VA-GX-0070	2017-VA-GX-0037	2018-V2-GX-0050

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A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	310	141	0	0
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	35	19	0	0
C. Start up a new victim services project	2	2	0	0
D. Start up a new Native American victim services project	0	0	0	0
E. Expand or enhance an existing Native American project	0	0	0	0

VOCA and Match Funds

A single SAR can select multiple service types. Numbers are not unique

	2015-VA-GX-0040	2016-VA-GX-0070	2017-VA-GX-0037	2018-V2-GX-0050
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	195	159	0	0
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	176	140	0	0
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	156	133	0	0
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	64	76	0	0
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	163	132	0	0
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	199	159	0	0

Priority and Underserved Requirements

Priority Area	2015-VA-GX-0040	2016-VA-GX-0070	2017-VA-GX-0037	2018-V2-GX-0050
Child Abuse				
Total Amount	\$3,094,665.00	\$687,238.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	10.00 %	2.00 %		
Domestic and Family Violence				
Total Amount	\$15,621,865.00	\$7,057,995.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	48.00 %	19.00 %		
Sexual Assault				
Total Amount	\$5,756,586.00	\$2,219,689.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	18.00 %	6.00 %		
Underserved				
Total Amount	\$6,452,684.00	\$2,692,308.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	20.00 %	7.00 %		

Budget and Staffing

Staffing Information	2015-VA-GX-0040	2016-VA-GX-0070	2017-VA-GX-0037	2018-V2-GX-0050
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Office for Victims of Crime - Performance Measurement Tool (PMT)

Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	2657	1243.61		
Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	1215377	1271571.98		
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	1353.24	1126.82		
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	1210493	751333		

AGGREGATED SUBGRANTEE PERFORMANCE MEASURE DATA

Victimization Type						
Victimization Type	Number of Subgrantees Indicating Intent to Serve This Victim Type	Number of Individuals Who Actually Received Services Based on a Presenting Victimization				
		Quarter 1 Total	Quarter 2 Total	Quarter 3 Total	Quarter 4 Total	Per Quarter Average
Adult Physical Assault (includes Aggravated and Simple Assault)	81	4576	3908	3935	4847	4316
Adult Sexual Assault	2	1623	1462	1477	1647	1552
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	1	577	540	536	513	541
Arson	30	138	20	23	97	69
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	41	75	898	129	893	498
Burglary	48	774	410	602	584	592
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	103	3315	3672	3398	3381	3441
Child Pornography	54	24	30	36	51	35
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	117	3907	3877	3534	4268	3896
Domestic and/or Family Violence	13	15846	15350	15542	18470	16302
DUI/DWI Incidents	45	298	396	413	546	413
Elder Abuse or Neglect	72	491	436	429	470	456
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	45	19	62	17	18	29
Human Trafficking: Labor	47	24	5	5	10	11
Human Trafficking: Sex	70	90	94	84	118	96
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	32	1218	1010	948	1183	1089

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Kidnapping (non-custodial)	52	368	130	98	159	188
Kidnapping (custodial)	52	25	35	58	24	35
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	38	124	43	23	55	61
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	47	468	438	675	750	582
Robbery	53	505	380	485	690	515
Stalking/Harassment	102	1416	1347	1382	1797	1485
Survivors of Homicide Victims	67	1816	1448	1498	992	1438
Teen Dating Victimization	80	98	142	86	154	120
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	26	1	2	0	24	6
Other	82	5040	4475	8760	5912	6046

Special Classifications of Individuals

Special Classifications of Individuals	Number of Individuals Self Reporting a Special Classification				
	Quarter 1 Total	Quarter 2 Total	Quarter 3 Total	Quarter 4 Total	Per Quarter Average
Deaf/Hard of Hearing	101	136	103	101	273
Homeless	864	973	865	993	2776
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	890	973	513	782	2519
LGBTQ	205	287	266	259	752
Veterans	263	281	215	295	660
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/Physical /Mental	1435	1580	1446	1444	4295
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	1902	1907	1513	1702	5461
Other	1041	1450	1477	946	2975

General Award Information

Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	140192	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	16804	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	99133	70.71 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	22523	16.07 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	53877	

Demographics

Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	1491	1.50 %

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Asian	825	0.83 %
Black or African American	5315	5.36 %
Hispanic or Latino	17417	17.57 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	165	0.17 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	44069	44.45 %
Some Other Race	1211	1.22 %
Multiple Races	2602	2.62 %
Not Reported	9817	9.90 %
Not Tracked	16221	16.36 %
Race/Ethnicity Total		99133
Gender Identity		
Male	24740	24.96 %
Female	55624	56.11 %
Other	1170	1.18 %
Not Reported	3033	3.06 %
Not Tracked	14566	14.69 %
Gender Total		99133
Age		
Age 0- 12	13993	14.12 %
Age 13- 17	6936	7.00 %
Age 18- 24	8851	8.93 %
Age 25- 59	40241	40.59 %
Age 60 and Older	5172	5.22 %
Not Reported	6783	6.84 %
Not Tracked	17157	17.31 %
Age Total		99133

Direct Services				
Service Area	# of Subgrantees That Provided Services in This Category	# of Individuals/Contacts Receiving Services	Specific Service	Frequency of Service
A. Information & Referral	158	110074	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	84802
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	72926
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	42642

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			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	64513
B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	142	39332	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	2010
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	1147
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	7525
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	45155
			B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	959
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	2140
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	4221
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	3035
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	5007
			B10. Interpreter services	7117
C. Emotional Support or Safety Services	133	52308	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	45288
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	30891
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	5782
			C4. Individual counseling	26645
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	9753
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	6747
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	5694
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	77	5890	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	22391
			D2. Transitional housing	10936

			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	5065
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	131	73046	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	65946
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	8243
			E3. Assistance with restitution	6149
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	10387
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	4542
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	2592
			E7. Immigration assistance	2163
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	3910
			E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	3686
			E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	24546
E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	1566			

ANNUAL QUESTIONS

Grantee Annually Reported Questions

Question/Option	Count
Were any administrative and training funds used during the reporting period?	
Yes	1
No	0
Did the administrative funds support any education activities during the reporting period?	
Yes	0
No	1
Number of requests received for education activities during the reporting period.	0
Number of people trained or attending education events during the reporting period.	0
Number of events conducted during the reporting period.	0
Did the grant support any coordination activities (e.g., with other service providers, law enforcement agencies) during the reporting period?	
Yes	0
No	1
Describe any program or educational materials developed during the reporting period.	
N/A	

Describe any planning or training events held during the reporting period.

N/A

Describe any program policies changed during the reporting period.

There were no significant program policy changes from October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018. We continue to have questions about the types of activities that are eligible under VOCA since many sections of the rule say “including, but not limited to” and therefore do not provide a definitive list of eligible activities. While this is probably better in the long run as it allows the states flexibility, it does make things a bit more difficult for us sometimes. At the national conference in August 2018, OVC legal staff did answer one or two questions definitively, but not all of them, so there were still a lot of unanswered questions. More recently, OVC held a webinar where OVC and other federal staff (PMT, OCFO, OVC legal) did answer many more questions. This was very helpful! While we have not yet updated any policies as a result of getting more questions answered, we do continue to update our eligible activities list. We use this list as a guide for making decisions as to eligible activities and update it as new questions are answered by OVC or as the grants team interprets the rule.

Describe any earned media coverage events/episodes during the reporting period.

There were no earned media coverage events/episodes from October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018.

Describe any coordinated responses/services for assisting crime victims during the reporting period.

The Office for Victims Programs, within the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, continues to oversee the federal VOCA Assistance grant (VOCA), the federal Violence Against Women Act grant (VAWA), the federal Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) grant, a state Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement grant (state VALE) and the federal VOCA Victim Compensation grant (VC). Because all of these programs are housed within one office, coordination between these programs happens on a daily basis, which in turn helps the agencies that assist crime victims. In addition, our office conducts a consolidated grant application process – meaning agencies can use one application to apply for any of the funds we administer (except for compensation which is distributed separately) during one funding process. Agencies do not currently apply specifically for a grant source; instead, staff determines the source of funds for grants recommended for funding by our Crime Victim Services Advisory Board. With the sustained increase in VOCA funds, we will be reviewing whether we need to slightly modify our process to have agencies apply for a specific funding source. Discussions within the grants team will take place in early 2019. The Office for Victims programs also houses the state Human Trafficking Council. Having this program in our office means that we have access to the latest information regarding human trafficking crimes in Colorado. In addition, the Human Trafficking staff also conducts training to local stakeholders, many of whom are VOCA subgrantees. Our Grants Team Leader continues to serve as the staff liaison for 3 special projects that address the emergency needs of victims, housing needs of victims and the civil legal needs of victims. In 2019 this staff person will be working on a new special project that provides a fellowship experience for recently graduated law students from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law by placing them in local victim service agencies to work with victims of crime on their civil legal service needs. Finally, the VOCA administrator continues to serve as a member of the Domestic Violence Program (DVP) Advisory Board at the Colorado Department of Human Services. DVP is the program that oversees and administers the state’s federal FVPSA grant and the state dollars allocated for domestic violence programs. Serving on the board allows for more open communication between the two agencies as many of the agencies funded by DVP are also funded through VOCA. Other grants team staff also participate on committees/boards that impact a coordinated response to victims.

Please discuss the major issues in your state that either assist or prevent victims from receiving assistance during the reporting period.

The State of Colorado continues to experience an influx of new residents; over 70,000 people moved to Colorado in 2017 according to 24/7 Wall Street, making us the 7th fastest growing state in the nation. This growth creates many challenges for the victim services field. While most new residents settle along the populous Front Range, many rural areas are also seeing growth as people search for a lower cost of living. Of course, as more people move to these areas, this further limits the amount of available housing which increases rent prices for everyone. Wait lists for affordable housing fill up quickly and wait lists are often months long. This can impact some survivors from wanting to leave their abusers for fear of being homeless. Considering this ongoing situation, it’s not surprising that housing issues prevented some victims from receiving services. In addition to housing concerns, programs around the state identified the following common themes with regard to issues that prevent victims from receiving services: 1. Many of the programs who responded to a brief survey indicated they’ve seen a decrease in the number of immigrant victims seeking services which they attribute to the current political climate. Immigrant victims fear deportation and one agency said ICE agents have sometimes been outside the courthouse, which would seem to substantiate these fears. 2. Another common theme in the responses was a lack of or limited transportation (many parts of Colorado are considered rural), lack of affordable housing and lack of mental health therapists in their community. Common themes with regard to issues that assist victims in receiving services included communities saying there was good collaboration between the community and systems-based agencies which made them more effective in serving victims. One agency put it this way: there is a close-knit

victim advocacy circle in their community. Another agency mentioned attending the statewide Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance conference to network and stay up on current issues in the field. Yet another said that having access to money for brief hotel stays has helped their victims significantly – especially those who need to leave shelter and are waiting for transitional or other housing options to open up. At the state level we encouraged our subgrantees to apply for funding to assist victims with meeting their housing needs during our 2018 funding process. While a few agencies did apply for this funding, many others did not – most likely because it requires agencies to work very closely with landlords, the housing authority and others in the community. It’s possible some of our subgrantees do not feel they have enough experience/knowledge in this area to pursue funds for this purpose. We will continue to identify ways to address the housing issue in our state. With regard to a lack of mental health therapists being available, our state grants team will be meeting to discuss possible options to this and other barriers to service in early 2019.

Please describe ways that your agency promoted the coordination of public and private efforts within the community to help crime victims during the reporting period.

The Office for Victims Programs periodically conducts needs assessments of our subgrantees and other stakeholders to identify victim needs so we can establish projects to address those needs. For years, the need for emergency funds for victims, civil legal services and housing have been identified as the top needs of victims. In response to those needs, we established three special projects. The Emergency Fund continues to be funded through VOCA and was established to increase the accessibility of emergency funds to crime victims throughout the state. Funds are distributed through the Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance. To date more than one million dollars has been distributed primarily to victims of domestic violence for housing and relocation costs. Civil Legal Services: this special project was established to increase the availability of civil legal services to crime victims. Six subgrantees received funding to expand legal services. These projects will continue through grants awarded during our “regular” funding process. Housing: this project was established to address the long term needs of crime victims by supporting new methods of housing (housing first model). Eight subgrants were awarded through this project and will continue through grants awarded during our “regular” funding process. All three of these special projects included coordination of public and private efforts through the establishment of steering committees that included systems-based and community programs that determined priorities for addressing the issues and for awarding the subgrants. As mentioned in a previous section, our office is currently in the beginning stages of another coordinated effort to address civil legal service needs of victims by working with the University of Denver Sturm College of Law to establish a fellowship program that will place recently graduated law students in local victim service agencies to work with crime victims on their civil legal needs.

Please describe any notable activities at the grantee level during the reporting period that improved delivery of victim services.

As has been mentioned in a previous section, the Office for Victims Programs administers the federal VOCA Assistance grant (VOCA), the federal Violence Against Women Act grant (VAWA), the federal Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) grant, a state Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement grant (state VALE) and the federal VOCA Victim Compensation grant (VC). Because all of these programs are housed within one office, coordination between these programs happens on a daily basis, which in turn helps the agencies that assist crime victims in delivering victim services. As also mentioned, our office continues to work with several steering committees to address victim needs; one of the recent projects to come out of that collaboration of systems-based and community agencies is a new project that will be a partnership between the Office for Victims programs and the University of Denver Sturm College of Law’s fellowship program. In 2018, which was an application year for us, we worked with OVC TTAC to hire a contractor who assisted us during our application workshops to provide information about how to write effective goals and objectives, budgets, etc. We also contracted with three people who answered application questions from potential applicants via a “hotline” (email). It was our hope that providing these services to potential applicants would improve applications and the delivery of victim services.

Please discuss each priority (i.e., child abuse, domestic assault, sexual assault, and underserved) in which VOCA funds have been used to assist crime victims during the reporting period

In order to gather more helpful information to answer this question, the VOCA administrator sends out a short questionnaire each year to VOCA-funded programs. Below are examples of how funded programs have assisted crime victims in the priority categories. Child Abuse: In Colorado we fund many child advocacy centers and CASA programs. Most of these agencies provide advocacy, referral, and supportive services to child victims of abuse and neglect and their non-offending caregivers. One of our child advocacy centers shared the following example of how they assist child abuse victims: An 11-year-old boy came into court due to concerns of physical abuse by the father to the boy. The boy’s mother passed away two years ago. The father was arrested following the inciting child abuse that brought the family to the attention of Human Services. The boy was initially placed with a family friend, then a foster home and ultimately in a specialized group home. A Spanish-speaking bilingual CASA was appointed to his case. He advocated for the best educational and therapeutic services needed to help him work through his trauma. Through this advocacy and the background information the CASA was able to provide, the new group home worked diligently with the boy to work through his trauma and help him learn to manage his behaviors. As time progressed, the father made significant progress with his treatment plan and was able to secure stable housing. The boy ultimately moved back to Denver to be reunited

with his father and is now proficient in the English language, and he and his father have a healthy, sustainable relationship.

Domestic Violence: Many of our programs work with domestic violence victims by providing shelter, advocacy, counseling, and housing services. One agency we fund had the following example of how they work with domestic violence victims: “Allyson” and her children came to A Woman’s Place because she feared for their safety after her offender was released from jail. Before entering the residential program at A Woman’s Place, “Allyson” had been moving from hotel to hotel in an attempts to hide from her offender. “Allyson” was determined to keep her children’s lives as “normal” as possible and wanted to stay in Weld County. After learning of AWP’s services, she reached out for help. Upon her arrival at A Woman’s Place, “Allyson” and her children began to feel safe for the first time in years. Before coming to AWP, “Allyson” had avoided cooperating with the criminal justice system to prosecute her offender for fear of retaliation. AWP helped her feel safe enough that she decided to help the District Attorney’s office to press charges against her abuser. Her abuser was apprehended and will no longer be a threat to her family. When “Allyson” exited the safe house to a residence of her own, she updated staff to let her know that she was grateful to have received services that allowed her and her children to feel safe.

Sexual Assault: We continue to fund a variety of programs that work with sexual assault victims. One agency we fund shared this example: Christine (name changed for confidentiality) came to MESA seeking advocacy for the criminal justice process after experiencing a violent sexual assault by an acquaintance, resulting in two emergency department visits and ongoing medical attention. MESA’s Bilingual Case Manager accompanied Christine to her police interview and provided in-the-moment support before, during and after the interview. Through this initial interaction, rapport was built so that the survivor continued to utilize MESA’s Bilingual Case Manager for further support as other issues arose. Christine received medical bills after her victimization that added up to over \$16,000 and the case manager assisted in getting these bills paid.

Please briefly describe efforts taken to serve Victims of Federal crime during the reporting period.

No specific efforts were undertaken, however, it the expectation of the Office for Victims Programs at the Division of Criminal Justice that subgrantees serve victims in the same manner in which they would provide services to other victims. For the FFY 15 grant, this is a specific, written requirement in our subgrant agreements.

Please identify any emerging issues or notable trends affecting crime victim services in your state during the reporting period.

Common themes we’ve heard about from our subgrantees and stakeholders is victims’ increased use of drugs, mental health issues, immigrant victims’ reluctance to ask for assistance because of a fear of deportation, the high cost of housing and a lack of or limited transportation options for victims. This year one agency reported receiving an increase in hotline calls and requests for an advocate during a SANE exam; the agency attributes this increase to the #MeToo movement. Also mentioned this year by a handful of agencies was the increase in human trafficking victims they are seeing. Another agency noted that they are seeing many more complex cases where clients are experiencing victimization along with mental health and substance abuse issues. A couple of agencies noted that if victims’ basic needs aren’t met (food, childcare, transportation), they will be less inclined to pursue the other services they need. One agency offered a solution to a couple of these problems: the creation of a shelter that could address domestic violence AND substance abuse issues with the same staff. Finally, we heard from several agencies that local victim compensation boards (Colorado operates a decentralized victim compensation program) have had to make significant cuts in payments to victims because of a reduction in collections in some jurisdictions. While we have established an Emergency Fund for victims at the Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance, this fund cannot pay all of the things that victim compensation would cover. It would be very beneficial to the victims in Colorado if we could use some of our VOCA Assistance funding to provide grants to victim compensation programs.

Please briefly outline any staffing retention issues that your victim assistance program has and why these issues may occur during the reporting period.

The majority of staff employed at the Office for Victims Programs have been employed with the office for multiple years. With the influx of VOCA Assistance funds, we have expanded our staff and our grants team is stable. During the October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018 grant period we did not experience any staffing retention issues.

Please explain your state process to publicize its victim assistance funding for services to victims of crime during the reporting period.

Colorado’s process for publicizing its victim assistance funding program is primarily to conduct a mass email campaign in which we send a link to our announcement of available funds and application materials to existing subgrantees and to everyone on our newsletter/email list. We ask everyone who receives our materials to forward them to interested parties. We also post our announcement and application materials on our state website. Once all of our materials are released, we also conduct regional application workshops to discuss our funding sources in more detail with local agencies and potential applicants. Calendar year 2018 was a funding year for us; grants awarded in 2018 will start January 1, 2019 and go through December 31, 2020.

Please explain how your state is able to direct funding to new/underserved populations during the reporting period.

Colorado conducts its funding process every two years. Our process continues to be broad so we receive applications from many different types of agencies, including new agencies and those serving underserved populations. In addition, our application includes questions asking agencies to describe the underserved populations in their community and asks them to describe how they serve the underserved populations in their community. This provides the board with information that is helpful in identifying those applicants that serve underserved populations they may want to fund. To date, our board has not conducted any special funding process to fund projects that serve underserved populations beyond what is already funded. However, our board is meeting in early 2019 to discuss possible additional funding processes which may include underserved populations. During the reporting period, we funded projects that address the following underserved populations: elder abuse, human trafficking, limited English proficient victims, victims with special needs such as deaf/hard of hearing, disabled victims, victims in rural parts of the state with limited access to service and LGBTQ victims.

Please explain how your program is able to respond to gaps in services during the reporting period.

As mentioned in response to a previous question, Colorado has historically kept our application process as broad as possible so that we fund a wide-variety of programs serving a wide-variety of victims across the state. In our most recent needs assessment conducted in 2015, the responses confirmed what we had heard for number of years: that there is a need for civil legal services, housing and money for emergency needs of victims. In addition to the needs assessment, we ask our subgrantees to respond to questions about victim needs on an annual basis. Through their responses we learn more about what gaps in services they are seeing in their communities and this helps us in our planning.

Please list and explain any outcome measure(s) that are reported to the governor, legislature, or other state entity during the reporting period.

Currently, the only information that is shared with the governor and/or legislature regarding VOCA is the list of VOCA awards that are made every 2 years.