

CO Annual State Performance Report

Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program

Reporting Period: [Oct 1, 2018 to Sept 30, 2019]

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

OVC VOCA Assistance Funds				
	2016-VA-GX-0070	2017-VA-GX-0037	2018-V2-GX-0050	2019-V2-GX-0027
Federal Award Amount	\$37,271,902.00	\$31,335,524.00	\$56,681,557.00	\$38,825,662.00
Total Amount of Subawards	\$32,953,802.00	\$29,154,960.00	\$14,662,251.00	\$0.00
Total Number of Subawards	328	167	167	0
Administrative Funds Amount	\$1,814,494.00	\$1,566,776.00	\$2,834,077.00	\$1,941,283.00
Training Funds Amount	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance Remaining	\$2,503,606.00	\$613,788.00	\$39,185,229.00	\$36,884,379.00

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	2016-VA-GX-0070	2017-VA-GX-0037	2018-V2-GX-0050	2019-V2-GX-0027
Government Agencies Only	120	64	64	0
Corrections	2	0	0	0
Courts	2	1	1	0
Juvenile Justice	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	67	36	36	0
Prosecutor	40	21	21	0
Other	9	6	6	0
Nonprofit Organization Only	204	101	101	0
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	51	26	26	0
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	9	5	5	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	41	19	19	0
Faith-based Organization	5	3	3	0
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	45	19	19	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	12	6	6	0

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Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	10	5	5	0
Multiservice agency	17	9	9	0
Other	14	9	9	0
Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Agencies, and Organizations Only	0	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)	0	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	4	2	2	0
Campus-based victims services	4	2	2	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	328	167	167	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				
	2016-VA-GX-0070	2017-VA-GX-0037	2018-V2-GX-0050	2019-V2-GX-0027

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A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	290	147	147	0
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	36	19	19	0
C. Start up a new victim services project	3	1	1	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				
	2016-VA-GX-0070	2017-VA-GX-0037	2018-V2-GX-0050	2019-V2-GX-0027
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	159	0	159	0
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	139	0	144	0
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	132	0	138	0
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	76	0	75	0
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	132	0	132	0
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	159	0	167	0

Priority and Underserved Requirements				
Priority Area	2016-VA-GX-0070	2017-VA-GX-0037	2018-V2-GX-0050	2019-V2-GX-0027
Child Abuse				
Total Amount	\$4,471,546.00	\$5,073,753.00	\$2,305,674.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	12.00 %	16.00 %	4.00 %	
Domestic and Family Violence				
Total Amount	\$16,930,068.00	\$14,481,178.00	\$7,351,248.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	45.00 %	46.00 %	13.00 %	
Sexual Assault				
Total Amount	\$4,532,574.00	\$3,294,054.00	\$1,678,423.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	12.00 %	11.00 %	3.00 %	
Underserved				
Total Amount	\$7,015,505.00	\$6,305,975.00	\$3,326,816.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	19.00 %	20.00 %	6.00 %	

Budget and Staffing				
Staffing Information	2016-VA-GX-0070	2017-VA-GX-0037	2018-V2-GX-0050	2019-V2-GX-0027

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Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	2742.61	1502	1502	
Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	3374120.98	2091703	2091703	
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	5698.82	4571	4571	
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	1974130	1222785	1222785	

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)	165	5244	6560	5652	6276	5933
Adult Sexual Assault	3	1924	2876	2976	3205	2745
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	2	559	711	804	396	617
Arson	54	34	21	70	27	38
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	78	472	880	924	888	791
Burglary	97	594	618	579	655	611
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	1	3477	4263	4200	4754	4173
Child Pornography	84	48	59	114	83	76
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	241	4109	4562	4831	4187	4422
Domestic and/or Family Violence	22	16116	17014	17023	18257	17102
DUI/DWI Incidents	1	437	422	376	336	392
Elder Abuse or Neglect	149	352	443	477	555	456
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	75	32	27	11	36	26
Human Trafficking: Labor	67	34	27	41	41	35
Human Trafficking: Sex	125	124	95	116	168	125
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	72	1110	1082	1124	1015	1082

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Kidnapping (non-custodial)	79	213	178	290	159	210
Kidnapping (custodial)	75	25	29	30	39	30
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	41	33	36	45	40	38
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	88	549	726	625	586	621
Robbery	104	584	592	466	637	569
Stalking/Harassment	192	1645	1961	2473	2307	2096
Survivors of Homicide Victims	126	965	1142	1248	391	936
Teen Dating Victimization	134	163	147	153	155	154
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	26	0	2	0	0	0
Other	1	6205	5514	5884	5683	5821

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	82	115	139	179	375
Homeless	953	1233	1125	1324	3549
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	785	890	847	1013	3169
LGBTQ	275	355	493	407	1037
Veterans	125	223	384	408	873
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/Physical /Mental	1373	1633	2040	1999	5567
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	1541	2012	2002	1975	6810
Other	951	283	960	1811	3692

General Award Information

Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	148822	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	11236	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	112598	75.66 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	27108	18.22 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	54115	

Demographics

Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	1574	1.40 %

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Asian	918	0.82 %
Black or African American	6751	6.00 %
Hispanic or Latino	20541	18.24 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	170	0.15 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	50307	44.68 %
Some Other Race	2722	2.42 %
Multiple Races	2956	2.63 %
Not Reported	10501	9.33 %
Not Tracked	16158	14.35 %
Race/Ethnicity Total		112598
Gender Identity		
Male	28404	25.23 %
Female	64125	56.95 %
Other	206	0.18 %
Not Reported	4750	4.22 %
Not Tracked	15113	13.42 %
Gender Total		112598
Age		
Age 0- 12	15689	13.93 %
Age 13- 17	7988	7.09 %
Age 18- 24	10451	9.28 %
Age 25- 59	46734	41.51 %
Age 60 and Older	6377	5.66 %
Not Reported	7667	6.81 %
Not Tracked	17692	15.71 %
Age Total		112598

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	176	120169	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	99117
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	86166
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	53410

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			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	71574
B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	156	45822	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	2519
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	1942
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	7953
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	50687
			B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	1756
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	1938
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	4101
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	3369
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	6288
			B10. Interpreter services	7555
C. Emotional Support or Safety Services	151	59504	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	53180
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	37711
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	7361
			C4. Individual counseling	31659
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	12444
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	8993
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	7021
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	90	6222	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	26285
			D2. Transitional housing	8123

			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	12206
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	139	79211	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	80897
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	10032
			E3. Assistance with restitution	6308
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	11529
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	5339
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	5256
			E7. Immigration assistance	2087
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	6330
			E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	4322
			E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	28863
E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	2773			

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, 2018 to September 30, 2019. As issues with eligibility arise we continue to consult with OVC who has been incredibly helpful in assisting to interpret the rule. OVC has been extremely accessible through email, webinars, quarterly meetings, etc. and their efforts are appreciated in Colorado. 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, 2018 to September 30, 2019. However, many of our subgrantees described promoting their programs through local newspapers, radio ads, billboards, and social media (mainly Facebook).

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, our 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. Since the consolidated grant process has been in place, agencies did not apply to a specific funding source; instead, staff determined the source of funds for grants recommended for funding by our Crime Victim Services Advisory Board. In calendar year 2020 we will conduct our competitive funding process and have decided to modify our consolidated process slightly. For this upcoming process, applicants will apply for a specific funding source, though the process will still be consolidated in the sense that there will be one application (with slightly different questions depending on the funding source), one board reviewing the applications, etc. The reason we are changing this process is because we found that many applicants were not reading the eligibility criteria for the different funding sources and therefore we received many applications for requests that weren't eligible under any of our funding sources. The Office for Victims programs continues to house 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 the 2 special projects that address the housing and civil legal needs of victims. Another staff member now serves as the staff liaison to the special project that addresses the emergency needs of crime victims. This same staff member is also the grant manager for the emergency fund subgrant. In 2019 our Grants Team Leader established 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. We intend to continue this project in 2020. Finally, a staff person in our office serves 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. Leadership staff served on other boards/committees that help with the coordination of services for crime victims. Specifically, our unit manager, Kelly Kissell served as a member of a working group to increase collaboration between the state agencies that administer grant funds and our coalitions to address gender based violence in a more comprehensive way across the state. One of the first initiatives to come from this group is a coordinated effort to assist our two federally recognized tribes in applying for grant funds/responding to crime victims in their jurisdictions.

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

In order to provide the most pertinent information in response to this question, we sent a survey to our subgrantees asking them for input. The information provided is a summary of their responses. In response to the portion of this question that asks about the issues that assist victims in receiving assistance, our VOCA-funded subgrantees responded that the VOCA Emergency Assistance Fund administered through the Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance (COVA) and working with other community partners are key to providing assistance to victims. Others also shared that employing bilingual/bi-cultural advocates and staff has allowed them to meet the needs of Spanish-speaking victims in Colorado. One agency shared that by providing diverse housing assistance options, they were also able to aid victims in receiving services. Regarding major issues that prevent

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victims from receiving assistance, as in previous years, most programs identified a lack of transportation, childcare, civil legal assistance, and access to affordable housing as barriers. One agency even shared data stating that someone working at a minimum wage job in Colorado must work at least 90 hours per week in order to afford a 2-bedroom rental unit in the current market, as an example of how affordable housing can be a barrier to most victims. Another major theme that programs identified multiple times was the lack of credentialed, qualified and trauma-informed professionals in their area to provide services to victims. This is a barrier not only for the many remote, rural areas of Colorado, but for any part of the state as untrained providers from law enforcement, counselors, school staff, etc. can be potentially harmful for victims receiving services from these professionals. Many agencies also described immigration status and the fear of deportation as a large barrier to victims seeking assistance. Agencies said it is possible these victims distrust of the system may also prevent victims from seeking services. At the state level, we continue to identify ways to further address the housing and civil legal assistance issues in our state. During our most recent funding process that resulted in subgrants for calendar years 2019 and 2020, 2.6 million was awarded for the continuation/expansion of the original sites (awarded through a separate special project funding announcement) and implementation of new sites. In addition, 49 subgrant agencies were awarded approximately 10.5 million to provide some form of civil legal services for crime victims. Finally, since its inception in 2017, COVA has disbursed \$1,781,003 in grant funds to assist crime victims with emergency needs. We are making a dent but based on responses to our survey, it is clear more services are needed.

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.

Addressing the emergency fund, civil legal services and housing needs of crime victims continues to be a priority for our office. In response to these needs, we established three special projects when we received an increase in VOCA funds in 2015. 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. As mentioned in a previous response, funds are distributed through the Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance and close to 1.8 million has been distributed to assist victims of crime, primarily with 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 have continued through grants awarded during our regular competitive funding process and additional projects were also funded; currently some form of civil legal service is available in each of our twenty-two judicial districts. 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. In our most recent funding process, 2.6 million was awarded for housing purposes. 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.

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). Our office also houses the statewide Human Trafficking Council and the Victims Rights Act compliance position. 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 is a partnership between the Office for Victims programs and the University of Denver Sturm College of Law's fellowship program. In our upcoming funding process that will take place in 2020 for grants that will be funded in CY 2021 and CY 2022, we intend to once again contract with consultants who will help our applicants with completing their application, which we hope will lead to improved 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

Agencies in Colorado continue to provide vital services to crime victims across the state. The Office for Victims Programs allocates the required 10% to serve victims of domestic violence, 10% to serve victims of child abuse, 10% to serve victims of sexual assault, and 10% to underserved victims. 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 is a summary of the responses we received: Services to victims of domestic violence throughout the state include, but are not limited to shelter and housing, group and individual counseling, safety planning, case management, and crisis calls. One such example is an agency in Colorado that worked with a victim of domestic abuse for over 18 years who came to them in 2000, after her husband had attempted to kill her with a knife. The victim initially came to the agency seeking housing for her and her four children. The agency assisted her for 2 more years as she acquired stable housing, applied for a U-visa, initiated her divorce, and went through a child custody battle. During this time, the victim feared she would not receive custody of her children solely because she was an immigrant.

Eventually, the victim won custody of her children and the agency assisted the family by providing counseling and therapy. Over the years, she received her work permit and began school in Early Childhood Education. In 2017, the agency assisted her while she applied for US residency, which she received the following year. Cases like these, in which a victim services agency continues to provide trauma-informed, culturally-sensitive services, occur all over our state. Many of the agencies that provide services to victims of child abuse include child advocacy centers and CASA programs. Their services include, but are not limited to providing forensic interviews, individual therapy, case management, and advocacy during abuse and/or neglect cases. One volunteer from a VOCA-funded CASA program shared an account in which they were called to a home in unlivable, unsafe conditions where the children were left alone while the parents used alcohol and methamphetamines. The CASA volunteer became involved while the children were moved to foster care and found them to be lacking in age-appropriate developmental and cognitive skills as well. The volunteer not only advocated for the children to receive developmental, trauma, and cognitive evaluations, but also recommended the children receive medical and dental services, adequate clothing, frequent supervised visits with their parents, as well as trauma-informed therapy. VOCA-funded agencies that serve victims of sexual assault provided vital services in the past year as well. In one such instance, a victim services agency provided on-going advocacy and support to a sex assault victim while their offender received extensive media coverage and their case was featured in a Netflix series. The advocate worked with this victim from beginning to end to ensure that their rights were protected and that their input on the script was included, input that resulted in the omission of information that the victim deemed revealing. The support of the advocate was immensely appreciated by the victim. Finally, VOCA-funded programs provided all of the aforementioned services to underserved victims of Colorado as well. Programs shared the importance of hiring bicultural, diverse employees and providing a wide-range of options to their programming in order to meet the needs of underserved communities. While there is still work yet to be done with relationship building within these communities, VOCA-funded programs listed LGBTQIA+, refugees/migrants,

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 federal victims of crime in the same manner in which they would provide services to other victims. For the most recent federal fiscal year, several of our subgrantees mentioned working with child victims of sexual exploitation and human trafficking across state lines. Many of the agencies that do work with victims of federal crime also described the importance of collaboration and a multidisciplinary approach when providing services. Some of the agencies that programs collaborated with were the FBI Victim Assistance, the Attorney General s Victim Program, the Office of Refugee Resettlement, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

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

In addition to some of the issues already discussed in previous answers, there were a few other emerging issues that programs noted as well. Two agencies noticed seeing violence emerge through the use of social media and technology, which has the potential to cause harm. The example of the victim whose case was depicted in a Netflix series and how potentially revealing information could have been depicted in the show speaks to how media is affecting crime victims and services. In many cases, the need for media to produce content quickly can lead to victims' rights and perspectives being forgotten. A few other agencies mentioned seeing an increase in the number of strangulation cases (including teenagers). These agencies also noted that this was mostly likely from the change in Colorado law, now designating strangulation as a felony, thus resulting in a focus on training that leads to better identification of strangulation. Lastly, a few VOCA-funded agencies mentioned noticing a lack in culturally-responsive mental health services, leading to unmet mental health needs in underserved communities. Considering the diversity of Colorado, from the Native American tribes in southwest Colorado to the expanding monolingual Spanish-speaking population throughout the entire state, culturally-responsive mental health providers and services is a necessity.

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, 2018 – September 30, 2019 grant period one of our financial grant managers resigned; we are still in the process of replacing this position. Because of the length of time it takes to hire at the state, we have made job offers to people who have since accepted other positions, which delays our hiring process even further.

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 application and various funding sources in more detail with local agencies and potential applicants. Calendar year 2020 will be a funding year for us; grants awarded in 2020 will start January 1, 2021 and go through December 31, 2022.

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 asks applicants to include information about the underserved populations (if any) they serve through their VOCA-funded project. This provides the board with information that is helpful in identifying those applicants that serve underserved populations they may want to fund. In calendar year 2019, our office ran a specialized announcement to fund projects focusing primarily on underserved populations (e.g. older adults, people of color, people with disabilities, LGBTQ victims, Immigrants, American Indians, family members of homicide victims, etc). The response to this solicitation was adequate in that we funded seventeen new projects. We are hoping to reach more agencies that serve underserved populations in our upcoming funding process.

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

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, and in the questions we continue to ask each quarter in the narrative report, the responses confirm what we have heard for a number of years: that there is still a need for civil legal services, housing and money for emergency needs of victims. In addition to the needs assessment and the quarterly reports, 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 discussions about 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.