

# CT 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.*

<b>OVC VOCA Assistance Funds</b>				
	<b>2016-VA-GX-0025</b>	<b>2017-VA-GX-0020</b>	<b>2018-V2-GX-0054</b>	<b>2019-V2-GX-0031</b>
<b>Federal Award Amount</b>	\$24,699,013.00	\$20,404,499.00	\$36,452,243.00	\$24,540,595.00
<b>Total Amount of Subawards</b>	\$24,210,705.00	\$19,133,214.00	\$13,114,053.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Number of Subawards</b>	58	22	26	0
<b>Administrative Funds Amount</b>	\$488,308.00	\$207,949.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Training Funds Amount</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Balance Remaining</b>	\$0.00	\$1,063,336.00	\$23,338,190.00	\$24,540,595.00

<b>Subgrantee Organization Type</b>				
<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>				
<b>Type of Organization</b>	<b>2016-VA-GX-0025</b>	<b>2017-VA-GX-0020</b>	<b>2018-V2-GX-0054</b>	<b>2019-V2-GX-0031</b>
<b>Government Agencies Only</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
Corrections	0	0	0	0
Courts	1	2	0	0
Juvenile Justice	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	0	0	0	0
Prosecutor	0	0	0	0
Other	2	0	1	0
<b>Nonprofit Organization Only</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	0	0	0	0
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	1	1	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	5	2	3	0
Faith-based Organization	0	1	2	0
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	0	0	1	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	6	3	1	0

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Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	1	0	0	0
Multiservice agency	40	12	18	0
Other	2	1	0	0
<b>Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Agencies, and Organizations Only</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
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
<b>Campus Organizations Only</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Campus-based victims services	0	0	0	0
Law enforcement	0	0	0	0
Physical or mental health service program	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Number of Subawards</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>

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

<b>Subaward Purpose</b> A single SAR can select multiple purposes. Numbers are not unique				
	2016-VA-GX-0025	2017-VA-GX-0020	2018-V2-GX-0054	2019-V2-GX-0031

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A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	55	21	12	0
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	0	0	0	0
C. Start up a new victim services project	3	1	14	0
D. Start up a new <b>Native American</b> victim services project	0	0	0	0
E. Expand or enhance an existing <b>Native American</b> project	0	0	0	0

<b>VOCA and Match Funds</b>				
A single SAR can select multiple service types. Numbers are not unique				
	<b>2016-VA-GX-0025</b>	<b>2017-VA-GX-0020</b>	<b>2018-V2-GX-0054</b>	<b>2019-V2-GX-0031</b>
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	54	22	26	0
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	47	20	20	0
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	57	22	25	0
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	18	5	7	0
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	40	16	14	0
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	57	22	26	0

<b>Priority and Underserved Requirements</b>				
<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>2016-VA-GX-0025</b>	<b>2017-VA-GX-0020</b>	<b>2018-V2-GX-0054</b>	<b>2019-V2-GX-0031</b>
<b>Child Abuse</b>				
Total Amount	\$4,912,188.00	\$3,776,946.00	\$3,327,304.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	20.00 %	19.00 %	9.00 %	
<b>Domestic and Family Violence</b>				
Total Amount	\$9,729,513.00	\$9,023,901.00	\$5,412,651.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	39.00 %	44.00 %	15.00 %	
<b>Sexual Assault</b>				
Total Amount	\$2,762,724.00	\$2,581,374.00	\$1,042,098.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	11.00 %	13.00 %	3.00 %	
<b>Underserved</b>				
Total Amount	\$6,806,280.00	\$3,750,993.00	\$3,332,000.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	28.00 %	18.00 %	9.00 %	

<b>Budget and Staffing</b>				
<b>Staffing Information</b>	<b>2016-VA-GX-0025</b>	<b>2017-VA-GX-0020</b>	<b>2018-V2-GX-0054</b>	<b>2019-V2-GX-0031</b>

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Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	1595	854	534
Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	963461	611930	277094
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	346	146	50
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	68122	65431	31683

**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)	31	1001	909	984	1010	976
Adult Sexual Assault	1	1388	1565	1646	1277	1469
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	36	461	499	720	591	567
Arson	9	12	14	12	16	13
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	27	351	433	479	492	438
Burglary	12	64	69	68	76	69
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	1	387	547	587	640	540
Child Pornography	12	19	31	15	44	27
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	1	1554	1457	1639	2079	1682
Domestic and/or Family Violence	8	14174	14119	14647	16135	14768
DUI/DWI Incidents	2	242	206	215	311	243
Elder Abuse or Neglect	21	52	65	45	50	53
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	15	18	21	26	27	23
Human Trafficking: Labor	5	10	8	7	7	8
Human Trafficking: Sex	2	88	113	106	138	111
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	13	50	61	56	74	60

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Kidnapping (non-custodial)	7	17	24	25	24	22
Kidnapping (custodial)	10	10	8	11	13	10
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	12	182	203	151	254	197
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	16	51	57	68	67	60
Robbery	18	51	72	72	80	68
Stalking/Harassment	33	441	487	551	700	544
Survivors of Homicide Victims	1	199	297	268	423	296
Teen Dating Victimization	22	63	88	81	61	73
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	7	6	18	54	55	33
Other	8	98	86	97	105	96

**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	30	44	38	45	83
Homeless	594	820	632	1266	2839
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	630	843	756	824	2864
LGBTQ	156	181	183	148	641
Veterans	20	21	28	38	98
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/Physical /Mental	582	692	729	695	2882
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	820	995	1031	828	3944
Other	16	10	31	0	89

**General Award Information**

Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	78095	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	33	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	52062	66.66 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	6530	8.36 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	6803	

**Demographics**

Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
American Indian or Alaska Native	117	0.22 %

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Asian	481	0.92 %
Black or African American	9644	18.52 %
Hispanic or Latino	12713	24.42 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	61	0.12 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	20819	39.99 %
Some Other Race	1826	3.51 %
Multiple Races	931	1.79 %
Not Reported	5221	10.03 %
Not Tracked	249	0.48 %
<b>Race/Ethnicity Total</b>	<b>52062</b>	
<b>Gender Identity</b>		
Male	12949	24.87 %
Female	38732	74.40 %
Other	110	0.21 %
Not Reported	264	0.51 %
Not Tracked	7	0.01 %
<b>Gender Total</b>	<b>52062</b>	
<b>Age</b>		
Age 0- 12	3643	7.00 %
Age 13- 17	2640	5.07 %
Age 18- 24	7533	14.47 %
Age 25- 59	32953	63.30 %
Age 60 and Older	4093	7.86 %
Not Reported	954	1.83 %
Not Tracked	246	0.47 %
<b>Age Total</b>	<b>52062</b>	

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	40	49396	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	63232
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	55501
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	16289

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			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	17473
B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	37	26498	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	781
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	1808
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	11251
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	12840
			B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	572
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	6012
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	11727
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	12809
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	4865
			B10. Interpreter services	3684
C. Emotional Support or Safety Services	42	66569	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	126258
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	38204
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	9839
			C4. Individual counseling	104580
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	12312
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	7432
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	1445
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	17	767	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	3587
			D2. Transitional housing	69

			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	1364
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	30	45024	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	44994
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	2839
			E3. Assistance with restitution	1092
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	15066
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	6284
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	997
			E7. Immigration assistance	4025
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	11799
			E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	1107
			E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	30317
E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	2244			

### ANNUAL QUESTIONS

#### Grantee Annually Reported Questions

Question/Option	Count
<b>Were any administrative and training funds used during the reporting period?</b>	
Yes	1
No	0
<b>Did the administrative funds support any education activities during the reporting period?</b>	
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
<b>Did the grant support any coordination activities (e.g., with other service providers, law enforcement agencies) during the reporting period?</b>	
Yes	1
No	0
<b>Describe any program or educational materials developed during the reporting period.</b>	
There were no program or education materials developed during the reporting period using VOCA administrative funds.	



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

There were no planning or training events held during the reporting period using VOCA Administrative funds. Trainings offered to staff of VOCA-funded contractors were conducted by OVS staff, or other individuals, at no cost to the grant.

**Describe any program policies changed during the reporting period.**

There were no changes to program policies during the reporting period.

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

Examples of earned media coverage at the contractor/subcontractor level are as follows: -The Center for Family Justice reported that the Center's Sexual Awareness Month Events earned media coverage as well. The 7th annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes Event on 4/27/19 and the Center's White Ribbon Campaign, which is aimed towards providing awareness regarding sexual assault and engaging men in eliminating violence against women and girls. - Community Mental Health Affiliates reported that together with HRA of New Britain, it participated in Victim Advocacy Week in the City of New Britain. The events began with a victim advocacy outreach program at the City of New Britain Police station and continued with a walk through the city. Both events were broadcasted and articles about the program and services were featured in the Hartford Courant and the New Britain Herald. - Domestic Violence Crisis Center reported that the Norwalk Hour and the Stamford Advocate published a lengthy article titled Better protection for Domestic Violence Victims. This article featured DVCC and delved into the newly enacted Dominant Aggressor Act. - Hartford Interval House reported that the Program Director, the Sanction's Advocate, and the Spanish Hotline Supervisor, all bilingual in Spanish, participated in a live Podcast with Identidad Latina, a community Radio Talk show and Newspaper, where they talked about DV and program services. - Human Services Council reported that the Children's Connection honored Child Abuse Prevention Month by planting 5 pinwheel gardens in front of each local police departments, and invited political figures, community leaders, parents, clients and partners to participate in the event also attended by the media. Additionally, on national wear blue for child abuse day everyone wore blue and posted photos on social media with hashtags. This event brought attention to the program and served to educate many community members and partners about its work and the VOCA program in particular. - Mothers Against Drunk Driving reported that MADD earned media coverage on two local television stations, when in November, a victim spoke about her only child who had been killed during a kick-off event. The victim spoke about how the crash had affected her entire life and how she gives back by speaking for MADD. - St. Francis Hospital reported that the Program Manager and a volunteer spoke about sexual violence in Jamaican and West Indian communities on a local radio station, Busy Radio, focused on that audience. - Women's Support Services reported that MainStreet Magazine published a short summary on Women's Support Services. The article included the mission, services available, the primary prevention work WSS does, and opportunities for volunteers.

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

OVS court based victim services advocates work closely with OVS Compensation staff to obtain crime information, when necessary, from the State's Attorney's office and court proceedings dates for victim compensation claims. The court based advocates also coordinate services and assistance to crime victims in court with advocates who work for VOCA funded contractors Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Assault; Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Mothers Against Drunk Driving; and Survivors of Homicide. OVS advocates also work closely with the Department of Correction Victim Services Unit to provide timely inmate status notification to individuals who are registered for victim notification. Examples of efforts at the subcontractor level for coordinated responses/services are as follows: - Child Guidance of Southern CT reported that the Director of Victim Services attends weekly office hours at the Department of Children and Families to increase the effectiveness of inter-agency collaboration. During these visits, the Director of Victim Services meets with workers and supervisors to discuss cases and provide support. These meetings increase the effectiveness of inter-agency collaboration. - Clifford Beers Clinic reported that Project CATCH advocates began providing advocacy services to victims going through forensic interviews at Yale Child Abuse Clinic. The CATCH Program Manager and the New Haven MDT Project Administrator at South Central Child Advocacy Center developed a workflow and scheduling system to cover all forensics scheduled throughout the week. The CATCH advocates meet with the non-offending caregiver while child is going through forensic interview, to provide support, advocacy, and accompaniment. The needs of the family are also assessed. Upon completion of forensic interview, advocates meet with forensic team to discuss findings, family needs, and to develop a plan. CATCH advocates remain in contact with the family to follow up and provide coordination of services, referrals, and advocacy as needed. This new project has enabled advocates to coordinate services in a more comprehensive way. - CT Alliance to end Sexual Violence reported that the alliance's member center child advocates sit on their local multi-disciplinary teams (MDT) and Child Advocacy Center (CAC) teams. These teams provide critical multi-disciplinary wrap-around services and support to children and families who have been impacted by sexual violence and who have had criminal justice interventions. Advocates also work with medical providers, mental health providers, and behavioral health providers to provide informed referral, and to ensure that victims have access to a wide range of services and interventions. - Hospital of Central CT reported that project staff connect at-risk patients with the local domestic violence program as a way to increase supports and provide emergency shelter to clients that are experiencing domestic violence. The program has also increased collaborations with Community Mental Health Affiliates (another VOCA

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funded program) for case management services for those clients that need the additional supports. - Interval House reported that the Adult Advocate worked with the Empower Program from the UCONN Health center, which assists at-risk women with free HIV UCONN Health center, which assists at-risk women with free HIV testing and follow-up support. The program incentivizes health and risk awareness and empowers victims to prioritize their well-being. - Women's Center Danbury reported a growing relationship between the Women's center Campus Advocates and the Western CT State University Police Department. Both work closely to strengthen university response to dating violence and sexual assault crisis, to coordinate trainings between both service providers, and to promote a more positive connection between the two offices on campus. This has allowed for easier coordination of response to victims when they want to involve the police and for necessary revisions to campus dating violence and sexual assault response policies throughout the reporting period. - Yale Sexual Abuse Clinic reported that the Clinic works closely with Love146. Love 146, a VOCA funded agency, provides a rapid response to victims at risk of human trafficking. Our clinic staff works collaboratively with this agency to ensure these victims are connecting to a service that is addressing their specific needs.

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

A major issue impacting the ability of victims to receive assistance during the reporting period is the ongoing state budget crisis. Many state social service agencies are operating on fixed or reduced appropriations impacting the amount of funding that is available to nonprofit service providers throughout the state. These agencies provided needed services to victims of crime (access to affordable housing, access to legal aid, access to free medical care, access to counseling services, low-cost child care, access to public transportation, etc.). The loss of these services has resulted in fewer options for victims seeking assistance, outside of the VOCA-funded services, as well as increased wait times for services that are still being provided. The major issue that positively impacted victims ability to receive assistance during the reporting period was the continued availability of increased VOCA Victim Assistance funding. The increased funding allowed OVS to add new programs and services offerings that are providing increased options for victims of crime in Connecticut.

### **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.**

As the state's lead agency dedicated to providing services to victims of violent crime, OVS is charged with the responsibility to provide supportive services, financial assistance, and information to crime victims. As the needs of crime victims are continually changing, OVS prioritizes a close working relationship with its community partners to identify what those needs are and how best to meet them. Listed below are a few examples of ongoing and new collaborative efforts that OVS engaged in during the report period to enhance services to crime victims in Connecticut: - OVS provided staff services to the Advisory Council for Victims of Crime, which represents victims of various crimes, including, but not limited to: homicide, family violence, sexual assault, and drunk driving. The Council also included representatives of Connecticut's Judicial Branch and Executive Branch agencies, with members representing low income communities and victims of human trafficking. The council recommends initiatives that would improve services to crime victims and develops needs assessments for both court-based and community-based victim services. - The Director of OVS is a member of the Trafficking in Persons Council. The council is tasked with determining what services are available to victims of trafficking in persons and how to best coordinate a response. The council includes law enforcement officials, leaders of state agencies, and community-based advocates and providers of services to victims. - The Director of OVS is a member of the Commission on the Standardization of the Collection of Evidence in Sexual Assault Investigations. The Commission is tasked with reviewing and revising the Technical Guidelines for Health Care Response to Victims of Sexual Assault, making recommendations to the Chief State's Attorney and annually reviewing the design of the sexual assault evidence collection kit. - The Director of OVS is a member of the Connecticut Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee. The mission of the Committee is to prevent future deaths by conducting multidisciplinary systematic examinations of violent intimate partner fatalities and near fatalities. - An OVS Victim Services Supervisor is a member of the Governor's Task Force on Justice for Abused Children. This group oversees the need for greater coordination of Multidisciplinary team (MDT) agencies involved in the investigation, intervention and prosecution of child sexual abuse and serious physical abuse cases, as well as working to reduce the trauma of any child victim and to ensure the protection and treatment of the child. - The Deputy Director of OVS is a member of the Connecticut Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision State Council. The Council is charged with overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision, a formal agreement between member states that seek to promote public safety by systematically controlling the interstate movement of certain adult offenders. - The Deputy Director of OVS is a member of the Connecticut Interstate Compact for Juveniles State Council. The Council advises and exercises oversight and advocacy concerning the state's participation in Interstate Commission activities. The Council also develops policy concerning operations and procedures of the compact within the state. - The Deputy Director of OVS is a member of the Connecticut Interstate Compact for State Council. The Council advises and exercises oversight and advocacy concerning the state's participation in Interstate Commission activities. The Council also develops policy concerning operations and procedures of the compact within the state. - The Director of OVS is a member of the Governor's Sexual Assault Kit Working Group. The Working Group focuses on examining and limiting barriers for submitting sexual assault evidence to the CT Forensic Science Laboratory and the tracking of all sexual assault evidence kits. - The Director of OVS is a member of the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission. Victim Issues

Sub-Committee. This collaborative, multi-agency sub-committee looks at state laws and services for victims of crime. Examples at the subcontractor level include the following: - Center for Family Justice reported that the Bilingual/bicultural advocates continue their partnership with Caroline House, Inc., a local educational program providing basic education and ESL skills to underserved women and children in Bridgeport. The advocates provide a monthly Psycho-educational support group to Caroline House students on topics related to Domestic and Sexual Violence in both Spanish and English. - Family Centered Services of CT reported that they are collaborating with New Haven Public Schools social workers to provide Safe Dates and individual counseling for victims of teen dating, violence, or bullying. We have started 2 teen groups.

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

OVS s Training and Outreach Unit continued to provide training to VOCA victim assistance providers and other service providers that work with crime victims through onsite trainings, the OVS training series for VOCA subcontractors, or training conferences. OVS provided trainings on the following topics during the report period: - Connecticut Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification – 5 sessions - Court 101 – 2 sessions - Court Orders of Protection – 1 session - Crime Victim Compensation Program – 9 sessions - Crime Victims Rights in Connecticut – 1 session - How to Find Your Way Back to Compassion – 1 session - VOCA Assistance Grants Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements – 1 session

**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**

VOCA Victim Assistance funds are awarded to service providers based upon the four priority categories of victimization. VOCA funded contractors provide services to victims of child abuse, domestic violence, adult sexual assault, and underserved categories including assault, DUI/DWI victims, adults abused as children, elder abuse, human trafficking, mass casualty victims, stalking victims, and survivors of homicide. Examples of services provided at the subcontractor level during the report period are as follows: - BHcare reported that the Adult Advocate was working with a victim of domestic violence who was seeking counseling due to husband s violence. Victim did not feel safe in the home, as the physical assaults were escalating. Advocate arranged for her to go to UCDVS shelter until the next steps (including a safety plan) could be worked out. The husband was arrested for assault and the AA assisted victim in signing up for CT Savin to receive notifications of the court case. This AA also assisted victim in connecting her with the court FVVA. The victim resided at the shelter until she was able to find a safe place with a family member. Victim was grateful for the shelter and support received. - CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence reported that one of their member programs has been providing individual counseling to a 25 year old victim of extensive sexual assault as an adult. Client was unable to go to restaurants, be in crowded public areas, or work. The advocate referred her to a local therapist who has been assisting client with the use of EMDR and counseling. Client has also completed a self-esteem group. Client is now better able to ground herself and live a full life. She has learned how to separate her trauma from constantly replaying and paralyzing her from fear. She is now able to go back to restaurants and has a full time job. Client has expressed extreme gratitude for the services she has received from the Susan B Anthony project member center and has come far since she first sought help. - Human Services Council reported that a child was sexually assaulted by her grandfather while visiting him in Bridgeport. Since the child and her family lived in Norwalk, the coordinator at the CAC in Bridgeport referred the case to Children s Connection for a forensic interview and mental health services. CAC contacted the Bridgeport PD and scheduled a time for the detective to come to CAC in Norwalk. The Center for Sexual Assault Crisis Counseling and Education, and the support staff at Children s Connection came together to provide a forensic interview for the child. The victim and her mother were offered and accepted mental health services. The police and DCF are working together to ensure they both have the necessary information to resolve the case in the best way possible. - LOVE146 reported that Alyssa (name changed) was referred to Love146 Long-Term services after her provider network identified her as being a suspected victim of human trafficking. Some of the red flags identified included frequently running away from home and school settings, associating with older individuals who were known to be gang involved, engaging in social media conversations with unknown individuals, returning home with new items she and her family had not purchased, and an attempted kidnapping by associates of a known trafficker. It was later confirmed that Alyssa is a survivor of sex trafficking. She was initially hesitant to engage in services and presented with significant trauma symptoms and developmental delays that made it challenging to provide basic support and psycho-education. However, after months of continued support from her Love 146 social workers, Alyssa slowly began to make progress. She was able to step down to a lower level placement, disclosing previously unknown past trauma without significant regression, engaging in the forensic interview process, and showing an increase ability to open-up about and address her complex trauma.

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

OVS is committed to working with its federal victim assistance partners to ensure that federal crime victims receive victim services. OVS provides the U.S. Attorney's Victim/Witness Coordinator, upon request, compensation forms, informational material about OVS victim services and referrals to participating agencies for victim assistance services (i.e. counseling, support groups, shelter services, etc.). In addition to OVS' collaboration with Connecticut's federal crime victims assistance personnel, OVS and its contractors/subcontractors have taken the following initiatives: - OVS maintains a contract with the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence to provide emergency shelter to victims of human trafficking through its coalition of 15 domestic violence service providers. These services are available as a referral source to both federal and state law enforcement officials. Examples of services provided to federal crime victims at the contractor/subcontractor level during the report period are as follows: - BHcare reported that the agency worked with the US Attorney's Office regarding federal charges against a defendant who had violated a no contact protection order, when he showed up at the victim's front door, in another state, 2 weeks later. She called the police and a warrant for his arrest was pursued. In the meantime, this defendant was unsuccessfully discharged from an intensive batterers intervention program for lack of attendance. This discharge, plus the pursuit of an out of state violation of a protection order has resulted in the state pursuing their charges. The advocate insisted that the victim's position be clearly stated on the record to make sure that the defendant was aware of her wishes. - LOVE146 reported that they work with a number of victims who's trafficking is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and/or prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO). In these instances, Love146's Program Director, Erin Williamson, and Program Manager, Laurie Dunford serve as the primary contact for federal government employees. LOVE146 also met with the FBI to discuss how LOVE146 could support victims recovered during planned upcoming sting operations. - Yale Child Sexual Abuse Clinic reported that the clinic is collaborating with the New Haven State's Attorney, LOVE 146, CT Children's Alliance, New Haven Police Department, the Human Anti-Trafficking Response Team, the Department of Children and Families and the FBI to develop a program to provide forensic interviews for trafficking cases being handled by local law enforcement. The goal of this group is to identify a protocol that provide an opportunity for these victims to disclose their abuse in an environment where they are comfortable and feel safe.

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

Emerging issues or notable trends impacting services to crime victims in Connecticut were compiled from the progress reports provided to OVS by each of the contractors/subcontractors that provide VOCA victim assistance throughout the state. Below is a sampling of the major trends/issues shared by both OVS and the recipients of VOCA funds: A major issue impacting the ability of victims to receive assistance during the reporting period is the ongoing state budget crisis. Many state social service agencies are operating on fixed or reduced appropriations impacting the amount of funding that is available to nonprofit service providers throughout the state. These agencies provided needed services to victims of crime (access to affordable housing, access to legal aid, access to free medical care, access to counseling services, low-cost child care, access to public transportation, etc.). The loss of these services has resulted in fewer options for victims seeking assistance, outside of the VOCA-funded services, as well as increased wait times for services that are still being provided. VOCA-funded service providers are seeing an increase in requests for services that they do not have the funding to provide (i.e, housing, food, clothing, legal assistance). Additional issues noted by OVS subcontractors include: - Despite the slight decrease of dual arrests, due to the new dominant aggressor statute that went into effect on Jan 1, 2019, Family Violence Victim advocates continue to see a large number of dual arrests in the service area. - Increased use of Language Line for interpreting assistance to assist clients in the office, call a client, or assist with restraining order applications. - An increase in the number of clients seeking free or reduced cost civil legal attorneys to assist them in their divorce or custody cases. - Parents of children who have been victims of crime in CT, not wanting to access OVS Victim Compensation Services or any other support services in the community for which their children may be entitled to, such as mental health services, case management, etc., due to lack of documentation. In many cases, their child was born in the US, but they were afraid of accessing services due to their status. - Children with unreported past victimization history avoiding school. - Clients with medical insurance report dealing with limited coverage or high deductibles, and not being able to afford co-pays. - Lack of affordable housing and capacity issues at the local domestic violence shelters. - Homelessness and a lack of stable housing continues to be a problem for the victims receiving services in our program. Many times individuals who want to leave unsafe situations and/or their perpetrators, are unable to due to limited housing options. - Volunteer recruitment, especially for Spanish-speaking clients, remains challenging at several member programs. - There is an increase in requests and interest throughout the state to build capacity to serve sexual assault survivors with intellectual disabilities. - The capacity of member centers to meet the needs of the vulnerable and underserved communities, as well as undocumented victims and victims who have mental health needs, is limited due to the rising numbers of these victims accessing services. As the services available to these community decrease, advocates find it challenging to find appropriate referrals for victims. - An increase in applications for restraining and protection orders by the offending party. Orders are being granted based on fraudulent representations in the affidavit. The agency's attorneys have not been successful in getting the court's attention to this issue. The agency has tried to express its concerns to the court and family relations counselors by filing motions and making statements on the record before judges. Agency reports that during this reporting period, there have been more hearing dates on this matter than ever before in the history of the program. - The agency reports that due to the increase in acceptance of victims attorneys by prosecutors, there have been more favorable outcomes for victims of crime throughout the program's catchment area. Most offices now welcome the

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involvement in cases and have expressed their gratitude. - Advances in technology that make it easier for abusers to track and stalk victims. - An increase in men engaging in services. These men appear to be ready to address their trauma endured during childhood, particularly if they are struggling with substance abuse or poor relationships with their significant others. -Religious beliefs of the need to keep a marriage intact even if it is abusive seems to be common. - An increase in the number of youthful offenders committing murder. Many are between the ages of 13-17 and their cases are being held in juvenile court.

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

There are no retention issues impacting the Office of Victim Services. The Office is fully staffed. The majority of VOCA Assistance subgrantees reported no major staffing retention problems. Agencies that did have staffing retention issues reported the following reasons: Difficulty in replacing Spanish-speaking staff, Emotional fatigue working with high-risk clients, Insecurity over future funding issues due to state budget difficulties, Low Pay and Benefits, Staff leaving due to heavy caseloads.

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

All funding for service provision is awarded through a formal bid process. Notification is posted on the Judicial Branch website and through legal ads in newspapers throughout the state. Due to the increase in funding from the 2018 VOCA Victim Assistance Grant, OVS and the Judicial Branch Materials Management Unit issued two requests for proposals for the purposes of soliciting bids for services to victims of crime in Connecticut for programs starting July 1, 2019. These bids were published on the Judicial Branch website and in local newspapers. Current OVS service providers were notified of the bid postings and notifications were also sent to the statewide non-profit membership associations in the state to distribute the notice to their members. Current and new agencies were eligible to submit proposals for new programs not currently funded by OVS, expansion projects for existing providers, and continuation projects for existing providers. OVS held meetings with over eighty individuals from service providers throughout the state to discuss the increased funding that was available, the types of programs and services that were eligible for funding, and answer any questions regarding the new funding and the proposal process. After the solicitations were finalized, twenty-seven existing contracts were re-funded and fifteen new contracts were awarded for programs starting 07/01/19.

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

OVS issued a request for proposals for services throughout the State of Connecticut. It was a general solicitation for all categories of crime victims and services. As part of the solicitation, OVS stated that projects that addressed access to services for the following categories would be considered: disabled crime victims; disenfranchised male victims of color; gang violence victims; LGBTQ populations; members of racial or ethnic minorities; non-English speaking crime victims; victims residing in inner cities, rural or remote areas; and, victims of sexual assault on college campuses. Proposals were received from agencies throughout the state. Twelve new contracts were awarded in addition to twenty-seven existing contracts. The new contracts expanded services to geographic areas of the state that were underserved by existing contracts. After the contracts were finalized, it was determined that additional services were still needed for victims residing in the urban areas of two of Connecticut's largest cities. An additional request for proposals was issued resulting in the awarding of three new contracts for services to urban crime victims in those cities.

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

All funding for service provision is awarded through a formal bid process. OVS receives feedback from current VOCA-funded service providers on current issues in the victim services and what services are lacking or underfunded. This information is reviewed, and any bids for programs to serve specific populations or provide specific services are determined by OVS. OVS also reviews existing contracts and service populations to ensure that services are being provided to victims in accordance with the minimum requirements for the four priority categories of crime victims as outlined in the VOCA Final Rule. During the report period OVS determined that additional services were needed for victims residing in the urban areas of two of Connecticut's largest cities. OVS and the Judicial Branch issued a request for proposals resulting in the awarding of three new contracts for services to urban crime victims in those cities.

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

There are no outcome measures separate from the information that is reported each quarter in the OVCPMT system.