

NJ 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-0072	2017-VA-GX-0058	2018-V2-GX-0052	2019-V2-GX-0051
Federal Award Amount	\$60,868,131.00	\$50,279,830.00	\$90,733,139.00	\$60,445,762.00
Total Amount of Subawards	\$44,306,401.00	\$16,538,909.00	\$74,943,549.00	\$0.00
Total Number of Subawards	169	62	200	0
Administrative Funds Amount	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Training Funds Amount	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance Remaining	\$16,561,730.00	\$33,740,921.00	\$15,789,590.00	\$60,445,762.00

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-0072	2017-VA-GX-0058	2018-V2-GX-0052	2019-V2-GX-0051
Government Agencies Only	26	59	10	0
Corrections	0	1	0	0
Courts	1	1	0	0
Juvenile Justice	0	1	0	0
Law Enforcement	1	1	0	0
Prosecutor	22	54	1	0
Other	2	1	9	0
Nonprofit Organization Only	137	2	187	0
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	26	0	31	0
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	2	0	4	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	33	0	45	0
Faith-based Organization	1	0	1	0
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	10	0	20	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	9	0	10	0

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Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	3	0	7	0
Multiservice agency	39	2	51	0
Other	14	0	18	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	6	1	3	0
Campus-based victims services	6	1	3	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	169	62	200	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-0072	2017-VA-GX-0058	2018-V2-GX-0052	2019-V2-GX-0051

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A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	122	59	136	0
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	1	0	0	0
C. Start up a new victim services project	46	3	64	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-0072	2017-VA-GX-0058	2018-V2-GX-0052	2019-V2-GX-0051
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	144	43	158	0
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	130	40	134	0
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	122	38	127	0
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	65	16	58	0
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	114	20	117	0
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	168	44	174	0

Priority and Underserved Requirements

Priority Area	2016-VA-GX-0072	2017-VA-GX-0058	2018-V2-GX-0052	2019-V2-GX-0051
Child Abuse				
Total Amount	\$7,269,552.00	\$1,295,365.00	\$13,067,822.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	12.00 %	3.00 %	14.00 %	
Domestic and Family Violence				
Total Amount	\$14,938,240.00	\$2,218,251.00	\$23,592,969.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	25.00 %	4.00 %	26.00 %	
Sexual Assault				
Total Amount	\$8,812,973.00	\$4,464,209.00	\$17,774,000.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	14.00 %	9.00 %	20.00 %	
Underserved				
Total Amount	\$13,275,631.00	\$7,571,203.00	\$20,508,758.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	22.00 %	15.00 %	23.00 %	

Budget and Staffing

Staffing Information	2016-VA-GX-0072	2017-VA-GX-0058	2018-V2-GX-0052	2019-V2-GX-0051
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Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	2178	191	2795
Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	3791315	224748	1560790
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	6143	85	4777
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	322085	9914	466136

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)	138	7568	7962	8972	10086	8647
Adult Sexual Assault	4	1981	2287	2222	3296	2446
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	162	638	789	805	1003	808
Arson	56	123	135	129	147	133
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	94	421	569	783	575	587
Burglary	67	3803	4667	4169	3919	4139
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	12	2736	3461	3647	3813	3414
Child Pornography	86	73	124	96	98	97
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	1	2092	2892	2839	2520	2585
Domestic and/or Family Violence	64	15568	19683	19904	20993	19037
DUI/DWI Incidents	58	251	281	264	254	262
Elder Abuse or Neglect	102	98	186	326	281	222
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	81	28	63	46	44	45
Human Trafficking: Labor	101	24	25	28	22	24
Human Trafficking: Sex	157	116	190	187	201	173
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	62	3073	3939	4091	3377	3620

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Kidnapping (non-custodial)	63	62	89	84	69	76
Kidnapping (custodial)	69	34	30	26	30	30
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	50	4	1	1	3	2
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	65	784	674	663	928	762
Robbery	78	1824	2287	2291	2085	2121
Stalking/Harassment	176	2142	2713	2928	2935	2679
Survivors of Homicide Victims	1	2103	1692	1745	1705	1811
Teen Dating Victimization	158	112	190	1493	207	500
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	42	23	16	27	11	19
Other	37	17452	55992	57774	68003	49805

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	91	70	105	105	211
Homeless	728	676	746	1160	2332
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	1367	1396	1368	1439	4411
LGBTQ	344	395	317	387	979
Veterans	127	106	69	71	296
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/Physical /Mental	1314	1315	1305	1473	3965
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	2854	2697	2915	2764	9212
Other	91	75	96	123	962

General Award Information

Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	414121	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	13401	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	166522	40.21 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	33468	8.08 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	23124	

Demographics

Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	129	0.08 %

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Asian	1844	1.11 %
Black or African American	24917	14.96 %
Hispanic or Latino	18154	10.90 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	116	0.07 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	28719	17.25 %
Some Other Race	1148	0.69 %
Multiple Races	1173	0.70 %
Not Reported	49183	29.54 %
Not Tracked	41139	24.70 %
Race/Ethnicity Total	166522	
Gender Identity		
Male	28800	17.30 %
Female	62986	37.82 %
Other	224	0.13 %
Not Reported	35210	21.14 %
Not Tracked	39302	23.60 %
Gender Total	166522	
Age		
Age 0- 12	5895	3.54 %
Age 13- 17	8041	4.83 %
Age 18- 24	11850	7.12 %
Age 25- 59	53344	32.03 %
Age 60 and Older	5443	3.27 %
Not Reported	43707	26.25 %
Not Tracked	38242	22.97 %
Age Total	166522	

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	196	191811	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	213030
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	135669
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	51035

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			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	76102
B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	177	43898	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	1741
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	1420
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	3607
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	83431
			B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	1492
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	3014
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	7478
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	1930
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	8769
			B10. Interpreter services	13764
C. Emotional Support or Safety Services	166	60915	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	37713
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	20845
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	870
			C4. Individual counseling	56233
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	8850
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	10463
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	5896
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	78	4877	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	5645
			D2. Transitional housing	738

			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	3735
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	136	306356	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	707170
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	23577
			E3. Assistance with restitution	21713
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	9194
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	4989
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	14359
			E7. Immigration assistance	1184
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	16222
			E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	4619
			E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	49325
E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	6929			

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	1
No	0
Number of requests received for education activities during the reporting period.	1
Number of people trained or attending education events during the reporting period.	183
Number of events conducted during the reporting period.	1
Did the grant support any coordination activities (e.g., with other service providers, law enforcement agencies) during the reporting period?	
Yes	1
No	0
Describe any program or educational materials developed during the reporting period.	
N/A	

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

In March 2019, a conference was held by Rutgers University, in conjunction with the NJ Attorney General's Office. The conference was being held for Rutgers to be able to share knowledge and lessons learned. Conference aimed to support participants to identify next steps to further address campus sexual violence; identify resources and partnerships and for participants to identify a vision for statewide response to campus sexual violence in NJ.

Describe any program policies changed during the reporting period.

Policies have remained constant from the previous year. The Office of the Attorney General (OAG), Grants Development Section (GDS) continues to require source documentation requirement for all expenditures listed on the Detailed Cost Statement was implemented during the prior federal fiscal year to ensure proper usage of funds. This program policy remains effective for all sub-recipient agencies. It has been difficult from some grantees to comply with this requirement. GDS and OAG staff continue to provide guidance to sub-recipients for compliance with this policy requirement.

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

Although there was no earned media coverage, the Notice of Available Funds for various VOCA grant programs continues to be accompanied with press releases from the Office of the Attorney General's Communications Office, in an effort to get the word out about available grant opportunities. There was an increase in the number of VOCA applications received this year for the next round of funding, which may in part be attributed to this activity. The solicitation for the new VOCA-funded Hospital Based Violence Intervention Program (HVIP) received media attention throughout the state and in Connecticut.

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

Services for victims of Sexual Violence continue to receive our support through a coordinated response from the 21 Counties Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART). SART is a collaboration of Law Enforcement Officers, Forensic Nurse Examiners, and Confidential Sexual Violence Advocates. If a victim elects to activate the SART, those members of the team are called to provide victim-centered medical care, crisis intervention and support to victims. The coordination among these team members is critical in achieving positive results, such as a successful prosecution or therapeutic healing, and the SART meets regularly to ensure that current procedures are working to ensure the best responses for our sexual assault victims. Increased allocation of funding to support the Confidential Sexual Violence Advocacy Services has increased the capacity for sexual violence service programs to respond to survivors in crisis as part of the county-based SARTs. The Victim Information Notification Everyday (VINE) Program is supported as a line item of the VOCA budget. VINE is a fully automated telephone system that provides custody status information to victims notifying them when an offender is released, transferred or escapes from prison. Enhanced VINE is an information and notification delivery system focused on an entirely new experience for victims of crime. With the increasing prominence of mobile technology, social media, web services and smartphones, New Jersey VINE arrived at a critical juncture. One of the primary goals outlined in the Vision 21 Report focused on serving victims of crime in the digital age. The OVC recommended building capacity through technology, training, and innovation to ensure the victim services field was equipped to meet the demands of the 21st century. Enhanced VINE leverages technology to improve and transform VINE services for victims of crime and others (family members, prosecutors, and other professionals) in New Jersey. Implementing Enhanced VINE was critical to meet the needs of victims and the citizens of New Jersey.

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

New Jersey has a robust victim services sector, including dedicated teams of victim witness advocates in each county prosecutor's office. The availability of services assists victims with receiving assistance. Last year we reported that the limited availability of free legal services was an obstacle to victim service delivery. We increased the number of sub-grant awards that to provide free legal services in the northern, central and southern regions of New Jersey and serve additional populations of immigrants. Victim service providers report that the lack of affordable housing is the most pressing issue affecting victims. Without housing options, domestic violence victims cannot leave their perpetrators, community violence survivors have to live in the same neighborhoods as their perpetrators, and trafficking victims remain trapped with their traffickers if they cannot secure stable housing. New Jersey is an incredibly expensive housing market and the Office of the Attorney General is working with other state agencies and non-profits to develop low income and affordable housing options. We are also exploring how to leverage VOCA dollars to support housing services for victims. Finally, we just released two NOAFs for Hospital Based Violence Intervention Programs and Trauma Recovery Centers that require applicants to budget for housing costs. The Office of the Attorney General created a Special Advisor on Victim Services position to address the issues that prevent victims from receiving assistance. For example, many shelters were denying victims with teenage boys but the OAG took action to end this practice. In communities with high levels of victimization, many victims are hard to reach due to generational trauma and mistrust of institutions and will only work with credible community messengers. While we have funded more grassroots, culturally appropriate organizations, they struggle to manage the grants because of lack of capacity and lack of cash reserves needed to operate a reimbursement grant. Several grantees ceased applying for the grants because of these issues. We are looking for creative solutions such as using an

intermediary organization to support the grassroots organizations that work in underserved communities by subgranting with these organizations and loaning them the funds to provide services. We have had other, larger organizations decline to apply for the same reasons. Staffing is also a perennial issue for many of our sub-grantee agencies due to high turnover rates, low salary levels, and emotionally demanding positions that require intense paperwork and accounting. The increase in the maximum amount for competitive VOCA victim assistance grants, which non-profits may apply, seeks to address this issue. Some sub-grantees, including county offices of victim-witness advocacy and community domestic violence and/or sexual assault service providers have increased their staffing and/or supported salary increases. NJ victims, however, greatly benefit from the highly organized, effective and communicative coalitions and victim advocates in our State. They are able to provide vital information to our office, as well as disseminate information from our office to their members.

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 Campus Sexual Assault Initiative with Rutgers University that was initiated during the prior Federal fiscal year was operational during the reporting period and continued for a second subaward period. This joint effort between Office of the Attorney General and the State's largest university replicated victim assistance programs on all Rutgers campuses; and was envisioned to ultimately serve as a model for our other institutions of higher learning in NJ. Although not a private institution, we hoped that the model created at Rutgers could be replicated at both public and private institutions of higher learning. During this reporting period, expansion of the Campus Sexual Assault Initiative was initiated through a competitive solicitation process for other state colleges and universities, public research universities, independent colleges and universities, and county colleges. Through their project proposals, the subrecipients have proposed many approaches to awareness, prevention and response to campus sexual violence including utilizing services of community-based providers for advocacy and therapeutic services for student victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Office of the Attorney General also continues to fund our existing community response teams that involve public/private partnerships including the Forensic Nurse Examiners/Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Programs, which utilize various private and public participating hospitals, as well as nurses who are not government employees. Additionally, many of the community based nonprofit agencies we fund in our competitive VOCA grant program continue to partner with county and state agencies, such as the Prosecutor's Offices, to ensure crime victims are provided with timely and valuable specialized services.

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

One of the biggest catalysts for improvements to service delivery was the massive increase of federal funding under the VOCA Grant Program, which allowed the State to expand victim services in an unprecedented way. In the recent reporting periods, the VOCA Victim Assistance Grant (VAG) Competitive Program, supported expansion of services by raising award amounts from \$55,000 a year to \$150,000 a year for a two year cycle. In the current reporting period, this was further built upon by a new cycle of the VOCA VAG Competitive Program subawards, which made available grants of up to \$300,000 for a period of 20 months from January 1, 2018 – August 30, 2019. A total of 141 proposals were successfully awarded – a record high. The rise in VOCA funding also enabled the 21 County Prosecutors Offices of Victim Witness Advocacy to hire more advocates and to initiate much needed technological upgrades to improve communications with victims. During this reporting period, the State's first statewide human trafficking program: the New Jersey Enhanced Statewide Human Trafficking Victim Services Program was fully implemented and continued into a second sub-award funding period. Using VOCA funding, the State was able to create a robust program with three regional human trafficking centers to address all forms of human trafficking, including forced labor and sex trafficking.

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

Child Abuse: The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program is supported with VOCA funds and helps monitor abused and neglected children in out-of-home placements. CASA-NJ services are available in all 21 counties. The program recruits, trains and supervises community volunteers who are assigned to a child in the foster care system. The primary objective of CASA is to represent to the court the best interests of the abused and neglected child to whom he or she has been assigned. CASA has investigative authority to examine all aspects of a child's case and to explore all viable avenues to achieve a stable home environment for that child. CASA is the child's voice in court. **Sexual Assault:** The state has 21 Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) comprised of law enforcement, service providers and volunteers. The SART volunteers are trained to meet victims of sexual assault at hospitals to provide information and support at the time of reported incidents or upon request. They link victims with services in the community. Additionally, VOCA supports the Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE) programs in each of our 21 counties. The FNEs perform forensic medical examinations for sexual assault victims. VOCA supports the on-call pay, activation pay, exam pay and supplies for the FNEs deployed as part of the SART. The Office of the Attorney General also funds many Child Advocacy Centers (CACs), which provide safe, age appropriate spaces and trained staff to interview child victims of sexual assault. Lastly, the Office of the Attorney General has awarded subgrant funds to Rutgers University to address campus sexual assault through various programs and through the expansion the Office of Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance (VPVA)

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on the main campus and the replication of the VPVA on the satellite campuses. Also, the Office of the Attorney General has expanded this project focus and opened campus sexual violence awareness opportunities to other state colleges and universities, public research universities, independent colleges and universities, and county colleges. Domestic Violence: VOCA grant funding supports our bi-lingual Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline, administered by Womanspace, Inc. Services are provided to domestic violence victims, their family members or friends, or to any individual interested in receiving information about domestic violence. Additionally, the hotline serves organizations and professionals throughout the state who need information and/or referrals to other service providers. The hotline assists all callers with support, crisis intervention, information, and referrals to the domestic violence providers in their area. Referrals are also provided for other issues that arise in domestic violence situations, including, housing, immigration, medical, legal, and financial issues. The Office of the Attorney General also supports many nonprofit organizations, as well as the Statewide Coalition to End Domestic Violence, to ensure that each County has the resources to provide services to survivors of domestic violence. Under served Victims: Under served victim populations in New Jersey face challenges that require a range of services, such as overcoming cultural and language barriers, accessible transportation, and translation services. As you will glean from other parts of this report, we have responded to some of these needs through a multiple of VOCA-grant funded projects. You will see these projects further explained in the answer to question #20. These projects focus on providing specialized services to minor trafficking victims, minor incarcerated victims, disabled and elderly victims. We also have many nonprofit agencies funded under our competitive VOCA program which provide culturally and linguistically specific services, including translation services for non-English speaking victims and programming that is sensitive to the religious and cultural values of specific populations in New Jersey like the Latin community, Southeast Asian community and Muslim community. Additionally, the State's 21 County Offices of Victim Witness Advocacy are supported with VOCA monies, and each of these County offices assists ALL victims of crime, including child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, and under served populations. The role of each office is to help crime victims and to make sure that a victim's rights are protected. The most crucial responsibility is keeping victims advised of their current case status which is accomplished through a series of letters mailed at each significant phase of the criminal prosecution. Most of the offices offer bi-lingual, culturally appropriate services.

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

The U.S. Attorney's Office is able to make referrals and access services for federal victims in their own communities through the 21 County Prosecutor's Office of Victim Witness Advocacy. The County Offices of Victim Witness Advocacy will then coordinate efforts with the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Federal Courts for victims and their families to observe sentencing on site and via teleconference.

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

The rise in opioid use has also created more crime in the state, as well as drug induced deaths. Although VOCA funding has not yet been utilized in this context, it is something the State is closely monitoring, as the rise of certain crimes, such as burglaries, robberies and assaults have been linked to the rise in heroin and opioid use. New Jersey continues to be vulnerable to human trafficking due to its location between New York and Philadelphia and its many highly traveled thoroughfares. Victims can be transported back and forth daily from New York or Pennsylvania to New Jersey. Therefore, the state invested VOCA funding into a Statewide Human Trafficking Program to address the special needs of human trafficking victims and expand services to three locations to create a statewide presence. The program is designed to respond to victims whenever they present, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The program established sites in three locations in the north, central and southern regions of the state. New Jersey experienced its first mass casualty incident related to a bias crime.

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

We have lost staff primarily due to retirements. With the loss of staff, there has also been a loss of institutional knowledge and expertise in grant administration. Hiring has been challenging due to the State's civil service system, but with the infusion of new VOCA funding, efforts to hire more staff during the reporting period are a priority.

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

SOVWA pursued a joint public awareness campaign with the State's Victim of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) which began in the summer and fall of 2017 (prior federal reporting period) and continued with flight dates for advertising in the current reporting period. The campaign's goal was to effectively reach as many NJ victims (and the general NJ) as possible in order to raise awareness of our services and how to access them. These advertisements also aimed to attract new service providers to apply for VOCA grant funding. Advertisements for this public awareness campaign included: Static Billboards (urban and suburban borders), Digital Billboards (a select few), Transit (bus interiors and exteriors), Light Rail (interiors), Bus Shelters, Digital/Online Ads, Diner Placemats, Sponsored Social Media Posts, Radio (NJ 101.5) and Newspapers. The target areas were Newark/Essex County, Camden/Camden County, Trenton/Mercer County, with some presence/spill-over in Burlington, Atlantic.

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and Ocean counties. Primarily, the campaign sought to raise awareness in urban centers where many populations are currently under served or unserved. Any VOCA sub-award opportunities were publicized on the Office of the Attorney General s Website and or in the NJ Register through a Notice of Availability of Funds (NOAF). The NOAFs include the name of the grant project, Federal funding source, purpose of the project, available funding, organization eligibility and required qualifications, application instructions, and application evaluation and scoring criteria. Lastly, we used our mass email list-serve to notify agencies when the VOCA Notice of Availability of Funds were published on the Office of the Attorney General s Website and/or the NJ Register.

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

There is an ongoing effort to identify under served and/or new populations. Collaborative projects between state agencies such as the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Human Services Office of the Public Guardian is one example. Prior to this collaboration, the Office of the Public Guardian had never received grant funding to expand their services to incapacitated elderly adults who are often victimized, including financial crime victimization. The target population is deemed incapable of managing their own affairs by a New Jersey court and presents a unique category of victims who are truly under served and/or unserved at the present moment in New Jersey. With the appropriate methodology and dedicated resources, the project will help enforce and restore the rights of the incapacitated elderly victims who have been financially victimized on a wider scale than what is currently possible. Additionally, conversations continue to take place between our Statewide Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions, representatives of law enforcement, and various service providers to discuss how the state can better serve those who fall outside of traditional service populations. We are looking into programs that can assist urban environments and the types of crime that often afflict these communities. Due to some unfavorable views of law enforcement, victims may be reticent to seek out traditional services, especially when offered by the County Prosecutors Offices. So we are exploring ways to reach these under served, and at some points, unserved victims. The department s State Office of Victim Witness Advocacy (SOVWA) conducts outreach to these types of communities and grassroots organizations to familiarize them with SOVWA services and the grant opportunities through the Office of the Attorney General. These efforts may have contributed to the introduction of new applicants to our VOCA competitive grant process, many of whom reach these unserved and under served communities in our inner cities. The State has also funded a project to Manavi, Inc. with goals of strengthening and extending the culturally specific and linguistically accessible services to victims of domestic and sexual violence in the South Asian community. Among the services offered to this population are legal services, court accompaniment, legal referrals and expert testimony for domestic and sexual abuse, stalking, trafficking and/or other forms of violence.

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

Gaps in services often present themselves around cultural and language differences. Given the diversity of populations residing in New Jersey, the Office of the Attorney General has strived to fund services that are culturally appropriate and specific to the needs of those diverse communities. For example, we currently fund organizations that have the capability of offering services in multiple languages, such as Spanish, Chinese, Filipino, and a variety of South Asian dialects. Additionally, most funded service providers have the resources to connect with Language Line to enhance their ability to communicate and respond to victims whose first language is not English. The high cost of housing in New Jersey also creates a services gap. Affordable housing is scarce everywhere in the state and there is a shortage of safe housing for survivors escaping abusive relationships. Additionally, for some victims, gang violence and intimidation in residential neighborhoods pose a safety and housing issue. To address these problems, the Office of the Attorney General has encouraged agencies to use VOCA funding for emergency shelter and hotel stays, transitional housing, and relocation assistance. And due to the relaxation of the VOCA Rule in this area, agencies have been able to make a more meaningful impact for victims who need safe housing. Further, for victims who do not report to law enforcement, thus not qualifying for Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) housing benefits, they now have recourse. This is also true for other victims who do report to law enforcement, but otherwise cannot qualify for VCCO housing benefits. We see this has a huge benefit, especially in New Jersey, where housing affordability continues to be a persistent barrier to safety for our victims. Financial independence is also a major gap for our victims, especially our domestic violence survivors who are trying to leave an abusive relationship and achieve independence. Survivors need assistance with employment training and education to improve their financial stability. Victims often cannot afford a divorce attorney to handle the lengthy and complex matters, especially where children and property are involved. NJ has responded to these issues through additional funding for legal services.

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

All VOCA sub-awards are sent for review to the Governor s Office through a grants report sent by OAG, which includes the agency s name, funding amount, and project description. Not only does this report apprise the Governor about the Office s activities, it also enables the Governor to connect with Legislators whose constituents may be a sub-recipient of our funding