

# Office for Victims of Crime

## VOCA Administrator Regional Meeting | SUMMARY

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MEETING DATE	June 14-15, 2017
MEETING LOCATION	Portland, Oregon
MEETING CALLED BY	Marilyn Roberts, OVC Acting Director
TYPE OF MEETING	VOCA Administrator Regional Meeting
TOPIC	National Resource Centers; State Compensation Summary Assessment; VOCA Compensation Rule; Effect of ITVERP Program on Compensation
PARTICIPANTS	VOCA Administrators: Kristi Abel (ID); Scott Beard (MD); Stuart Bernstein (OR); Debbie Bousquet (AR); Suzanne Breedlove (OK); Brad Bucher (IL); Mariela Cabán (PR); Calleen Ching (HI); Priscilla Colegrove (NV); Steve Dereen (NAVAA); Darryl Erickson (WY); Melissa Ewer (NM); Pamela Ferguson-Brey (HI); Mindy Fox (CA); Nicky Gleason (WA); Kate Horn-Murphy (CO); Karen Jayson (NC); Nolan Jenkins (IN); Debbie Kasyon (CO); Kate Lyon (AZ); Mike Maryanov (OR); James McCurtis (MI); Christie Machin (PR); Janelle Melohn (IA); Helen O'Brien (OR); Caroline Olfert (OR); Lesley Osen (WY); Kellie Rabenhorst (NE); Robin Reimer (OR); Gary Scheller (UT); Mike Sheline (OH); Shannon Sivell (OR); Shannon Schweitzer (SD); Rebecca Shaw (OR); Valerie Smith (OR); Moises Valdez (NM); Robert Wertz (LA); David Zuller (RI)
PRESENTERS:	Kris Brambila (OJP Office of General Counsel); Grace Call (Council of State Governments Justice Center); Charity Hope (Vera Institute); Susan Howley (National Center for Victims of Crime); Alison Iser (Vera Institute); Bob McKinnon (GALEWiLL Design); Roger Przybylski (Justice Research and Statistics Association); Allison Turkel (OVC Deputy Director); Jennifer Yahner (Urban Institute)
OVC STAFF:	Sharron Fletcher (OVC Lead Victim Justice Specialist); Marilyn M. Roberts (OVC Acting Director);
FACILITATORS:	Diane Alexander (OVC TTAC); Laney Gibbes (OVC TTAC); Marti Kovener (OVC TTAC)
ATTENDEES BY PHONE:	Tiffany Graham (OVC Grants Management Specialist); Joel Hall (OVC Program Specialist); Toni Thomas (OVC Associate Director); Derene (NAVAA); Marti Kovener (OVC TTAC); Adrian Wilairat (OVC Writer-Editor).

## **WELCOME, OVERVIEW, AND INTRODUCTIONS - MARILYN ROBERTS, OVC ACTING DIRECTOR**

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- Marilyn welcomed participants attending in person, on the phone, and via teleconference.
- The main purpose of the regional meetings is to give VOCA Administrators information, hear from them, and facilitate interaction. Each one of you can serve as a resource for other administrators.
- The VOCA compensation and assistance solicitations will be posted this week. Allocations are posted on the VOCA administrator section of the OVC website, <https://www.ovc.gov/VOCA-Administrators.html>, which is now easy to find via a link on the homepage. The page has policies, questions and answers on the VOCA Rule, and other resources. We created this one-stop shop to avoid inundating you with emails.

## **OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR VICTIM RESEARCH AND EVALUATION**

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Presentation by:

- Roger Przybylski, Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA)
- Susan Howley, National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC)
- Jennifer Yahner, Urban Institute
- OVC has funded JRSA, NCVC, and the Urban Institute to create the National Resource Center (NRC).
- NRC will bridge the gap between victim research and services by serving as a one-stop resource for victim service providers and researchers to increase:
  - 1) access to victim research and data; and
  - 2) utility of research and data collection to victim services nationwide.
- NRC has four objectives:
  - Promote collection and use of victim data;
  - Increase access to research on victim policies, programs, and practices;
  - Support translation and dissemination of victim research as usable information; and
  - Improve opportunities for researches and practitioners to work together.
- NRC will issue competitive solicitations to select 8-10 states to partner with Statistical Analysis Centers (SACs).
- These partnerships will expand states' victim-related data analysis, research, and evaluation efforts.
- Each organization will use its expertise:
  - JRSA will focus on obtaining data. JRSA is a liaison between the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and SACs, which are state offices that collect and analyze data on the justice system and serve as clearinghouses for research.
  - NCVC will focus on victim-centered information and best practices for victim services.
  - Urban Institute will focus on synthesis and translation of data.
- NRC will design and create:
  - Series of podcasts, fact sheets, webinars, and infographics that translate research into usable information.
  - On-demand courses on research basics and best practices for victim services.

- Interactive, one-stop national resource website that has an open-access repository of translated research findings and a subscription-based library of journal articles.
- Long-term goals include assembling a research-to-practice (R2P) network of other resource centers around the country to share strategies for translation and dissemination of information.
  - The network will encourage collaboration between victim researchers and practitioners.
  - Discussion forums, sometimes moderated by NRC staff, will be launched for sharing research and practice ideas.
  - NRC and the network will develop a 'match-making' database of practice-oriented researchers.
  - A victim research-practitioner program will provide a one-year, \$15,000 grant to eight pairs of R2P partners.

#### Questions and Answers:

- Q: Is the NRC functioning yet?
  - A: No, but in the next few months, phase 1 should launch a basic website with content. By the end of the calendar year, phase 2 should launch with a more advanced website.
- Q: How will we become aware of the phases and other developments with NRC?
  - A: NRC will have a marketing and publicity plan and will coordinate with OVC.
- Q: When will online courses and synthesized information about best practices become available?
  - A: Online courses will be launched during phase 2, though NRC will collaborate with TTAC to pilot at least one course this Fall. Some synthesized information will be available in the next few months, while the rest will become available during phase 2.
- How will the 8-10 states be chosen?
  - A. The 8-10 states will be chosen through applications in response to a competitive solicitation. VOCA agencies and SACs should come together to approach the application process jointly. The RFP is being finalized; you will be alerted once it has been released.

#### **GROUP DISCUSSION: WORKING WITH THE NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER (NRC)**

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Participants gathered in small groups for discussion, after which the entire room came back together for a large group discussion.

Question: How can the NRC best serve your state?

- Group 1:
  - It is very important for the NRC to provide help for compensation programs.
  - Compensation programs differ from state to state, so there needs to be an emphasis between SACs and practitioners on a local level.
  - Compensation programs will benefit from data and research findings to help their decision making.
- Group 2:

- Many states are already using research and data to drive programming.
- NRC should help subgrantees understand the value of the data they could be gathering.
- Relationships are key. Consider the importance of legislators, determine the data they need, and then present it to them to build a relationship.
- Group 3:
  - Agencies struggle with poor mapping of data.
  - NRC should facilitate the sharing of needs assessments completed in other states.
  - States define crimes differently and eligibility for compensation differently—each state's needs are unique.
  - Much of the data is based on the crime or offender, and applying that data to victims is not always easy.
  - NRC should focus on program evaluation and survey techniques to determine which data is useful, such as gaps in data.

Each group drew a card from the 'data genie basket' to discuss how the NRC could grant their wishes for research:

- Group 1:
  - Conduct research on family justice centers' efficacy and viability.
  - Conduct research on human trafficking: identifying victims and best practices.
  - Conduct general research and tools on victims and service models.
- Group 2:
  - Generate data.
  - Generate information on services.
  - Generate local data, which has the most value for an agency.
- Group 3:
  - Determine how to provide subgrantees with the research data.
  - Determine how to interpret data.

NRC wants to grant all these requests.

Marilyn:

- Each year, OVC transfers funding for research to NIJ and BJS. Use the Resource Center to help OVC determine such projects and what issues NIJ and BJS should be investigating and translating.

## **OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR REACHING UNDERSERVED VICTIMS**

Facilitator: Charity Hope, Vera Institute

- The goal of the National Resource Center for Reaching Underserved Victims (Resource Center) is to transform victim services to effectively identify, reach, and meet the needs of survivors from underserved communities by providing innovative services that are:
  - Culturally and linguistically specific;
  - Trauma-informed; and
  - Accessible, welcoming, and inclusive.
- The Resource Center should bridge silos while meeting the needs of all crime victims.
- The Resource Center will work under three principles:
  - 1. The majority of victims are underserved.
  - 2. Some groups face greater risk of harm than do others.
  - 3. Some communities experience unique barriers and have unique needs.
- A well-known study showed that in 2011, only 9% of victims of violent crimes received services. This figure drops to 4% when the crime is not reported.
  - The Resource Center will help you help subgrantees to improve these statistics and connect victims to services.
  - The Resource Center will help victim services identify, reach, and meet the needs of survivors from underserved communities.
- Rather than reinforcing silos, the Resource Center wants to help you build capacity, provide expertise, and identify and use promising practices.
  - The Resource Center will:
    - Enhance the field's knowledge and capacity base through a national conference, regional trainings, virtual trainings, and video and print-based resources.
    - Promote tailored, community-driven solutions through expert consultations and site visits.
- The Resource Center will consist of:
  - Consortium of experts broken into eight working groups centered on different communities of focus (i.e., underserved populations).
  - Robust steering committee, national advisors, work group members, and technical experts.
- Planning and development:
  - Experts will conduct a listening tour of VOCA agencies, VOCA-funded programs, culturally-specific organizations, and crime victims.
  - Experts will conduct data analysis, map the survivor-services system, and catalogue existing resources to shape the project's direction, focus, and scope.
- Next steps:
  - The Resource Center will develop a preliminary website in the next few months.
- Outreach and collaboration:
  - The Resource Center will develop a project website, ways to request and track training and technical assistance (TTA), and create different ways to provide and receive feedback.
    - To request TTA, email [cvs@vera.org](mailto:cvs@vera.org), [chope@vera.org](mailto:chope@vera.org), or call 212-376-3096.
    - The Resource Center wants to hear from you!

## GROUP DISCUSSION: NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR REACHING UNDERSERVED VICTIMS

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Facilitator: Charity Hope, Vera Institute

Question 1: Discuss a time when a victim in your state was connected to the services he or she needed.

Question 2: Discuss what happened to make this experience successful.

Group 1:

- Ingredients for success include:
  - VOCA Rule, which gives assistance programs more flexibility.
  - Communicating openly with subgrantees.
  - Sharing answers you provide one subgrantee with the rest of your subgrantees—there are many commonalities.
  - Understanding victim groups in your state.

Group 2:

- Ingredients for success include:
  - Building relationships with law enforcement.
  - Conducting more outreach to stakeholders.
  - Educating staff about the importance of using a trauma-informed approach.
  - Success story: While training Rhode Island State Police, the compensation office connected with a trooper who had responded to an incident years earlier in which a child had lost both parents in a DUI car crash. The compensation office had paid only funeral expenses. The trooper connected the office to the child, ultimately leading to a payment of \$34,000 in compensation.

Group 3:

- Ingredients for success include:
  - Listening to victims to identify their individual needs.
  - Building relationships with other agencies and advocates.
  - Establishing stable resources.
  - Success story: One office had continuously worked with one victim for 5 years and was able to help the survivor become independent.

### **Large group discussion on additional ingredients for success to serve underserved victims:**

- Training is not enough to help underserved groups; rather, you need policies, procedures, and management that is prepared to serve populations with whom they do not interact often.
- Success happens only through cultural competency and accepting victims for who they are.
- If victims feel that they were not treated well by your organization, they will tell others about their negative experience. Word travels fast—you will experience a decline in clients.
- Your staff needs a degree of diversity and should reflect the populations of your state.

Examples:

- Iowa—small but diverse staff that is able to relate to underserved populations on a personal level.
- Michigan—There is a large Arab American population in Dearborn, so staff attend festivals twice a year and brings materials from the office to build relationships, such as brochures and applications written in Arabic (Chinese is being developed).
- States with AI/AN communities – Need to account for cultural differences, i.e., victims might be reluctant to work with law enforcement.
- Technical assistance is key because many of the organizations that receive funding will be doing so for the first time.
- Culturally and linguistically appropriate services are needed.

**What approaches are you using in your state to identify underserved victims, and which groups are underserved?**

- Utah just hired a staffer whose main responsibility is conducting outreach to underserved populations and coordinating for the office: Polynesian, AI/AN, polygamous, and LGBTQ communities.
- North Carolina is reaching out to coalitions for help with underserved communities, in particular the Cherokee community, and working with the state demographer's office to use census data for help determining underserved groups. Be aware that children who are sexual offenders are often also victims.
- Success story: Iowa needed to determine how to use the increase in VOCA funding, so it conducted a needs assessment, which identified 18 groups as underserved. The office understood that emails would not be effective, so instead it hosted hundreds of meetings—some with only one or two people—with organizations that served these groups. These meetings informed the assistance application and made it user friendly. The office received 110 applications for new projects targeting underserved groups; the office is supporting 56 projects with \$70 million.
- Success story: Iowa is supporting a job training program for male survivors of violence. With instructors who understand a trauma-informed approach and can relate to the participants, the program is so popular there is now a waiting list.

**What challenges do VOCA administrators face to identify, reach, and serve underserved victims?  
What challenges do subgrantees face?**

- Oregon: Understanding the culture. Organizations might see others as competitors: example of two LEP (limited English proficient)-serving organizations continuously undermining the other. The office had to set up a meeting to cool the hostility.
- NAVAA: Communities have different beliefs on what constitutes 'good' services.
- Colorado: Even with the new VOCA Rule, boards will still look closely to see if the service can be funded. For example, in Colorado it would be difficult to fund the job training program launched in Iowa because the service is not directly related to the victimization.



- Other state: Although the PMT is helpful in standardizing data collection, it is difficult and time consuming, and involves too much cross checking with subgrantees. Subgrantees have to create a unique data tracking method to submit data.

### **What is the one thing the Resource Center can do for you and the programs you fund?**

- Conducting training, including training for subgrantees.
- Identifying underserved communities and conducting outreach to them.
- Sharing resources.
- Developing strategies for serving underserved groups.
- Helping organizations recruit diverse staff.
- Developing website resources.
- Collaborating with state VOCA offices.
- Helping serve rural populations.
- Serving as a clearinghouse for good ideas.

### **BRIEF UPDATE ON UPDATING THE VOCA COMPENSATION GUIDELINES**

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Presenter: Kris Brambila, Office of Justice Programs, Office of General Counsel

- Marilyn Roberts reiterated that the reason this meeting is being held is to obtain Administrators' input.
- For victim assistance, OVC updated the guidelines and published a rule. We are now in the preliminary stages of updating the compensation guidelines.
- Rule making process likely will begin in 2018.
- This process includes public notice, a draft document, and public comment.
- Before this process occurs, OVC will solicit general feedback from compensation administrators.
- The victim assistance rule making process was a large endeavor, but it will be less complicated for compensation (uses of compensation funds are clearly stated in the VOCA statute).
- The updates to the compensation guidelines will be technical, but we still want your feedback.
- Contact Marilyn or your OVC program specialist with comments.

### **SUMMARY ASSESSMENT OF COMPENSATION PROGRAMS**

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Presenter: Grace Call, Council of State Government's Justice Center

- This OVC-supported assessment is the product of working with four TTAC consultants over four months.
- The assessment is for OVC's internal use only—it is not intended for release to the public.
- Inform OVC if you think it should make a general summary more widely available.
- Victim compensation programs are located most often within a criminal justice agency or the state attorney general's office.
- Compensation programs rely on many sources of income.
- Since 2010, compensation program payout amounts have decreased by 18%.
  - Medical payouts have decreased by 21% during this time.
  - Mental health payouts have decreased by 22% during this time.



- Crime scene cleanup payout amounts have increased 4 times since 2007.
- Payouts for forensic exams have increased steadily since 2007.

#### Discussion:

- The assessment did not examine the reason for lower compensation payouts.
- California and Texas skew the overall results—a state-by-state chart would be helpful.
- Showing payouts over a three-year period would be more helpful.
- Each state is unique—each is losing revenue for different reasons.
- In Colorado, the trend toward deferred prosecution results in less revenue for the compensation program.
- In Maryland, the compensation program is stretched thin: has to choose between helping victims fill out forms and conducting outreach.
- Some states decreased payments because of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).
- It is necessary to compare decreases in revenue to decreases in payouts.
- Application processes need to be updated to reach more victims.
- Boards and commissions are involved in key decisions for the majority of compensation programs.
- OVC should determine how the increase in assistance funds can benefit compensation programs.
- OVC should let states know how various programs are disbursing their funds.
- VOCA does not treat compensation as fairly as it does assistance, which is based on state population. If more compensation benefits are distributed, then lower amounts are left over for assistance.

Funding for the two programs should be completely separated.

- NAVAA: compensation programs need to collectively determine how to change governance of compensation. There is no reason why compensation grants need to remain based on state payouts during the previous two years.

#### Marilyn:

- OVC wants to help you use compensation funds in any way allowable.
- OVC has twice made discretionary funding available to compensation programs for technology, and it is willing to offer funding for technical assistance to improve programs.
- Share your recommendations with OVC.

#### Small group discussions:

Question: What legislative measures can be taken to improve compensation?

- Group 1:
  - Expand the list of covered benefits based on what victims seek. Examples include spiritual practices, AI/AN practices, and therapy through yoga and tai chi.
  - One state recently added bereavement leave as a covered benefit.
  - Legislatures should consider rolling over unused lottery winnings or restitution collections to compensation programs.
- Group 2:

- Remove the cap that some states have on the amount of compensation for forensic medical exams.
- Remove the requirement that at least one state has for children to report sexual assault before being eligible for compensation.
- Change the prohibition in some states on benefits for those victims who have been convicted of a crime, especially when it is a lifetime restriction.
- Remove the requirement that the victim must report the crime within 72 hours.

## **IMPACT OF ITVERP GUIDELINES ON THE COMPENSATION PROGRAM**

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Presenter: Allison Turkel, OVC Deputy Director

Video on the International Terrorism Expense Reimbursement Program (ITVERP) is available on OVC's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MnjdOMRMxTs>.

- ITVERP is a payer of last resort, i.e., will factor in compensation that the victim received from the state compensation program before determining payment.
- ITVERP is administered by a program manager and 2 contractors.
- The victim must have suffered direct injury or death—this narrow distinction is different from other OVC programs.
  - Families are not covered for mental health unless the victim has been murdered or is a minor.
- For more information, watch the ITVERP video (above) or download the ITVERP brochure: [https://www.ovc.gov/itverp/pdfs/ITVERP\\_Brochure.pdf](https://www.ovc.gov/itverp/pdfs/ITVERP_Brochure.pdf).

Questions about ITVERP:

- When is the application deadline?
  - Three years from the date of the incident.
- Is there an overall maximum award?
  - No, a maximum is reached only if the victim is reimbursed under all provisions, which would be approximately \$105,000.
- How can the category limits be changed?
  - Raising the limits would likely require a Rule change.

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

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- Marilyn thanked participants for attending.
- Meeting minutes will be distributed and posted on the VOCA Administrators web page: <https://www.ovc.gov/VOCA-Administrators.html>.

# Underserved Victims Resource Center

An Overview and Discussion



# The Vera Institute of Justice Center on Victimization & Safety

About Us  
Our Mission  
Our Work



# About Us

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We work with others who share our vision to tackle the most pressing injustices of our day - from the causes and consequences of mass incarceration, racial disparities, and the loss of public trust in law enforcement, to the unmet needs of the vulnerable, the marginalized, and those harmed by crime and violence.

# Center on Victimization and Safety

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- Work to fashion victim services that reach, appeal to, and benefit all victims of crime.
- Focus on groups of people who are at elevated risk of harm but who are underserved.
  - People with disabilities
  - People with limited English proficiency
  - Deaf individuals
  - People who are incarcerated
  - Men of color (Common Justice)

# Underserved Victims of Crime Resource Center

Goals  
Vehicles for Change  
A Consortium of Experts





# Goals

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**To transform victim services to effectively identify, reach, and meet the needs of survivors from underserved communities by providing innovative services that are:**

- **culturally and linguistically specific,**
- **trauma-informed, and**
- **accessible, welcoming, and inclusive.**



# Underserved Communities

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- Children
- Incarcerated/Formerly Incarcerated People
- LGBTQ People
- Men of Color
- Older Adults
- People with Disabilities
- People with LEP
- People from Historically Underserved Communities



# Our Approach

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- Reflect the intersectionality of community, identity, and experience;
- Promote capacity-building approaches and practices that are cross-cutting;
- Honor the unique needs and strengths of communities and programs;
- Reflect and resonate with survivors from underserved communities; and
- Is manageable, feasible, and sustainable.



# Vehicles for Change

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## Enhance the Field's Knowledge and Capacity Base

- National Conference
- Regional Trainings
- Virtual Trainings
- Video and Print-Based Resources

## Promote Tailored, Community-Driven Solutions

- Expert Consultation
- Site Visits
- Mini-Grants to Spur Innovation

## Strategic Communications & Engagement

- Communications Campaign
- Outreach Materials
- Website



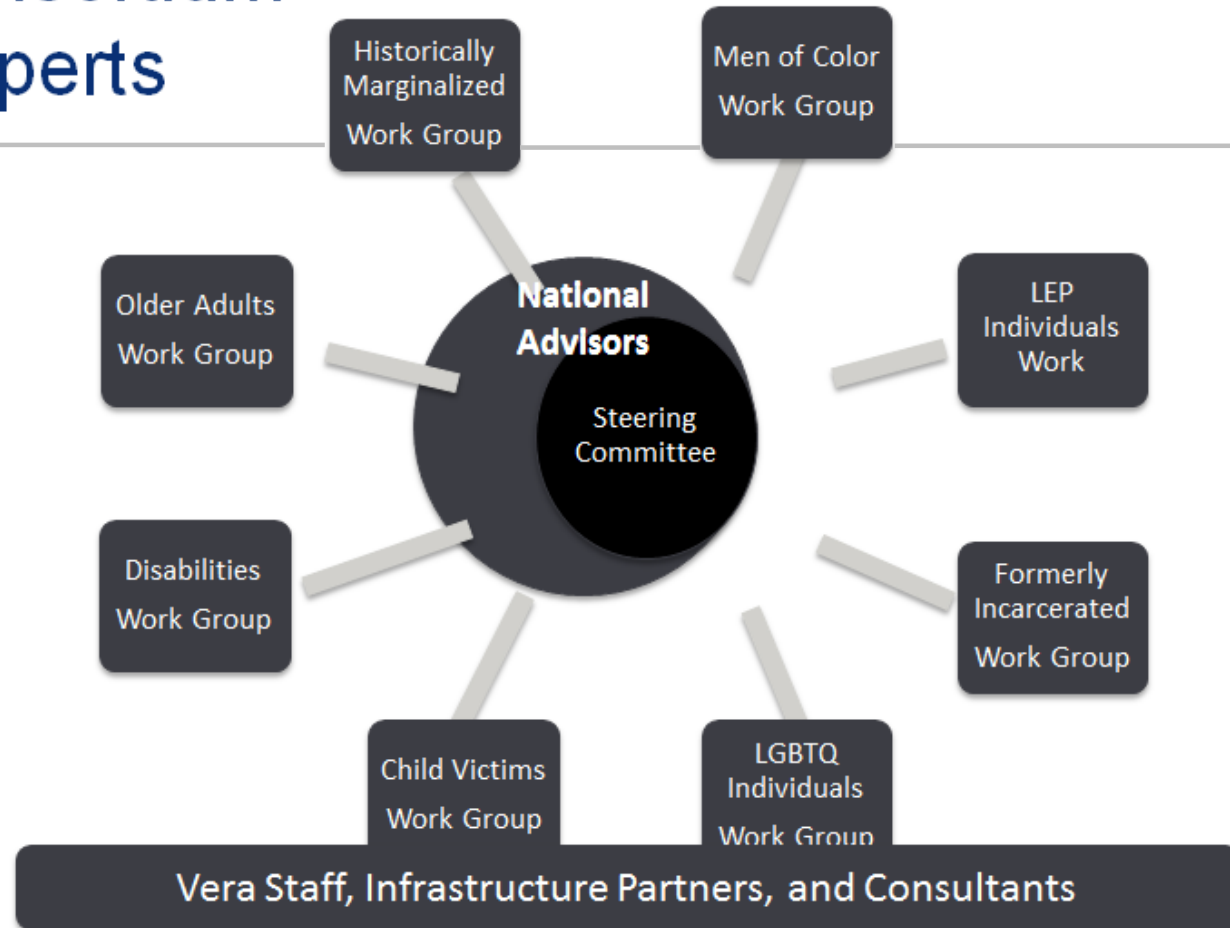
# A Consortium of Experts

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- Project Partners/Steering Committee Members
- National Advisory Committee
- A Pool of Experts
  - Subject-matter
  - Technical

**More than 45 Collaborators**

# A Consortium of Experts





# Steering Committee Partners

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- Casa de Esperanza, National Latin@ Network
- Common Justice
- FORGE
- National Center for Victims of Crime
- National Child Advocacy Center
- National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life
- Women of Color Network





# National Advisors & Work Group Members

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- Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf Victims
- Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence
- Area Agency on Aging
- BiNet USA
- Center for Urban Families
- Cross-Cultural Communications
- Futures Without Violence
- International Association of Forensic Nurses
- Just Detention International
- JustLeadership USA
- King County Prosecutor's Office
- Lifespan
- Los Angeles LGBT Center
- Mending the Sacred Hoop
- National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators
- National Association of Crime Victims Compensation Administrators
- National Center for Lesbian Rights
- National Children's Advocacy Center
- National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women
- National Crime Victim Law Institute
- National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project
- National Indigenous Women's Resource Center
- National Resource Center on Domestic Violence



# National Advisors & Work Group Members

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- National Sexual Violence Resource Center
- National Coalition of Anti-Violence Projects
- National Human Trafficking Resource Center
- Red Wind Consulting, Inc.
- Safe Havens Interfaith Partnership Against Domestic Violence
- Safe, Stop Abuse for Everyone
- Sensibilities Prevention Services
- The Arc's National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability
- The Center for Independent Living Options
- The Consultation Center, Inc.
- The Disability and Abuse Project
- UJIMA
- Weill-Cornell Medical College
- Crime Victims



# Technical Experts

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- Assessment and Evaluation
- Coordination
- Interpreters
- Strategic Communications
- Videographers
- Writers, Editors, and Graphic Designers



# Planning and Development

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## **Listening Tour**

- VOCA Administrators, VOCA-Funded Programs, Culturally-Specific Organizations, and Crime Victims
- In-Person Sessions, Interviews, and a Survey

## **Data Analysis**

- Academic literature
- VOCA needs assessments
- Other data

## **Survivor-Services-System Mapping**

## **Cataloguing Existing Resources**



# Planning & Development

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- Outreach and engagement
- Collaboration and coordination
- Infrastructure development
  - A project website
  - Mechanisms for requesting training and technical assistance
  - Training and technical assistance tracking system
  - Impact measurement approach and system
  - On-going feedback loops



# Timeline

# An Invitation to Dialogue

Large Group Discussion





# Discussion Questions

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- What approaches are you using to determine who is underserved?
- Who are underserved in your state/territory?
- What progress has been made toward reaching those underserved victims?
- What challenges remain?



# Discussion Questions

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- What type of assistance can we provide administrators?
- What type of assistance can we provide subgrantees?
- What type of assistance has been most effective at supporting and advancing the work of subgrantees?



# Our Doors Are Open!

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To request training and technical assistance,  
contact us:

[cvs@vera.org](mailto:cvs@vera.org)

(212) 376-3096

# National Resource Center for Victim Research and Evaluation



# Agenda

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- 8:35am Introductions
- 8:45am Overview of NRC
- 9:30am Questions
- 9:45am BREAK
- 10am Group Discussion
- 11:30am Wrap-up
- 11:45am LUNCH

# INTRODUCTIONS

## JRSA, NCVC, and Urban

# National Resource Center for Victim Research and Evaluation



**Stan Orchowsky**

*Sr. Research Fellow*

**Roger Przybylski**

*Research Director*

THE NATIONAL  
CENTER FOR  
**Victims  
of Crime**

**Susan  
Howley**

*Public Policy  
Director*



**Jennifer  
Yahner**

*Sr. Research  
Associate*







# Introductions: JRSA



**Stan Orchowsky**

*Sr. Research Fellow*

**Roger Przybylski**

*Research Director*

- National non-profit created in 1974
- Mission: To improve administration of criminal and juvenile justice through objective data analysis and dissemination of research that informs policy and practice
- Includes researchers, evaluators and data analysts



# Introductions: JRSA (cont.)



**Stan Orchowsky**

*Sr. Research Fellow*

**Roger Przybylski**

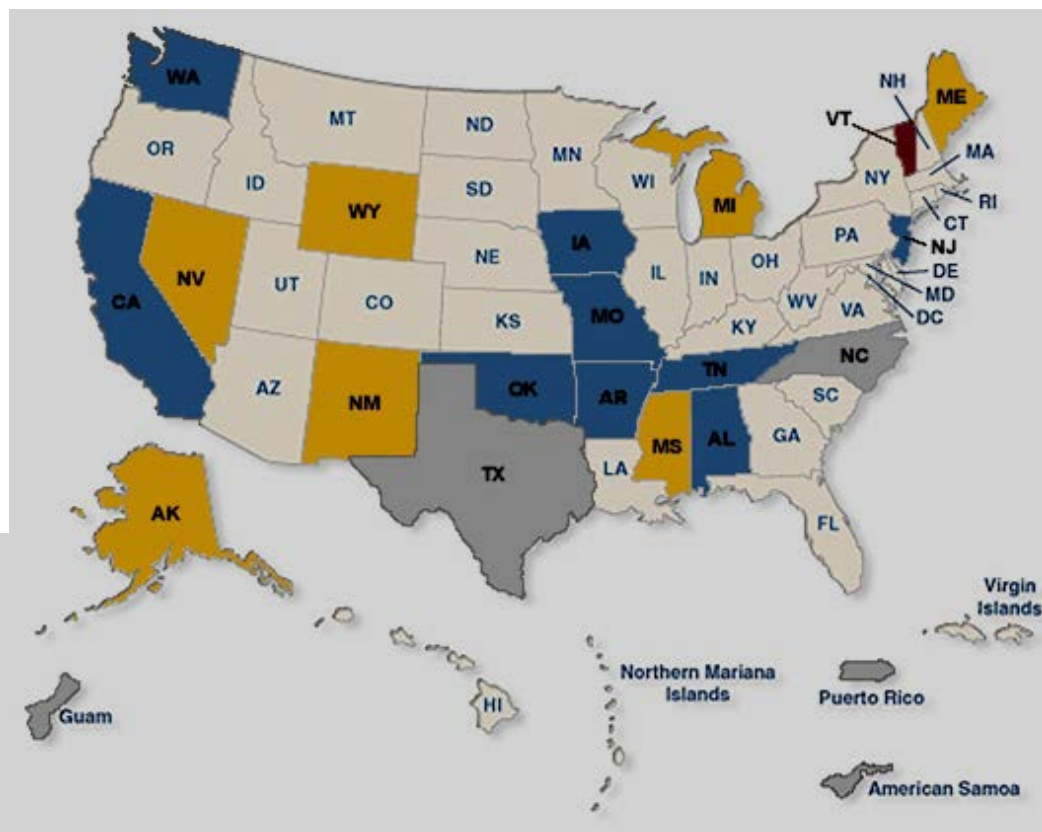
*Research Director*

- Liaison between Bureau of Justice Statistics and state **Statistical Analysis Centers (SACs)**
- SACs are state offices that:
  - *Collect and analyze statistical data on the justice system*
  - *Conduct research and program evaluations*
  - *Serve as clearinghouses for research*

# Statistical Analysis Centers (SACs)



- SACs located in a State Administering Agency (SAA)
- SACs located in universities
- SACs located in other state agencies
- SACs located in not-for-profit organizations
- States and Territories without a SAC





# Introductions: NCVC

THE NATIONAL  
CENTER FOR  
**Victims  
of Crime**

**Susan  
Howley**

*Public Policy  
Director*

- Founded in 1985
- Advocates for stronger rights, protections, and services for crime victims
- Provides education, training, and evaluation to victim service providers and criminal justice professionals



# Introductions: NCVC (cont.)

THE NATIONAL  
CENTER FOR  
**Victims  
of Crime**

**Susan  
Howley**

*Public Policy  
Director*

- NCVRW Resource Guide
- VictimConnect
- SVAA Resource Center
- Tribal Victim Service Resource Mapping Tool
- National Training Institute (annual, Portland OR)
- Stalking Resource Center
- National Census of Victim Service Providers (with Rand and NORC)
- Law Enforcement and Victim Comp (with IACP)



# Introductions: Urban Institute



**Jennifer  
Yahner**

*Sr. Research  
Associate*

- Non-profit created in 1968
- Believes in the power of research to improve lives and strengthen communities
- Includes 10 policy centers



# Introductions: Urban (cont.)



**Jennifer  
Yahner**

*Sr. Research  
Associate*

- Urban's **Justice Policy Center** has over 55 researchers and analysts
  - *Engages with practitioners and policymakers at the city, state, and federal levels*
  - *Informs decision-making to improve safety and well-being of vulnerable individuals, including crime victims*

# OVERVIEW

## National Resource Centers are a Vision 21 Initiative



# Vision 21 Initiative



- **How can we transform victim services in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?**
- Gathering of victim service providers, advocates, policymakers and professionals
- Identified four major issue areas

# Vision 21 Initiative



1

Conduct continuous rather than episodic strategic planning.

2

Support research on victims and victimization.

3

Ensure statutory, policy, and programmatic flexibility to address enduring and emerging crime victim issues.

4

Build and institutionalize capacity.



# Support Research

- **How can we bridge the gap between victim research and services?**
- OVC funded the *Bridging the Gap* project
- NCVC, Urban, and JRSA worked together





## 2 Support Research (cont.)

### Bridging the Gap Recommendations

1. Expand victimization knowledge (data)
  - *How many crime victims are in my state?*
2. Identify evidence-based practices
  - *How should my state serve crime victims?*
3. Disseminate useable victim research
  - *Which services are most helpful to victims?*
4. Promote research-and-practice collaboration
  - *How can research be useful to me/providers?*



## 2 Support Research (cont.)

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- **How can we enact these recommendations to improve victim services?**
- OVC funded the **National Resource Center for Victim Research and Evaluation**
- JRSA, NCVC, and Urban working together again

# National Resource Center for Victim Research and Evaluation



# NRC Vision

A community of victim service providers and researchers who routinely **collaborate** to improve practice through effective use of research and data.





# NRC Mission

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To serve as a **one-stop resource** for victim service providers and researchers to **connect and share knowledge** to increase  
(1) access to victim research and data and  
(2) the utility of research and data collection to crime victim services nationwide.



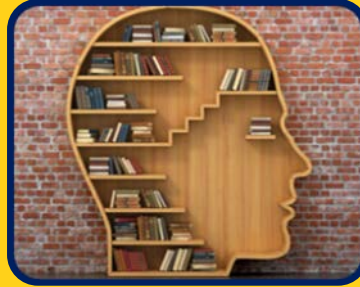


# NRC Objectives



1

Promote the collection and use of victim data.



2

Increase access to research evidence on victim policies, programs, and practices.



3

Support the translation and dissemination of victim research as useable info.



4

Improve opportunities for researchers and practitioners to work together.



# NRC Objective 1 Activities



- Partner VOCA administrators with Statistical Analysis Centers
  - *Select 8-10 states to work with*
- Expand states' victim-related data analysis, research and evaluation efforts
- Provide other information to improve victim service planning and implementation

# NRC Objective 1 Activities (cont.)



- Within and across states, identify ways to:
  - *Better use federal and state victimization data*
  - *Better use performance measurement data collected at the local, state and federal levels*
  - *Coordinate data collection and dissemination efforts among local, state and federal agencies*



# NRC Objective 2 Activities

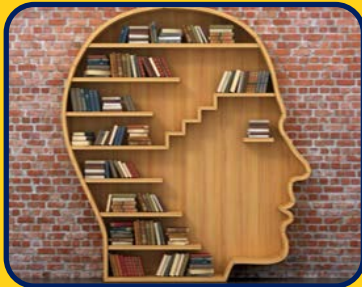


2

Increase access to research evidence on victim policies, programs, and practices.

- Series of podcasts, fact sheets, webinars, infographics
  - *Translating research into useable info*
- On-demand courses on research basics and best practices in victim services
- Discussion forums for sharing research and practice ideas

# NRC Objective 2 Activities (cont.)




2

Increase access to research evidence on victim policies, programs, and practices.

- Create interactive, one-stop national resource website
  - *Open-access repository of translated research findings*
  - *Subscription-based library of journal articles*



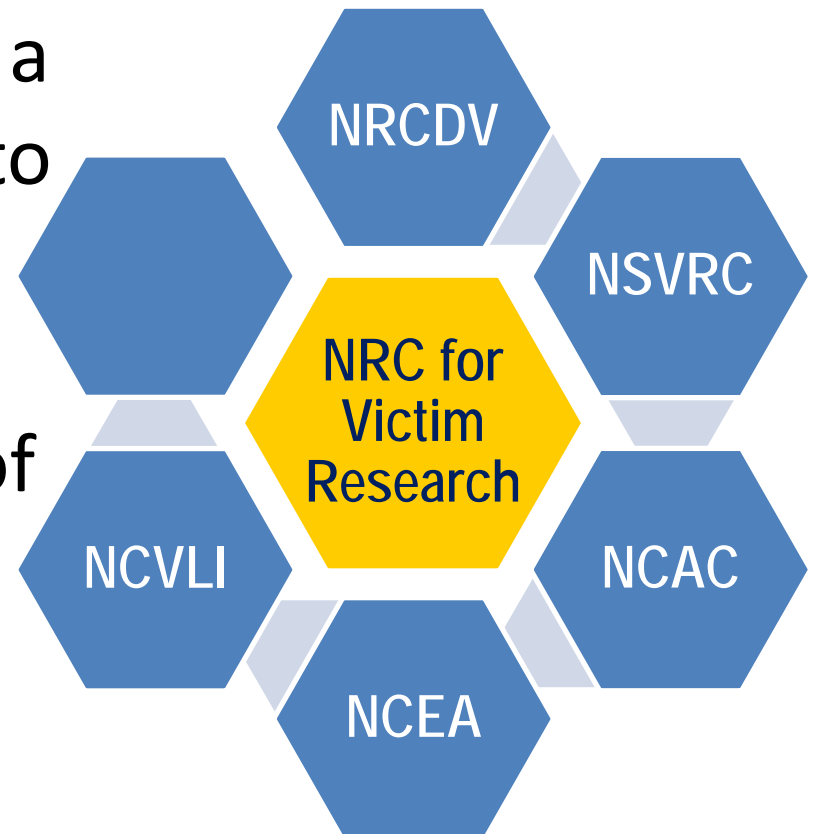
# NRC Objective 3 Activities



**3**

Support the translation and dissemination of victim research as useable info.

- Assemble a research-to-practice (R2P) network of existing resource centers



# NRC Objective 3 Activities (cont.)



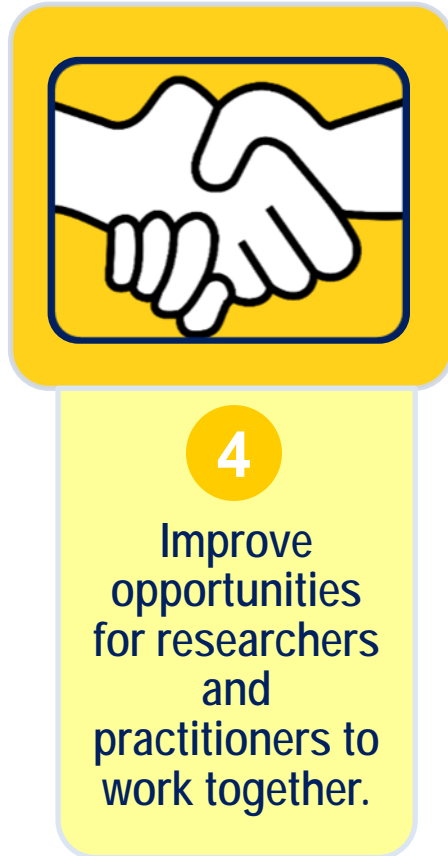
3

Support the translation and dissemination of victim research as useable info.

- Coordinate R2P evaluators to share strategies for translation and dissemination
- Clarify national research agenda
- Translate research for resource center website content



# NRC Objective 4 Activities



- Encourage collaboration between victim researchers and practitioners
  - *Establish state-level working groups*
  - *Facilitate local collaborations*
- Promote R2P discussion forums for sharing research and practice ideas



# NRC Objective 4 Activities (cont.)



4

Improve opportunities for researchers and practitioners to work together.

- Develop a “match-making” database of practice-oriented researchers
- Launch a victim researcher-practitioner fellowship program
  - *One-year, \$15K to 8 pairs of R2P partners*
  - *Collaboration on R2P project, cross-learning, participate in 2-day workshop*

## National Resource Center for Victim Research and Evaluation

# QUESTIONS?

## National Resource Center for Victim Research and Evaluation

# GROUP DISCUSSION



# Current Research Use

# Support for Research

# Research Wishes



# Current Research Use

1. From what sources do you obtain information and how do you use research/evaluation findings?
  - a. Was there any assistance or data you used (or could have used) in conducting a strategic plan within the past 5 years?



# NRC Group Discussion (cont.)



**B**

**Support  
for  
Research**

2. Does your agency support research/evaluation projects at the state or local levels?
  - a. Are you familiar with your SAC location and colleagues?
  - b. Are you aware of researcher-practitioner partnerships in your state?



# NRC Group Discussion (cont.)



B

Support  
for  
Research

3. Are some groups of sub-grantees more likely to use data or engage in evaluation?
- Community- vs. system-based?
  - Programs serving particular victim populations?
  - Large vs. small?



# NRC Group Discussion (cont.)



C

Research  
Wishes

4. If research/evaluation findings were more easily accessible to you, would you use them and if so, how?
5. What would help programs you fund improve their understanding, consumption and/or production of data?



# NRC Group Discussion (cont.)



C

Research  
Wishes

5. What are **two wishes** you have for a National Resource Center like this?

# National Resource Center for Victim Research and Evaluation

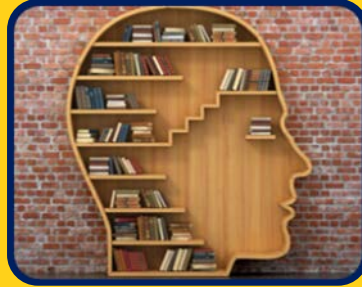
## WRAP-UP

# National Resource Center for Victim Research and Evaluation



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2

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3

Support the translation and dissemination of victim research as useable info.



4

Improve opportunities for researchers and practitioners to work together.

# National Resource Center for Victim Research and Evaluation



**Stan Orchowsky**  
[sorchowsky@jrса.org](mailto:sorchowsky@jrса.org)  
(202) 842-9330

**Beth Shuman, Project Manager**  
[bshuman@jrса.org](mailto:bshuman@jrса.org)  
(202) 503-3524



**Susan Howley**  
[showley@ncvc.org](mailto:showley@ncvc.org)  
(202) 467-8722



**Jennifer Yahner**  
[jyahner@urban.org](mailto:jyahner@urban.org)  
(202) 261-5996