

CO Annual State Performance Report

Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program

Reporting Period: [Oct 1, 2020 to Sept 30, 2021]

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

OVC VOCA Assistance Funds				
	2018-V2-GX-0050	2019-V2-GX-0027	2020-V2-GX-0024	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00614-ASSI
Federal Award Amount	\$56,681,557.00	\$38,825,662.00	\$28,979,526.00	\$18,182,462.00
Total Amount of Subawards	\$53,819,737.00	\$36,775,189.00	\$15,464,132.00	\$0.00
Total Number of Subawards	388	198	197	0
Administrative Funds Amount	\$2,834,077.00	\$1,941,283.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Training Funds Amount	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance Remaining	\$27,743.00	\$109,190.00	\$13,515,394.00	\$18,182,462.00

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	2018-V2-GX-0050	2019-V2-GX-0027	2020-V2-GX-0024	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00614-ASSI
Government Agencies Only	145	74	75	0
Corrections	1	1	1	0
Courts	2	1	1	0
Juvenile Justice	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	82	44	45	0
Prosecutor	42	20	20	0
Other	18	8	8	0
Nonprofit Organization Only	238	121	119	0
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	57	29	29	0
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	10	5	5	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	41	21	21	0
Faith-based Organization	6	3	3	0
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	41	20	20	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	18	10	10	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	12	5	5	0
Multiservice agency	28	16	14	0
Other	25	12	12	0

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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	5	3	3	0
Campus-based victims services	4	2	2	0
Law enforcement	0	0	0	0
Physical or mental health service program	0	0	0	0
Other	1	1	1	0
Total Number of Subawards	388	198	197	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				
	2018-V2-GX-0050	2019-V2-GX-0027	2020-V2-GX-0024	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00614-ASSI
A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	317	169	169	0
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	43	4	3	0
C. Start up a new victim services project	29	25	25	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				
	2018-V2-GX-0050	2019-V2-GX-0027	2020-V2-GX-0024	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00614-ASSI
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	178	2	193	0
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	157	1	178	0
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	151	1	163	0
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	79	1	67	0
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	143	2	153	0
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	189	2	197	0

Priority and Underserved Requirements				
Priority Area	2018-V2-GX-0050	2019-V2-GX-0027	2020-V2-GX-0024	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00614-ASSI
Child Abuse				
Total Amount	\$9,064,581.00	\$6,063,146.00	\$2,459,538.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	16.00 %	16.00 %	8.00 %	
Domestic and Family Violence				
Total Amount	\$22,858,513.00	\$15,375,660.00	\$6,240,332.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	40.00 %	40.00 %	22.00 %	
Sexual Assault				
Total Amount	\$7,192,031.00	\$5,178,463.00	\$2,069,247.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	13.00 %	13.00 %	7.00 %	
Underserved				
Total Amount	\$14,681,652.00	\$10,132,409.00	\$4,682,257.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	26.00 %	26.00 %	16.00 %	

Budget and Staffing				
Staffing Information	2018-V2-GX-0050	2019-V2-GX-0027	2020-V2-GX-0024	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00614-ASSI
Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	3512	1773	1761	
Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	4451797	2282024	2272144	
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	10321	5496	5495	
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	2227593	966522	967062	

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)	195	5772	6107	6657	6978	6378
Adult Sexual Assault	264	2314	2695	2811	4812	3158
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	139	708	558	685	604	638
Arson	59	85	58	73	48	66
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	87	428	731	802	588	637
Burglary	119	436	717	822	879	713
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	270	4600	5746	6001	5424	5442
Child Pornography	72	105	157	182	103	136
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	295	3878	4549	4680	4747	4463
Domestic and/or Family Violence	340	17293	19240	21087	22261	19970
DUI/DWI Incidents	96	375	348	511	398	408
Elder Abuse or Neglect	171	439	418	361	461	419
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	81	32	42	61	62	49
Human Trafficking: Labor	63	45	64	68	97	68
Human Trafficking: Sex	139	239	235	237	270	245
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	91	1343	2563	1850	1271	1756
Kidnapping (non-custodial)	78	137	232	201	242	203
Kidnapping (custodial)	60	73	37	42	45	49
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	18	85	93	89	394	165
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	102	493	661	865	1009	757
Robbery	125	437	580	554	464	508
Stalking/Harassment	219	2785	3827	3905	4372	3722
Survivors of Homicide Victims	142	464	580	739	700	620
Teen Dating Victimization	122	117	160	179	168	156
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	5	2	3	0	7	3
Other	102	7871	8295	9464	11621	9312

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	92	172	136	138	748

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Homeless	1034	1286	1386	1582	7113
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	1168	1216	1434	1444	6419
LGBTQ	454	575	601	589	2478
Veterans	552	510	464	564	2157
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/ Physical /Mental	1370	2144	2001	1837	10588
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	2413	2649	2902	3789	13512
Other	863	716	1114	2610	7113

General Award Information		
Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	164525	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	23688	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	122208	74.28 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	44052	26.78 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	51676	

Demographics		
Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	1662	1.36 %
Asian	1474	1.21 %
Black or African American	7311	5.98 %
Hispanic or Latino	24378	19.95 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	305	0.25 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	54984	44.99 %
Some Other Race	5623	4.60 %
Multiple Races	2533	2.07 %
Not Reported	16378	13.40 %
Not Tracked	7560	6.19 %
Race/Ethnicity Total	122208	
Gender Identity		
Male	32882	26.91 %
Female	70214	57.45 %
Other	374	0.31 %
Not Reported	11304	9.25 %
Not Tracked	7434	6.08 %
Gender Total	122208	
Age		
Age 0- 12	16355	13.38 %
Age 13- 17	9024	7.38 %
Age 18- 24	11658	9.54 %

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Age 25- 59	54792	44.84 %
Age 60 and Older	8066	6.60 %
Not Reported	12545	10.27 %
Not Tracked	9768	7.99 %
Age Total	122208	

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	212	137662	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	125536
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	88964
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	55323
			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	88751
B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	189	59147	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	2458
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	2318
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	9742
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	84461
			B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	2763
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	3314
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	8050
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	9720
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	7493
			B10. Interpreter services	12789
C. Emotional Support or Safety	184	71046	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	59464
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	53711
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	7279

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Services			C4. Individual counseling	43255
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	9586
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	7510
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	10340
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	97	6296	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	34789
			D2. Transitional housing	14057
			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	13670
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	165	84125	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	99117
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	15120
			E3. Assistance with restitution	27969
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	11542
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	9534
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	5877
			E7. Immigration assistance	2993
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	7118
			E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	6194
			E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	23082
E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	5847			

ANNUAL QUESTIONS

Grantee Annually Reported Questions	
Question/Option	Count
Were any administrative and training funds used during the reporting period?	
Yes	1
No	0
Did the administrative funds support any education activities during the reporting period?	
Yes	0
No	1
Number of requests received for education activities during the reporting period.	0
Number of people trained or attending education events during the reporting period.	277
Number of events conducted during the reporting period.	0
Did the grant support any coordination activities (e.g., with other service providers, law enforcement agencies) during the reporting period?	
Yes	1
No	0

Describe any program or educational materials developed during the reporting period.

No program or educational materials were developed during the reporting period.

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

From October 2020 – September 2021 our office used admin funds to host two virtual training series. The first training was a two-part virtual training on the Best Practices for Serving the LGBTQ+ Community held by The Center on Colfax. Over 130 victim service providers were trained on inclusive vocabulary, implicit bias, microaggressions, myths about LGBTQ+ survivors of domestic violence, as well as practical tools that support a safe, inclusive environment. Pre- and post-training evaluations demonstrated participants' increased knowledge about the LGBTQ+ community with the majority rating their knowledge following the training as "pretty good" to "extremely high." Participants enjoyed being able to have open conversations with other victim services providers virtually throughout the state about how they are currently serving LGBTQ+ survivors. The other training our office supported with admin funds was a 6 part series on Supporting Victims with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) Training held by the ARC of Aurora. Service providers from around the state were trained on disability characteristics, communication supports, competency and capacity, victimization, accommodations, and disability bias. Participants that completed the six-part training series received a certificate of completion, as well as tangible tools to utilize when serving victims with disabilities. 147 service providers completed the training and pre and post test results overwhelmingly demonstrated a greater understanding in serving and supporting victims with IDD with many participants noting how helpful the training was and the knowledge it provided them in serving this community better.

Describe any program policies changed during the reporting period.

Our office is currently updating our Match Waiver policy per the new OVC guidance issued in September 2021. We hope to have that submitted as soon as possible in JustGrants for approval. Additionally, we made some edits to our Monitoring Process to strengthen aspects of it that were noted on our OIG Audit/Recommendations. We've also added language to our Board's Policies and Procedures to allow for special projects outside of the general two year funding cycle. This has allowed us to move forward with the Public Awareness, our internal grant, and the Latino Coalition agreement for underrepresented communities. Other than that, no other significant policy changed occurred in the reporting period. Our office continues to evaluate cost allowability and flexibility around quarterly report submissions as challenges and questions arise. While we have not yet updated any policies as a result of getting more questions answered, we do continue to update our internal eligible activities and cost list. We use this list as a guide for making decisions as to eligible activities and update it as new questions are answered by OVC or as the grants team interprets the rule.

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

There was no earned media coverage events/episodes from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021 for OVP. However, our office ran a special Public Awareness Campaign funding opportunity where 6 programs were given the chance to supplement current public awareness campaigns already in the works. Many of these campaigns garnered local and regional attention and were featured on local TV, public transportation signage and radio ads. The Colorado CASA program, who was one of the recipients of the supplemental funding, had over 300 CASA volunteers apply throughout the state through their campaign specifically. The Human Trafficking Council's project won an Emmy and other media awards this past year for their This is Human Trafficking campaign and used funds to run commercials during the Summer Olympics and in market specific media.

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

The Office for Victims Programs, within the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, continues to oversee the federal VOCA Assistance grant (VOCA), the federal Violence Against Women Act grant (VAWA), the federal Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) grant, and our state Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement grant (state VALE) and the federal VOCA Victim Compensation grant (VC). Because all of these programs are housed within one office, coordination between these programs happens regularly, which in turn helps the agencies that assist crime victims. The Office for Victims programs continues to house the Colorado Human Trafficking Council. Having this program in our office means that we have access to the latest information regarding human trafficking crimes in Colorado. In addition, the Human Trafficking staff also conducts training to local stakeholders, many of whom are VOCA subgrantees. The Human Trafficking program was recently funded through VOCA to conduct a statewide public awareness campaign to address both labor and sex trafficking. Our office also houses the Victims Rights Act Coordinator for the state. The Coordinator works with a subcommittee of our advisory board to review victims rights act complaints and to determine whether a victim's rights have been violated when a complaint is filed. The Coordinator provides training on victims rights in Colorado that many of our subgrantees attend. The Coordinator collaborates with other stakeholders to travel around that state to provide these key and necessary trainings. For our last funding cycle that began on January 1, 2021 we required that all programs and funded staff/volunteers/match personnel receive VRA training. We continue to fund the Statewide Emergency Fund and have a staff member that serves as the staff liaison for the grant. As mentioned in last year's report, in 2019 our Grants Team Supervisor established a new special project that provides a fellowship experience for recently graduated law students from the University Of Denver Sturm College Of Law by placing them in local victim service agencies to work with victims of crime on their civil legal service needs. We continued this project from 2019 all the way into 2021 and had great success with it. A second group of 2-year fellows started in 2020 and that cohort will end in the fall of 2022. Both our Unit Manager and Grants Team Supervisor serve on the Gender Based Violence Committee which is partnership between: our office, the Domestic Violence Program (DVP), the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and both State Coalitions for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. This Committee is key in fostering collaboration between the offices, exploring avenues to increase funding availability to communities that are impacted by inequity, streamlining funding and making it more cohesive and consistent across the three different State Departments and more. Another staff member sits on the Restorative Justice Council which works collaboratively across sectors to develop and strengthen restorative justice practices in Colorado. Our Unit Manager sits on a variety of committees and boards in addition to the Gender Based Violence Committee which include: a working group for a new request for ARPA funds, Executive Clemency Board, Interstate Compact Board, and co-chaired the Forensic Compliance team. Finally, the VOCA Administrator continues to serve on the DVP Advisory Board and the DVP Board at the Colorado Department of Human Services. DVP is the program that oversees and administers the state's federal FVPSA grant and the state dollars allocated for domestic violence programs. Serving on the board allows for more open communication between the two agencies as many of the agencies funded by DVP are also funded through VOCA.

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

In order to best answer this question, we compiled answers from our Quarterly Reports and PMT Responses from our subgrantees. A common theme we read over and over is staff shortages, burnout and fatigue across the board. It doesn't matter if a program is a mainstream, established agency, or a newer grass roots agency - the burnout is overwhelming in the field right now. This is affecting services in so many unfortunate ways. First, over the last year Colorado has seen housing prices explode - this is felt particularly harder in our Resort Towns and the surrounding areas where housing is already limited and unaffordable. Programs in these regions have historically struggled to find affordable housing for clients (i.e. rent or even not being able to afford their mortgages anymore), but has been felt even harder over the last 7 months. This is also true for their staff who can't find affordable housing. As mentioned in a previous answer, this is fueling the Great Resignation. As more jobs are going remote with better pay, staff no longer feel obligated to stay in unaffordable areas for little pay, long hours and high-stress jobs. Time and time again, programs have noted that they had more turnover in the last 12 months than ever before, forcing them to pile on work responsibilities on those who are left or reducing services all together. An unintended consequence of this is substantial vacancy savings among subgrantees, resulting in constant efforts on our and their behalf to reallocate funds to assist then in spending down their awards. Some of our subgrantee agencies have struggled for more than 6 months to fill vacant or newly created positions. Additionally, programs in these areas are not able to get quality services for victims. When we solicited feedback for this question, overwhelming programs described not being able to get SANE or Therapy services. For SANES some programs note it's because Nurses are quitting and hospitals are overrun with COVID so nurses who are qualified to provide these services are often pulled away. Therapists too are leaving high priced areas and either moving to other regions or out of state completely - hindering the ability to find affordable services or professionals willing to negotiate rates down to meet the Federal Threshold for Consultants. Aside from what we call the I-25 corridor on the front range here, much of Colorado is very rural, thus being able to provide and give services - especially specialized services like this - was already a challenge and barrier, but it's become even more so now that those specialized professionals are moving out of the areas. Compounded with this fatigue, is that the demand for services has increased exponentially over the Pandemic. Many regions are seeing a dramatic increase in crime rates and this in turn increases the demand for services by both system based advocates and community based advocates. As mentioned earlier, one program has seen a 30% increase in the demand for services, while staffing has remained the same at their agency - increasing the workload for already busy staff. Another program stated that they've served double the amount of victims over the last 2 years while their team remained the same. Staff often are working long hours to ensure access to all victims, taking on multiple job responsibilities etc. Additionally, it's worth noting that as the courts have opened back up, programs have indicated that cases are taking much longer to process because of the backlog of cases and/or advocates in some regions often feels cases are being pushed through to get them processed faster. Another challenge programs have noted to us was all of the new crimes that popped up related to COVID-19 which are more complex cases that have many layers to them that agencies are not prepared to handle alone or have no experience of serving - like identity fraud and immigration situations. Programs noted that agencies that they would often would rely upon to assist in these complex cases have had to close their doors, or tried to operate only remotely or with limited staff creating a ripple effect that created a huge challenge for those of us who were still operating in person as first responders.

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 mentioned in last year's report, addressing the emergency fund, civil legal services and housing needs of crime victims always continues to be a priority for our office. However, over the last year our office has worked hard to expand on work done in past years to increase the accessibility of our funding and expand eligibility for programs who serve communities impacted by inequity. With the help from the Office for Victim Programs (OVP) staff, our Crime Victims Services Advisory Board (CVSAB) spent the summer revising the Funding Philosophy for our upcoming grant application in 2022. The Funding Philosophy outlines the criteria that Board Members use to score applications, funding priorities etc. Revisions included revising past criteria to be more explicit with word choices as well as outlining areas of priority of funding to include agencies that serve un/underserved communities - even with impending funding cuts due to the VOCA decreases. Staff in turn has and will use this funding philosophy to revise our CY 23-24 application and Review forms to structure them in a manner where programs that serve un/underserved communities rise to the top for funding. Additionally, we have worked with a consultant group called CORE DEI to review our application materials to ensure our materials are inclusive and help us with our intended outcome of funding smaller agencies that serve these communities. CORE DEI's suggestions were impactful and while we may not have been able to implement them all in this funding cycle, it's helped us consider for future cycles ways we can better our processes and meet our goal. To this point as well, we have also looked at the makeup of our Board and have really tried to expand our outreach to recruit more diverse members, resulting in several new members from more diverse backgrounds. We have also enlisted the help of trainers to provide Implicit Bias training for staff and board members as well. Next steps include adopting an Equity Statement for the Grants Team and Advisory Board and infusing it into their bylaws to ensure it remains a core value. Additionally, as I will mention in another question, our Unit Manager and Grants Team Supervisor continue to serve on the Gender Based Violence Committee where the topic of making funding more inclusive and accessible is a shared goal. Over the last year, both have also been working very closely with the Latino Coalition for Community Leadership to set up a special grant that would act as an Incubator project for small grass root agencies that serve communities impacted by inequity. As a fiscal sponsor for these programs, the Latino Coalition will also work with agencies to build up their administrative capacity to hopefully be able to apply for VOCA funding on their own in our next CY 25-26 cycle. While these are some steps we have currently taken, we know there is still much more to be done to expand on this important work.

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

As has been mentioned in an earlier section, the Office for Victims Programs administers the federal VOCA Assistance grant (VOCA), the federal Violence Against Women Act grant (VAWA), the federal Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) grant, a state Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement grant (state VALE) and the federal VOCA Victim Compensation grant (VC). Coordination between these programs and with our Human Trafficking and Victims Rights programs happen on a daily basis, which helps with the delivery of victim services. In addition to this coordination, one notable activity that improved the delivery of victim services this year was our office giving programs supplemental funding to assist with funding losses that happened in 2020 and allowing programs to instead divert flexible, general operating funding to other parts of their agency that VOCA couldn't support. This helped programs to weather other local funding losses while still providing the same level of services to victims of crime. Additionally we approved a blanket match waiver for VOCA subgrantees for the calendar year 2021-2022 subgrant award period. Albeit there were a few hiccups in this process, but we worked closely with our OVC Grant Manager to amend those. Not having to provide match has allowed our subgrantees to use limited funds to maintain services, particularly when local and state funding sources are drying up. Finally we funded an internal grant that provided necessary resources to programs. Because of the timing of our awards and because of funding losses at a state and local level, many programs moved previously budgeted training funds from their current budgets to their personnel lines to supplement loss in funding for direct service staff salaries and benefits. In order to help fill this gap, our internal grant provided training scholarships so that staff could continue to get the critical direct services training needed. Additionally we provided every agency with a special pin number to access a Statewide Language Line to assist with real-time interpretation. So far, we have been able to

o provide over 30,000 minutes translation in over 44 different languages for victim service agencies across the state. We also had opportunity to have programs written materials translated into different languages through our Title Translation services community program. While many programs were still operating during the pandemic and they are still reeling from funding losses we provided victim service agencies with COVID kits – that provided PPE and sanitation supplies for direct service staff to keep them and their clients safe. Shelters across the state were provided with supplies to assist in making them accessible to Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing/Hearing-Impaired survivors – supplies included UbiDuo devices for communication, flashing baby monitors, fire alarms, and other relevant supplies. Lastly, kits were made for system-based advocacy agencies in the event of a mass tragedy and included everything an agency might need to create an on-scene response center for victims and their loved ones. All of these resources have been invaluable to our grantees and have helped them greatly in a year when they have and continue to experience funding losses across the board.

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

Service providers for victims of child abuse reported in the second half of the year seeing an increase in demand for services in 2021 as schools and life began to return to normal. Our agency funds a number of Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) and Supervised visitation programs. While CASA programs were able to still provide services over the last year remotely as courts were still shut down, some struggled to maintain their volunteer base at points. However, one program noted that being able to move in-person volunteer trainings to virtual trainings has helped them recruit more volunteers than they were able to in the past. CASA programs also struggled to provide services in person in the first half of the year as many had aspects of their program which rely on afterschool programs, which were shut down because of the pandemic. However, once schools began to resume in person, these programs started to see an uptick in the demand and need for their services. CACs across the state have and continue to struggle with finding qualified forensic interviewers and therapists in their regions as many of these professionals are moving out of the area due to rising housing prices and/or the opportunity to work remotely or because of better pay in other parts of the State. This is also true for SANEs for CACs, which I will touch upon later. While overall as a state, we saw a decline in reported Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault reports at the end of 2020 with system agencies, the opposite was true for non-profit/community based programs. As courts began to open up again and victims were able to leave their homes, where often they were in the same space as their perpetrator, assistance with protection order paperwork, court hearing preparation and accompaniment, crisis intervention and planning, emergency and long-term shelter, therapy, financial assistance, and employment assistance exploded in the last year. Programs have noted that they've seen a 30% increase in service requests, have had to look for a additional buildings to house victims for emergency shelter as the one they currently have does not have the capacity to house all the victims that need it. All the while these programs have been navigating these request for services in face of record amount of resignations. Additionally, areas are indicating that receiving SANE services has been a struggle as many nurses are either quitting or being pulled away to assist in Hospitals with the Pandemic. Lastly, VOCA-funded programs continue to create and implement specialized services to reach underserved victims where they are at, whether that be through hiring more bilingual staff, offering legal clinics within the community, or building relationships with other programs that specialize in serving those underserved populations. Back in 2020 our office ran a special project opportunity to fund programs that specifically served or were geared towards serving underserved programs in the State. Many of these programs had outreach initiatives, were building specialized task forces and expanded staffing to hire more bi-lingual staff. Unfortunately, because of COVID most programs were not able to fully implement their projects as planned. However, this did allow them to incorporate these goals and objectives in their current grants that are part of our CY 21-22 subawards. We also were able to fund a new program in the Colorado Springs area that specifically provides services to historically underserved populations – namely people of color, men, and young adults. With the VOCA funding they were able to expand their agency, hire more staff and provide direct services to 145 individuals and indirect services for 28 of their children. We were excited to be working with this program because they didn't meet the service or funding requirements set forth by the VOCA rule in our last cycle. We also have continued to fund a number of programs throughout the state that provide legal services to undocumented victims of crimes. Additionally, as previously mentioned, our office has been working with the Latino Coalition over the last 6 months to become a fiscal sponsor and guide for grass-root agencies that serve marginalized and un/underserved communities to hopefully build their capacity to apply for funding in our future cycles. This project isn't set to formally kick-off until 2022, so I'll be sure to talk about it more then.

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

No specific efforts were undertaken; however, it is the expectation of the Office for Victims Programs at the Division of Criminal Justice that subgrantees serve victims of federal crimes in the same manner in which they would provide services to other victims. Unfortunately, Colorado experienced multiple mass shooting in the last year. Our office worked quick to collaborate with local officials and programs to provide funding support and consultation on how to best set up services for victims. While we were waiting on our application for AEAP to be accepted the Boulder King Soopers shooting that happened in March of 2021, OVP set up emergency grants and awarded supplemental funding to programs in the area to expand their capacity to serve the community affected by this horrible crime. We did have a couple of grantees report to us that they did assist with a Federal Case that their jurisdiction. One in which the DA's office was prosecuting but then had to turn it over to the AUSA's office because there was a federal Indictment. Their Victim Witness Unit reached out to the Victim's Assistance Coordinator with the FBI to get the victim enrolled in DOJ's Victim Notification System. They also provide other compensation services to the victim, not funded through VOCA. Another agency that works with undocumented victims, ended up working with a victim at the tail-end of their federal hostage-taking case with the Dept. of Homeland Security. They were able to help the victim get their status adjusted to that of permanent resident of the United States, and obtained a dismissal of his removal case. In five years, he will be eligible to become a U.S. citizen.

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

One emerging issue affecting crime victim services in Colorado that I've talked about in other responses, but feel like it deserves its own space is the amount of Local, State and Federal funding losses programs continue to experience all the while the demand for services continue to increase exponentially. As I mentioned earlier, many providers indicated that the demand and the complexity of services needed by victims has grown since the pandemic. With the State just getting back to in-person activities and Courts reopening, funding for State and Local funding sources is started to rebound, but it's not fast enough. As mentioned in last year's report, State and local funds for victim service programs are limited in Colorado and based on the collection of fees and fines from convicted offenders. Over the last year, offenders have been diverted out of the criminal justice system into diversion impacting the State's ability to collect surcharges in these situations that would have otherwise gone to victim services. We ended up having to reduce all our State funded victim service programs by 50% in the last year as the funding source has been woefully unstable since the pandemic started. Compounded with this is the looming VOCA funding decrease. With our FFY 21 award significantly decreasing since FFY 2018 – we're expecting to have to make about a 30-40% reduction in funding for our next funding cycle –

which gravely impacts the victim services field. This funding not only supports importing housing stability grants, therapy, child services, and more, it also supports increases in salaries for victim advocates in a state where housing prices and cost of living has exploded over the last year alone. However, to the opposite of this point, we're even noticing, as we mentioned in an earlier response, that agencies are also experiencing long vacancies in many positions – we've had programs with open positions anywhere from 6-9 months because they can't hire for positions. So while funding is going down, it's not always a funding issue as well in some cases. This plays into the point that programs have indicated that agencies they've traditionally relied on to provide certain specialized services are no longer in existence or have moved to a remote work schedule that has impacted the ability to refer out or provide adequate services to victims. This has forced these same agencies to take it upon themselves to learn and provide the services or spend more time trying to find resources for victims – all of which takes time, money and staffing resources that many times they just don't have. Another trend we're just beginning to see in our state is the language used to identify perpetrators is starting to shift. For example instead of referring them as perpetrators or offenders some are starting to refer to these individuals as justice involved individuals. Another example is sex offenders are now being referred to as individuals who committed sexual offenses – all of which minimizes what happened to and the crimes committed against victims. Much like across the country, Colorado's Governor has prioritized Criminal Justice Reform as part of his agenda. This reform, among many other things, is focused on offenders with minimal consideration of how the changes impact victims. Often times advocates and agencies like ours are left out of the table when discussions like this occur and victims' voices are not heard or represented. It's a concerning trend in the field here and victims' voices have to be elevated in future discussions.

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

The majority of staff employed at the Office for Victims Programs have been employed with the office for multiple years. Just like our subgrantees, State agencies are seeing rapid turnover and resignations across all departments, even ours. During the October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021 there were a few transitions in our office. We lost another Grant Financial Manager and due to the nature of our State's hiring process right now, it took 4 months to fill that position forcing the remaining two grant financial managers to take on a caseload of over 100 subgrantees each. To say we're relieved to have our newest teammate join us, is an understatement and we're grateful for them joining the team. Additionally, with the transition with the VOCA Administrator role in early 2021 we were able to hire another Grant Program Manager so that we could shift some positions around. With this shift, our former VOCA Administrator was able to finally retire and spend much needed quality time with her family. We are happy that she has decided to come back and work part time for our office to assist with the grant load. Lastly, one of our compliance monitors resigned this fall, leaving our Unit with one fulltime monitor charged to monitor more than 230 VOCA subgrantees every two years.

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

Colorado's process for publicizing its victim assistance funding process is primarily to conduct a mass email campaign in which we send a link to our announcement of available funds and application materials to existing subgrantees and to everyone on our newsletter/email list. Prior to this effort, our team conducts research to identify additional agencies, especially those working with communities impacted by inequity, to add to our outreach list. We also conducted a webinar this fall geared specifically at agencies who do not currently receive our funding. We ask everyone who receives our materials to forward them to interested parties. We also post our announcement and application materials on our state website and in our office newsletter. We also ask our partnering agencies to forward along important information to their stakeholders as well.

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

Our team has taken a variety of steps to fund more programs that serve victims in un/underserved communities. Because our funding is on a 24 month cycle, all applications for our current CY 21-22 grant cycle were due in February of 2020 – a month before the Pandemic was in full force here in Colorado. During this time our office had just begun a subset of special projects that started in January of 2020, specifically geared towards serving un/underserved communities in Colorado. Many of these programs were unable to complete their project activities because of stay-at-home orders but were able to incorporate activities into their current CY 21-22 grants. Additionally, in the 2021 our office also ran another special project to supplement already existing Public Awareness Campaign efforts. We awarded over \$1.5 million to 6 programs for campaigns that addressed issues such as: Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Childhood Victimization and more. All of these programs expanded their outreach and increased the accessibility of their campaigns with these funds. For instance, one campaign was able to use the supplemental funds to translate their videos into 4 different languages. The Sexual Assault campaign funding was used to expand outreach to the Asian American Pacific Islander community. Another program worked closely with an Equity Diversity and Inclusion consultant to diversify their campaign and make it more inclusive for all victims. The Human Trafficking campaign used supplemental funds to translate materials into Spanish in a culturally appropriate way and air in specific Spanish media outlets around the state to increase accessibility and awareness of services. By providing a statewide Language Line and translation of materials for all victim services agencies in Colorado (whether a grantee or not), programs ability to serve survivors in a variety of languages greater increased.

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

Colorado has historically kept our application process as broad as possible so that we fund a wide-variety of programs serving a wide-variety of victims across the state. Every year since our need assessment in 2015: civil legal services, housing and money for the emergency needs of victims continues to come up. We ask programs to report to us quarterly, gaps in services and needs in the area. From this we compile the information to help us inform our funding decisions in the future. Additionally, we also use this to help inform us of any special projects we might be able to do. For instance, this last year we saw a great need to provide supplemental funding for agencies that lost State and local funding due to the pandemic. Our office was able to provide over \$2 million in supplemental funding for programs' staff salaries/benefits or any other VOCA eligible costs that they lost funding for in 2020 when most budgets for 2021 were already set. Additionally, our office keeps a running list of costs we have deemed eligible or ineligible and refer and update it often to help expand what we can and cannot support with VOCA funds. This has helped particularly this year as agencies are shutting down and other programs need to fill gaps in services. In addition to input we gather from quarterly reports, we surveyed victim service providers to access what types of costs they want our Advisory Board to prioritize in our next funding cycle. This feedback was used to create our review criteria, updated funding philosophy and application materials.

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

The only information that is shared with the governor and/or legislature regarding VOCA is the list of VOCA awards that are made every 2 years. We will be compiling this list again once we get through our next funding cycle that is slated to start in January of 2022.