

CT 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-0054	2019-V2-GX-0031	2020-V2-GX-0023	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00615-ASSI
Federal Award Amount	\$36,452,243.00	\$24,540,595.00	\$18,131,939.00	\$11,329,832.00
Total Amount of Subawards	\$36,297,254.00	\$23,753,814.00	\$8,011,764.00	\$0.00
Total Number of Subawards	68	38	8	0
Administrative Funds Amount	\$154,989.00	\$509,919.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Training Funds Amount	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance Remaining	\$0.00	\$276,862.00	\$10,120,175.00	\$11,329,832.00

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-0054	2019-V2-GX-0031	2020-V2-GX-0023	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00615-ASSI
Government Agencies Only	3	2	0	0
Corrections	0	0	0	0
Courts	1	1	0	0
Juvenile Justice	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	0	0	0	0
Prosecutor	0	0	0	0
Other	2	1	0	0
Nonprofit Organization Only	65	36	8	0
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	0	0	0	0
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	0	1	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	8	4	1	0
Faith-based Organization	4	3	1	0
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	0	0	0	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	5	3	1	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	1	0	0	0
Multiservice agency	46	24	5	0
Other	1	1	0	0

Office for Victims of Crime - Performance Measurement Tool (PMT)

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	0	0	0	0
Campus-based victims services	0	0	0	0
Law enforcement	0	0	0	0
Physical or mental health service program	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Subawards	68	38	8	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-0054	2019-V2-GX-0031	2020-V2-GX-0023	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00615-ASSI
A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	54	38	8	0
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	0	0	0	0
C. Start up a new victim services project	15	0	0	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-0054	2019-V2-GX-0031	2020-V2-GX-0023	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00615-ASSI
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	68	37	8	0
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	62	35	8	0
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	66	37	8	0
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	23	11	3	0
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	51	26	8	0
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	68	38	8	0

Priority and Underserved Requirements				
Priority Area	2018-V2-GX-0054	2019-V2-GX-0031	2020-V2-GX-0023	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00615-ASSI
Child Abuse				
Total Amount	\$9,206,929.00	\$5,723,652.00	\$1,568,540.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	25.00 %	23.00 %	9.00 %	
Domestic and Family Violence				
Total Amount	\$14,828,919.00	\$9,405,760.00	\$4,339,109.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	41.00 %	38.00 %	24.00 %	
Sexual Assault				
Total Amount	\$4,162,260.00	\$3,086,129.00	\$387,617.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	11.00 %	13.00 %	2.00 %	
Underserved				
Total Amount	\$8,099,146.00	\$5,538,273.00	\$1,716,498.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	22.00 %	23.00 %	9.00 %	

Budget and Staffing				
Staffing Information	2018-V2-GX-0054	2019-V2-GX-0031	2020-V2-GX-0023	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00615-ASSI
Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	1880	1062	306	
Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	1012986	692044	221567	
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	253	158	58	
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	113266	68698	36925	

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)	27	1232	1378	1498	1608	1429
Adult Sexual Assault	28	1266	1314	1545	1752	1469
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	32	801	779	815	720	778
Arson	6	17	30	25	20	23
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	28	560	581	580	567	572
Burglary	7	65	75	78	88	76
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	46	706	738	849	990	820
Child Pornography	10	46	55	54	82	59
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	50	2063	2318	2748	2525	2413
Domestic and/or Family Violence	64	19874	18848	21020	24697	21109
DUI/DWI Incidents	8	104	131	143	206	146
Elder Abuse or Neglect	16	86	80	49	103	79
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	9	31	21	37	43	33
Human Trafficking: Labor	1	9	6	7	10	8
Human Trafficking: Sex	27	142	136	159	139	144
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	8	78	92	93	104	91
Kidnapping (non-custodial)	2	43	41	36	56	44
Kidnapping (custodial)	5	25	27	29	31	28
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	6	159	164	165	171	164
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	8	49	62	56	73	60
Robbery	15	83	80	72	87	80
Stalking/Harassment	26	951	1122	1208	1079	1090
Survivors of Homicide Victims	32	353	282	316	343	323
Teen Dating Victimization	18	76	91	75	99	85
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	2	6	7	6	6	6
Other	9	102	114	112	96	106

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	73	67	53	72	233

Office for Victims of Crime - Performance Measurement Tool (PMT)

Homeless	2066	1448	1864	2159	7054
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	635	711	844	857	4601
LGBTQ	354	315	405	1254	1931
Veterans	40	44	36	52	193
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/ Physical /Mental	1396	1166	1383	2267	6727
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	2047	2095	2152	2372	8670
Other	0	0	0	0	89

General Award Information		
Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	104366	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	309	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	63839	61.17 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	13243	12.69 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	9361	

Demographics		
Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	181	0.28 %
Asian	617	0.97 %
Black or African American	11229	17.59 %
Hispanic or Latino	14515	22.74 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	68	0.11 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	20764	32.53 %
Some Other Race	1057	1.66 %
Multiple Races	1270	1.99 %
Not Reported	14138	22.15 %
Not Tracked	0	0.00 %
Race/Ethnicity Total	63839	
Gender Identity		
Male	17387	27.24 %
Female	44403	69.55 %
Other	70	0.11 %
Not Reported	1979	3.10 %
Not Tracked	0	0.00 %
Gender Total	63839	
Age		
Age 0- 12	2550	3.99 %
Age 13- 17	2735	4.28 %
Age 18- 24	8765	13.73 %

Office for Victims of Crime - Performance Measurement Tool (PMT)

Age 25- 59	38578	60.43 %
Age 60 and Older	3423	5.36 %
Not Reported	7788	12.20 %
Not Tracked	0	0.00 %
Age Total	63839	

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	42	71574	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	73173
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	145762
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	29772
			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	29210
B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	41	30771	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	833
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	1969
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	15661
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	17870
			B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	1175
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	1985
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	19243
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	10178
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	2215
			B10. Interpreter services	3504
C. Emotional Support or Safety	43	87166	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	135421
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	56381
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	167

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Services			C4. Individual counseling	118101
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	8355
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	7130
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	1589
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	18	1107	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	9097
			D2. Transitional housing	203
			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	2171
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	32	57251	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	62182
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	2540
			E3. Assistance with restitution	671
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	16010
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	5938
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	7816
			E7. Immigration assistance	1926
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	22186
			E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	1423
			E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	43946
E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	10027			

ANNUAL QUESTIONS

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

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

There were no program or education materials developed during the reporting period using VOCA administrative funds.

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

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

Describe any program policies changed during the reporting period.

The OVS policy regarding match waivers was updated to reflect the latest requirements of the VOCA Fix Act as it relates to the national COVID-19 pandemic.

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

OVS issued a public service announcement about victim services to coincide with National Crime Victims Rights Week. The announcement was issued in English and in Spanish for distribution to radio stations throughout Connecticut. Examples of earned media coverage at the contractor/subcontractor level are as follows: -BHCare Hope coordinated a Call to Action community response to end domestic violence homicides. The event was to raise awareness of the increase in domestic violence during COVID-19. Attendees included the Mayor of New Haven, Chief of Police, State s Attorney s Office, doctors from Yale New Haven ER, and others. Information was distributed to the public regarding emergency services in the community, and local media was in attendance. -The Southern Daily News covered BHCare s collaboration with Fraternity Phi Beta Sigma, a nationally recognized chapter at Southern CT State University, to raise awareness of DV and engage young men in a campaign Strong men have feelings . This assisted in getting the voices of young males living in an urban environment to talk about healthy relationships as they build intimate partner relationships. -The Center earned media coverage for the Sexual Assault Action Month events. The Walk a Mile in Her Shoes Event that took place virtually on 4/24/2 due to COVID-19, was led by The Center s White Ribbon Campaign. This family-friendly event provides awareness regarding sexual assault and engages men and boys in eliminating violence against women and girls. -The Center was featured in a New England Psychologist article discussing the impact COVID-19 has had on Domestic Violence safe homes throughout CT. -A VOCA-funded Spanish-speaking clinician participated in a local radio interview on Un Nuevo Amanecer Radio of Iglesia de Dios, Casa de Restauracion to explain the services that the VOCA program provides. -The New Britain Herald featured an article highlighting the partnerships the YWCA SACS Child Advocate is working on with local libraries to offer teen book clubs that will allow teens to dive deeper into understanding healthy and unhealthy relationship dynamics and understand what consent means. -The VOCA program was highlighted on WTNH for Domestic Violence Awareness month in October of 2020. Media coverage helped increase knowledge of the program within the local community. -The agency worked with iHeart Media to tape a radio segment for the Community Access Program. A victim who was injured by a drunk driver years ago shared her story on air and shared how she gives back to MADD by volunteering to speak and participate in events. -New Horizons Director participated in an interview series with CT en Vivo, a Spanish speaking news outlet. The topic was child abuse and how it impacts the Latinx community in Middlesex County. The first broadcast took place on April 21, 2021, and it focused on providing general information about signs and symptoms of child abuse, community resources, and services New Horizons offers to children. The second broadcast aired on April 30, and the focus of that episode was barriers faced by Latinx children and communities to receive services for child abuse.

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

OVS court-based victim services advocates work closely with OVS Compensation staff to obtain crime information, when necessary, from the State s Attorney s office and court proceedings dates for victim compensation claims. The court-based advocates also coordinate services and assistance to crime victims in court with advocates who work for VOCA funded contractors: Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence; Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Mothers Against Drunk Driving; and Survivors of Homicide. OVS advocates also work closely with the Department of Correction Victim Services Unit to provide timely inmate status notification to individuals who are registered for victim notification. Examples of efforts at the subcontractor level for coordinated responses/services are as follows: -Project staff met with New Haven Legal Aid Association to confirm NHLAA s commitment to those victimized by DV by overseeing Yale School of Law students who assist with restraining order applications, and with representation during court process for victims. -The Center worked closely with, and referred victims of domestic violence to, Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants, where low-income survivors/families may have access to affordable immigration services, obtain the resources to become self-supporting and heal, and where ethnic diversity is valued as a cultural and economic strength by all. -The Center s DV Coordinator continues to meet virtually and by phone with the LifeBridge DV Unit Coordinator and the DV Unit Team monthly. The Center s clients are also given access to the LifeBridge Diaper Bank program, from which DV victims can obtain free diapers and wipes for their children once a month. -The agency collaborated with DV programs such as Susan B. Anthony, Women s Support Services, and Safe Haven to obtain mental health services for child victims of crime and non-offending parents. -Rape Crisis Center of Milford was active in the Ansonia-Milford MDT, coordinating with the South-Central Child Abuse Center to attend forensic interviews. Staff continued to provide virtual support at forensic interviews and attended virtual MDT meetings. -The Safe Connect project lead for LGBTQ+ community has been meeting monthly with staff from New Haven Pride Center, True Colors, the Umbrella Center, and most recently with the Coordinator for Prevention of gender-based violence at Albertus Magnus College to map out the Community Needs Assessment. -The Directors of Safe Connect and Clinic Services, along with the Director of Member Organizations participated in a meeting with staff from Hartford Hospital that was hosted by the HPO Director on 6/22/21. The purpose of this meeting was to improve processes and communication during critical cases, particularly those involving shelter requests. -The Neighborhood Victim Advocacy Program (NVA) continued collaboration with the HOPE Family Justice Center to serve walk-in victims of DV. NVA has an advocate stationed at the Family Justice Center one day each week to meet with scheduled clients and walk-ins at the center. -Through the New Haven Public Schools Transitional Vocational program, NVA started four Safe Dates teen dating violence classes in October which ended in December. NVA also created a collaboration agreement to continue to work with Saint Raphael s, Gateway Community College, Wilbur Cross High School, and Adult Education through Riverside High School to continue to facilitate safe date groups. -Children's Connection is the host agency for the Multidisciplinary Team of Greater Norwalk and works together with public and private organizations to identify, investigate, treat, and prosecute cases of child abuse and maltreatment. - The Village leadership continued to work with the City of Hartford to plan around responding to community violence and developing more trauma informed schools. This includes having Senior Leadership being an active participant on Tier I calls when there is a youth victim of violence in the City of Hartford. -Waterbury Youth Services worked closely with Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury to provide support to non-offending caregivers during the time of the forensic interview and beyond. Mental health assessments were

made both in-house, as well as referred out to its community partners such as Wellmore, Family and Children's Aid, CMHA and others.

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

A major issue impacting the ability of victims to receive assistance during the reporting period is the ongoing state budget crisis. Many state social service agencies are operating on fixed or reduced appropriations impacting the amount of funding that is available to nonprofit service providers throughout the state. These agencies provided needed services to victims of crime (access to affordable housing, access to legal aid, access to free medical care, access to counseling services, low-cost childcare, access to public transportation, etc.). The loss of these services has resulted in fewer options for victims seeking assistance, outside of the VOCA-funded services, as well as increased wait times for services that are still being provided. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Connecticut Judicial Branch implemented social distancing protocols as a strategic effort to minimize possible exposure to COVID-19. These protocols included reducing staffing levels, closing certain courthouses, and reducing the hours of operation at the open courthouses and administrative offices. Throughout the partial shutdown, OVS continued to offer services and assistance to crime victims and their families, either remotely, via our central office helpline, or by transferring court-based victim advocates to the courts that remained open for business. As the state lockdowns eased during the year, courts and victim services agencies re-opened allowing for the resumption of in-person services for those individuals that were not able to be served remotely.

Please describe ways that your agency promoted the coordination of public and private efforts within the community to help crime victims during the reporting period.

As the state's lead agency dedicated to providing services to victims of violent crime, OVS is charged with the responsibility to provide supportive services, financial assistance, and information to crime victims. As the needs of crime victims are continually changing, OVS prioritizes a close working relationship with its community partners to identify what those needs are and how best to meet them. Listed below are a few examples of ongoing and new collaborative efforts that OVS engaged in during the report period to enhance services to crime victims in Connecticut: OVS provided staff services to the Advisory Council for Victims of Crime, which represents victims of various crimes, including, but not limited to: homicide, family violence, sexual assault, and drunk driving. The Council also included representatives of Connecticut's Judicial Branch and Executive Branch agencies, with members representing low-income communities and victims of human trafficking. The council recommends initiatives that would improve services to crime victims and develops needs assessments for both court-based and community-based victim services. -The Director of OVS is a member of the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission, Victim Issues Sub-Committee. This collaborative, multi-agency sub-committee looks at state laws and services for victims of crime. -The Director of OVS is a member of the Trafficking in Persons Council. The council is tasked with determining what services are available to victims of trafficking in persons and how to best coordinate a response. The council includes law enforcement officials, leaders of state agencies, and community-based advocates and providers of services to victims. -The Director of OVS and the SAFE Program Manager are members of the Commission on the Standardization of the Collection of Evidence in Sexual Assault Investigations. The Commission is tasked with reviewing and revising the Technical Guidelines for Health Care Response to Victims of Sexual Assault, making recommendations to the Chief State's Attorney and annually reviewing the design of the sexual assault evidence collection kit. -The Director of OVS is a member of the Governor's Sexual Assault Kit Working Group. The Working Group focuses on examining and limiting barriers for submitting sexual assault evidence to the CT Forensic Science Laboratory and the tracking of all sexual assault evidence kits. -The Director of OVS is the chair of the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFE) Advisory Committee. The Committee recommends to OVS on: 1) the certification process for individuals qualified to participate as sexual assault forensic examiners; 2) continuing education requirements for the maintenance and renewal of such certification; 3) development of quality assurance standards; and 4) such other related recommendations as determined by the committee. -The Director of OVS is a member of the Connecticut Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee. The mission of the Committee is to prevent future deaths by conducting multidisciplinary systematic examinations of violent intimate partner fatalities and near fatalities. -The Director of OVS is a member of the Domestic Violence Investigative Toolkit Task Force. The role of the Task Force was to develop a toolkit which encompassed the combined experience of the task force members and best investigative techniques and practices specific to CT. -An OVS Victim Services Supervisor is a member of the Governor's Task Force on Justice for Abused Children. This group oversees the need for greater coordination of Multidisciplinary team (MDT) agencies involved in the investigation, intervention and prosecution of child sexual abuse and serious physical abuse cases, as well as working to reduce the trauma of any child victim and to ensure the protection and treatment of the child. -The Deputy Director of OVS is a member of the Connecticut Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision State Council. The Council is charged with overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision, a formal agreement between member states that seek to promote public safety by systematically controlling the interstate movement of certain adult offenders. -The Deputy Director of OVS is a member of the Connecticut Interstate Compact for Juveniles State Council. The Council advises and exercises oversight and advocacy concerning the state's participation in Interstate Commission activities. The Council also develops policy concerning operations and procedures of the compact within the state. -The Deputy Director of OVS is a member of an advisory committee comprised of elected VINE Program Managers has been created to increase the working relationship between Appriss operations involved in the delivery of VINE services and those who implement the services in the states.

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

OVS's Training and Outreach Unit provides training to VOCA victim assistance providers and other service providers that work with crime victims through onsite trainings, the OVS training series for VOCA subcontractors, or training conferences. Due to the temporary reduction in services during the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person training activities were curtailed and were replaced by online trainings. OVS provided online trainings on the following topics during the report period: Connecticut Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification Court 101 Court Orders of Protection Crime Victim Compensation Program Crime Victims Rights in Connecticut OVS Programs and Services Vicarious Trauma During the report period, OVS contracted with an agency to conduct the Judicial Branch Victimization Survey project. The survey and needs assessment are being conducted to understand victimization issues across the state, identify gaps in services and supports, and guide future funding decisions at OVS to meet the needs of victims and survivors. The results of the survey and needs assessment will be used by OVS in the next contracting cycle in FFY2022.

Please discuss each priority (i.e., child abuse, domestic assault, sexual assault, and underserved) in which VOCA funds have been used to assist crime victims during the reporting period

VOCA Victim Assistance funds are awarded to service providers based upon the four priority categories of victimization. VOCA funded contractors provide services to victims of child abuse, domestic violence, adult sexual assault, and underserved categories including assault, DUI/DWI victims, adults abused as children, elder abuse, human trafficking, mass casualty victims, stalking victims, and survivors of homicide. Examples of services provided at the subcontractor level during the report period are as follows: -An adult male survivor of sexual abuse was interested in attending a male support group. The advocate assisted the survivor with attending a male support group put on by SACS and is working to identify a long-term therapist for individual counseling. The client stated to the advocate that the support group has helped him with his anxiety and plans to continue to seek services through SACS. Client also disclosed to the advocate that he has shared SACS information with his close friend who is also a survivor, in hopes that he also reaches out to SACS for services. -A client who had been assaulted in a parking lot by a stranger, suffered physical injuries. Client presented with PTSD from the traumatic event. As a result, the client missed several weeks of work and was stressed out about not being able to pay rent. Family Centers worked closely with OVS to apply for victim compensation to cover client's lost wages. Client is now in the process of receiving her lost wages compensation. -A domestic violence victim who reported a long history of domestic abuse, was assisted by the DV Docket Advocate after the abuser was arrested and arraigned in court. The court issued a full no-contact protective order; however, the abuser violated it as soon as he posted bond, by calling the victim numerous times and showing up at her home. She called the police, and the defendant was rearrested, bond was set, with the condition of GPS monitoring. The Victim met with the Civil Advocate to apply for a restraining order. The Criminal Court Advocate explained the court process to the victim and her family. While being held on bond, the defendant called the victim 14 times, and a new warrant was issued for his arrest. The Advocate assisted victim to develop a safety plan and referred her to a local service provider for counseling services. -An 11-year-old victim of sexual abuse perpetrated by her biological father disclosed the abuse to her stepmother. Stepmother also found out that her husband had tried to sexually abuse her biological daughter, as well. During the victim's interview, the Adult Advocate sat with both the victim's biological mother and the stepmother to provide support and offer counseling. The two women made appointments for counseling at the Women's Center with two different counselors. The advocate also set up counseling for the child with a Child Counselor at the Women's Center for the trauma she had been through. -A sexual violence client was referred through one of CFJ's collaborating universities. The client was sexually assaulted by someone she knew and wanted to know more about pressing charges against the perpetrator. The advocate explained the process and referred client to the Civil Legal department for follow up support. Client was provided with emotional support, safety planning, information about the criminal justice process, and information and assistance with the OVS compensation program. Client remains in counseling with her advocate. -The Advocate worked with two families on a case where two teenagers suffered concussions, neck, and back injuries in a drunk driving crash. They now both suffer from anxiety and PTSD. One of the victims also experienced memory loss and depression. The defendant applied for the Alcohol Education Program and the families were not notified properly. The MADD Advocate worked with the Court Advocate to make sure that the families were notified of all court dates. The Advocate assisted the families with the victim impact statements, explained the court process, and provided information on compensation, in addition to accompanying the families to court.

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

OVS is committed to working with its federal victim assistance partners to ensure that federal crime victims receive victim services. OVS provides the U.S. Attorney's Victim/Witness Coordinator, upon request, compensation forms, informational material about OVS victim services and referrals to participating agencies for victim assistance services (i.e. counseling, support groups, shelter services, etc.). In addition to OVS collaboration with Connecticut's federal crime victims assistance personnel, OVS and its contractors/subcontractors have taken the following initiatives: OVS maintains a contract with the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence to provide emergency shelter to victims of human trafficking through its coalition of 15 domestic violence service providers. These services are available as a referral source to both federal and state law enforcement officials. Examples of services provided to federal crime victims at the contractor/subcontractor level during the report period are as follows: -A Child Advocate accompanied a 16-year-old victim of child pornography and possible trafficking, along with her DCF guardian, to a federal forensic interview that was led by the US Army criminal investigation unit. The army came to CT to make it easier for the victim so she would not have to travel for the forensic interview. The advocate provided support throughout the process and gave the victim information about services and support that are available to her. - The Children's Connection works closely with the Human Anti-Trafficking Response Team at DCF to serve children who are either suspected of being trafficked or at high risk of being trafficked. Cases often include more than one jurisdiction, as kids are moved throughout the state and across state lines. The anti-trafficking team includes FBI, local and state police, DCF, and victim service providers. During this reporting period, the agency worked closely with DCF to investigate and support 5 suspected human trafficking cases and brought them to the attention of local law enforcement partners. -The agency continues to work with several victims whose trafficking is being investigated by the FBI and/or prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office. In these instances, Love146's Vice President for Global Program and Strategy, and Love146 Survivor Care Program Director, serve as the primary contact for federal government employees. - A former client reached out to the agency for assistance in safety planning because her offender was going to be released from federal custody in May. The offender, her husband, had brutally raped her and beat her while they were living on a military base in another part of the country several years prior. He was convicted of sex assault and DV charges, but after serving 7 years in federal prison, he was soon going to be released. The client has been relocated but she is terrified that he is going to find her and her family, as the abuser had threatened that he was going to finish what he started once he was released. The advocate has provided counseling and safety planning and will continue to work with this client and her family to help her through this. -SACCEC routinely works with the FBI, as staff continue to see cases that involve child and adolescent victims who have been contacted on various social media platforms. The FBI will contact the agency to collaborate and to use the Child Advocacy Center to schedule a forensic interview the victim. The agency follows up with the family and assists them with counseling, compensation, etc.

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

Emerging issues or notable trends impacting services to crime victims in Connecticut were compiled from the progress reports provided to OVS by each of the contractors/subcontractors that provide VOCA victim assistance throughout the state. Below is a sampling of the major trends/issues shared by both OVS and the recipients of VOCA funds: -The agency has seen an increase in DV reporting. As COVID-19 restrictions have lessened, clients are reaching out to service providers as they are now feeling more comfortable accessing community resources. -There continues to be an increase in violent crimes and shootings within the state. The agency is working with local, state, and federal community leaders to address this issue and create strategies to respond and prevent more DV homicides from occurring. -There has been an increase in abductions and kidnappings by perpetrators. These incidents often coincide with sexual assault and other harmful acts of violence. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, it was easier for abusers to persuade victims into sex trafficking. -The state's judicial system is severely backlogged due to COVID-19. This creates a community that feels unsafe and unpredictable due to perpetrators being released early and abusers being granted online emergency custody orders as means of retaliation before victims of abuse are heard on these proceedings. The agency has noticed significant setbacks with issues of family law such as divorce and custody. Within the criminal law, the agency has seen a significant

delay in warrants being signed and officers making arrests, as well as officers delivering notice of protective orders. -The agency has seen an increase in undocumented victims reporting abuse. -Housing and relocation continued to be a major concern for victims fleeing from abuse. The agency reports receiving more victims from out-of-state and has been assisting victims who leave the state. There is not enough affordable housing. -There has been an increase in racial and gender inequality. Clients have reported feeling unable to access culturally inclusive resources. Due to COVID-19, there has been a decrease of interpreters willing to assist with translation onsite. The LGBTQ+ community clients have reported feeling judged and persecuted by the legal system and the social services within the community. -Victims are having trouble accessing mental health services for themselves and their children. Many programs were doing telehealth only and some were not taking new clients. -The agency received less referrals during this time despite the fact that statistics during the pandemic showed an increase in domestic violence and substance abuse issues. This may be due to societal isolation and community fear to outreach during the pandemic. -Although the COVID-19 guidelines have relaxed, many clients seem to prefer to speak with advocates over the phone, especially those who identify as part of the older population. -The pandemic has displaced a lot of clients and their families. Many of them are having difficulty getting back on their feet financially. They have been referred to food pantries and have also received donated bags. The undocumented clients are facing limited employment opportunities. -There has been an increase in the volume of temporary restraining orders (TROs) filed electronically. -Loss of income due to the pandemic continues to impact clients, and staff noted an increase in requests for food, rental assistance, security deposits, and other basic needs. -There has been a trend of offenders not complying with batterer intervention programs and/or treatment programs because they do not have the technological capability to engage in virtual meetings and/or telehealth. -The increased use of the Language Line for client contact throughout a criminal court case continued to be notable trend during this reporting period. -The COVID-19 vaccine has been instrumental in allowing patients and families to return to in-person visits. Vaccinated people feel more at ease doing in-person sessions, which are clinically the best approach working with children and adolescents. -During the COVID-19 lockdown and subsequent months of telehealth, clients experienced high stress and reluctance to address past trauma as managing daily life was priority. -Due to COVID-19, patients have been ambivalent to meet in person but are slowly transitioning back to in-person. -The agency has experienced an increase in referrals for youth and high-risk trauma, exposure to abuse, and risk of suicide. As a way of combating isolation in youth, the agency has begun offering a multitude of telehealth groups, which are highly attended. -There has been an increase in reporting of campus sexual violence, as students at colleges and universities spent more time on campus. -Incidences of hate crimes against Asians and Asian-Americans spiked during this period.

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

There are no retention issues impacting the Office of Victim Services. The Office is fully staffed. The majority of VOCA Assistance contractors/subcontractors reported no major staffing retention problems. Agencies that did have staffing retention issues reported the following reasons: Difficulty in replacing Spanish-speaking staff, Difficulty in finding experienced therapists to provide trauma-focused therapy, Emotional fatigue working with high-risk clients, Early retirements, Insecurity over future funding issues due to state budget difficulties, Recruitment challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Reluctance of qualified candidates to work during the pandemic, Reluctance of staff to resume in-person work due to the pandemic, Salary and fringe benefit issues Shortage of skilled clinicians applying to posted vacancies, Staff leaving due to heavy caseloads, Staff seeking opportunities for advancement.

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

All funding for service provision is awarded through a formal bid process. Notification of a Request for Proposals (RFP) is posted on the Judicial Branch website and through legal ads in newspapers throughout the state. During the report period, there were no RFPs issued by OVS. Services are being provided under multi-year contracts that began on 07/01/2019. OVS will be issuing a new bid solicitation in FFY 2022 for services beginning 07/01/22. On the Judicial Branch/OVS website, there is a list of agencies that currently receive victim assistance funding from OVS. The list provides a brief description of the program, the service area, contact information, and a link to the agency's website.

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

All funding for service provision is awarded through a formal bid process. If it is determined that funding for new/underserved populations or new services is needed, OVS will issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the identified populations and services. The bid solicitation will identify the specific populations or services that will be funded. During the report period, there were no RFPs issued by OVS. Services are being provided under multi-year contracts that began on 07/01/2019 and were discussed in a prior annual performance report. OVS will be issuing a new bid solicitation in FFY 2022 for services beginning 07/01/22. During the report period, OVS contracted with an agency to conduct the Judicial Branch Victimization Survey project. The survey and needs assessment are being conducted to understand victimization issues across the state, identify gaps in services and supports, and guide future funding decisions at OVS to meet the needs of victims and survivors. The results of the survey and needs assessment will be used by OVS in the next contracting cycle.

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

All funding for service provision is awarded through a formal bid process. OVS receives feedback from current VOCA-funded service providers on current issues in the victim services and what services are lacking or underfunded. This information is reviewed, and any bids for programs to serve specific populations or provide specific services are determined by OVS. OVS also reviews existing contracts and service populations to ensure that services are being provided to victims in accordance with the minimum requirements for the four priority categories of crime victims as outlined in the VOCA Final Rule. During the report period, OVS contracted with an agency to conduct the Judicial Branch Victimization Survey project. The survey and needs assessment are being conducted to understand victimization issues across the state, identify gaps in services and supports, and guide future funding decisions at OVS to meet the needs of victims and survivors. The results of the survey and needs assessment will be used by OVS in the next contracting cycle in FFY2022.

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

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