

# CT Annual State Performance Report

## Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program

Reporting Period: [Oct 1, 2021 to Sept 30, 2022]

*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	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00715-ASSI
<b>Federal Award Amount</b>	\$36,452,243.00	\$24,540,595.00	\$18,131,939.00	\$11,329,832.00	\$15,626,659.00
<b>Total Amount of Subawards</b>	\$36,297,254.00	\$23,931,234.00	\$17,575,390.00	\$5,830,641.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Number of Subawards</b>	68	41	44	10	0
<b>Administrative Funds Amount</b>	\$154,989.00	\$609,361.00	\$471,411.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Training Funds Amount</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Balance Remaining</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$85,138.00	\$5,499,191.00	\$15,626,659.00

Subgrantee Organization Type					
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.					
Type of Organization	2018-V2-GX-0054	2019-V2-GX-0031	2020-V2-GX-0023	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00615-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00715-ASSI
<b>Government Agencies Only</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Corrections	0	0	0	0	0
Courts	1	1	1	0	0
Juvenile Justice	0	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	0	0	0	0	0
Prosecutor	0	0	0	0	0
Other	2	1	1	0	0
<b>Nonprofit Organization Only</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	0	0	0	1	0
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	0	1	1	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	8	5	1	3	0
Faith-based Organization	4	3	3	0	0
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	0	0	0	0	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	5	3	5	2	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	1	0	0	0	0
Multiservice agency	46	26	31	4	0
Other	1	1	1	0	0
<b>Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Agencies, and Organizations Only</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	0	0	0	0	0
Court	0	0	0	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence organization	0	0	0	0	0
Faith-based organization	0	0	0	0	0
Juvenile justice	0	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	0	0	0	0	0
Organization provides domestic and family violence and sexual assault services	0	0	0	0	0
Prosecutor	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	0	0	0	0	0

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

Other justice-based agency	0	0	0	0	0
Other agency that is NOT justice-based (e.g., human services, health, education)	0	0	0	0	0
Organization by and/or for a specific traditionally underserved community	0	0	0	0	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Campus Organizations Only</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Campus-based victims services	0	0	0	0	0
Law enforcement	0	0	0	0	0
Physical or mental health service program	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Number of Subawards</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>

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

<b>Subaward Purpose</b>						
A single SAR can select multiple purposes. Numbers are not unique						
	2018-V2-GX-0054	2019-V2-GX-0031	2020-V2-GX-0023	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00615-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00715-ASSI	
A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	54	41	44	5	0	
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	0	0	0	3	0	
C. Start up a new victim services project	15	0	0	2	0	
D. Start up a new <b>Native American</b> victim services project	0	0	0	0	0	
E. Expand or enhance an existing <b>Native American</b> project	0	0	0	0	0	

<b>VOCA and Match Funds</b>						
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	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00715-ASSI	
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	68	40	43	10	0	
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	62	38	41	9	0	
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	66	40	43	9	0	
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	23	12	14	6	0	
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	51	29	31	9	0	
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	68	41	44	10	0	

<b>Priority and Underserved Requirements</b>						
Priority Area	2018-V2-GX-0054	2019-V2-GX-0031	2020-V2-GX-0023	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00615-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00715-ASSI	
<b>Child Abuse</b>						
Total Amount	\$9,206,929.00	\$5,775,286.00	\$5,222,291.00	\$236,441.00	\$0.00	
% of Total Federal Award	25.00 %	24.00 %	29.00 %	2.00 %		
<b>Domestic and Family Violence</b>						
Total Amount	\$14,828,919.00	\$9,760,482.00	\$5,345,562.00	\$4,331,565.00	\$0.00	
% of Total Federal Award	41.00 %	40.00 %	29.00 %	38.00 %		
<b>Sexual Assault</b>						
Total Amount	\$4,162,260.00	\$3,029,252.00	\$2,339,096.00	\$168,725.00	\$0.00	
% of Total Federal Award	11.00 %	12.00 %	13.00 %	1.00 %		
<b>Underserved</b>						
Total Amount	\$8,099,146.00	\$5,366,214.00	\$4,668,441.00	\$1,093,910.00	\$0.00	
% of Total Federal Award	22.00 %	22.00 %	26.00 %	10.00 %		

<b>Budget and Staffing</b>						
Staffing Information	2018-V2-GX-0054	2019-V2-GX-0031	2020-V2-GX-0023	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00615-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00715-ASSI	

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

Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	1880	1301	931	443
Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	1012986	745040	480891	138011
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	0
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	113266	68698	36925	0

## AGGREGATED SUBGRANTEE PERFORMANCE MEASURE DATA

Victimization Type							
Victimization Type	Number of Subgrantees Indicating Intent to Serve This Victim Type	Number of Individuals Who Actually Received Services Based on a Presenting Victimization					
		Quarter 1 Total	Quarter 2 Total	Quarter 3 Total	Quarter 4 Total	Per Quarter Average	
Adult Physical Assault (includes Aggravated and Simple Assault)	31	1419	1656	1723	1599	1599	
Adult Sexual Assault	31	1491	1640	1721	1831	1670	
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	33	897	725	857	1026	876	
Arson	9	17	25	36	27	26	
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	31	620	680	773	596	667	
Burglary	11	98	97	108	85	97	
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	51	922	1025	1142	1164	1063	
Child Pornography	11	76	84	71	158	97	
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	54	2344	3209	3298	2646	2874	
Domestic and/or Family Violence	65	21193	19886	21063	23033	21293	
DUI/DWI Incidents	11	188	156	215	285	211	
Elder Abuse or Neglect	16	55	75	73	82	71	
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	14	45	44	52	48	47	
Human Trafficking: Labor	4	13	14	13	15	13	
Human Trafficking: Sex	29	115	175	174	143	151	
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	10	71	70	92	178	102	
Kidnapping (non-custodial)	6	42	44	51	35	43	
Kidnapping (custodial)	3	31	22	23	18	23	
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	9	113	111	135	93	113	
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	11	91	115	115	103	106	
Robbery	18	74	109	93	94	92	
Stalking/Harassment	25	1131	1361	1619	1267	1344	
Survivors of Homicide Victims	36	460	401	508	452	455	
Teen Dating Victimization	17	99	115	99	112	106	
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	4	7	6	16	12	10	
Other	9	133	183	131	93	135	

## 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	64	81	58	292
Homeless	2104	1437	1408	2202	8694
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	727	827	847	752	5347
LGBTQ	455	1405	476	429	2373
Veterans	42	38	35	29	226
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/ Physical /Mental	2557	2708	2876	1713	8582
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	1701	2372	2688	2114	10821

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Other	0	0	0	0	89
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General Award Information		
Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	108447	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	418	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	72155	66.53 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	13040	12.02 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	9512	

Demographics		
Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
American Indian or Alaska Native	162	0.22 %
Asian	686	0.95 %
Black or African American	12416	17.21 %
Hispanic or Latino	16952	23.49 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	78	0.11 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	21885	30.33 %
Some Other Race	891	1.23 %
Multiple Races	1354	1.88 %
Not Reported	17731	24.57 %
Not Tracked	0	0.00 %
<b>Race/Ethnicity Total</b>	<b>72155</b>	
<b>Gender Identity</b>		
Male	14161	19.63 %
Female	52826	73.21 %
Other	153	0.21 %
Not Reported	5015	6.95 %
Not Tracked	0	0.00 %
<b>Gender Total</b>	<b>72155</b>	
<b>Age</b>		
Age 0- 12	3462	4.80 %
Age 13- 17	3633	5.03 %
Age 18- 24	9167	12.70 %
Age 25- 59	41859	58.01 %
Age 60 and Older	3858	5.35 %
Not Reported	10176	14.10 %
Not Tracked	0	0.00 %
<b>Age Total</b>	<b>72155</b>	

Direct Services				
Service Area	# of Subgrantees That Provided Services in This Category	# of Individuals/Contacts Receiving Services	Specific Service	Frequency of Service
A. Information & Referral	46	76879	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	76831
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	133139
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	32819
			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	31608
			Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	780
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	2957
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	15242
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	18194

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B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	45	31331	B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	1035
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	1621
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	19008
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	8797
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	2603
			B10. Interpreter services	4418
C. Emotional Support or Safety Services	46	89554	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	120249
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	50226
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	228
			C4. Individual counseling	110365
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	9737
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	6210
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	1961
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	20	1279	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	11768
			D2. Transitional housing	181
			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	1349
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	36	58239	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	66073
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	2195
			E3. Assistance with restitution	820
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	14716
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	5957
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	5332
			E7. Immigration assistance	2132
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	25962
			E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	1114
			E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	49895
E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	7236			

**ANNUAL QUESTIONS**

Grantee Annually Reported Questions	
Question/Option	Count
<b>Were any administrative and training funds used during the reporting period?</b>	
Yes	1
No	0
<b>Did the administrative funds support any education activities during the reporting period?</b>	
Yes	0
No	1
Number of requests received for education activities during the reporting period.	0
Number of people trained or attending education events during the reporting period.	0
Number of events conducted during the reporting period.	0
<b>Did the grant support any coordination activities (e.g., with other service providers, law enforcement agencies) during the reporting period?</b>	
Yes	1
No	0
<b>Describe any program or educational materials developed during the reporting period.</b>	
There were no program or education materials developed during the reporting period using VOCA administrative funds.	
<b>Describe any planning or training events held during the reporting period.</b>	
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.	
<b>Describe any program policies changed during the reporting period.</b>	

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During the reporting period, the OVS Grant Management Policy was updated to reflect the following changes: Additional detail regarding Budgeting; The process for reviewing funding requests for consultants that exceed the current Department of Justice approved rates; Subcontracted Services and Monitoring; and Documentation for funds used by OVS for direct services. These revisions were made based upon the recommendations from a 2021 OVC Desk Review.

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

OVS – There were no media coverage (interviews) activities to report for FFY 2021-2022. For each day of National Crime Victims' Rights week, OVS posted tweets relative to the theme for the week to the Judicial Branch Twitter page. Information on OVS services and a link to the OVS webpage were also provided in tweets during the week. Examples of earned media coverage at the contractor/subcontractor level are as follows: Charlotte Hungerford Hospital-Charlotte's Place reported the following media coverage: - The Child and Health Development Institute June 2022 Newsletter featured an article in which the Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) Conference honored Charlotte Hungerford Hospital and the Center for Youth and Families; Women and Families Center reported the following media coverage: -In April, a reporter for the Record-Journal interviewed the Director and a Bilingual Advocate for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The topic was services provided by the program and obstacles experienced by the agency and clients in the current climate; Connecticut Council of Family Service Agencies (CCFSA) reported the following media coverage: - On May 31, 2022, CCFSA hosted a press conference about new federally directed funding to provided mental health screenings to CCFSA's VOCA clients. In attendance were CT Senators Blumenthal and Murphy, CCFSA President & CEO, Robert Muro. The event was covered by multiple media from television and newspapers; Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) reported the following media coverage: - In March, the VOCA Advocate collaborated with iHeart media for awareness with a victim-dedicated Walk Like MADD event; New Horizons reported the following media coverage: - Middletown Press Coverage-several articles based on the significant increases in DV cases across the state. All highlighted the services offered by New Horizons and how to access them; Safe Haven reported the following media coverage: - The Voices, a local newspaper, continues to provide a weekly article detailing Safe Haven services including counseling, support, emergency shelter, and support groups; Survivors of Homicide reported the following media coverage: - On 6/2/22, the VOCA advocate spoke with The Guardian regarding mass shootings and how families are notified of such events, as well as the support that they receive both immediately and long-term following the incident. - On 1/1/22, the VOCA advocate spoke with the Marshall Project about unsolved homicides and to bring awareness about the unique trauma that families experience.

## **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: The 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: BHCare collaborated with the City of New Haven regarding opening the Community Resilience Office to deliver free, wraparound services to community members; Community Health Center reported that the program continues to be the host site for the nationally accredited Child Advocacy Center (CAC), which serves Greenwich, Darien, and Stamford. A key component of the CAC is the MDT composed of DCF, State's Attorney Office, law enforcement officials, forensic interviewers, mental health and medical professionals, and victim advocates from the Child Guidance Center, OVS, the Rowan Center, and YWCA Domestic Abuse Services; Women and Family Center has developed a new partnership with the Share Center to collaborate on assisting sexual assault victims at Yale. WFC SACS Advocates will begin to provide accompaniments to students, faculty, and staff at Yale in collaboration with Share Center; Family Services of CT reported that they continued to partner with the HOPE Family Justice Center. HOPE Justice Center works with the NH PD, DCF, NH Court Victim Advocates, and other community providers, serving a one stop shop to provide free and confidential services to crime victims in need of multiple resources. NVA collaborates with other service providers at the Family Justice Center to help clients stabilize their lives and after their victimization. NVA provides information to victims on their rights and options with law enforcement and the judicial system, as well as safety planning. NVA offers support and assistance with applications such as victim compensation and VAWA housing; the Yale Child Sexual Abuse Clinic worked closely with LOVE146 and Youth Continuum. LOVE146 provides rapid response to victims at risk of trafficking. Youth Continuum serves youth 14-24. Clinic staff work collaboratively with these agencies to ensure the victims are connected to a service that is addressing their specific needs; The Hartford Care Response Team continued to build on and augmented existing partnerships, as well as developed several new partnerships to enhance client services. Front line teams worked in concert to coordinate efforts with the following community service agencies: The Village for Children and Families, Mothers United Against Violence, Wheeler Clinic, Hartford Hospital, Saint Francis Family Advocacy Center, Hartford Rapid Response Team, Hartford Behavioral Healthcare team, Hartford Communities that Care, Harriot Home Health Nursing, and UCONN Health Physicians.

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

An issue impacting service providers during the reporting period is the inability to retain qualified staff and to fill vacancies resulting from staff departures. Funding levels have remained stagnant due to a decline in federal funds. Service providers are lacking the resources necessary to offer competitive salaries and benefits compared to State agencies, for-profit service providers, and private practice. As staffing positions remain unfilled, client caseloads for existing staff increase, or wait lists are created, causing delays in providing services to victims in need. The residual impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic issues across the country, and staffing problems in general, are also impacting service providers. Many State agencies are operating on fixed or reduced appropriations impacting the amount of funding that is available to nonprofit service providers throughout the state. The services provided by these agencies (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.) are invaluable to victims of crime. A reduction in these services due to loss of funding or inability to staff the programs, 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.

## **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. -Commission on the Standardization of the Collection of Evidence in Sexual Assault Investigations is responsible for reviewing and revising the Technical Guidelines for Health Care Response to Victims of Sexual Assault and the design of the sexual assault evidence collection kit. OVS Director member. -Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision Connecticut State Council is charged with overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision, a formal agreement between member states that seeks to promote public safety by systematically controlling the interstate movement of certain adult offenders. OVS Deputy Director member. - Interstate Compact for Juveniles Connecticut State Council is the rule-making authority of the Interstate Compact for Juveniles and has the statutory authority to enforce compliance between signatory states to promote the welfare protection of juveniles, victims, and the public by governing the states' supervision of juveniles and the return of runaways, absconders, escapees, and juveniles who have fled prosecution. OVS Deputy Director member. -Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee examines intimate partner homicides to identify systemic gaps and barriers to service and to recommend coordinated community responses that will enhance the safety of victims and accountability of batterers. OVS Director member. -Governor's Task Force on Justice for Abused Children oversees the need for greater coordination of Multidisciplinary Team agencies involved in the investigation, intervention, and prosecution of child sexual abuse and serious physical abuse cases. OVS Victim Services Program Manager member. -Human Anti-Trafficking Response Team (HART) multidisciplinary teams that respond to the needs of victims of domestic minor sex trafficking. An OVS victim services program manager and several OVS victim services advocates are members. -Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT) coordinate the prompt investigation and prosecution of suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to reduce the trauma of any child victim and to ensure the protection and treatment of the child. Several OVS victim services advocates are members of their local MDT. -Trafficking in Persons Council is responsible for determining what services are available to human trafficking victims and how to best coordinate a response. OVS Director member. - Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Committee is a multidisciplinary group which includes representatives from both the criminal justice and victim advocacy community and is charged with making recommendations to standardize and facilitate the transfer, tracking and testing of sexual assault evidence collection kits as well as overseeing the process of victim notification for victims when evidence, once tested, may result in a CODIS hit or lead to a new investigation. OVS Director member.

## **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. OVS provided 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; OVS Programs and Services. During the report period, The CT Judicial Branch on behalf of OVS contracted with a firm to conduct a three-phase statewide comprehensive victimization assessment. The project concluded in June 2022. The goals of the victimization assessment were: Establish a statewide baseline for crime victimization; Understanding barriers that prevent victims from receiving services (particularly in historically underserved communities); Provide a focused understanding of victim's needs so that limited funds can be directed to the most significant and pressing statewide needs. 1,230 adults who were a victim of crime in their lifetime completed the survey. Participants were selected from each of Connecticut's eight counties and the participant demographics were comparable with the Connecticut data from the American Community Survey, 53% of the victims reported being a victim of a violent crime and 47% reported being a victim of personal, property, financial other crimes. Of the participants who reported being a victim of violent crime 25% did not report the crime to anyone, while participants who reported being a victim of personal, property, financial other crimes 11% did not report the crime to anyone. From the results of the study, the OVS director, deputy director, and management team members established a victim needs

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

assessment workgroup, identifying opportunities and making recommendations for challenges and trends identified in the assessment to better meet the needs of Connecticut crime victims.

## **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: A female victim of domestic violence fled her perpetrator with her children. This client was connected to case management and clinical services. The VOCA staff member assisted with finding adequate safe housing, securing clothing, diapers, and food items for her children. A staff member provided advocacy and support in the courthouse and aided client in enrolling in CT Savin to receive alerts. Once stabilized, client attended job training and secured employment. Client is recovering from the trauma and is expected to be discharged within the next two months; VOCA funds were used to help an undocumented mother of two. Client initially came to the program due to her depression, grief, and financial stress after the death of her husband due to homicide. Project SAVE Case Manager assisted client in filling out the paperwork requested by OVS for survivor benefits. Client was compensated for funeral costs and the rest of the benefit was placed in a fund for her children. Client received gift cards and donations for basic needs and was referred to the Hartford Larrabee Fund Association to assist with utilities, bills, and completion of an application for DSS to obtain food stamps. The case manager provided support during a meeting with the state prosecutor regarding her husband's case. The case manager also reached out to the hospital regarding her husband's medical bills, and she was approved through the forgiveness program. Client has maintained fulltime employment and has hired an attorney to assist her with her immigration status. Client attended her case management appointments on a consistent basis; A CFJ Advocate responded to a late-night hospital call. An adult female had been sexually assaulted on a date. The advocate completed the universal intake application including demographic information and went over confidentiality. The advocate was present during the rape kit at the hospital, after which victim was unsure as to whether she wanted to press charges and receive services or not. The advocate also explained that a CFJ advocate, and a case worker would be reaching out to victim the following day for case management with OVS and possible police accompaniment. The next day, client decided that she did not want to file charges, and the advocate assisted in making the call to the police department and was present to support client during the process. The advocate assisted client with completing the OVS compensation application and safety planning. Client is currently receiving counseling services at CFJ; A 10-year-old female who was sexually abused by mother's boyfriend had been struggling because of the abuse. Client had been suicidal and homicidal toward her peers at school. Those feelings/thoughts subsided since starting services at CHR's Enhanced Care Program. Client is progressing and is now able to regulate her mood at school and at home. She is also more skilled at coping with intrusive thoughts, as well as expressing her thoughts and feelings.

## **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: Charlotte Hungerford Hospital Charlotte's Place reported that the Center for Youth and Families collaborates with the FBI, Homeland Security, and local and state police as needed when CAIT cases involve domestic minor sex trafficking or other federal charges. There is one active case currently in prosecution. Federal agents attended CAIT's review meetings as needed. Homeland Security also has requested use of the Center's forensic interviewing space and equipment at the Child Advocacy Center. The victim being referenced is currently engaged in evidence-based trauma treatment at Charlotte's Place; Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence-Waterbury: During this reporting period, Safe Haven's Emergency Shelter housed a victim of human trafficking. Services provided include counseling, support, advocacy, and basic needs. Client was assisted with the necessary paperwork to find a stable and safe apartment; Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants (CIRI) made the following report: Project Rescue serves victims of human trafficking. When a victim of trafficking is screened through the immigration program, the client is referred to Project Rescue for social services. CIRI works closely with federal law enforcement, and if there is a victim of a federal crime, CIRI collaborates to ensure that the victim is protected; Human Services Council reports that 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; LOVE146 reported that 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 Chief Programs and Strategy Officer, and LOVE146's Survivor Care Program Director serve as the primary contact for federal government employees; The Salvation Army reported that a survivor referred to the program by the FBI was given support in their trafficking case against their traffickers. Project staff accompanied the survivor to court and offered emotional support during sentencing; Survivors of Homicide reported that the agency maintains ongoing contact with federal victim advocates to provide services and support to survivors with federal cases. Currently, there are 5 members with cases that are in the federal court system with most of them having multiple offenders involved. SOH has been providing CJ information and support to a family with a federal case in Colorado that is currently awaiting trial; Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services reports that the family violence advocate had a DV case where the defendant also had federal charges. The prosecutor informed the advocate that the defendant's case would be transferred to federal court due to non-domestic violence charges. The advocate contacted the victim to inform her of the court proceedings. The advocate also contacted the Federal court advocate to ensure that victims' input and contact information regarding the disposition of DV case was included in the defendant's file; Yale University Child Sexual Abuse Clinic continued to participate on the CT Anti-trafficking Response Team, and the Clinic has a long-standing relationship with Love146. All patients who are at-risk of trafficking are referred to Love146 and Youth Continuum. Additionally, the Clinic's medical professionals are available to collaborate with the FBI when needed to provide their expert opinions related to potential child pornography concerns, and the interview and observation rooms are sometimes used by the FBI, at no cost, to interview children.

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

Below is a sampling of the major trends/issues identified by OVS subcontractors: Staff noticed an increase in males reporting domestic violence. The program is experiencing more walk-ins and calls from males looking for services as victims of crime; housing and relocation continue to be the biggest concern for domestic violence victims fleeing abuse; project staff observed an increased need for mental health support during this review period, including waiting lists for children to connect with a mental health provider; loss of income due to the pandemic continued to impact clients, and staff noted an increase in requests for food, rental assistance, security deposits, and other basic needs; the continued use of telehealth therapy has reduced the no-show rates, provided access to care, and abated the high cost of fuel, as well as childcare challenges; families who had juveniles with problem sexual behaviors and other minors in the home were struggling with how to safeguard the non-offending child; staff retention, not only within the agency, but also within the partner agencies; many survivors of sexual assault and DV reported being triggered by televised high-profile cases, bringing up the concept of secondary victimization by the courts and public opinion; staff have seen an issue serving South Asian families/victims in which service providers are not educated on the dynamics of these families and how to navigate beliefs and values to best serve the child; victims have expressed concerns regarding the cost of travel to receive mental health services or support services. Staff are working with victims to find local resources to limit travel costs; issues related to transportation and travel continued to impact services this quarter. With gas prices steadily increasing, clients are choosing to cancel or reschedule meetings with their advocates. Many clients lack reliable transportation; others do not reside near accessible bus lines; and others have reported being assaulted on the bus or at the station; there was a noted trend for identity specific services. Clients are requesting clinical referrals to a therapist whose identity matches their own (shared religion, racial, ethnic, gender, or sexual identity). Similarly, there has been an increase in requests from clients wanting to work specifically with the LGBTQ+ advocate; increase in male victims and transgender victims who may require some specific resources that are currently very limited in the state; more secondary victims of homicide are being referred for services due to an increase in gun violence; since the Uvalde school shooting, the program has seen an increased demand for services. Clients exhibited increased anxiety and angst about yet another seemingly similar elementary school shooting. The media coverage, media presence, and the protests retraumatized many individuals, especially students who were at Sandy Hook School the day of 12/14; there is a notable trend where victims want their abusers to get mental health treatment rather than wanting them to be arrested; the agency has also noted a trend of significantly acute teenagers, especially girls, requiring a higher level of clinical care post-abuse; there continued to be a significant trend among Lethality Assessment calls, in which technology and communication devices played a part in abuse. There were instances of abusers posting or threatening to post sensitive private videos of victims in social media or elsewhere online; some agencies that have received large grants to provide clinical services are having difficulty hiring trained therapists and therefore are using interns to conduct the sessions. These interns are often at the agency for one semester and have very little experience; lack of affordable housing continued during this review period. Its complex impacts resulted in increased cases of human trafficking. Engaging in sex work or having to trade sex for housing has become prevalent; the program has seen an increase in cases where parents are not being supportive of their children's wishes after disclosures of abuse; there has been an increased concern that reporting or filing for a civil protection order would lead to defamation cases from offenders, especially in situations where the offender has more financial means than the client.

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

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

There are no retention issues impacting the Office of Victim Services. The Office is fully staffed. VOCA Assistance contractors/subcontractors reported the following staffing retention issues within their agencies: Difficulty in finding bilingual, bicultural advocates who are well versed in the individual challenges the LatinX population struggles with daily; Difficulty in finding experienced licensed therapists to provide trauma-focused therapy, more competition among agencies to hire qualified staff; During the hybrid work era, it has been difficult to hire a bilingual victim advocate, as during interviews, candidates state that they prefer at-home work, Increased cost of living, and staff seeking higher paying employment; Recruitment challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic and shifting workplace and family life priorities; Salary and fringe benefit issues; Significant burnout and vicarious victimization among staff due to clients presenting with more acute symptoms, and higher levels of care are at capacity; Staff reporting low wages as contributing to feeling undervalued despite the need for greater clinical expertise; 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 Connecticut Judicial Branch website and in legal advertisements in newspapers throughout the state. In December 2021, OVS issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for services to victims of crime for the State Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2022. 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. In December 2021, OVS issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for services to victims of crime for the State Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2022. In the RFP document, language was included outlining the President's Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government and the populations impacted by the order. OVS encouraged applicants to submit programs that specifically addressed services to the underserved populations as identified in the Order. In addition, all applicants were asked to address how their proposed programs will provide services to these underserved populations. Funds were awarded for forty-five contracts, including five new contracts for services to urban populations in the Cities of Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury, as well as rural towns in eastern Connecticut.

**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, funds were awarded to five new contractors that will be providing services to urban populations in the Cities of Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury, as well as rural towns in eastern Connecticut.

**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 OVC-PMT system.