

CO Annual State Performance Report

Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program

Reporting Period: [Oct 1, 2022 to Sept 30, 2023]

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

OVC VOCA Assistance Funds					
	2019-V2-GX-0027	2020-V2-GX-0024	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00614-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00711-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00390-ASSI
Federal Award Amount	\$38,825,662.00	\$28,979,526.00	\$18,182,462.00	\$24,883,530.00	\$23,436,628.00
Total Amount of Subawards	\$36,884,373.00	\$27,636,075.00	\$17,132,490.00	\$11,111,513.00	\$0.00
Total Number of Subawards	200	290	132	127	0
Administrative Funds Amount	\$1,941,283.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Training Funds Amount	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance Remaining	\$6.00	\$1,343,451.00	\$1,049,972.00	\$13,772,017.00	\$23,436,628.00

Subgrantee Organization Type					
<small>The total number of subgrantees represents all subgrantees 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	2019-V2-GX-0027	2020-V2-GX-0024	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00614-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00711-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00390-ASSI
Government Agencies Only	75	127	63	63	0
Corrections	1	2	1	1	0
Courts	1	1	0	0	0
Juvenile Justice	0	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	44	79	41	41	0
Prosecutor	21	35	16	16	0
Other	8	10	5	5	0
Nonprofit Organization Only	122	160	67	62	0
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	29	48	24	24	0
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	5	4	2	2	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	21	23	6	5	0
Faith-based Organization	3	7	4	4	0
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	20	25	9	8	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	10	11	4	4	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	5	5	1	1	0
Multiservice agency	17	20	11	9	0
Other	12	17	6	5	0
Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Agencies, and Organizations Only	0	0	0	0	0
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
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
Campus Organizations Only	3	3	2	2	0
Campus-based victims services	2	2	1	1	0

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

Law enforcement	0	0	0	0	0
Physical or mental health service program	0	0	0	0	0
Other	1	1	1	1	0
Total Number of Subawards	200	290	132	127	0

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

Subaward Purpose <small>A single SAR can select multiple purposes. Numbers are not unique</small>					
	2019-V2-GX-0027	2020-V2-GX-0024	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00614-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00711-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00390-ASSI
A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	170	264	129	125	0
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	4	3	1	1	0
C. Start up a new victim services project	26	24	2	1	0
D. Start up a new Native American victim services project	0	0	0	0	0
E. Expand or enhance an existing Native American project	0	0	0	0	0

VOCA and Match Funds <small>A single SAR can select multiple service types. Numbers are not unique</small>					
	2019-V2-GX-0027	2020-V2-GX-0024	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00614-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00711-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00390-ASSI
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	41	156	5	126	0
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	36	144	4	115	0
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	36	130	4	97	0
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	16	53	3	40	0
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	31	126	4	99	0
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	43	158	5	127	0

Priority and Underserved Requirements					
Priority Area	2019-V2-GX-0027	2020-V2-GX-0024	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00614-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00711-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00390-ASSI
Child Abuse					
Total Amount	\$6,223,500.00	\$4,921,050.00	\$3,981,195.00	\$3,148,983.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	16.00 %	17.00 %	22.00 %	13.00 %	
Domestic and Family Violence					
Total Amount	\$15,241,645.00	\$9,678,026.00	\$5,910,503.00	\$3,671,497.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	39.00 %	33.00 %	33.00 %	15.00 %	
Sexual Assault					
Total Amount	\$4,936,181.00	\$2,783,648.00	\$1,625,757.00	\$764,925.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	13.00 %	10.00 %	9.00 %	3.00 %	
Underserved					
Total Amount	\$10,483,047.00	\$9,965,782.00	\$5,615,035.00	\$3,495,808.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	27.00 %	34.00 %	31.00 %	14.00 %	

Budget and Staffing					
Staffing Information	2019-V2-GX-0027	2020-V2-GX-0024	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00614-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00711-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00390-ASSI
Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	1819	2627	1236	1155	
Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	2332131	2873997	1128723	1046264	
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	5498	8839	3878	3833	
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	968722	1585956	840227	833878	

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)	181	6661	4519	5335	5157	5418

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

Adult Sexual Assault	229	2997	2083	2352	1922	2338
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	115	615	319	229	226	347
Arson	65	43	56	613	49	190
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	72	659	360	543	463	506
Burglary	121	857	599	764	725	736
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	250	4641	4117	4026	3782	4141
Child Pornography	75	101	103	123	119	111
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	260	4113	3700	3294	3079	3546
Domestic and/or Family Violence	293	20714	10339	11407	11621	13520
DUI/DWI Incidents	92	459	319	380	502	415
Elder Abuse or Neglect	149	622	423	447	625	529
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	89	76	27	34	44	45
Human Trafficking: Labor	58	73	56	78	67	68
Human Trafficking: Sex	121	240	164	170	188	190
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	88	1655	1498	1782	1679	1653
Kidnapping (non-custodial)	91	180	184	196	180	185
Kidnapping (custodial)	60	46	20	37	21	31
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	15	91	49	44	42	56
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	101	1433	757	1099	913	1050
Robbery	122	392	379	409	431	402
Stalking/Harassment	198	3638	2235	2993	3029	2973
Survivors of Homicide Victims	127	527	471	602	391	497
Teen Dating Victimization	95	174	74	71	87	101
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	6	21	24	44	23	28
Other	79	6730	5832	5558	5107	5806

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	150	48	65	95	930
Homeless	1362	823	813	912	8854
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	1124	907	894	770	7958
LGBTQ	618	403	445	359	3241
Veterans	517	567	313	362	2906
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/ Physical /Mental	1631	1392	1054	1231	12849
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	2006	1653	1645	1502	16280
Other	951	624	392	461	8202

General Award Information

Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	125305	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	13263	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	90452	72.19 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	31271	24.96 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	39109	

Demographics

Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	1163	1.29 %
Asian	882	0.98 %
Black or African American	5239	5.79 %
Hispanic or Latino	17027	18.82 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	374	0.41 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	42007	46.44 %
Some Other Race	4067	4.50 %
Multiple Races	1836	2.03 %
Not Reported	10746	11.88 %
Not Tracked	7111	7.86 %
Race/Ethnicity Total	90452	

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

Gender Identity		
Male		27201 30.07 %
Female		49634 54.87 %
Other		404 0.45 %
Not Reported		6175 6.83 %
Not Tracked		7038 7.78 %
Gender Total		90452
Age		
Age 0- 12		11725 12.96 %
Age 13- 17		7343 8.12 %
Age 18- 24		8710 9.63 %
Age 25- 59		40547 44.83 %
Age 60 and Older		7373 8.15 %
Not Reported		6945 7.68 %
Not Tracked		7809 8.63 %
Age Total		90452

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	197	102129	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	93041
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	71914
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	43157
			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	73158
B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	174	45056	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	2006
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	1344
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	10118
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	62790
			B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	2246
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	2505
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	7676
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	2505
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	3481
			B10. Interpreter services	6999
C. Emotional Support or Safety Services	166	48400	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	34916
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	35305
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	5763
			C4. Individual counseling	37294
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	11872
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	10615
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	5023
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	89	4169	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	10277
			D2. Transitional housing	2207
			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	2978
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	143	62579	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	73964
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	13443
			E3. Assistance with restitution	11429
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	4803
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	5888
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	4396
			E7. Immigration assistance	2878
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	4231

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	E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	6393
	E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	15070
	E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	5240

ANNUAL QUESTIONS
Grantee Annually Reported Questions

Question/Option	Count
Were any administrative and training funds used during the reporting period?	
Yes	0
No	1
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.	
n/a	
Describe any planning or training events held during the reporting period.	
n/a	
Describe any program policies changed during the reporting period.	
<p>A few policies have been updated within the Office for Victim Programs in the last year. First, we updated our Match Waiver Policy after the National Emergency Mandate was lifted in May of 2023. The policy was provided to and approved by our Program Manager in September as well as provided to OVC during our in person site visit the same month. The policy can be found on our website. Additionally, we made minor revisions to our monitoring policy to include the Determination of Suitability to Interact with Minors Checklist provided by OVC. We provided the updated policy to our program manager in September. We plan on making even more significant changes to our monitoring policy and practices in the upcoming year. These changes will be provided to our program manager and uploaded in JustGrants if needed.</p>	
Describe any earned media coverage events/episodes during the reporting period.	
<p>Due to the declining federal support for victim services across the state, our office has earned some media posts in order to support VOCA funding efforts. We have a collaborative relationship with our statewide Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalition, whom have been at the forefront of advocating for further funding for victim services in light of the VOCA reductions coming. CCASA - our statewide sexual assault coalition - posted extensively on social media (e.g. Facebook, linkedin) about supporting VOCA funding in August. Our office is currently gearing up to provide our subgrantee with impacts of funding reductions in hope to specific regions throughout the state - much like what Massachusetts did. We anticipate further media coverage to be garnered from this information and will report on it in 2024. A few subrecipients have reported that they received media coverage during the reporting period. One in particular, Justice and Mercy Legal Aid Center (JAMLAC), who provides legal advocacy and services to victims across the Denver Metro area, has been featured in local television, radio shows as well as magazines and newsletters promoting their workshops and services for domestic violence victims. The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, which provides law enforcement advocacy, was featured on local news for their participation in co-chairing the organization of the annual Courage Walk which honors the bravery and strength of victims during the National Crime Victims Rights Week. A few other programs garnered media attention across the state for their participation in events held around the National Crime Victims Rights week. A few CASA and CAC programs noted they had media attention from local news and local papers to explain the importance of and recruit volunteers for their program - a theme you'll see later that has hindered these services over the last reporting period. Finally a few other programs are often solicited by local news to provide subject matter expertise on events going on within the city like human-trafficking and domestic violence.</p>	
Describe any coordinated responses/services for assisting crime victims during the reporting period.	
<p>The Office for Victims Programs (OVP), within the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ), continues to oversee the federal VOCA Assistance grant (VOCA), the federal Violence Against Women Act grant (VAWA), the federal Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) grant, our state Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement grant (state VALE) and the federal VOCA Victim Compensation grant (VC). We continued to administer the Federal American Rescue Act Plan (ARPA)/State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) and General Funds awarded in 2022 to supplement loss on federal funds for victim services. Because all of these programs are housed within one office, coordination between these programs happens regularly, which in turn helps the agencies that assist crime victims. The Office for Victims programs continues to house the state Human Trafficking Council. Having this program in our office means that we have access to the latest information regarding human trafficking crimes in Colorado. In addition, the Human Trafficking staff also conducts training to local stakeholders, many of whom are VOCA subgrantees. Our office also houses the Victims Rights Act (VRA) Coordinator for the state. The Coordinator works with a VRA subcommittee of our advisory board to review victims rights complaints and to determine whether a victim's rights have been violated when a complaint is filed. The Coordinator provides training on victims rights in Colorado that many of our subgrantees attend. The Coordinator collaborates with other stakeholders to travel around that state to provide these key and necessary training. We highly encourage all our subaward staff/volunteers to attend or view the VRA trainings. In May of 2023, HB23-199 - the Forensic Medical Evidence Process Improvements Bill - was passed. This Bill requires our Department is to develop and maintain, by June of 2025, a statewide system for victims of sexual assault to monitor the status of their sexual assault evidence collection kit. Our state currently has no centralized system for victims to access the status of their tests, thus the legislature tasked our office with overseeing this effort. Under the new bill, law enforcement agencies, hospitals and crime labs in the state will have to enter information into a statewide database to ensure accountability and transparency in their handling and testing kits. Additionally, the bill also provides the SAVE program, which is housed out of our office, with a much needed investment to increase efficiency and effectiveness as it supports survivors in covering medical costs related to their assault. Despite the dramatic decrease in available grant funds, we continued to fund the Statewide Emergency funds grant through multiple funding sources and continued the fellowship program that provides experience for recently graduated law students from the University Of Denver Sturm College Of Law by placing them in local victim service agencies to assist victims of crime with their civil legal service needs. Both our Unit Manager and Grants Team Lead continue to serve on the Gender Based Violence Committee which is partnership: our office, the Domestic Violence Program (DVP) the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and both State Coalitions for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. This Committee is key in fostering collaboration between the offices, exploring avenues to increase funding availability to communities that are impacted by inequity, streamlining funding and making it more cohesive and consistent across the three different State Departments and more. In addition to all these ongoing initiatives and continued collaborations this last fiscal year, our Unit Manager continued to lead the Victims of a Violent Crime Brain Injury Task Force (Task Force). Which is a 17-member advisory board was created under the Colorado Senate Bill Senate Bill 21-138 to develop a plan for the creation and implementation of a pilot program that would identify and screen for the identification, screening, support, and services of victims of violent crimes for symptoms of possible brain injury and provide those who screen positive with the appropriate support and services. Furthermore, she was also appointed co-chair for a Victim and Survivor Training for Judicial Personnel Taskforce. The task force was created under the CO General Assembly Bill HB23-1108. The Task Force was created in July to analyze current training provided to judicial personnel in Colorado and around the country on the topics of domestic violence, sexual assault, other violent crimes, and victim rights in order to determine best practices for training delivery and training requirements and to make a determination about what gaps may currently exist. The Task Force will submit a report with its findings and recommendations to the Colorado legislature by February 2024.</p>	
Please discuss the major issues in your state that either assist or prevent victims from receiving assistance during the reporting period.	
<p>In order to best answer this question, we compiled answers from our subgrantees. Unfortunately the themes of staff fatigue, burnout and struggling to hire continues to be a pervasive issue for programs across all of Colorado. As the State Administrator for VOCA funds, we are seeing across the board that despite already reducing award amounts in anticipation of further funding cuts to VOCA, programs are underspent in their grant awards because of staffing shortages. The continuing increase in cost of living - especially in our resort mountain towns - post pandemic housing crisis and under qualified applicants is causing programs to remain understaffed and overworked. This comes in a time in which crime rates and severity and complexity of victimizations continue to increase. This was a trend we started to hear more about after the pandemic, but continues to be pervasive in most, if not all responses we got from programs. While, distrust in law enforcement wasn't a prevalent theme this year, like it was last, programs are noting that there's still a deep rooted distrust and fear of the criminal justice system that worsens the reluctance of victims to receive needed protective services as well as work with victim advocate agencies. Additionally, because Colorado was designated a sanctuary state, we saw a dramatic increase in migrants coming to the Denver Metro area over the last year. This put an incredible strain on already strained relationships and resources in the region. Programs noted that undocumented survivors were not only afraid to come forward to report their victimizations to law enforcement, but community service programs as well - thus providing help to these victims has been extremely hard as they don't respond to programs offering help. One program noted Our Spanish speaking population is often scared to receive services and sometimes believe that accessing services would lead to deportation. Language and cultural barriers to services was a prevalent theme throughout the responses we received as to what's preventing victims from receiving services. Many programs, especially in the rural regions of our state, are reporting that due to high immigration rates, language barriers are becoming more pervasive in their regions. Despite having resources available like language lines or bilingual services, these victims continue to face hurdles when receiving services - especially when law enforcement is often the first line response. Programs that especially worked with the influx of migrant populations over the last year noted that they all received standardized, limited government assistance before being released - causing many who didn't read or speak english left with no understanding of resources or assistance available to them, thus forcing them to enter homeless shelters and unsafe situations - like human trafficking. Colorado continues to see themes such as: continued lack of resources/capacity to serve victims, affordable housing/shelter options and transportation, lack of mental health services and more. All these issues have been even more exacerbated by declining funds for victim services in a time when crime rates and demand for services is at an all-time high.</p>	

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

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.

Addressing the Statewide Emergency Fund, civil legal services and housing needs of crime victims continues to be a priority for our office. Building upon the collaborations mentioned in last year's report, as you'll read in responses to come, Colorado continues its hard work to increase the accessibility of our funding and expand eligibility for programs who serve communities impacted by inequity and/or who are not mainstream programs. OVP continued as a team to work on developing a mission statement and vision statement for our office that captures all the unique work we do (as you can see from previous responses), but also captures how we want to move forward in an equitable way. These conversations, previously led by Ujima, have been led by the Managers within our office and continue to progress. However, this last year presented with many unforeseen challenges internally and externally that shifted energy from the passionate work we've been doing leading up to this year in terms of increasing equity in our grant funding. First, our office was faced with the unfortunate realization that funding for victim services was going to be much worse than anticipated. We had been working hard to project the future of VOCA funding, based on historical trends and information provided by OVC, but quickly learned at the Annual VOCA Conference, these projections were wholly off. Instead of looking at 20 - 30% cuts, funding our office was not looking at 45-50% cuts. This compounded with other funding like ARPA funding going away in 2025 derailed many of our conversations. While we still are very much looking at ways we can continue to increase access to and make funding more inclusive and diverse, we're also faced with the bleak reality that funding will be limited and currently funded programs will have to shut their doors. Our Unit Manager and Grants Team Manager continues to serve on the Gender Based Violence Committee where the topic of making funding more inclusive and accessible is a common topic. Over the last year, our Grants Team Manager has been working closely with the Latino Coalition continuing their Incubator project for small grass root agencies that serve communities impacted by inequity. In the last year, the Coalition began overseeing the implementation of five grassroots agencies and began to work with them to build up their administrative capacity to hopefully be able to apply for federal funding in the future.

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

As has been mentioned in an earlier section, the Office for Victims Programs administers the federal VOCA Assistance grant (VOCA), the federal Violence Against Women Act grant (VAWA), the federal Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) grant, a state Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement grant (state VALE) and the federal VOCA Victim Compensation grant (VC). Coordination between these programs and with our Human Trafficking and Victims Rights programs happen on a daily basis, which helps with the delivery of victim services. The Mandatory Match Waiver requirement continues to be a relief for grantees in terms of grant tracking and reporting. Waiving this requirement, especially in a time with continued volunteer recruitment, significant staff turnover, declining state funds – all of which help programs meet this requirement – continues to be a policy that has not only benefited our subgrantees, but us as SAAs. With the anticipation of the decreased funding for VOCA coming in the future, our office and Funding Advisory Board opted to extend our current CY 23-24 awards by 1 year in 2025. This allows not only our office, but grantees as well, to have one more year of funding - albeit it'll be reduced significantly - in a time when funding levels are uncertain and many other state funds programs rely on are ending. After this decision over the summer, we held a Town Hall and attended coordinator and coalition meetings to discuss the declining VOCA funds and potential impacts on victim services and future funding cycles. These were difficult conversations to have, but many programs expressed appreciation for our office being transparent and timely with our updates – even if it was changing day by day and we can't provide exact figures yet. Our office continued to work with subgrantees to monitor grant spending and are beginning to engage in difficult conversations about de-obligating unused funds early in order to provide more grant funding for future cycles. Many programs were seeing six, nine even twelve month vacancy savings for positions resulting in thousands of dollars in unused allocated funds. By encouraging VOCA programs to de-obligate unspent funds early, we were able to try to mitigate dramatic cuts to the extension cycle our office is planning on offering grantees for 2025 instead of completing a new solicitation cycle. Grantees have reported struggling significantly with providing victim services over the last year. As you'll read in many sections, declining funding, increased housing prices is significantly impacting programs' abilities to remain staffed. We're already seeing a number of long standing programs having to shut their doors due to staffing issues, future of funding etc.

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

The Office for Victim Programs regularly meets its allocation requirements to the four required allocation categories. We typically have a large amount of Domestic Violence, child abuse and underserved programs we fund. However, because of competing grant requirements with the STOP VAWA funding our office also administers, our office usually struggles to meet the sexual assault set aside - as many of our SA specific programs receive STOP VAWA funding instead due to the requirements of that funding. We do meet it, but the competing funding requirements and lack of SA specific agencies in the state puts a strain on our ability to go over and beyond the funding requirement. Our office provides support to a number of CASA programs across the state. Programs that serve children victims of crime overwhelmingly have stated that this year's struggle was finding and retaining volunteers. Unlike hearing from many CAC's last reporting period about struggles with law enforcement, CASAs across the states overwhelmingly reported that because many offices are requiring some sort of hybrid model, cases are becoming so complex, recruiting and retaining volunteers is becoming a burden to services provided. This is concerning to hear at an SAA level as most of these programs use their valuable volunteers as sources of match and with the mandatory match waiver requirement being waived, this puts a further strain on programs to find sources of funding to meet the match requirements of awards. However, despite the challenges surrounding volunteers, other programs that serve primary victims of crime who are children, reported continued services to this vulnerable population. Many of the programs we fund are primarily DV programs that provide services to SA victims, but as mentioned above, there are few SA specific programs that we fund via VOCA due to other funding requirements we have to ensure we meet. In this year's responses, we continue to see a report in the rise of domestic violence and sexual assault cases across the state, not only in numbers, but severity again this reporting period. As mentioned throughout this report, the current staffing shortages and lack of available professional resources, is putting a huge strain on those advocates left to serve these vulnerable populations. One program in the mountain region of our state noted that the rate of domestic violence continued to increase within their community; however due to staffing issues, the amount and availability of services has been reduced dramatically, causing challenges in making appropriate referrals. Another program noted that a number of cases in their region for both domestic violence and sexual assault have resulted in a hospital response and serious bodily injury. In addition to staffing issues affecting domestic violence, in northern regions of the I-25 front range, victims of sexual assault and domestic violence face significant hurdles, such as the lack of bed or room space within safe houses, which can make them feel vulnerable and unsafe, hindering their recovery process. VOCA-funded programs continue to create and implement specialized services to reach underserved victims where they are at, whether that be through hiring more bilingual staff, offering legal clinics within the community, or building relationships with other programs that specialize in serving those underserved populations. This cycle our office is holding programs accountable for ensuring that they continue to work to increase their reach to communities impacted by inequity. In our quarterly narrative reports we have a required question in the 3rd and 7th quarter of the grant cycle of how the program has been completing these objectives and things that have worked. After the 3rd quarter, there have already been some innovative practices that programs have put into place to help them expand their services to communities that have been historically underserved/marginalized. We compile these responses in a shared document that grantees can access to gain ideas of how they too can complete this important task. Some of these practices include: having DEI Lunch and Learns, putting into policy asking preferred pronouns of clients, starting committees that focus on the use of more inclusive, anti-racist language into their everyday practices, completing and following an accessibility audit of office practices and policies and more. A copy of this list can be provided to OVC upon request.

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

No specific efforts were undertaken by OVP directly; however, it is the expectation of the Office for Victims Programs at the Division of Criminal Justice that subgrantees serve victims of federal crimes in the same manner in which they would provide services to other victims. A few programs - especially Law Enforcement and Prosecution based programs - noted assisting victims of federal crimes. One notable case was the 4th Judicial District Attorney's Office's assistance with the Club Q shooting victims and their work with the FBI and accompanying victims to court during the hearing that occurred in 2023. Other crimes law enforcement and prosecution advocates worked with over the last year overwhelming were crimes related to: robbery, identity theft and human trafficking. A couple of Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) reported continued MOUs with the FBI to utilize their site for child advocacy services and forensic interviews.

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

Overall, as mentioned throughout the report, issues affecting crime victims throughout the state are: lack of available resources such as affordable housing, professional services, declining funding, inability to hire and retain qualified staff and lack of adequate transportation. Programs throughout the state are noting the increase in severity and complexity of victimizations while not having resources available to address them. One program in the mountain region that provided legal services to victims of crime is no longer able to provide the service as needed due to lawyers reluctant to provide needed services at reduced and affordable rates. Many nonprofit agencies are not able to retain licensed professionals at rates they can afford to pay them - forcing these professionals to either move or take jobs that pay higher so that they can afford to live in these areas. On the front range of the mountains, programs have noted that the growing use of fentanyl and drug use in the community has become a major concern. The increasing number of unhoused individuals in the metro region and drug problems present a challenge in providing safe and secure resources for victims. Drug use and overdoses puts a strain on already burntout social services, thus victims cannot easily access needed mental health, residential treatment or safe and secure shelters as easily. All these issues are compounded by the fact that across the state local, state and federal funding is rapidly decreasing for victim services - especially for system based agencies that have to grapple with funding law enforcement officers or advocates. Unfortunately, many law enforcement agencies have not prioritized funding victim services providers in the past and now these agencies are faced with completely eliminating these positions if funding is not provided. We have seen time and time again that many law enforcement officers are not as equipped as trained victim advocates in providing the necessary and effect on scene crisis services victims often need. Unlike DA's offices that are statutorily required to provide VRA services, for law enforcement agencies often victim services are the first thing to be cut and/or not prioritized when budgets are tight.

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

The majority of staff employed at the Office for Victims Programs have been employed with the office for multiple years. Just like our subgrantees, State agencies are seeing rapid turnover and resignations across all departments and difficulty obtaining qualified applicants. During October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023 there were a few transitions within our office and division wise. Division wise we lost our Executive Director, who retired at the end of July. This was a huge shift for the division and created some uncertainty about the future direction of DCJ. Meanwhile, within OVP, we were understaffed for the majority of the year on our Grants Financial Team, but were able to finally find some amazing and qualified applications - after a few failed searches - and since April 2023 have hired on two new Grant Financial Officers. Just as we were staffing backup on the Financial side, our grants team lost our STOP VAWA Administrator, a Grant Program Manager and a Grant Monitor. We finally were able to hire a Grant Program Specialist to help our team with administrative tasks such as: note taking, report development, board meetings, etc. This is a very welcomed position since due to funding cuts our team will not be able to afford to hire any other grant managers. Our Grant Program Manager team went from a team of 7 program managers to 5 - forcing many of us to pick up administration of grants and additional grantee.

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

Colorado's process for publicizing its victim assistance funding process is primarily to conduct a mass email campaign in which we send a link to our announcement of available funds and application materials to existing subgrantees and to everyone on our newsletter/email list. This past year was an off year for funding, thus disseminating information about funding was only limited to our subgrantees and coalitions - especially in relation to the decrease in funding. We also have a Public Information Officer for the Division of Criminal Justice now who is helping to spread the word about funding for victim services in conjunction with our newly hired Legislative Liaison. We're hoping between all these avenues, that the State will continue to allocate funding to our office for victim services, something that has only occurred for the first time since last year.

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

As mentioned previously, we continue to work with the Latino Coalition on building the administrative capacity of grassroots, by-and-for organizations to apply for future grant funding to continue and expand services for underserved communities. In January of 2023, the Latino Coalition began administering grant awards for five grassroots organizations. We were so very fortunate to have these five programs present to our Funding Advisory Board over the summer to present their projects and lessons they're learning so far in working with the Latino Coalition. As part of our effort to increase accessibility, diversity and inclusion in our grant funding, OVP had been wanting to hire a Stat Analyst to specialize in reviewing victim service data and helping us develop a more objective means to increasing equity in funding across our diverse state. Unfortunately, again, due to the hiring situation every agency is facing right now, we didn't hire this position until May of 2023 (we were hoping to onboard someone as early as the late winter/early spring of 2023). At the same time our office, as previously mentioned, was grappling with the reality that the situation with VOCA funding was much more bleak than originally thought. This forced our grants team to pause planning for the next grant funding cycle and figure out how to move forward with funding cuts up to 50%. Because of the extremely turbulent nature of our State funding, uncertainty with the future of VOCA, the CVSAB voted on approving our grant's team plan to move forward with a one year extension for current subgrantees so that our team can continue its commitment to equitable and fair funding, but also have time to figure out the future of our funding. This one year funding extension ultimately will help us and our Stat Analyst to assess how we can use a variety of data to best inform our next funding process. If our board didn't approve the extension, this would have left our team only a couple of months to figure out both how to tackle the decrease in funding and equitably award our funding.

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

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

Colorado has historically kept our application process as broad as possible so that we fund a wide-variety of programs serving a wide-variety of victims across the state. Every year since our need assessment in 2015: civil legal services, housing and money for the emergency needs of victims continues to come up. We ask programs to report to us quarterly, gaps in services and needs in the area. From this we compile the information to help us inform our funding decisions in the future. For instance, leading up to our funding process this year, we knew there was a gap in providing services to communities impacted by inequity. Thus, our office and CVS Advisory Board made it a priority to intentionally outreach and provide funding for new applicants that were specifically by-and-for programs or served under-resourced communities. Our office also continues to keep a running list of costs we have deemed eligible or ineligible and refer and update it often to help expand what we can and cannot support with VOCA funds. This has helped particularly this year as agencies are shutting down and other programs need to fill gaps in services.

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

We did provide information to the Governor's office and legislators about our normal funding process and shared the potential impact of the decrease in funding when we testified on funding bills (HB23-1107 and for our long bill/state budget bill (SB23-214) in the 2023 legislative session and when we submitted our budget decision item to the Governor's Office to ask for additional funding.