

# GA 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						
	2018-V2-GX-0066	2019-V2-GX-0019	2020-V2-GX-0014	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00619-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00691-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00435-ASSI
<b>Federal Award Amount</b>	\$104,998,424.00	\$71,285,938.00	\$53,007,906.00	\$33,108,235.00	\$45,807,711.00	\$43,360,915.00
<b>Total Amount of Subawards</b>	\$97,474,824.00	\$67,660,201.00	\$51,221,911.00	\$26,610,906.00	\$24,471,040.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Number of Subawards</b>	497	240	268	118	91	0
<b>Administrative Funds Amount</b>	\$5,249,921.00	\$3,564,296.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Training Funds Amount</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Balance Remaining</b>	\$2,273,679.00	\$61,441.00	\$1,785,995.00	\$6,497,329.00	\$21,336,671.00	\$43,360,915.00

Subgrantee Organization Type						
<small>The total number of subgrants represents all subgrants funded across all federal awards active during the reporting period. The number is not unique as there are subgrantee organizations that are continuously funded from each federal award.</small>						
Type of Organization	2018-V2-GX-0066	2019-V2-GX-0019	2020-V2-GX-0014	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00619-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00691-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00435-ASSI
<b>Government Agencies Only</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>
Corrections	1	1	1	0	1	0
Courts	1	1	1	1	0	0
Juvenile Justice	2	0	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	22	4	14	10	1	0
Prosecutor	5	3	3	1	3	0
Other	11	4	8	3	1	0
<b>Nonprofit Organization Only</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>0</b>
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	159	88	101	21	70	0
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	2	1	1	1	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	125	75	56	50	6	0
Faith-based Organization	2	0	1	1	0	0
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	21	11	12	7	1	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	32	12	20	8	1	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	68	30	31	4	5	0
Multiservice agency	8	2	3	3	0	0
Other	29	5	13	8	2	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>	<b>0</b>
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Court	0	0	0	0	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence organization	0	0	0	0	0	0
Faith-based organization	0	0	0	0	0	0
Juvenile justice	0	0	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Organization provides domestic and family violence and sexual assault services	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prosecutor	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other justice-based agency	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other agency that is NOT justice-based (e.g., human services, health, education)	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

Organization by and/or for a specific traditionally underserved community	0	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	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Campus Organizations Only</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Campus-based victims services	9	3	3	0	0	0
Law enforcement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physical or mental health service program	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Number of Subawards</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>0</b>

\*This number is not unique across fiscal years as there are grantee 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-0066	2019-V2-GX-0019	2020-V2-GX-0014	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00619-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00691-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00435-ASSI
A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	422	237	266	118	91	0
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	64	1	1	0	0	0
C. Start up a new victim services project	13	3	1	0	0	0
D. Start up a new <b>Native American</b> victim services project	0	0	0	0	0	0
E. Expand or enhance an existing <b>Native American</b> project	1	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-0066	2019-V2-GX-0019	2020-V2-GX-0014	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00619-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00691-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00435-ASSI
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	445	211	243	103	74	0
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	423	184	221	94	67	0
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	361	162	185	86	46	0
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	184	98	89	64	16	0
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	298	139	167	73	50	0
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	496	240	268	118	91	0

<b>Priority and Underserved Requirements</b>						
Priority Area	2018-V2-GX-0066	2019-V2-GX-0019	2020-V2-GX-0014	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00619-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00691-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00435-ASSI
<b>Child Abuse</b>						
Total Amount	\$26,110,136.00	\$18,291,111.00	\$14,911,371.00	\$3,449,827.00	\$8,440,335.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	25.00 %	26.00 %	28.00 %	10.00 %	18.00 %	
<b>Domestic and Family Violence</b>						
Total Amount	\$32,200,119.00	\$25,522,149.00	\$20,997,751.00	\$12,476,064.00	\$5,249,382.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	31.00 %	36.00 %	40.00 %	38.00 %	11.00 %	
<b>Sexual Assault</b>						
Total Amount	\$19,030,296.00	\$8,460,308.00	\$9,101,240.00	\$553,277.00	\$494,919.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	18.00 %	12.00 %	17.00 %	2.00 %	1.00 %	
<b>Underserved</b>						
Total Amount	\$19,872,940.00	\$15,351,349.00	\$6,188,280.00	\$9,539,864.00	\$9,196,245.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	19.00 %	22.00 %	12.00 %	29.00 %	20.00 %	

<b>Budget and Staffing</b>						
Staffing Information	2018-V2-GX-0066	2019-V2-GX-0019	2020-V2-GX-0014	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00619-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00691-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00435-ASSI
Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	9794	3909	3194	445300	1216	

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Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	4789999	2266324	1794003	928326	759175
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	6129	21373	1174	393	1327
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	555922	85483	144935	34237	72401

## 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)	72	8851	9122	9364	8425	8940
Adult Sexual Assault	96	1127	1384	1247	1237	1248
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	82	144	157	140	136	144
Arson	20	146	149	156	141	148
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	72	57	45	44	48	48
Burglary	22	1682	1773	1610	1470	1633
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	141	1184	1122	1033	1120	1114
Child Pornography	79	80	81	94	87	85
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	143	3196	2885	2707	2689	2869
Domestic and/or Family Violence	157	12161	9220	9275	8728	9846
DUI/DWI Incidents	24	707	740	751	684	720
Elder Abuse or Neglect	59	262	272	235	223	248
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	38	7	11	9	7	8
Human Trafficking: Labor	50	6	9	9	15	9
Human Trafficking: Sex	97	187	515	353	380	358
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	27	1485	1612	1488	1399	1496
Kidnapping (non-custodial)	35	34	17	19	20	22
Kidnapping (custodial)	35	0	0	0	0	0
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	31	5	13	6	12	9
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	27	3194	3471	883	2178	2431
Robbery	30	963	941	877	721	875
Stalking/Harassment	93	1027	861	967	821	919
Survivors of Homicide Victims	54	1434	1379	1384	1222	1354
Teen Dating Victimization	117	13	27	30	18	22
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	20	241	265	252	255	253
Other	9	64712	67045	65964	65476	65799

## 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	48	33	36	47	365
Homeless	1365	1007	993	1017	7561
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	545	435	400	401	5197
LGBTQ	285	269	243	271	1841
Veterans	77	88	70	100	484
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/ Physical /Mental	925	636	626	822	7917
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	552	482	626	468	5419
Other	0	0	20	59	3063

## General Award Information

Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	397013	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	5279	

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Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	172318	43.40 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	1	0.00 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	10787	

Demographics		
Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
American Indian or Alaska Native	158	0.09 %
Asian	804	0.47 %
Black or African American	30895	17.93 %
Hispanic or Latino	3420	1.98 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	70	0.04 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	27555	15.99 %
Some Other Race	603	0.35 %
Multiple Races	1079	0.63 %
Not Reported	28320	16.43 %
Not Tracked	79414	46.09 %
<b>Race/Ethnicity Total</b>	<b>172318</b>	
<b>Gender Identity</b>		
Male	24638	14.30 %
Female	49681	28.83 %
Other	96	0.06 %
Not Reported	18489	10.73 %
Not Tracked	79414	46.09 %
<b>Gender Total</b>	<b>172318</b>	
<b>Age</b>		
Age 0- 12	8349	4.85 %
Age 13- 17	5557	3.22 %
Age 18- 24	8261	4.79 %
Age 25- 59	38341	22.25 %
Age 60 and Older	5634	3.27 %
Not Reported	26762	15.53 %
Not Tracked	79414	46.09 %
<b>Age Total</b>	<b>172318</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	191	183633	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	169259
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	98025
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	24617
			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	24023
B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	196	76905	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	894
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	3643
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	4327
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	259734
			B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	12793
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	1534
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	32915
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	4016
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	17648
B10. Interpreter services	10115			
C. Emotional Support or	196	24333	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	65060
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	32568
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	241

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Safety Services **	1/9	24352	C4. Individual counseling	10856
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	10310
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	7630
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	2765
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	116	2894	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	49208
			D2. Transitional housing	15318
			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	2169
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	195	227435	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	189775
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	36157
			E3. Assistance with restitution	36664
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	2267
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	3415
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	11156
			E7. Immigration assistance	561
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	6257
			E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	1734
			E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	194907
E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	22151			

## ANNUAL QUESTIONS

Grantee Annually Reported Questions	
Question/Option	Count
<b>Were any administrative and training funds used during the reporting period?</b>	
Yes	0
No	1
<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	0
No	1
<b>Describe any program or educational materials developed during the reporting period.</b>	
Not applicable. CJCC did not develop any program or education materials during the reporting period.	
<b>Describe any planning or training events held during the reporting period.</b>	
Not applicable. CJCC did not hold any planning or training events within the reporting period.	
<b>Describe any program policies changed during the reporting period.</b>	
Not applicable. CJCC did not have program policies within the reporting period.	
<b>Describe any earned media coverage events/episodes during the reporting period.</b>	
CJCC VOCA funds, sub-granted to LiveSafe Resources, were used to support an advocate position who supported victims associated with the following cases: 1. <a href="https://cjcc.georgia.gov/press-releases/2022-12-12/victims-speak-out-after-judge-sentences-2">https://cjcc.georgia.gov/press-releases/2022-12-12/victims-speak-out-after-judge-sentences-2</a> . 2. <a href="https://cjcc.georgia.gov/press-releases/2022-10-12/georgia-saki-task-force-secures-convictions-serial-rapist-linked-seven-3">https://cjcc.georgia.gov/press-releases/2022-10-12/georgia-saki-task-force-secures-convictions-serial-rapist-linked-seven-3</a> . 3. <a href="https://cjcc.georgia.gov/press-releases/2023-05-18/macon-jane-doe-identified-and-confirmed-victim-serial-killer-samuel">https://cjcc.georgia.gov/press-releases/2023-05-18/macon-jane-doe-identified-and-confirmed-victim-serial-killer-samuel</a> . In addition, CJCC also hosted three ceremonies during National Crime Victims Week which was covered at the following link: <a href="https://cjcc.georgia.gov/press-releases/2023-05-03/three-ceremonies-across-georgia">https://cjcc.georgia.gov/press-releases/2023-05-03/three-ceremonies-across-georgia</a> .	
<b>Describe any coordinated responses/services for assisting crime victims during the reporting period.</b>	
No. CJCC using other funding sources to coordinate responses and services for assisting victims.	
<b>Please discuss the major issues in your state that either assist or prevent victims from receiving assistance during the reporting period.</b>	
<p>While issues stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic are reducing with society returning closer to normalcy, funding cuts and other financial issues still are continuing to affect service providers and agencies in their support of crime victims as evidenced below: As mentioned earlier, we face mostly the same issues as we did in the past years since COVID hit Those are issues related to in person therapy, play therapy, and transportation resources Currently, we do not recognize any additional emerging issues other than cuts in funding which could possibly impact our program and services provided in the future. Victim services in the area have all taken a large funding cuts in federal grants, foundations, corporate sponsors, and individual donors Along with the lack of funding, utilities and needed items for everyday business expenses are becoming more expensive Further, the community is also experiencing financial struggles and are not volunteering at the rate we have previously seen from the community. From the 202 responses gathered from the CJCC's sub-grantees, the some major issues are budget/financial issues, transportation needs, and the lack of housing much like the previous year. The following quotes from one of the polled agencies summarizes the issues that many are facing: Major issues in the community that impact clients are the rising costs of living, gas, childcare, and groceries. The rising costs also make it more difficult for Advocates to attain or help clients attain these essential needs, as there is limited funding for nonprofits and the government requirements for federal funding are becoming more competitive. The recent loss of VOCA funding for our organization is a major, emerging issue, negatively impacting advocates for children's cornerstone programs that are all dedicated to serving abused, neglected, and maltreated children directly (the Flowering Branch Children's Shelter, Court Appointed Special Advocates, and the Child Advocacy Center). Most of the victims served are at risk youth and have limited medical, dental, and mental health resources due to government health insurance or a lack of health insurance. Most of these children have higher levels and more specific needs and require services from specialists among the medical, dental, and mental health providers. Many providers do not accept government insurance for services and are costly. The lack of available and adequate health resources for children and youth in our community through government insurance a major, emerging issue for crime victims in our community. There appears to be a mental health crisis among our children and youth in the nation since the pandemic began in 2020. It appears that Georgia lacks the appropriate resources and services needed to provide adequate mental health treatment and behavioral management to minors. This major issue greatly affects Georgia's foster care youth, as many youths are disrupting their placements, constantly moving from foster home to group home or are living in a hotel that is state funded because there are no adequate programs with available bed space to provide youth with placement, oversight, and services. Transportation continues to be an issue for victims escaping violence, particularly in rural areas of the state Advocates and volunteers on our crisis line also continue to have problems finding available bed space for victims and their children. The reduced funding/budgets for agencies greatly hinders their abilities to provide services, coupled. The rising prices in food as well as housing are major issues that victims struggle with. This cuts into costs for other needs,</p>	

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such as childcare or (public) transportation needs. Lack of access to good transportation prevents many victims from receiving the services that they need. This lack of transportation can also be crippling to those that rely on public transportation for employment, causing further financial burden on them. Although the movement of some services to the virtual space has come about through the pandemic, these victims often lack the access to technology to attend these virtual meetings/sessions due to the financial burdens mentioned earlier.

## **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.**

The CJCC collected responses from 202 responses to this question. As the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic has reduced greatly from the previous year. Agencies were successful with outreach efforts and collaboration with community partners. We have been working with community partners to create awareness in our communities and we are finally beginning to see the fruit of our labor. We have recently seen an increase in volunteer inquiries that will hopefully turn into actual volunteers in the near future. We are mainly utilizing social media to create this awareness, and we are working on a fundraiser that not only raises funds, but also partners with corporate sponsors who share our information on their social media pages. We are also working with local faith based programs and private organizations to speak at their local meetings in order to increase awareness and lobby for more volunteers. Agencies held various meetings and events for the community. These events were often with other organizations as well as law enforcement, attorneys, etc. The following quotes are examples from different agencies in how they handled training in-house staff and coordinating trainings with other agencies to provide better services to victims: Our agency facilitates a monthly meeting with stakeholders in our area that includes our judges, CASA, court personnel, DFCS administration, parent and child attorneys, GAL, the school system, and local mental health agencies. Additionally, our agency participates in a number of community meetings including family treatment court, MDT of Clarke County, and MDT of Oconee County. We host and participate in community-based events to advertise the services and supports offered by this office. By being visible in the community we can further expand our reach. We hosted several events for National Crime Victim's Rights Week in April 2023 hosted by our office. We also attended other community events. We have partnered with local universities for sexual assault awareness events. In addition, we have worked with our community partners to host several domestic violence awareness events this month. Our office hosts Community Resource Events in 12 neighborhoods across Atlanta and we have done outreach with numerous victim serving organizations, including Partnership Against Domestic Violence, Cherokee Family Violence Center, Tahirih Justice Center, Tapestry, Atlanta Police Department, Department of Labor, and Atlanta Community Food Bank. We are hosting two upcoming trainings in partnership with Raksha, Latin American Association, Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Violence and Georgia Asylum Immigration Network on Language Access and U visas for law enforcement, as well as a training on interpreting skills for bilingual advocates.

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

Many agencies are taking steps to improve delivery of services to victims of crime by with in-staff training as well as training for community partners. One agency describes their community outreach attempts: Our CASA community volunteers attend 40 hours of pre-service training and must have 12 hours of in service training hours annually to help prepare and continue to be successful advocates for child victims. Our program sends out monthly newsletters to make sure our volunteers are aware of local community training and conferences. Surveys are completed at case closure from those involved and then evaluated. Program surveys are sent out annually to collaborative partners and are reviewed and evaluated on what to improve on VOCA funds were used to cover registration cost for staff to attend the GA CASA Conference to help advance education in subjects our volunteers use on a daily basis when advocating for child victims. The team provide community training to providers such as housing, transportation, law enforcement, public health to educate the services and how we can help victims that meet our program mandates. We provide outreach to housing providers, mental health providers, community medical health providers to build and improve our network of service related providers to achieve a wider range of services for the victims that we assist. Below is another agency describing their attempts at outreach to the community on how to better provide for clients in need: As noted in prior reports, Georgia's Porch continued its focus on developing a comprehensive plan in anticipation of a mass violence event in Georgia, including continued development of the virtual training environment and initiation of projects with sister agencies to develop working relationships specifics noted in a prior question Georgia's Porch continues to provide supervision to clinicians seeking licensure with the goal of introducing them to victim services it is noted several staff and volunteers have successfully obtained licensure over the past several years. Some agencies are requesting evaluation and feedback from partners to help improve their training as well as engaging in surveys with victims of crimes themselves. The Haven completes an annual needs assessment by using a paper and online survey tool. This tool is shared with partnering agencies in the nine county circuit and provides information on knowledge of available services for victims of family violence and sexual assault, what areas are underserved in the communities, what challenges the communities feel need the most attention, and what resources are missing in the community. The Greater Valdosta United Way also did an online needs assessment and received over 1,300 responses. This survey provided feedback on the community needs since the pandemic and provided insight on what resources the communities needed to access during and after the pandemic.

## **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 funds are essential for our agency. Below are a few examples of how this money helps our agency. Domestic Violence. We had a victim who fled another state with three children under three years old. She had nowhere to go, no support, and limited resources. All of the shelters in the area were full or could not take her. We were able to house her and her children in a hotel room for a few days while her housing transfer from the other state was processed. Sexual Assault. We had a client who was a victim of a LGBTQIA+ motivated assault. The client came into our center emotionally unstable. The client requested group therapy initially and has attended a few sessions. Our agency has stayed in contact with the client and the client has expressed that she now feels strong enough to attend individual therapy. The client expressed that it was the group therapy that gave them the strength they needed to choose the individual therapy they need. Around services. Without VOCA funding, we would not be able to provide the level of care that each victim and their families deserve.

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

Victims receive assistance with our 24hr crisis line which offers them a place they can call to discuss what is happening to them and to identify what their options are. Sometimes victims are afraid to contact law enforcement for numerous reasons but after calling our crisis line may decide it would be safe to report the crime. Victims stay in our emergency shelter where they have a safe place to make decisions, seek employment, build their lives away from the abuse. All our services are centered around the exposure to trauma and centered on what the victim identifies as a need and what would be safest. An advocate provides information and support to victims in need of filing a Temporary Protective Order, supporting them through the court process and attending hearings related to the crime. When requested the advocate will assist the victim with ensuring the Judge hears the victims voice and perspective.

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

Housing affordability in Georgia continues to be a significant challenge for crime victims and advocates that support them in their search for safe and permanent housing. The supply of affordable housing units is at extreme lows in Georgia in the wake of the pandemic, leading to higher rents and greater homelessness among single adults and families. In August 2023, Georgia Public Broadcasting reported that, in addition to fewer affordable units and the winding down of pandemic assistance, the dynamic between landlords and tenants plays a significant role. Byers and other nonprofit leaders said even though most landlords do their best to be flexible with their tenants, having to front property expenses when renters cannot afford payments makes many landlords reluctant to renew leases. As a result, many landlords are letting tenant's leases convert to a month-to-month status, which leaves tenants paying sometimes \$300 above the amount listed on their lease. And on top of paying higher rents, utility rates are rising too, Byers said. Already this summer Georgia Power's customers have been hit with a 12% rate increase, with more hikes expected in the future. (McConnell, 2023) These challenges are directly impacting programs and participants that are homeless as a result of their victimization. The negative impacts are multiplied for those providing services due to longer stays within shelter settings and it being more costly to obtain housing for victims. Another long-term impact of the pandemic includes a significant change in the way individuals view work and how they live their lives. While the labor market has recovered from COVID, the changes have challenged some employers and sectors more than others. Some of the most substantial changes has been the continued prevalence in remote work and the greater flexibility that employers have been willing to provide in order to meet the needs and preferences of their employees. Victim service providers were deemed essential employees during the pandemic and the majority of services were accessible in-person due to the types of services needed, thus providing the option of remote work is not available. Victim service providers have also been challenged in the current labor market to hire quality candidates due to the level of compensation and benefit packages that non-profits are able to offer. According to the Wage Analysis of CJCC Funded Victim Services Positions published in February 2023, Inflation caused the real wages 1 for Advocates, Counselors, Social Workers, Therapists, and Executive / Clinical Leadership to decrease even further from the -1% to -5% change in their average salary received in SFY 2022 as compared to the average in SFY 2017. Additionally, inflation eliminated the salary gains experienced by Mid Management and Program Coordinators. Case Managers / Specialists are the only positions where salary gains outpaced U.S. inflation. See the table below that outlines the average percent salary change and percent salary change adjusted for inflation from SFY 2017 to SFY 2022. From SFY 2017 to SFY 2022, there was a 54% increase in positions (73%) with benefits, but only 32% of those with benefits, indicated health insurance. As a result of declining funding and competition in the job market, providers are facing significant challenges in supporting and maintaining the current workforce to meet the on-going and increasing complex needs of victims of crime and their dependents.

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

Due to federal award reductions since FFY17 that have resulted in hiring freezes at CJCC, the Victim Assistance Division has been unable to fill nine positions which have been vacated since the onset of the pandemic, leaving the division with a 30 percent reduction in staffing levels. This has caused the CJCC Victim Assistance Division employees to work increased hours without taking leave and increased workloads due to reassigning job duties from vacant positions.

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

CJCC post its victim assistance funding opportunities on our website and we also utilize an email subscription service to send updates and announcements regarding new funding opportunities.

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

In accordance with the VOCA Final Rule, 28 C.F.R. 94.104(b), CJCC prioritized funding for programs serving victims of sexual assault, spousal abuse, child abuse, and previously underserved victim categories. CJCC will exceed the VOCA Final Rule requirement of allocating a minimum of 10% of this award to assist victims belonging to each of the four (4) priority categories. The CJCC released a competitive funding opportunity to support core victim services and to prioritize evidence-based models that maximize the effective use of funds, better meet the evolving and complex needs of victims, and advance equity and support for underserved communities in Georgia. Based on the information gathered from stakeholders in the Victim Assistance Division Strategic Plan Work Groups, as well as members of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Implementation Planning Committee and other multi-disciplinary and/or collaborative partnerships, existing information from the U.S. Census and other government entities CJCC identified the following priorities and underserved populations: Direct Service Personnel, Direct Service Contractors, Personnel to Support Administrative Requirements per the Grant Program, Victim Assistance and Direct Services (ex. Crisis Intervention, Core Services, Emergency Shelter, Short-Term Rental Assistance, Transportation, Advocacy, Counseling/Therapeutic Services, Civil-Legal Services, etc.), Evidence-based/Innovative Program Designs that are Victim-Centered, Trauma-informed, Effective, and Efficient (ex. Family Justice Centers, Collaborative Models, and practices/interventions that are supported by research.) Persons with one or more disability LGBTQI victims, Victims of sex/labor trafficking, Victims with limited English proficiency, Documented and undocumented immigrants and refugees, and Victimized elders. CJCC awarded underserved victim service agencies at for a total of \$11,526,354. CJCC received 14 applications representing 11 organizations that had not received VOCA subawards in the past. New applicants were capped at \$125,000 per organization and had to meet all eligibility requirements.

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

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

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

CJCC submits updates and summaries to the Governor's Office, Office for Planning and Budget and the legislature annually. CJCC includes the status of VOCA funding availability and the methodology for releasing funds to educate policy makers on the impacts of the resources available, including projected future impacts.