

MN 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-0033	2020-V2-GX-0018	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00579-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00764-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00443-ASSI
Federal Award Amount	\$38,257,832.00	\$28,390,503.00	\$17,724,617.00	\$24,444,368.00	\$22,954,552.00
Total Amount of Subawards	\$36,625,833.00	\$27,516,025.00	\$17,422,906.00	\$8,186,635.00	\$0.00
Total Number of Subawards	364	181	171	167	0
Administrative Funds Amount	\$1,631,999.00	\$874,478.00	\$381,620.00	\$1,222,218.00	\$0.00
Training Funds Amount	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance Remaining	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$79,909.00)	\$15,035,515.00	\$22,954,552.00

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-0033	2020-V2-GX-0018	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00579-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00764-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00443-ASSI
Government Agencies Only	124	63	62	59	0
Corrections	0	2	1	1	0
Courts	0	0	0	0	0
Juvenile Justice	0	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	4	2	2	2	0
Prosecutor	112	55	55	54	0
Other	8	4	4	2	0
Nonprofit Organization Only	224	108	102	101	0
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	43	21	21	21	0
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	18	6	6	6	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	58	29	27	27	0
Faith-based Organization	0	0	0	0	0
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	31	17	15	15	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	12	6	6	6	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	18	8	8	8	0
Multiservice agency	40	19	17	16	0
Other	4	2	2	2	0
Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Agencies, and Organizations Only	16	10	7	7	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	5	3	2	2	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	11	7	5	5	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	0	0	0	0	0
Campus-based victims services	0	0	0	0	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	0	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Subawards	364	181	171	167	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-0033	2020-V2-GX-0018	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00579-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00764-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00443-ASSI
A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	344	176	168	164	0
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	4	2	2	2	0
C. Start up a new victim services project	20	6	4	4	0
D. Start up a new Native American victim services project	1	1	1	1	0
E. Expand or enhance an existing Native American project	1	1	1	1	0

VOCA and Match Funds <small>A single SAR can select multiple service types. Numbers are not unique</small>					
	2019-V2-GX-0033	2020-V2-GX-0018	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00579-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00764-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00443-ASSI
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	172	8	4	166	0
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	103	8	3	102	0
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	113	10	3	101	0
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	29	7	1	56	0
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	69	2	3	89	0
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	185	10	4	167	0

Priority and Underserved Requirements					
Priority Area	2019-V2-GX-0033	2020-V2-GX-0018	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00579-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00764-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00443-ASSI
Child Abuse					
Total Amount	\$5,074,186.00	\$3,147,610.00	\$2,329,252.00	\$1,397,717.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	13.00 %	11.00 %	13.00 %	6.00 %	
Domestic and Family Violence					
Total Amount	\$17,977,829.00	\$13,588,601.00	\$8,208,986.00	\$3,608,154.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	47.00 %	48.00 %	46.00 %	15.00 %	
Sexual Assault					
Total Amount	\$6,507,019.00	\$5,208,422.00	\$3,645,289.00	\$1,890,378.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	17.00 %	18.00 %	21.00 %	8.00 %	
Underserved					
Total Amount	\$7,018,799.00	\$5,301,392.00	\$3,382,579.00	\$1,132,226.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	18.00 %	19.00 %	19.00 %	5.00 %	

Budget and Staffing					
Staffing Information	2019-V2-GX-0033	2020-V2-GX-0018	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00579-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00764-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00443-ASSI
Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	4908	2712	2368	2313	
Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	3029893	1672655	1437876	1390152	
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	8676	3141	2277	2067	
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	590742	266760	229307	220451	

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)	79	6119	5706	5641	5650	5779

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

Adult Sexual Assault	118	2299	2727	3015	3106	2786
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	112	681	1234	1164	1040	1029
Arson	79	121	146	163	220	162
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	79	1170	1440	1337	1363	1327
Burglary	79	1531	1859	1966	2061	1854
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	118	2193	2265	2226	1945	2157
Child Pornography	87	107	135	140	192	143
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	122	3283	3775	3653	3136	3461
Domestic and/or Family Violence	135	31940	34369	35008	35946	34315
DUI/DWI Incidents	85	668	599	639	485	597
Elder Abuse or Neglect	80	202	279	223	250	238
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	79	122	351	367	407	311
Human Trafficking: Labor	79	107	150	122	112	122
Human Trafficking: Sex	80	786	865	1207	1163	1005
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	79	1580	2227	2189	2244	2060
Kidnapping (non-custodial)	79	107	114	99	90	102
Kidnapping (custodial)	79	42	55	31	28	39
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	79	58	67	71	80	69
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	79	1239	1448	1376	1281	1336
Robbery	79	562	745	701	770	694
Stalking/Harassment	79	3026	3314	3265	2827	3108
Survivors of Homicide Victims	80	878	1379	1251	987	1123
Teen Dating Victimization	79	269	844	831	839	695
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	79	208	215	229	212	216
Other	0	15258	14039	17428	12701	14856

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	186	186	173	221	1355
Homeless	3013	2931	3503	3493	25337
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	1501	1578	1537	1406	12132
LGBTQ	904	1002	1100	1038	6174
Veterans	125	112	126	107	1002
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/ Physical /Mental	3928	3504	3645	3453	27085
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	1342	1429	1419	1391	11809
Other	439	974	299	217	5189

General Award Information

Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	216256	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	56896	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	125689	58.12 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	28553	13.20 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	5394	

Demographics

Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	5326	4.24 %
Asian	2898	2.31 %
Black or African American	15926	12.67 %
Hispanic or Latino	7199	5.73 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	148	0.12 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	49270	39.20 %
Some Other Race	1427	1.14 %
Multiple Races	3970	3.16 %
Not Reported	27766	22.09 %
Not Tracked	11759	9.36 %
Race/Ethnicity Total	125689	

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

Gender Identity		
Male		30773 24.48 %
Female		78539 62.49 %
Other		727 0.58 %
Not Reported		9332 7.42 %
Not Tracked		6318 5.03 %
Gender Total		125689
Age		
Age 0- 12		10244 8.15 %
Age 13- 17		7301 5.81 %
Age 18- 24		13747 10.94 %
Age 25- 59		59801 47.58 %
Age 60 and Older		8043 6.40 %
Not Reported		17363 13.81 %
Not Tracked		9190 7.31 %
Age Total		125689

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	167	157428	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	252197
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	193939
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	64790
			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	108155
B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	139	52389	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	1028
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	1716
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	4421
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	187930
			B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	2618
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	1796
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	13070
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	12087
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	25651
			B10. Interpreter services	9816
C. Emotional Support or Safety Services	145	89652	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	81590
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	127994
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	4936
			C4. Individual counseling	261322
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	32801
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	19502
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	74147
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	90	16878	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	147220
			D2. Transitional housing	24769
			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	25886
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	152	120398	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	248792
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	13318
			E3. Assistance with restitution	21388
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	41819
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	15721
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	8168
			E7. Immigration assistance	6008
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	24848

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

	E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	4709
	E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	53442
	E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	9565

ANNUAL QUESTIONS

Grantee Annually Reported Questions	Count
Question/Option	Count
Were any administrative and training funds used during the reporting period?	
Yes	1
No	0
Did the administrative funds support any education activities during the reporting period?	
Yes	1
No	0
Number of requests received for education activities during the reporting period.	65
Number of people trained or attending education events during the reporting period.	8243
Number of events conducted during the reporting period.	65
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.	
None.	
Describe any planning or training events held during the reporting period.	
The 2023 Annual Conference was held in-person this year and had 320 attendees. The Minnesota Victim Assistance Academy had 26 participants. MNVAA carries continuing education credits and the ability for students to pursue additional educational opportunities through our academic partner, St. Cloud State University in Minnesota for a fee. The Office of Justice Programs participated in the Minnesota State Fair this year over a two-day period and interacted with 2500 people.	
Describe any program policies changed during the reporting period.	
We are in the process of reviewing all of our program policies and creating process documentation documents to detail all types of processes in the administration of VOCA funding. There have not been significant changes to any program policies to report at this time. We moved from a two-year grant period for crime victim direct service programs to a one-year grant period, so we are in the process of updating our monitoring plan and process.	
Describe any earned media coverage events/episodes during the reporting period.	
We had press coverage for Crime Victim Rights Week. This is an annual event that begins with a press conference, followed by daily blogs on the MN Dept. of Public Safety website. The Governor annually signs a proclamation for Crime Victim Rights Week, which is highlighted in the press conference.	
Describe any coordinated responses/services for assisting crime victims during the reporting period.	
Within our broader office is the Crime Victim Justice Unit (CVJU), which responds directly to crime victims that feel they were not treated fairly or appropriately by criminal justice personnel in relation to the crime victimization they experienced. CVJU staff assist victims and conduct investigations to address their allegations, acting in many ways as a crime victim ombudsman. CVJU staff work together with OJP grant managers when crime victim grantee programs are involved. OJP grant managers also work with the Crime Victim Reimbursement Program staff through coordinated training for grantee service providers on better assisting crime victims in filing for Compensation claims. Grant managers include hands-on training about VOCA compensation during the comprehensive site visits they conduct with grantees. Together we are working to improve assistance provided to victims and to increase the number of claims filed.	
Please discuss the major issues in your state that either assist or prevent victims from receiving assistance during the reporting period.	
Of course, the major issue is still the impact of the pandemic. Crime victim programs have been adjusting to partial work-from-home, and mobile advocacy where it makes sense. They are still recovering from loss of staff and loss of volunteers. We were able to get additional Covid-19 specific funding to programs to assist with technology needs, funds to address housing and hotel/motel costs, hazard pay for staff, and additional direct client assistance funds. Those funds have now nearly ended, and crime victim programs report continued difficulty retaining staff. Many programs have experienced significant turnover, so we are seeing requests increase for basic training. The 2023 Victim Assistance Academy offered by our office had double the applications as spots available, which has never occurred before. We hear from the crime victim coalitions that program directors are struggling to maintain adequate staffing and are feeling burned out and discouraged by the funding situation. A number of directors have left the field, citing exhaustion. This creates a barrier in simply having enough staff to meet the needs of victims as they seek services. We are trying to be flexible and agile – not words one usually attributes to state government, but we work to coordinate with other state agencies to create better outcomes, and we listen to the needs and issues identified by crime victim programs and seek ways to assist. Programs are identifying services for which they need to reduce or cut back, due to lack of staff or funding support. Beyond issues still related to the pandemic, victims face barriers of many kinds in accessing services. While we have worked to extend service coverage over the entire state, rurally isolated victims have barriers to services related to lack of transportation, cell phone or internet coverage issues, or not wanting to receive services in a small town where they are known. Language access for all is an ongoing challenge. There has been an increase in racially diverse populations moving to rural areas of Minnesota, a trend we've been seeing over the past ten years. Often these small towns do not have many culturally specific agencies or services, including crime victim services. Even though agencies use Language Line or have Limited English Proficiency plans, some crime victims are reluctant to seek assistance from a primarily Caucasian-staffed agency for fear their crime victimization circumstances will not be understood from someone not representative of their culture. Our office funds 10 of the 11 federally recognized Tribal reservations in Minnesota to provide direct services to Native American crime victims. These programs experienced hardship related to the pandemic, and some are struggling to get back on their feet. The Indigenous sexual assault and domestic violence coalitions are working closely with Tribal reservation-based programs, to connect and provide support.	
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.	
OJP consistently promotes coordinated public and private efforts to aid crime victims in Minnesota, including supporting VINE and VICTIM AICE; funding the Day One line – Minnesota's Domestic Violence Crisis Hotline and Sex Trafficking Hotline; and funding the Minnesota 24-hr. Crisis Line and the accompanying Emergency Funds for general crime victims. Victim Information & Notification Everyday (VINE): Minnesota received the enhanced version of VINE, the fully automated information and notification service that 74 county jails have joined. Registered users are immediately notified upon a change in an offender's status for offenders housed in county jails and detention facilities. VINE can relay important custody or arrest information in a matter of minutes, anywhere in the US, via telephone. Users can access information about an offender's custody status in "real time," 24 hours a day. Standard information available through the VINE service includes inmate custody status and location, criminal charge information, sentence expiration date and referral information for law enforcement and victim service provider organizations. Notifications are placed to registered persons upon the transfer, release, escape or death of an inmate. Victims can access the VINE system through an 800 number or the VINELink Website and notification can be delivered by phone and/or email. Classic VINE was launched in Minnesota in 2002. In addition to VINE, Minnesota worked with the vendor, Appriss, to create VICTIM AICE, an expanded notification system that includes information on inmates of a Dept. of Corrections facility. This has broadened the options for victims statewide, as notification information is available to victims of offenders housed in all types of detention facilities. VICTIM AICE is implemented (the first state in the nation), and we are continuing to make improvements, plus working with Appriss to fix issues. Day One – Minnesota's Domestic Violence Crisis Hotline: OJP provides on-going funding for this critically important program. Day One is housed at Cornerstone, Inc., a domestic violence shelter and community advocacy service program in the metropolitan Twin Cities. The Day One system electronically connects victim service programs providing shelter and hotel/motel services. Through one phone call a victim of domestic violence can access information about available shelter services statewide. Shelter providers must update the web-based system every time their bed space changes, or at least once every 24 hours. The Day One website gives immediate information on available shelter bed space, which can ensure that safety and services are appropriate and immediately available for women and children who need them. Day One also assists in arranging transportation to safe shelter and has greatly increased the number of women and children who are able to secure safe shelter with one phone call. Day One programming includes domestic violence community advocacy agencies across the state that assist victims with an array of services, including securing emergency housing with other agencies. Day One is also now the statewide hotline for youth trafficking victims. Minnesota launched a statewide trafficking initiative in conjunction with the MN Department of Health (MDH) and the Women's Foundation, entitled, No Wrong Door. This initiative included changes to legislation – the Safe Harbor law. Starting August 1, 2014, Minnesota youth who engage in prostitution are no longer seen as criminals, but instead as victims and survivors. The Safe Harbor law treats these youth with dignity and respect and directs them to appropriate services including shelter and housing. MDH received state funding to support youth trafficking shelter programs and the hiring of 8 Regional Navigators (including one Tribal navigator). Regional Navigators offer training and tools to increase the understanding in their region of juvenile sexual exploitation, which is too often misidentified as truancy, addiction, mental health, gang, and other adolescent issues. The 24-hr. Crisis Line and accompanying emergency funds for general crime victims is operated by the same agency as the Day One line. Staff are cross trained to assist victims. The Minnesota State Legislature appropriate additional emergency funds in 2023, which resulted in an increase from \$150,000 to \$500,000 for each fiscal year in this biennium. This will greatly improve the number of general crime victims able to obtain assistance with emergency needs that cannot be covered by other sources.	
Please describe any notable activities at the grantee level during the reporting period that improved delivery of victim services.	

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

The OJP Executive Director and Cecilia Miller meet every other month with the directors of the 6 statewide victim coalitions (Violence Free MN, MN Coalition Against Sexual Assault, MN Alliance on Crime, MN Indian Women s Sexual Assault Coalition, Sacred Hoop Coalition, and MN Children s Alliance). This meeting focuses on how best we can together help the field of victim service programs. We discuss training needs and joint training initiatives we can coordinate and sponsor statewide, unmet needs and issues expressed from direct service programs, legislative initiatives impacting crime victims and services, and strategic planning to improve the delivery of services statewide. The coalitions each have unique links of communication with their member programs and have been an excellent source of information about the difficulties occurring in the field.

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 support 74 agencies that serve domestic violence victims, 51 serving sexual assault victims, 68 serving underserved (general crime) victims and 48 serving child abuse victims. Each priority area has program standards that sub-grantees must follow as a recipient of the various types of funding. While each set of program standards are specific to a type of victimization (priority area), they each define required direct services under that program area, staff development, community education and outreach, and systems coordination and partnering. Program standards were update for the 2024 competitive funding process for all crime victim program services, to include expectations from our office about commitments to: accessibility, diversity, equity, and inclusion; using a trauma informed approach; and confidentiality. OJP has been working to increase the funding for general crime victims through expanding the hospital-based violence intervention program at the primary trauma hospital in Minneapolis, to two other hospitals nearby that also deal with a significant number of gunshot wounds and assault victims. We also have expanded funding to Child Advocacy Center programs, growing a new program approximately every three years, in an effort to reduce the distance a child has to travel to obtain a forensic exam.

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

OJP coordinates with the Minnesota District of the U.S. Attorney's Office and seeks participation from them for the training committee that plans the annual conference and assists with MNVAA, the Victim Assistance Academy committee. OJP provides crime victim funding to 10 of the 11 federally recognized Tribal reservations in Minnesota, for domestic violence and sexual assault services. Grant Managers work closely with these programs in addressing their unique cultural and geographic needs and challenges. They conduct site visits frequently to engage with program staff, provide training for capacity building, address program needs, assist in coordination with local non-Tribal victim service programs, and address resource needs for greater program stability. The directors of the two Native American coalitions, (Minnesota Indian Women s Sexual Assault Coalition and the Sacred Hoop Coalition), participate in regular meetings between the victim services coalitions and OJP. These two directors and their staff advise OJP regarding service delivery challenges for American Indian programs, both on and off reservation. They work together with OJP grant managers to provide training and technical assistance to grantees regarding capacity building and programming issues. Grant managers attend their annual training events and work hand-in-hand with Tribal reservation programs on issues. Other OJP staff overseeing JAG funding to Tribal reservations work in concert with grant managers to address issues between reservation-based victim service programs and local law enforcement and Tribal law enforcement, to improve the response to American Indian crime victims. OJP has also worked closely with the U.S. Attorney s Office to address the payment of sexual assault forensic exams for women from the Red Lake Reservation, a non-PL280 reservation.

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

Affordable housing options continue to be a problem in Minnesota, which puts significant pressure on agencies trying to assist crime victims needing stable housing. This has been a significant issue for the past 15 years, with limited improvement, even though it s a focus area for the state and across state agencies. The Minnesota State Legislature appropriated \$4.6 billion toward housing initiatives for the currently biennium, to various state agencies working together to address homelessness and housing disparities. OJP funds a Housing Specialist position to work with these other state agencies and the domestic and sexual violence coalitions to address housing issues for individuals and families impacted by domestic violence. It is difficult to quantify just how large of a problem this is, but we consistently hear of the struggles shelter programs face in helping families secure affordable housing. Our office received \$3 million from the legislature to start up a Housing First program and a transitional housing program in Minnesota. We are developing those RFPs and will be funding agencies in 2024 to begin this work. We are working with Violence Free MN and member programs to explore alternative housing strategies to see how we can ease the problem in Minnesota. We have funded a position within VFMN as a housing coordinator who works on policy development and needed changes with other state agencies toward improving the housing situation for domestic violence victims statewide. Programs (especially shelter programs) have been reporting for years that crime victims are presenting with more complex issues around joblessness, lack of familial support, housing difficulties, and a general inability to secure resources – all things that greatly impact their economic stability. Additionally, shelter residents experiencing challenges with mental health has a dramatic impact on programs and services. Rural programs have great difficulty referring crime victims for mental health services, due to a lack of mental health professionals in their rural area. Prosecution of reported sexual assault has been an ongoing issue, despite training for law enforcement and prosecutors. We continue to work with the sexual assault coalition on initiatives to address this (mostly with VAWA funding) but have not seen much improvement. Reporting of sexual assault seems to be on a gradual rise, however, and our funded sexual assault programs are busy serving victims and addressing sexual assault evidentiary exam issues. The MN County Attorney s Association continues to express the lack of coordination between city attorney and county attorney offices that impacts the charging of crimes and follow-up. Many smaller city attorneys are on contract from their local law firm, working part-time. There is some discussion about moving anything involving domestic violence to the county attorney office to pursue so that they don t get dropped so readily, but this would be a big change and there are many barriers to making this change. Drug and alcohol problems are a significant factor in cases of domestic and sexual violence on Tribal reservations. The issues are exacerbating each other, and the availability is limited for after-treatment options. Most of the federal funding that is used to support re-entry programs and halfway houses disappeared years ago. The treatment centers for American Indian Tribal members are consistently filled to capacity and there are limited treatment options that are culturally proficient, although there is new funding dedicated to this from the state legislative appropriation, which is great news. Addressing domestic and sexual violence issues on Tribal reservations without also addressing chemical use is potentially not very effective.

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

We have had minimal grant manager staff changes over the past 6 years and have added compliance monitoring staff that conduct desk reviews. We are needing to add another grant manager to our staff, and additional grant compliance staff are in the process of being hired to assist all grant programs funded by MN OJP.

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

Notices of crime victim funding opportunities are distributed widely (through e-mail) to over 3,000 direct contacts representing BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, Community of Color) and culturally specific agencies, criminal justice system personnel, social service agencies, current grantees, etc. We awarded 2-year renewals for our grantees for FY22/23 and had a competitive process for all VOCA funding in 2023, for one-year grants starting 10/1/23.

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

We had 3 separate competitive processes in 2023 to fund crime victim service programs for state fiscal year 2024 (10/1/23 – 9/30/24). One of the processes was specific to Tribal reservations in which 8 agencies were funded, and one was specific to statewide coalitions in which 6 agencies were funded. The main process had a funding priority for traditionally underserved populations. We were able to fund 160 applications out of 174 submitted. Five of the agencies funded are new to receiving crime victim services funding from our office and all are either BIPOC run agencies for their community, or a mainstream program that primarily serves BIPOC populations.

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

We conduct the open competitive process approximately every five years, with grantees completing an annual renewal application in the intervening years. When we discover a specific gap in services during the intervening years, we offer a small bridge grant to bring the program into the network of crime victim service grantees, until the next competitive process. This helps those agencies build up their services and programming for crime victims, so that they can compete better in the next competitive process. In the recent past we provided bridge funding to a hard of hearing/Deaf program, a start-up hospital-based violence intervention program, an Indian Tribal reservation program, an elder abuse and legal services program, and a new domestic violence shelter for African Immigrant families. These programs have continued to receive funding and are stable. This is an excellent way to help programs put themselves in a stronger position to compete in the competitive process, and to expand program to traditionally underserved victims of crime. The Covid-19 specific funding gave us additional opportunities to respond to service gaps and address pandemic related needs for crime victims statewide. We did not release any bridge funding during the reporting period because the Covid-19 specific funding was able to fill those gaps. We continue to seek information on unmet needs and gaps from the coalitions, our strategic partners in state government, our statewide criminal justice association partners, and through community outreach by our Community Outreach Specialist. This staff person has been instrumental in educating in traditionally underserved communities about the existence of VOCA funding. OJP s crime victim services funding in general, VOCA Comp, and ways to connect with our office and our 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 provide a compilation of stats from the victim service programs that details the services and demographics of victims served by our grantee agencies. This is provided to the legislature and is available on our website for anyone to access. We create a report utilizing data from The Day One program depicting calls on the hotline, requests for shelter, etc. The needs assessment report is also on our website, and we will be utilizing the data as we make a case for more state funding for crime victim services and for administrative funds for increased staff.