NC 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-0061	2019-V2-GX-0067	2020-V2-GX-0057	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00583-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00774-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00451-ASSI
Federal Award Amount	$103,435,763.00	$70,371,764.00	$52,368,267.00	$32,775,778.00	$44,765,575.00	$42,520,799.00
Total Amount of Subawards	$110,868,608.00	$72,657,863.00	$53,468,237.00	$29,695,046.00	$36,489,107.00	$0.00
Total Number of Subawards	180	155	147	105	131	0
Administrative Funds Amount	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Training Funds Amount	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Balance Remaining	($7,432,845.00)	($2,286,099.00)	($1,099,970.00)	$3,080,732.00	$8,276,468.00	$42,520,799.00

Subgrantee Organization Type

The total number of subgrants represents all subgrants funded across all federal awards active during the reporting period. The number is not unique as there are subgrantee organizations that are continuously funded from each federal award.

Type of Organization	2018-V2-GX-0061	2019-V2-GX-0067	2020-V2-GX-0057	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00583-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00774-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00451-ASSI
Government Agencies Only	**29**	**15**	**15**	**11**	**16**	**0**
Corrections	1	1	0	0	0	0
Courts	10	0	2	1	0	0
Juvenile Justice	0	1	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	0	3	2	3	0	0
Prosecutor	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	18	10	11	7	16	0
Nonprofit Organization Only	**145**	**138**	**128**	**94**	**115**	**0**
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	23	38	15	17	35	0
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	4	0	2	2	1	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	25	7	19	7	3	0
Faith-based Organization	0	0	0	0	0	0
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	40	31	36	26	41	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	8	4	5	2	26	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	11	9	7	6	3	0
Multiservice agency	18	35	37	29	0	0
Other	16	14	7	5	6	0
Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Agencies, and Organizations Only	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	0	0	1	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

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
Campus Organizations Only	**6**	**2**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Campus-based victims services	4	0	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	2	2	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Subawards	**180**	**155**	**147**	**105**	**131**	**0**

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

Subaward Purpose
A single SAR can select multiple purposes. Numbers are not unique

	2018-V2-GX-0061	2019-V2-GX-0067	2020-V2-GX-0057	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00583-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00774-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00451-ASSI
A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	116	109	122	71	114	0
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	19	14	7	5	5	0
C. Start up a new victim services project	43	32	17	27	12	0
D. Start up a new **Native American** victim services project	0	0	0	1	0	0
E. Expand or enhance an existing **Native American** project	2	0	1	1	0	0

VOCA and Match Funds
A single SAR can select multiple service types. Numbers are not unique

	2018-V2-GX-0061	2019-V2-GX-0067	2020-V2-GX-0057	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00583-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00774-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00451-ASSI
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	170	145	143	99	126	0
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	153	135	133	90	121	0
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	148	145	138	96	124	0
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	87	82	92	63	84	0
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	144	132	126	88	114	0
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	178	152	147	101	130	0

Priority and Underserved Requirements

Priority Area	2018-V2-GX-0061	2019-V2-GX-0067	2020-V2-GX-0057	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00583-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00774-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00451-ASSI
Child Abuse						
Total Amount	$19,253,181.00	$26,562,230.00	$10,521,175.00	$8,918,213.00	$9,752,364.00	$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	19.00 %	38.00 %	20.00 %	27.00 %	22.00 %	
Domestic and Family Violence						
Total Amount	$37,003,246.00	$24,901,033.00	$22,302,661.00	$8,085,936.00	$16,656,426.00	$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	36.00 %	35.00 %	43.00 %	25.00 %	37.00 %	
Sexual Assault						
Total Amount	$13,387,051.00	$8,671,550.00	$6,341,547.00	$4,203,781.00	$5,380,028.00	$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	13.00 %	12.00 %	12.00 %	13.00 %	12.00 %	
Underserved						
Total Amount	$40,510,579.00	$12,234,525.00	$10,457,537.00	$3,429,154.00	$3,820,304.00	$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	39.00 %	17.00 %	20.00 %	10.00 %	9.00 %	

Budget and Staffing

Staffing Information	2018-V2-GX-0061	2019-V2-GX-0067	2020-V2-GX-0057	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00583-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00774-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00451-ASSI
Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	2597	2087	60505	1179	1810	

Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	1985378	1719141	1193233	756586	927319
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	15621	9893	3731	1468	623
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	829654	291797	253788	170814	204837

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)	108	4509	4364	4494	4655	4505
Adult Sexual Assault	162	2560	3066	602904	18003190	4652930
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	134	694	714	681	735	706
Arson	23	46	57	46	43	48
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	97	2066	2095	2285	2506	2238
Burglary	27	52	58	63	73	61
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	159	5175	8507	7966	7112	7190
Child Pornography	110	98	161	157	359	193
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	179	6196	7062	11449	9419	8531
Domestic and/or Family Violence	218	28612	30774	28615	17028874	4279218
DUI/DWI Incidents	26	92	112	149	182	133
Elder Abuse or Neglect	100	373	351	427	567	429
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	59	15	42	48	51	39
Human Trafficking: Labor	113	201	200	185	214	200
Human Trafficking: Sex	185	362	509	412	489	443
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	37	171	176	595195	15400171	3998928
Kidnapping (non-custodial)	66	64	94	63	77	74
Kidnapping (custodial)	73	37	49	47	46	44
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	34	62	62	54	31	52
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	27	133	143	85	177	134
Robbery	31	85	80	109	109	95
Stalking/Harassment	152	2855	3350	3442	3363	3252
Survivors of Homicide Victims	77	461	383	326	417	396
Teen Dating Victimization	155	126	270	220	5600127	1400185
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	24	136	163	204	141	161
Other	44	411009	5116	397497	817642	407816

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	154	149	183	245	1625
Homeless	3245	3003	3277	3508	27931
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	3310	3393	3417	3385	22111
LGBTQ	972	1097	1081	1027	7086
Veterans	540	627	745	461	5100
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/ Physical /Mental	2688	3145	2361	2182	23394
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	3896	4012	4168	4040	34873
Other	661	991	911	532	211603

General Award Information

Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	57403732	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	2822469	

Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	57321878	99.86 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	44093	0.08 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	29327	

Demographics

Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
Race/Ethinicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	1255	0.00 %
Asian	957	0.00 %
Black or African American	27285	0.05 %
Hispanic or Latino	13274	0.02 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	266	0.00 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	50229	0.09 %
Some Other Race	1939	0.00 %
Multiple Races	3289	0.01 %
Not Reported	1220770	2.13 %
Not Tracked	56002614	97.70 %
Race/Ethnicity Total	**57321878**	
Gender Identity		
Male	24452	0.04 %
Female	88546	0.15 %
Other	655	0.00 %
Not Reported	6722	0.01 %
Not Tracked	57201503	99.79 %
Gender Total	**57321878**	
Age		
Age 0- 12	22140	0.04 %
Age 13- 17	10410	0.02 %
Age 18- 24	10830	0.02 %
Age 25- 59	54829	0.10 %
Age 60 and Older	5835	0.01 %
Not Reported	15544	0.03 %
Not Tracked	57202290	99.79 %
Age Total	**57321878**	

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	253	57308157	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	86599
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	91784
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	57245179
			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	1329386
B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	241	87599	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	3593
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	8912
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	10080
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	184523
			B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	14345
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	6965
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	5381
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	22243
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	24804
			B10. Interpreter services	16042
C. Emotional Support or	247	113183	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	194393
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	123455
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	2231

Safety Services	247	112183	C4. Individual counseling	102795
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	16701
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	17836
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	28967
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	161	12496	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	121105
			D2. Transitional housing	3749
			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	7720
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	224	1698913	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	1633630
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	4774
			E3. Assistance with restitution	639
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	70762
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	17610
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	6329
			E7. Immigration assistance	8899
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	2251
			E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	7036
			E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	22393
			E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	15300

ANNUAL QUESTIONS

Grantee Annually Reported Questions

Question/Option	Count
Were any administrative and training funds used during the reporting period?	
Yes	1
No	0
Did the administrative funds support any education activities during the reporting period?	
Yes	1
No	0
Number of requests received for education activities during the reporting period.	0
Number of people trained or attending education events during the reporting period.	3
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.	

The GCC was able to utilize extended 2018 recipient grant funds to extend twelve subrecipient projects that prioritized awareness and outreach to underserved communities. Additionally, these projects were able to use media from website services to radio ads, to pamphlet and other handouts to increase awareness of victim services across the state and education of current issues/needs regarding victims of crime. This has also included materials translated into Spanish and ensuring access across rural and disabled communities, who have internet access gaps and also have higher virtual access needs due to COVID.

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

The GCC held annual Grant Writing and Award workshops in October 2022 for subrecipients and applicants virtually. The Grant Writing Workshops focused on the pre-award process through the GCC, and educates subrecipients on the policies, procedures, and requirements for all VOCA-funded projects through the GCC. The Grant Award Workshops provided training on compliance for VOCA-funded projects, topics related to 2 CFR 200, cost principles, audit requirements, documentation and record-keeping requirements, monitoring procedures, financial reporting, additional DOJ guidelines, and GCC Grants Management policies. Nonprofit board training was able to be an additional session within the workshops as well as a training on logic models for use in the application process and for agency use to develop their programs. Statewide partners (NCCADV, NCCASA, NCAOC, NC VAN, CACNC) developed and incorporated new practices related to virtual trainings and new policies related to virtual communication and advocacy. GCC annual workshops were not held in 2023 due to the transition to a new grants management system, however subrecipient trainings were held for introduction and instruction on the new grants management system in order to prioritize subrecipient access and submission of closeout reports, outstanding reimbursements and documentation to move towards grant opening of 2023 awards. An external grant management user guide was also developed and disseminated to aid in training. Individual training and instruction with subrecipients who wished to work with staff outside of a group setting was provided as well.

Describe any program policies changed during the reporting period.

The GCC publishes an updated Request for Applications (RFA) each fiscal year with updates to policies, procedures, and priorities. The funding priorities are determined by the Commission, published in the RFA, and posted on the GCC web page each year. This year updates were posted in November. The updated RFA highlights additional policies of the GCC and various federal entities to ensure ongoing compliance with new and previously funded programs. Through updates to the RFA, GCC works to strengthen the grant writing skills of applicants and subrecipients. This year priorities were capped due to reductions in VOCA VA funding since 2018. It depends on the service area covered by the projects which are then broken down into 3 categories: Local serving 1-4 counties, Regional, serving 5 - 50 counties, and statewide serving 51+ counties. Additionally, the GCC has worked to improve grants management and monitoring practices within the agency. GCC Grant Management staff provide regular monitoring of awarded grants at different periods throughout the life of the grant. This includes pre-award risk assessments, initial risk assessments of awarded projects, desk reviews, and regular site visits. The Grants Management team continues to use the updated risk matrix tool and the site visit monitoring tool to be more concise on metrics and program outcomes. GCC also implemented the Universal Match Waiver approvals for grantees due to a sufficient financial need created for all subrecipients in response to the COVID-19 crisis as soon as we were notified of this flexibility by OVC. The Universal Waiver will no longer be utilized after this year since the National Emergency was rescinded by President Biden in May 2023. Therefore, GCC will review and update Waiver practices to align with the transition to a new grants management system as of October 2023. In addition, the new grant management system transition has and will continue to require testing and updating of current policies and procedures.

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

Key media coverage during this reporting period reported by our statewide coalitions and agencies includes commercials and coverage for resources available. Decreases in VOCA funding provided by GCC were highlighted through local news media and throughout the state budget negotiations as federal funding cuts were highlighted and the need for use of state funds and ARPA funds to offset the impact to victims in the state. In addition, multiple VOCA-funded programs have received news coverage for positive community impact both in televised news programs and digital/print news stories. The expansion of Medicaid at the end of the reporting period was highlighted as potentially assisting certain services in the continuum of care for victims in the state. The expansion will ideally have a positive impact on those seeking medical, mental health, and substance use interventions. This was covered in local, state and national news.

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

Collaboration with local and statewide organizations continues to be a GCC requirement for agencies applying for VOCA funding. In addition, agencies must demonstrate their willingness to provide coordinated community responses to victims of crime, maintain current Memoranda of Understanding/Agreements with partner agencies-indicating the responsibilities of each partnering agency and contribution to project goals. This practice is especially important for Family Justice Centers, hospital-based violence intervention programs, and partnering agencies that share office space and collaborative services for the success of the model.

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

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have an impact on service providers, service delivery, and victims. It is especially challenging when trying to handle TA and meet training needs that cannot be done in person due to safety risk or that must fluctuate to rapidly respond to spikes in cases and public health directives that are not consistent across agencies. The technology has been great for accessibility and safety, but it is ever evolving the longer we are remote and the longer the efforts to combine or remove technology access across services continues, thus creates a demand for staff to learn new technology and adapt quickly to different levels of usage. As a result, they continue to be ready for fast and creative adjustments with our members, partners, and community. Our staff, members, victims, and community are making new choices about how to live, receive education, services and we are all creating new expectations about flexibility, working conditions, technology, and safety, and life. The economic impacts in addition continue to impact service providers and victims alike. An issue brought forward by the NC Human Trafficking Commission due to decreased funding levels in VOCA and other sources, they were unable to provide our normal public awareness through billboards, radio, social media, and television. Because human trafficking is a hidden crime, we know this decreased how many victims saw the hotline number. Also due to funding restrictions, they were able to hold training for interdiction officers but had less attendance because they could not cover lodging accommodations for attendees. CACNC reported that the ongoing issue is the uncertainty of funding across the state. This issue has been a continual struggle since the pandemic but has only intensified with each year. As they head into a new year, they are acutely aware that additional funding cuts are looming. Deeper cuts mean less children served or less services provided with a future possibility of agencies closing and victim service provision hitting a record low leaving children and families desperate for help. Additionally, NCCADV reports remaining need exists in two significant areas: affordable housing supply and relief from financial abuse. The nationwide affordable housing crisis has impacted both urban and rural housing supplies such that domestic violence survivors across North Carolina struggle to find and maintain long-term housing. Domestic violence service providers report that their emergency and transitional housing options are all at capacity because there is not an adequate supply of housing in the community for survivors to access in order to transition out of program-provided housing. Even when survivors are eligible for housing vouchers, they struggle to find landlords willing and available to provide affordable housing using this relief. Domestic violence service providers and survivors have also consistently reported the need for increased resources and legal relief from financial abuse, and this need has been exacerbated by economic conditions that amplify the impact of financial abuse, such as inflation, raising interest rates, and the housing crisis. Communities are not uniformly equipped to serve survivors facing financial abuse, as legal remedies do not acknowledge or provide sufficient relief from financial abuse. Additionally, survivors often have constrained career growth and reduced educational attainment which frequently place them in positions that do not pay a living wage.

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.

(1) Individual assistance to crime victims was provided for emergency housing, food, clothing, and other items needed to restore the victims sense of security, vouchers to certain hotels, stabilization in current housing with thorough safety planning, and technology to assist with connecting victims to direct services through non-traditional methods. (2) Additionally, secured through 2018 grant award extension, efforts have been made to continue outreach campaigns to crime victims for providing supporting public awareness and education designed to inform crime victims of specific rights and services and provide them with/or refer them to, services and assistance. Subrecipients oversaw the outreach campaign via continued contracting with multi-media outlets (tv, radio, web ads/PSAs, social media platforms and other technology-based media) based, served as the subject matter experts on the content and were the referral recipients(s) in the outreach materials. Effective outcomes were provided during the initial period of performance and those measures and outcomes were improved upon with the additional funding provided to continue the public awareness to connect victims with service providers and critical services. Additionally, the Crime Victims Services Team at GCC continues to hold quarterly meetings to bring public and private agencies together to discuss common issues, fostering a collaborative atmosphere to emphasize how each of the agencies can contribute to and support other groups to provide a higher level of service to victims of crime.

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

GCC has developed and continued the publication of a monthly newsletter disseminated on our website and through email notification to subscribers as of July 2022 and in the newsletter, notable activities at the grantee level continues to be highlighted. During this reporting period, multiple first time subrecipient applicants were awarded VOCA funds. These projects are community-based and hospital-based violence intervention programs and have been operating for short term in their counties that include rural and underserved populations that will be further aided by GCC funding and the ability to leverage this funding to apply for further sources. Novant Health, Novant Health New Hanover, and KIDS Making It are all projects that build on collaborations and deep community ties to ensure the success of their programs that serve child and adult victims of violence with the goal to reduce victimization and re-occuring incidents of violence in the communities they serve with evidence-based harm reduction and trauma informed services.

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 Governor's Crime Commission allows subrecipients to structure and prioritize the focus areas of the Commission and those of the Office for Victims of Crime. We primarily meet the federally mandated minimum allocations through the following GCC-identified priorities: Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Victims Services, Child Advocacy Centers, and Underserved Crime Victims Services. Underserved crime victims can and are identified by both crime types and specific victim demographics that are historically underserved and situationally. The remaining priorities published in our 2023 VOCA Request for Applications include: Legal Services for Victims of Crime, Medical Services and Models which is inclusive of the intersection of substance use and mental health services for victims, Victim Focused Violence Intervention which includes hospital-based violence intervention programs, community-based violence intervention models, restorative justice programs, and Automated Victim Notification Services.

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

In addition to the conditions and regulations governing VOCA program eligibility, GCC requires all applicants seeking VOCA funding to submit a letter to their regional US Attorney to notify them of their agency s ability to provide resources to victims of crime. Additionally, an upload of the letter must be provided at the time of application for funding. Continuation projects must update regional US Attorney Letters and notifications at the minimum once per period of performance and additionally for any new projects. This requirement is still in place despite transition to a new grants management system in September of this year. Programs must also identify an individual or individuals responsible for assisting crime victims with applying for victim s compensation. This covers the range of victimization that may cross state lines. This covers victimizations falling under federal jurisdiction This requirement is consistent with all VOCA applications and has not changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

The victim services field has faced unique and complex adjustments due to the continued COVID-19 pandemic and the economic hardships that continue to affect middle class and impoverished communities most acutely. GCC, along with our community partners have been challenged to become more creative with service provision, providing support and free resources and opportunities to connect with services, recognizing the need for remote work and meeting options while continuing to serve victims and ensure accessibility. Emerging issues reported to GCC include challenges with technology, including barriers for victims seeking assistance through the criminal justice system. As technology continuously changes, legal issues surrounding victim services has become challenging to navigate. Additionally, as the public health organized response and virtual options are being removed in many systems instead of being permanently available, many victims are being further isolated from services despite victim-based services attempting to keep them in place. NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCCADV) reports that domestic violence agencies continue to share that they are being stretched thin. Currently, there have been delays in getting reimbursements and grant funding from specific funding sources, along with continued cuts to VOCA funding, these funding issues create problems for agencies in retaining seasoned staff and on-boarding new staff. Additionally, agencies are continuing their best to operate during a time of increased service demand. An emerging issue is that intimate partner homicides involving guns are also on the rise. One in four homicides in the US is DV-related and the presence of a firearm in a DV incident raises the risk of homicide by 500%. Through November 30, there have been 68 DV related homicides in NC and at least 76% of these homicides involved the use of firearms (some are unknown). Child Advocacy Centers of North Carolina advises for the reporting period that child maltreatment continues to be a public health crisis and access to children via the internet, social media, and smart phone apps are causing those numbers to grow. CACNC reported that they have worked numerous cases this year of children being accessed in these ways and taken for the purpose of committing crimes. Crimes that have lifelong impacts due to the trauma inflicted. Left untreated adverse childhood experiences that include trauma from abuse can have long term physical, mental and emotional health tolls that strip away a child s ability to have a healthy adulthood and contribute to the larger society. Additionally, the cost is overbearing for the country as we struggle to handle long term effects of trauma versus funding and providing adequate service provision at the disclosure of trauma and bringing healing to children and families. The North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission advises that nonprofits providing assistance to victims of human trafficking are decreasing the amount and intensity of services offered due to lower funds. They advise the state has very few programs responding to national hotline calls and many programs serving victims of crime are voicing concerns relating to closing programs.

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

As illustrated in more detail above, due to COVID-19 staff needs and stress levels have increased which in turn increases agencies' needs to support staff and retain employees. COVID and other economic factors, while the national and state emergency status is no longer in place as of May 2023, is still active and infection rates come in waves. This has in tandem increased need for services, and service provider workloads, and in conjunction has increased staff retention and turnover as service provider staff are being affected by the same economic hardships and trauma without the stable and increasing income to ensure security and consistency. Some agencies have reported a lack of ability to continue servicing victims at previous levels and have had to adjust/change implementing agencies. Funding cuts without the additional supplemental funding has contributed to reduction in services and staff to better ensure appropriate pay and benefits to existing staff while mitigating the effects on service provision. Also, due to increased reductions in VOCA funding, there were projects/staff funded by projects that were not able to be funded and caps for program priorities were put in place this reporting year which has not previously been needed in conjunction with cuts ranging from 10% to 50% which directly impacts staffing levels as much of VOCA funding goes to ensure direct service provisions. GCC staffing over the last reporting has been mostly stable after a hiring period that stretched over the year prior. State employee retention rates have struggled and finding qualified candidates has also been a barrier to ensuring positions within grant administration and grant planning are able to be quickly filled which places increased workloads on current staff and contributes to quicker burnout. A department telework policy has been in place to aid in broadening the scope of applicants as well as pay increases that are built into the state budget in order to catch up with competitive states and agencies drawing employees from state government positions. As GCC has retained older administrative funds from previous years, the agency has been able to use older administrative funds to minimize the impact of reduced administrative funding on our program capability. More recently, our agency has begun to delay hiring or strategically identify which positions are most integral to continued program functionality – as we plan for the long-range impact of funding reductions on state administering agencies.

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

Prospective subrecipients are notified of funding availability through a variety of means, for example GCC has reached out to US Tribal Organizations as well as other underserved communities including Hispanic organizations, rural providers and LGBTQ organizations virtually and in person, and had meetings and presentations at conferences/virtual task force meetings to collaborate regarding projects, needs, grant writing and available funding. Annually, GCC publishes updated Requests for Applications to the website, in addition to making this information available at the annual Grant Writing and Grant Award workshops. Statewide coalitions and agencies also receive notification of funding availability to share with local agencies across the state. These coalitions include the NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the NC Human Trafficking Commission, Child Advocacy Centers of NC, and the NC Victim Assistance Network. These agencies are well-connected to local programs across the state. Additionally, current and previous subrecipients receive notifications through email regarding the availability of VOCA funding. GCC has regular planning meetings regarding subrecipient outreach and other methods for publicizing victim assistance funding and have begun to utilize social media more actively on LinkedIn, Facebook, and with the monthly newsletter, The GIST that is available through email subscription and posted monthly on the GCC website to all. The Crime Victim Services Advisory Group, whose members may belong to various local and statewide agencies, also refers interested entities to GCC for information on funding and the application process. GCC is the state administering agency for nearly a dozen funding sources and also works to ensure that internal and external communications to current subrecipients include all available sources to ensure knowledge of all funding cycles and opportunities for reaching victims of crime.

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

Prospective subrecipients are notified of funding availability through a variety of means, for example GCC has reached out to US Tribal Organizations as well as other underserved communities including Hispanic organizations, rural providers and LGBTQ organizations virtually and in person, and had meetings and presentations at conferences/virtual task force meetings to collaborate regarding projects, needs, grant writing and available funding. Annually, GCC publishes updated Requests for Applications to the website, in addition to making this information available at the annual Grant Writing and Grant Award workshops. Statewide coalitions and agencies also receive notification of funding availability to share with local agencies across the state. These coalitions include the NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the NC Human Trafficking Commission, Child Advocacy Centers of NC, and the NC Victim Assistance Network. These agencies are well-connected to local programs across the state. The needs-based assessment that was completed in the last grant reporting period has also prioritized identifying underserved populations and meeting those needs to direct funding to service providers and reach those populations.

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

COVID-19 continues to create challenges to service providers trying to serve those in need, the increase in frequency and severity of the need, while also meeting the health and safety needs of clients and staff. This pandemic continues to create a critical need to ensure that victims seeking justice and healing, can access services safely, equitably, and affectively. GCC maintains a close working relationship with local and statewide agencies, in efforts to inform them of our funding priorities and to give insight to the gaps in services through progress reporting, grant monitoring, outreach, and other assessment-based approaches. These approaches may be in collaboration with other funding sources internally at GCC and across administering and monitoring state agencies. Through this collaboration, GCC is able to identify resources that may be used to support agencies in providing uninterrupted services to the crime victim population. Where available, the GCC may provide funding to agencies during the funding period that may identify increased needs for services or require emergency funding. Examples of this may be agencies in areas of the state that are impacted by adverse weather events (such as hurricane flooding) or mass violence events (gun violence). Where possible, GCC provides reverted or unallocated funding in off-cycle grants to support agencies' ability provide continuous funding to those victimized by crime. GCC has also prioritized ensuring available recipient grant extensions across multiple VOCA funding years are applied for where possible to respond to gaps in services and critical needs identified as they emerge during the reporting period. Extensions to 2019, 2020, and 2021 recipient grants were requested and approved to aid in this goal and service gaps as well as responding to upcoming funding cuts have been a focus in ensuring these funds are spent down and appropriately utilized to meet these reported needs. Lastly, during this reporting period, a needs-based assessment in collaboration with UNC - Chapel Hill was completed and will be further reviewed in upcoming reporting periods to meet response needs coming directly from survivors and direct service providers that may not be receiving our funding at this time.

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

Outcome measures include data reported to the Office for Victims of Crime through the quarterly and annual PMT reporting measures. Additionally, many funded programs have public-facing reports on the number of crime victims served and the amount of funding devoted to victims of crime throughout the state that are submitted as required reports for funding attached to agencies including NC Council for Women and Youth Involvement and NC Health and Human Services. Service and funding gaps are reported in addition to program priorities and the results of the funding decisions made by the Commission yearly. Subrecipient agencies and state coalitions have also put together supplemental outcomes and funding reports in order to advocate for supplemental funding that can be utilized to be braided or used alongside federal funds that are continuing to be cut or significantly reduced. GCC has assisted in providing reports to the Governor and Legislature on funding levels and outcomes from underserved program priorities, basic services, and newer state priorities that include community-based violence interventions.