

# PA 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-0026	2020-V2-GX-0063	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00594-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00796-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00460-ASSI
<b>Federal Award Amount</b>	\$86,679,182.00	\$63,811,563.00	\$39,420,513.00	\$54,888,455.00	\$51,448,268.00
<b>Total Amount of Subawards</b>	\$96,581,651.00	\$53,272,583.00	\$4,146,639.00	\$3,402,511.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Number of Subawards</b>	198	192	6	19	0
<b>Administrative Funds Amount</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Training Funds Amount</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Balance Remaining</b>	(\$9,902,469.00)	\$10,538,980.00	\$35,273,874.00	\$51,485,944.00	\$51,448,268.00

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-0026	2020-V2-GX-0063	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00594-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00796-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00460-ASSI
<b>Government Agencies Only</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>
Corrections	0	0	0	0	0
Courts	1	2	0	1	0
Juvenile Justice	7	7	0	4	0
Law Enforcement	0	0	0	0	0
Prosecutor	29	33	1	5	0
Other	4	4	0	0	0
<b>Nonprofit Organization Only</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	19	18	0	0	0
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	3	3	0	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	28	25	1	0	0
Faith-based Organization	0	0	0	0	0
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	21	20	1	0	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	13	13	0	0	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	10	8	0	1	0
Multiservice agency	44	41	0	7	0
Other	19	18	3	1	0
<b>Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Agencies, and Organizations Only</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	0	0	0	0	0
Court	0	0	0	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence organization	0	0	0	0	0
Faith-based organization	0	0	0	0	0
Juvenile justice	0	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	0	0	0	0	0
Organization provides domestic and family violence and sexual assault services	0	0	0	0	0
Prosecutor	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	0	0	0	0	0
Other justice-based agency	0	0	0	0	0
Other agency that is NOT justice-based (e.g., human services, health, education)	0	0	0	0	0
Organization by and/or for a specific traditionally underserved community	0	0	0	0	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Campus Organizations Only</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Campus-based victims services	0	0	0	0	0

# 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
<b>Total Number of Subawards</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>

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

<b>Subaward Purpose</b> <small>A single SAR can select multiple purposes. Numbers are not unique</small>					
	2019-V2-GX-0026	2020-V2-GX-0063	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00594-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00796-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00460-ASSI
A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	196	192	6	19	0
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	3	0	0	0	0
C. Start up a new victim services project	0	0	0	0	0
D. Start up a new <b>Native American</b> victim services project	0	1	0	0	0
E. Expand or enhance an existing <b>Native American</b> project	0	0	0	0	0

<b>VOCA and Match Funds</b> <small>A single SAR can select multiple service types. Numbers are not unique</small>					
	2019-V2-GX-0026	2020-V2-GX-0063	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00594-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00796-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00460-ASSI
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	17	163	3	19	0
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	16	143	3	17	0
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	13	128	2	0	0
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	4	58	2	0	0
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	16	139	3	19	0
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	19	173	4	19	0

<b>Priority and Underserved Requirements</b>					
Priority Area	2019-V2-GX-0026	2020-V2-GX-0063	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00594-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00796-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00460-ASSI
<b>Child Abuse</b>					
Total Amount	\$14,625,380.00	\$8,479,865.00	\$72,220.00	\$395,408.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	17.00 %	13.00 %	0.00 %	1.00 %	
<b>Domestic and Family Violence</b>					
Total Amount	\$36,408,255.00	\$20,469,531.00	\$1,223,630.00	\$305,252.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	42.00 %	32.00 %	3.00 %	1.00 %	
<b>Sexual Assault</b>					
Total Amount	\$14,555,510.00	\$5,832,724.00	\$182,338.00	\$301,054.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	17.00 %	9.00 %	0.00 %	1.00 %	
<b>Underserved</b>					
Total Amount	\$30,421,672.00	\$18,486,559.00	\$2,668,450.00	\$2,400,794.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	35.00 %	29.00 %	7.00 %	4.00 %	

<b>Budget and Staffing</b>					
Staffing Information	2019-V2-GX-0026	2020-V2-GX-0063	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00594-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00796-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00460-ASSI
Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	3437	2984	83	301	
Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	50837	45462	2910	4998	
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	2453	1884	27	41	
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	7427	6637	283	371	

## AGGREGATED SUBGRANTEE PERFORMANCE MEASURE DATA

<b>Victimization Type</b>						
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)	105	4835	4842	4819	4881	4844

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

Adult Sexual Assault	122	2825	2856	2664	2509	2713
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	102	665	700	613	621	649
Arson	70	166	118	94	128	126
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	82	144	189	181	213	181
Burglary	85	1256	965	952	1160	1083
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	127	2824	2928	2885	2944	2895
Child Pornography	75	192	191	228	161	193
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	146	6163	6400	6491	5806	6215
Domestic and/or Family Violence	157	17348	17916	18992	20242	18624
DUI/DWI Incidents	80	1583	1134	1062	1028	1201
Elder Abuse or Neglect	97	584	567	572	611	583
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	74	26	18	17	19	20
Human Trafficking: Labor	81	79	80	79	84	80
Human Trafficking: Sex	98	171	181	192	235	194
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	83	800	741	826	1042	852
Kidnapping (non-custodial)	57	68	52	56	67	60
Kidnapping (custodial)	62	16	21	7	13	14
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	56	36	11	6	15	17
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	75	706	608	625	558	624
Robbery	81	938	824	951	883	899
Stalking/Harassment	109	1313	1401	1113	1265	1273
Survivors of Homicide Victims	97	3034	3149	2756	2793	2933
Teen Dating Victimization	91	154	139	110	126	132
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	78	6	8	13	7	8
Other	63	299793	335475	370921	404683	352718

## 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	208	210	194	201	1924
Homeless	1734	1777	1782	1980	18250
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	872	991	931	1011	9146
LGBTQ	669	701	674	691	5434
Veterans	215	222	200	216	2147
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/ Physical /Mental	3169	3278	3430	3340	31348
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	1291	1378	1397	1475	12732
Other	0	0	0	0	1

## General Award Information

Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	194273	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	1388527	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	135670	69.83 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	11185	5.76 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	5719	

## Demographics

Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
American Indian or Alaska Native	199	0.15 %
Asian	1213	0.89 %
Black or African American	22026	16.23 %
Hispanic or Latino	8190	6.04 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	98	0.07 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	51050	37.63 %
Some Other Race	1915	1.41 %
Multiple Races	2881	2.12 %
Not Reported	48098	35.45 %
Not Tracked	0	0.00 %
<b>Race/Ethnicity Total</b>	<b>135670</b>	

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

Gender Identity		
Male		27821 20.51 %
Female		83439 61.50 %
Other		454 0.33 %
Not Reported		23956 17.66 %
Not Tracked		0 0.00 %
<b>Gender Total</b>		<b>135670</b>
Age		
Age 0- 12		10575 7.79 %
Age 13- 17		8132 5.99 %
Age 18- 24		10777 7.94 %
Age 25- 59		69008 50.86 %
Age 60 and Older		12063 8.89 %
Not Reported		25115 18.51 %
Not Tracked		0 0.00 %
<b>Age Total</b>		<b>135670</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	155	107989	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	65880
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	109907
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	34819
			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	45943
B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	146	68877	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	581
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	655
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	5153
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	202978
			B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	3036
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	4912
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	1858
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	163
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	2413
			B10. Interpreter services	2846
C. Emotional Support or Safety Services	125	66251	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	47856
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	47345
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	107
			C4. Individual counseling	97145
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	19828
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	24642
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	1007
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	51	3757	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	122228
			D2. Transitional housing	22479
			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	375
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	130	609738	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	607251
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	15031
			E3. Assistance with restitution	19596
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	18462
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	9275
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	35967
			E7. Immigration assistance	2230
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	441

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	E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	43
	E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	77307
	E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	22180

**ANNUAL QUESTIONS**

Grantee Annually Reported Questions	Count
<b>Question/Option</b>	
<b>Were any administrative and training funds used during the reporting period?</b>	
Yes	1
No	0
<b>Did the administrative funds support any education activities during the reporting period?</b>	
Yes	1
No	0
Number of requests received for education activities during the reporting period.	108
Number of people trained or attending education events during the reporting period.	4785
Number of events conducted during the reporting period.	106
<b>Did the grant support any coordination activities (e.g., with other service providers, law enforcement agencies) during the reporting period?</b>	
Yes	1
No	0
<b>Describe any program or educational materials developed during the reporting period.</b>	
<p>The Pennsylvania State University provides online trainings for victim advocates at PCCD-funded programs and allied professionals whose work brings them into contact with crime victim populations. During this annual reporting period, the following courses were added to the website: Self-Care for Victim Service Provision Part 1 &amp; 2, LGBTQ Victims: Gender and Service Provision – Part 1, LGBTQ Victims: Sexuality and Service Provision – Part 2, LGBTQ Victims: Real-World Strategies and Considerations, and Understanding the Victims Compensation Assistance Program. The Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association (PCPA) developed a 5-minute video announcing the new Law Enforcement Notification documents developed in 2022 that are provided to victims of crime and law enforcements responsibilities to distribute basic victims rights information along with the Victims Compensation Application. The purpose of this training video is to continue the education of police officers on their role and agency requirements enumerated under the Crime Victims Act. This video was completed in late 2022 and can be viewed on PCCD s website. Law Enforcement's Role: Providing Victims' Rights &amp; Victim Compensation Information Video PCCD staff updated the Victim Services section of the of the PCCD website, PCCD Victims' Services (pa.gov), to provide updated information and additional resources to victim service programs. Some of the new resources include a new Victims Rights Brochure in both English and Spanish, Information and Resources on Legal Standing for Victims after the passing of PA ACT 77 on July 11, 2022, and easier navigation to the PA Crime Victims Website which provides various resources and information for victims of crime.</p>	
<b>Describe any planning or training events held during the reporting period.</b>	
<p>A. PCCD provides a grant to the Pennsylvania District Attorney s Institute (PDAI) to carry out PCCD s statewide training project for victim service providers. PDAI coordinated three (3) different topical trainings: Addiction &amp; Connection to Treatment; LGBTQIA+; and Grief. These training opportunities were for Victim/Witness program staff in District Attorney s offices and community-based victim service agencies to enhance the quality and effectiveness of services provided to crime victims in the Commonwealth as well as fulfill obligations to provide crime victims with the rights to which they are entitled under the Crime Victims Act. B. PCCD provides a grant to the Pennsylvania District Attorney s Institute (PDAI) to carry out the Pennsylvania automated victim notification system (PA SAVIN). As a victim of crime, this service provides free anonymous notifications regarding an offender s release, transfer or escape. The PA SAVIN service includes offenders under the supervision of county jails, state prisons, and state parole. PDAI provides training and technical assistance daily to prison staff, law enforcement officers, victim service agencies, and the general community. C. Three (3) Victim Services Foundational Academies were held in fiscal year 2022-2023. Attendance is mandatory for new victim service professionals providing direct services to victims. The foundational academy teaches participants to identify and understand their roles and job responsibilities as outlined by PCCD's Consolidated Victim Service Program Standards. Topics include, but are not limited to: 1. Advocacy skills 2. Communication 3. Counseling skills/Trauma Informed Service Delivery 4. Crisis Intervention 5. Mandated Reporting 6. Disabilities 7. Diversity and Cultural Competence 8. Ethics in Victim Services 9. Overview of the Criminal, Juvenile and Civil Justice system including the appeal process 10. Select trainings of types of victims served through the Victims Services Program 11. Self-care 12. Values clarification 13. Confidentiality 14. Victim s Rights D. KCIT held the following trainings: Simulation – Get Deployment Ready! o The first half of this training provides review of the Group Crisis Intervention Model, roles and procedures. The second half of the training provides live practice of skills with the specialized coaching and attention of a Certified KCIT Trainer. The overall goal is to assure confidence and competency so that you are ready for deployment. Group Crisis Intervention Training o Learn the Group Crisis Intervention (GCI) Model and become equipped with the skills to empower victims of trauma after a crisis. Group Crisis Intervention addresses the gap and the need that exists for a community to receive support after first responders leave and before beginning therapy. Trauma Informed Death Notifications o Deliver a death notification using a trauma-informed protocol. Explain the preparation process needed to give a dignified death notification. Identify trauma reactions related to grief and loss. Community Care; The KCIT Response o KCIT fills a gap in the typical healing model by providing a second response in an effort to mitigate potential trauma impact and reactions. Engaging Racial Trauma: Interacting with Communities of Color in Times of Crises o Informs and guides volunteers and staff by reviewing historical and current aspects of racial trauma within communities of color and how best to serve victims as non-BIPOC volunteers and staff.</p>	
<b>Describe any program policies changed during the reporting period.</b>	
<p>A. Monitoring On January 1, 2022, PCCD implemented the updated Alternative Monitoring Plan that was approved on September 9, 2021 by OVC. This plan states that PCCD will continue to monitor using a risk assessment level in which low and medium-risk designations may be monitored virtually and high-risk designations will be monitored on-site. Please refer to 2021 annual report for further details on the Alternative Monitoring Plan. B. Funding As a result of the significant reductions of deposits into the VOCA fund, a decision was made by the Victims Services Advisory Committee (VSAC) in November 2019, to forgo a new VOCA competitive funding announcement in 2020 and continue funding existing programs to maintain the expanded programs and service provision to victims that had been built. As a result, a three-year non-competitive funding announcement was released to existing programs, in the Spring of 2020, for a project period of October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2023. With the passage of the VOCA Fix Bill in August 2021, it alleviated the need to make any reductions to the subrecipients that were awarded grants during this time period. PCCD continued to monitor the VOCA fund very closely and in November 2022, VSAC made the decision thru strategic planning to continue funding existing programs to maintain the expanded programs and service provision to victims. As a result, a two-year non-competitive funding announcement with a project period of October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2025 was released to existing programs that would keep them level funded at the yearly amount of the prior solicitation for the first year of the project, with an understanding that Year 2 funding amounts would be determined at the November 2023 VSAC meeting. PCCD continues to monitor the VOCA fund and thru strategic planning will present options at the November 2023 VSAC meeting to see if level funding for Year 2 can continue or if there is a need to decrease Year 2 amounts.</p>	
<b>Describe any earned media coverage events/episodes during the reporting period.</b>	
<p>New domestic violence shelter opens in Pittsburgh's South Side This article discusses a new shelter for victims of domestic violence in Pittsburgh s South Side neighborhood. The shelter was previously in McKeesport. The design and build of the new location were managed by a survivor of domestic violence, director of operation for Center for Victims in which she wanted to ensure that others had safe and comfortable place to go during their time of trauma. The shelter has 25 beds and each private room includes an individual bathroom, a refrigerator, microwave, TV, a homework desk, and a dresser. The amenities include a play area, soon-to-be-sensory room and therapy dogs who can spend time with kids staying at the shelter. Lt. Gov. Davis visits Victims Resource Center in Wilkes-Barre This article discusses the Victims Resource Center staff and board members meeting with Lt. Governor Austin Davis to highlight the critical services and programs that are provided to victims of violence in Luzerne, Wyoming and Carbon Counties. Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting Trial: What to Know as Jurors Recommend a Death Sentence This article discusses the Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting Trial nearly five years after it occurred. It speaks to a brief history of the events that occurred, some background information on the perpetrator, highlights from the trial, and most importantly who the victims were that were killed in the attack. Gunman who killed 11 in Pittsburgh synagogue sentenced to death This article discussed the Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting trial and the gunman being sentenced to death by a federal court decision. The gunman killed 11 members of three congregations that shared the synagogue, wounded two other congregants and several police officers. The article also discusses why/how members of the synagogue were split over the death penalty. Survivors expressed relief that the trial was over but also trepidation about how to move forward with their lives after so many years of working to help bring Bowers to justice. Nonprofits working to help Kingsessing community months after mass shooting This article discusses the mass shooting that occurred in Philadelphia s Kingsessing neighborhood in July 2022 in which five people were killed when a gunman went on a two-day shooting rampage. This incident of mass violence has a major impact on the community and has left fear among many. In this story, two VOCA funded programs spoke with parishioners about how they can help the community heal from the tragic events that occurred. This article highlighted how having grass roots organizations like these two programs is important to the community.</p>	
<b>Describe any coordinated responses/services for assisting crime victims during the reporting period.</b>	

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

A. OVS continues aid in response to the Tree of Life Synagogue massacre in Pittsburgh. On October 27, 2018, a lone gunman entered the synagogue, opened fire, and killed eleven (11) and injured another six (6) individuals. Up to forty (40) people were worshipping inside the synagogue. The initial response to this purported hate crime was coordinated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). A Family Resource Center was established in the days following the shooting to meet critical needs of those inside the synagogue, the family members, and other individuals directly connected to the shooting. Among the parties comprising The Family Resource Center were PCCD's Office of Victim Services along with a local victim service agency in Pittsburgh. Since the shooting was deemed a federal crime, PCCD's Office of Victim Services has worked closely with federal partners which includes Victim Compensation Assistance. OVS continues to work with federal authorities via Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program (AEAP) Grant funds awarded to Pennsylvania in May 2020. Funds are sub-awarded to seven (7) organizations in Pittsburgh. In September 2022, OVS received approval of an eleven (11) month, no cost extension to September 30, 2023 citing that trial preparations were rigorously underway. The extension ensured that staffing and coordinated programming and services were available leading into and during the trial. In late April, jury selection began in the trial for Robert Bowers. The three (3) week proceeding culminated in a guilty verdict and by July 16th, the panel found the defendant was eligible for the death penalty; the jury recommended that Mr. Bowers be sentenced to death. AEAP subgrantee, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh through their 10/27 Healing Partnership took the lead role in coordinating efforts for the trial by acting as a conduit between the US Attorney's Office, other AEAP funded grantees, and the community-at-large. As a part of this work, regular communications and input occurred with the three (3) congregations immediately impacted by the shooting. Court orientation and a series of preparedness classes were offered for survivors, witnesses, and community members. Mental health supports and services were widely available leading into and during the trial and beyond. Coordination of other activities included, but were not limited to, transportation assistance, accompaniment, assistance with victim impact statements, crisis counseling, and advocacy. A cadre of trained volunteers worked side-by-side with AEAP funded staff and Healing Partnership leadership in the months leading into and during the trial to support these activities. Services were in place throughout each phase of the trial. The 10/27 Healing Partnership cited this vast coordination and implementation plan was successful in that no unmet needs were identified through trial preparation and during the proceedings. B. OVS is in the process of applying for AEAP Grant funds to provide aid and assistance to the Kingsessing neighborhood in Philadelphia for the mass shooting that occurred around July 3, 2023. A lone gunman carrying a rifle and multiple rounds of ammunition opened fire in the streets of the Kingsessing neighborhood killing five people and injuring 2 children. PCCD's Office of Victim Services immediately started providing compensation assistance claims to victims that were directly affected by the crime and within the immediate vicinity of the incident. OVC Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) consultants are working with OVS to assist with identifying victim resources, gaps in victim services, and facilitate meetings. They have conducted several meetings with OVS and a variety of community stakeholders since July to explain the purpose of AEAP funds, the available resources, establish an Advisory Council, and explore the creation of a Resiliency Center. It is expected that the OVC consultants will be developing a grant application on the behalf of OVS in the near future.

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

LAP While Pennsylvania is ranked the fifth most populous state in the nation, it is geographically large with large swaths of the state having a rural designation. Many rural municipalities employ part-time law enforcement; some rely on the Pennsylvania State Police for law enforcement coverage. Another important characteristic of Pennsylvania is that it is one of four states designated as a commonwealth, which means it uses a decentralized form of government in which most policy and financial decisions are made at the county level. With 67 counties in Pennsylvania, this creates considerable challenges for statewide implementation of programs to assist victims. Over the last decade, Pennsylvania has been promoting the use of the Maryland Model of Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) as a strategy for decreasing domestic violence-related homicides across the state. For LAP, law enforcement is trained to administer a questionnaire that quickly gathers information that helps identify victims at high risk for murder. Victims identified by law enforcement as high risk are then connected to the local domestic violence hotline for intensive safety planning and offering of direct services. Due to Pennsylvania's commonwealth system of government, law enforcement cannot be mandated to participate in LAP. Those who have participated in LAP have done so voluntarily. There are over 1,180 municipal law enforcement departments in Pennsylvania of which 454 participate in LAP. Those municipalities unable to provide full-time coverage are reliant on the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) to fill the gap. According to data from the PSP, of the 2,561 municipalities in Pennsylvania, 1,287 have no local police force, making PSP responsible for all criminal, traffic and public safety proceedings. The PSP have not adopted LAP, making this lifesaving, evidence-based program unavailable in many rural areas of the state. LAP is available in every county however, not every department participates in LAP.

## 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.

Language Barrier It can be difficult for non-English speaking victims of crime to know what their rights are, what services are available to them and that they may be eligible for compensation. In 2023, the Victims Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP) translated a number of its materials into commonly requested languages, based on Pennsylvania's changing demographics. Currently, the VCAP Claim Form, Dependable Access for Victim Expenses (DAVE) brochure, Emergency Award application, Financial Resource Brochure and the Sexual Assault Counseling Claim form are translated in Spanish, Chinese, German, Korean, Russian, and Vietnamese. The VCAP claim form is also translated into Portuguese, Turkish, and Ukrainian. All of these documents can be found at Victims Compensation (pa.gov). Legal Standing for Victims With the passing of Act 77 on July 11, 2022, there was the provision for crime victims to have legal standing to assert and enforce any of the basic rights within the Crime Victims Act (CVA), or afforded to the victim by law in a trial or appellate court, or before an official body with jurisdiction over the victim's case. The recognition of legal standing is a significant and positive change for Pennsylvania's crime victims. As an initial step to meet the requirements of Act 77 and the CVA, the OVS developed the Law Enforcement Victims Rights Notification forms and conducted three specific virtual trainings in November 2022 to help attorneys and victim advocates understand how legal standing for crime victims affects their role as they work with victims. OVS released a competitive funding announcement for the development of an 8-10-minute video that focuses on what legal standing means for victims of crime and highlights the responsibilities that law enforcement, judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys have in supporting this right. This video will be used to educate and inform those in the field regarding the establishment and implementation of legal standing delineated under the Crime Victims Act and will be completed by December 31, 2024.

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

A. Pennsylvania continues to promote the use of the Maryland Model of Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) by law enforcement agencies across the state. The Lethality Assessment Program is a nationally recognized, evidence-based program with demonstrated success in strengthening partnerships between law enforcement and domestic violence service providers, connecting victims of intimate partner violence with life-saving services and reducing domestic violence fatalities. Under LAP, officers are trained to administer a screening tool to help identify victims at high risk of homicide. Officers offer to connect high danger victims immediately with the county domestic violence program for intensive safety planning and information about direct services. This year, 2022, marks the ten-year anniversary of LAP implementation in Pennsylvania. When started in 2012, LAP was piloted with 12 counties, 12 domestic violence programs and 19 law enforcement agencies. To date, LAP encompasses 51 counties, 48 county domestic violence programs and 454 law enforcement agencies. During the last decade, over 42,359 LAP screens were administered to victims by participating law enforcement agencies. Of these victims, 68% screened in as high danger. Of these identified high danger victims, 52% agreed to speak with a domestic violence hotline advocate for immediate safety planning and information about direct services while 62% of high danger victims went on to access domestic violence services. B. A collaborative initiative amongst state funders has provided all victim service programs a streamlined, standardized data collection, reporting and outcomes system called Efforts to Outcome (ETO). The importance of data collection is recognized as integral to the work of victim service providers. Accurate data not only paints a picture of the amazing work victim service providers are doing and give a more realistic image of the impact of violent crime, but it also aids in the ability of organizations to assess and enhance the effectiveness of programs. All victim service programs that receive PCCD (VOCA), Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) or Pennsylvania Coalition to Advance Respect (PCAR) funding now provide funder reports as well as outcome data through ETO. PCCD, PCAR, and PCADV continue to work collaboratively on enhancements to ETO. This included a collaborative project with Bonterra (formerly Social Solutions) to categorize and better organize standard and customized reports utilized by Case Management users, the collective effort in developing an optimized data report for ETO users that would encompass various reporting needs across the enterprise, and launching of the Victim Service Satisfaction Survey (VS3) and implementation of new reporting touchpoints for agencies utilizing the new survey. C. Since 2011, VOCA funded agencies have been required to utilize a statewide victim satisfaction survey called the Empowerment & Satisfaction Questionnaire - Long Form (ESQ-LF). Over the past two years, PCCD with the support of researchers from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, have restructured the survey to honor the original intent of the ESQ-LF but also reflect the changes Pennsylvania has seen in VOCA funded agencies and address the common criticisms of the existing ESQ-LF. PCCD launched a six-month pilot period with 15 agencies to test the new Victim Services Satisfaction Survey, commonly referred to as the VS3. PCCD then employed an incremental launch of the new VS3 on July 1, 2023, with the understanding that mandatory distribution would not begin until October 1, 2023, to coincide with the start of the fiscal year. The VS3 is a digital-based survey that can be distributed to service recipients via agency-specific link or QR code. The survey is also available in paper format for agencies to distribute to clients who do not have access to an electronic device. Clients can access the survey thru agency-specific link or QR code which will direct them to the electronic survey within the Qualtrics platform. The survey is currently available in English and Spanish. PCCD plans to offer four additional language options in the future based on the expressed demographic needs of victim service agencies throughout the Commonwealth.

## 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

Domestic Violence: Ahn arrived in the United States alone to make a new life for herself and pursue the American Dream. At that time, she spoke no English and knew no one. She was vulnerable and victimized by people who took advantage of that vulnerability. She was forced to work in shady businesses to survive, with long hours and poor wages. Even in the face of this adversity, she fell in love and married. Our domestic violence program met Ahn after a neighbor called the police when they heard her screams. Her husband was beating her again. She broke free from him and ran outside. The police arrived, arrested her husband and phoned the DVS hotline. Using the free interpretation services provided by the VSP, they were able to explain their services and identify her immediate needs. Beyond emergency shelter, they connected Ahn with their Legal Center for a PFA and assistance proceeding with a divorce. Ahn stayed at the shelter for several weeks and she decided to move to a larger city to see if she could find housing, work, and a larger community with her native language. She is free of the abuse and now has the resources she needs...to move from survivor to "thrivor" and live her American Dream. Sexual Assault For most of her adult life, S has served in different branches of the United States Armed Forces. S first came to the agency when her minor child was a victim of sexual violence perpetrated by a close family member. This incident caused S to revisit past feelings that she wanted help with on her own continued healing journey. Her feelings were triggered from her own experience as a victim of military sexual assault trauma (MST) while serving in the United States Marine Corps. Since seeking out agency services and being assigned an advocate, S has been meeting her service plan goals, using coping skills as well as meeting with her advocate for the past six months. When asked to speak about her experiences with working with her sexual assault advocate and how the assault of her daughter led her to services, S said it brought back a lot of self-doubt that I had because that is an emotion I was made to feel. How could I have allowed this to happen to my child? It reaffirmed to me that this isn't my fault, it's not my child's fault. I had a hard time accepting that I couldn't have done anything to prevent it, just like what happened to me. There is such a stigma with being a victim because I will never want my child to feel like she is weak and helpless. Child Abuse Tommy and Tony entered foster care in 2018 at ages 9 & 10 following allegations of physical abuse of their older sibling, resulting in the incarceration of their primary parent. Their other parent is deceased. Other concerns in the family included unstable housing, alcohol use by primary parent, inappropriate discipline, the children being overdue for medical and dental care, and the children being in need of mental health evaluation. Between 2018 & 2022, Tommy and Tony were placed together, living in a total of three different foster homes. In August 2022, Tommy was reunified with his parent. Tony expressed a desire to remain in foster care, and the court honored his request. Tony remains in foster care, where he is hoping to achieve permanency and is planning for his future after high school. Tony wishes to participate in ROTC, attend college, and then enlist in the military. He aspires to be an engineer. CASA has been appointed to this case since January 2022. The same advocates - a husband and wife team - have been assigned to the case since the initial referral. Tony participates in visitation with his parent intermittently, at his request. He maintains regular phone contact with his brother. CASA has taken the lead in this case in identifying an attainable permanency plan for Tony. CASA has been instrumental in ensuring Tommy was getting the support needed at school, especially with his special needs due to hearing loss. Underserved We represented an older victim of contractor and public adjuster fraud. The victim's home suffered major damage due to fire. A public adjuster appeared on the scene as firefighters battled the blaze. The adjuster pressured the victims into signing a series of documents. Unfortunately, the victims assigned his insurance payments to the public adjuster. When contractors hired by the public adjuster performed substandard work, the victim grew suspicious. One day the contractors abandoned their work site, leaving the home without a roof or windows. The victim could not pay for further repairs as the public adjuster now held all insurance monies. When we agree to represent, our attorney immediately wrote demand letters to both the public adjuster and the contractor. In the end, our attorney forced the adverse parties, to finish the necessary repairs at no cost and to return over \$30,000 dollars in insurance money to the victim.

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

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

The City of Pittsburgh, surrounding communities, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania continue to recover from the October 27, 2018 Tree of Life Synagogue massacre. On that day, a lone gunman entered the synagogue, opened fire, and killed eleven (11) and injured another six (6) individuals. Up to forty (40) people were worshipping inside the synagogue at the time. The initial response was coordinated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). A Family Resource Center was established in the days following the shooting to meet critical needs of those inside the synagogue, the family members, and other individuals directly connected to the shooting. Among the parties comprising The Family Resource Center were PCCD's Office of Victim Services along with a local victim service agency in Pittsburgh. Since the shooting was deemed a federal crime, PCCD's Office of Victim Services has worked closely with federal partners which includes Victim Compensation Assistance. OVS continues to work with federal authorities via Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Grant funds awarded to Pennsylvania on May 6, 2020. Funds are sub-awarded to seven (7) organizations in Pittsburgh who, together, have formed the 10/27 Healing Partnership. Organizations receiving these funds are: The three (3) congregations which are Dor Hadash, New Light, Tree of Life, the Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Family and Children's Services of Greater Pittsburgh, the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, and Center for Victims. In September 2022, OVS received approval of an eleven (11) month, no cost extension to September 30, 2023 citing that trial preparations were rigorously underway. The extension ensured that staffing and coordinated programming and services were available. In late April, jury selection began for Robert Bowers. A guilty verdict was returned in the three (3) week trial and the jury ultimately recommended that Mr. Bowers be sentenced to death. The Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh through their 10/27 Healing Partnership assumed the lead role in coordinating trial services between the US Attorney's Office, other AEAP subrecipients, and other Pittsburgh area, stakeholder organizations and community members. Leading into and during the trial, the following services and supports were coordinated and provided to survivors, witnesses and community members: mental health services (therapy- traditional and alternative modalities, grief groups, crisis intervention, supportive counseling, trauma reduction exercises/mindfulness conditioning, etc.), legal support (witness management and court orientation), criminal justice advocacy (assistance with victim impact statements) and accompaniment, transportation, and media communications and relations. With the trial now concluded and the pivot out of the very intense emotions and feelings the trial brought, the Healing Partnership now focuses on a therapeutic model for survivors, families, and the greater community for long-term support, emotional wellness, and resiliency.

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

A. Human Trafficking According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline Data report, the hotline received more than 900 calls about human trafficking in Pennsylvania in 2020, making reports from Pennsylvania the 9th highest in the nation. More Pennsylvania counties are developing specific Human Trafficking Task forces with the help of the Pennsylvania Coalition to Advance Respect and the Human Trafficking Capacity Building Center directed by Futures without Violence. Since 2015, Pennsylvania has enhanced its response to victims, introducing a Safe Harbor Law for juvenile victims of trafficking. The Safe Harbor law's purpose is to ensure that juvenile victims of trafficking receive a protective response through social services and law enforcement instead of automatic prosecution and/or incarceration. Additionally, Pennsylvania has passed legislation that establishes a process whereby victims of sex trafficking can legally vacate their criminal records if those charges came about as a result of force, fraud and/or coercion by a trafficker. It has taken time for Pennsylvania prosecutors to understand and use Act 105 of 2014 to prosecute cases at the county level. This has translated into a slow amount of deposits into the fund established by Act 105 to provide services and assistance to victims of Human Trafficking. In 2022, the OVS received notification that a small, although not insignificant, amount of funding had accumulated under Act 105. Upon the recommendation of Pennsylvania's Statewide Victim Services Advisory Committee, VSAC, the OVS released a competitive solicitation in August 2023 to select one organization to serve as the hub of all Pennsylvania-specific information, training and resources on Human Trafficking. B. Limited English Proficient (LEP) victims Pennsylvania's Statewide Victim Services Advisory Committee (VSAC) and Pennsylvania's Statewide STOP Formula Grant Implementation Planning Committee both recognize the importance of growing and sustaining culturally competent, trauma informed services. While Pennsylvania's majority population continues to be white and English-speaking, there are geographic areas of the state where the population of culturally and linguistically specific populations is growing. To this end, the VSAC approved a new standard for victim service providers in Pennsylvania on Cultural Competence. All providers, regardless of the geographic location in the state, must meet this standard. Additionally, Pennsylvania's STOP Implementation Plan contains specific goals and objectives to increase the provision of direct services to culturally and linguistically specific populations. This is being accomplished through a cross system effort of training allied professionals in the courts, prosecution and law enforcement on cultural competence and language access as well as targeted competitive funding solicitations to identify culturally competent, community based organizations to provide services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking in their communities. C. Gun Violence in Philadelphia Philadelphia has experienced an unprecedented number of gun violence cases in the past two years. Victim service agencies in Philadelphia are stretched thin as they try to respond to the needs of families who are the surviving members of homicide victims. The majority of victim service funding goes to support personnel within victim service agencies and resources earmarked for victim relocation assistance are depleted rapidly. This surge in gun violence is paying a toll on the capacity of victim service agencies as direct service providers are experiencing vicarious trauma and burnout. On September 1, 2021, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) announced it was accepting applications for funding under the FY 2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grant Program. The primary purpose of the program is to provide funding to support effective, community-based strategies to prevent and reduce gun violence in areas of Pennsylvania with the highest rates of shootings, homicides, and firearm-related crime. On September 6, 2022, PCCD announced the availability of \$100.5 million in FY 2022-23 Violence Intervention & Prevention (VIP) funding for two competitive grant programs: 1. VIP Competitive Grants Program: Under this solicitation, eligible applicants could request funding for a wide range of programs that address community violence and prevention efforts. 2. Coordinated Community Violence Intervention (CVI) Strategies Pilot Grants Program: This new initiative invests in collaborative community violence prevention and response strategies within focused service areas. Community-based organizations, institutions of higher education, local municipalities, district attorneys, and counties were eligible to apply for funding under both solicitations.

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

Staff who have left over the past few years have left due to relocating out of state; promotions within the program; or through other promotional opportunities. When staff have left, we have been able to fill the positions relatively quickly without issue.

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

Prior to a VOCA funding solicitation being released, an article is always included in the OVS Newsletter to inform of the upcoming release and encourage applications. In addition to soliciting applicants to apply for funding, PCCD announces all funding opportunities on its website <http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Funding/Pages/default.aspx> and interested applicants can subscribe to receive email notifications via Egrants, when funding opportunities are available.

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

The competitive VOCA projects that were being funded thru September 30, 2020 were focused on services to meet the needs of underserved populations and address emerging forms of victimization. Specifically, areas of priority that have encouraged the development of services to meet the needs of underserved populations included: A. Emergency Civil/Legal Services B. Credentialed Therapists C. Services for Victims of Human Trafficking D. Sexual Violence Protection Orders E. Increasing/Strengthening Services for Elderly Victims of Crime F. Child Advocacy Centers G. Services/Programs for Victims of Crime Who are Young Men of Color H. Services for Victims with Mental Illness I. Services for Victims with Low English Proficiency J. Services/Programs for the Homeless K. Mobile Service Provision particularly in areas where public transportation is sparse or non-existent. All of these competitive projects were designed to: Maintain core direct services Expand or enhance service provision Increase the diversity and scope of services available New services to fill gaps in service delivery Provide services to underserved/unserved victim populations The competitive VOCA solicitations have enabled Pennsylvania, during this reporting period, to increase the diversity of direct services available to crime victims in communities across Pennsylvania. It also has enabled communities to identify underserved populations of crime victims within their borders and fund victim service providers to serve those individuals. In the spring 2020, the Office of Victim Services announced a \$171 million dollar, three (3) year VOCA Funding Announcement that sustained projects in good standing arising from the 2016 and 2018 competitive and non-competitive, funding announcements to continue to support underserved populations and to bridge gaps in service provision. This announcement provided funding to some of Pennsylvania's most vulnerable victim populations through September 2023.

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

The Victim Services Advisory Committee (VSAC), as part of their strategic planning, identified as a goal to ensure statewide access to core services for victims of crime. The Access to Services Subcommittee was established to look at the needs of victims statewide are being addressed. This Subcommittee continues to meet and use relevant information available from the previous needs assessments that were conducted. Additionally, at each quarterly VSAC meeting, a portion of time is dedicated to continuing to review strategic planning efforts to identify and determine what, if any, gaps exist. As VOCA funding is available, VSAC prioritizes the funding to ensure current core services are being provided and then at the gaps in services that can be addressed using the funding available.

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

As part of the annual report submitted to the Governor's office, PCCD reports that VOCA funding is utilized to provide direct services to help victims of crime to cope with the physical, emotional and financial needs associated with crime and help them stabilize their lives in the aftermath of trauma. In addition, PCCD reports on the number of victims served on an annual basis.