

TN 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-0043	2020-V2-GX-0012	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00599-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00805-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00414-ASSI
Federal Award Amount	\$46,055,649.00	\$34,273,320.00	\$21,467,988.00	\$29,763,321.00	\$28,194,518.00
Total Amount of Subawards	\$75,948,343.00	\$31,707,993.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Number of Subawards	504	208	0	0	0
Administrative Funds Amount	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Training Funds Amount	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance Remaining	(\$29,892,694.00)	\$2,565,327.00	\$21,467,988.00	\$29,763,321.00	\$28,194,518.00

Subgrantee Organization Type					
<small>The total number of subgrantees represents all subgrants funded across all federal awards active during the reporting period. The number is not unique as there are subgrantee organizations that are continuously funded from each federal award.</small>					
Type of Organization	2019-V2-GX-0043	2020-V2-GX-0012	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00599-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00805-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00414-ASSI
Government Agencies Only	149	51	0	0	0
Corrections	3	0	0	0	0
Courts	13	3	0	0	0
Juvenile Justice	2	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	17	7	0	0	0
Prosecutor	65	24	0	0	0
Other	49	17	0	0	0
Nonprofit Organization Only	353	156	0	0	0
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	90	37	0	0	0
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	5	1	0	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	54	31	0	0	0
Faith-based Organization	9	5	0	0	0
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	72	38	0	0	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	20	8	0	0	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	21	10	0	0	0
Multiservice agency	40	15	0	0	0
Other	42	11	0	0	0
Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Agencies, and Organizations Only	0	0	0	0	0
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	0	0	0	0	0
Court	0	0	0	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence organization	0	0	0	0	0
Faith-based organization	0	0	0	0	0
Juvenile justice	0	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	0	0	0	0	0
Organization provides domestic and family violence and sexual assault services	0	0	0	0	0
Prosecutor	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	0	0	0	0	0
Other justice-based agency	0	0	0	0	0
Other agency that is NOT justice-based (e.g., human services, health, education)	0	0	0	0	0
Organization by and/or for a specific traditionally underserved community	0	0	0	0	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Campus Organizations Only	2	1	0	0	0
Campus-based victims services	2	1	0	0	0

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

Law enforcement	0	0	0	0	0
Physical or mental health service program	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Subawards	504	208	0	0	0

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

Subaward Purpose					
<small>A single SAR can select multiple purposes. Numbers are not unique</small>					
	2019-V2-GX-0043	2020-V2-GX-0012	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00599-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00805-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00414-ASSI
A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	442	207	0	0	0
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	34	0	0	0	0
C. Start up a new victim services project	38	1	0	0	0
D. Start up a new Native American victim services project	0	0	0	0	0
E. Expand or enhance an existing Native American project	0	0	0	0	0

VOCA and Match Funds					
<small>A single SAR can select multiple service types. Numbers are not unique</small>					
	2019-V2-GX-0043	2020-V2-GX-0012	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00599-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00805-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00414-ASSI
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	476	202	0	0	0
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	384	182	0	0	0
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	392	163	0	0	0
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	177	79	0	0	0
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	360	164	0	0	0
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	504	207	0	0	0

Priority and Underserved Requirements					
Priority Area	2019-V2-GX-0043	2020-V2-GX-0012	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00599-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00805-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00414-ASSI
Child Abuse					
Total Amount	\$14,500,148.00	\$6,046,132.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	31.00 %	18.00 %			
Domestic and Family Violence					
Total Amount	\$28,499,673.00	\$11,833,469.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	62.00 %	35.00 %			
Sexual Assault					
Total Amount	\$16,222,505.00	\$6,711,791.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	35.00 %	20.00 %			
Underserved					
Total Amount	\$15,782,122.00	\$6,706,920.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	34.00 %	20.00 %			

Budget and Staffing					
Staffing Information	2019-V2-GX-0043	2020-V2-GX-0012	2021-15POVC-21-GG-00599-ASSI	2022-15POVC-22-GG-00805-ASSI	2023-15POVC-23-GG-00414-ASSI
Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	6325	221963			
Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	3416476	1150856			
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	9429	1417			
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	639896	124852			

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)	149	2117	2253	2668	1942	2245

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

Adult Sexual Assault	196	1692	1730	1997	1833	1813
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	122	427	547	474	336	446
Arson	62	33	32	19	30	28
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	66	480	513	511	431	483
Burglary	84	351	356	333	295	333
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	191	2874	2965	3013	2807	2914
Child Pornography	79	180	57	85	101	105
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	206	3825	4185	4073	3458	3885
Domestic and/or Family Violence	289	15968	17142	16908	16503	16630
DUI/DWI Incidents	73	214	267	373	340	298
Elder Abuse or Neglect	120	568	726	554	678	631
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	45	22	29	34	15	25
Human Trafficking: Labor	58	33	35	49	50	41
Human Trafficking: Sex	119	472	474	574	497	504
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	73	222	231	227	206	221
Kidnapping (non-custodial)	74	67	82	86	67	75
Kidnapping (custodial)	60	16	11	17	9	13
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	34	16	26	12	71	31
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	80	281	279	331	252	285
Robbery	93	337	362	356	287	335
Stalking/Harassment	196	1364	1579	1583	1650	1544
Survivors of Homicide Victims	105	489	451	612	510	515
Teen Dating Victimization	88	143	35	65	36	69
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	23	4	3	2	0	2
Other	67	1745	2225	2119	1796	1971

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	117	147	137	131	944
Homeless	1515	1650	1779	1666	10261
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	1097	1144	1190	1149	8678
LGBTQ	520	676	630	633	3166
Veterans	246	253	196	216	1694
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/ Physical /Mental	2078	2430	2208	2074	16088
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	1189	1150	1282	1259	9238
Other	229	311	244	282	3624

General Award Information

Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	100947	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	17482	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	68183	67.54 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	17717	17.55 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	4801	

Demographics

Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	240	0.35 %
Asian	393	0.58 %
Black or African American	16216	23.78 %
Hispanic or Latino	5560	8.15 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	98	0.14 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	39524	57.97 %
Some Other Race	285	0.42 %
Multiple Races	1454	2.13 %
Not Reported	3685	5.40 %
Not Tracked	728	1.07 %
Race/Ethnicity Total	68183	

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

Gender Identity		
Male		16978 24.90 %
Female		49680 72.86 %
Other		153 0.22 %
Not Reported		1327 1.95 %
Not Tracked		45 0.07 %
Gender Total		68183
Age		
Age 0- 12		10236 15.01 %
Age 13- 17		6057 8.88 %
Age 18- 24		7266 10.66 %
Age 25- 59		35324 51.81 %
Age 60 and Older		4833 7.09 %
Not Reported		3568 5.23 %
Not Tracked		899 1.32 %
Age Total		68183

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	173	86414	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	64600
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	59784
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	42598
			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	48221
B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	140	30866	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	848
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	1579
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	3741
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	50742
			B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	3152
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	3901
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	3743
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	1880
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	14412
			B10. Interpreter services	6930
C. Emotional Support or Safety Services	144	64714	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	48653
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	44078
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	2474
			C4. Individual counseling	46059
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	9565
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	20851
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	8828
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	63	4540	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	87360
			D2. Transitional housing	14736
			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	1359
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	134	43353	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	35917
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	1794
			E3. Assistance with restitution	1804
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	12771
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	6901
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	5614
			E7. Immigration assistance	1573
E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	9628			

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	E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	3849
	E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	14248
	E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	10749

ANNUAL QUESTIONS

Grantee Annually Reported Questions	Count
Question/Option	Count
Were any administrative and training funds used during the reporting period?	
Yes	1
No	0
Did the administrative funds support any education activities during the reporting period?	
Yes	0
No	1
Number of requests received for education activities during the reporting period.	0
Number of people trained or attending education events during the reporting period.	0
Number of events conducted during the reporting period.	0
Did the grant support any coordination activities (e.g., with other service providers, law enforcement agencies) during the reporting period?	
Yes	1
No	0
Describe any program or educational materials developed during the reporting period.	
n/a	
Describe any planning or training events held during the reporting period.	
n/a	
Describe any program policies changed during the reporting period.	
In FY21, OCJP fully implemented a federally approved match waiver process. Pursuant to the VOCA FIX, match is not currently required. OCJP used the second half of FFY23 to prepare subrecipients and program staff for the end of the federal waiver period (May 2024).	
Describe any earned media coverage events/episodes during the reporting period.	
On March 27, 2023, a mass shooting occurred at The Covenant School, a private elementary school in the Green Hills neighborhood of Nashville, Tennessee. As a result, staff with Voices for Victims and their VOCA funded mass violence project responded to the incident and assisted the community with a quick and efficient response for victims and their families. Voices for Victims staff and OCJP director Jennifer Brinkman were interviewed by local television (WSMV and WTVF) about the incident, the local response, and resources for mass violence preparedness and resources. The Tennessee Lookout also wrote an article about how Tennessee was among the first states to adopt an immediate response to survivors mass violence events, first activated minutes after the shooting. For subrecipients, one example is how Rise Above Crime (RAC) has been able to utilize multiple different types of earned media coverage. Between the dates of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, RAC has utilized earned media a total of 4 times to educate and bring awareness to the community on elder abuse, and to promote the Rise Above Crime program. These different types of earned media coverage are essential to the program as several referrals come from media attention.	
Describe any coordinated responses/services for assisting crime victims during the reporting period.	
The Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP) models and encourages coordination among agencies within communities and across the state. A Coordinated Community Response (CCR) team is a multi-disciplinary criminal justice intervention in domestic violence that works to ensure safety for victims and accountability for abusers. Each agency has a role in this collaboration, providing a consistent response from both public and private domestic violence service providers. The CCR tracks the system's response to domestic violence cases, monitors compliance with policies and procedures, identifies gaps in victim safety and abuser accountability, and facilitates change to address developing trends. OCJP currently provides VOCA funding for Coordinated Community Response Specialists across the state. Embedded within their local Family Justice Center – itself a co-location of public and private domestic violence agencies – each CCR Specialist works with local stakeholders and survivors to conduct community assessments, facilitate communication among public and private partner agencies, and expand access to underserved, unserved and inadequately served populations within each community. OCJP also provides funding to Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART) which are multi-disciplinary teams that discuss and reviews sexual assault cases. Each agency provides support and collaboration within these teams to provide open discussion of any potential issues that may arise. These teams allow for accountability, implement changes needed to address any trends within their communities, and provides a trauma-informed response to community members affected by sexual assault. OCJP currently provides VOCA funding for Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) advocates across the state. SARTs are comprised of representatives from local OCJP funded Sexual Assault programs, District Attorney General's offices, local police departments, and local hospital. These collaborative meetings investigate sexual assault cases, evaluate trends, and provide quicker responses to any issues within the community.	
Please discuss the major issues in your state that either assist or prevent victims from receiving assistance during the reporting period.	
As part of its annual strategic planning process the Office of Criminal Justice Programs, OCJP hosted two victim-focused virtual roundtables. These roundtables were devised with the intention of identifying places of excellence and places of gaps in services to victims of crime. The roundtables had a statewide representation giving attention to rural vs. urban areas, demographics such as race, gender, and types of victimization, and victims/survivors and advocates. They were grouped as follows: Victim Advocates: Invitees were identified as individuals who work with victims of violent crime. Some advocates work with a specific type of victimization and represented those who work with domestic violence, homicide, and sexual assault. Other advocates serve a broad range of victimization types which include those listed previously as well as robbery, burglary, DUI, etc. In addition, one advocate works directly with the immigrant population. Survivors: Invitees were identified as those who have experienced violent crime. These survivors represented those victimized by domestic violence, kidnapping, sexual assault, and homicide. Services in Tennessee that Assist Victims Counseling Court accompaniment Shelter Specialized courts such as those that address DV or diversion courts for victims of human trafficking Alternative sentencing especially for human trafficking victims who may also have drug charges Education opportunities for offenders such as the John School and Lipscomb University's program at the Tennessee Prison for Women Support groups Issues that Prevent Assistance to Victims: Rural areas have less services overall Earlier point of contact for victims to advocacy services such as an imbedded advocate in the police/sheriff department is needed Lack of uniform training for key system positions including law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges Staffing challenges	
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.	
OCJP consistently targets its VOCA funding at programs with a strong collaborative piece. OCJP funds 14 Family Justice Centers across Tennessee, and those all run Coordinated Community Response teams in their community. These CCRs bring together non-profit agencies, law enforcement, judicial, and other agencies to address system issues and client barriers to ensure victims are served efficiently and offenders are held accountable.	
Please describe any notable activities at the grantee level during the reporting period that improved delivery of victim services.	
OCJP subrecipient Kindred Place continues to see substantial improvements from the implementation of Feedback Informed Treatment (FIT). FIT focuses on enhancing the therapeutic alliance between therapists and clients, emphasizing four key components: agreement on treatment goals, agreement on methods used, a positive perception of the therapist as warm, empathetic, and genuine, and accommodation of client preferences. By incorporating formal client feedback at every session, FIT has significantly improved the likelihood of successful outcomes. Our new staff members are trained in this approach, and ongoing consultation and clinical direction support each implementation, ensuring the continued enhancement of service quality. OCJP subrecipient Rescue One Global has increased collaboration within the community to expand service to survivors while continuing to offer better assessments for identification. This past year specifically, RIG partnered with TSA (Salvation Army), every Monday and Wednesday to provide outreach and medical services through partnership with Hope Clinic. The collaboration within the community has offered better insight into trafficked victims who are homeless, struggling with mental health, and addiction on the streets. RIG also continues to be involved with the TBI task force, Murfreesboro City Police Task Force, The Homeless Coalition of Nashville, National Trafficking Sheltered Alliance, and Rescue America. They also continue to review best practices and standards for serving minors through collaboration with DHS and DCS. RIG has recently been working on how to better serve minors and realizing that having a stabilization piece before finding long-term placement may be a need at this time.	
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	

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

Domestic Violence The primary use of Tennessee's VOCA funding in this comes as support for the state's domestic violence shelters. These programs not only provide emergency shelters to victims of domestic abuse but also leverage the available funding in order to provide case management services which includes therapeutic services, transitional housing, and specific assistance. Without a doubt VOCA funding represents the single largest sustainable fund source which is available to these agencies. Each year Tennessee evaluates the capacity of its shelter network and works to bring on new agencies or add additional beds to existing agencies in areas where the greatest need has been demonstrated. OCJP used VOCA to fund approximately 34 of these agencies in 2023. Case history/Bridges Sally (not her real name) came into shelter after realizing she was in a domestic violence relationship after reading an article on the internet. While in shelter, she received individual counseling sessions and attended groups and found that there were other people who had experienced the same things she had. She was supported and encouraged by the advocates in shelter. They provided job readiness training, and she was able to get and keep a job- something she had struggled with previously. With her advocate and therapist's support, she was able to reunite with friends and family she had been estranged from during her relationship. During her stay, she was provided with crisis intervention, personal advocacy, individual counseling, transportation, resources & referrals, and on-going safety planning. Sexual Assault Funding under this area is split among a variety of project types. Funding goes to emergency shelter programs which support victims of sexual assault as well as centers within the state which utilize sexual assault nurse examiners to assist with the recovery of evidence in sexual assault cases. Tennessee also funds direct service agencies that assist victims of human trafficking. Often sexual assault is one of the many victimizations they experienced while being trafficked. In addition to direct services to victims of sexual assault Tennessee also funded a sexual assault awareness campaign as well as a grant for Tennessee's sexual assault coalition to provide training and technical assistance to agencies delivering services in this area. Other projects that serve all victims provide services to victims of sexual assault. Examples of this includes judicial victim-witness coordinators and the state's VOCA funded legal aids. Susan, a participant in Thistle Farm's VOCA-funded trafficking project within the Nashville female prison, served 34 years in prison for killing her trafficker in order to get out of her situation. She was identified by prison staff as a candidate for the program, was referred and entered the Thistle Farms residential program while incarcerated. While she was incarcerated for offending, she was only served as the victim of human trafficking and sexual assault. She was provided weekly therapy, psychoeducation groups discussing trafficking and sexual assault, and is now out on parole and continues all these services through the post release program with Thistle Farms. In the last year, Susan has started working a full-time job, got her driver's license, bought a car, and continues to thrive thanks in part to the wrap around human trafficking services provided by the VOCA funded Thistle Farms program. Child Abuse The primary use of Tennessee's VOCA funding in this area comes as support for the state's child advocacy centers (CAC). These programs provide therapy and other resources for child victims of abuse. Without a doubt VOCA funding represents the single largest sustainable fund source which is available to these agencies and as part of its strategic planning process Tennessee evaluates its network. In FY23 Tennessee funded 34 CACs across the state. Much of the state's child abuse funding also goes to Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) services. These agencies provide the child with an advocate who has their best interest in mind and works one-on-one with child victims to ensure that they are never alone throughout the court process. OCJP funded 16 of these programs in FY23. Case history/ Exchange Club Carl Perkins Center (CAC) The Center received a referral from the Child Protective Services for a forensic interview for an elementary school-aged girl who had reportedly disclosed sexual abuse by a teenage brother. The victim advocate met the family at the door when they came for her scheduled interview and walked them through every step of the process. Although the youth did not disclose very much information in her interview, a referral was made to trauma therapy due to the youth's previous disclosures and the admissions of the alleged perpetrator. A forensic medical exam was also scheduled for the family with the Center's physician. The victim advocate continued to provide case management.

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

The majority of the projects funded by the Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP) to provide services to victims of crime can be accessed by victims of federal crime who are located in the State of Tennessee. Victims of interpersonal crimes such as domestic assault, human trafficking, or child abuse where the criminal act has crossed state lines or otherwise qualified as a federal crime can receive services at the approximately 45 domestic violence or sexual assault shelters, 5 human trafficking agencies, or 26 child advocacy centers that OCJP supported in Tennessee during FY23. These agencies not only provide emergency shelter to victimized individuals but also include wrap-around services including therapy, advocacy, and specific assistance. We also understand that the first contact many federal victims have with the legal system comes through our local law enforcement agencies. In order to meet their needs Tennessee provides funding to local police departments and sheriff's offices in order to create law enforcement victim coordinators who are tasked with providing advocacy and support. The importance of this project cannot be understated, particularly when the crime committed could be transferred to the jurisdiction of the United States Attorney's Office, as the personnel in these projects are knowledgeable in the services available to victims and also provide a helping hand to shepherd them through the complex and sometimes disorienting circumstances that can evolve when matters are moved from a state matter into the purview of the federal justice system. Monroe County Health Council We continue to work alongside of the various branches of court, the District Attorney's office, local lawyers, law enforcement, EMS, 911 call center, SHA, medical providers, and other service agencies to ensure Monroe VOCA services awareness, to encourage community collaboration and reduced re-victimization, to promote comprehensive care and overall well-being for clients, and to streamline services and communication so all victims, including victims of federal crime, receive any service/assistance needed for justice and safety.

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

Avalon (DV) Affordable Housing Crisis: The issue of affordable housing has persisted as a challenge for transitional housing clients. Rent prices in our community have surged, making housing unaffordable for program clients even with stable employment. This affordability crisis extends beyond transitional housing, affecting victims' long-term stability and recovery. Public housing waiting lists remain unreasonably long, and finding landlords who are willing to accept Section 8 or housing vouchers has become increasingly difficult. This situation not only limits the options available to victims but also hinders their ability to regain independence and build a life free from abuse. Haven of Hope (Dual DV/SA) Decrease in resources in our rural areas has impacted victims. There is tremendous need for affordable housing, mental health services, and addiction services for victims and perpetrators. I will also say decreased workforce availability for advocacy positions, when so many competing jobs can be worked from home, is especially challenging in our rural areas. Judicial hearings require staff to be in person as do the delivery of other services to victims. While this isn't emerging, it should stay in the forefront of planning in view of how stressful it is on advocates trying to mitigate burn out and compassion fatigue. So, losing staff is hard and replacing them even harder in the current climate, which can make it difficult on those remaining trying to cover any gaps in services.

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

Providers in Tennessee have experienced staff retention issues. When asked which factors contribute to staff turnover rate the primary answer given continues to be insufficient salary offerings. To provide trauma-informed care/services, agencies have continually increased their job requirements/specifications. Agencies are receiving highly qualified candidates but are unable to provide a competitive pay rate congruent with the candidates skill and expertise levels. This situation causes remaining staff to carry disproportionate workloads, as they seek to cover vacant shifts due to staff turnover. Although OCJP has worked to increase the funding that is available to agencies to address these staffing issues, the decrease in federal funding year-to-year has made it difficult for agencies to meet employee needs in this regard. One agency reported: our agency has had a fair amount of turnover in our Client Services staff over the past year, while other sectors of our department have seen very little. We have found that Client Services staff experience a high rate of vicarious trauma as a result of working with high-risk victims. Due to the turnover, some staff have had an increased workload. The Family Safety Center is often the first stop for police and victims after a domestic crime has occurred, which can be emotionally trying for frontline staff. In addition, our office has recently started the process of a pay study across Metro departments to ensure that our staff are being paid equitably for their work. Entities such as the Department of Children's Services have been able to increase their base pay which has led to our salaries being less competitive during this reporting period making attracting and retaining qualified advocates challenging.

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

With completion of the annual strategic planning process for allocation of funds, OCJP distributes a public notification of funding intent through our website, and then canvases the state for both local and state level submitted projects that appear to be a fit for the program models that have been determined to meet the needs of Tennessee. In addition, we send out the information about open solicitations to listserv and currently funded programs to share the information statewide.

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

OCJP, through its network of criminal justice professionals, victim services professionals and key stakeholders, is continually seeking to direct funding to new/underserved populations. OCJP maintains a TA grant with the State SA/DV coalition in order assist providers in developing more culturally specific/underserved services.

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

As part of OCJP's annual strategic planning process we host round table discussions around the issues facing both victim service and criminal justice service providers. One issue which has been repeatedly emphasized by these groups is there has not historically been a good system in place for pairing crime victims with advocates if the crime is not interpersonal. Typically, when law enforcement responds to an incident, they will take the victim's information and only follow up on matters related to the investigation. When there is minimal police investigation either due to the fact that the suspect has been arrested or ample evidence was available on-scene the victim may have no additional contact with any agency related to their victimization until they are subpoenaed to court to testify. The legal system can seem overwhelming and labyrinthine to the average person and these feelings are only intensified when their involvement in it is due to their own victimization. Law Enforcement resources are stretched thin responding to the new community needs that arise each day and their expertise is in police response to situations and not traditional advocacy. In order to respond to this gap OCJP began funding law enforcement victim coordinators. These individuals are civilian positions that work within local law enforcement offices and can provide immediate follow-up for victims by providing basic information related to available resources, such as victims compensation or VOCA funded services, or by walking them through the legal system. This prepares them for their future appearance as a state's witness and helps them in better understanding the outcome of court proceedings. The feedback from law enforcement has been very positive as it allows sworn personnel to work on enforcement while having confidence that those most impacted by the situation, the victims, will have a dedicated professional advocate to support their needs during what can be an uncertain and frightening time. City of Cookeville LEVC Domestic assault incidents in which the offender is gone on officer arrival are an area where our program is able to help fill an existing service gap. The prosecutor's office victim witness coordinators do not typically get involved in a case until an arrest has been made, and the Family Justice Center typically becomes involved when a victim contacts them to petition for an order of protection. By reaching out to victims in these cases while a warrant for the offender's arrest is active, our program has been able to address safety planning and resource linkage with a victim population that might not otherwise receive such services until sometime later. Another gap that exists in our area concerns no contact orders upon the disposition of a criminal case. When domestic violence cases are disposed of, either through guilty plea or dismissal, the bond conditions are no longer in effect by process of law. The district attorney's office may enter a restraining order in such cases, but restraining orders lack the ease of enforceability that bond conditions and orders of protection offer. If advocates were available in court at the time of the criminal case disposition to assist victims in petitioning for orders of protection it might help address this service gap. Our Victim Services Coordinator explains this to domestic violence victims when she speaks with them and offers assistance in petitioning for orders of protection, but she does not regularly attend General Sessions court and is not present at the time of the actual case disposition typically.

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

OCJP requires agencies to obtain and track outcomes as part of their VOCA contract. The outcomes are monitored by the agencies and evaluated for project improvement. Outcomes are shared with key stakeholder groups at planning meetings and in the OCJP annual report, which is available online for review. Standard VOCA outcomes are listed below: Victims report that their sense of safety and security has increased. "My immediate sense of safety and security has increased as a result of the services I received from this agency." Victims report an increase in knowledge about victim services. "I am more knowledgeable of the services and community resources available to victims." Victims report an increase in knowledge about the criminal justice system. "I am more knowledgeable about the criminal justice system." Victims express satisfaction with services. "I am satisfied with the services I have received through this agency." Victims report an improved ability to plan for their safety (required only for shelters). I know more ways to plan for my safety. Applications must include at least one of the outcomes listed below: Victims experience a decrease in the frequency and/or intensity of crime-related symptoms (Change in psychological functioning). My crime-related symptoms (e.g., Sleeplessness, nervousness, fear or anxiety, etc.) are less frequent or less severe since I became involved with the agency. Victims express an understanding of their victimization and its effect on their lives. (Increase in knowledge about victimization). I now know how being a victim may affect important aspects of my life. Victims report a decrease in the level of vulnerability by identifying a support system. (Decrease in isolation). I have identified a support system to help me address my victimization. Victims report that their quality of life is improved because set goals have been accomplished. (Increase in victims' perceived quality of life). This agency helped me achieve the goals I set out to accomplish.