

AK Annual State Performance Report

Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program

Reporting Period: [Oct 1, 2017 to Sept 30, 2018]

This aggregated data is self-reported by the grantees and subgrantees in each state/territory.

OVC VOCA Assistance Funds				
	2015-VA-GX-0060	2016-VA-GX-0020	2017-VA-GX-0002	2018-V2-GX-0019
Federal Award Amount	\$4,909,151.00	\$5,476,300.00	\$4,628,960.00	\$7,912,465.00
Total Amount of Subawards	\$4,650,160.00	\$5,202,486.00	\$1,842,929.00	\$0.00
Total Number of Subawards	34	12	6	0
Administrative Funds Amount	\$245,457.00	\$273,815.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
Training Funds Amount	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
Balance Remaining	\$13,534.00	(\$1.00)	\$2,776,031.00	\$7,912,465.00

Subgrantee Organization Type				
<small>The total number of subgrants represents all subgrants funded across all federal awards active during the reporting period. The number is not unique as there are subgrantee organizations that are continuously funded from each federal award.</small>				
Type of Organization	2015-VA-GX-0060	2016-VA-GX-0020	2017-VA-GX-0002	2018-V2-GX-0019
Government Agencies Only	0	0	0	0
Corrections	0	0	0	0
Courts	0	0	0	0
Juvenile Justice	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	0	0	0	0
Prosecutor	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Nonprofit Organization Only	34	12	6	0
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	0	0	0	0
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	0	0	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	1	2	0	0
Faith-based Organization	0	0	0	0
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	28	9	6	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	2	1	0	0

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Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	3	0	0	0
Multiservice agency	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Agencies, and Organizations Only	0	0	0	0
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	0	0	0	0
Court	0	0	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence organization	0	0	0	0
Faith-based organization	0	0	0	0
Juvenile justice	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	0	0	0	0
Organization provides domestic and family violence and sexual assault services	0	0	0	0
Prosecutor	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	0	0	0	0
Other justice-based agency	0	0	0	0
Other agency that is NOT justice-based (e.g., human services, health, education)	0	0	0	0
Organization by and/or for a specific traditionally underserved community	0	0	0	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Campus Organizations Only	0	0	0	0
Campus-based victims services	0	0	0	0
Law enforcement	0	0	0	0
Physical or mental health service program	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Subawards	34	12	6	0

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

Subaward Purpose				
A single SAR can select multiple purposes. Numbers are not unique				
	2015-VA-GX-0060	2016-VA-GX-0020	2017-VA-GX-0002	2018-V2-GX-0019

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A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	34	12	4	0
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	0	0	0	0
C. Start up a new victim services project	0	0	2	0
D. Start up a new Native American victim services project	0	0	0	0
E. Expand or enhance an existing Native American project	0	0	0	0

VOCA and Match Funds

A single SAR can select multiple service types. Numbers are not unique

	2015-VA-GX-0060	2016-VA-GX-0020	2017-VA-GX-0002	2018-V2-GX-0019
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	32	12	5	0
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	32	12	5	0
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	32	12	5	0
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	30	11	5	0
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	31	12	6	0
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	32	12	6	0

Priority and Underserved Requirements

Priority Area	2015-VA-GX-0060	2016-VA-GX-0020	2017-VA-GX-0002	2018-V2-GX-0019
Child Abuse				
Total Amount	\$835,537.00	\$937,741.00	\$171,620.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	17.00 %	17.00 %	4.00 %	
Domestic and Family Violence				
Total Amount	\$952,254.00	\$1,059,673.00	\$735,571.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	19.00 %	19.00 %	16.00 %	
Sexual Assault				
Total Amount	\$788,638.00	\$416,688.00	\$176,272.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	16.00 %	8.00 %	4.00 %	
Underserved				
Total Amount	\$1,372,331.00	\$1,464,394.00	\$545,808.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	28.00 %	27.00 %	12.00 %	

Budget and Staffing

Staffing Information	2015-VA-GX-0060	2016-VA-GX-0020	2017-VA-GX-0002	2018-V2-GX-0019
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Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	578	273	58	
Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	108328.2	149694	81120	
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	180.75	24	51	
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	72080.5	18023	8278	

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)	27	66	60	82	104	78
Adult Sexual Assault	28	104	113	128	104	112
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	24	9	11	19	17	14
Arson	4	8	1	1	2	3
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	18	15	15	28	40	24
Burglary	11	1	0	4	9	3
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	24	22	28	25	29	26
Child Pornography	10	1	1	1	0	0
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	24	55	84	73	22	58
Domestic and/or Family Violence	1	411	455	544	831	560
DUI/DWI Incidents	13	3	3	2	3	2
Elder Abuse or Neglect	20	2	2	3	4	2
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	12	0	0	1	0	0
Human Trafficking: Labor	5	0	0	0	1	0
Human Trafficking: Sex	13	3	3	5	4	3
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	8	1	0	0	0	0

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Kidnapping (non-custodial)	4	1	1	0	2	1
Kidnapping (custodial)	13	1	1	1	1	1
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	8	0	0	0	0	0
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	7	3	2	3	3	2
Robbery	13	3	3	6	12	6
Stalking/Harassment	26	47	52	74	116	72
Survivors of Homicide Victims	12	26	41	29	17	28
Teen Dating Victimization	22	4	3	2	3	3
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	3	0	0	1	1	0
Other	15	87	128	146	206	141

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	11	13	21	17	41
Homeless	141	169	188	250	520
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	9	6	10	11	31
LGBTQ	17	23	12	10	24
Veterans	9	9	10	10	24
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/Physical /Mental	98	122	147	121	383
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	16	17	16	16	58
Other	6	4	8	2	15

General Award Information

Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	4641	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	473	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	2193	47.25 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	548	11.81 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	286	

Demographics

Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	793	36.16 %

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Asian	33	1.50 %
Black or African American	92	4.20 %
Hispanic or Latino	52	2.37 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	42	1.92 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	736	33.56 %
Some Other Race	18	0.82 %
Multiple Races	227	10.35 %
Not Reported	154	7.02 %
Not Tracked	46	2.10 %
Race/Ethnicity Total	2193	
Gender Identity		
Male	345	15.73 %
Female	1720	78.43 %
Other	1	0.05 %
Not Reported	104	4.74 %
Not Tracked	23	1.05 %
Gender Total	2193	
Age		
Age 0- 12	354	16.14 %
Age 13- 17	114	5.20 %
Age 18- 24	225	10.26 %
Age 25- 59	1281	58.41 %
Age 60 and Older	134	6.11 %
Not Reported	80	3.65 %
Not Tracked	5	0.23 %
Age Total	2193	

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	17	1704	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	1187
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	1854
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	2238

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			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	1731
B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	18	2901	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	179
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	189
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	346
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	23208
			B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	89
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	66
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	93
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	1679
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	2150
			B10. Interpreter services	340
C. Emotional Support or Safety Services	18	2733	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	4836
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	2569
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	7701
			C4. Individual counseling	492
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	414
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	3016
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	2905
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	17	1294	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	29632
			D2. Transitional housing	3393

			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	831
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	17	1076	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	328
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	23
			E3. Assistance with restitution	185
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	711
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	730
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	80
			E7. Immigration assistance	4
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	193
			E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	4
			E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	542
E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	260			

ANNUAL QUESTIONS

Grantee Annually Reported Questions

Question/Option	Count
Were any administrative and training funds used during the reporting period?	
Yes	1
No	0
Did the administrative funds support any education activities during the reporting period?	
Yes	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 state fiscal year 2018, following a September 2017 VOCA site visit, CDVSA revised and developed several new policies and procedures to bring us into compliance with issues related to financial transactions, conference costs, receiving/expending federal grant dollars, and using SAM.gov. During state fiscal year 2018 and 2019 we have undertaken the task of implementing these new policies and procedures and assisting our community-based sub-recipients in complying with the new policies. For example, Alaska has changed its grant award policy from giving all grants in the form of advanced payments to a combination of reimbursement payments for all federal funds and advanced payments for all state general funds. We have changed how each funding source must be budgeted and tracked to eliminate possible co-mingling of funding sources. We have instituted new procedures for identifying and tracking match contributions, to guarantee match contributions are attributed to each funding source and meet the allowable costs criteria for each funding source. Our change process began with our competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) for SFY 19-21 for statewide victims services programming, issued April 9, 2018. In the RFP, these changes were laid out in written form, as well as responded to during a pre-proposal teleconference. Once new FY19 awards were made a webinar was held to educate all new sub-recipients about the changes and new procedures, followed by the first, of what will become, an annual All Grantee Meeting where numerous workshops and trainings focused specifically on CDVSA policy and procedure changes and how to be compliant. Implementation of new program policies changes is going well, with limited concerns.

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

CDVSA is fortunate to have an active and positive relationship with statewide media. In addition to an annual paid media plan, we received a percentage of free earned media coverage for every dollar spent. In addition, between February and June 2018 related to Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month in February; Sexual Assault and Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness Month in April; Release of the CDVSA FY17 Annual Report in April; and in June an announcement of CDVSA awarding \$18. million dollars to support victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and violence crimes against underserved populations. CDVSA is often called upon to comment on stories or incidents that have occurred across the state related to DVSA, being the state experts on these issues. We are assisting an Anchorage television station who is developing a multi-part story on sexual assault in Alaska, especially in rural Alaska. And finally, the Council wrote and submitted an Op-Ed piece for newspapers during October regarding DV Awareness Month, and the Executive Director, in partnership with the Alliance for Children and the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center issued an Op-Ed regarding the outcome of a sexual assault in the court system, calling for changes to Alaska's laws.

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

Assisting victims of crime is a key focus of CDVSA. We work in partnership with Alaska's Victims of Crime Compensation Board (VCCB) who is the recipient of the VOCA compensation grant funds. Attention to and services for victims of crime is of critical importance to Alaskans. During the past year's 30th Alaska Legislative Session, two bills we directly focused on guaranteeing services and compensation for victims of domestic and sexual violence, with a particular focus on those victims who are underserved and too often forgotten. House Bill 31 is an act relating to law enforcement training in domestic violence and sexual assault, setting a minimum of 12 hours of specific sexual assault training, also relates to sexual assault investigation protocols, using trauma informed practices, and requiring an inventory and reports on untested sexual assault examination kits. This bill passed and became effective July 1, 2018. The second piece of legislation that focused on the needs and rights of victims was House Bill 216, an act relating to restitution to victims, creating (restoring) an Alaska restorative justice account for services and payments to crime victims and operating costs of the Violent Crimes Compensation Board, DVSA community services and behavioral health treatment to better serve victims. The CDVSA supported both bills and assisted with providing information and expertise to help frame these bills. Both bills will significantly improve services and compensation to victims of violent crimes in Alaska.

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

One of the major barriers victims in the State of Alaska face is the geography of the land itself. Lack of an interconnected road system creates a barrier for those living in rural areas; victims needing to travel to access services may not be aware of available resources, may lack access to working telephone and or computer, may be dependent on others to access services due to age, and the expense of transportation to travel to resources is extremely high. Even when transportation such as airfare is provided for victims, weather and other variable factors may not allow the victim to seek safety immediately. Most rural villages do not have a law enforcement presence; therefore, victims are dependent on law enforcement to travel to the rural area after a crime has occurred. Depending on weather conditions and availability of officers, law enforcement may not reach the village for days. Another barrier facing victims in Alaska is lack of affordable housing. The cost of living and rent in Alaska is extremely high.

and often unattainable to victims without some type of assistance or voucher. Wait lists for housing are long, and lower rent apartments are often unavailable. This creates longer stays in shelter for those utilizing emergency crisis resources. Additionally, housing for those who experience substance abuse and/or severe mental health issues is extremely limited. Since shelters often will not turn those experiencing these challenges away due to the safety issues they face on the street, this creates further strain on the shelter and reinforces the cycle. Alaska lacks services for those who are experiencing substance abuse and addiction, and opioid use continues to be on the rise despite a statewide response to the epidemic. Without agencies for these individuals to seek services, high rates of crime continue. Victims are then unable to focus on their safety and well-being to successfully address the domestic violence or other risk factors occurring within their lives.

Please describe ways that your agency promoted the coordination of public and private efforts within the community to help crime victims during the reporting period.

The role of CDVSA, as a public entity, is to work closely with our multiple partner agencies in communities across Alaska. During this reporting period, we increased our community-based Victim Services sub-recipients by 4 from 20 agencies to 24 agencies. Our goal was to expand our funded DVSA emergency services programs and to especially increase services in rural Alaska. The four new programs all served rural Alaska – Emmonak, Craig, Petersburg and the Kenaitze Indian Tribe in Kenai. Having access to compensation funds in addition to access to emergency shelter and services is also important and a high priority for CDVSA. During our solicitation process, one of the questions applicants responded to was how they promote the Violent Crimes Compensation Board’s availability to individuals using emergency shelters and safe homes. It is a requirement that all Victim Services sub-recipients inform all program participants about this service and to assist them in applying for available compensation. Due to the responses, we determined the need for additional training about VCCB for our funded Victim Service Providers and offered a 90-minute workshop with VCCB during our mandatory All Grantee Meeting in September. As part of the Alaska Public Safety Action Plan, many priority actions were related to safety and services for victims including improved services in rural Alaska, increased safe home programs, a statewide 24-7 DVSA crisis hotline and others. A copy of the Public Safety Action Plan and updates are available at: <http://law.alaska.gov/doclibrary/psap.html>. A final action by the Departments of Law and Corrections, supported by CDVSA, was to upgrade, enhance and improve our state’s victim’s notification system – VINE, a national system Alaska has been using for many years to allow victims to have information about their perpetrator as the person moves through the criminal justice system. VINE 3 was implemented in April-May 2018.

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

This reporting period, CDVSA hosted its first ever all-grantee meeting. This meeting was a mandatory requirement for sub-grantees receiving funding through our agency. CDVSA worked with VOCA TTAC to secure an expert speaker who presented on building effective agencies and how to incorporate strategic planning to enhance your agency. This meeting also educated our sub-grantees on grant management practices, such as allowable costs, budget preparation and the monitoring process. Service delivery topics were also presented at this meeting, such as accessing VCCB resources, ways to effectively use data in program planning, and how to serve victims using substances in a shelter setting. This meeting was well-received by our sub-grantees and will continue to happen annually. CDVSA funded four new rural programs during this reporting period, increasing access for victims living outside of a regional hub. This is the first time in many years CDVSA could fund additional agencies, which is directly due to the increase in VOCA funding. CDVSA continues to reach out and strengthen partnerships with service providers we historically have not been able to fund in hopes of widening the scope of crime victims we serve with VOCA funding. On a sub-grantee level, we have had several shelter programs become very heavily involved in community planning to seek solutions to our homelessness issue. One agency in Juneau worked with other community partners to start a warming shelter to provide a safe place for those who do not have anywhere to go when the temperature drops below 32 degrees. Our largest shelter program, AWIAIC in Anchorage, has been investigating new ways to address the issue of homelessness, especially that of the most vulnerable in the community. One new initiative is the Mobile Intervention Team (MIT), which falls under the auspices of the Anchorage Fire Department. This team currently consists of an AFD paramedic, an Anchorage Community Mental Health Services social worker, a United Way employee, and an Anchorage Police Department officer with extensive training in crisis intervention for those with mental illness and suicide risk. The team responds to immediate crises in the homeless population and one of their stated goals is to “fill in the gaps”. When they contact an individual, they identify what that person’s needs are, especially ones related to physical and mental health, substance use, and safe housing. They seek to identify vulnerable individuals and have acknowledged AWAIC as one of the primary agencies to support, given that these highly vulnerable individuals are often dropped off at AWAIC’s doors when in need of further specialized care. The MIT is focused on an immediate response to a vulnerable individual’s needs, and their response allows for a team of experts to coordinate and provide that support. AWAIC is one of the primary referring agencies.

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

Sub-grantees receiving VOCA funding primarily provide emergency shelter services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, with one agency specifically focused on services for underserved victims of other crimes. All our sub-grantees serve victims from each of our four priority categories. Shelters work closely with the Office of Children's Services, the local Child Advocacy Center, and most employ a child advocate to specifically provide services to children in either community or residential settings. Shelter services provide safe shelter for victims of DV/SA, 24-hour crisis lines, safety planning, court accompaniment, assistance with victim impact statements and protection orders, individual and group sessions, transportation, referrals to other relevant services, and on-going education to participants and residents throughout the service area. Sexual assault services, often through an organized Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), include advocacy and support during the investigation, exam, follow up, and legal proceedings at the victims' request. Advocate staff are trained as SART responders, and provide victims with information and resources to assist victims after an assault has occurred. This information includes legal options available, victim right information, crime compensation applications, and resources. Advocates are available 24 hours a day to assist victims in need. CDVSA sub-grants funding to Victims of Justice (VFJ), which is a resource agency in Anchorage, Alaska. VFJ provides direct services statewide to victims of other crimes. Alaska identifies the Alaska Native population as underserved as well, and this population is accessed through shelter services and rural outreach efforts. Shelters sub-grantees also head up the Disability Abuse Response Teams as well.

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

Primarily, programs receiving VOCA dollars from CDVSA provide services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Oftentimes, it is discovered that persons receiving services are also victims of sex or human trafficking operations. Our state coalition, The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA), assists our sub-grantees with guidance and support whenever a case presents itself and the program is unsure how best to proceed to help the victim. This is a valuable resource for our member programs, and many access the pro-bono Mentoring Attorney they provide. Another agency, the Alaska Institute of Justice (AIJ), provides similar legal assistance in the matter of immigration law. While ANDVSA and AIJ are not funded with VOCA dollars, our VOCA sub-grantees rely heavily on their expertise and partnerships to best support the victims they serve. Advocates and agencies also maintain close working relationships with local law enforcement and the Alaska State Troopers to assist with prosecution of these crimes. As labor and sex trafficking is an issue prevalent within our state due to the transient nature of the fishing industry and remoteness of our state, sub-grantees have increased efforts to train staff and other providers on signs of trafficking, and have also developed partnerships with local hospitals and ERs so that they can recognize instances of trafficking.

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

State funding reductions continue to impact crime victims in Alaska. Law enforcement, judicial, and corrections have all been reduced over the past several years which further increases a victims' need to travel to receive services or representation. Opioid use continues to be a notable, upward trend within our state, as does lack of affordable housing and services for those who experience substance abuse and mental health issues. Since agencies are at capacity for these limited services, waitlists are long. The person then is sent back to their previous environments where they repeat the cycle of being victimized. In recent years, there has been a dramatic increase in violent crime throughout the state. Crime in Alaska has increased by 35% in the last 5 years and 6% in the last year. Homicides alone increased 7% from the year prior. One new emerging issue is victims reporting more abuse through cell phones, texting, and social media. There has also been an increase in reports of bullying and dating violence amongst high school aged children.

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

As an SAA, we do not experience staffing retention issues as our sub-grantees do. CDVSA has been working to build their staffing numbers back to previous levels prior to budget cuts. This reporting period, CDVSA was authorized by our state to hire a short term non-permanent Grants Administrator position, which was made possible through our VOCA increase. On a sub-grantee level, programs report retention issues due to low wages, poor (or absent) benefit packages, all combined with a high amount of stress. In Alaska, oftentimes these types of positions do not constitute a livable wage, resulting in employees needing either a second job or public assistance. This reporting period, VOCA funds were granted to our existing sub-grantees for staff retention incentives such as an increase in base wages, benefit enhancement, and/or continuing training and staff development. Sub-grantees were instructed that these increases were to be built into their program budgets and not a one-time allotment so that incentives for employee retention remain.

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

The CDVSA website is our most prominent tool for publicizing available services available to victims of violent crimes and their families. During this reporting period, we have made significant strides in updating and improving the information on our website, specifically related to services for victims and survivors. The enhancement of our website continues. In addition, we utilize educational and public information materials, media and social media sites to publicize where people can go for help. And, we partner with our statewide DVSA Coalition/Network to increase awareness of all services available to victims across the state.

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

VOCA funding used in our state is primarily targeted towards victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, with most funded agencies operating shelter services. Nearly all of shelter participants being served belong to a marginalized population, which oftentimes manifests as a physical or unseen disability that significantly impacts their ability to safely navigate within their community. CDVSA also funds one victim advocacy center that serves victims of other violent crimes. Services here include emotional support, court accompaniment, victim rights advocacy, assistance navigating the law enforcement system, emergency financial assistance, a homicide survivors support group, and a number of other activities that help individuals move from a place of victimization to empowerment and self-advocacy. The Alaska Native population is also classified under our definition of underserved populations, which make up a large percentage of those served with VOCA funding.

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

As noted above, significant gaps exist in the need for transitional housing for victims. Due to the lack of affordable housing in Alaska, lengths of shelter stays have increased. It is our hope that CDVSA will be able to fund alternative housing programs through an ancillary Request for Proposal sometime within this state fiscal year. Other service gaps are related to geographic locations, especially rural village Alaska. Due to Alaska's large and often road-less geography, having adequate resources and/or agencies to establish and offer programming, even if funding is available, is impossible. CDVSA continues to explore ways to create alternative types of services, using partnerships with programs in other community and accessing services through existing itinerate and tribal community health/behavioral health aide programs.

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

Within the State of Alaska, a system of formalized performance/outcome measures was established in 1999, in 2004 it became a web-based project; each department was tasked with establishing measurable outcomes that could be tracked overtime. The performance measures identified for CDVSA are: A: Reduce the level of domestic violence and sexual violence in Alaska: A1: Safety - Victims are equipped to further access program services for safety, information, and protection when needed; A2: Prevention - Communities are equipped to further primary prevention strategies; A3: Accountability – State-approved Batterer Intervention programs are available in communities as requested. More detailed information and reported outcomes measures are located at: <https://www.omb.alaska.gov/html/performance/details.html?p=137> on the Office of Management and Budget website.