

# NJ 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.*

<b>OVC VOCA Assistance Funds</b>				
	<b>2015-VA-GX-0021</b>	<b>2016-VA-GX-0072</b>	<b>2017-VA-GX-0058</b>	<b>2018-V2-GX-0052</b>
<b>Federal Award Amount</b>	\$53,992,667.00	\$60,868,131.00	\$50,279,830.00	\$90,733,139.00
<b>Total Amount of Subawards</b>	\$50,710,000.00	\$48,605,789.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Number of Subawards</b>	210	165	0	0
<b>Administrative Funds Amount</b>	\$2,054,835.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Training Funds Amount</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Balance Remaining</b>	\$1,227,832.00	\$12,262,342.00	\$50,279,830.00	\$90,733,139.00

<b>Subgrantee Organization Type</b>				
<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>				
<b>Type of Organization</b>	<b>2015-VA-GX-0021</b>	<b>2016-VA-GX-0072</b>	<b>2017-VA-GX-0058</b>	<b>2018-V2-GX-0052</b>
<b>Government Agencies Only</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Corrections	0	0	0	0
Courts	1	0	0	0
Juvenile Justice	1	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	1	1	0	0
Prosecutor	105	22	0	0
Other	1	2	0	0
<b>Nonprofit Organization Only</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	25	27	0	0
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	2	2	0	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	16	35	0	0
Faith-based Organization	0	0	0	0
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	1	8	0	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	0	10	0	0

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

Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	2	3	0	0
Multiservice agency	41	38	0	0
Other	13	15	0	0
<b>Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Agencies, and Organizations Only</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
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
<b>Campus Organizations Only</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Campus-based victims services	1	2	0	0
Law enforcement	0	0	0	0
Physical or mental health service program	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Number of Subawards</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>0</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>				
A single SAR can select multiple purposes. Numbers are not unique				
	2015-VA-GX-0021	2016-VA-GX-0072	2017-VA-GX-0058	2018-V2-GX-0052

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

A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	137	120	0	0
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	54	1	0	0
C. Start up a new victim services project	19	43	0	0
D. Start up a new <b>Native American</b> victim services project	0	0	0	0
E. Expand or enhance an existing <b>Native American</b> project	0	0	0	0

**VOCA and Match Funds**

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

	2015-VA-GX-0021	2016-VA-GX-0072	2017-VA-GX-0058	2018-V2-GX-0052
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	188	135	0	0
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	176	121	0	0
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	170	112	0	0
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	86	58	0	0
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	134	106	0	0
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	209	159	0	0

**Priority and Underserved Requirements**

Priority Area	2015-VA-GX-0021	2016-VA-GX-0072	2017-VA-GX-0058	2018-V2-GX-0052
<b>Child Abuse</b>				
Total Amount	\$1,998,076.00	\$7,887,121.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	4.00 %	13.00 %		
<b>Domestic and Family Violence</b>				
Total Amount	\$3,969,418.00	\$17,922,978.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	7.00 %	29.00 %		
<b>Sexual Assault</b>				
Total Amount	\$8,226,412.00	\$8,230,346.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	15.00 %	14.00 %		
<b>Underserved</b>				
Total Amount	\$10,383,698.00	\$14,555,339.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	19.00 %	24.00 %		

**Budget and Staffing**

Staffing Information	2015-VA-GX-0021	2016-VA-GX-0072	2017-VA-GX-0058	2018-V2-GX-0052
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Office for Victims of Crime - Performance Measurement Tool ( PMT )

Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	1815.25	2120		
Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	272859.15	3704562		
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	1690.78	6052		
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	158063.9	317580		



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)	1	5484	6533	6687	7287	6497
Adult Sexual Assault	5	1378	1553	1729	1962	1655
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	110	294	425	563	494	444
Arson	65	97	148	146	112	125
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	79	167	354	601	641	440
Burglary	72	3517	3741	3924	3847	3757
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	23	1792	2416	2660	2513	2345
Child Pornography	75	103	86	91	73	88
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	2	1738	1937	2139	2119	1983
Domestic and/or Family Violence	72	13334	13821	15910	15609	14668
DUI/DWI Incidents	66	282	252	191	221	236
Elder Abuse or Neglect	91	89	44	70	111	78
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	71	11	18	28	24	20
Human Trafficking: Labor	82	6	9	8	8	7
Human Trafficking: Sex	116	123	188	228	115	163
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	69	3003	3365	3101	3251	3180

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

Kidnapping (non-custodial)	69	40	74	81	79	68
Kidnapping (custodial)	67	19	32	31	40	30
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	47	19	10	4	6	9
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	67	392	455	423	458	432
Robbery	78	2041	2318	2214	2068	2160
Stalking/Harassment	124	1598	2252	1839	2111	1950
Survivors of Homicide Victims	1	1625	1771	1588	1574	1639
Teen Dating Victimization	117	57	50	52	86	61
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	45	4	11	19	22	14
Other	1	19176	19438	19350	25068	20758

**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	30	39	77	61	115
Homeless	417	871	903	687	1465
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	1286	1385	1131	1346	2940
LGBTQ	145	360	288	318	581
Veterans	30	74	108	138	200
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/Physical /Mental	759	1117	1079	1098	2530
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	2206	2535	2797	2739	6306
Other	30	43	56	621	1007

**General Award Information**

Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	383542	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	11703	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	162764	42.44 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	23723	6.19 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	20453	

**Demographics**

Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
American Indian or Alaska Native	153	0.09 %

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Asian	1719	1.06 %
Black or African American	21589	13.26 %
Hispanic or Latino	16585	10.19 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	94	0.06 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	26721	16.42 %
Some Other Race	1119	0.69 %
Multiple Races	1430	0.88 %
Not Reported	37763	23.20 %
Not Tracked	55591	34.15 %
<b>Race/Ethnicity Total</b>		<b>162764</b>
<b>Gender Identity</b>		
Male	26955	16.56 %
Female	57019	35.03 %
Other	245	0.15 %
Not Reported	37094	22.79 %
Not Tracked	41451	25.47 %
<b>Gender Total</b>		<b>162764</b>
<b>Age</b>		
Age 0- 12	4777	2.93 %
Age 13- 17	6120	3.76 %
Age 18- 24	11288	6.94 %
Age 25- 59	44992	27.64 %
Age 60 and Older	4628	2.84 %
Not Reported	34805	21.38 %
Not Tracked	56154	34.50 %
<b>Age Total</b>		<b>162764</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	160	82963	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	80669
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	59863
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	29775

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			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	26469
B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	146	21067	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	233
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	521
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	1596
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	42908
			B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	586
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	1302
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	3567
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	667
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	2664
			B10. Interpreter services	5470
C. Emotional Support or Safety Services	126	24159	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	16365
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	5822
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	1131
			C4. Individual counseling	13864
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	3009
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	1457
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	2723
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	55	1312	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	1369
			D2. Transitional housing	158

			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	1037
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	101	121871	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	273986
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	13600
			E3. Assistance with restitution	10870
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	4621
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	1900
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	5380
			E7. Immigration assistance	396
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	9679
			E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	2123
			E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	21786
E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	2364			

Subgrantee Annually Reported Outcomes		
Question/Option	Count	Percent
Number of requests for services that were unmet because of organizational capacity issues.	0	
Number of requests for services that were unmet because of organizational capacity issues.	37662	
Does your organization formally survey clients for feedback on services received?		
Yes	0	
Yes	107	
No	0	
No	81	
Number of surveys distributed (includes, but not limited to, those distributed by hand, mail or electronic methods)	0	
Number of surveys distributed (includes, but not limited to, those distributed by hand, mail or electronic methods)	13825	
Number of surveys completed.	0	
Number of surveys completed.	5593	

Grantee Annually Reported Questions	
Question/Option	Count



<b>Were any administrative and training funds used during the reporting period?</b>	
Yes	0
Yes	1
No	0
No	0
<b>Did the administrative funds support any education activities during the reporting period?</b>	
Yes	0
Yes	0
No	0
No	1
Number of requests received for education activities during the reporting period.	0
Number of requests received for education activities during the reporting period.	0
Number of people trained or attending education events during the reporting period.	0
Number of people trained or attending education events during the reporting period.	0
Number of events conducted during the reporting period.	0
Number of events conducted during the reporting period.	0
<b>Did the grant support any coordination activities (e.g., with other service providers, law enforcement agencies) during the reporting period?</b>	
Yes	0
Yes	1
No	0
No	0
<b>Describe any program or educational materials developed during the reporting period.</b>	
N/A	
<b>Describe any program or educational materials developed during the reporting period.</b>	
No new materials were created, as the educational materials from our State Victim Assistance Academy were used to inform the Training Workshop.	
<b>Describe any planning or training events held during the reporting period.</b>	
Eight VOCA Grant Application training sessions were held in various locations in the State; however, the minimal costs associated with these sessions were supported with State funding.	
<b>Describe any planning or training events held during the reporting period.</b>	
N/A	
<b>Describe any program policies changed during the reporting period.</b>	
With assistance from the Office of the Attorney General's Subrecipient Monitoring Unit, the Grants Development Section updated its program policy on subrecipient monitoring. The policy identified a minimum number of site monitoring visits and desk reviews to be conducted each calendar quarter by the program analysts. Site monitoring schedules are prioritized by risk score on the Risk Assessment Form for the specific subgrant. The OAG Subrecipient Monitoring Unit and the Grants Development Section continued to collaborate to develop increased uniformity in subrecipient monitoring preparation and formal notification of monitoring results to the subgrantee. The source documentation requirement for all expenditures listed on the Detailed Cost Statement was implemented during the prior federal fiscal year to ensure proper usage of funds. This program policy change remains effective for all subrecipient agencies. The Grants Development Section and Office of Financial	

Management continued to provide guidance to subrecipients for compliance with this policy requirement.

**Describe any program policies changed during the reporting period.**

Yes, due to the changes the OMB Uniform Guidance ushered in, the Office of Attorney General (OAG) created new policies, procedures and forms to implement the new requirements. For example, we created a new form to explain the different options a sub-recipient could elect with respect to indirect costs and updated the standard contract to include newly required data points. In addition to continuing to update our forms to respond to the OMB Uniform Guidance, we also updated our forms to incorporate the new VOCA Final Rule. So throughout the past year, we have been editing our forms to present this information in a palatable format for the ease of our sub-recipients. With assistance from OAG's Subrecipient Monitoring Unit, our subrecipient monitoring plan has been updated. A Risk Assessment Form is now completed for each subaward prior to the award stage. These risk assessment scores are used to prioritize desk reviews and site visits. Additionally, all subrecipients are now required to submit source documentation for all expenditures listed on the Detailed Cost Statement to ensure proper usage of funds. Finally, the Application and Award stages were modified to make the processes less cumbersome and more efficient for both our staff and our subrecipients.

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

Although there was no earned media coverage, the State Office of Victim Witness Advocacy, along with the State Victims of Crime Compensation Office pursued a joint public awareness campaign. The campaign targeted areas of the state where crime is high and populations are underserved. Utilizing billboards, bus wraps, radio spots and internet ads, the campaign raised the profile of the services the State offers to victim. It also publicized the availability of historically high grant funding. Due to these activities, we received a record number of applications, and opened a second round of VOCA competitive funding for nonprofits.

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

Although there was no earned media coverage, the State Office of Victim Witness Advocacy, along with the State Victims of Crime Compensation Office pursued a joint public awareness campaign. The joint public awareness campaign began in the prior federal reporting period and "flight dates" for advertising continued into the current reporting period. The campaign targeted areas of the state where crime is high and populations are underserved. Utilizing billboards, bus wraps, radio spots and internet ads, the campaign raised the profile of the services the State offers to victim.

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

Services for victims of Sexual Violence receive our support through a coordinated response from the 21 Counties' Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART). SART is a collaboration of Law Enforcement Officers, Forensic Nurse Examiners, and Confidential Sexual Violence Advocates. If a victim elects to activate the SART, those members of the team they elect to meet with are called out to provide victim-centered medical care, crisis intervention and support to victims. The coordination amongst these team members is critical in achieving positive results, such as a successful prosecution or therapeutic healing, and the SART meets regularly to ensure that current procedures are working to ensure the best responses for our sexual assault victims. The Victim Information Notification Everyday (VINE) Program is supported as a line item of the VOCA budget. VINE is a fully automated telephone system that provides custody status information to victims notifying them when an offender is released, transferred or escapes from prison. Victims are linked to the service through the efforts of law enforcement and State Office of Victim Witness Advocacy.

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

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

A major issue to assist victims has been the limited availability of free legal services. Subgrant awards that were executed during this federal fiscal year have increased to availability of free legal services in the northern, central and southern regions of New Jersey and serve additional populations of immigrants. Transportation, housing and childcare remain to be obstacles in receiving services. However, the new VOCA rule, and its expansion of allowable costs, has enabled agencies to open up new opportunities for the provision of these services. For example, gang violence victims and domestic violence victims often need assistance with relocation, and this gap is now better able to be filled due to the greater flexibility afforded to this service under VOCA. Language barriers also pose problems to our victims, given the highly diverse population of our State. Increased funding undoubtedly has assisted subgrantee agencies in hiring translators, interpreters and updating literature. Staffing is also a perennial issue for many of our subgrantee agencies due to high turn-over rates, low salary levels, and emotionally demanding positions. The increase in the maximum amount for competitive VOCA victim assistance grants, which non-profits may apply, seeks to address this issue. Some subgrantees, including county offices of victim-witness advocacy and community domestic violence and/or sexual assault service providers have increased their staffing and/or supported salary increases. Victims, however, are also greatly benefitted in our State due to the highly organized, effective and communicative coalitions in our State. They are able to provide vital information to our office, as well as disseminate information from our office to their members.

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

Transportation, housing and childcare remain to be obstacles in receiving services. However, the new VOCA rule, and its expansion of allowable costs, has enabled agencies to open up new opportunities for the provision of these services. For example, gang violence victims and domestic violence victims often need assistance with relocation, and this gap is now better able to be filled due to the greater flexibility afforded to this service under VOCA. Language barriers also pose problems to our victims, given the highly diverse population of our State, and again, the increased funding undoubtedly will assist agencies in hiring translators, interpreters and update literature. Staffing is also a perennial issue for many of our agencies due to high turn-over rates, low salary levels, and emotionally demanding positions. Therefore, we increased the maximum amount for which non-profits may apply, thanks to the increase in VOCA funding. Victims, however, are also greatly benefitted in our State due to the highly organized, effective and communicative coalitions in our State. They are able to provide vital information to our office, as well as disseminate information from our office to their members.

**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 Campus Sexual Assault Initiative we started to pursue last year with Rutgers University is now operational. This joint effort between SOVWA and the State's largest university will replicate victim assistance programs on all Rutgers' campuses; and ultimately serve as a model for our other institutions of higher learning in NJ. Although not a private institution, we hope that the model created at Rutgers can then be replicated at both public and private institutions of higher learning. SOVWA also continues to fund our existing community response teams that involve public/private partnerships including the Victim Information Notification Everyday (VINE) Program, which is a joint venture between our office and our VINE vendor, Software House International, and the Forensic Nurse Examiners/Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Programs, which utilize various private and public participating hospitals, as well as nurses that are not government employees. Additionally, many of the community based nonprofit agencies we fund in our competitive VOCA grant program continue to partner with county and state agencies, such as the Prosecutor's Offices, to ensure crime victims are provided with timely and valuable specialized services.

**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 Campus Sexual Assault Initiative with Rutgers University that was initiated during the prior Federal fiscal year was operational during the reporting period and continued for a second subaward period. This joint effort between Office of the Attorney General and the State's largest university replicated victim assistance programs on all Rutgers' campuses; and was envisioned to ultimately serve as a model for our other institutions of higher learning in NJ. Although not a private institution, we hoped that the model created at Rutgers could be replicated at both public and private institutions of higher learning. During this reporting period, expansion of the Campus Sexual Assault Initiative was initiated through a competitive solicitation process for other state colleges and universities, public research universities, independent colleges and universities, and county colleges. Through their project proposals, the subrecipients have proposed many approaches to awareness, prevention and response to campus sexual violence including utilizing services of community-based providers for advocacy and therapeutic services for student victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Office of the Attorney General also continues to fund our existing community response teams that involve public/private partnerships including the Forensic Nurse Examiners/Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Programs, which utilize various private and public participating hospitals, as well as nurses who are not government employees. Additionally, many of the community based nonprofit agencies we fund in our competitive VOCA grant program continue to partner with county and state agencies, such as the Prosecutor's Offices, to ensure crime victims are provided with timely and valuable specialized services.

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

One of the biggest catalysts for improvements to service delivery was the massive increase of federal funding under the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Program, which allowed the State to expand victim services in an unprecedented way. The VOCA Victim Assistance Grant (VAG) Competitive Program, designed for the State's non-profit victim services providers, funded nearly 100 organizations and facilitated these agencies' expansion of services by raising award amounts from \$55,000 a year to \$150,000 a year for a two year cycle. This was then built upon by the offering of a new cycle of the VOCA VAG Competitive Program, which made available grants of up to \$300,000 for a period of 20 months, with the availability of renewing for another period of 24 months. This past cycle yielded over 150 applicants – a record high. Due to this, we opened a second round of VOCA VAG competitive funding – another first for our Office. The rise in VOCA funding also enabled the 21 County Prosecutors' Offices of Victim Witness Advocacy to hire more advocates and to procure much needed technological upgrades to improve communications with victims. SOVWA also created the state's first statewide human trafficking program: the New Jersey Enhanced Statewide Human Trafficking Victim Services Program. Using VOCA funding, the State was able to create a more robust program that will soon have all three regional human trafficking centers up in running to address all forms of human trafficking, including forced labor and sex trafficking. Additionally, to help states train new entrants to the field victim services as a result in the surge of VOCA funding, the federal Office for Victims of Crime offered a funding opportunity for a VOCA Training Grant Program. The Grants unit applied for this grant program and won, and used the funding to resuscitate the State Victim Assistance Academy, through Rutgers University, which is an eight (8) week course designed to train advocates from both the non-profit and governmental sectors. The Training Grant Program also was used to support other educational programs in the state to train providers on the nuances of serving underserved victim populations. We will continue to fund the State Victim Assistance Academy in the future through our VOCA Administrative funds.

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

One of the biggest catalysts for improvements to service delivery was the massive increase of federal funding under the VOCA Grant Program, which allowed the State to expand victim services in an unprecedented way. In the recent reporting periods, the VOCA Victim Assistance Grant (VAG) Competitive Program, supported expansion of services by raising award amounts from \$55,000 a year to \$150,000 a year for a two year cycle. In the current reporting period, this was further built upon by a new cycle of the VOCA VAG Competitive Program subawards, which made available grants of up to \$300,000 for a period of 20 months from January 1, 2018 – August 30, 2019. A total of 141 proposals were successfully awarded – a record high. The rise in VOCA funding also enabled the 21 County Prosecutors' Offices of Victim Witness Advocacy to hire more advocates and to initiate much needed technological upgrades to improve communications with victims. During this reporting period, the State's first statewide human trafficking program: the New Jersey Enhanced Statewide Human Trafficking Victim Services Program was fully implemented and continued into a second subaward funding period. Using VOCA funding, the State was able to create a robust program with three regional human trafficking centers to address all forms of human trafficking, including forced labor and sex trafficking.

**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**

Child Abuse: The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program is supported with VOCA funds and helps monitor abused and neglected children in out-of-home placements. CASA-NJ services are available in all 21 counties. The program recruits, trains and supervises community volunteers who are assigned to a child in the foster care system. The primary objective of CASA is to represent to the court the best interests of the abused and neglected child to whom he or she has been assigned. CASA has investigative authority to examine all aspects of a child's case and to explore all viable avenues to achieve a stable home environment for that child. CASA is the child's voice in court. Sexual Assault: The state has 21 Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) comprised of law enforcement, service providers and volunteers. The SART volunteers are trained to meet victims of sexual assault at hospitals to provide information and support at the time of reported incidents or upon request. They link victims with services in the community. Additionally, VOCA supports the Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE) programs in each of our 21 counties. The FNEs perform forensic medical examinations for sexual assault victims. VOCA supports the on-call pay, activation pay, exam pay and supplies for the FNEs deployed as part of the SART. The Office of the Attorney General also funds many Child Advocacy Centers (CACs), which provide safe, age appropriate spaces and trained staff to interview child victims of sexual assault. Lastly, the Office of the Attorney General has awarded subgrant funds to Rutgers University to address campus sexual assault through various programs and through the expansion the Office of Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance (VPVA) on the main campus and the replication of the VPVA on the satellite campuses. Also, the Office of the Attorney General has expanded this project focus and opened campus sexual violence awareness and prevention opportunities to other state colleges and universities, public research universities, independent colleges and universities, and county colleges. Through their project proposals, the subrecipients have proposed many approaches to awareness, prevention and response to campus sexual violence based upon recommendations from the New Jersey Task Force on Campus Sexual Assault Report published in June 2017.

Domestic Violence: VOCA grant funding supports our bi-lingual Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline, administered by Womanspace, Inc. Services are provided to domestic violence victims, their family members or friends, or to any individual interested in receiving information about domestic violence. Additionally, the hotline serves organizations and professionals throughout the state who need information and/or referrals to other service providers. The hotline assists all callers with support, crisis intervention, information, and referrals to the domestic violence providers in their area. Referrals are also provided for other issues that arise in domestic violence situations, including, housing, immigration, medical, legal, and financial issues. The Office of the Attorney General also supports many nonprofit organizations, as well as the Statewide Coalition to End Domestic Violence, to ensure that each County has the resources to provide services to survivors of domestic violence. Underserved Victims: Underserved victim populations in New Jersey face challenges that require a range of services, such as overcoming cultural and language barriers, accessible transportation, and translation services. As you will glean from other parts of this report, we have responded to some of these needs through a multiple of VOCA-grant funded projects. You will see these projects further explained in the answer to question #20. These projects focus on providing specialized services to minor trafficking victims, minor incarcerated victims, disabled and elderly victims. We also have many nonprofit agencies funded under our competitive VOCA program which provide culturally and linguistically specific services, including translation services for non-English speaking victims and programming that is sensitive to the religious and cultural values of specific populations in New Jersey like the Latin community, Southeast Asian community and Muslim community. Additionally, the State's 21 County Offices of Victim Witness Advocacy are supported with VOCA monies, and each of these County offices assists ALL victims of crime, including child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, and underserved populations. The role of each office is to help crime victims and to make sure that a victim's rights are protected. The most crucial responsibility is keeping victims advised of their current case status which is accomplished through a series of letters mailed at each significant phase of the criminal prosecution. Most of the offices offer bi-lingual, culturally appropriate services.

**Please discuss each priority (i.e., child abuse, domestic assault, sexual assault, and underserved) in which VOCA funds have been used to assist crime victims during the reporting period**

Child Abuse: The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program is supported with VOCA funds and helps monitor abused and neglected children in out-of-home placements. CASA-NJ services are available in all 21 counties. The program recruits, trains and supervises community volunteers who are assigned to a child in the foster care system. The primary objective of CASA is to represent to the court the best interests of the abused and neglected child to whom he or she has been assigned. CASA has investigative authority to examine all aspects of a child's case and to explore all viable avenues to achieve a stable home environment for that child. CASA is the child's voice in court. Sexual Assault: The state has 21 Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTYs) comprised of law enforcement, service providers and volunteers. The SART volunteers are trained to meet victims of sexual assault at hospitals to provide information and support at the time of reported incidents or upon request. They link victims with services in the community. Additionally, VOCA supports the Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE) programs in each of our 21 counties. The FNEs perform forensic medical examinations for sexual assault victims. VOCA supports the on-call pay, activation pay, and exam pay for the FNEs deployed as part of the SART. SOVWA also funds many Child Advocacy Centers (CACs), which provide safe, age appropriate spaces and trained staff to interview child victims of sexual assault. Lastly, SOVWA has entered into a grant with Rutgers University to address campus sexual assault through various programs and through the expansion the Office of Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance (VPVA) on the main campus and the replication of the VPVA on the satellite campuses. Domestic Violence: VOCA grant funding supports our bi-lingual Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline, administered by Womanspace, Inc. administers the. Services are provided to domestic violence victims, their family members or friends, or to any individual interested in receiving information about domestic violence. Additionally, the hotline serves organizations and professionals throughout the state who need information and/or referrals to other service providers. The hotline assists all callers with support, crisis intervention, information, and referrals to the domestic violence providers in their area. Referrals are also provided for other issues that arise in domestic violence situations, including, housing, immigration, medical, legal, and financial issues. SOVWA also supports many nonprofit organizations, as well as the Statewide Coalition to End Domestic Violence, to ensure that each County has the resources to provide services to survivors of domestic violence. Underserved Victims: Underserved victim populations in New Jersey face challenges that require a range of services, such as overcoming cultural and language barriers, accessible transportation, and translation services. As you will glean from other parts of this report, we have responded to some of these needs through a multiple of VOCA-grant funded projects. You will see these projects further explained in the answer to question #20. These projects focus on providing specialized services to minor trafficking victims, minor incarcerated victims, disabled and elderly victim. We also have many nonprofit agencies funded under our competitive VOCA program who provide culturally and linguistically specific services, including translation services for non-English speaking victims and programming that is sensitive to the religious and cultural values of specific populations in New Jersey like the Latin community, Southeast Asian community and Muslim community. Additionally, the State's 21 County Offices of Victim Witness Advocacy are supported with VOCA monies, and each of these County offices assists ALL victims of crime, including child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, and underserved populations. The job of each office is to help crime victims and to make sure that a victim's rights are protected. The most crucial responsibility is keeping victims advised of their current case status which is accomplished through a series of letters mailed at each significant phase of the criminal prosecution. Most of the offices offer bi-lingual, culturally appropriate services. The advocates provide emotional support, crisis

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intervention, referrals, court accompaniment and information to both victims and witnesses. In addition to assisting with restitution requests, staff members help victims complete and file claims with the Victims of Crime Compensation Office.

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

The U.S. Attorney's Office is able to make referrals and access services for federal victims in their own communities through the 21 County Prosecutor's Office of Victim Witness Advocacy. The County Offices of Victim Witness Advocacy will then coordinate efforts with the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Federal Courts for victims and their families to observe sentencing on site and via teleconference.

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

The rise in opioid use has also created more crime in the state, as well as drug induced deaths. Although VOCA funding has not yet been utilized in this context, it is something the State is closely monitoring, as the rise of certain crimes, such as burglaries, robberies and assaults have been linked to the rise in heroin and opioid use. New Jersey continues to be vulnerable to human trafficking due to its location between New York and Philadelphia and its many highly travelled thoroughfares. Victims can be transported back and forth daily from New York or Pennsylvania to New Jersey. Therefore, the state invested VOCA funding into a Statewide Human Trafficking Program to address the special needs of human trafficking victims and expand services to three locations to create a statewide presence. The program is designed to respond to victims whenever they present, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The program established sites in three locations in the north, central and southern regions of the state.

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

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

We have lost staff primarily due to retirements. With the loss of staff, there has also been a loss of institutional knowledge and expertise in grant administration. Hiring has been challenging due to the State's civil service system, but with the infusion of new VOCA funding, efforts to hire more staff during the reporting period led to the addition of a new Chief of the Grants Development Section and one new program analyst. The new program analyst was assigned to a full VOCA subaward caseload. The Chief of the Grants Development Section proposed a new staffing pattern through which three teams (each consisting of three program analysts and one fiscal analyst) will be assembled, upon OAG approval, in an effort to increase employee satisfaction and streamline work productivity. Proposed benefits of the new staffing pattern include: increase personnel accountability; ensure coverage upon personnel leave or departure; allow for the assignment of all subawards for one agency to one team only (for monitoring of any duplication), etc. The addition of five new staff (two program analysts and three fiscal analysts) is required to form the teams noted above. We hope to bring on more staff in early 2019.

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We have lost staff primarily due to retirements. With the loss of staff, there has also been a loss of institutional knowledge and expertise in grant administration. Hiring has been challenging due to the State's civil service system, but with the infusion of new VOCA funding, we hope to bring on more staff in early 2018.

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

SOVWA pursued a joint public awareness campaign with the State's Victim of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) this past summer and fall. The campaign's goal was to effectively reach as many NJ victims (and the general NJ) as possible in order to raise awareness of our services and how to access them. The target areas were Newark/Essex County, Camden/ Camden County, Trenton/Mercer County, with some presence/spill-over in Burlington, Atlantic, and Ocean counties. Primarily, we sought to raise awareness in our urban centers where many populations are currently underserved or unserved. We created a Central Victim Services page to link the ads to a website that would then direct victims to either the VCCO or SOVWA website, which was redesigned. Ads were also placed in the following high traffic mediums: Static Billboards (urban and suburban borders), Digital Billboards (a select few), Transit (bus interiors and exteriors), Light Rail (interiors), Bus Shelters, Digital/Online Ads, Diner Placemats, Sponsored Social Media Posts, Radio (NJ 101.5) and In-Language (Spanish and possibly others) Newspapers (weeklies/monthlies). Specifically to SOVWA, we utilized billboards, radio spots, online ads, mass emails, and training sessions to publicize the availability of funding. We used these more aggressive methods in order to attract new service providers to apply for VOCA grant funding. We also used states funding to host eight (8) trainings in various locations throughout the state to educate prospective applicants on the VOCA grant application process. The trainings helped to explain the application process, the various components of a complete application, the mandatory forms, and best practices for the successful drafting of project narratives and budgets. And the trainings were a highly effective way to publicize the availability of VOCA funds, as over 130 people attendees these various trainings. Lastly, we used our mass email list-serv to notify agencies when the VOCA funding application became live in the NJ Register, which is where all notifications of the availability of grant funding are officially recorded and publicized State.

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

SOVWA pursued a joint public awareness campaign with the State's Victim of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) which began in the summer and fall of 2017 (prior federal reporting period) and continued with "flight dates" for advertising in the current reporting period. The campaign's goal was to effectively reach as many NJ victims (and the general NJ) as possible in order to raise awareness of our services and how to access them. These advertisements also aimed to attract new service providers to apply for VOCA grant funding. Advertisements for this public awareness campaign included: Static Billboards (urban and suburban borders), Digital Billboards (a select few), Transit (bus interiors and exteriors), Light Rail (interiors), Bus Shelters, Digital/Online Ads, Diner Placemats, Sponsored Social Media Posts, Radio (NJ 101.5) and Newspapers. The target areas were Newark/Essex County, Camden/ Camden County, Trenton/Mercer County, with some presence/spill-over in Burlington, Atlantic, and Ocean counties. Primarily, the campaign sought to raise awareness in urban centers where many populations are currently underserved or unserved. Any VOCA subaward opportunities were publicized on the Office of the Attorney General's Website and or in the NJ Register through a Notice of Availability of Funds (NOAF). The NOAFs include the name of the grant project, Federal funding source, purpose of the project, available funding, organization eligibility and required qualifications, application instructions, and application evaluation and scoring criteria. Lastly, we used our mass email list-serve to notify agencies when the VOCA Notice of Availability of Funds were published on the Office of the Attorney General's Website and/or the NJ Register. The NJ Register is where all notifications of the availability of grant funding in the state are officially recorded and publicized.

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

There is an ongoing effort to identify underserved and/or new populations. Collaborative projects between state agencies such as the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Human Services' Office of the Public Guardian is one example. Prior to this collaboration, the Office of the Public Guardian had never received grant funding to expand their services to incapacitated elderly adults who are often victimized, including financial crime victimization. The target population is deemed incapable of managing their own affairs by a New Jersey court and presents a unique category of victims who are truly underserved and/or unserved at the present moment in New Jersey. With the appropriate methodology and dedicated resources, the project will help enforce and restore the rights of the incapacitated elderly victims who have been financially victimized on a wider scale than what is currently possible. Additionally, conversations continue to take place between our Statewide Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions, representatives of law enforcement, and various service providers to discuss how the state can better serve those who fall outside of traditional service populations. We are looking into programs that can assist urban environments and the types of crime that often afflict these communities. Due to some unfavorable views of law enforcement, victims may be reticent to seek out traditional services, especially when offered by the County Prosecutors' Offices. So we are exploring ways to reach these underserved, and at some points, unserved victims. The department's State Office of Victim Witness Advocacy (SOVWA) conducts outreach to these types of communities and grassroots organizations to familiarize them with SOVWA services and the grant opportunities through the Office of the Attorney General. These efforts may have contributed to the introduction of new applicants to our VOCA competitive grant process, many of whom reach these unserved and underserved communities in our inner cities. The State has also funded a project to Manavi, Inc. with goals of strengthening and extending the culturally specific and linguistically accessible services to victims of domestic and sexual violence in the

South Asian community. Among the services offered to this population are legal services, court accompaniment, legal referrals and expert testimony for domestic and sexual abuse, stalking, trafficking and/or other forms of violence.

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

There is an ongoing effort to identify underserved and/or new populations. Collaborative projects have begun between SOVWA and the Juvenile Justice Commission, the Division on Child Protection Permanency in the Department of Children and Families, the Office of the Public Guardian. Additionally, conversations continue to take place between our Statewide Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions, representatives of law enforcement, and various service providers to discuss how the state can better serve those who fall outside of traditional service populations. A partnership has developed with the Office of the Public Guardian, which is in the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Service. Deemed incapable of managing their own affairs by a New Jersey court, these individuals present a unique category of victims who are truly underserved and/or unserved at the present moment in New Jersey. This program will assist these victims who have fallen prey to financial exploitation. With the appropriate methodology and dedicated resources, the project will help enforce and restore the rights of the incapacitated elderly victims who have been financially victimized on a wider scale than what is currently possible. SOVWA just entered into a contract with the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) to address incarcerated youth and their families who have been exposed to trauma and/or are the victims of trauma. We worked with the JJC to identify programming needs that may be met with VOCA funding, not that it may be utilized to assist incarcerated child victims. Some of the programs JJC will implement are My Life, My Choice for incarcerated victims of commercial sexual exploitation, Self Defense classes for incarcerated female victims of sexual assault, Family Advocacy and Engagement programs for families of victims that were assaulted by a juvenile family member, and EDMR therapy for staff. SOVWA also recently will grant funding to the Division on Child Protection Permanency on a shelter grant for minor victims of human trafficking. As noted elsewhere in this report, housing and shelter is a gap in service for many victim types, and human trafficking is no exception. We are hopeful that the housing and complementary programs for these young women will prove beneficial to assisting them regain control over their lives and future. Not only will the project support transitional housing, but also provide education on life skills, tutoring assistance, and job readiness, and mentorships opportunities. We are looking into programs that can assist urban environments and the types of crime that often afflict these communities. Due to some unfavorable views of law enforcement, victims may be reticent to seek out traditional services, especially when offered by the County Prosecutors' Offices. So we are exploring ways to reach these underserved, and at some points, unserved victims. We specifically did outreach to these types of communities and grassroots organizations to familiarize them with SOVWA and the grant assistance we provide to eligible recipients. These efforts, along with larger publicity efforts, attracted many new applicants to our VOCA competitive grant process, many of whom reach these unserved and underserved communities in our inner cities. The State has also funded a project with goals of strengthening and extending the culturally specific and linguistically accessible services to victims of domestic and sexual violence in the South Asian community. The increase of South Asian immigrants increased 58% (US Census) over the past 10 years in New Jersey. It is highly diverse with most speaking a language other than English. Among the services offered to this population are legal services, court accompaniment, legal referrals and expert testimony for domestic and sexual abuse, stalking, trafficking and/or other forms of violence.

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

Gaps in services often present themselves around cultural and language differences. Given the diversity of populations residing in New Jersey, SOVWA has strived to fund services that are culturally appropriate and specific to the needs of those diverse communities. For example, we currently fund organizations that have the capability of offering services in multiple languages, such as Spanish, Chinese, Filipino, and a variety of South Asian dialects (16, to be exact). Additionally, most funded service providers have the resources to connect with Language Line to enhance their ability to communicate and respond to victims whose first language is not English. The high cost of housing in New Jersey also creates a services gap. Affordable housing is scarce everywhere in the state and there is a shortage of safe housing for survivors escaping abusive relationships. Additionally, for some victims, gang violence and intimidation in residential neighborhoods pose a safety and housing issue. To address these problems, SOVWA has encouraged agencies to use VOCA funding for emergency shelter and hotel stays, transitional housing, and relocation assistance. And due to the relaxation of the VOCA Rule in this area, agencies have been able to make a more meaningful impact for victims who need safe housing. Further, for victims who do not report to law enforcement, thus not qualifying for Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) housing benefits, they now have recourse. This is also true for other victims who do report to law enforcement, but otherwise cannot qualify for VCCO housing benefits. We see this has a huge benefit, especially in New Jersey, where housing affordability continues to be a persistent barrier to safety for our victims. Financial independence is also a major gap for our victims, especially our domestic violence survivors who are trying to leave an abusive relationship and achieve independence. Survivors need assistance with employment training and education to improve their financial stability. Victims often cannot afford divorce attorney to handle the lengthy and complex matters, especially where children and property are involved. NJ has responded to these issues through additional funding for legal services.

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

All VOCA sub-awards are sent for review to the Governor’s Office through a grants report sent by OAG, which includes the agency’s name, funding amount, and project description. Not only does this report apprise the Governor about the Office’s activities, it also enables the Governor to connect with Legislators whose constituents may be a sub-recipient of our funding. Lastly, our office contributes to the Division of Criminal Justice’s Annual Report by detailing its activities and outcomes for the State.

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