



OVC FAST FACTS



AUGUST 2015

Office for Victims of Crime Reports on 2013–2014 Programs and Services

\$1.4 Billion Supports Compensation and Assistance to 7 Million Victims

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) 2015 Report to the Nation—*Building Capacity Through Research, Innovation, Technology, and Training*—reports the progress made in upholding victims' rights and providing assistance to victims, survivors, and communities during Fiscal Years (FY) 2013 and 2014. The online report highlights new and expanded programs and services, summarizes financial allocations to states and territories, and provides insight into OVC's strategic efforts to collaborate with partner agencies and organizations to develop innovative projects that enhance victim services.

Fast Facts About the Crime Victims Fund

- The Crime Victims Fund (the Fund) was established by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) of 1984 to provide federal funding for victim services nationwide. OVC was subsequently established to administer the Fund by an amendment to VOCA in 1988.
- The FYs 2013–2014 reporting period saw the largest total deposits in the Fund's history. Almost \$3.6 billion was deposited in FY 2014—the largest amount since the Fund became operational in 1985. Coupled with nearly \$1.5 billion deposited in 2013, the Fund received more than \$5 billion to support victims of crime.
- In FYs 2013–2014, state compensation benefits, which consist of both federal and state funds, totaled \$751,015,672. Victims were most often compensated for claims related to assault, child abuse, and homicide.
- VOCA-funded assistance totaled \$655,441,166 in FYs 2013–2014. Common types of direct assistance included information/referrals and criminal justice support/advocacy.

OVC'S MISSION

OVC is committed to enhancing the Nation's capacity to assist crime victims and to providing leadership in changing attitudes, policies, and practices to promote justice and healing for all victims of crime.

VISION 21 FUNDS SUPPORT CAPACITY-BUILDING EFFORTS

In response to the recommendations made in the Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services Final Report (Vision 21 Report) to build capacity in the crime victims field and better serve victims, OVC programming in FYs 2013–2014 focused on building capacity in a number of key areas. Through seven FY 2014 competitive solicitations, OVC awarded 35 Vision 21 grants, which represented \$12.5 million in funding that Congress appropriated specifically for Vision 21, together with OVC's use of a portion of OVC's discretionary funding from the Crime Victims Fund. These awards support projects that embody the mission of Vision 21—building capacity through innovation, providing comprehensive legal assistance, and addressing continuing and emerging challenges that face victims and service providers. From programs that focus on reaching underserved populations to those emphasizing the use of technology, the projects are designed to connect victim service providers with victims in new and innovative ways.

Fast Facts About 2013–2014 Programs and Services

- In one of a number of actions to address **sexual assault in the U.S. military** and provide appropriate support to victims, OVC partnered with the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) to educate victim service providers about partnering with local military installations to address and respond to victims of sexual assault. The *Advanced Military Sexual Assault Advocate Training for Sexual Assault Response Coordinators and Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocates* combines OVC's expertise in learning development with DOD's broad range of sexual assault advocacy capabilities and initiatives to support a military sexual assault policy that puts victims first.
- OVC continued its efforts on behalf of **human trafficking** victims, awarding nearly \$18 million to grantees and task forces to address this vulnerable population, and launching an expanded *Human Trafficking Task Force e-Guide* and a new mobile-friendly human trafficking Web site. OVC also co-chaired the development of the first *Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States 2013–2017*, which focuses on providing and coordinating services for all victims of human trafficking.
- Acknowledging the critical need for victim-centered assistance in **tribal communities**, OVC awarded congressionally appropriated Vision 21 funding for development of victim-centered community wellness strategies to expand current crime victim assistance programs in ways that address a broader range of victim challenges. OVC also released *A Circle of Healing for Native Children Endangered by Drugs*, a video series intended to inform and guide tribal communities as they help traumatized

children heal from the lasting consequences of exposure to drugs and alcohol in the home.

- Sexual violence in American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities remains at epidemic levels. OVC and its federal and tribal partners established three demonstration sites as a part of the tribal AI/AN Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner-Sexual Assault Response Team (SANE-SART) Initiative to address the acute needs of **tribal victims of sexual violence**. Each of the sites operates a functional SANE-SART program that has the capacity to provide access to services for both child and adult victims of sexual assault.
- OVC is increasingly called upon to respond to acts of **terrorism and mass violence** in the United States and abroad, which leave scores of devastated victims, survivors, and communities in their wake. In FYs 2013–2014, OVC worked with federal and local partners to respond to the needs of victims and survivors of acts of terrorism and mass violence in Aurora, Colorado; Midland City, Alabama; Newtown, Connecticut; and Boston, Massachusetts.
- Many victim service organizations lack the infrastructure and expertise to use technological innovations effectively. OVC funded programs to enhance public awareness, outreach, and education by developing **mobile applications** for victim services that make resources and services available to victims with smartphones and personal mobile computers, or "tablets."
- OVC maintained its commitment to supporting technical and training assistance by focusing primarily on increasing the number of courses and trainings available online. In 2014, the **OVC Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC)** launched *Victim Assistance Training (VAT) Online*, a Web-based program that provides service providers and allied professionals with fundamental skills and knowledge that will enhance their ability to effectively meet the needs of victims. During the first year following the launch of *VAT Online*, 5,327 people participated in the training. OVC training and technical assistance also addressed issues regarding elder abuse, legal assistance for victims of crime, responding to sexual assault victims in the military, building resiliency in child abuse organizations, and integrating services for crime victims.

RESOURCES

Crime Victims Fund

<http://www.ovc.gov/pubs/crimevictimsfundfs/index.html>

Online Directory of Crime Victim Services

<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/findvictimservices/>

National Calendar of Crime Victim Assistance-Related Events

<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovccalendar/>

HELP for Victim Service Providers Web Forum

<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovcproviderforum/>

CrimeSolutions.gov

www.crimesolutions.gov



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View the full report online at <http://www.ovc.gov/reporttonation2015> to learn more about OVC's evidence-based practices, dynamic multi-disciplinary partnerships, and effective strategies for building capacity through research, innovation, technology, and training.

