



OVC FAST FACTS



JUNE 2017

Office for Victims of Crime Reports on 2015–2016 Programs and Services

\$5.4 Billion Supports Compensation and Assistance to Millions of Crime Victims

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) 2017 Report to the Nation—*Reaching Victims Everywhere*—reports the progress made in upholding victims' rights and providing assistance to victims, survivors, and communities during Fiscal Years (FY) 2015 and 2016. 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.
- In FYs 2015 and 2016, Congress made available the largest amount from the Fund since placing an annual cap on available funding in 2000. The Fund's appropriation cap increased substantially, from \$745 million in FY 2014 to \$2.361 billion in FY 2015. In FY 2016, Congress again increased the appropriation cap, this time to \$3.042 billion.
- In FYs 2015 and 2016, state compensation benefits, which consist of both federal and state funds, totaled \$758,874,588. Victims were most often compensated for claims related to assault, child abuse (including sexual and physical abuse), and sexual assault.
- In FYs 2015 and 2016, VOCA-funded assistance reached a total of 11,625,747 victims of crime. 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* to build capacity in the crime victims field and better serve victims, OVC programming in FYs 2015 and 2016 focused on building capacity in a number of key areas. OVC supported many programs to combat human trafficking and help survivors of this terrible crime. OVC also strengthened its support for a wide range of law enforcement organizations and their efforts to serve communities, while also funding initiatives to help children and families heal. Additionally, OVC supported efforts to strengthen service organizations' ability to reach underserved victim populations, from particularly vulnerable victim groups, to those in rural and isolated areas, to those who have experienced victimization abroad. OVC also maintained its commitment to supporting training and technical assistance, expanding existing offerings, releasing new opportunities, and making courses accessible for free online at any time.

Fast Facts About 2015–2016 Programs and Services

- OVC continued its efforts to address the specific needs of human trafficking victims, launching several new programs aimed at improving the quality and quantity of victim services, particularly for underserved populations, and working with other federal agencies to provide training, technical assistance, and resources to improve the community response to human trafficking. OVC also released *Faces of Human Trafficking*, a nine-part video series and multidisciplinary resource to raise awareness of all forms of human trafficking and the important role that everyone can play in helping to identify and assist victims.
- OVC supports partnerships with law enforcement agencies at the state, tribal, and local levels to combat crime, promote safer neighborhoods, and establish collaborations between police and the communities they protect. OVC grantees worked on programs to enhance law enforcement's capacity to provide comprehensive services to victims and family members in the aftermath of violent crimes, such as homicide and sexual assault; to address and eliminate gender bias when responding to sexual and domestic violence cases; and to help communities develop plans for responding to mass violence and other high-profile incidents.
- Left unaddressed, child and youth victimization can have serious, long-lasting consequences for children's physical and mental health. OVC awarded congressionally appropriated Vision 21 funds to demonstration sites in Montana and Virginia to bring together healthcare, child welfare, justice, and other systems to coordinate and align efforts to provide young victims and their families and caregivers with timely, seamless, and holistic services that are determined by the needs of the family.
- 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 2015–2016, OVC supported the needs of victims and survivors of acts of terrorism and mass violence in Orlando, Florida; San Bernardino, California; Roseburg, Oregon; Charleston, South Carolina; and Marysville, Washington; as well as U.S. citizens who were victims of attacks in Paris and Nice, France; Brussels, Belgium; and Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.
- American Indians and Alaska Natives suffer from one of the highest rates of victimization in the country. OVC used congressionally appointed Vision 21 funds to support a national-scope project to ensure that tribal victims have access to information about comprehensive services, wherever and whenever they seek assistance; and as well as three grantees' efforts to develop victim-centered, community wellness strategies. OVC also launched a Tribal Multimedia Resources page on its website that provides victim service providers and allied professionals with a variety of materials to supplement their efforts to help AI/AN victims.
- Too often, language barriers, cultural intolerance, and social isolation prevent victims from seeking and receiving help. OVC funded a Language Access Fellow to lead the development of a comprehensive and long-term plan to reach Deaf, hard-of-hearing, and limited English proficient (LEP) communities through OVC's programs, products, and services; and launched a program to ensure equal access to services for individuals who are Deaf, hard-of-hearing, or LEP using an innovative and dual approach to serving these historically underserved populations.
- OVC maintained its commitment to supporting technical and training assistance, funding a new national center to provide training and technical assistance to enhance service providers' capacity to support and integrate victim-related research and evaluation activities. OVC also launched a free, online elder abuse training for legal service lawyers to help them build the knowledge and skills to recognize the signs of elder abuse; and enhanced its advanced military sexual assault advocate training, adding policy updates and a module on professional ethics.

RESOURCES

Crime Victims Fund

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/>

OVC TTAC Expert Q&A

www.ovcttac.gov/expert-qa/

CrimeSolutions.gov

www.crimesolutions.gov



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www.youtube.com/OJPOVC

View the full report online at www.ovc.gov/pubs/reporttonation2017 to learn more about OVC's support for dynamic programs and initiatives to serve victims of crime throughout the Nation.

