

MS Annual State Performance Report

Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program

Reporting Period: [Oct 1, 2018 to Sept 30, 2019]

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

OVC VOCA Assistance Funds				
	2016-VA-GX-0024	2017-VA-GX-0049	2018-V2-GX-0168	2019-V2-GX-0032
Federal Award Amount	\$20,665,359.00	\$17,133,550.00	\$30,399,551.00	\$20,596,471.00
Total Amount of Subawards	\$19,260,282.00	\$16,253,542.00	\$19,517,571.00	\$0.00
Total Number of Subawards	75	70	41	0
Administrative Funds Amount	\$826,614.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Training Funds Amount	\$206,653.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance Remaining	\$371,810.00	\$880,008.00	\$10,881,980.00	\$20,596,471.00

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	2016-VA-GX-0024	2017-VA-GX-0049	2018-V2-GX-0168	2019-V2-GX-0032
Government Agencies Only	23	32	12	0
Corrections	1	2	0	0
Courts	0	0	0	0
Juvenile Justice	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	10	12	3	0
Prosecutor	9	13	7	0
Other	3	5	2	0
Nonprofit Organization Only	50	34	29	0
Child Abuse Service organization (e.g., child advocacy center)	26	17	14	0
Coalition (e.g., state domestic violence or sexual assault coalition)	1	2	1	0
Domestic and Family Violence Organization	9	4	5	0
Faith-based Organization	2	2	2	0
Organization Provides Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Services	6	3	3	0
Organization by and/or for underserved victims of crime (e.g., drunk driving, homicide, elder abuse)	0	0	0	0

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Sexual Assault Services organization (e.g., rape crisis center)	1	1	1	0
Multiservice agency	5	5	3	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Agencies, and Organizations Only	2	4	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	1	2	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)	1	2	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	75	70	41	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				
	2016-VA-GX-0024	2017-VA-GX-0049	2018-V2-GX-0168	2019-V2-GX-0032

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A. Continue a VOCA-funded victim project funded in a previous year	72	63	38	0
B. Expand or enhance an existing project not funded by VOCA in the previous year	5	5	3	0
C. Start up a new victim services project	2	3	0	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				
	2016-VA-GX-0024	2017-VA-GX-0049	2018-V2-GX-0168	2019-V2-GX-0032
A.INFORMATION & REFERRAL	67	58	20	0
B.PERSONAL ADVOCACY/ACCOMPANIMENT	64	53	18	0
C.EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OR SAFETY SERVICES	66	55	17	0
D.SHELTER/HOUSING SERVICES	36	30	9	0
E.CRIMINAL/CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM ASSISTANCE	63	50	17	0
F. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS	68	60	20	0

Priority and Underserved Requirements				
Priority Area	2016-VA-GX-0024	2017-VA-GX-0049	2018-V2-GX-0168	2019-V2-GX-0032
Child Abuse				
Total Amount	\$8,585,745.00	\$6,195,838.00	\$10,817,923.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	42.00 %	36.00 %	36.00 %	
Domestic and Family Violence				
Total Amount	\$6,392,241.00	\$5,130,745.00	\$4,861,275.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	31.00 %	30.00 %	16.00 %	
Sexual Assault				
Total Amount	\$2,131,503.00	\$1,813,757.00	\$1,242,068.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	10.00 %	11.00 %	4.00 %	
Underserved				
Total Amount	\$2,143,987.00	\$2,526,298.00	\$1,392,988.00	\$0.00
% of Total Federal Award	10.00 %	15.00 %	5.00 %	

Budget and Staffing				
Staffing Information	2016-VA-GX-0024	2017-VA-GX-0049	2018-V2-GX-0168	2019-V2-GX-0032

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Total number of paid staff for all subgrantee victimization program and/or services	698	543	177	
Number of staff hours funded through this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	869265	666180	203090	
Total number of volunteer staff supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	993	652	169	
Number of volunteer hours supporting the work of this VOCA award (plus match) for subgrantee's victimization programs and/or services	97471	67135	24343	

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)	41	949	983	836	881	912
Adult Sexual Assault	55	375	595	725	479	543
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	52	156	111	94	84	111
Arson	20	30	42	49	36	39
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber or Physical)	35	32	58	13	24	31
Burglary	27	696	762	605	931	748
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	1	1497	1728	1754	1752	1682
Child Pornography	51	42	31	35	42	37
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	75	1836	1959	1934	1974	1925
Domestic and/or Family Violence	4	2434	2540	2885	2706	2641
DUI/DWI Incidents	26	52	81	41	58	58
Elder Abuse or Neglect	38	30	27	22	14	23
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/ Sexual Orientation/Other (Explanation Required)	23	3	0	0	0	0
Human Trafficking: Labor	34	0	0	0	0	0
Human Trafficking: Sex	56	30	53	59	43	46
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	27	544	565	408	449	491

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Kidnapping (non-custodial)	32	61	38	30	30	39
Kidnapping (custodial)	34	8	2	5	7	5
Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	16	0	0	0	4	1
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	25	29	44	26	58	39
Robbery	26	235	202	184	256	219
Stalking/Harassment	44	85	114	76	100	93
Survivors of Homicide Victims	1	558	728	624	701	652
Teen Dating Victimization	56	10	14	13	7	11
Terrorism (Domestic/International)	9	0	0	4	0	1
Other	12	347	655	870	938	702

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	34	32	28	12	61
Homeless	369	305	296	283	1215
Immigrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers	130	136	147	137	680
LGBTQ	40	33	45	42	128
Veterans	73	76	83	16	172
Victims with Disabilities: Cognitive/Physical /Mental	452	394	370	396	1435
Victims with Limited English Proficiency	181	160	163	140	742
Other	49	48	51	20	176

General Award Information

Activities Conducted at the Subgrantee Level	Number	Percent
Total number of individuals who received services during the Fiscal Year.	38466	
Total number of anonymous contacts who received services during the Fiscal Year	2646	
Number of new individuals who received services from your state for the first time during the Fiscal Year.	26620	69.20 %
Of the clients who received services, how many presented with more than one type of victimization during the Fiscal Year?	5123	13.32 %
Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application during the Fiscal Year.	5980	

Demographics

Demographic Characteristic of New Individuals Served	Number	Percent
Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian or Alaska Native	426	1.60 %

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Asian	89	0.33 %
Black or African American	11081	41.63 %
Hispanic or Latino	652	2.45 %
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	13	0.05 %
White Non-Latino or Caucasian	11999	45.08 %
Some Other Race	100	0.38 %
Multiple Races	545	2.05 %
Not Reported	1299	4.88 %
Not Tracked	416	1.56 %
Race/Ethnicity Total		26620
Gender Identity		
Male	8451	31.75 %
Female	16978	63.78 %
Other	7	0.03 %
Not Reported	765	2.87 %
Not Tracked	419	1.57 %
Gender Total		26620
Age		
Age 0- 12	7877	29.59 %
Age 13- 17	3852	14.47 %
Age 18- 24	2462	9.25 %
Age 25- 59	9609	36.10 %
Age 60 and Older	1078	4.05 %
Not Reported	1389	5.22 %
Not Tracked	353	1.33 %
Age Total		26620

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	62	25032	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			A1. Information about the criminal justice process	13490
			A2. Information about victim rights, how to obtain notifications, etc.	18433
			A3. Referral to other victim service programs	10233

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			A4. Referral to other services, supports, and resources (includes legal, medical, faith-based organizations, address confidentiality programs, etc.)	11775
B. Personal Advocacy/ Accompaniment	53	10208	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			B1. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to emergency medical care	530
			B2. Victim advocacy/accompaniment to medical forensic exam	535
			B3. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	3363
			B4. Individual advocacy (e.g., assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property or effects)	9074
			B5. Performance of medical or nonmedical forensic exam or interview or medical evidence collection	1940
			B6. Immigration assistance (e.g., special visas, continued presence application, and other immigration relief)	259
			B7. Intervention with employer, creditor, landlord, or academic institution	1920
			B8. Child or dependent care assistance (includes coordination of services)	3808
			B9. Transportation assistance (includes coordination of services)	23457
			B10. Interpreter services	412
C. Emotional Support or Safety Services	54	14657	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			C1. Crisis intervention (in-person, includes safety planning, etc.)	11659
			C2. Hotline/crisis line counseling	9596
			C3. On-scene crisis response (e.g., community crisis response)	335
			C4. Individual counseling	15116
			C5. Support groups (facilitated or peer)	7274
			C6. Other Therapy (traditional, cultural, or alternative healing; art, writing, or play therapy, etc.)	9375
			C7. Emergency financial assistance	1895
D. Shelter/ Housing Services	31	3297	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			D1. Emergency shelter or safe house	56458
			D2. Transitional housing	24118

			D3. Relocation assistance (includes assistance with obtaining housing)	1686
E. Criminal/ Civil Justice System Assistance	55	12035	Enter the number of times services were provided in each subcategory.	0
			E1. Notification of criminal justice events	8167
			E2. Victim impact statement assistance	6536
			E3. Assistance with restitution	1825
			E4. Civil legal assistance in obtaining protection or restraining order	1923
			E5. Civil legal assistance with family law issues	2730
			E6. Other emergency justice-related assistance	376
			E7. Immigration assistance	307
			E8. Prosecution interview advocacy/accompaniment	2769
			E9. Law enforcement interview advocacy/accompaniment	1594
			E10. Criminal advocacy/accompaniment	2378
E11. Other legal advice and/or counsel	990			

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.	125
Number of events conducted during the reporting period.	1
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.	

Materials were created to inform subgrantees about OAIV grant management processes and were presented at the subgrantee orientation meeting held June 19, 2019. There were no educational materials developed during the reporting period, other than powerpoint presentations related to civil rights and sub-grantee orientation. VOCA funds were not used for either.

Describe any planning or training events held during the reporting period.

OAIV conducted webinars on the entry of data in the OVC/PMT system for subgrantees. Other educational sessions were not VOCA-specific and involved overall orientation on subgrantee procedures and civil rights compliance. OAIV did conduct planning activities, in which VOCA funded staff participated. The strategic planning activities began in the prior reporting period, have continued into the current period and remain ongoing. Strategic planning initially began with the retention of a consultant through the Illinois Public Health Institute. State funds were utilized to cover this expense. The process began initially with the development and dissemination of a survey to VOCA funded subgrantees. The survey was extensive and gathering information ranging from basics about the structure of subgrantee organizations, what services are provided, what areas of the state the services reach, the nature of any barriers or challenges, identification of needs, and partnerships. The survey results were compiled into a report, which was widely disseminated to subgrantees and other interested parties. During this reporting period, OAIV was able to conduct the next steps of the strategic planning process. Four focus groups were held around the state (two in Jackson on February 11, one in Oxford on February 12, and one in Hattiesburg on February 13). A variety of services providers were invited to participate in the focus groups, and approximately 20-25 representatives attended each focus group. The purpose of the focus groups was to narrow into priorities several issues identified in the survey report. Several key areas were discussed, and participants asked to provide input. The key areas were: Challenges/Barriers; Unmet and Emerging Needs; Collaboration and Partnerships; and Performance Measures. The discussions and input were documented and compiled into a report. The focus group report became the basis for the Strategic Planning Committee retreats. OAIV conducted two day-long retreats, one on March 7, 2019 and the second on April 25, 2019. The first retreat was a basic introduction, and resulted in the development of the VOCA program Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles. The second retreat centered around the development of priority strategic issues and drafting high-level plans for each priority (defining long-term goals, SMART objectives and strategies for each). The four priority strategic issues identified were: Organizational Capacity for Service Providers; Accessibility of Victim Services; Workforce Development for Direct Service Providers; and Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment for Victims of Crime. Long term goals, objectives and strategies were identified for each. Strategic planning efforts will build upon those efforts.

Describe any program policies changed during the reporting period.

Policy changes. MSDH changed a number of procedural policies during the reporting period. Based on site visit as well as OIG audit reports, a number of areas were noted as needing improvement. Some of the policies changes solely impacted OAIV/VOCA, and some were agency-wide procedures, such as practices for draw-downs and reconciliations. The following policies were changed: OAIV/VOCA Reporting: OAIV has implemented internal policies and procedures with regard to completion of the SAR. These policies are contained in OAIV Internal Guidelines. Changes to this policy were made to ensure regular updating of SARs in the OVC PMT system. MSDH Drawdown Policy: Procedures were implemented in the spring of 2018 to draw funds at least on a weekly basis when expenditures are processed in the accounting system. Draws are prepared by the Revenue Accountant based on an expenditure report generated from the accounting system (MAGIC). This report reflects the actual expenditures that have paid from each federal grant. Preparation of FFR: Procedures were implemented to ensure that only actual expenditures are shown on the FFRs and that any unrecorded indirect cost/administrative expenses for the period are reflected as unliquidated obligations. Monitoring Policies: Changes to the monitoring policy were initiated during the reporting period, but have not yet been implemented as of 9/30/19. Changes will address establishing subgrantee risk status, timing of monitoring, documentation for desk monitoring, processes and forms for both desk monitoring and site monitoring, and scheduling. OAIV requested assistance from OVC TTAC to help in this endeavor, to review the entire grant management operations of OAIV/VOCA. Other practices, which do not arise to the level of policy, include revamping of the reimbursement processes to ensure more timely receipt and processing of reimbursements, processes for submission of budget revision requests, and practices related to the submission of applications for funding.

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

None

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

Coordinated Response/Services. The MS VOCA program is funding enhanced multi-disciplinary team efforts in response to child abuse by funding advocates dedicated to serve as liaisons between MDT and child protection services to ensure all cases are being referred to and addressed by the MDT. VOCA staff works in cooperation with VAWA and FVPSA staff to coordinate and properly allocate funding. The VAWA program has supported several law enforcement trainings through IACP and victim organizations have participated in these trainings, and representatives presented information about available services. OAIV/VOCA staff works with other MSDH offices to ease referrals to victim services. OAIV VOCA staff presented to MSDH nurses and clinicians on domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking. Through the state sexual assault coalition,

health department nurses were offered scholarships to attend the SANE training during the reporting period. The VOCA program continues to work in conjunction with the VAWA and FVPSA formula grant programs, which are also housed with in OAIV.

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

Assisting Services: The influx of VOCA dollars to the state has made a huge impact on the delivery of services. Not only were existing programs able to expand their provision of services to more and different types of crime victims, many new organizations not previously funded were able to participate in the VOCA program. FY 2019 saw the expansion of services to adult victims of human trafficking with the funding of the first HT shelter. Legal services were expanded beyond the traditional emergency legal services – victims of identity theft and fraud now have services available to them. The increased funding helped with short staffing in programs, which allowed greater provision of direct services. Preventing Services: Barriers to individuals receiving services in the state of Mississippi vary greatly. One constant theme identified in the strategic planning process as impacting the entire state was the lack of transportation. Being a mostly rural state, transportation is an extremely tall hurdle to overcome. There are only two areas of the state with mass transit (the MS Gulf Coast and Jackson Metro area), which consist of bus and trolley systems. Even in these areas, the services are not wholly reliable. There are no subway systems or other rail systems. Crime victims needing services must arrange for their own transportation or rely on the limited capacity of service providers to assist. Services are available in clusters around the state, mostly in cities or towns, and service areas may consist of several counties, complicating the ability of individuals to access those services. Other themes identified as a barrier to victims receiving services relate more to provider capacity – tIssues Assisting Services: The influx of VOCA dollars to the state has made a huge impact on the delivery of services. Not only were existing programs able to expand their provision of services to more and different types of crime victims, many new organizations not previously funded were able to participate in the VOCA program. FY 2019 saw the expansion of services to adult victims of human trafficking with the funding of the first HT shelter. Legal services were expanded beyond the traditional emergency legal services – victims of identity theft and fraud now have services available to them. The increased funding helped with short staffing in programs, which allowed greater provision of direct services. Issues Preventing Services: Barriers to individuals receiving services in the state of Mississippi vary greatly. One constant theme identified in the strategic planning process as impacting the entire state was the lack of transportation. Being a mostly rural state, transportation is an extremely tall hurdle to overcome. There are only two areas of the state with mass transit (the MS Gulf Coast and Jackson Metro area), which consist of bus and trolley systems. Even in these areas, the services are not wholly reliable. There are no subway systems or other rail systems. Crime victims needing services must arrange for their own transportation or rely on the limited capacity of service providers to assist. Services are available in clusters around the state, mostly in cities or towns, and service areas may consist of several counties, complicating the ability of individuals to access those services. Other issues found to be barriers to victims receiving services relate more to provider capacity – the need for mentoring, volunteers, staff development training, sustainability and succession planning were all identified as barriers to individuals receiving trauma-informed, victim centered culturally and linguistically appropriate services around the state. Other barriers noted by subgrantees as challenges to providing services included staff turnover; inconsistent grant reporting between funding sources (OVW, OVC, DHHS), requiring staff to devote more time to compiling stats than working with victims; and lack of consistent community efforts to maintain CCRs, SARTs, MDTs. Distrust of the legal system is also noted as a barrier to provision of services. The need for mentoring, volunteers, staff development training, sustainability and succession planning were all identified as barriers to individuals receiving trauma-informed, victim centered culturally and linguistically appropriate services around the state.

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.

MSDH OAIV has been awarded a discretionary OVW grant to increase response in rural communities to domestic violence and sexual assault, and is utilizing the rural county health departments to broaden the overall community attitudes and awareness of these crimes, trauma-informed care models and available services. OAIV is partnering with the state coalition against domestic violence and sexual assault as well as direct service providers in the focus area of the grant as well as public health clinics. MSDH/OAIV is a member of the statewide human trafficking council, which is made up of representatives of federal, state and local governmental officials. The work of the council will be to expand public and private partnerships in the development of an overall statewide approach and plan for addressing the needs of human trafficking victims. MSDH/OAIV is the recipient of one of the Enhanced Collaborative Model Discretionary OVC awards to address human trafficking (law enforcement partner is the MS Department of Public Safety). The cooperation between victim services and law enforcement is vital to ensure the needs of these victims are met. Both of these efforts will work in cooperation and conjunction with the state's VOCA program to maximize the impact and benefit more victims around the state. OAIV continues to ensure that the services provided by subgrantees meet minimum standards and that professionals providing services carry the proper certifications or licensure to delivery. Additional requirements have been placed on subgrantees, particularly law enforcement, prosecutor and court-based subgrantees, to ensure that not only VOCA funded staff is properly trained, but all members of the organization receive minimum levels of training on domestic violence, and sexual assault and have implemented policies which are reflective of current MS law regarding responses to these crimes.

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

OAIV entered into a contract with the MS Public Health Institute to conduct training and technical assistance to OAIV subgrantees, including VOCA subgrantees. The contract is not funded through VOCA funds, but out of state funds. This contract was a direct result of the strategic planning process, during which one of the identified priority areas was staff and workforce development. This contract will allow for funding of a training and technical assistance specialist to work individually with programs to provide needed TA in areas such as policies and procedures, SMART goals and objectives, budget development, evaluation plans and activities, and board development and recruitment. Additionally, the contract will allow for the use of outside consultants in specialty areas to provide education for direct service providers in a myriad of areas, also based on the focus group and strategic planning committee reports. Areas to be addressed include, but are not limited to, provision of services to LGBTQ victims, victims having disabilities, victims with limited English proficiency, and ADA compliance. Additionally, with state dollars, OAIV was able to support the statewide Trauma-Informed Care Conference, hosted by the state's Department of Mental Health. Not only did OAIV support speakers on the topic of trauma-informed care, OAIV was able to support VOCA subrecipients to attend the conference by paying the required registration fee.

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

Many organizations funded through MS VOCA serve victims in all of the categories listed. Programs within prosecutors offices, law enforcement agencies and state agencies often address a variety of victimizations. Child Abuse: VOCA funds support child advocacy centers, children's homes, and CASA programs. Currently, MS funds nineteen (19) organizations solely serving victims of child abuse (physical and sexual abuse and neglect). Children's emergency shelters and homes are funded, provided they meet the standards and are licensed as placements through MS Child Protection Services. MS VOCA has expanded its reach to funding CASA programs within the state in the work they do with child victims traveling through the juvenile and youth court systems. MS VOCA funds projects addressing better coordination of efforts in local MDTs, ensuring fewer cases slip through the cracks and more victims and families are referred to the Child Advocacy Centers. Additionally, the Children's Safe Center, which performs medical forensic examinations for children receives VOCA funding and has expanded its services to allow for telemedicine to be utilized so children and their families do not have to travel so far to receive this important service. Also, the victim assistance coordinators and advocates housed within law enforcement agencies and prosecutors offices statewide address victims of child abuse. Domestic Violence: VOCA funding supports domestic violence shelters, non-residential services for victims of domestic violence, transitional housing for victims of domestic violence and legal services for domestic violence victims. Also, the victim assistance coordinators and advocates housed within law enforcement agencies and prosecutors offices statewide address victims of domestic violence. MS Currently funds the state DV Coalition to expand the coordination of services for victims of domestic violence and dating violence. MS VOCA funds twelve (12) domestic violence shelters in the state, most of which are dual programs. Of those, five (5) do not also directly serve sexual assault victims. MS VOCA also provides funding to two (2) non-residential programs addressing domestic violence. Shelter programs funded must meet the minimum standards imposed by state law for a domestic violence shelter and must also comply with standards adopted by the MS Coalition Against Domestic Violence (although they are not required to become a member of the organization). Sexual Assault: VOCA funds supports rape crisis centers in the state of Mississippi. At present, VOCA funds support nine (9) rape crisis centers around the state, which, as stated above, may be in conjunction with other types of services. Funding supports one non-hospital based SANE program, operated through a rape crisis center with a qualified SANE-A trained nurse. Also, the victim assistance coordinators and advocates housed within law enforcement agencies and prosecutors offices statewide address victims of sexual assault. Underserved: Almost all of our funded providers serve individuals who have experienced multiple victimizations. Underserved crime types identified by MS are: stalking, strangulation, all forms of human trafficking, identify theft/fraud. VOCA funds support victim assistance coordinators and advocates housed within law enforcement agencies and prosecutors offices statewide who address victims of all types of crimes. VOCA funds support the MS Homicide Survivors' Coalition, which assists the local homicide survivors groups in providing services to survivors of homicide victims, and hosts an annual retreat for survivors as part of a trauma-informed healing process. VOCA funds also support the only adult human trafficking shelter. MS funds two groups which address the specific needs of underserved population types: Ethnic minorities and LEP individuals. Legal services to allow assistance to victims of identify theft/fraud have been expanded.

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

While no specific efforts have been taken to serve victims of federal crimes, all subgrantees must certify that they will serve victims of federal crimes. VOCA staff participates in the local FBI Civil Rights Working Group, and has shared information regarding VOCA-funded services to membership in that group. OAIV staff is also represented as a member of the statewide Human Trafficking Council, which is organized by the two US Attorneys offices within the state of Mississippi, allowing for interaction between federal prosecutors, law enforcement and victim advocates and local entities, hopefully leading to enhanced referrals of federal victims of human trafficking and other crimes to local resources.

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

A continuing issue affecting crime victim service is lack of opportunities for education and training for the service providers. There are a few in-state opportunities for staff development, however, for specialized training on national best-practices, subgrantees must travel out of state. Training for victim services is more readily available, however, training for law enforcement, prosecution and courts is limited, both on aspects of their responsibilities, but also on best practices, trauma-informed and victim centered approaches, and the availability of services. The lack of community support for centralized services also presents challenges to effectively serving victims of crime in MS. Other issues noted include: the overall lack of transportation for victims to access services; diminishing local level support for victim programs; need for more readily accessible legal services; need for expanded services in certain geographic areas; services for undocumented individuals; and staff development and retention. Several subgrantees reported that a continuing concern is victims who are unwilling or hesitant to come forward due to distrust of the legal system. A great need for services for victims of identify theft/fraud is arising. Legal services continue to be in short supply for the vast array of needs of victims of crime

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

VOCA Victim assistance staff with OAIIV is somewhat stable at this point, although new staff is needed. At the end of the prior reporting period, all VOCA staff had resigned, except two individuals. One of those resigned within a month of the beginning of the current period. A new OAIIV director came on board at the beginning of the reporting period. Immediately OAIIV conducted a review of the current personnel structure within the entire office, including the VOCA program, using the services of an HR Consulting firm (at no charge to the VOCA program). The organizational structure of OAIIV and VOCA Victim Assistance was changed, to better allocate duties/tasks to the appropriate level of staff. OAIIV hired the following positions: three VOCA program directors, 3 VOCA fiscal analysts (one of whom stayed on from the prior reporting period), and a VOCA administrator. The VOCA administrator was moved to a newly created VOCA monitoring position, however, has since left that position. A challenge we continue to experience is finding someone qualified to handle the responsibilities of the VOCA Administrator as well as overall monitoring compliance. We continue our search. The remaining VOCA staff is stable at present, but the vacancy in the vital administrator and monitoring positions continues to place OAIIV in a challenging position.

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

OAIIV publicizes victim assistance funding in many ways. The RFP was published on the MSDH website and provided to all current subgrantees. OAIIV staff spoke at many conferences for allied professionals, including the statewide child abuse conference, the police chiefs training, and prosecutors training event to advertise the availability of VOCA funding. The solicitation is advertised on the MSDH website and on social media. Partner organizations, such as the DV and SA coalitions, the MS Chapter of Child Advocacy Centers, the MS Attorney General's Office, the MS Association of Chiefs of Police, the MS Sheriff's Association and the MS Prosecutors association are all advised of the availability of funds and asked to publish to their membership.

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

During the project period, MS was able to expand the availability of legal services to victims of identity theft/fraud. While not a violent crime, individuals who are victimized by this type of crime have a myriad of complex legal issues, which can impact their ability to recover. Additionally, VOCA funding was utilized to support the state's only dedicated shelter program for adult victims of human trafficking. To expand the availability of sexual assault services and medical services, VOCA funding was utilized to support a SANE nurse within one of the shelter programs, which now houses a free-standing medical clinic, managed by a nurse practitioner with appropriate protocols. Additional support was provided to a program operated through the University of MS Medical Center Children's Safe Center to allow for the opening of satellite clinics using telehealth to communicate to the main facility, thus enhancing the availability of forensic medical examinations for child victims of physical and sexual abuse.

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

The above answer addresses this question in part. As OAIIV continues to revise its grant management practices, we will develop specialized RFPs as needs are brought to our attention. During the current reporting period, no specialized RFPs were issued due to challenges with new staff and restructuring of OAIIV and the VOCA program. At the present, OAIIV is completing its strategic planning process, one of the purposes of which was to identify gaps in services. Gaps may exist in different ways: lack of specific types of services, lack of access to existing services, or lack of quality services. As the results of the surveys are examined, OAIIV will develop specific RFPs to solicit specific services to fill those gaps.

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

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

OAIV submitted a report to be include in the MSDH annual report, which highlighted the funding provided to victim service organizations, the types of services provided, the numbers of individuals and services provided. The annual report for OAIV to the legislature will be prepared during the next reporting cycle.