

**VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT  
VICTIMS ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM  
STATE PERFORMANCE REPORT  
FOR  
OCTOBER 1, 2014 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2015**

**STATE OF OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
CRIME VICTIMS' SERVICES DIVISION  
SALEM, OREGON  
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**A. What are the major issues in your state, if any, that hinder victim assistance programs in assisting crime victims in filing for compensation benefits and in understanding state victim compensation eligibility requirements?**

**Barriers for Filing Compensation Benefits**

In an effort to streamline claim determinations and more efficient processing, the Crime Victim Compensation Section introduced a new CVC on-line application system including a claim lookup. The claim look up allows the organization submitting an application to check the claim status. After some initial technical issues, sub-grantees reported that applying online is more efficient in ways such as: no scanning delays, receiving claim numbers faster, reviewing claims faster, and claim payments made more quickly. Several sub-grantees commented that they needed to change their CVC application process and purchased tablets to allow more flexibility in completing applications. A sub-grantee working with victims with disabilities still finds that the on-line process is difficult for victims trying to complete the form, particularly for those with visual and physical impairments.

CVCP continues to offer quarterly compensation training to victim advocates and medical providers throughout the State of Oregon.

The responses below, summarized from sub-grantee reports, identify the more common barriers:

**Barriers in the Immigrant/Refugee Communities**

Victims from immigrant and refugee communities have several barriers to applying for CVC. The most predominant include: the fear of being ostracized from their community resulting in safety issues both here in the U.S and for family members in their home of origin; Limited English; lack of knowledge of the legal system; mistrust of law enforcement; cultural and religious influences; the time limitation to apply.

One sub-grantee reported an increase in survivors who are fleeing their country of origin where they suffered from sexual abuse. Because the crime occurred out of the country, they were not eligible for CVC.

**Counseling/Therapy**

Many victims seek therapy through CVC. However, rural victims may not be able to receive much-needed counseling services because finding a counselor is difficult and limited, let alone getting an appointment. The problem increases for those seeking Spanish-speaking counselors and this is true for both urban and rural areas. Sub-grantees also report that finding a counselor who will accept crime victim compensation payments adds to the difficulty.

**Victims' Fears, Attitudes, and Perceptions**

Sub-grantees providing services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking often reported that applying for compensation was not a victim's priority compared to meeting basic needs. Other barriers include: fear that the application will somehow negatively impact the suspect; retaliation/retribution; mistrust of the legal system; they do not want to report to law enforcement; and fear that they won't be believed or that their information will not remain confidential. This especially applies to small communities. Additionally, a victim overcome by trauma, grief or anxiety struggles to collect sufficient documentation within the necessary timeframe and thus does not complete the application.

It is worth noting the following response from the report submitted by the **Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance**, a domestic violence/sexual assault non-profit organization located in Josephine County, southern Oregon. Josephine is one of the counties hardest hit by the loss of timber funds. The loss continues to affect law enforcement and the availability of jail beds. They reported that the lack of police presence in the community has resulted in little confidence in the sheriff's ability to follow through with a police report and prosecution even if the survivor does call the police. Victims are not interested in completing paperwork that may or may not offer them something for several months, because they do not know where they will be the next week. Victims are hesitant to stay engaged with the agency long enough to explore available resources beyond what they need in the moment.

Although CVSD took major steps to enhance the CVC process through the new online system, the system does not resolve all barriers. CVSD, in conjunction with community partners, will address persistent barriers to applying for compensation until all eligible victims of crime have the ability, should they choose, to apply for assistance through the CVCP.

**B. Briefly describe efforts to promote coordinated public and private efforts within the community to aid crime victims (from sub-recipients)**

The CVSD Advisory Committee and its VOCA subcommittees include citizen participation and broad representation from across the state and expertise across disciplines. These groups help CVSD to implement the best recommendations for statewide VOCA funding.

CVSD continues to seek out, facilitate, and enhance collaborations across the State of Oregon. CVSD meets frequently with statewide partners including: the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (OCADSV); Attorney General Sexual Assault Task Force (AGSATF); Crime Victims' Assistance Network (CVAN), the Department of Human Services (DHS); the Oregon Law Center; National Crime Victim Law Institute; Multnomah County Family Violence Coordinating Office; and Oregon Health Authority. These collaborations ensure regular dialogue among funder and technical assistance agencies.

All government based and non-profit sub-recipients are engaged in strengthening their community support systems as well as creating new collaborations to ensure victims have access to services. The following summaries highlight work in urban, suburban and rural Oregon, in District Attorney Victim Assistance Programs, child abuse intervention centers, and community based domestic violence and sexual assault programs.

**Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence** (CARDV) partners with law enforcement (LE) agencies within our service area to participate in the lethality assessment program developed by Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence. LE officers administer a brief research-based lethality assessment to the victim at domestic violence calls. If the victim screens-in based on the assessment, they are immediately connected to CARDV's crisis line for safety planning and services. The program is designed to reduce domestic violence related deaths. Most logistical problems connected to coordinating CARDV and Law Enforcement have been addressed, but CARDV Advocates attend briefings at the different law enforcement agencies to continue to build the relationship between agencies. CARDV has provided technical support to other counties implementing this program.

**Legacy Emanuel Hospital & Health Center dba CARES Northwest** (CARES NW) reduces the times victims have to tell their story by enabling LEA/DHS to watch/listen to evaluations. After debriefing, LEA/DHS are given documentation to obtain services for the victims. When scheduling, Intake consults with LEA/DHS to determine if there are urgent concerns. Intake obtains photos/reports from LEA/DHS/medical providers to provide as much background as possible.

**Catholic Charities/ El Programa Hispano/ Proyecto UNICA Proyecto UNICA** engage in multiple efforts to promote coordinated access to aid crime victims. This includes our participation in the local Tri-County network, the Multnomah and Clackamas County Family Violence Coordinating Councils, the Multnomah County Sexual Assault Response Team, the Multnomah County Immigrant Crime Victims Task Force and currently, we are working with local human trafficking experts to expand our involvement in service provision to foreign-born trafficking victims. Finally, UNICA organizes and hosts the annual "Voces de la Comunidad" conference, which promotes improved services to Latina/o crime victims.

**HAVEN from Domestic Violence** continues to build on its many strong community partnerships from which we can draw upon for coordinated services. HAVEN works in the five counties of DHS District 9,

North Central Public Health District, One Community Health, Creating Sanctuary, working collaboratively to create and adapt systems to serve victims of crime. In addition, many of the same partners are working in coordination with the Sexual Health Coalition to develop new partnerships that include youth, teachers and parents. By promoting coordinated services, project partners have long-standing relationships that provide opportunities for more efficient and effective services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking and are committed to working collaboratively to resolve any challenges that may arise.

**The Jefferson County Victim Assistance Program** remains active in the Domestic Violence Team, Domestic Violence Counsel, Sexual Assault Response Team, the Vulnerable Victims MDT and the child abuse intervention Multidisciplinary Team. These teams involve multiple community partners and facilitate not only personal connections between the different agencies, but also coordination of services for victims of crime on both a personal and system wide basis. Victim Assistance Program coordinates its efforts with: Saving Grace; local law enforcement agencies (Madras Police Department, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Oregon State Police, and Warm Springs Police Department); Department of Human Services; the Health Department; Jefferson County School District 509j; Warm Springs Victims of Crime; St. Charles Hospital (Madras); KIDS Center; the faith community; Best Care; Jefferson County Adult Community Corrections; and the Jefferson County Juvenile Community Justice.

**Raphael House of Portland** has been involved in a community collaboration to develop coordinated access in light of the new HUD requirements, yet taking this a step further to truly enhance and bolster the access points as well as the services. This project has proven to be truly a collaborative effort and a multi-agency team continues to manage decision points for implementation improvements and housing determinations. Coordinated access starts with a standard assessment used at all entry points into the domestic violence system that helps survivors connect with the most appropriate service for their needs. We have proven as a system that we can work very productively on a community based project that will improve all of our services and hold us all accountable for such.

**Tillamook County Womens' Resource Center.** One of the largest efforts to promote coordinated services for assisting victims of crime has been the collaborative effort to create our county's first ever SART team and protocols. TCWRC continues to facilitate this Task Force and to bring additional training to members. TCWRC is the advocacy organization designated to provide on scene response to provide support to sexual assault survivors. The protocols are victim-centered and focused on offender accountability. All victims receive full support regardless of any decision they may make about whether or not they want to report the assault to law enforcement. This initiative is currently one of the significant areas of increased volunteer participation. As we build our 24 hour sexual assault/domestic violence advocacy response, advocates meet survivors at the hospital or law enforcement scene when the scene has been secured. We are working closely with our local Law Enforcement Agencies and have brought national trainers to conduct three four-hour trainings to local law enforcement officers. Nearly every officer from throughout Tillamook County attended the training. TCWRC has entered into working agreements with the Tillamook County Sheriff's Office, the Victim Assistance Program and the Manzanita Department of Public Safety and is initiating an Advocate Initiated Response Program.

**The Children's Center of Clackamas County.** The Witness to Domestic Violence Work Group, which includes Children's Center staff, as well as representatives from the District Attorney's office, Victim Advocates, Law Enforcement, Department of Human Services (DHS), and Clackamas Women's Services, has been formalized into a continuing Task Force. The group has developed agreed-upon written protocols related to the response to children witnessing domestic violence. These protocols went into

effect on October 1, 2015. The group will continue to meet to refine protocols, address emerging issues, and provide training and information for those interfacing with children impacted by domestic violence.

**C. Briefly describe efforts taken to serve federal crime victims, i.e., coordination, etc.**

**A Statewide response from Sub Grantee on Serving Federal Victims of Crime**

Increasingly, sub-grantees across the state report providing services to federal crime victims when requested. This often happens in the context of providing local resources and information to federal crime victims who reside in the community. The agency often plans with FBI victim advocates and offers local resources. More and more sub-grantees are reporting their work with victims of human trafficking and providing services and support to Tribal members. Several agencies also reported they have received extensive training in human trafficking and related offenses and provided services for victims of federal crime. Several non-profit agencies around the state have developed MOUs or otherwise enhanced their working relationships with Oregon's Tribal Nations, especially through cross-training.

VOCA-funded programs increasingly provide services to victims and families affected by trafficking or abuse that occurs within Oregon and across state lines. This increase is due in part to the CVSD's new CSEC Coordinator, her training efforts across the state, and development of trafficking-specific multidisciplinary teams. More information on the CSEC Coordinator's work is below.

Several sub-grantees provided examples of services and service coordination for federal crime victims:

**Central Oregon Battering and Rape Alliance dba Saving Grace** works closely with the Warm Springs Reservation providing shelter and comprehensive services to their residents. Saving Grace works with local law enforcement and the regional FBI Victim's Assistance Specialist, assisting victims of trafficking. Saving Grace has worked with the United States Attorney's Office providing support and services to Federal Crime Victims. Central Oregon is known for outdoor recreation. People visit federal lands for recreation and there is an increase in the number of people who are camping on public/federal lands due to homelessness. U.S. Forest Services and B.L.M. law enforcement officers connect victims of sexual assault and/or intimate partner violence with Saving Grace when a crime has occurred on Federal Lands.

**Legacy Emanuel Hospital & Health Center dba CARES Northwest** provides the same quality of care to victims/families regardless of the nature and location of the alleged crimes. CARES provides consistent collaborative services with local, regional and tribal law enforcement, as well as federal law enforcement (FBI, military police, and US Department of Justice). In this period, 16 referred children were identified as alleged victims of federal crimes (more than twice the number served in the prior period). Of these 16 alleged victims, 12 were evaluated at CARES NW and 4 were referred to other services (one of these four children was referred twice). The Multnomah County Child Abuse Team clarified that all sex trafficking cases are considered federal, because children who are being trafficked have the potential to be taken across state lines. In this reporting period, 12 children were identified as possible victims of sex trafficking.

**Hood River County District Attorneys Office** advocates, at times, require additional resources when attempting to locate victims who have identified as Native American and live in one of the designated In-Lieu sites in Hood River County. During peak fishing season the number of Native American residents greatly increases. Advocates often will ask law enforcement to go out to the In-Lieu site to attempt to locate a crime victim or their family. Cell phones that only function for emergency calls are given to crime victims, as requested or as needed. Crime victims typically provide a contact person for the Hood River County DA VAP advocates to relay case status information. The DA VAP advocates work to ensure that the crime victim is comfortable with the communication plan and continues to do so until the criminal case is resolved or until the crime victim desires no further contact.

**Sexual Assault Resource Center (SARC)** currently supports approximately 20 young adult survivors who were commercially sexually exploited as minors and who now continue to be coerced into behavior that the federal courts view as promoting and compelling prostitution. As those of us who support survivors in this field know, exiting the life does not automatically end when one turns 18. What happens is that the tactics of exploitation change as the youth age, keeping them in the life but appearing to the courts that they are participating in recovery in a willing and participatory manner.

#### **Improving or Collaboration Working with Native American Victims of Crime**

In 2015, CVSD continued to strengthen collaborations between tribes and statewide technical assistance agencies, CVSD grant-funded programs, and community partners. Programs have (and continue) to appoint key tribal representatives on their boards, including tribal program staff in local trainings and partner meetings, providing culturally specific training by tribal partners to non-tribal program staff and beginning to increase their understanding of tribal needs by having ongoing and direct conversation with Tribal Nations.

In 2014, CVSD first awarded non-competitive domestic and sexual violence funding to Tribal Nations. As of September 2015, seven of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes applied for the FY 2015-2017 non-competitive joint application for domestic and sexual violence funds. CVSD allocates these funds to counties and Tribal Nations utilizing a formula that is based on population and enrolled tribal membership. The funding to tribes ensures equal access to services for all victims across the state.

Sub-grantees report working on cases involving Tribal victims, engage in collaboration with Tribal police and possibly Tribal child welfare. Depending on the case, these collaborations can include the county-based victim assistance programs, the non-profit domestic violence and sexual assault service provider and the child abuse intervention center. It is especially notable that memorandums of understanding have developed between non-profits and Tribes describing how they can provide support to Tribal victims.

Ten "next steps" outlined in CVSD's Listening Tour report have been included in the FY 2014-2016 STOP Implementation Plan (IP). The work outlined in the IP was adopted by CVSD across all grant funds with the following accomplished during the report period:

- ✓ CVSD provided training to the CVSD AC members on Indian Law, Tribal Relations, and Criminal Jurisdiction in Indian Country
- ✓ Six of nine federally recognized tribes attended and participated in the annual Directors' Day training in October 2015. Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) Attorney Brent Leonhard presented training to non-profit and tribal victim service directors on Indian Law, Tribal Relations, and Criminal Jurisdiction in Indian Country.
- ✓ CVSD provides information on grant funding streams, competitive grant opportunities and technical assistance to tribal DVSA programs as requested by Tribal Nations.
- ✓ CVSD continues to update the list of key tribal contacts that ensures state (and local programs) honor the tribes' ongoing communication on all matters.

During 2015, a CVSD Fund Coordinator participated in the Public Safety Cluster meetings and provided updates of ongoing work with Tribal Nations and CVSD. The PSC partnership demonstrates the Government-to-Government relationship between the State and Oregon tribes.

In May 2015, at the CTUIR Tribal, State and Federal Summit in Pendleton, Oregon, the Attorney General shared Oregon's perspective on all aspects of Tribal DVSA victim services. The CTUIR Victim Services



Director and a CVSD Fund Coordinator presented on enhancing effective Tribal relationships with Non-Tribal partners for domestic and sexual assault service provision.

**Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Statewide Task Force**

The CSEC Intervention Coordinator has been on board at CVSD for eight months and accomplishments include:

- Collaboration with DHS on the rule advisory committee to develop procedures to work with victims of commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking.
- Co-presenting with the FBI and Assistant United States Attorney's Office at the Tribal Summit in Pendleton.
  - The Tribal Summit presentation opened the doors to a Tribal Employees training in Douglas County along with opening a conversation on a CSEC MDT in Roseburg
- Five counties now have CSEC MDTs working on identification of victims and building a response to the issue in their counties.
- The CSEC MDT in Clackamas County is piloting a locally developed toolkit intended to better identify victims and to also bring greater awareness through events in the community and prevention in the schools about this topic.
- The CSEC Coordinator is connecting with the Child Abuse Intervention Centers located throughout the state and the Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Center to see how they fit in the collaboration of services to assist victims.

**D. Describe any notable activities conducted at the State or subgrant level to improve the delivery of victim services (i.e. needs assessments, program monitoring and program evaluation). Include training efforts, and use of VOCA approved training funds, if applicable.**

**Report on Common Outcome Measures from VOCA Grantees**

In addition to the VOCA semi-annual statistics, sub-recipients are required to collect and report data on short-term outcomes. Since 2002, all CVSD sub-recipients have been required to collect outcome feedback from at least 10% of appropriate clients.

Cumulative data for the final quarter of the federal fiscal year (July 2015 – September 2015) has not yet been analyzed but data is fairly consistent from quarter-to-quarter. A snapshot of outcome results from July 2014 – June 2015 is included here. For this period, 32,975 forms were distributed by all sub-recipient programs and 11,275 were returned for an overall return rate of 34%. Specific questions and aggregated feedback follow:

- ***The services provided by this program helped me make informed choices about my situation.*** Of 11,275 victims responding to this measure, 91% agreed or strongly agreed while only 2.0% disagreed or strongly disagreed. The rest had “no opinion”;
- ***After working with this DV/SA agency, I have some new ideas about how to stay safe.*** Of the 6,586 victims responding to this outcome measure required of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault programs, 95% agreed or strongly agreed, while only 1% disagreed or strongly disagreed. The rest had “no opinion”;
- ***As a result of the information I received from this DA Victim Assistance Program, I better understand my rights as a victim of crime.*** Of the 2,617 victims responding to this outcome measure required of District Attorney Victim Assistance Programs, 92% agreed or strongly agreed, while only 3% disagreed or strongly disagreed. The rest had “no opinion”; and
- ***The staff of this Child Abuse Intervention agency treated my family with sensitivity and respect, or, Overall the staff and volunteers at the center have been friendly and pleasant.*** Of the 1,467 victims responding to these outcome measures required of Child Abuse Intervention Centers, 95% agreed or strongly agreed; while only 0.7% disagreed or strongly disagreed. The rest had “no opinion”.

Most notable for the State of Oregon and for Oregon’s community based domestic violence and sexual assault (DVSA), advocates in 2015 was the passage of Oregon House Bill 3476, which expanded confidentiality protection to campus based sexual assault advocates and granted privilege to non-profit advocates statewide. Advocate privilege went into effect on 10/1/2015. CVSD is working with the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (OCADSV) and local experts to implement new training and certification procedures.

CVSD advocates and compensation staff joined system-based and community based advocates from around Oregon to respond to the mass shooting event in Roseburg. CSVD enacted emergency compensation procedures and is processing over 125 compensation claims stemming from that terrible event. CVSD has worked closely with federal officials as well as with the Douglas County District Attorney and Victim Assistance Program to ensure timely and comprehensive support for victims throughout that community.

The following are notable activities provided by sub-grantees:

**ABC House, Inc., Albany** recently translated all intake forms into Spanish, including the HIPAA release form. We have already observed how much easier it is for Spanish-speaking caregivers to review and complete the intake forms, rather than having to rely upon an interpreter to review the forms with them line by line. In addition, several members of our MDT have recently completed the Oregon Child Forensic Interview Training (OCFIT) to improve their forensic interviewing skills and conduct those interviews on-site at ABC House. This not only ensures a more neutral and child-friendly interview, the delivery of the interview at ABC House makes it easier for the child and family to access other services more quickly, including medical assessment or referral to onsite trauma counseling.

**Baker County District Attorney's Office** provided Karly's Law training (using a video created by CVSD) to several partnering agencies, including Child Welfare, medical agencies, law enforcement agencies, school staff, mental health, and victims' assistance. Training has been given at a local medical facility to reach more community partners. Also facilitated trainings on how to deal effectively with autistic persons and on dealing with drug affected children.

**Bradley Angel House in Portland** provides structure and routine for families residing in our shelter. For example: with the addition of four Youth Group Facilitators, we provide a daily after-school activity. The activities and the staff who lead them provide needed continuity; shelter families know what to expect and youth can build positive, trusting relationships with caring adults. We have expanded implementation of the Early Childhood Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (EC PBIS) curriculum at our shelter. All agency staff are trained in EC PBIS upon hire and we have incorporated ongoing EC PBIS trainings into monthly shelter staff meetings. We have built upon the visual cues for youth suggested in the curriculum. We have maintained our partnership with Multnomah County's Defending Childhood Initiative and LifeWorks NW. An Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant, as well as a Mental Health therapist, comes to shelter weekly to support families. We are working with DHS Child Welfare on how to best serve families impacted by domestic violence. The Youth and Family Program Manager attends monthly meetings with the Domestic Violence Collaboration Team, Child Welfare Council and Co-located Domestic Violence Advocate Workgroup. We continue to have 1.0 FTE Co-located Domestic Violence Advocate at our local child welfare branch. We also hired 1.0 FTE Co-located Early Childhood Specialist at our local Head Start/Early Head Start. This has helped us build capacity and support families in need of Head Start/Early Head Start services. The Co-located Early Childhood Specialist is onsite at the Head Start/Early Head Start location and is able to provide support and education to staff regarding responding to domestic violence.

**HAVEN from Domestic Violence in The Dalles** provided multiple training platforms to the new Rural Advocate (RA), including: SVAA, Sexual Assault Task Force advocate training, and the Tribal State & Federal Summit in Pendleton. She is currently working closely with HAVEN advocates and working with the Victim Assistance Programs in all 5 counties in Haven's service area. HAVEN was asked by NPR and Talk Out Loud to host a show on child sex trafficking. We invited the DV and Child Abuse DDA from Hood River Co. to join us. In turn, they invited HAVEN staff to participate in a Columbia Gorge Task Force on Trafficking. HAVEN's relationship with the Native Community continues to grow through collaborative and supportive efforts together to advocate for healthcare and coverage for Native women and children. HAVEN continues to visit Warm Springs as well as having their staff come to HAVEN.

**Tillamook County Women's Resource Center** has, in addition to the development of Tillamook County's SART team and protocols, created and conducted a survey designed to determine any gaps in services we are providing to historically underserved populations: specifically LGBTQ, youth 15-18 and Latina/o populations. We are also bringing a series of trainings to professionals in our community on trauma, historical trauma, the neurobiology of trauma, providing trauma informed services, trauma and addiction, and trauma stewardship. TCWRC is working with the Tillamook Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney and Victim Assistance Program, to develop protocols for Advocate Initiated Response system (AIR). To date, approximately one third of the AIR calls have not been answered when made, one third were happy to ask questions and find out more about services were available to them and one third immediately engaged in accessing more in-depth advocacy support.

### **Crime Victims' Rights Week**

CVSD hosted a National Crime Victims' Rights Week event, supported by a sub-grant awarded from the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators. The event occurred at the Portland State University Native American Student and Community Center in Portland, Oregon and was attended by over 100 people.

During this event, the Attorney General presented an award to the Oregon Attorney Generals Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF) for two recent and specific achievements: The SATF created an online space where students who are survivors of sexual abuse could go to learn about their reporting options. They wanted that space to be safe, inclusive and supportive; and the SATF was an essential partner in the coalition that developed and advocated for legislation, which established privilege in civil, criminal, administrative and school proceedings for certain communications between persons seeking services related to domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking and victim services programs and advocates.

Attendees heard from an esteemed panel of experts who are committed to honoring the rights of crime victims and who meet the challenges of doing so every day. The focus of the seminar was Sexual Assault Victim Rights across Campus, Civil and Criminal Justice Systems. The panel members were from diverse disciplines, but spoke collectively on this important topic nicely demonstrating that all of us who work with and for victims of crime can achieve more when we work together.

CVSD also produced and distributed pens, and other items including a Crime Victims' Rights Overview poster. These items were distributed at the event and delivered statewide to District Attorney's Victim Assistance Programs to share in their communities.

**E. Include and/or attach anecdotal information and individual case histories illustrating at least four ways in which VOCA funds have been used to assist crime victims.**

**Case History #1: Karly's Law  
Bay Area Hospital  
Coos Bay, Oregon**

A developmentally disabled teenage girl was referred to the center for a Karly's Law case. The teen, her older sister, and her sister's child had recently moved to the area with their father as a means of getting a "fresh start" after their mother had died from cancer. Both underage girls struggled off and on with depression. Through the forensic interviewing, medical examination and MDT case staffing process, the allegations of physical abuse were substantiated. The older sister had recordings that she had taken on her iPhone of the assaults on her younger sister by their father. Through therapeutic sessions, the older sister began speaking of sexual advances made towards her by her father, and the younger sister was able to work on not only the issues surrounding her abuse, but also the grief over the loss of her mother. Although the final prosecution status of this case is still pending, the girls were removed from their fathers' care and placed in a foster placement together. The older sister was permitted to keep her baby alongside her and to continue caring for the toddler with the guidance and structure of the supportive adults in her new placement. Both girls were able to talk about their trauma in a safe space, and were referred for ongoing mental health services to help them process their abuse and grief.

**Case History #2: Elder Abuse  
Clackamas County District Attorney's Victim Assistance Program  
Oregon City, Oregon**

A 73-year-old man came in the office seeking information about a protective order against his son's girlfriend. After listening to the victim, staff spoke with the elderly man about also applying for a protective order against his abusive son. At that time, he was not emotionally ready to do that as he feared no longer being allowed to see his grandson. He did not want to live in fear in his own home. The son's girlfriend was yelling, swearing, name calling & threatening to cause harm. Staff assisted the victim in completing his Elder Abuse Restraining Order application against the girlfriend, which was granted. A month later the victim returned to the VAP office with a cut, black eye and many bruises from his son's abusive behavior the night before. His son was now in jail and the victim was seeking a protective order against him. The VAP collaborated with the court staff to issue an emergency protective order. The son was served that evening in jail. Staff assisted the victim through the Grand Jury process, including meeting with the prosecutor. The criminal charges remain pending as this is still an open case in Clackamas County.

**Case History #3: Homicide Survivors  
Hood River County District Attorney's Victim Assistance Program  
Oregon City, Oregon**

The advocate provided direct services to the parents of a homicide victim. The victim was a 23-year-old mother of one child. The parents lived with their daughter/victim and their granddaughter. They had just left Oregon for a visit to California, but returned three days later because they were notified their daughter had been found dead and their granddaughter was missing. DHS Child Welfare located the victim's daughter, removed her from the biological father, and placed her with the maternal grandparents. The advocate secured the following resources: a Cares NW referral for the two-year-old child who, in the presence of the advocate, displayed behavior indicative of someone who possibly witnessed a murder, explanation of the criminal justice system, safety planning, CVCP, and funeral arrangements. The advocate located a pro bono attorney who assisted the family in receiving temporary

guardianship of their granddaughter. The advocate served as a liaison throughout the plea negotiations. After six months, the case came to a resolution without a trial. Since the family had moved, the advocate sought out resources to assist the family in returning to Oregon for sentencing. The advocate provided assistance with the Victim Impact Statements and restitution. The case came to an acceptable resolution for the victim's family. The perpetrator will remain in prison until his daughter turns 18 and there is a no contact order in place until the child turns 21.

#### **Case History #4: Child Abuse**

**ABC House, Inc.**

**Albany, Oregon**

ABC House provides quilts, comfort and self-care items to all children who visit our center for child abuse assessment services. Recently, an 8-year-old child in foster care was referred for a forensic medical exam and interview due to allegations of physical abuse. He had been in and out of foster care many times of his life. He had lived in at least three foster homes during the past year. The child was recently placed with very good foster parents, who accompanied him to the assessment appointment. At the end of the appointment, the Advocate offered the boy the opportunity to choose a quilt and stuffed animal. The boy hesitated to choose a quilt and then asked the Advocate when he would have to give it back. He had often been forced to leave behind personal items as he went between foster homes. The Advocate explained that this quilt belonged to him and he could keep it as long as he liked.

#### **Case History #5: Victims' Rights**

**Oregon Crime Victims Law Center (OCVLC)**

**Portland, Oregon**

The OCVLC recently represented a victim who was sexually abused as a child. The defense attorney in the case had filed numerous motions asking for the victim's medical, psychological and school records, all of which the victim was opposed to releasing. The defense attorney also filed a motion asking that the defendant's bail be released by the court so that the defendant could pay his attorney. The OCVLC filed motions to keep the victim's records private and asking the court to deny the motion for release of bail. The defense attorney then requested that the court deny the victim the opportunity to be heard, arguing that the victim (specifically, the victim's attorney) was not a party and therefore had no standing to be heard on the case. After argument, the court ruled that the victim did have standing to be heard due to her rights as a victim, and denied the motion for the release of bail. The court also denied to motion for some of the victim's records, and issued protective orders for others.

#### **Case History #6: Family Therapy**

**Old Mill Center for Children and Families**

**Portland, Oregon**

A mom and her adopted daughter enrolled in the program. The daughter was removed from her bio-parents when she was 3 months old due to neglect and abuse; both parents are currently in prison. Mom described that when daughter was born she tested positive for meth due to bio-mom's drug use. DHS reported that the daughter appeared to have been cared for primarily by her 3- year-old sister since bio-mom was often absent or incapacitated. The daughter had been taken to Liberty House for an assessment due to possible sexual assault, but there was no conclusive evidence. Mom stated that daughter often presented as scared when around men. Mom reported that daughter would scream when men would come near her or if adoptive father tried to hold her. Mom described daughter's poor academic performance and lack of social skills. Mom reported that daughter would exhibit significant anxiety and distress that often resulted in screaming, running away or hiding from others. Mom stated that daughter was failing most subjects and did not have any friends at school. Since beginning Child

Safe therapeutic services, family and school professionals report daughter's ability to focus and complete tasks has improved to the point that she is passing most of her subjects. Child Safe staff identified several learning disabilities and stressors at school and educated school professionals about the needs of victims. The program collaborated on and created an academic plan that supports her continued progress towards improving her academics. The family and school shared that daughter has developed a group of friends at school and positively interacts with them. The family is continues in the program.

**Case History #7: Domestic Violence  
Tillamook County Women's Resource Center  
Tillamook, Oregon**

TCWRC received a call from local law enforcement requesting an advocate meet with a victim from a domestic violence incident that they had responded to. This was the first point of access that we had with this young woman. She had been threatened, hit and strangled. The young woman was both pregnant and newly parenting. Her partner was extremely controlling and his violence toward her escalated from verbal threats to physical violence. She was extremely scared and worried about her unborn child because of the severity of the attack. In meeting police and the woman at the scene, we were able to accompany her in seeking medical attention and advocate and consult with the medical provider on trauma informed care and differing ways of potential evidence gathering for future legal purposes, if the woman should choose to report. We were able to achieve this because of trainings attended on strangulation prosecution cases through a Praxis webinar and trainings at the National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence in Washington D.C. TCWRC was able to support her through the police interviews, in obtaining a FAPA, and in seeking acute and preventative medical attention for her child and herself. We discussed safety planning, healthy relationships, her parenting concerns and concerns she had about her child's and her own mental health. We supported her in applying for and being granted a DV Grant from DHS that could be used for her and her child to relocate. TCWRC's strong partnerships with local law enforcement and the DA's office enabled TCWRC to enact a plan that the woman chose, to relocate and still be able to hold the abuser accountable for his actions in prosecution.

**F. Identify any emerging issues or notable trends impacting crime victim services in your state.**

**State Economy**

**Justice Reinvestment**

During this report period, Oregon implemented recently passed Justice Reinvestment Act (OR HB 3194) provisions to support public safety and victim service systems. Between 2000 and 2010, Oregon's prison rate increased by nearly 50% growing to 14,000 inmates with a total biennial corrections budget over \$1.4 billion. Justice Reinvestment is an approach to spending resources more effectively with the goals of reducing recidivism, decreasing prison use, protecting the public and holding offenders accountable.

The Justice Reinvestment Program is managed by Oregon's Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) and awarded to counties based on an allocation formula. While 90% of each county's allocation goes towards the local public safety system (e.g. work release programs, transitional leave programs, and specialty courts), 10% goes to community-based victim service programs in each county. For the 2015-2017 biennium, the CJC awarded \$38.7 million across the state, with approximately 3.8 million dedicated to non-profit programs. In each county, the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council approves which victim service program should receive funding, and county proposals then must be approved by the CJC. Of note, Oregon's District Attorney-based Victim Assistance Programs (DAVAPs) were not prioritized in the Justice Reinvestment funding array and though local county plans could include DAVAPs, these were not priority recipients of justice reinvestment funding.

CVSD has been an integral contact for the CJC in its planning process, and will continue to support state infusions of cash into victims' services.

Sub-recipients have identified a number of issues impacting their service delivery. The most common issues reported continue to include: access to safe and affordable housing; limited employment opportunities; access to transportation in rural communities; decreases in adult and juvenile jail beds; access to affordable legal and mental health services; services for a growing immigrant population; services for male victims, and victims presenting with co-occurring disorders. A few sub-recipient comments are included below.

**Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence** reports that: 1) Many of the crime victims they work with are forced from their homes because of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Their service area has a housing shortage, especially for people with low incomes. People who are forced to leave their homes are often faced with homelessness, with no prospects for finding a new home. Survivors have identified that fear of being homeless has kept them from leaving a violent relationship, or reporting it to the police. 2) Domestic violence victims do not have access to attorneys for civil cases such as restraining orders, custody cases, and divorces. The lack of access to legal representation is a barrier to leaving an abusive relationship and presents safety risks. Often victims have to navigate a complicated system without the information they need. Abusers are able to manipulate the system and force victims into making unsafe concessions. Not having legal representation also forces victims to have increased contact with their abuser. 3) There is a lack of drug and alcohol treatment resources across Oregon and in their service area. People facing addiction often cannot find treatment resources to help them detox safely, or to remain sober. When a victim is forced into poverty and homelessness by domestic violence they need access to services, many of which require a person to be sober.

**Bay Area Hospital** reports that mental health services are difficult to access for many of our child victims. Because there is so much demand for services and so few providers who specialize in working



with traumatized or abused children, the waitlists for services can be very long. As many of the center's clients are on the Oregon Health Plan, mental health services are only available to providers that will accept that insurance. Similarly, for families and victims not covered by OHP and who have either private pay insurance or none at all, there are even fewer resources available to them.

**Umatilla County District Attorney's Victims Assistance Program** reports that Identity Theft is an escalating issue. The victims' losses can be devastating, and the aftermath of this kind of crime continues to haunt the victims for many years. The people who had their identity stolen are not the only victims. The credit agencies, businesses, banks, etc., are also victims. Compiling the pertinent information for restitution requires many hours staff time.

**ABC House, Inc.** reports that they continue to see a rise in the number of children referred for concerns of drug endangerment. With the legalization of marijuana, we watch with concern to see if Oregon's experience will be similar to that of other states with legalized marijuana, i.e. increased exposure via accidental ingestion of marijuana edibles or distillates, such as Rick Simpsons Oil used as "medical treatment." They have been actively working to educate MDT partners on the serious nature of children's exposure to marijuana. There is still a great deal of misperception, even among child welfare professionals, that because marijuana is "natural" that it is not harmful to children.

**Washington County District Attorney's Victim Assistance Program** reports that violations of victims' rights continue to be an issue. This year, they recorded over 40 rights violations related to criminal cases. These rights violations ranged from victims' restitution not being initially ordered, to poor treatment of victims by law enforcement, DDAs, and the Court, to victims' safety not being taken into consideration by the Court, and victims' right to protect information of a sexually explicit nature is not respected.

**Benton County District Attorney's Victim Assistance Program** reports that they are experiencing a large number of cases involving DUII and Failure to Perform the Duties of a Driver crashes that result in both personal injury and significant property damage. These victims often have injuries that require long-term medical treatment that go beyond the resolution of the criminal case and property damage involving multiple insurance companies. These cases have put a significant load on their .5FTE Restitution Clerk to determine final restitution figures in time for sentencing. As a result, they often have to request that restitution be left open for 90 days beyond the conclusion of a case to ensure all victim losses are accounted for. Leaving restitution open beyond the final judgment requires additional documentation to Amend the Judgment and many of these cases end up in a contested restitution hearing which extends the victim's involvement in the criminal justice system overall to seek restitution.

**Battered Persons Advocacy** reports an increased need for shelter services and a need for more long-term stays. Integrating trauma-informed policy and practices is increasingly difficult when the need exceeds the resources. Ultimately, it difficult to serve victims of crime either helping with the protection order to supporting someone making a report when their first priority is having a safe place to stay and knowing how long their stay can be. They have seen more survivors from out of the county and out of the state; they have helped more survivors move out of the area. The feeling of lack of safety creates a barrier to filing a report and participating with prosecution.

**G. Specifically discuss how your state has used VOCA administrative funds, and the impact of these funds on the state's ability to improve victim services.**

CVSD continues to use VOCA administrative funds strategically to support and improve service delivery across Oregon. In addition to supporting 2.50 FTE of staff fund coordination, administrative dollars allow CVSD to sponsor statewide training for system-based advocates (District Attorney Victim Assistance Programs (DAVAP)). VOCA administrative dollars also support attendance at the VOCA National Conference; allow staff and grantees to attend various local conferences and trainings; and support a prorated share of recurring maintenance costs for the CVSD E-Grant system. In addition to supporting and sponsoring training for staff and subgrantees, CVSD uses VOCA administrative funds to support CVSD staff conducting VOCA grant monitoring site visits throughout the state.

The CVSD Advisory Committee (AC) serves as a multidisciplinary board that helps DOJ administer and manage multiple victim services grants including VOCA Assistance. The AC is comprised of 30 people from around the state who represent government-based programs, community based programs, tribal programs, and citizens. The AC meets quarterly to review grants, discuss/recommend grant application procedures, and assist CVSD with policy options. CVSD uses VOCA administrative dollars to reimburse AC members for travel, sometimes including lodging and per diem, for AC members to come to Salem.

**State Victim Assistance Academy**

Oregon held one Basic and Advanced State Victim Assistance Academy (SVAA) during the report period. Both are supported by VOCA administrative dollars and administered by Crime Victims' Assistance Network (CVAN). The Basic SVAA remains required foundational training for victim service providers especially those in the government based victim services programs. The 40-hour Academy was attended by 30 victim service providers representing 22/36 Oregon counties. Composition of the participants included 17 from the District Attorney Victim Assistance Programs, 7 non-profits and 2 advocates representing county juvenile departments. CVAN's partnership with Clackamas Community College continued and 14 participants applied to receive four college credits.

The SVAA Advanced academy was a 2.5-day training entitled "Responding to Mass Casualty Events: The Role of the Advocate". The training was designed for system-based advocates and attended by 27 service providers coming primarily from the Portland metro area but also from 6 other counties.

**CVSD E-Grants**

CVSD continues to use the CVSD E-Grants system started in 2010. During the reporting period, VOCA staff participated in the creation of two VOCA applications and the corresponding subgrant reporting forms in the E-Grants system. Staff continues to update and improve applications and reports in order to glean all necessary information by the best means possible. VOCA funded staff also contributed to fixing technical issues, building new administrative reports to pull data, and training grantees in the use of E-Grants.

**SVAA Curriculum Committee**

The SVAA Curriculum Committee continues to review SVAA curriculum on a rotational basis to ensure the program content includes up to date information in the field of victim services. The Committee also guarantees that the curriculum is customized and includes recent changes or new legislation applicable to victim services. During this report period, the Oregon SVAA Curriculum Committee reviewed and updated the full text and outlines of the following SVAA curriculum sections: Homicide, Criminal Justice System, and Cross-Cultural Communication.

**2015 Oregon District Attorneys Association (ODAA) Annual Summer Conference: Victim Assistance Program Track**

In August, CVSD used VOCA administrative funds to send all 36 VOCA funded Oregon DAVAP Directors/Advocates to the two-day ODAA summer conference. The 2015 conference allowed program directors to network, share ideas with colleagues and attend DAVAP-specific training important to the work they do. This year, the presentations included:

- VAP Leadership Training
- Privilege (New Legislation): What Does it Mean and Who is Affected
- Intersection of Domestic Violence and Child Abuse and Neglect
- Crime Victims' Rights: Questions from the Field & National Trends
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Addressing the Issue in your Community
- Legislative Update
- Appellate Update
- GEI and Civil Commitment
- New VOCA Grant Funding Updates