

Supplemental VOCA Fact Sheet



November 18, 2021

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Program Overview.

The VOCA-Assistance Grant Program assists state, county and municipal agencies to meet the needs of crime victims and assist public and non-profit agencies in providing and/or enhancing services to victims of crime. The Department of Law and Public Safety (LPS) has received over \$130 million over the last three VOCA cycles to provide assistance to victims of crime.

- Federal Victims of Crime Act funds are used to support services to victims of violent crimes.
- VOCA rules define crime victims as those who have suffered physical, financial or emotional harm as a result of the commission of a crime.

2021 VOCA Funding. In 2021, LPS announced two rounds of VOCA funding to assist victims of crime across the state.

- \$31 million in awards made in August 2021 under the office's VOCA Victim Assistance Grant (VAG) Program.
- More than \$6.6 million dollars awarded in October 2021 to 30 subgrantees for 41 projects.

Victim Assistance Grant Program. The longstanding LPS VAG Program uses VOCA dollars to reach victims across the state. From September 2019 through June 2021 alone, the VAG Program has assisted nearly 11,000 victims including through the following projects:

- **The New Jersey Association on Correction (Camden Bilingual/Multicultural & Legal Advocacy Project)** originated in 1966 and in 1986 created services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. NJAC created a diverse and trained staff to better assist Camden County's victims from multicultural backgrounds. This program has successfully increased services to over 3,268 victims.

- **180 Turning Lives Around (Family Court-Family Justice Project)** is a non-profit with a long history of helping victims and has been in existence since 1989. During that time, it created Monmouth County's first domestic violence emergency shelter for seven families. This program has continued to provide survivors of domestic and sexual violence with free and confidential resources to assist with the court process. The organization has helped in excess of 2,200 victims.
- **Wafa House, Inc. (Expanding Relief for Muslim and Immigrant Victims of Violence Recovery Services Project)** opened its doors in 2004. Its initial mission involved advocating for the needs of underserved communities, mainly of Middle Eastern or South Asian descent. This organization now serves approximately 1,000 individuals and their families annually, with a client base that extends nationwide. The VOCA funded program has helped expand relief to the Muslim and Immigrant victims where over 680 victims have been serviced.
- **Womanspace, Inc. (Homeless Survivors Services Project)** has its history steeped in providing help to domestic violence victims and children of Domestic Violence since 1977. This organization developed the Homeless Survivors Services Project to provide services to these victims who faced homelessness. The program has helped in excess of 490 victims. This non-profit's work is focused in Mercer County.

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- **Jewish Family Service of Metro West NJ (Rachel Coalition Legal Services Program)** is a long-standing organization that provides mental health and related social services to thousands of Jewish and general communities in Essex, Sussex and North Union counties. The VOCA funded program aids domestic violence victims with an array of social services ranging from legal representation to counseling and education, and has helped over 3,286 victims.
- **The YWCA** has been in operation for over 100 years where it first sheltered and serviced victims of domestic violence, including children, in 1978. The VOCA funded YWCA of Eastern Union County's Bilingual Domestic Violence Counseling Program continues this mission and has successfully provided bilingual services to over 219 victims in diverse communities, including the immigrant and LGBTQ communities. Presently, this program continues to expand through robust volunteerism and internships.
- **AVANZAR (Victim Services Project-Sexual Assault)** is a longstanding organization that was originally affiliated with NOW and has evolved into a non-profit that provides a multitude of services to victims of sexual assault and their children. These services include a hotline, crisis intervention and counseling for victims of all ages. This program has assisted over 217 victims.
- **Family Service League (Sexual Violence Survivor Support Project)** is an organization whose history dates back to 1881 where it provided care to children, counseling and educational programs to families in need. The program is focused on assisting victims in Essex County and provides 24/7 access to support and services to victims of sexual assault. This non-profit has further coordinated its efforts with external organizations including hospitals and police departments in order to better address the needs of victims. Over 309 individuals have received assistance through funding.
- **Prevention Education Inc. (Crisis Intervention for Child Victims of Sexual Abuse)** has been dedicated to promoting a safe environment for all children with services extending to the families of the victims. Their services include focused cognitive therapy to children ages 3-18 with 12-16 weekly sessions. Over 165 victims and their family members have been treated through VOCA funding.
- **Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Warren County (Hunterdon County Services Project)** provides a range of services to victims from 24-hour emergency shelter to counseling and advocacy. The program has assisted approximately 135 people through the VOCA grant.