



Office of Juvenile Justice
and Delinquency Prevention

VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE

PERFORMANCE REPORT

January-June 2018

ENHANCING SAFETY • ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY • EMPOWERING YOUTH

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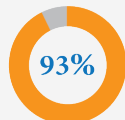
INTRODUCTION

Victims of Child Abuse (VOCA) is a grant program funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). It supports Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs) and Regional Children’s Advocacy Centers (RCACs) to enhance coordination among agencies and professionals responding to child abuse. CACs coordinate the investigation, treatment, and prosecution of child abuse cases by utilizing multidisciplinary teams of professionals involved in child protective and victim advocacy services. RCACs support local children’s advocacy center programs and state chapter organizations. These centers are accredited members of the National Children’s Alliance and provide training and technical assistance (TTA) to service providers and professionals to assess community readiness, increase the number of communities using the children’s advocacy center model, and develop and strengthen state chapter organizations of children’s advocacy centers. VOCA is authorized by the Victims of Child Abuse Act Reauthorization Act of 2018 (originating from the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990). This legislation provides funding for CACs to serve child victims and help law enforcement hold perpetrators accountable.¹ The recent reauthorization updated the statute that highlights how CACs served families and increased the amount of funding appropriated.² Performance measures help OJJDP determine whether the VOCA program achieved its goals and objectives and supports program and policy decisions related to reducing incidents of child abuse. This report presents the program activities occurring between January–June 2018 and highlights the results achieved by grantees with the support of OJJDP funding. VOCA grantees report data on a variety of activities including, system planning, training, and TTA performance measures.

Highlights

6,372
NUMBER OF
PEOPLE TRAINED

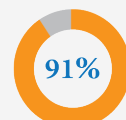
People who Exhibited an Increase in Knowledge of the Program Area



Organizations Served by TTA that Implemented Evidence-based Program or Practice During or After the TTA



Organizations Reporting Improvements in Operations Based on TTA



¹ Senator Young Helps Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Protect Victims of Child Abuse, May 2018. Prepared by U.S. Senator Todd Young’s office. Press Release. <https://www.young.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/-senator-young-helps-introduce-bipartisan-bill-to-protect-victims-of-child-abuse>

² National Children’s Alliance (NCA) website. Our Positions: Legislation NCA Supports Supported. February 2018. <http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/supported-legislation/>

OVERVIEW OF AWARD INFORMATION

Between January and June 2018, OJJDP’s VOCA program funded nine grants. Of those grants, 89 percent of grantees completed their reporting requirements and 8 grantees were operational, which mean they expended grant funds during the activity period. The total available funding during the period exceeded \$49 million. All of the awarded grants funded nonprofit community-based organizations (figure 1).

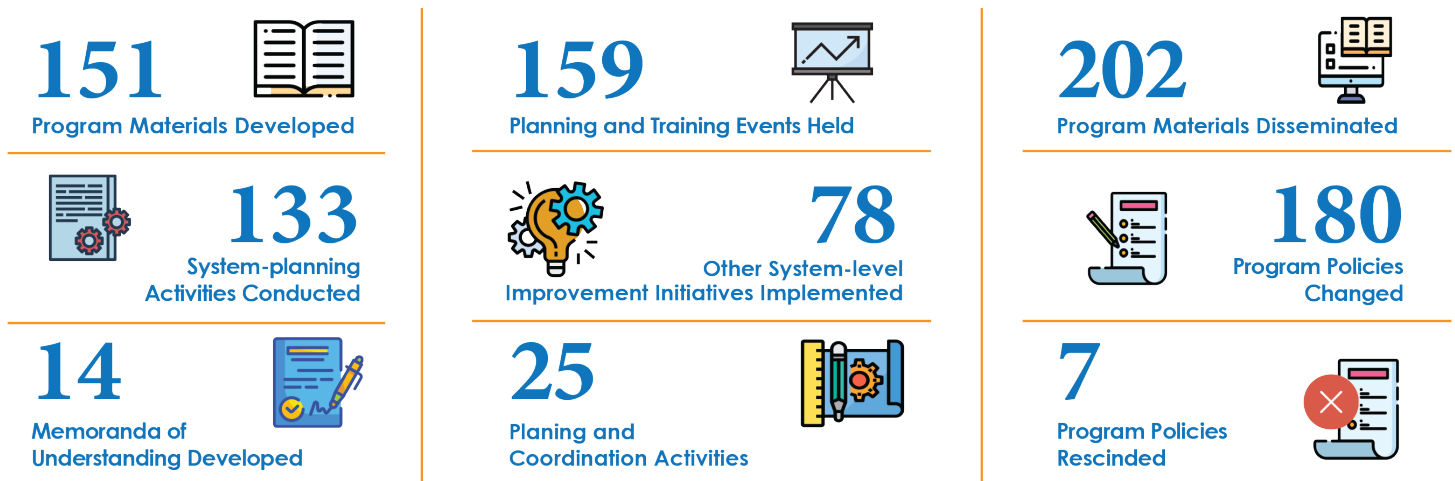
Figure 1. Award Details



SYSTEM PLANNING ACTIVITIES

During the January–June 2018 activity period, VOCA grantees developed 151 program materials, this count was 265 less products than the previous activity period (July–December 2017).³ The large decrease is due to one grantee developing a large number (298) of program materials. Examples of program materials includes program overviews, client workbooks, and lists of local service providers. The number of system-planning activities conducted increased 34 percent (99 to 133) from the previous activity period. System planning activities included the creation of task forces or interagency committees, meetings, and needs assessments undertaken. Grantees are also asked to provide the number of program policies changed for this activity period. There was an increase of 83 percent ($n = 180$) compared to the previous activity period. All other system improvement activities increased since the previous activity period, except for the number of planning or training events held, which exhibited an 8 percent decrease.

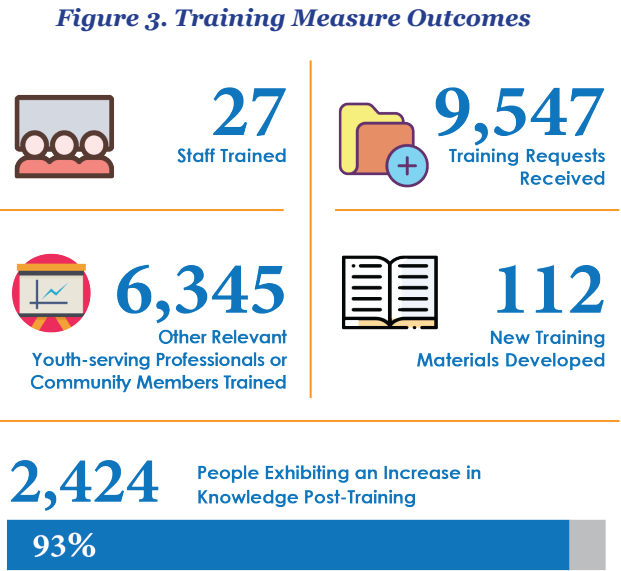
Figure 2. System Planning Activities



³ Overview of the PMT Data for VOCA Grantees: July–December 2017, table 3. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. <https://ojjdpmt.ojp.gov/help/VOCAJulDec2017.pdf>

TRAINING MEASURES

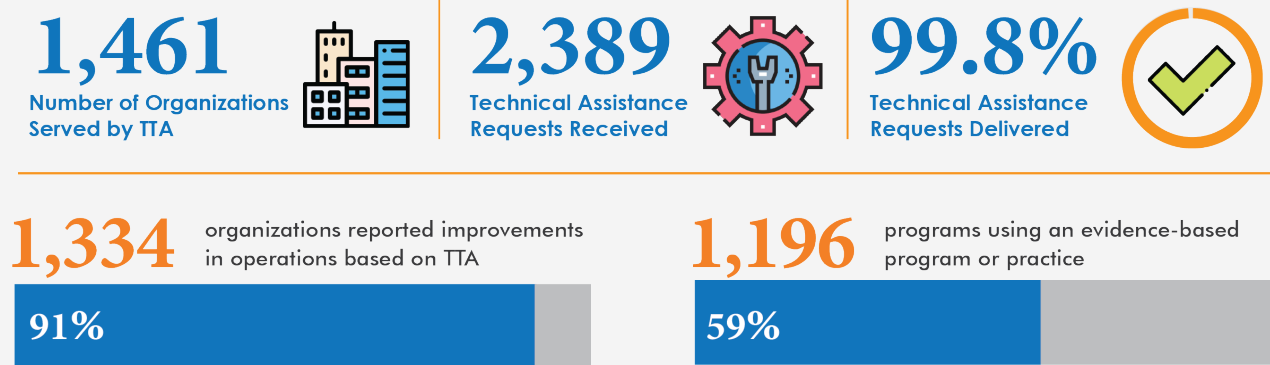
During the January–June 2018 activity period, VOCA grantees trained 27 staff and 6,345 other relevant youth-serving professionals or community members for a total of 6,372 people trained. Some examples of training topics include, improved child interview techniques, investigative methods, and effective presentation of evidence in court. The number of other relevant youth-serving professionals or community members trained increased 26 percent since the last activity period, while the total number of staff trained decreased by 16 percent. Of the 2,594 training recipients who completed post-training surveys, 93 percent indicated an increase in knowledge, a 4 percent drop from the previous activity period. Figure 3 includes findings related to VOCA training measures.



TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES

During the January–June 2018 activity period, VOCA grantees received 2,389 TTA requests, delivering 99.8 percent of TTA requests, a consistent response rate with the previous activity period.⁴ Of organizations reported, 91 percent noted improvements in operations based on TTA services delivered during the activity period. OJJDP encourages grantees to use evidence-based practices and programs. Evidence-based programs and practices include program models shown through rigorous evaluation and replication to be effective at preventing or reducing juvenile delinquency or related risk factors. Fifty-nine percent of those receiving TTA from VOCA grantees, reported implementing an evidence-based program and/or practice during or after the TTA, an 8 percent increase from the previous activity period.⁵ Figure 4 presents the VOCA TTA measures.

Figure 4. Training and Technical Assistance Activities



⁴ Overview of the PMT Data for VOCA Grantees: July-December 2017, table 6. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. <https://ojjdppmt.ojp.gov/help/VOCAJulDec2017.pdf>

⁵ Overview of the PMT Data for VOCA Grantees: July-December 2017, table 6. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. <https://ojjdppmt.ojp.gov/help/VOCAJulDec2017.pdf>

CONCLUSION

The VOCA program funds the development of CACs and assistance of TTA for CACs and their teaming partners who respond to child maltreatment. Grant funding helps prevent further victimization of children by improving the quality of child abuse investigations and ensuring appropriate services are expended to meet the needs of children impacted by abuse and neglect.⁶

During the January–June 2018 activity period, 89 percent of VOCA grantees complied with the performance measures reporting requirement. This rate was an increase of 9 percent from the previous activity period. During the current activity period, 133 system-planning activities were conducted by grantees, a 34 percent increase from the July–December 2017 activity period. System planning activities include the creation of task forces or interagency committees, meetings held, and needs assessments undertaken. A total of 6,345 youth-serving professionals or community members, including 27 staff, received training relevant to their program or their position. Compared to the previous activity period, the number of other relevant youth-serving professionals or community members trained in program areas increased by 26 percent; however, the total number of staff trained decreased by 16 percent. A total of 2,594 training recipients completed surveys designed to understand if they demonstrated increased knowledge of the program area post-training. Of the participants who completed surveys, 93 percent increased their knowledge post-training. Additionally, 2,389 TTA requests were received, and 99.8 percent of technical assistance requests were delivered. Fifty-nine percent of those served by TTA reported implementing an evidence-based program and/or practice during or after the TTA, and 91 percent of organizations reported improvements in operations as a result of TTA one to 6 months post-service.

⁶ National Children's Alliance (NCA). *Victims of Child Abuse Act Reauthorization 2018*.
<http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/VOCAA-Reauthorization-2018-Summary.pdf>