



Office of Juvenile Justice  
and Delinquency Prevention

# VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE

PERFORMANCE REPORT

July-December 2019

**ENHANCING SAFETY • ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY • EMPOWERING YOUTH**

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# INTRODUCTION

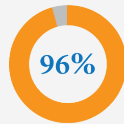
The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) administers the Victims of Child Abuse (VOCA) program, authorized by the Victims of Child Abuse Act Reauthorization Act of 2018. This legislation provides funding for the national membership organization and subgrants to Regional Children’s Advocacy Centers (RCACs), Child Advocacy Centers (CACs), state chapters, targeted populations (e.g., military installations and victims of child pornography), and funds training and technical assistance (TTA) for child abuse professionals and prosecutors. CACs serve child victims by helping law enforcement entities hold perpetrators accountable and coordinating the investigation, treatment, and prosecution of child abuse cases by utilizing multidisciplinary teams of professionals involved in child protection and victim advocacy services.<sup>1</sup> RCACs are accredited members of the National Children’s Alliance and provide TTA to assess community readiness, increase the number of communities using the CAC model, and develop and strengthen state chapter organizations of CAC.

Performance measures help OJJDP determine whether the VOCA program achieved its goals and objectives while supporting program and policy decisions related to reducing incidents of child abuse. This report presents the program activities occurring between July and December 2019 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 and TTA.

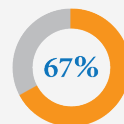
## Highlights

**9,281**  
NUMBER OF  
PEOPLE TRAINED

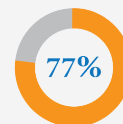
People who Exhibited an Increase in Knowledge of the Program Area



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



Organizations Reporting Operational Improvements Based on TTA



## OVERVIEW OF AWARD INFORMATION

During the July–December 2019 activity period, OJJDP’s eight VOCA programs funded 15 awards. One hundred percent of awards completed their reporting requirements, and 13 awards were operational (i.e., expended grant funds during the activity period). The total available funding during the period exceeded \$55 million.<sup>2</sup> All of the awards funded non-profit community-based organizations (figure 1).

Figure 1. Award Details



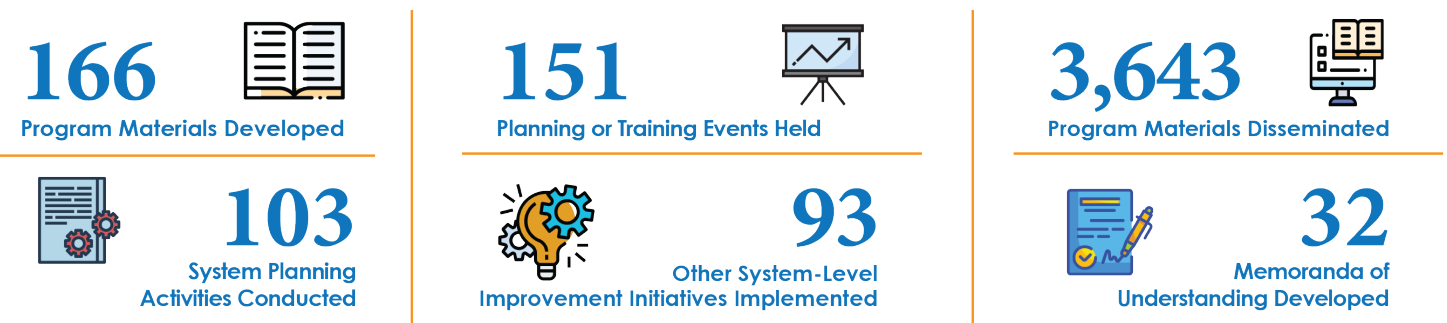
<sup>1</sup> Senator Young Helps Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Protect Victims of Child Abuse. (May 2018). <https://www.young.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/-senator-young-helps-introduce-bipartisan-bill-to-protect-victims-of-child-abuse>

<sup>2</sup> Total funding equals \$55,318,222.

## SYSTEM PLANNING ACTIVITIES

System planning activities help strengthen state chapter organizations and enhance coordination among agencies. During the July–December 2019 activity period, the number of system planning activities conducted increased (from 58 to 103) when compared to the previous activity period. System planning activities included the creation of task forces or interagency committees, meetings, and needs assessments. VOCA grantees developed 166 program materials, 49 more than the previous activity period (January–June 2019).<sup>3</sup> Program materials may include program overviews, client workbooks, and lists of local service providers. Grantees changed or rescinded one program policy. During this activity period, grantees held fewer planning/training events and disseminated fewer program materials; however, grantees implemented 20 more system-level improvement initiatives.

Figure 2. System Planning Activities



## TRAINING ACTIVITIES

During the July–December 2019 activity period, VOCA grantees trained 32 staff and 9,249 other relevant youth-serving professionals or community members were trained. The type of staff trained during the activity period included forensic interviewers, boards of directors, CAC chapter directors, judicial/court personnel, and therapists. Of the 4,093 training recipients who completed post-training surveys, 96 percent indicated an increase in knowledge, a slight decrease from the previous activity period.

Figure 3. Training Activities

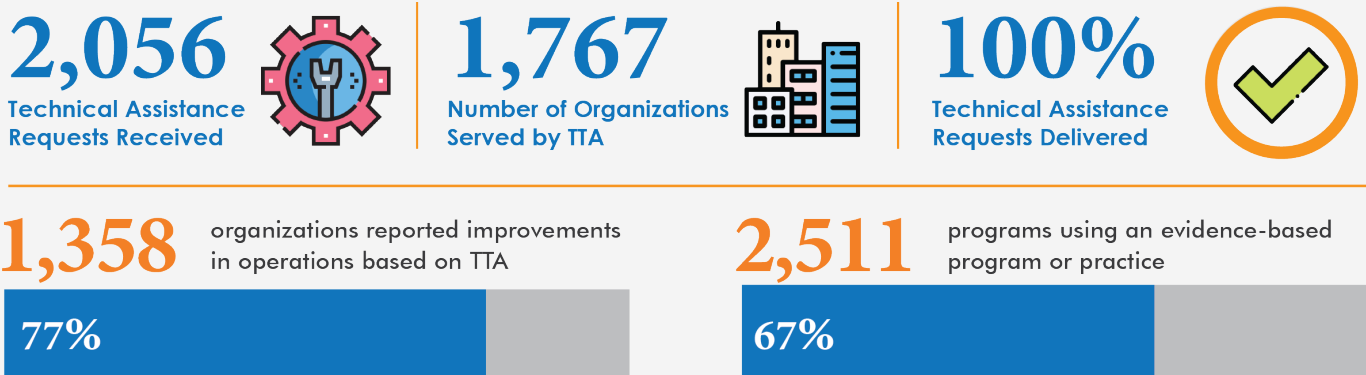


<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. VOCA Performance Report January–June 2019. <https://ojjdppmt.ojp.gov/>

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES

During the July–December 2019 activity period, VOCA grantees received and delivered 100 percent of the 2,056 technical assistance requests. Seventy-seven percent of organizations reported 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. Sixty-seven percent of programs receiving TTA from VOCA grantees reported implementing an evidence-based program or practice during or after TTA, an 8 percent decrease from the previous activity period.<sup>4</sup> Figure 4 presents the VOCA TTA activities.

Figure 4. Technical Assistance Activities



## CONCLUSION

The VOCA program funds the development of CACs and TTA for CACs who respond to child maltreatment. TTA enhances coordination among agencies and professionals responding to child abuse. Grant funding helps prevent further victimization of children by improving the quality of child abuse investigations and ensuring appropriate services are delivered to meet the needs of children impacted by abuse and neglect.<sup>5</sup>

During the July–December 2019 activity period, a total of 9,249 youth-serving professionals or community members and 32 staff received training relevant to their program or their position. Compared to the previous activity period, the number of people trained increased substantially, which can be attributed to new federal award start dates. A total of 4,093 training recipients completed surveys designed to understand if they demonstrated increased knowledge of the program area post training. Of the participants who completed surveys, 96 percent increased their knowledge post training. Additionally, grantees responded to 100 percent of 2,056 technical assistance requests received. Sixty-seven percent of those served by TTA reported implementing an evidence-based program or practice during or after receiving TTA, and 77 percent of organizations reported improvements in operations as a direct result of TTA.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. *VOCA Performance Report July–December 2019*. <https://ojjdppmt.ojp.gov/>

<sup>5</sup> National Children's Alliance: *Victims of Child Abuse Reauthorization*. (2018). <http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/VOCAR-2018-Summary.pdf>