



Office of Juvenile Justice  
and Delinquency Prevention

# VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE

## PERFORMANCE REPORT July-December 2021

### WORKING FOR YOUTH JUSTICE AND SAFETY

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#### VISION STATEMENT

OJJDP envisions a nation where our children are free from crime and violence. If they come into contact with the justice system, the contact should be rare, fair, and beneficial to them.

#### MISSION STATEMENT

OJJDP provides national leadership, coordination, and resources to prevent and respond to youth delinquency and victimization. The Office helps states, localities, and tribes develop effective and equitable juvenile justice systems that create safer communities and empower youth to lead productive lives.

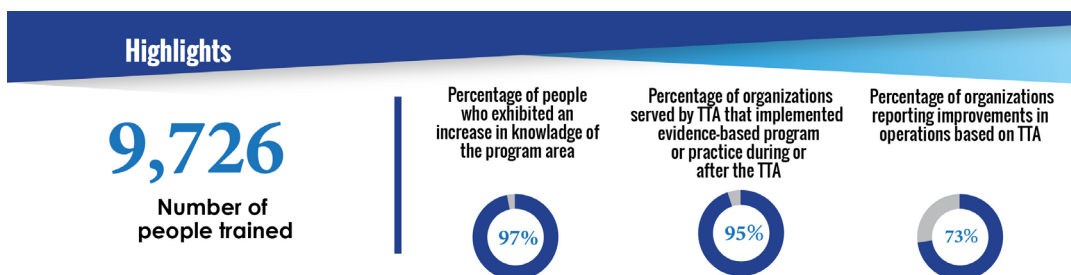
This report was produced by Arc Aspicio under contract number 15PJDP24F00000001, awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), U.S. Department of Justice. It is important to note that accurate data rely on correct data tracking and entry by the grantees and those agencies reporting to grantees, as such the data and analysis findings provided reflect the information as reported. These analytical findings make no claims of causation or demonstrate evidence of program effectiveness, and, as with all performance data, readers must use caution when interpreting the results, as factors other than the program may have contributed to the performance outcomes reported.

Data during the July to December 2021 activity period was impacted by the Covid-19 global pandemic. Grantees and service providers experienced a disruption to services, which raised obstacles for service delivery and data collection. The following data reflect services adapted to and provided during the Covid-19 pandemic.

# 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), Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs), state chapters, targeted populations (e.g., military installations and victims of child pornography), and training and technical assistance (TTA) for child abuse professionals and prosecutors. CACs serve child victims by helping law enforcement entities hold perpetrators accountable and by coordinating the investigation, treatment, and prosecution of child abuse cases utilizing multidisciplinary teams of professionals involved in child protection and victim advocacy services. 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 CAC organizations.

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 2021 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.



## OVERVIEW OF AWARD INFORMATION

During the July-December 2021 activity period, OJJDP’s seven VOCA programs funded ten awards. 100 percent of awards completed their reporting requirements, and all awards were operational (i.e., expended grant funds during the activity period). The total available funding during the period exceeded \$70.2 million.<sup>1</sup> All of the awards funded nonprofit, community-based organizations (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Award Details



<sup>1</sup> Total funding equals \$70,260,436.

## SYSTEM PLANNING ACTIVITIES

System planning activities help strengthen state chapter organizations and enhance coordination among agencies. During the July-December 2021 activity period, the number of system planning activities conducted increased (from 409 to 416) when compared to the prior activity period. System planning activities included the creation of task forces or interagency committees, meetings, and needs assessments. VOCA grantees developed 110 program materials, 33 fewer than the prior activity period (January-June 2021).<sup>2</sup> Program materials may include program overviews, client workbooks, and lists of local service providers. During this activity period, grantees held slightly fewer planning/training events and disseminated fewer program materials than the prior period; however, grantees developed 12 more memoranda of understanding (MOUs).

Figure 2. System Planning Activities



## TRAINING ACTIVITIES

During the July-December 2021 activity period, VOCA grantees trained 73 staff and 9,726 other relevant youth-serving professionals or community members. The type of staff trained during the activity period included forensic interviewers, boards of directors, CAC chapter directors, judges, and therapists. Of the 2,788 training recipients who completed post-training surveys, 97 percent (n = 2,709) indicated an increase in knowledge, a slight increase from the prior activity period.

Figure 3. Training Activities










<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. VOCA Performance Report January-June 2021. <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/funding/grant-performance-measurement/pr/Victims-of-Child-Abuse-Jan-June-2021-Performance-Report>

# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES

During the July-December 2021 activity period, VOCA grantees received 5,345 technical assistance requests and delivered 99 percent of technical assistance requests. 73 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 practices and programs include program models shown through rigorous evaluation and replication to be effective at preventing or reducing juvenile delinquency or related risk factors. 95 percent of programs receiving TTA from VOCA grantees reported implementing an evidence-based program and/or practice during or after TTA. Figure 4 presents the VOCA TTA activities. improve cultural skill building/cultural pride and body image with 100 percent of youth demonstrating a positive change while in the program or within 6 months of exiting (Figure 3). Overall, 70 percent of program youth showed improvement in a targeted behavior in the short-term.

Figure 4. Technical Assistance Activities

## Technical Assistance Activities

	Technical assistance requests received	5,345
	Percentage of technical assistance requests delivered	99%
	Number of organizations served by TTA	1,502
	Number of organizations reporting improvements in operations based on TTA	1,090
	Percentage of organizations reporting improvements in operations based on TTA	73%
	Number of programs served by TTA implementing an evidence-based program or practice	5,287
	Percentage of programs served by TTA implementing an evidence-based program or practice during or after the TTA	95%

## 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>3</sup>

During the July-December 2021 activity period, a total of 9,726 youth-serving professionals or community members and 73 staff received training relevant to their program or their position. Compared to the prior activity period, the number of people trained increased by 1,432. A total of 2,788 training recipients completed surveys designed to understand if they demonstrated increased knowledge of the program area post training. Of the participants who completed surveys, 97 percent increased their knowledge post training. Additionally, grantees responded to 99 percent of 5,345 technical assistance requests received. Ninety-five percent of those served by TTA reported implementing an evidence-based program or practice during or after receiving TTA, and 73 percent of organizations reported improvements in operations as a direct result of TTA.

<sup>3</sup> National Children's Alliance: Victims of Child Abuse Reauthorization (2018). <http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/VOCAA-Reauthorization-2018-Summary.pdf>