

Enhancing Community Responses to the Opioid Crisis: Serving Our Youngest Crime Victims

National Association of VOCA Administrators Annual Conference
San Diego, CA
August 13, 2019



Office for Victims of Crime

*Enhancing Community Responses to the Opioid Crisis:
Serving Our Youngest Crime Victims*

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Welcome
Remarks
from OVC

Presenters



- Kari Earle, Technical Expert Lead
JBS International



- Nanci DaSilva (Coelho), LMHC, CIS Program Coordinator
Wayside Youth & Family Support Network (Massachusetts)



- Sandra Crowther, CAN Program Manager
Youth Heartline (New Mexico)



- Holly Ann Scheib, PhD MPH MSW
Youth Heartline (New Mexico)



Session Learning Objectives

- **Learning Objective #1:** Provide an understanding of how the opioid crisis is impacting young crime victims—types of victimization that are commonly co-occurring, needs of these victims, and service gaps.
- **Learning Objective #2:** Share examples of how expanded partnerships, services, and use of data are being used to improve the community-based response to young victims and their families.
- **Learning Objective #3:** Identify opportunities to leverage state VOCA resources to reach this population of crime victims.





Kari Earle

OVC Discretionary Grant Program Overview: Enhancing Community Responses to the Opioid Crisis: Serving Our Youngest Crime Victims

Definitions

Although the opioid epidemic is the current substance abuse crisis facing Americans, OVC recognizes that drug trends change and individuals who use illegal drugs (or misuse legal drugs) often use or migrate to multiple other substances. Therefore, it is OVC's intent to create a program that, foremost, provides for the needs of young victims of crime affected by substance abuse, regardless of the type of substance in question.

- For this solicitation and program, the term “children and youth” refers to newborns through teens (up to age 18).
- Children and youth may be victims of a range of crimes including, but not limited to:
 - child abuse,
 - criminal neglect,
 - assault,
 - sexual abuse/assault,
 - theft,
 - exploitation,
 - endangering the welfare of a child,
 - human trafficking, and
 - kidnapping.
- A crime does not have to be reported to authorities for a child or youth to be eligible to receive services provided through this solicitation and program.



JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS • JUSTICE FOR ALL



Objective 1: Deliver information, services, and support to children and youth who are crime victims as a result of the opioid crisis.

- ✓ Provide and document **direct services** that are trauma-informed and responsive to the identified needs of children and youth who are crime victims as a result of the opioid crisis.
- ✓ Develop and disseminate **awareness materials** about services available (to help generate referrals), sharing information with organizations that may encounter children and youth who are crime victims as a result of the opioid crisis.
- ✓ Develop and deliver **targeted trainings** (e.g., to allied professionals, first responders, and victim service providers) to ensure children and youth who are crime victims as a result of the opioid crisis are provided seamless and comprehensive responses.



Objective 2: Build and implement a feedback system to further define the scope of the problem, the associated victim needs, the resources and services available, and remaining gaps to be addressed.

- ✓ **Identify and analyze local data** sources associated with the problem and integrate this information into a targeted response. Data sources could include child welfare statistics, overdose incident data, fatality review information, trends in service requests, and spikes in crime and victimization.
- ✓ **Continually assess the needs** of children and youth who are crime victims as a result of the opioid crisis and determine whether the community response is meeting these identified needs.
- ✓ As needed, continue to identify, vet, and **integrate additional resources and services** into the community's response to ensure victims' needs are fully met.
- ✓ Be accountable to the community and communicate what is being learned using **public reports** about how this program is making a difference locally.

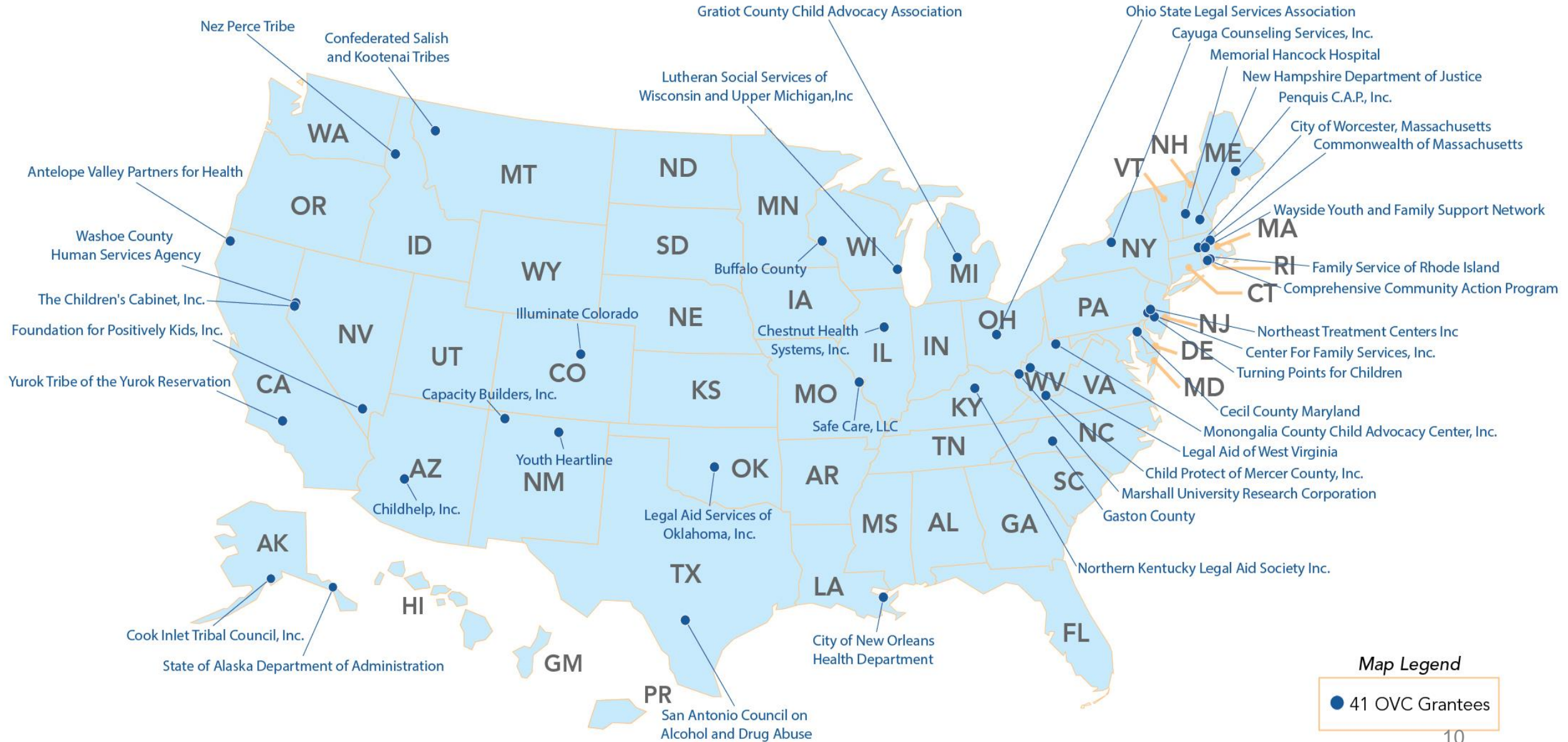


Objective 3: Establish or enhance a seamless, comprehensive, community-driven, and multidisciplinary response to children and youth who are crime victims as a result of the opioid crisis.

- ✓ Work in **collaboration with local public safety and public health professionals** to identify and convene relevant community stakeholders.
- ✓ Continue to interact with **community stakeholders** to meet the emerging needs of young victims.
- ✓ Learn from one another's expertise, **integrate proven strategies and practices**, and delineate roles to ensure a seamless and comprehensive response for young victims of the opioid epidemic.
- ✓ When possible, **leverage various partnerships** to sustain a robust team response to assist young victims of the opioid crisis.



FY 2018 OVC Grantees



Map Legend

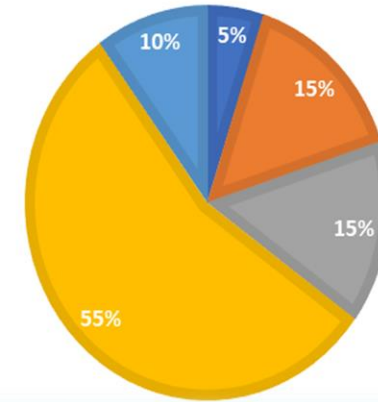
- 41 OVC Grantees

Grantee Snapshot

- Projects are targeting child/youth victims with primary focus as related to the opioid crisis (and other substance use) on child exposure to parental substance use, child abuse and neglect, removal from home and foster care/permanency instability, parental loss (overdose related), and exploitation.
- Most grantees are expanding existing capacity and/or adding new interventions within an existing infrastructure.
- Evidence-based practices in use or planned are diverse with emphasis on trauma-focused cognitive-behavioral therapy (15/41 projects).
- Projects vary in focus from clinical/direct service to provision of civil legal services for victims and caregivers/guardians.

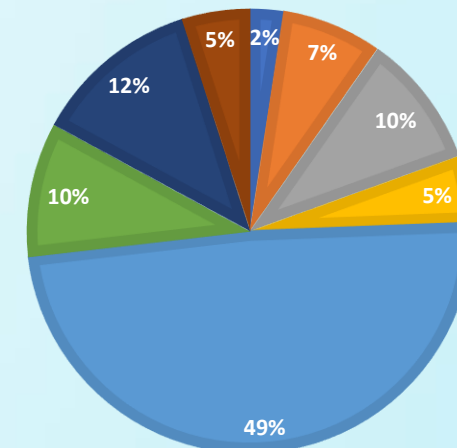
VICTIM AGE RANGE FOCUS

■ 0-5 year range ■ 0-12 year range ■ 0-17 year range ■ 0-18 year range ■ 0-24



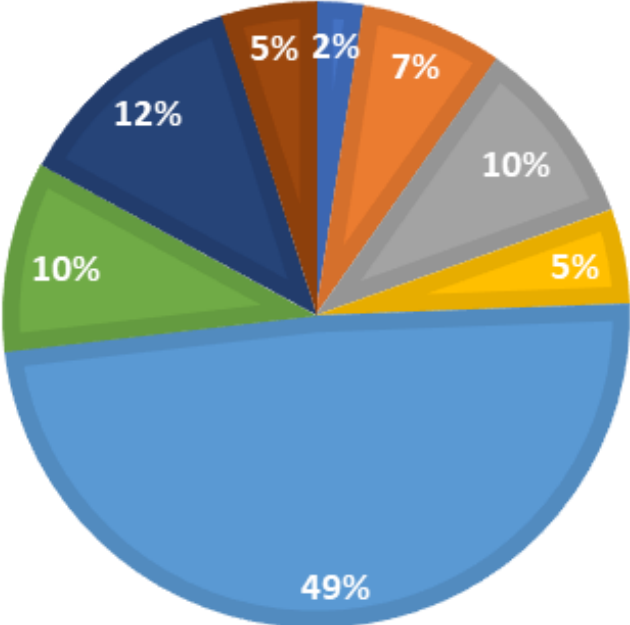
GRANTEE TYPE

■ National Organization ■ State Agency ■ County Government
 ■ Municipality ■ Non-profit - direct svc. focus ■ Non-profit - legal focus
 ■ Tribal Organization ■ Higher Education



OVC Grant Awardee by Type

- National Organization
- State Agency
- County Government
- Municipality
- Non-profit - direct svc. focus
- Non-profit - legal focus
- Tribal Organization
- Higher Education





Grantee Program Highlights

A large, faint, light blue graphic of two hands cupping a globe is positioned on the left side of the slide. The hands are rendered in a soft, semi-transparent style, and the globe is a light blue color. The background of the slide is a solid, light blue gradient.

Wayside Youth & Family Support Network

Nanci DaSilva (Coelho), Children Impacted by Substances Coordinator



Building Strength, Hope & Resiliency

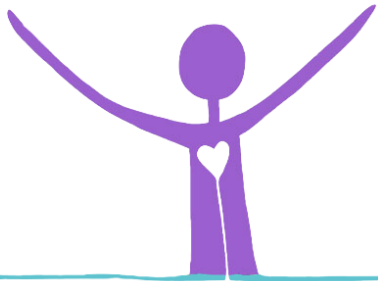
Empowering children,
young adults and families
to achieve greater
independence and
emotional well-being.

A large, faint, light blue graphic on the left side of the slide depicts two hands cupping a heart. The hands are rendered with simple, rounded fingers, and the heart is a solid, light blue shape. The entire graphic is semi-transparent, allowing the background to show through.

Youth Heartline

Sandra Crowther, CAN Program Manager

Holly Ann Scheib, PhD MPH MSW, President, Sage Consulting



Youth heartLine

CHILD ADVOCACY PROGRAMS

"for Hope, Empowerment, Advocacy, Resources and Trust"

Since 1991, Youth Heartline's mission has been to make life safer and better for vulnerable children and families in our community.



Discussion





For the Panel.....

- What types of victimization are you encountering? How are they different for children compared to parents and caregivers? What are the intergenerational dynamics?
- What terminology barriers have you run up against? (such as the term “victim”, “addict”, “offending caregiver” etc)
- What are some of the additional challenges you run up against in terms of the stigma and blame that tends to be associated with opioid use, particularly by parents of young children?
- How have you addressed, or how do you recommend addressing, those challenges related to stigma and blame? What are some strategies that have proven effective?
- What have been your biggest successes to date, including successfully implementing evidence-based practices to serve these children and their families?
- How are you using data to inform your approach?





For the Audience....

- Do any of your states already fund these types of programs? If so, what funding sources do you use?
- Based on what you've heard, what are some opportunities to leverage resources that exist in your state to improve responses for these crime victims via improved connections, collaboration, information sharing?
- What challenges/barriers does your state face that might be informed and eased by the lessons learned from these OVC grantees?
- Do you see any policy and practice implications here?
- After hearing from these grantees, what would you like to know more about? Final thoughts?



Thank you!

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) addresses crime victim services related to the opioid epidemic and expands upon existing or establishes new programs to provide services to children and youth who are victimized as a result of the opioid crisis.

For more information, contact:

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www.ovc.gov