

Vision 21

Transforming Victim Services Initiative



The Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services initiative—supported by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice—expands the vision and impact of the crime victim assistance field. Initiated in 2013, Vision 21 was the first comprehensive examination into the crime victims field in 15 years. Vision 21 projects engage a broad spectrum of service providers, advocates, criminal justice professionals, allied practitioners, and policymakers to address crime victim issues through a lens broader than their everyday work.

Framework

1. Examine the role of the crime victims field in the overall response to crime and delinquency in the United States.
2. Build capacity in the crime victims field.
3. Identify enduring challenges.
4. Address emerging challenges.

Progress in the Major Issue Areas

1 Conduct continuous rather than episodic strategic planning. OVC established Vision 21 as a living framework to shape and allow apt future responses to crime victims.	2 Support research on victims and victimization. OVC has funded a number of research and evaluation initiatives to help fill data gaps and inform program development to better serve victims. OVC supports building a body of evidence-based knowledge to generate, collect, and analyze quantitative and qualitative data on victimization, emerging victimization trends, services and behaviors, and enforcement efforts.	3 Ensure statutory, policy, and programmatic flexibility to address enduring and emerging crime victim issues. OVC funds innovative responses to address traditional and new issues and challenges, the changing demographics in the United States, the impact of globalization and advances in technology, and to serve victims of evolving crimes (e.g., cybercrime, elder abuse, environmental crimes, human trafficking, and identity theft).	4 Build and institutionalize capacity. OVC has undertaken a variety of steps to support and build the capacity of those who work in the field, including service providers, advocates, criminal justice professionals, allied practitioners, and policymakers. Through an infusion of technology, training, and innovation, OVC strives to build and institutionalize capacity to maintain basic services and extend assistance to all crime victims, including marginalized populations.
--	--	---	--

Visit www.ovc.gov/vision21 to learn more. Turn over for just one example of how OVC is implementing Vision 21 in the field.



Addresses Vision 21 Recommendation #2

Support research on victims and victimization.

Project Vision

The Center for Victim Research (CVR) was created in response to the victim assistance field's call for increased statistical data, evidence-based practices, and program evaluation to guide policymakers, funders, and practitioners, as highlighted in OVC's *Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services Final Report*. CVR's vision is to support the field in moving from anecdote to evidence, fostering a community of victim service providers and researchers who routinely collaborate to improve practice through effective use of research and data.

Project Mission

CVR serves as a one-stop shop where victim service providers, policymakers, and researchers may connect and share their knowledge to (1) increase access to victim research and data and (2) increase the utility of research and data collection in order to improve the accessibility and effectiveness of crime victim services nationwide. Accordingly, CVR's objectives are to use research evidence to improve the lives of crime victims by—

1. promoting the collection and analysis of victim-related data,
2. increasing data and research-based evidence on the impact of victim-focused policies and practices,
3. supporting the translation and dissemination of relevant research as usable information, and
4. improving opportunities for victim researchers and practitioners to work together.

Project Activities

CVR's training and technical assistance activities are supported by an interactive resource for victim research and evaluation. Specifically, CVR has organized online content that includes—

- a library of research findings and lessons learned about victims and victim/survivor services,
- discussion forums on researcher/practitioner collaborations and community-engaged projects, and
- online podcasts, webinars, fact sheets, infographics, and courses translating research findings and best practices for the field.

Additionally, CVR is working to—

- facilitate partnerships between Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) assistance and compensation administrators and Statistical Analysis Centers—along with other key stakeholders—to expand state-level data collection, better use victim survey and OVC performance measurement data, identify priority needs, and provide research-focused TTA to local service providers;
- encourage collaboration between researchers and practitioners by developing state listings of evaluators with expertise in victim-related programs and facilitating local-level, mini-grant partnership efforts, including victim communities at the margins; and
- assemble a research-to-practice (R2P) network of victim-focused resource centers to share lessons learned and strategies for promoting victim research, practice, and policy integration; clarify a national research agenda; and coordinate the efforts of R2P evaluators.

Project Partners

CVR is a collaboration between the Justice Research and Statistics Association, the National Center for Victims of Crime, and the Urban Institute. It also partners with other victim resource centers that share a commitment to integrating research and practice into victim services, including the National Center on Elder Abuse, the National Children's Advocacy Center, the National Crime Victim Law Institute, the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, and the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. CVR also supports state and local partnerships between researchers and practitioners.

For more information,
contact OVC at
askovc@ncjrs.gov
and identify the
name of the
Vision 21 project
in the subject line
of your email.