

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



Vision 21

Victim Services Mobile Applications



Addresses Vision 21 Recommendation #4

Build and institutionalize capacity through an infusion of technology, training, and innovation.

Project Goals

OVC's *Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services Final Report* recognized that we needed to create a better way to respond to crime victims. Technology can be a powerful tool for expanding victims' safe access to information and services. Websites and mobile technology create new opportunities for outreach and collaboration, with the potential to provide services directly to victims of crime.

Two OVC-funded Vision 21 projects highlight how technology can help victims and victim service providers.

AVIATOR – A Victim Information App To Ohio Resources

The Family Services Association of Dayton, Ohio, created a mobile application (app), the AVIATOR, and accompanying website to—

- support access to agencies, services, and support systems across the southwest part of Ohio.
- help victim-serving programs, courts, police, medical professionals, and communities meet the challenge of safely serving crime victims, and facilitate better access to resources and services.
- empower crime victims to take back their lives and safely return to their families and the communities in which they live and work.

Technical and programmatic resources for replicating this app and website can be accessed from Git-Hub at <https://github.com/fsadayton/AviatorAppMobile>, and are also accessible from the AVIATOR website at www.AVIATORAPP.com.

Tech Safety App – Improving Services to Survivors Through Technology

The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) created a mobile app to assist victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking; and their families, victim service providers, and other allied professionals. The Tech Safety App enhances public awareness, outreach, and education about technology-facilitated abuse and associated resources for users. This educational mobile app helps users identify how abusers can misuse technology as a tactic of abuse and also provides information for enhancing technology safety and user privacy.

Currently, NNEDV is working to launch a Spanish version of the app to increase its accessibility and outreach. NNEDV also recently incorporated recommendations and feedback from survivors with disabilities or who are Deaf to further increase the app's accessibility. The app has also been optimized for use on Android and iOS tablets in addition to phones.

Feedback on the app has been extremely positive. To download the Tech Safety App or learn more about it, visit www.techsafetyapp.org.

Actions

- Develop and launch a mobile app for survivors and victim service providers.
- Meet survivors and victim service providers where they are.
- Connect survivors of domestic or dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and victim service providers with up-to-date information and resources in their local area.
- Enhance technology safety and user privacy.

Contact Us

To learn more about Vision 21 projects, visit <https://ovc.ncjrs.gov/vision21/outcome.html>.

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.