

# OVC NEWS & PROGRAM UPDATES

RESPONDING TO SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS



SEPTEMBER 2011

## Sixth National Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Training Conference...SART: Together We Can!



Participating in the Sixth National Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Training Conference are (from left) Olivia Schramm, OVC; Susan B. Carbon, Director, OVW; William H. Petty, Ph.D., OVC Visiting Fellow; Linda Ledray, Director, SANE-SART Resource Service; Lynn Rosenthal, White House Advisor on Violence Against Women; Joye E. Frost, Acting Director, OVC; Michelle Corrao, keynote speaker; and Chief Jim Sylvester, Deputy Chief, Travis County Sheriff's Office.

**O**n May 25–27, 2011, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), in collaboration with the SANE-SART Resource Service of Minneapolis, Minnesota, organized the Sixth National SART Training Conference in Austin, Texas. This sixth biennial conference, like those held since 2001, is the only national conference that focuses solely on the importance of sexual assault response team collaboration and response. The event drew more than 1,000 participants from around the world, as well as almost 200 from Indian Country. A wide variety of disciplines from all fields working with victims of sexual assault attended this conference to receive state-of-the-art training. Among those attending were a number of individuals supported by conference scholarships: 100 law enforcement scholarships, 25 SART scholarships, and 101 individuals through tribal team scholarships.

The conference theme, “SART: Together We Can!,” was quoted by many speakers throughout the event, and was modified by one speaker to “SART: Together We Must!” Among the more than 60 workshops, 8 were tribal-specific workshops offered through the inaugural tribal training track. The workshops were cutting edge, with many addressing issues specific to underserved victims—including victims of sexual abuse behind bars, LGBTQ victims of sexual violence, SARTs in the military, victims with limited English proficiency, and issues unique to Native American victims of sexual assault and violence. The 11 plenary sessions included taped remarks from U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr.; remarks from Greg

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### MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the third issue of *News & Program Updates*. This issue highlights recent efforts to expand and enhance services to victims of sexual assault, including some exciting, innovative tools and resources for the field. We’ve also included a variety of informative articles and updates, from the new Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines to upcoming training events.



OVC first disseminated sexual assault resources to the field 25 years ago, and we continue to refine and provide evidence-based, victim-centered demonstration programs, training materials, and other resources to build the field’s capacity to serve these victims. We are pleased to announce a comprehensive, online *SART Toolkit* for use in establishing or enhancing local SART teams, as well as the *Existe Ayuda (Help Exists) Toolkit*, a Web-based, Spanish-language resource to improve services to Latina/o victims of sexual violence. These publications garnered rave reviews at the recent SART Conference, which is also featured in this issue.

Also in this issue, we are inspired by victims and survivors’ ability to overcome hardship in the aftermath of tragedy. You’ll be moved by the story of a musically gifted homicide victim who was honored by family, friends, and other musicians “one song at a time,” as well as a tribal rape victim’s creative response to help herself heal.

I’d like to thank the OVC fellows who have been instrumental in assembling the newsletter. Fellows are subject specialists who come to Washington, D.C. to share their perspectives and expertise. They are playing a growing role in the planning and production of OVC’s major projects and programs. Learn about this program and whether it might interest you in “Meet the Fellows.”

Since we published the first issue of the *News*, we’ve been gratified by readers’ enthusiastic response. Whether you’d like to share your news or simply want to let us know what you’d like to read about in upcoming issues, stay in touch!

—Joye Frost, Acting Director  
Office for Victims of Crime

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Updated almost daily, [OVC.gov](http://OVC.gov) provides quick and easy access to many resources that help to enhance victim services around the Nation. Tour the [OVC Web](http://OVC Web) site now!

Abbott, Texas Attorney General, and Susan B. Carbon, Director of the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW); traditional native blessings, storytelling, and an American Indian flute performance; and many more powerful and uplifting speakers. One of the speakers, Michelle Corrao, is a former National Crime Victims' Service Award recipient, who received the 2009 Special Courage Award.

At this conference, OVC released the *Existe Ayuda (Help Exists) Toolkit*. This is a resource with replicable Spanish-language tools and resources to help improve the cultural competence of service providers and the accessibility of services for Spanish-speaking victims of sexual assault.

The first SART conference was held in San Antonio, Texas, in 2001. Ten years later, we were back in Texas looking at some tremendous progress in the field. Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) programs are an integral component of a SART. The first three SANE programs

in the country began in the 1970s in Memphis, Tennessee; Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Amarillo, Texas. Today, there are more than 600 SANE programs in the Nation.

At the close of the conference, Joye E. Frost, the Acting Director of OVC, moderated a public forum with Lynn Rosenthal, White House Advisor on Violence Against Women; Susan B. Carbon, OVW Director; Annette Burrhus-Clay, Executive Director of the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault; Chief Jim Sylvester, Deputy Chief of the Travis County Sheriff's Office; and Laura E. Zárate, Founding Executive of Arte Sana. Entitled "Public and Private Partnerships: Building on Success To Reshape the Future," this forum demonstrated that even in this time of growing demands and shrinking resources, we can use innovative partnerships and leverage resources to continue our fight against sexual violence in this country.

## Victims' Voices

*The Angel Band Project: Healing in the Wake of Violent Crime, One Song at a Time*

Submitted by Jean Fox and Rachel Ebeling, coproducers, The Angel Band Project

Victims, Jean and I are not, but as lifelong friends of Teresa Butz, who was raped and murdered by a stranger in July 2009, we shared in the immense grief that accompanies losing a loved one through an act of violence.

Teresa, Jean, and I met on the first day of kindergarten in 1975. For 9 years, we attended grade school together, forging a friendship that would last 35 years. There was a bond among us that was never broken; one that only comes from deeply knowing another human being inside and out. Life eventually took us to three different cities. That never really mattered. As soon as we were together, we were exactly the same. Laughter was instantaneous. Conversation was effortless. It was golden.

On the night of July 19, 2009, all of that ended.

It was summer in Seattle. An uncharacteristic heat wave blanketed the city. Teresa and her partner were sleeping when a man crept through an open window in their Seattle home and proceeded to rape and brutalize them at knifepoint for 90 agonizing minutes. According to police reports, Teresa's attempts to fight off the attacker helped save the life of her partner. Teresa died in front of her house after saying, "He told us if we did what he asked us to do, he wouldn't hurt us. He lied."

Devastation followed for everyone who knew and loved Teresa. Waves of panic rippled through the normally peaceful city of Seattle. We were all unsettled by the horrific reality of what had happened, but at her funeral a week later, there was more singing than speak-



ing. As one of 11 siblings from a musically gifted family, Teresa grew up "thinking in song." She loved music and expressed herself throughout her life through singing, clapping, and dancing. It was there in a packed church of more than 500 people [with whom] we honored and celebrated Teresa's life. Her 10 siblings, along with nieces and nephews, led us through a transformative, profound medley of musical expression.

Although it was an emotionally charged and deeply moving service in many ways, it was the music that literally took our breath away. During one of the hymns, the congregation was moved to their feet as the song progressed. Everyone was clapping in unison. Bodies started swaying. We were literally "being lifted up" by song.

Seeing the strength and conviction that was coming from this family and her partner during their hardest hour gave us the courage to believe that Teresa was indeed in a better place—and that we could still find hope amid this time of crisis.

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It was those songs that initiated our path to healing. So, just weeks after Teresa's death, we formed "**The Angel Band Project**," whose mission is to promote hope and healing through music for those affected by sexual violence. We have experienced a great tragedy, and it is our goal to show others experiencing their own grief that hope can be present despite life's adversities.

We knew we couldn't tackle this giant task alone. Early on, we were moved by a lyric from the old spiritual "Angel Band." The lyric reads, "O come angel band, come and around me stand. O carry me away on your snowy white wings to my immortal home."

That's what we set out to do. We wanted to form a band, not just of musicians and singers, but of anyone who wanted to help. If you donated time, talent, or money, you were "in the band." And it's a band that keeps on growing ...

We traveled to St. Louis, Chicago, New York, and Seattle for live recordings held within 6 short months. We were joined by an amazing ensemble of professional singers, musicians, and technical people from the Broadway Inspirational Voices Gospel Choir to the guitarist for Tracy Chapman. All of whom "joined the band" by donating their time, talent, and hearts to the project.

Our benefit album, titled **Take You With Me**, features both original and cover songs sung by three generations of the Butz family, including Norbert Leo Butz, a Tony Award-winning singer and actor, as well as Teresa's partner, a Boston Conservatory-trained singer. Soul, folk, rock, country, punk, gospel—all are represented on this unique compilation of reassuringly human songs from the heart. As Doug McBride from Gravity Mastering commented, "It's soul music ... raw, beautiful, tragic, inspired soul music."

It's a fact that someone becomes a victim of sexual violence every 2 minutes, yet its long-term effects on survivors are rarely acknowledged, let alone understood. It is the isolation of victims that we hope to change through our efforts. All proceeds from the album go to The Voices and Faces Project, a national nonprofit in the fight to end sexual violence and to provide support and solidarity to victims, their families, and the communities in which they live.



You can follow our story on Facebook or at [www.angelbandproject.org](http://www.angelbandproject.org). We are also available for public speaking engagements, where we share our story through a multimedia presentation of music, storytelling, photography, and video. We hope to resonate this music so loudly that changes take place in the hearts of all who listen. **One song at a time.**

*The Victims' Voices column will be a recurring feature of OVC News & Program Updates. Let us know if you or someone you know would like to share a story with the field about the journey from crime victimization. Our hope is that hearing directly from victims themselves will educate and inspire others. Victims' Voices contributors may choose to remain anonymous. Contact William Petty at [William.Petty@usdoj.gov](mailto:William.Petty@usdoj.gov) for more information.*



# Meet the Fellows

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) competitively funds fellowships at regular intervals. Visiting fellows support OVC in its mission and carry out activities that would not be completed without their contributions. One of these activities is this electronic newsletter. OVC currently has five fellows and plans to offer additional fellowships in the future, depending on the availability of funding. Learn more about each of the fellows and their experience below. [Click here](#) to view the Fiscal Year 2010 solicitation for fellowship applicants that includes the selection criteria.

## Bethany Case

Bethany Case is a licensed clinical social worker hailing from Louisiana, who has been a visiting fellow at OVC since 2008. Prior to moving to Washington, D.C., for the OVC fellowship, Bethany's work experience included forensic interviewing at a children's advocacy center, working as a mental health provider in a high school, and serving as a state child protection investigator. Bethany received her bachelor of arts degree in social work from Southeastern Louisiana University and her master of social work degree from Louisiana State University. She is licensed to practice clinical social work in both Louisiana and the District of Columbia.

Bethany comes from a background of providing direct services to children and families, and she came to OVC to apply her knowledge and skills in the context of a much larger system—the Federal Government. She works on a variety of child victimization-related efforts, including Attorney General Holder's Defending Childhood Initiative, the Federal Task Force on Drug Endangered Children, the Federal Interagency Workgroup on Child Abuse and Neglect, and the National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction Workgroup. Bethany also works closely with OVC staff to provide technical assistance and subject matter expertise on a number of OVC-funded training and technical assistance projects, including Building Resiliency in Child Abuse Professionals and Improving Responses to Child Abuse Victims With Disabilities.

Reflecting on the fellowship experience, Bethany says, "It's difficult to capture my experience as a fellow in a few short paragraphs—the entire experience thus far has been fascinating. Not only have I had the opportunity to work with amazing professionals from a wide range of federal agencies—from the FBI and ICE to HHS and Interior—but I am immersed every day in topics that I never imagined—child identity theft, victims of child pornography, domestic minor victims of trafficking, and child abuse in American Indian/Alaska Native communities."

## Keely McCarthy

Keely McCarthy is an OVC visiting fellow focused on the broad category of underserved victims of crime, specifically in the area of federal, military, and Indian Country programs. She has been a fellow since November 2010. She received her master of arts in criminology and criminal justice from the University of Maryland at College Park and two bachelors degrees, one in justice studies and one in sociology from Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona.

Keely's most recent position was with the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Alexandria, Virginia, where she served as project coordinator for the OVC-funded Enhancing Law Enforcement Response to Victims Project. Her duties there included coordinating details for project-related events, maintaining communication with all project partners, and providing ongoing technical support to officials from multiple demonstration and validation sites to ensure the timely submission of fiscal and programmatic reports and project-related deliverables.

During the first year of the fellowship, Keely's time was divided between federal and Indian Country programs. Keely participated in the Training and Technical Assistance Subcommittee of DOJ's Coordinated Tribal Assistance

Solicitation Committee and assisted with OVC's Indian Nations Conference. She is coordinating the working group to update federal law enforcement training curricula related to victims' issues and providing technical assistance to the Bureau of Indian Affairs' victim specialists. She is also leading the fellows' efforts on *OVC News & Program Updates*.

## Jaimee Napp

Jaimee Napp, an OVC visiting fellow since November 2010, is focused on financial fraud and nonviolent crime. Previously, Jaimee founded and served more than 4 years as the executive director of the Identity Theft Action Council of Nebraska, managing the nonprofit group's administrative operations and overseeing its development, marketing, publications, and media relations initiatives. Jaimee also served on the board of the Nebraska Coalition for Victims of Crime, where she was elected secretary.

Jaimee received a bachelor of journalism degree in advertising and mass communications from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Her commitment to the victims' movement stems from her experience as a victim of identity theft, an experience that left her with a deep desire to assist other victims on their journey to recovery. Her story and message have been featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Crime Victim's Report*, *Consumer Reports* magazine, and numerous other media outlets. Jaimee's advocacy was instrumental in promoting the creation and enforcement of consumer identity theft laws in Nebraska and at the federal level. Her fellowship will focus on developing a comprehensive victim assistance strategy that addresses gaps in traditional victim services and includes model practice recommendations for victims of financial fraud.

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During her first year as a visiting fellow, Jaimee has been involved in several OVC and DOJ initiatives. She participated in the Victims' Rights Committee of the President's Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force, assisting the committee with content and victim resources for the public StopFraud.gov Web site, reviewing and commenting on the *Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance*, and speaking on the topic of financial fraud to the National Governors Association, the Crime Victim Law Conference, and the National Center for Victims of Crime Conference. In conjunction with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), she worked to develop a brochure on the *Identity Theft Victim's Statement of Rights*, which will be distributed to the crime victims field, and she participated in a forum, "Stolen Futures: A Forum on Child Identity Theft," cosponsored by OVC and the FTC.

### William H. Petty, Ph.D.

Dr. William H. Petty began his visiting fellowship with OVC in November 2010. William most recently served as the victim services manager for the Austin Police Department in Austin, Texas, holding that position for 10 years. In that role he directed all organizational, operational, and clinical aspects of a major city, mental health-oriented, law enforcement-based victim services division.

William received his doctorate in counseling psychology and a master of arts in counseling from the University of Texas at Austin. He received a bachelor of arts (concentrating in biology) from Austin College in Sherman, Texas. His areas of expertise include trauma response in first responders, law enforcement-based victim services, mental health and wellness in law enforcement environments, peer support program development, and public awareness strategies for reaching underserved, unserved, and inadequately served communities. His fellowship will focus on the broad categories of underserved crime victims and enhancing victim services in law enforcement.

During his first year as a visiting fellow, William supported a variety of OVC and other DOJ projects and initiatives. Among the most notable is Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services, a nationwide strategic

planning initiative designed to facilitate creative and strategic planning in the victim services field and nontraditional professional allies into four focus areas: the role of the crime victims field in the overall response to crime and delinquency; enduring challenges in the crime victims field that still are being addressed; emerging challenges the crime victims field has yet to address; and building capacity in the crime victims field to better serve victims of crime.

### Debra Whitcomb

Debra Whitcomb is a career victim advocate, researcher, and an Office of Justice Programs' grantee. As an OVC fellow since October 2010, she is assisting in the development of OVC's National Training and Technical Assistance Strategy, helping to ensure that it is evidence-based and includes outcome measures that will demonstrate effectiveness.

Debra's credentials as a victim advocate date back to 1985 with the publication of *When the Victim Is a Child*, a report for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) that synthesized research and practice for an intended audience of judges and prosecutors. That report was cited by NIJ as one of

the most influential products of its "Issues and Practices" series. Later, for OVC and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, she examined multijurisdictional task forces targeting child sexual exploitation; the resulting report served as a model for the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces. In 1999–2000, as a visiting fellow with NIJ, she studied prosecutors' responses to children exposed to domestic violence. This year, as a visiting fellow with OVC, she has also contributed to the Attorney General's Defending Childhood Initiative.

In a prior position with the American Prosecutors Research Institute/National District Attorneys Association, Debra oversaw training and technical assistance activities in a wide range of programmatic areas, including child abuse, violence against women, juvenile justice, community prosecution, DNA, drugs, gun violence, homeland security, and identity theft. She has since served as senior research manager for the National Crime Prevention Council and, more recently, as senior project director with the Justice Management Institute, where she worked on a program to train teams of judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and community corrections professionals on evidence-based sentencing practices.



OVC visiting fellows pictured from left: Keely McCarthy, Dr. William Petty, Bethany Case, Jaimee Napp, and Debra Whitcomb.

# OVC Acting Director Frost Presented With the Menominee Tribal Seal

In 2010, a 16-year-old girl, a member of the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin, was at a friend's house for a sleepover when she was assaulted by her friend's older brother. The girl managed to leave after the rape and went several blocks to a neighbor's house. The girl was covered in blood, and the neighbors called the police immediately.

The Menominee Tribal Victim Assistance Advocate (funded in part by the Office for Victims of Crime [OVC]) went to the hospital and provided immediate assistance and support to this young girl as the suspect was arrested and arraigned. The suspect eventually withdrew his initial not guilty plea and accepted his punishment. As part of the healing process, the Menominee Tribe (as happens with many tribal victim programs) suggested healing through the arts by learning beading. The victim beaded a Menominee Tribal Seal and presented it to the Menominee Police Department, where the victim services program is located.

The program is jointly led by Menominee Chief of Police Mark Waukau and Program Director Kevin Brennenstuhl, who had been waiting to present the seal to the right person. They chose OVC's Acting Director Joye Frost as the best person to receive this unique gift and the Sixth National SART Conference as their venue. At the conference, Unified Solutions Executive Director Stanley L. Pryor and Annie Bergsbaken, Youth Victim Specialist for the Tribal Victims Program for the



Pictured from left to right are: Annie Bergsbaken, Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin; Dianne Barker Harrold, Unified Solutions; Stanley L. Pryor, Unified Solutions; and Joye Frost, Office for Victims of Crime.

Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin, presented the beaded seal to Acting Director Frost in honor of her work and dedication to crime victims in Indian Country and her efforts with sexual assault victims. Acting Director Frost accepted the seal on behalf of all victim advocates across the country.

## Justice Department's New ADA Rules Effective March 15, 2011

On March 15, 2011, the U.S. Department of Justice's revised regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) took effect. The revised rules are the department's first major revision of its guidance on accessibility in 20 years, and many of the provisions will apply to the Office for Victims of Crime's (OVC) grantees and subgrantees.

The regulations apply to the activities of more than 80,000 units of state and local government and more than 7 million places of public accommodation, including stores, restaurants, shopping malls, libraries, museums, sporting arenas, movie theaters, doctors' and dentists' offices, hotels, jails and prisons, polling places, and emergency preparedness shelters. The rules were signed by Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., on July 23, 2010.

"The new rules usher in a new day for the more than 50 million individuals with disabili-

ties in this country," said Thomas E. Perez, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

The new ADA rules adopt the *2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design* and also address making recreation facilities accessible for individuals with disabilities. Entities covered by the ADA have until March 15, 2012, to comply with the 2010 standards. What may be particularly important to OVC and Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grantees and subgrantees is that in addition to adopting the new ADA 2010 standards, the amended regulations contain many new or expanded provisions on general nondiscrimination policies, which are effective immediately, including the use of service animals, the use of wheelchairs and other power-driven mobility devices, the provision of interpreter services through video conferencing, the sale of tickets for wheelchair-accessible seating at sports and performance venues, and the effect of the new regulations on existing facilities. Grantees who are planning meetings and

events will want to pay particular attention to the requirement that organizations are responsible for reserving and guaranteeing accessible rooms at hotels. Unlike the other expanded provisions in the amended regulations, compliance with the hotel reservation provision is not immediate, but will be required beginning March 15, 2012.

For OVC and VOCA grantees and subgrantees looking for technical assistance with the new standards and amended regulations, the *ADA Update* and *ADA 2010 Revised Requirements: Effective Date/Compliance Date* are the first of several planned publications aimed at helping businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and state and local governments understand their obligations under the amended Title II and Title III regulations. For copies of the *Effective Date/Compliance Date* publication, or for more information about the ADA, call the ADA Information Line (1-800-514-0301 voice or 1-800-514-0383 TTY) or access the department's ADA Web site at [www.ada.gov](http://www.ada.gov).

*(Abridged and amended from the March 14, 2011, Civil Rights Division Press Release)*



## Resources for Responding to Sexual Violence

OVC recently launched the [Existe Ayuda \(Help Exists\) Toolkit](#), which includes Spanish-language tools and resources to help improve accessibility of services for Spanish-speaking victims of sexual violence. Resources include the following:

- [Glossaries](#)—Spanish terms related to sexual assault and trafficking.
- [Presentations](#)—PowerPoint slides used in presentations to promotoras (community health workers) and victim advocates.
- [Tools](#)—A pocket card, handout, fact sheets, and scripts for public service announcements and outgoing answering machine messages.

The [SART Toolkit: Resources for Sexual Assault Response Teams](#) is a compilation of resources for communities wanting to develop SARTs—coordinated teams of people who serve victims of sexual assault—and for communities wanting to improve their SART responses. The toolkit reviews the basics, lays out the steps involved in putting together a SART, describes how to retain the focus on victims, highlights SART programs throughout the country, and includes sample resources to use when developing and evaluating a team.

## Additional Training and Publications

### [Responding to Crime Victims With Disabilities](#)

National Training Conference  
December 13–15, 2011  
Orlando, Florida

For more training opportunities [click here](#) for OVC’s national training calendar or [here](#) to visit the OVC Training and Technical Assistance Center’s Web site.



### STAY TUNED . . .

In the upcoming issue of *OVC News & Program Updates* you’ll learn—

- What the most recent research says regarding children exposed to violence.
- About OVC’s demonstration project with the Flandreau Indian School.
- About Defending Childhood, a DOJ initiative.
- About the Federal Interagency Task Force on Drug Endangered Children, led by DOJ.
- About some of the emerging issues for child victims.

## ABOUT THE OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

The Office for Victims of Crime is one of six components within the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

Led by Acting Director Joye E. Frost, OVC is committed to enhancing the Nation’s capacity to assist crime victims and to providing leadership in changing attitudes, policies, and practices to promote justice and healing for all victims of crime.

Established in 1988 through an amendment to the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, OVC is charged by Congress with administering the Crime Victims Fund. Through OVC, the Fund supports a broad array of programs and services that focus on helping victims in the immediate aftermath of crime and continuing to support them as they rebuild their lives. Millions of dollars are invested annually in victim compensation and assistance in every U.S. state and territory, as well as for training, technical assistance, and other capacity-building programs designed to enhance service providers’ ability to support victims of crime in communities across the Nation.

For more information, visit [www.ovc.gov](http://www.ovc.gov).

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