

Overview

The goal of the Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services initiative, supported by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, is to expand the vision and impact of the crime victim services field. Vision 21 (formerly known as HOPE III) projects will examine the current framework of the crime victims field in the United States. Literature reviews will provide a foundation for the examination. Stakeholders from traditional and nontraditional arenas will convene to make recommendations for effectively transforming the field. A final report will synthesize the recommendations and set forth a strategy to redesign the victim services framework. This is an opportunity for real change in the role of victim services in the Nation's overall efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of communities. This is a call to action for the field.

The issues:

The role of the crime victims field in the overall response to crime and delinquency in the United States. These recommendations will focus on current crime victimization, underserved and unserved communities, how to enhance partnerships to better address the conditions that precede crime and delinquency and their aftermath, and improving integration of crime victims' rights in the field.

Project organization: *National Crime Victims Law Institute; Julie Landrum, Project Director, 503-768-6835, julielandrum@lclark.edu*
Stakeholder Forum: January 19-20, 2011, Portland, Oregon

Building capacity in the crime victims field to better serve victims of crime. These recommendations will focus on the ability of networks to meet current and future crime victim needs, availability of funding, organizational flexibility, diversity in staffing and leadership, and stronger collaborations to further crime victims' rights and services.

Project organization: *National Center for Victims of Crime; Jack Fleming, Project Director, 202-467-8715, jfleming@ncvc.org*
Stakeholder Forum: March 8-9, 2011, Washington, D.C.

Enduring challenges in the crime victims field that still are being addressed. These recommendations will focus on the barriers and issues that continue to challenge the field, including domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, elder abuse, victimization in Indian Country, young African-American male victims, and victims with disabilities. By identifying the challenges of serving diverse victims and finding the commonalities that exist, these recommendations will contribute to the design of a strategy that will better serve all victims.

Project organization: *Vera Institute of Justice, Center on Victimization and Safety; Charity Hope, Project Director, 646-457-8067, chope@vera.org*
Stakeholder Forum: February 23-24, 2011, Nashville, Tennessee

Emerging challenges the crime victims field has yet to address.

These recommendations will focus on innovative responses to new issues and new challenges, including the changing demographics in the United States, advances in technology that lead to an increase in cybercrime, a rise in environmental crimes, direct services for human trafficking victims, the growing impact of social media, and fully serving youth victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

Project organization: *Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center; Jennifer Shewmake, Project Director, 904-206-9586, jshewmake@ovcttac.org*
Stakeholder Forum: February 8-9, 2011, Jacksonville, Florida

The outcome:

A final synthesis document will present an analysis of the information from the four issue-specific projects described above and include a cohesive and comprehensive assessment of the current state of the victim services field in the United States. Additionally, the document will showcase a set of recommendations emerging from the information gathered and a blueprint for a national demonstration project (or multiple demonstration projects) to implement recommendations in the report. This final report will also address ways to overcome the political, policy, and philosophical perspectives and challenges in the field; what actions federal, national, state, local, and tribal entities will need to take to address the recommendations; and what role OVC has in fostering the implementation of the recommendations.

Project organization: *National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, Medical University of South Carolina; Angela Moreland Begle, Ph.D., Project Director, 843-792-8209, begle@musc.edu*
Stakeholder Forum: September 15-16, 2011, Charleston, South Carolina

Vision 21 presents a rare opportunity for victims of crime, service providers, and allied professionals to make a significant contribution to improving the field. We need your input. Contact any organization listed above with your thoughts and ideas or share your vision through the link on the Vision 21 Web site.



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