

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

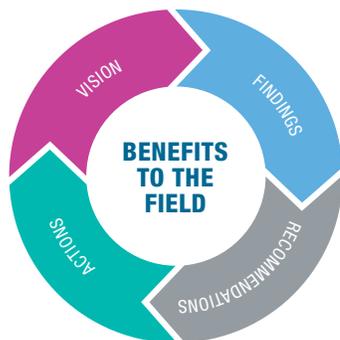
1. Examine the role of the crime victims field in the overall response to crime and delinquency in the United States.
2. Build capacity in the crime victims field.
3. Identify enduring challenges.
4. Address emerging challenges.

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.



Vision 21

Law Enforcement and the Communities They Serve



Addresses Vision 21 Recommendation #4

Build and institutionalize capacity.

Project Vision

Healing support services must precede high-profile incidents to ensure the deployment of holistic evidence-based responses and the continuum of care necessary in their wake—when barriers, tensions, and stakes are often intensified and more difficult to surmount. OVC's *Vision 21: Law Enforcement and the Communities They Serve: Supporting Collective Healing in the Wake of Harm* program intends to help communities develop both a preventative and a reparative focus to address the needs of those directly impacted by high-profile incidents, reduce tensions, maximize communication, and promote problem-solving between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

Project Objectives

This 3-year project is designed to—

- (1) assist law enforcement in developing, implementing, and assessing comprehensive evidence-based and trauma-informed response strategies, protocols, and interventions that promote community engagement and healing prior to and in the wake of law-enforcement-involved shootings and other high-profile incidents of violence; and
- (2) develop and disseminate comprehensive, expert technical assistance resources for law enforcement on trauma-informed culture and practice.

Project Partners

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), in partnership with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the Childhood Violent Trauma Center at the Yale School of Medicine (Yale), will work with up to six demonstration sites to assess and address crucial community needs, policy development and implementation, and internal culture and accountability. Resultant strategies will be shared field-wide for replication and implementation to create a victim-centered, trauma-informed, collaborative response that meets the needs of those most vulnerable following violence and traumatic events, including the responding officers, their families, and their agencies.

The IACP, NAACP, Yale, and OVC will also recruit and prepare members of a Rapid Response Team (RRT) that will assist law enforcement agencies and communities in the wake of crisis incidents.

Actions

Help communities—

- develop strategies to defuse tension and promote healing before and after events that cause collective community trauma; and
- acknowledge the effects of violence, address collective trauma, and promote unity and healing.

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.