

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

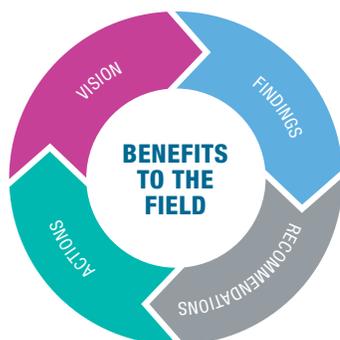
1. Examine the role of the crime victims field in the overall response to crime and delinquency in the United States.
2. Build capacity in the crime victims field.
3. Identify enduring challenges.
4. Address emerging challenges.

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

Multidisciplinary Responses in Complex Homicide Cases



Addresses Vision 21 Recommendation #3

Ensure statutory, policy, and programmatic flexibility to address enduring and emerging crime victim issues.

Project Vision

The sudden loss of a loved one due to violence has a tremendous impact on the family members and friends left behind. The quality and comprehensiveness of the services provided for survivors vary greatly, are often very limited, and may not address the comprehensive needs of the family or the community impacted by the death.

The overall goal of the project is to identify promising victim-centered and trauma-informed responses and evidence-based practices that can be implemented through partnerships between law enforcement and victim service providers to address the needs of families and communities in complex homicide cases.

Project Objectives

This project supports the enhancement of multidisciplinary interventions within 24 to 48 hours of a death for some of the most complex cases. These cases may include gang-related homicides, intrafamilial homicides, homicides involving child witnesses, and deaths involving impaired driving or driving under the influence (DUI).

Project Participants

Seven demonstration sites are developing and implementing multidisciplinary responses to homicide that are victim centered, trauma informed, and effective in responding to the complex needs of families and communities after a homicide:

- Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Medical University of South Carolina
- Baltimore Child Abuse Center, Maryland
- Mental Health Services for Homeless Persons/FrontLine Service, Ohio
- County of Palm Beach Division of Victim Services, Florida
- Thresholds/Chicago Survivors, Illinois
- Bronx County District Attorney's Office, New York

The National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC) and the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) will work together to provide direct training and technical assistance to the demonstration sites. In addition to providing access to a variety of subject matter experts to help grantees implement their projects, NCVC will provide support, as needed, for each site's program evaluation and will compile a report summarizing all the sites' evaluation efforts. NCVC and NSA will also publish and disseminate a compendium of promising practices and resources resulting from the projects.

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Actions

- Respond to families and communities with stronger law enforcement and victim service coordination.
- Provide outreach and support to families and communities within 24 to 48 hours after a homicide.
- Understand the short- and long-term service needs of families and communities after a traumatic death.
- Identify helpful evidence-based and trauma-informed interventions.
- Identify resources and share promising practices with the field.

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.