

- To develop and disseminate information to victims of crime and the people who serve them;
- To work closely with Native American communities to help provide needed services for crime victims;
- To create partnerships with other Department of Justice entities, governmental agencies, communities, and organizations; and
- To develop a national crime victims agenda that provides a guide for long-term action and sets forth future training and technical assistance needs.

These goals reflect the Attorney General's strong commitment to the rights and needs of crime victims, partnerships between all levels of government and communities, and the dissemination of effective approaches to provide services to crime victims. They also meet OVC's legislative mandates to provide national-scope training and technical assistance, ensure services to victims of Federal crimes, and work with Native American communities to respond to crime victims.

Listed below are some of OVC's proposed projects that correspond to the goals described above:

1. To identify and promote the use of promising practices in serving crime victims.

To accomplish this goal, OVC will fund projects to identify innovative and promising crime victim programs in local communities across the country. These include projects to:

- Identify and disseminate information about promising strategies and practices to improve victim services provided by diverse criminal justice professionals, including law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, probation and parole personnel, and corrections officials;
- Identify and disseminate information about promising approaches for providing and maintaining victim services in underserved settings, such as in rural areas and public housing developments;
- Explore avenues for applying technology to improve and increase services for crime victims;
- Assist in the development and pilot testing of a model victim/witness program within a U.S. Attorney's Office;
- Identify and develop courses and curricula on crime victim issues for use at related undergraduate and graduate programs, including schools of law, medicine, social work, mental health, and criminal justice; and
- Support local partnerships and multidisciplinary programs, such as TRIAD and Children's Advocacy Centers.

Part of OVC's challenge is to identify and promote the replication of promising programs so that victims and service providers nationwide can benefit from these innovations.

2. To provide and encourage training and technical assistance for service providers who interact with crime victims.

Training and technical assistance is critical to ensuring the highest quality of service and care to crime victims by the many different professionals who work with them. These professionals include law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, probation and parole officers, and corrections officials who work within state and Federal criminal justice systems. They also include mental health professionals, doctors and nurses, the clergy, and others who regularly interact with victims of crime. At the Federal level alone, there are more than 70 different law enforcement entities within the Department of Justice and other Executive Branch agencies that are responsible for serving crime victims in accordance with guidelines issued by the Attorney General.

OVC will continue to support two flexible training and technical assistance resources that offer customized services to agencies at the state and local levels:

- A Trainers Bureau that pays for expert consultants to provide training and technical assistance on issues requested by local communities; and
- The Immediate Response to Emerging Problems (IREP) initiative that provides a crisis response team if requested by a community to assist in dealing with a catastrophic crime, such as a mass murder.
- Examples of other types of training and technical assistance that OVC will fund are:
  - National and regional training conferences for state VOCA administrators, victim-witness coordinators, and child advocacy workers;
  - Regional training seminars to assist communities and institutions to be prepared for multiple victimizations by establishing their own crisis response plans and teams;
  - Team approaches that strengthen the response of criminal justice agencies to the many forms of violence against women and children;
  - Hate and bias crimes training for law enforcement and victim service personnel;
  - Training events at the Department of Treasury's Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) and the National Symposium for Child Sexual Abuse in Huntsville, Alabama to

sensitize officials to victim/witness issues and promote "team approaches" in handling cases;

- The first national symposium to provide high-quality victim assistance training for victim-witness coordinators from all Federal law enforcement agencies;
- Victim assistance programs in Native American communities, including an Indian Nations' Conference in 1996;
- Assistance to military personnel and clergy who work with victims of crime on military installations; and
- Mentoring programs to facilitate on-site training at promising programs for state VOCA administrators and multidisciplinary teams.

In addition, OVC will continue to monitor the development of the Victim Assistance Academy funded last year to provide high-quality intensive training to victim service providers across the country from Federal, state, tribal, and local communities. OVC anticipates that the Academy will provide a curriculum to help professionalize the field and develop standards for victim service providers.

3. To develop and disseminate information to victims of crime and the people who serve them.

To achieve this goal, OVC will disseminate the findings of its projects that identify promising practices currently being used in the field. In addition, OVC is supporting other initiatives that will directly benefit crime victims. These include:

- A videotape describing how victims can obtain compensation to reimburse expenses related to their victimization;
- A booklet, "Healing Through Community Service," that will describe case studies of victims whose contributions to the community have helped them heal and suggest other therapeutic strategies;
- A videotape, "Path Through the Criminal Justice System," that will describe what victims can expect as their case proceeds through the system; and
- Activity books designed for children who will be testifying in Federal court to increase their understanding of the process. These books accompany a film that was funded by OVC last year.

These products and reports describing promising practices will be distributed through the OVC Resource Center, as well as at the many conferences OVC sponsors and supports around the country. Numerous products are already available through the Resource Center, which can be reached at 1-800-627-6872. OVC will augment its funding