

commitment to the Resource Center to improve its capacity to provide crucial information directly to the public and the field.

Finally, OVC will contribute all findings and publications to PAVNET, the Partnerships Against Violence Network. PAVNET is an integrated information system that pools ideas, information, and resources about promising programs, technical assistance, and funding sources. As OVC and its grantees identify promising programs and strategies in the field, information about these will be added to the on-line search and retrieval system available through the National Criminal Justice Reference Service and a Federal agency coalition that includes the Departments of Justice, Agriculture, Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Labor.

4. To work closely with Native American communities to assist in the provision of needed services for crime victims.

OVC is committed to providing extensive, culturally appropriate services to crime victims in Native American communities. The Native American programs that OVC will fund this year include:

- Comprehensive training and technical assistance for Children's Justice Act grantees in Indian Country to enhance victim service skills and facilitate a team approach in responding to child sexual abuse cases;
- Cross-cultural skills development and training for Federal criminal justice personnel to enhance their ability to serve Native American crime victims;
- An Indian Nations' conference that will improve the skills of diverse professionals in responding to the needs of Native American crime victims and in addressing cases of child sexual and physical abuse in Indian Country;
- Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs in Indian Country to ensure that trained advocates represent the best interests of Native American child victims in court; and
- A project to provide training for tribal judges, based upon topics identified through a needs assessment.

5. To create partnerships with other Department of Justice (DOJ) entities, governmental agencies, communities, and organizations.

Partnerships are a key element in this year's discretionary program plan. OVC recognizes that no program can reach its best potential in isolation. To that end, this program announcement itself reflects collaborative efforts between OVC and all other offices and bureaus

within OJP; many DOJ components; and diverse Federal agencies.

Joint projects with other OJP components include:

- Eleven separate projects or fund transfers jointly sponsored by OVC and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), including training on hate and bias crimes, victim services in public housing, community and institutional crisis response teams, and a videotape on cultural diversity;
- Four projects or fund transfers jointly sponsored by OVC and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), including training on a multi-jurisdictional model for handling child sexual exploitation cases and seminars to train trainers in the use of victim impact classes, including classes for juvenile offenders;
- A restorative justice symposium cosponsored by OVC and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to examine how restorative justice concepts and practices can improve the treatment of victims and increase the involvement of communities in the criminal justice process. OVC also will work with NIJ on NIJ's victims' related research and to include information about promising programs and strategies in PAVNET; and

• Collaborative projects between OVC and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to enhance the National Crime Victimization Survey and improve OVC's efforts to collect data and assess its grant programs.

OVC also reaches outside of OJP to work with other components of the Department of Justice. Examples include:

- Collaboration with the Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys (EOUSA) to provide training for Federal victim-witness coordinators and prosecutors and to create a model victim-witness program for U.S. Attorneys' Offices nationwide;
- Work with the FBI to strengthen its victim-witness program;
- Coordination of projects in Indian Country with DOJ's Office of Tribal Services;
- Collaboration with the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section to develop policies regarding child sexual abuse; and
- Cooperation with DOJ's Financial Litigation and Debt Collection staff to maintain the integrity of the Crime Victims Fund.

In addition, OVC works in concert with other Federal agencies to carry out its mission. This includes:

- Collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to implement the Children's Justice Act

(CJA) programs, with OVC administering CJA programs to tribal organizations, and HHS administering the program in the states;

- A collaborative effort with the Administration on Aging at HHS, BJA, the National Sheriffs' Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and older American organizations to encourage replication of TRIAD programs, which are partnerships between local law enforcement and senior citizen organizations;
- Sponsorship with the Department of Defense of victim assistance training for military victim service providers and military chaplains; and
- A symposium on workplace violence issues that would include participation by a number of Federal agencies, including HHS, the Department of Labor, and the United States Postal Service.

These examples are representative—not exhaustive—of OVC collaboration with other agencies and organizations and its commitment to continue developing partnerships throughout all levels of government to improve crime victim services.

OVC is in the process of exploring new partnerships with public and private sector organizations, including foundations. Moreover, the program strategy and selection criteria for projects encourage applicants to collaborate whenever possible.

6. To develop a national crime victims agenda that provides a guide for long-term action and sets forth future training and technical assistance needs.

In 1982, President Reagan appointed a Task Force on Victims of Crime to study a long overlooked constituency of our criminal justice system—crime victims. This task force examined the way crime victims were treated by the criminal justice system and held public hearings around the country. It found that the system was severely imbalanced, almost entirely focusing on the criminal, while ignoring the rights and needs of victims. In its final report, the Task Force issued a comprehensive blueprint of 68 recommendations designed to improve the treatment of crime victims by the criminal justice system and other sectors of society. This document, the first Federal study of its kind, served to spearhead a national movement to secure specific victim rights and develop services that are responsive to victims' unique needs. Its proposals also lead to the legislation that created OVC and the Crime Victims Fund.

Using FY 1995 and 1996 funding, OVC will produce a document updating