

practices, and programs used by prosecutors' offices to respond to the needs of crime victims, and to develop a plan for their dissemination.

Background: The prosecutor is a pivotal figure in the criminal justice system for victims. Prosecutors represent the state and manage the case against the offender. They should inform victims of the status of their case from the time of charging to the final disposition. They also should inform the court about the victims' views on key decisions, such as bail, plea bargains, and sentencing, and make every effort to allow victims the opportunity to be heard by the court. Prosecutors must try to protect victims from any threats, intimidation, or harassment from offenders. In addition, prosecutors should ensure that victims have the support and assistance they need in order to participate fully in the criminal justice process.

Goal: To increase and enhance services provided by prosecutors to crime victims.

Objectives:

- To identify the elements of exemplary victim-related prosecutorial practices;
- To find existing practices and programs that contain these elements;
- To prepare detailed descriptions of the promising practices; and
- To prepare a plan for disseminating this information to prosecutors' offices nationwide.

Program Strategy: This initiative will identify the most promising victim-related prosecutorial practices and programs, describe their essential elements, and make that information available to prosecutors' offices. The grantee will first identify prosecution experts who can assist in developing criteria for determining what practices can be considered "promising." Examples of promising practices might include specialized units to handle certain types of cases, such as sexual assault or domestic violence; vertical prosecution; and community-based prosecutor's offices. The grantee will then conduct an overview of the field to identify practices and programs that meet the criteria. The review should include an examination of tribal agency practices in Indian Country and state and local programs. Under another grant to a U.S. Attorney's office, which is described later, promising approaches used by Federal prosecutors are being identified and documented.

Once the promising practices and programs have been identified, project staff will collect information in sufficient detail to allow other agencies to replicate them. This information will

be compiled into a compendium of "Promising Strategies and Practices for Prosecutors." A shorter version of the document will be prepared for publication as an OVC Bulletin.

The products of this project include:

- Selection criteria for promising practices;
- Assessment Plan for identifying promising practices;
- Comprehensive descriptions of the essential elements of each promising strategy or program;
- Compendium of Promising Practices, in complete and shortened Bulletin format;
- Final Report, including project assessment; and
- A dissemination plan.

Eligibility Requirements: In addition to the requirements of Sections VI–XI, applicants must demonstrate knowledge of prosecutorial practices, as well as victim rights and services related to the other aspects of the criminal justice system.

Award Period: 12 months.

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Promising Strategies and Practices for Probation and Parole Agencies (Cooperative Agreement)—Award Amount: \$75,000

Purpose: To identify and disseminate innovative policies, procedures, and programs developed by individual probation and supervising parole agencies to respond to the needs of crime victims, and to encourage their replication.

Background: Historically, most involvement of crime victims in the criminal justice process has occurred in the early phases of case investigation and prosecution. Once an offender is convicted, many victims have believed—and have been supported in this belief by criminal justice personnel—that they no longer need to be involved in the case or to expect information or services from system officials. Yet almost five million Americans were under some form of correctional control in 1993, with more than two-thirds of these being supervised in the community on probation or parole.

The perceived and actual danger of an offender to his or her victim does not necessarily end with a conviction or with the completion of a prison term. Nor can a victim realistically feel fully protected merely knowing that his or her offender is under community supervision. Victims need information and services from probation and parole personnel.

A number of individual agencies that supervise offenders in the community have created innovative victim-related practices and programs. Some promising practices include strategies for informing victims of offender status changes, soliciting their input, and using trained volunteers. Others have created enforcement courts that collect substantial amounts of unpaid restitution for victims.

Goal: To increase and enhance services provided by probation and parole agencies to crime victims.

Objectives:

- To identify the elements of exemplary victim-related probation and parole community supervision practices;
- To find existing practices and programs that contain these elements;
- To prepare detailed descriptions of the promising practices; and
- To disseminate this information to probation and parole agencies.

Program Strategy: This initiative will identify the most promising victim-related community supervision practices and programs in probation and parole, describe their essential elements, and make that information available to probation and parole agencies. The grantee will first identify community corrections experts who can assist in developing criteria for determining what practices can be considered "promising." The grantee then will conduct an overview of the field to identify practices and programs that meet the criteria. The review should include an examination of tribal agency practices in Indian Country, Federal approaches, and state and local programs.

Once the promising practices and programs have been identified, project staff will collect information in sufficient detail to allow other agencies to replicate them. This information will be compiled into a compendium of "Promising Practices in Probation and Parole." A shorter version of the document will be prepared for publication as an OVC Bulletin.

The products of this project include:

- Selection criteria for promising practices;
- Assessment Plan for identifying promising practices;
- Comprehensive descriptions of the essential elements of each promising strategy or program;
- Compendium of Promising Practices, in complete and shortened Bulletin format;
- Final Report, including project assessment; and
- A dissemination plan.

Eligibility Requirements: In addition to the requirements of Sections VI–XI,