

can be addressed within the court setting at the local, county, state, tribal, and Federal levels.

*Objectives:*

- To identify the needs of victims that can be addressed within the court setting;
- To review state and federal judicial training programs for the information regarding victims and witnesses provided;
- To share examples of existing policies, procedures, and practices used by individual judges or court administrators to address the needs of victims;
- To identify curricula and training materials that can communicate court-related victim needs and victim sensitive approaches to other judicial jurisdictions; and
- To develop recommendations for encouraging the adoption of victim sensitive practices by the judiciary nationwide.

*Program Strategy:* This solicitation invites applications for one grantee to conceptualize, organize, and convene a two day transfer of knowledge symposium on promising judicial responses to crime victims. The symposium will bring together up to 40 participants, including judges from the local, county, state, tribal, and Federal levels, as well as representatives from national judicial and victim service organizations. Participation will be by invitation only, and the grant will cover attendees' travel and per diem expenses.

The grantee will develop resource materials that will be sent to participants prior to the symposium. The symposium agenda will include an introductory session followed by plenary and small group sessions. Participants will share information about promising policies, procedures, and practices; identify effective training materials; identify areas for further action; and, as a final group task, produce a report of recommendations to improve the response of the judiciary to crime victims through the dissemination of these types of information. At the close of the event, participants will evaluate the symposium.

*Major products include:*

- A list of attendees, for OVC review and approval;
- A symposium agenda, including descriptions of presentations;
- A participant resource package;
- An assessment plan; and
- A symposium report containing recommendations and action plans developed by participants.

*Eligibility Requirements:* In addition to the requirements of Sections VI–XI, applicants must demonstrate an

understanding of the victimization experience, as well as an extensive knowledge of and experience with the judicial process at its various levels.

*Contact:* Duane Ragan, (202) 307–2021.

Promising Strategies and Practices in Rural Areas (Cooperative Agreement)—Award Amount: \$75,000

*Purpose:* To identify and document innovative policies, procedures, practices, and programs developed by victim service providers, criminal justice agencies, and others who serve crime victims in rural areas and to develop a plan for their dissemination.

*Background:* When violent crime occurs in a rural area, its victims and those who would help them must contend with a variety of issues and concerns that are specifically related to the rural environment and lifestyle. One of the first issues that must often be faced is inaccessibility of services. The victim may live some distance away from the nearest town, which may not have the capacity to respond quickly to a crisis situation or have the particular type of support services that are needed. Residents in isolated areas may not have telephone service or access to public transportation, and neighbors may be too far away to help.

Social attitudes in rural areas can also present obstacles for victims. A rural victim of violent crime often finds that others discount or deny the seriousness of the offense, or blame the victim for the incident. Also, in small towns even the most private matters can become public knowledge, often in a distorted version. This can make it difficult to maintain confidentiality regarding the event and bring further humiliation to the victim.

*Goal:* To increase and enhance services provided to crime victims in rural areas.

*Objectives:*

- To identify the elements of promising approaches to assisting victims in rural areas;
- 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 relevant agencies.

*Program Strategy:* This initiative will identify the most promising victim-related practices and programs for responding to crime victims who live in rural areas, describe their essential elements, and develop a plan to make this information available nationwide. The grantee will first identify victim assistance and criminal justice experts who can assist in developing criteria for

determining what practices can be considered “promising.” 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, 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 Strategies and Practices for Assisting Crime Victims in Rural Areas.” 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 qualifying practices;
- Comprehensive descriptions of the essential elements of each promising strategy or program;
- Compendium of Promising Practices, in complete and shortened Bulletin format; and
- Final Report, including project assessment.

*Eligibility Requirements:* In addition to the requirements of Sections VI–XI, applicants must demonstrate knowledge of victim service strategies in rural areas, as well as victim rights and services related to the criminal justice system.

*Award Period:* 12 months.

*Contact:* Jackie McCann Cleland, (202) 616–2145.

Promising Strategies and Practices in Professional Education—Award Amount: \$100,000

*Purpose:* To identify and document promising and innovative courses and professional curricula that address victim issues and to enhance education on these issues for students at undergraduate and graduate schools of law, medicine, nursing, divinity, criminal justice, mental health, and social work.

*Background:* Many of the professionals who routinely work with crime victims—both within and outside of the criminal justice system—do not receive adequate training in crime and victim-related issues. For example, attorneys often are not trained to respond sensitively and effectively to clients who are crime victims. Similarly, physicians frequently lack the training necessary to identify and assist patients who exhibit symptoms related to victimization. As with law and