

medicine, many members of other professions—including nursing, social work, criminal justice, and the clergy—do not receive adequate training on crime victim issues.

Without an understanding of issues central to crime victimization, many professionals will be limited in their ability to meet their clients' needs. An assessment of the most promising existing professional curricula may encourage the integration of materials regarding crime victim issues into many college and university courses. Ultimately, this instruction should lead to better treatment for the crime victims served by these professionals.

Goals:

- To foster better treatment of crime victims and survivors by members of key professions; and
- To improve the education on crime victim issues that is provided to prospective professionals in a variety of disciplines;

Objectives:

- To identify and assess existing courses and curricula on crime victim issues at colleges and universities—at the undergraduate and graduate level—including at schools of law, medicine, nursing, social work, criminal justice, mental health, and divinity;
- To document and describe effective professional curricula on crime victim issues;
- To develop a multidisciplinary core curriculum that can eventually be used as the foundation for discipline-specific curricula on crime victim issues. OVC will make available copies of curricula developed under previous OVC grants to assist the grantee in meeting this objective; and
- To survey state laws and regulations to ascertain licensing and credentialing requirements for the professions listed above regarding crime victim issues.

Program Strategy: This solicitation invites applications for one grantee to survey academic and professional training institutions for curricula and programs that effectively address crime victim issues and to develop a core curriculum for professions that work with crime victims. The core curriculum and other products developed by the grantee will be the foundation for discipline-specific curricula, to be developed in the project's second year through competitively awarded funding. The first year's project activities will take place in the following three phases:

I. **Assessment:** The first phase of the project entails a survey, identification, and assessment of academic curricula and best programs, including clinical programs and multidisciplinary courses

on victim issues, currently in use by schools of law, divinity, medicine, nursing, criminal justice, and social work. Academic and professional associations for these professional groups shall be contacted as part of the survey process. The activities to be completed are:

- Establishment of an advisory committee with OVC review and approval;
- Development, drafting, and submission of an assessment plan and assessment criteria;
- Survey, identification, collection, and review of existing professional curricula that address crime victim issues;
- Description and detailed summary of promising curricula and programs, including examples of multi-disciplinary programs established at graduate schools; and
- Preparation of a comprehensive assessment report of findings.

II. **Development of Prototype:** Upon completion of the first phase, the grantee will develop a multidisciplinary core curriculum that may serve as the foundation for discipline-specific curricula developed later. The prototype will address crime victims' mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual needs; crime victims in the criminal justice system; relevant legislation; and the role of victim service providers. To assist with this process, OVC will provide a copy of the curriculum currently under development for the Victim Assistance Academy. Elements to be included in discipline-specific curricula should also be enumerated and described. Activities to be completed are:

- Development, drafting, and submission of a multidisciplinary core curriculum, for OVC review and approval;
- Summary of discipline-specific curricular elements; and
- Review and refinement of the draft.

III. **Finalization of Products:** Upon completion of the second phase, the grantee will prepare a report listing and describing effective curricula and professional programs at identified academic and training institutions; a multi-disciplinary core curriculum on crime victim issues with an enumeration and discussion of elements to be included in discipline-specific curricula; and a final report with recommendations for developing discipline-specific curricula in the second year of the project. Samples of collected curricula should be appended to the final products.

Based upon the findings and recommendations of the grantee funded

under the first year of the project, OVC anticipates funding a program to build on the products developed under this initiative by developing a few discipline-specific crime victims' curricula and a train-the-trainer component. The first year's products would be made available to second year grantees for this purpose.

The grantee also will produce an OVC Bulletin highlighting promising practices in teaching about crime victim issues in colleges and universities for dissemination through OVC to the field. In addition, the grantee will produce an OVC Bulletin that describes state requirements for education regarding crime victim issues that are mandated for the people who work with victims.

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

- Expertise in conducting a national-scope information search;
- Knowledge of curriculum development and implementation;
- Knowledge of issues associated with the criminal justice system's handling of crime victims;
- Management and financial capability to oversee a project of this size and scope; and
- An understanding of the role of each discipline in serving crime victims.

Award Period: 12 months.

Contact: Melanie Smith, (202) 616–3575.

Promising Strategies and Practices in Using Technology To Benefit Crime Victims (Cooperative Agreement)

Award Amount: Up to \$100,000.

Purpose: To survey the field to ascertain innovative applications of technology to benefit crime victims, convene a symposium of crime victim advocates, service providers, and experts in technology to explore ways in which emerging technologies can be enhanced to assist crime victims, and issue a report that describes promising practices, recommendations for future action, and resource contacts.

Background: The Information Age is transforming the ways in which public and private sector organizations disseminate information and render services. The labor-intensive, underfunded crime victims field needs to develop technological literacy and seriously consider ways in which computer networks and other emerging technologies can be applied. Through a national-scope symposium, leaders in technology and victim services can come together to identify problem areas in providing services to crime victims and discuss ways in which advancing technologies can fill service gaps,