

To be most effective, crisis intervention with survivors should be immediate. Subsequent follow-up "debriefings" of victims and others impacted by the crime are needed to reduce long-term trauma. Local care-givers may be among those who are traumatized by the event, and may themselves need to receive assistance to deal with the aftermath of the crime. For an adequate crisis response to be mobilized, the plan should be formulated before the critical event, and crisis team members should be designated, trained, and ready to respond.

Goal: To establish community and institutional crisis response teams.

Objectives:

- To produce up-to-date, comprehensive training materials and a booklet regarding how to establish community and institutional crisis response teams for the field;
- To identify highly skilled trainers capable of presenting this training; and
- To provide focused training on these topics at the regional level.

Program Strategy: OVC, in collaboration with BJA, invites applications to organize, conduct, and evaluate a series of four regional training seminars on establishing community and institutional crisis response teams. The regional training will assist participants in preparing a community or institutional crisis response plan that is flexible enough to appropriately address many possible crime-related crises. The plan must address both chronic crises, such as multiple victimizations on one college campus, and acute crises, such as the hostage situations.

The training also will assist in identifying key professionals to serve on the crisis response team. These should include mental health professionals, victim service providers, police and fire officials, members of the clergy, and others. Institutional teams should include representatives from key divisions within the institution, as well as many of the same types of agencies and professional groups from the local community as noted above.

In preparation for the seminars, the grantee will review and assess existing training materials and identify qualified trainers familiar with presenting the information. With input from the trainers, the grantee will produce a comprehensive and user-friendly training package, as well as a booklet setting forth the process for establishing a team for communities and institutions. A training plan and instruments for assessing its impact must also be developed.

Each seminar will last two to three days and train up to 60 participants. Since the effectiveness of the training is dependent upon reaching key individuals from a community or institution, the task of recruiting appropriate, area-specific groups is crucial. The recruitment process may require an intensive outreach effort. The training package will be disseminated to participants prior to each seminar. The training will be free of charge, but participants are expected to cover their own travel expenses.

Participants of each seminar will develop, as a final product of the training event, an Action Plan for future activities related to establishing a crisis response team. Approximately six to eight weeks after the training, the grantee will contact all participants to gather follow-up information and input about how each jurisdiction's Action Plan is being implemented. As an additional product, the grantee will prepare a shortened introductory version of the curriculum (including outline and overheads), which can be made available to agencies that wish to present it as a two hour workshop at training conferences.

Major project products include:

- Training package;
- Booklet on how to set up a crisis response team;
- Proposed faculty list;
- Marketing plan;
- Seminar agenda;
- Four two to three-day seminars;
- Assessment plan;
- Two-hour introductory curriculum; and
- Final Report, with assessment of project impact.

Eligibility Requirements: In addition to the requirements of Sections VI–XI, applicants from private and public organizations and agencies must demonstrate topical expertise and management capability to organize, market, conduct, and assess a seminar series on this topic.

Award Period: 12 months.

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Conference Support Training Initiative

Award Amount: Up to \$10,000 for the state grants; up to \$30,000 for regional victim assistance training conferences; and up to \$20,000 for victim assistance training tracks at national conferences. A total of \$200,000 will be made available for these grants.

Purpose: To provide Federal support for national, Federal, state, and regional victim assistance training conferences.

Background: The growth of the victims movement and the increasingly

specialized nature of professions involved in responding to victims of crime has led to an ongoing and profound need for both general and specific training in the field.

OVC has been instrumental in supporting statewide and regional network training and technical assistance efforts by funding quality trainers and covering conference costs. OVC is expanding this program to include support for victim assistance training at national conferences for professionals who work with crime victims.

During the past 2 years, OVC has co-sponsored about 25 state and regional victim assistance conferences. OVC is continuing and expanding its mini-grant program, formerly referred to as the State Conference Training Initiative. This funding is provided on a competitive basis to support statewide and regional victim assistance conferences, as well as tracks of victim assistance training at national conferences of allied professionals.

Goals:

- To supplement funding for victim assistance training and technical assistance to professionals at the national, Federal, regional, state, and local levels;
- To infuse victim assistance training into national conferences of allied professionals by providing funding to support tracks of training;
- To encourage coordination among the many professions interacting with crime victims such as the medical community, social service agencies, and criminal justice system components; and
- To improve the quality of victim assistance services by providing intensive training to direct service providers.

Objectives:

- To sponsor training presentations, at national, Federal, state, or regional victim assistance and other professional conferences, by high quality trainers, many of whom have been involved in OVC training and technical assistance projects;
- To offer OVC staff assistance in identifying training topics and quality trainers;
- To serve the needs of victims of Federal crimes by encouraging the participation of Federal victim-witness coordinators in planning national and state/regional training conferences, and by identifying and including topics that improve the response to Federal victims;
- To determine future training needs on a national, Federal, state, or regional