

*Purpose:* To improve direct services to victims of Federal crime by providing high quality victim assistance training to victim-witness coordinators from a broad range of Federal agencies.

*Background:* In the last five years, Congress has focused on the rights and needs of Federal crime victims by codifying a Federal Crime Victims' Bill of Rights and identifying a range of services that must be made available to victims participating in the Federal criminal justice system. At the same time, Federal criminal statutes have been expanded to include crimes such as car-jacking, crossing a state line to injure, intimidate or harass an intimate partner, and engaging in telemarketing schemes to defraud the elderly. The Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 42 U.S.C. 13031 requires certain professionals working in Federally-operated facilities or on Federal lands to report suspected child abuse cases. These and other recent Federal statutes have increased the number of cases, as well as the Federal responsibility for assisting victims.

As a result, there is an urgent need for additional training and technical assistance for Federal victim-witness coordinators. As many as 1,000 Federal agency coordinators may be interested in attending a symposium that will provide basic and intensive victim assistance training, create a forum to share information regarding promising programs and policies, and identify strategies for strengthening Federal victim assistance programs throughout the government.

*Objectives:*

- To identify and assess, with the assistance of a Federal ad-hoc working group, existing practices and training materials used by Federal criminal justice personnel to respond to victims of Federal crime;
- To develop and implement a cost-effective strategy for providing training to Federal agency victim-witness coordinators utilizing existing victim assistance training curricula;
- To develop a training agenda for the symposium;
- To develop training and technical assistance materials in the areas of program development, program management, and direct services to victims of Federal crime by combining the expertise and resources of the grantee, OVC, and Federal agencies;
- To convene a national symposium to explore issues relating to the provision of services to victims of Federal crime and to provide training to Federal agency victim-witness coordinators;

- To offer an array of skills-building workshops that address the variety of missions of more than 70 different Federal law enforcement agencies; and
- To evaluate the symposium and submit to OVC a strategy for improving Federal agency services to Federal crime victims.

*Program Strategy:* This project will be implemented in two phases, with supplemental funding in FY 96 for the second phase if OVC determines that the first phase has been completed successfully. This solicitation invites applications for a grantee to provide comprehensive victim assistance training to Federal agency victim-witness coordinators from a broad range of Federal agencies with diverse missions.

The grantee will work with OVC staff and an ad-hoc working group of representatives from the various Federal agencies to identify the unique training needs of various agencies and to plan and implement the first comprehensive training conference for this audience. The week-long symposium will provide training regarding the provision of direct services to Federal crime victims, and address issues such as the unique aspects of Federal jurisdiction, and the development of victim assistance programs that utilize local resources. The symposium will also include training on program development, program management, and direct victim services. The conference will include: (1) Topic specific sessions to discuss subjects such as victims of hate/bias crimes, domestic violence, stalking, and child abuse; (2) discipline specific sessions for agencies such as law enforcement and prosecution; and (3) agency-specific sessions, including training for FBI agents or U.S. Postal Inspection Service personnel.

*Phase I, Assessment:*

The first stage of Phase I consists of the identification and assessment of effective procedures and practices and training materials currently used by Federal agencies in response to victims of Federal crime. The grantee should also determine unique training needs of specific Federal agencies. The activities and products to be completed during this stage are:

- Establishment of an ad-hoc working group, with OVC's assistance;
- Development of an assessment plan of Federal agency procedures, practices, and training;
- Review of practices, procedures, programs, and training materials;
- Identification of effective programs;
- Identification of Federal agency specific topical subject areas and training needs; and

- Development of an assessment report.

*Development of Training Strategy:* Based upon the results of the assessment stage, the grantee will develop and present to OVC a cost-effective strategy for providing training to Federal agency victim-witness coordinators, utilizing both existing victim assistance training materials and Federal agency materials. The activities and products to be completed during this stage are:

- A training strategy; and
- A draft training agenda for a national symposium.

*Phase II, Training:*

Following OVC approval of the assessment report, training strategy, and draft training agenda, the grantee will develop appropriate training and technical assistance materials. The activities and products to be completed during this stage are:

- A plan for the development of appropriate training materials that includes the areas of program development, program management, and direct services to victims of Federal crime and combines the expertise and resources of the grantee, OVC, and Federal agencies;
- A draft and final training manual, including trainer and participant manuals and other informational materials;
- A strategy for assessing the training and draft assessment forms, procedures, and tools;
- A national symposium on issues relating to the provision of services to victims of Federal crime.

*Assessment and Recommendations:*

The grantee will assess the symposium and submit recommendations to OVC for improving Federal agency services to Federal crime victims. A final report and a summary of the project will be submitted by the grantee for use as an informational OVC bulletin during this stage.

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

- Expertise in developing victim-witness assistance training curricula and accompanying materials;
- Experience in the management and development of large victim assistance training conferences;
- Knowledge of issues associated with the Federal criminal justice system's handling of crime victims; and
- Organizational experience and financial capability to administer this training initiative.

*Award Period:* 6 months to complete Phase I; 12 months (FY 1996) to complete Phase II.