

memberships and have gained prominence. Both the states and the Federal government also have enacted numerous laws designed to establish and protect the rights of crime victims.

This announcement is provided for informational purposes only. No applications are being solicited. OVC is sponsoring a new report that will assess crime victims-related reforms achieved during the past thirteen years and set forth recommendations for the future. Approximately thirty national experts will assist in preparing the report by participating in a two-day round-table discussion of crime victim issues and drafting background papers on specific crime victim related topics.

OVC will make up to \$125,000 available for this project in FY 1995. The project is being jointly funded by OVC and BJA. For further information, contact Sharon English, (202) 616-3588, or Melanie Smith, (202) 616-3575.

V. Solicitations for FY 1996

Victim Assistance Academy (Continuation)

In 1994, OVC solicited applications for a grant to establish a Victim Assistance Academy for the purpose of making high quality intensive training available to victim service providers across the country from Federal, state, tribal and local settings. OVC anticipated that the project would be an initial step toward establishing an annual training event and creating a professional school and training program for victim service providers. In early 1995, the grant was awarded to a consortium of national victim assistance organizations that included the Victims' Assistance Legal Organization, the National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center of the Medical University of South Carolina, and California State University-Fresno. The grantee was funded to design an interdisciplinary training curriculum, develop a bibliography of training curricula, and produce a video of training highlights with an accompanying viewer's guide and participant training manual. OVC will work with the grantee during the year to evaluate the products developed and determine if the project will be continued and expanded in Fiscal Year 1996. Accordingly, OVC will reserve \$100,000 that could be awarded to continue this effort in early 1996.

Victim Assistance Training for Military Victim Assistance Providers (Continuation)—\$40,000

Continued funding will be provided to the National Organization for Victim

Assistance (NOVA) to improve direct services to victims of crime on military installations by providing training in program development, program management, and direct victim services for military justice personnel. This grant will supplement an existing grant that provides for three regional victim assistance training conferences for criminal justice professionals from military installations. The current grant combines the expertise and resources of NOVA, OVC, and the Department of Defense (DoD) to provide comprehensive skills training on crime victims' issues. Two additional training sessions will be held, one in Germany and one in the Far East, to accommodate the overseas military installations that were unable to attend FY 95 training sessions because of cost and space limitations. All grant activities will be coordinated with DoD's Victim Assistance Advisory Council. OVC is announcing this continuation grant in FY 95; however, the grant award will be made October 1, 1995 with FY 96 funding.

Regional Coordination Initiative

This project seeks to create a network of trainers and technical assistance providers who will enhance existing victim services by planning, managing, and conducting innovative training events at the regional level. This new initiative will identify Regional Field Coordinators (RFC) who, with support from OVC, will develop and implement regional training and technical assistance projects on victim issues. OVC will divide the nation into four regions, as the National Institute of Corrections has done for its Regionalization Program, which serves as the prototype for this initiative. Four individuals per region will be selected to serve as RFCs.

Immediately after their selection, the RFCs will begin an assessment of the major training and technical needs in their local areas. Late in the first project quarter, all 16 RFCs will meet for a three day orientation and planning meeting in Washington, DC. OVC will cover all travel-related expenses for the meeting. During this meeting, the four RFCs for each region will plan and organize one training or technical assistance activity that their group will sponsor during the year. They will base their plans on input they have gathered from victim service providers and trainers in the assessment process.

Through the Trainers Bureau, OVC will provide up to \$3,500 to each region toward the support of the annual training or technical assistance project. The RFCs will be responsible for

marketing the project throughout the region, processing applications from participants who wish to attend, and organizing the event. It is expected that training participants or their agencies will cover the travel-related costs of attending the training.

Since the RFC is an unpaid volunteer position, those serving in this capacity will do so with the support of their own agencies and organizations. The chief executive officer of the employer of each prospective RFC must agree in writing to allow the employee to participate in RFC activities as a part of their regular job. They must also agree to permit the RFC to spend a portion of time on RFC tasks and to use limited amounts of the agency's telephone, mail, and duplication resources in carrying out these tasks. RFC responsibilities last for one year, and may be renewable on a yearly basis for up to three years.

Experienced victim service providers with training and technical assistance expertise, working either in public or private agencies, are encouraged to apply as volunteer regional field coordinators. Applications must include written permission from the applicants' employers, as stipulated above.

Individuals will be selected to fill these positions based on their skills and experience in the victims field, their expertise in providing training and technical assistance, and their capability to work collaboratively with other service providers in their area. The four coordinators selected from each region should have diverse expertise (e.g., family violence, sexual assault, general victim services) and represent different types of agencies (e.g., law enforcement, prosecutor, private service providers). Geographic diversity within each region is also a selection factor.

Application forms may be requested by writing to: Regional Coordination Initiative, Office for Victims of Crime, 633 Indiana Avenue, NW., Washington, DC. 20531. Applications will be accepted through September 30, 1995 for the FY 1996 program. For further information, contact Susan Laurence, (202) 616-3573.

Concept Papers for FY 1996

OVC is soliciting short concept papers for innovative demonstration and training and technical assistance programs for funding consideration in FY 1996. The purpose of this effort is to identify innovative ideas falling within OVC's statutory authority to improve the response to the nation's crime victims through the provision of training and technical assistance. OVC is seeking input from the victim assistance field for new ways of meeting