



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs
Office for Victims of Crime
Washington, D.C. 20531

**VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT
VICTIM ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM
STATE PERFORMANCE REPORT**

REPORT TIMEFRAME

THE STATE CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE AGENCY RECEIVING FUNDS UNDER THE VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) IS REQUIRED TO SUBMIT ONE STATE PERFORMANCE REPORT ANNUALLY WHICH INCLUDES INFORMATION ON ALL GRANTS ACTIVE DURING THE FISCAL YEAR. THIS REPORT IS DUE DECEMBER 30 OF EACH YEAR. THE PERFORMANCE REPORT PROVIDES INFORMATION ON THE EFFECT THE VOCA FUNDS HAD ON SERVICES TO CRIME VICTIMS IN THE STATE. THIS REPORT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED UPON REQUEST BY THE OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME, 810 SEVENTH STREET, N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20531.

INDICATE REPORTING PERIOD: OCTOBER 01, 2010 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

**SECTION I
STATE IDENTIFICATION**

A. STATE: IL B. FEDERAL GRANT NUMBER: 2011-VA-GX-0046
C. GRANTEE NAME: Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
STREET/P.O. BOX: 300 West Adams Street, Suite 200
CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE: Chicago, IL 60606 - 5107
D. CONTACT PERSON: Mike Carter

**SECTION II
STATE FUNDING INFORMATION**

A. INDICATE THE ANNUAL (during the corresponding state fiscal year) FUNDING AMOUNTS ALLOCATED TO THE VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROJECTS IN THE STATE:

STATE FISCAL YEAR FUNDING	Fiscal Year
1. APPROPRIATIONS	\$17,773,384
2. CRIMINAL FINES & PENALTIES	\$0
3. ASSESSMENTS (e.g. Marriage License, Birth Certificate Fees)	\$0
4. OTHER (Specify)	
Total	\$17,773,384

B. INDICATE TOTAL NUMBER OF AGENCIES FUNDED FROM THIS FEDERAL GRANT: 90

C. INDICATE THE NUMBER OF SUBGRANTS FUNDED FROM THIS FEDERAL GRANT: 160

SECTION III VICTIM STATISTICS	A. INDICATE THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS SERVED BY TYPE OF VICTIMIZATION: NOTE: Indicate the number of victims served by VOCA-funded projects during the grant period. Each victim should be counted only once, i.e., a victim of spouse abuse assaults should be counted more than once only as a result of separate and unrelated crimes.			
	NO. OF VICTIMS SERVED		NO. OF VICTIMS SERVED	
	1,678	1. CHILD PHYSICAL ABUSE	2,262	7. ADULTS MOLESTED AS CHILDREN
	17,416	2. CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE	636	8. SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS
	3,913	3. DUI/DWI CRASHES	5,193	9. ROBBERY
	47,541	4. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	6,390	10. ASSAULT
	5,046	5. ADULT SEXUAL ASSAULT		11. OTHER (<i>Specify</i>)
	609	6. ELDER ABUSE		
	TOTAL	90,684		
SECTION III VICTIM STATISTICS (Continued)	B. INDICATE THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS WHO RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING SERVICES (See instructions for definitions for each service):			
	NO. OF VICTIMS SERVED		NO. OF VICTIMS SERVED	
	38,762	1. CRISIS COUNSELING	1,275	8. EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
	65,251	2. FOLLOWUP	31,075	8. EMERGENCY LEGAL ADVOCACY
	2,431	3. THERAPY	72,733	10. ASSISTANCE IN FILING COMPENSATION CLAIMS
	10,803	4. GROUP TREATMENT/SUPPORT	79,401	11. PERSONAL ADVOCACY
	0	5. SHELTER/SAFEHOUSE	24,591	12. TELEPHONE CONTACT INFORMATION/REFERRAL
	72,834	6. INFORMATION/REFERRAL (IN-PERSON)		13. OTHER (<i>Specify</i>)
	52,345	7. CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUPPORT/ADVOCACY		
		TOTAL	451,501	



**ILLINOIS
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

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**VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT
VICTIM ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM
STATE PERFORMANCE REPORT
FFY 2011**

A. What are the major issues, in your state, if any, that hinder victim assistance programs in assisting crime victims in filing for compensation benefits and in understanding state victim compensation eligibility requirements?

In the State of Illinois, many grantees reported that changes are needed to simplify and expedite the filing process. During FFY11, grantees provided the following feedback:

- Clients have expressed disappointment in the limitations of victim compensation and believe the reimbursement guidelines need to be broadened to cover additional types of compensation, such as property damage.
- Clients complained of not receiving follow-up contact from the compensation office which is needed to assist them in completing their reimbursement applications.
- Clients feel that the complexity of the required forms and supporting documents, as well as the time it takes to process the claim, make compensation requests daunting and burdensome tasks for victims.
- Clients think it is a hindrance to victim service when claims that are not submitted in a timely matter result in rejections/denials.
- Clients believe that consideration should be given to victims who suffer from anxiety caused by the assault, who may be unable to complete the compensation application due to overwhelming feelings they have while reviewing all the information.
- Clients choose not to file the application for victim compensation because they feel the filing efforts would exceed the compensation benefits.
- Agencies would like to see training for victim advocates regarding the victim compensation forms.

B. Briefly describe efforts to promote coordinated public and private efforts within the community to aid crime victims.

Most grantees worked diligently to promote partnerships with local agencies to assist crime victims. Many were involved with the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) process, which was facilitated through the use of protocol and agreements,

case coordination and case management services. These MDTs were made up of the primary law enforcement agencies, state's attorney's office, county probation department and victim service agency from the funded county. In these four counties, VOCA-funded personnel from the associated law enforcement and prosecution agencies and county child abuse centers partnered with the funded MDTs to provide direct services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse. More examples of coordination efforts include the following:

- One village along with the local rotary club opened a food pantry. Information regarding victim's rights and services is now posted at the food pantry, in several languages.
- The protocol at one CAC mandated that they collaborate with partner agencies to better serve their victims and non-offending caretakers. They formed partnerships with 17 agencies and their coordination efforts were daily and constant.
- One CAC collaborated with the state's attorney's office's victim assistants. They routinely allowed the victim assistant to attend the interview, which allowed them to have early contact with the family and child victim. They also worked closely with the local YWCA who provided crisis intervention and counseling services to victims of sexual abuse. They referred cases to their counseling program and also coordinated with their prevention educators to provide any assistance needed in delivering community education.

Additionally, agencies reported that they routinely cross-trained staff to fill in when turnover occurred. Judges in many jurisdictions have come to rely heavily upon advocates for their assistance to victims who are filing order of protection petitions. In many jurisdictions the role of the advocate is institutionalized into the operation of the court system.

One program's relationships with law enforcement and the local hospital proved to be a successful collaboration resulting in improved and safer victim services. An advocate was housed at the hospital and local law enforcement offices provided brochures highlighting the advocate's presence at the hospital. Victims whose abusers only allowed them to go certain places, such as the doctor's office, now had a safer way to receive services from domestic violence advocates.

One program's court advocate created a relationship with the local domestic violence shelters, which allowed her access to local clients that were in need of services. It also allowed her to provide a housing recommendation for clients in need.

Agencies report that they have worked with area school counselors on the referral process for when they have identified domestic violence in a family. In one school district a VOCA-funded agency has seen success by bringing all the parties involved with the child's and family's healing together.

Rape crisis centers worked in partnership with a variety of public and private agencies and institutions including: hospitals/medical facilities, public health departments, law enforcement, prosecutors, public and private schools, social service agencies, places of faith, civic organizations, youth organizations, foundations and others. These partnerships included both formal and informal meetings, establishment of multi-disciplinary task forces and mutually sponsored training events, and other efforts to enhance the community response to sexual assault and victim assistance.

C. Briefly describe efforts taken to serve federal crime victims, i.e. coordination etc.

The Authority requires that all VOCA-funded grantees serve all crime victims regardless of whether their cases are charged in state or federal courts. In order to facilitate this, federal agencies located within the State of Illinois have access to information on VOCA-funded services so that they can refer victims to those resources.

During FFY11, VOCA-funded staff served victims of child pornography, sex trafficking and child abduction, and collaborated with the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Attorneys Office, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation on these cases. When necessary, subproviders assisted with full faith and credit issues for clients with orders of protection across state lines.

A case was received from Homeland Security which involved a mother of two young daughters and an online predator. The mother with encouragement from the online predator sexually assaulted her two daughters. The girls were removed from the home and placed with their biological father. Ongoing support and services were given to the girls. In time they were able to testify against their mother.

A case included production of child pornography, possession of child pornography, and failure to register. The crimes were committed by the victim's uncle and his girlfriend. The offenders were ages 25 and 19 and the victim was 6 years old at the time of the offense. The allegation was that the defendant and his girlfriend took her to a hotel to go swimming. They subsequently drugged her in some fashion and committed the above mentioned offenses. The staff advocated for services and justice on behalf of the family and attended all court hearings and meetings with federal prosecutors in a court more than an hour away. A plea agreement was reached and sentencing took place. Both offenders were sentenced to substantial time in federal custody. One received 50 years and the other received 8 years. The family was kept up to date with as much information as possible.

At one CAC, a case for kidnapping and a case for child pornography went to trial. Both cases were prosecuted successfully in county court and the advocates maintain relationships with the families throughout the federal court process.

Agencies report that rape crisis centers located near military bases report working with survivors who are military or military family members. Rape crisis centers are also developing services to work with victims of sex trafficking. In FY11, the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault conducted two workshops at its statewide conference regarding services to victims of trafficking and the sex trade industry.

One agency that works with immigrants continue to refer immigrant crime victims either to in-house and/or federal immigration agencies for assistance with U-Visa's and other crime assistance needs.

D. Describe any notable activities conducted at the state or subgrant level to improve the delivery of victim services (i.e. needs assessments, program monitoring, and program evaluation). Include training efforts, and use of VOCA approved training funds, if applicable.

Victims in one rural county are better served after the VOCA-funded advocate noticed that the restitution request form did not serve the needs of victims of non-violent crimes, such as forgery and unlawful use of debit/credit cards. She revised the form so that the detail of these kinds of victimization could be fully explained.

In a center serving victims of domestic violence, speakers were brought in to assist a youth group comprised of boys who experienced domestic violence at home and gang violence on the streets. These speakers helped the boys in their healing process. Included in the speakers were a police officer who spoke on neighborhood gang violence, a DJ who helped the boys reconcile the violent types in popular music with a non-violent lifestyle, a Cease Fire counselor who worked with the teens to understand how gangs recruit, what to look for and how to stay clear of them, and several artists who worked with the boys to channel their emotions creatively.

In a girl's group at the domestic violence center, a survivor who is a poet shared her story and how she began using poetry as a way to channel her anger and confusion. She worked with the girls to create their own poetry which they turned into a poster that included healthy ways to relieve stress and anger.

Once agency enhanced its service to all domestic violence victims by streamlining its counseling intake process. The amount of time between a potential client's first call to the agency and his/her first appointment was shortened by revising the forms used to refer services to clients who call the crisis line by making sure that more information was taken initially and by removing extra steps in the appointment making process. This revamped intake process was instrumental in providing services to the victim population at a faster rate which made a greater impact.

Subproviders attended training on the following topics: Elder Abuse Conference for First Responders; Legal Update on Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault & Stalking; Investigating & Prosecuting Protective Orders; Immigrant & Domestic Violence:

Accessing Services & Tools; Helping Children Heal: Parenting After Violence; Custody, Visitation and Parental Kidnapping. Staff members attended the Illinois Victim Assistance Academy with the Illinois Atty. General's Office. Many agencies also attend the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) Conference.

Victim advocates at one agency are required to gain a better understanding of the court system by reviewing legal definitions, attending motion hearings, and jury and/or bench trials. The advocates' experiences are then discussed in department meetings. They talk about different situations that occur and how they should handle them. When they have attended trainings, they bring back materials to share the information with other advocates. Since they assist victims that are highly emotional, they have developed skills to calm the victim down during the most stressful time of their life. They have developed better communication skills with victims.

One agency continues to evaluate their victim services program, looking for ways to improve services. Their family advocate implemented a better process for following up with victims and their non-offending family. The advocate will call within a week following the interview to check on status and conduct follow-up two weeks later.

Medical advocacy projects successfully established agreements with health care providers to design and implement projects and work together to help victims. The domestic violence staff funded through VOCA dollars provide regular hours of on-site medical advocacy or they provide on-call response when victims are identified at the medical facility. Through this work, projects have made progress in improving the capacity and frequency with which medical personnel identify, support and refer domestic violence victims.

To improve service to child witnesses, one program requires that all staff, not just children's staff, are trained on modeling positive interaction with children. The program ensures that all staff are trained in exercising positive ways to resolve conflict with and interact with children so that their mothers can see that example and gain those skills themselves. The program maintains this commitment to a true working relationship between staff and parents of child clients through all levels of the agency.

E. Include and/or attach anecdotal information and individual case histories illustrating at least four ways in which VOCA funds have been used to assist crime victims. (Letters from crime victims are helpful.)

VOCA funds have been utilized in Illinois to provide services to a variety of crime victims. The following FFY11 anecdotes illustrate the impact of such services:

- **Services to Victims of Domestic Violence**

A program received a call from a nurse at a local clinic to say that they had a patient in the office who had been beaten by her husband, was in bad shape, and that the husband would not leave her side. The abuser was so bold that when asked what happened to his wife (who had a fractured eye socket, dislocated shoulder and a broken wrist), he simply answered, "I hit her." The counselor went to the clinic and spoke with clinic staff, which was then able to get the client to agree to meet with the counselor alone in an exam room. The client indicated that the abuser had 24 hour control over her actions because they lived and worked together. She had no access to money or even keys to the family home or car. The counselor explained her rights and the need for an order of protection. The clinic doctor placed the client on three day bed rest, which opened the door for a visit to the domestic violence courthouse. The next morning the client met with the legal advocate, filled out the necessary paperwork and went before the judge. The judge granted an emergency order of protection with possession of the family home going to the client. The legal advocate then worked with the client and the police department to arrange the arrest of the abuser when he returned from work in the morning. While this conversation was happening, the client got a call from the abuser indicating that he had tracked her to the courthouse and he demanded to know what she was doing inside. The sheriff, the legal advocate and the state's attorney all coached the client as she encouraged the abuser into the lobby of the courthouse. Upon entering, the abuser was taken into custody and ultimately sentenced to one of the harshest punishments this program has seen in several years. When the client first presented at the program she acknowledged that the abuse was wrong, but did not know it was illegal.

- **Services to Victims of Child Abuse**

A CAC worked with a victim, a 10 yr old boy, who was physically abused and tortured by his mother and her boyfriend. The mother and boyfriend videotaped the abuse and the tape is now part of the evidence against the two defendants in criminal court. The victim is residing with his paternal grandmother and is doing well with the support of weekly counseling and school intervention for occasional aggressive behavior. The victim's grandmother is committed to keeping him in her home and has done a wonderful job in helping to stabilize his behavior. The prosecutor assigned to this case in criminal court and the advocate assigned from the CAC, meet every 6 weeks with the victim and have gone with him to meet the judge in abuse and neglect court. A termination hearing was scheduled for the mother of the victim. The criminal prosecutor and the advocate will prepare two of the witnesses that will testify at that hearing as they will also be witnesses should the case go to trial in criminal court.

- **Services to Victims of Violent Crime**

An agency received a call from the financial counselor at a hospital regarding the case of an undocumented victim of a violent crime. The victim was an innocent bystander at a police stake-out. His throat was slashed by one of the offenders involved. He was

taken to a hospital where he received a tracheotomy which required regular cleaning. Shortly after he was released he was taken into custody by the INS and placed in a detention center. The uninsured victim was offered immigration services and assistance with crime victim compensation services. The agency worked with immigration to release the victim from detention and also assist with an application for a U-Visa. The victim was assisted in finding an attorney to provide legal services. A motion was filed and the judge ordered the victim to be released from detention. The victim is now back at home with his wife and children where his wife can give him the medical attention he requires to keep his apparatus clean. His U-Visa application has been filed and is now pending. U-Visas are available to undocumented victims of certain violent crimes. Applicants who receive U-Visas are eligible to receive social security numbers and work authorization. Eventually they can also become lawful permanent residents. The agency assisted the victim in filing an application for assistance from the crime victim compensation fund. The victim's application for emergency Medicaid was approved and the agency will further assist the victim in ensuring that appropriate bills are paid by Medicaid.

- **Law Enforcement and Prosecutor-based Victim Assistance Services**

A 30 year old offender was arrested on a warrant alleging aggravated criminal sexual abuse to a 16 year old victim. The offender, a citizen of Ecuador, was working legally in the United States on a part time basis. While here, he arranged accommodations through a local church group to stay with a family. During the time he stayed in their home, he had inappropriate contact with the family's daughter on several occasions. The case was resolved in August 2011 with a guilty plea. He was sentenced to 2 years of probation, 180 days in jail and must register as a sex offender.

F. Identify any emerging issues or notable trends impacting crime victim services in your state.

The Authority recognizes emerging issues and acknowledges many notable trends impacting crime victim services throughout the state, which include:

- A rise in the theft of household items that can be pawned.
- The need for more emergency shelters and/or affordable housing.
- The need for free or low-cost legal advocacy services since few victims qualify for pro bono legal services.
- The need for emergency food, phones and financial assistance.
- The need for time off from work to attend multiple court dates
- The need for transportation services to and from court.
- The need for childcare during court proceedings.
- The need for Spanish interpreters at court.
- The need for more advocates to help victims navigate the legal system.
- The need for long term counseling services
- The need for appropriate enforcement of orders of protection.
- Increase in domestic violence.

- Increase in financial exploitation of the elderly.
- Increase in teen female victims of adult males, resulting in teen pregnancies.
- Increase in clients experiencing crisis due to decrease in mental health/substance abuse services.

Provided below are additional trends and issues impacting victim services in Illinois:

- **Decrease in reported violent offenses.** According to Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data from the Illinois State Police, the number of reported violent offenses decreased 8 percent from 71,142 in 2004 to 65,729 in 2009. During that time period, reported violent offenses decreased 10 percent in Cook County (from 44,069 to 39,765) and decreased 3 percent in central counties (from 11,386 to 11,015). Reported violent crime also decreased in other parts of the state: 2 percent in northern counties outside Cook County (from 8,581 to 8,431) and 8 percent in the southern counties (from 7,104 to 6,517).
- **Decrease in reported number of domestic offenses.** According to Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data from the Illinois State Police, between 2004 and 2009, the number of reported domestic offenses across Illinois decreased 6 percent, from 122,797 reported offenses to 115,988 reported offenses. During that same time period, the number of reported domestic offenses decreased 10 percent in Cook County (80,120 to 72,177) and decreased 28 percent in southern counties (6,823 to 4,883). Conversely, reported domestic offenses increased 7 percent in central counties (23,616 to 25,291) and increased 11 percent in northern counties outside Cook County (12,238 to 13,637).
- **Decrease in reported criminal sexual assault offenses.** Overall, Illinois' UCR data from 2004 to 2009 indicated a 9 percent decrease in the number of reported Index criminal sexual assault offenses (from 5,862 to 5,316). Reported incidents of criminal sexual assault in Cook County decreased 13 percent (2,397 to 2,080) and decreased 5 percent in central counties (1,400 to 1,330). In addition, offenses in the southern counties and in the northern counties outside Cook County both decreased 8 percent (695 to 642 in the southern counties and from 1,370 to 1,264 in the northern counties outside Cook County).
- **Increase in reported elder abuse and neglect cases.** The number of elder abuse and neglect cases reported in Illinois was 10,830 during state fiscal year (SFY) 2009, a 30 percent increase from the 8,359 reported in SFY2004. Additionally, reported cases of elder abuse increased across all regions of the state: 42 percent in Cook County (from 2,623 to 3,724), 13 percent in central counties (from 2,506 to 2,825), 42 percent in southern counties (from 1,473 to 2,087), and 25 percent in northern counties outside Cook County (from 1,757 to 2,194).

- Increase in the number of child abuse and neglect cases reported, yet a decrease in cases that were indicated.**¹ The number of reported cases of child abuse and neglect increased 7 percent between SFYS 2004 and 2009 from 104,262 to 111,732. The number of *indicated* cases increased 10 percent, from 27,040 to 29,785 indicated cases. During the same time period, reported and indicated cases in Cook County decreased 4 percent and 1 percent, respectively (from 35,442 to 34,071 and from 7,966 to 7,900). By contrast, reported and indicated cases in other areas of the state increased: in northern counties outside Cook County, reported cases increased 2 percent (from 24,971 to 30,266) and indicated cases increased 40 percent (from 6,274 to 8,805), in central counties, reported cases increased 9 percent (from 27,330 to 29,875) and indicated cases increased 2 percent (from 8,487 to 8,673), and in southern counties, reported cases increased 5 percent (from 16,160 to 16,910) and indicated cases increased 8 percent (from 6,274 to 8,805).
- Continued demand for language services.** In addition to the continuing demand for Spanish language services, programs are also seeing an increased need for multilingual and multicultural services. Illinois has experienced growth in the immigrant populations such as Polish, Russian, Korean and other Asian and Middle Eastern populations. In 2010, 1.5 million people in Illinois spoke a language other than English, representing 22 percent of the total population over 5 years old. Victim service programs continue to seek bilingual advocates so that they are better able to serve these populations.
- Increase in need for victims of crime on college campuses.** In 2009, there were 123 reported forcible sex offenses on the campuses of 4-year colleges/universities (64 of which occurred in residence halls) and 6 reported sex offenses on the campuses of 2-year colleges. In addition, there were 759 reported violent offenses at college campuses in Illinois (99 of which occurred in residence halls). Due to new policies and practices regarding safety and crime on campus, there has been an increase in the number of students seeking services as victims of crime. Part of this is the result of more crime awareness and education, as well as the requirement of campus authorities to provide specific services for victims of sexual assault and other violent crimes. Because campuses are often independent of the communities they reside in, it is unknown if services available outside the campus community are being accessed.
- Provide assistance for victims of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation.** A University of Pennsylvania study estimated there are as many as 300,000 U.S. children at risk for exploitation through prostitution. According to the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act, “sex trafficking” is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a

¹ Indicated cases are reported cases that were verified as incidents of abuse and/or neglect by the Illinois Dept. of Children & Family Services after investigation.

commercial sex act. A new law, the Illinois Safe Children Act was signed in August, 2010 which makes all children under the age of 18 immune from prostitution charges, under any circumstances. If a child exploited in prostitution is encountered by law enforcement, she/he may be taken into temporary protective custody, and law enforcement must notify DCFS, which in turn must initiate an investigation into child abuse within 24 hours [720 *ILCS* 5/11-14]. Children and Adult victims alike are also being afforded further relief under the Justice for Victims of Sex Trafficking Crimes Act that was signed into law this August 2011. The Act added allows a victim of sex trafficking to file a petition to vacate a prior prostitution conviction, subject to certain criteria [725 *ILCS* 5/116-2.1]. Several initiatives have started to aid this population, especially in Cook County. For example, a residential home operated by the Salvation Army, Anne's House, opened in fall 2010 in the Chicago area providing long-term residential services for young women and girls. Also in 2011 Cook County piloted a specialty treatment court for women facing felony prostitution charges in Cook County.

It is also important to note that local agencies are now in their third year of reduced and late resources from the state. The strain of uncertainty and inability to plan is definitely forcing programs to focus on core and critical services. The ability to raise resources to meet the ever increasing requests for assistance is stretched to capacity. Subproviders faced barriers related to limited resources impacting the amount of legal advocacy an agency can provide.

Services to children fall short in many areas. Funding cuts have forced many agencies to cut back or eliminate almost all but the most basic of services to children. Children are receiving safe shelter but programs are stretched to provide more than basic group counseling for dependents of victims.

Rape crisis centers report working with others to enhance services to women with disabilities who experience sexual violence. This population is disproportionately victimized and underserved. Community collaboratives throughout the state are developing training and service protocols to better meet the needs of these victims.

Rape crisis centers continue to witness the failure of the criminal justice system in sexual assault cases. Victims report and advocates observe that law enforcement officers and prosecutors frequently treat victims with disrespect, skepticism and even overt hostility. The few cases that result in investigation, charges and prosecution are not representative of the majority of sexual assault reports. Most cases that are charged are pled to lesser, often non-sexual assault charges. A significant majority of sexual assaults are perpetrated by perpetrators who knew the victim. Yet, for adult

victims, prosecuted cases are generally stranger rapes that involve a physical attack with significant physical injury and no mitigating factors that comprise victim credibility (e.g., was not drinking, was not out alone at night, has no history of mental illness or other disability, etc.). In child cases, more cases result in charges, but most result in a plea, and acquaintance/family member assaults often result in little penalty for the offender.

G. Specifically discuss how your state has used VOCA administrative funds and the impact of these funds on the state's ability to improve victim services.

The Authority used VOCA administrative funds during FFY11 to strengthen and enhance Illinois' VOCA program and improve victim services across the state. In addition to personnel costs listed below, VOCA administrative funds are used to support a portion of the salaries of three legal advisors, five accountants, two criminal justice specialists, two data process specialist, one associate director, one business administration specialist, one executive I, one travel coordinator, one internal auditor, and two public service administrators. Funds are also used for rent, office supplies, equipment maintenance, auto operations, telecommunication/software usage charges, printing and postage. During this past year staff revised the VOCA proposal material and data report to better reflect the programs funded. Trainings were held for grantees to explain the revisions and allow questions. These trainings were attended by some 100 staff members from over 70 VOCA-funded programs throughout the state.

- **Program monitoring staff.** VOCA administrative funds were used to support the salaries of three full-time equivalent grant specialists and 25 percent of one research analyst's salary to support VOCA-funded projects. The grant specialists conducted on-site visits with program staff, provided technical assistance to grantees and monitored project performance. VOCA administrative funds were also used to support a portion of the salaries of three legal advisors, five accountants, two criminal justice specialists, two data process specialist, one associate director, one business administration specialist, one executive I, one travel coordinator, one internal auditor, and two public service administrators. Funds are also used for rent, office supplies, equipment maintenance, auto operation, telecommunication/software usage charges, printing and postage.
- **Illinois' victim service information system (InfoNet).** Seventy-five percent of a full-time staff person's salary was funded with VOCA administrative funds. This staff person manages the InfoNet system, an Internet-based data collection and reporting system used by over 118 victim service agencies from nearly 200 sites across Illinois. More than 90 percent of these agencies receive VOCA program funds for victim assistance services. The InfoNet manager ensures that the system is maintained with quality data; useful to statewide agencies for planning and administration of grant funds; and useful for local victim service agencies for reporting to funders, program development, and case management. InfoNet

contains basic information about all clients – victims and significant others – who receive victim services, including demographic, health insurance, employment, education, marital status, income source, referral source, and special needs. The type of victimization and severity of abuse are also captured, as well as victim interactions with court and health care systems. User agency staff also enters information about the offender’s involvement with the criminal justice system, including arrest, charge, case disposition, and sentencing information. Information is added to a client’s record over time, creating a history of services and events. The InfoNet system continued to provide valuable data and information to program monitoring staff, grantees, members of the Authority’s groups and committees, and the victim service community statewide. These contributions not only help assess performance of VOCA-funded activities, but all victim service activities at local and state levels; including the identification of service gaps and needs among different populations and geographic areas.

- **Statewide Coalitions.** The Authority also disbursed a portion of VOCA administrative funds to the two statewide coalitions. The Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence was responsible for monitoring 96 projects in 51 VOCA subgrants for services to adult and child victims of domestic violence, and the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault was responsible for 74 projects in 33 VOCA subgrants for services to adult and child victims of sexual assault.