

2020-2022 VOCA Strategy Development Process

Final Report: January 4, 2019

Strategy Development Process:

In October, 2018, in preparation for development of 2020-2022 VOCA strategies, the Washington Office of Office of Crime Victims Advocacy invited from VOCA funding recipients, individuals and organizations that participated in the 2015 VOCA planning process, and other interested stakeholders to share their observations regarding the impact of the 2015-2019 VOCA priorities which resulted from the 2015 planning process, and to identify any key unmet crime victim needs that cannot be met within the current priorities established through the 2015 process.

OCVA invited 242 public agencies, Indian tribal governments, and nonprofit crime victim service providers that received funding through the 2015-2019 VOCA plan, as well as 7 agencies which sought but did not receive VOCA funding, to complete an on-line survey (Attachment A) regarding their observations of crime victim needs and the impact of the priorities identified in the 2015-2019 VOCA plan.

102 responses to the on-line survey were received and tabulated. A brief report of survey findings was prepared (Attachments B and D) and shared with representatives of crime victim services coalitions as part of a coalition input meeting held on November 29, 2018. Notes from the coalition input meeting are included in Attachment C. OCVA sought feedback on the survey findings and related issues from the Washington Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, Child Advocacy Centers of Washington, Womenspirit, Washington State CASA, and the Office of Civil Legal Aid.

Participants in the 11-29-18 Coalitions feedback meeting affirmed the results of the online survey, agreeing that the priorities identified through the 2015-2019 VOCA planning process should be utilized to prioritize funding for both current and emerging crime victim needs through 2020-2022.

OCVA staff presented a preliminary timeline for the release of VOCA funding announcements and application procedures and sought input from the coalitions regarding a variety of implementation issues. Coalition input is included in notes from the November 29, 2018 meeting (Attachment C).

Context for the 2020-2022 Strategy Development Process:

In 2015, OCVA conducted an extensive statewide planning process to identify crime victim needs and priorities for the use of enhanced VOCA funding to sustain and improve crime victim services throughout the state. The planning process included in-person discussion groups in four locations around the state involving over 150 participants, an open online survey, and extensive discussions with coalitions and networks of crime victim advocates and service providers. The process resulted in the development of a comprehensive strategy to address critical needs identified as outlined in the [2015-2019 VOCA State Plan](#).

Given the scope of the 2015 planning process, the magnitude of the initiatives which emerged from the planning process, and the reality that the full impact of the initiatives which resulted from the process cannot yet be measured, OCVA decided to use the strategy development process described above to gather focused input from crime victim service providers and others with “front row seats” for the implementation of the 2015 VOCA plan to provide context for discussion of priorities and core strategies for the next 3 year plan.

Stakeholder Input:

One hundred two (102) stakeholders completed the OCVA on-line survey (Attachment A) during the first two weeks of November 2018, comprising a 42% response rate. 85% of survey respondents agreed that the 2015-2019 VOCA priorities should continue to guide the use of VOCA funds for the 2020-2022 period. 48% of respondents reported that current priorities are broad enough to encompass all significant victim needs. While 30% of respondents reported that some significant victim needs might not fit within current VOCA priorities, virtually all the needs these respondents identified appeared to fit the priorities and had in fact been funded through VOCA awards. Highlights of the survey responses are included in Attachment B.

Unmet and Emerging Crime Victim Needs:

Respondents identified a wide variety of crime victim needs as emerging or still unmet within their communities. Most frequently noted unmet or emerging needs were:

- Civic legal assistance
- Affordable housing
- Emergency funding – client assistance (food, transportation, etc.)
- Lack of services in rural counties
- Needs of crime victims who live with a disability
- Maintenance of effort – providing support to sustain current services when other sources of funding are lost
- Homelessness prevention for crime victims
- Funding for client mental health services
- Addressing technology enabled coercive control
- Hate crimes towards refugee and immigrant communities
- Human Trafficking
- Public awareness outreach

Other specific needs mentioned by respondents included:

- Funding for professional transcription of all Child Forensic Interviews
- Trauma-informed training for attorneys, judges and law enforcement and therapy for survivors
- Growing threats to transgendered and other sexual minority communities
- Anti-immigrant violence and threats
- Legal services to help trafficking victims expunge criminal convictions
- Lack of access to pediatric SANE in our community

- “for the people of color that I serve, safety from police, gangs, racist systems such as dishes, cps that takes our kids at a higher rate, dept. of corrections, probation and parole depts., other systems that are disproportionately unfair to black and brown people such as the IRS, SSI, Unemployment System etc.”

Profile of Survey Respondents:

64% of the 102 survey respondents had been funded through the current plan priorities. 4% had applied and not been funded. 15% had not applied. The remaining 17% of respondents were uncertain whether their organization had applied or had been funded. Respondents reported receiving funding through a variety of categories. The most frequently reported categories of funding received were:

- Training Bank, Language Bank,
- Enhancement and Expansion of Current Services, and
- Improved Compensation and FTE.

Direct Service/Advocacy Providers (32% of respondents) and Victim Services Agency Managers (32% of respondents) comprised the largest portion of the survey respondents, with program managers in multi-purpose agencies comprising 25% of respondents. 30% of respondents had been involved with victim services/advocacy for less than 1 year; 6% has been involved for more than 10 years.

Implementation Issues and Suggestions:

Survey respondents identified multiple opportunities to improve implementation of the funding process while retaining the 2015-2019 VOCA Plan priorities.

Administrative Issues and Suggestions:

Respondents identified issues they believed could be addressed administratively within the overall framework of current priorities. Issues and suggested changes included:

- Desire for careful review and potentially provision of additional support for programs by and for marginalized communities which may have experienced greater difficulty requesting funding for unmet needs and staff FTE enhancement. Some difficulties may be related to language access and cultural influences in funding decisions.
- Need for new strategies to address the unmet needs of those experiencing impact of multiple traumas, especially in marginalized communities, who have barriers within their own communities that prevent them from getting help.
- Creating opportunities for *new* programs to apply for funding, especially tribal programs and consortiums of tribal programs.
- Multiple respondents identified bookkeeping costs of separate detailed tracking required for each distinct VOCA grant. One suggested a “block grant” approach which would permit tracking for the use of all VOCA funds while still allowing for application and award of funds by category.
- Desire for clearer recognition that since DV and SA programs serve child victims of abuse and neglect, allocations based on child victim needs should be available for services provided by DV and SA programs as well as CACs.
- Recognition that the cost of living has already increased beyond the levels that the FTE stabilization and compensation funding awards were intended to address and development of

funding strategies that ensure that compensation levels increase to levels which support retention of skilled staff.

- Concern that Victim Witness Coordinator grants are not covering wages in high wage counties.
- Use of funding guidelines that recognize that growing staff results in increased costs for space, phones, computers, and office expenses, etc.
- Desire for OCVA to consider opening the grant application process to allow applications from programs meeting “unmet needs” that are outside the normal recipient list for VOCA funding.
- Desire for greater stability in funding levels, potentially through multi-year funding awards to avoid repeated start-up and shut-down of services which result from short-term funding.
- Prioritize “sticking with the basics” to ensure that all basic crime victim needs are addressed before supporting niche improvements.

Potential Modifications for Resource Allocation within Current Priorities:

Some respondents suggested that the percentages for allocation to each priority be adjusted, including

- Adjust the percentages for allocation to each priority to increase funding available for child services and advocacy.
- Allocate funding equally for all CACs, both developing and accredited.
- Adjust funding based on analysis of number of crime victims served.
- Set-aside funds for survivors of commercial sexual exploitation.

VOCA Accomplishments:

Many respondents expressed support for both the 2015-2019 VOCA Plan priorities and the processes used for allocating and awarding funds. Some respondents noted specific areas in which the new funding has made major differences in their communities. Respondent comments included:

- The state sets an exemplary standard of how government funders can partner with providers to really have the pulse of what survivors need and what works best on the ground to provide that.
- As a new recipient of VOCA funding (within the past two years), I can say that being able to address victimization via specific crimes (i.e. sex trafficking) as well as more broadly defined “unmet needs” has been a huge benefit to our agency, as well as to the community. Issues that we had been struggling to successfully address for years have finally found the financial support needed to give root to needed services.
- Survivors are being given options that they have never had before and creating increased trauma informed care and safety. Survivors are able to remain safety in their homes or being safely relocated and rehoused.
- Having funding to provide an advocate in the Children's Justice Center has been a critical component to providing appropriate services to these victims and their families.
- The CAC Child Centered Services wouldn't exist without those (VOCA)funds. The launch of a CAC while we work on accreditation nationally has taken off. We are meeting the needs of so many we weren't serving before.

- The mobile advocacy response funding has allowed the services to reach the survivors in need
- Enhancement and Expansion and Culturally and Community Specific Services have had the greatest impact for our community
- The funding to recruit and maintain employees was huge. Our directors will be retiring, and the wage scale must rise if we hope to entice experienced people to apply. In addition, our wage scale for every position was below where it has to be.
- Being able to give our staff raises and extra benefits provides well-seasoned advocates for clients and provides longevity for the agency
- Comp and FTE actually made a huge difference for us in attracting and retaining qualified staff.
- Our Enhancement/Expansion grants have allowed us to provide homeless prevention services and mental health therapy programming in ways that we were not able to achieve prior to securing these funds.

Feedback from Victim Services Coalitions

OCVA invited each of the coalitions of crime victim service providers to participate in a discussion of the survey findings and priorities for 2020-2022 VOCA funds held on November 29, 2018. Understanding that each coalition has members with varying points of view, OCVA asked participants in the coalitions discussion to serve as key informants, sharing the variety of views their members hold on unmet needs and related issues. Each coalition was asked to identify a participant from their organization that had in-depth understanding of the various views and priorities of their members.

Representatives from five coalitions joined representatives from several prosecutors' offices, the Department of Corrections, the Crime Victims Compensation Program, and staff from DSHS and OCVA for the 11/29/18 discussion. Notes from the discussion are included in Attachment C.

Participants were asked to join OCVA and DSHS staff in reviewing the 2018 VOCA Stakeholder Survey findings and provide feedback and observations regarding the findings. Participants were also invited to comment on OCVA's intent to sustain the priorities of the VOCA 2015-2019 Plan for the use of VOCA funds in 2020-2022.

OCVA's Plan for 2020-2022 VOCA Funding:

Rick Torrance, Managing Director, Office of Crime Victims Advocacy thanked participants for attending the meeting and for helping OCVA publicize the online stakeholder survey. Rick noted that OCVA had conducted an extensive planning process in 2015 to identify priorities for the 2015-2019 VOCA Plan, including conducting stakeholder discussion sessions in four locations around the state with over 160 participants, and reviewing the results of an open online survey.

Rick noted that the implementation of the priorities established through the 2015-2019 Plan has resulted in substantial additional funding for crime victim service providers. Because implementation of the 2015-2019 plan priorities was phased in over the first two years of the plan, OCVA believes that it is

still too soon to evaluate the full impact of the new priorities. Rick noted that all signs so far are extremely positive.

Rick reported that after considering the findings from the online survey, as well as the analysis of OCVA and DSHS staff, OCVA has reached a preliminary decision to sustain the 2015-2019 priorities for the 2020-2022 period. But prior to making a final decision regarding this strategy, Rick and OCVA and DSHS staff want to hear directly from the stakeholders gathered for the 11/29/18 meeting and from any coalitions which were not able to attend the meeting.

Discussion Participants' Feedback and Input:

Stakeholders were asked to share feedback that they were hearing from members of their coalitions or networks and their own observations regarding the survey findings and OCVA's proposed plan to sustain the priorities of the VOCA 2015-2019 Plan for use of VOCA funds in the 2020-2022 grant period.

Participants concurred with the survey findings as reported, and with the overall OCVA plan to utilize the 2015-2019 priorities to guide the use of 2020-2022 VOCA funding.

Participants noted a variety of specific crime victim needs that remain challenging for crime victim service providers within their network of service providers. Among the concerns expressed were:

- The desire to see greater cross discipline collaboration among the various types of crime victim services providers
- Desire to see joint trainings presented by Crime Victims Compensation staff and OCVA staff to help crime victim service providers more fully understand the best ways to assist crime victims with utilizing CVC and VOCA funds effectively
- Recognition that crime victims need more consistent, sustained civil legal representation especially in relation to contested matters. Concern that while various efforts to provide training about civil legal procedures and rights are useful, crime victims have continuing needs for sustained legal representation on contested matters.
- Desire for OCVA's commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion be reflected in the priorities for the use of VOCA funds and in implementation decisions
- Concern regarding the sustainability of services initiated through new VOCA funding
- Desire to see use of restorative justice principles incorporated in crime victim services efforts
- Recognition that lack of access to affordable housing is a major problem for many crime victims
- Desire to increase awareness of the crime victim services which are provided through VOCA funding and to encourage provision of clear notification to all crime victims regarding access to victim services

OCVA Timelines and Communication Strategies

Nicky Gleason, Victims of Crime Section Manager, explained the factors OCVA is considering as it establishes timelines for the next cycles of applications for VOCA funding.

Factors include:

- End dates for projects that may seek continuation funding
- Allowing for adequate timeframes for preparation of applications

- Time required to provide effective outreach to new applicants
- Workload (both within OCVA and DSHS and among crime victim service providers)

Nicky noted that OCVA is considering offering longer project cycles, including the possibility of offering two and three-year applications to provide greater continuity of funding for service providers. She also shared an initial draft timeline for 2019 applications for VOCA funding (Attachment H). OCVA will keep all current contract holders and any other entities that

OCVA will post notes from the 11/29/18 meeting on the OCVA website and forward electronic copies of the notes and attachments to all coalition leaders. OCVA will also post this final report on the survey and stakeholder input and will also announce and post final plans for 2020-2022 funding priorities. OCVA will communicate regularly with all coalitions and service providers as plans and timelines for 2019 VOCA applications processes are finalized.

2018 VOCA Planning Survey

Crime Victim Services Priorities

The 2015 VOCA Plan identified several key priorities for improving services and access to services for crime victims, including:

- Grants for specific services or crime types, including but not limited to civil legal assistance, SANE programming, and currently unmet needs
- Set-aside portions of the increased funding to address key recommendations regarding the needs of crime victims: programs operated by and for historically marginalized populations, tribes, programs providing services for child victims of abuse and neglect, and system-based victim witness assistance programs
- Support maintenance of effort for current services, including investing in strategies to improve recruitment and retention of excellent staff to address crime victim needs and an initiative to enhance and expand current program needs
- Increased funding for direct service staff training and interpretation for crime victims and a resource for emergent issues and emergency response funding.

Question 1:

Based on your experience and knowledge of crime victim needs, do you believe that these priorities should continue to guide the investment of VOCA funds in the next 3-year plan?

- Yes
- No
- Some should/ others shouldn't
- Unsure

Comments on the priorities:

Question 2:

The intent of the priorities outlined above is to allow many different types of funding opportunities. For example, the "grants for specific crimes and specific services" section of the VOCA Plan includes the Unmet Needs Initiative, which allows grantees to apply for any crime victim needs that are unmet in their community.

Are there other significant victim service needs that you feel do not fit within the current priorities? w

- Yes

- No
- Unsure

Please describe other significant needs you believe do not fit in the current priorities

Question 3:

As a result of the 2015 Plan, new resources were made available to address key priorities for improving services and access to services.

Did your program apply for and receive funding for any of the key priorities for improving services and/or access to services identified in the 2015 Plan?

- Yes
- No - our program didn't apply
- No - our program applied but did not receive funding
- Unsure

Question 4:

If you answered YES to Question 3, please answer this question. If you did not answer YES to Question 3, please skip this question.

Please check each statement that applies to funding you received.

- Civil Legal Aid to Crime Victims
- SANE Programming
- Culturally and Community Specific Services
- Tribal Victims of Crime Services
- Children's Advocacy Center Child - Centered Services
- Human Trafficking Initiative Services
- Improved Compensation and FTE funding
- Victim Witness Assistance Services
- Enhancement and Expansion of Current Services funding
- Training Bank funding
- Language Bank Funding
- Other

Of all the new grants/contracts you received, which do you believe have had the greatest impact on improving services or access to services for crime victims in your area?

Question 5:

Based on your experience, what are emerging issues for crime victims in your area?

Question 6:

Other comments or input you would like to share w

Question 7:

Recognizing that many individuals have been the victim of multiple types of crime, please check the box with best describes the primary identity of your program.

- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Assault
- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- Child Abuse or Neglect
- Victims' advocacy associated with prosecution of perpetrators
- Other - please describe

Question 8:

Please check the box that best describes your role in relation to victim services and/or advocacy w

- Management of crime victim service/advocacy organization
- Management of crime victim services/advocacy program within a larger organization
- Direct service/advocacy provider
- Board member of victim services/advocacy program
- Volunteer
- Crime victim who has received services from a crime victim service/advocacy program
- Other- please describe

Question 9:

How long have you been involved, in any role, with crime victim services and/or advocacy efforts? w

- Less than 1 year
- 1 - 5 years
- 6 - 10 years
- more than 10 years

Thank you for completing the survey. Please contact Nicky Gleason at nicky.gleason@commerce.wa.gov if you have questions or would like to provide additional input.

2018 VOCA On-line Survey Findings & Highlights

I. Current priorities:

- **85% of respondents** agreed that the **current priorities should continue to guide the use of VOCA funds**
- **48% of respondents** reported that **current priorities are broad enough to encompass significant victim needs.**
- **30%** reported that **some significant victim needs do not fit within current priorities.**

II. Key Unmet Needs

Participants identified a variety of unmet needs in their communities, including both needs which could be addressed with additional funding through the current plan priorities and needs which the respondent believed could not be addressed under the current priorities.

Most frequently noted unmet and or emerging needs were:

- Civic legal assistance
- Affordable housing
- Emergency funding – client assistance (food, transportation, etc.)
- Lack of services in rural counties
- Needs of crime victims who live with a disability
- Maintenance of effort – providing support to sustain current services when other sources of funding are lost
- Homelessness prevention for crime victims
- Funding for client mental health services
- Addressing technology enabled coercive control
- Hate crimes towards refugee and immigrant communities
- Human Trafficking
- Public awareness outreach

Other specific needs mentioned included:

- Funding for professional transcription of all Child Forensic Interviews
- Trauma-informed training for attorneys, judges and law enforcement and therapy for survivors
- Growing threats to transgendered and other sexual minority communities
- Anti-immigrant violence and threats
- Legal services to help trafficking victims expunge criminal convictions
- Lack of access to pediatric SANE in our community
- “for the people of color that I serve, safety from police, gangs, racist systems such as dshs, cps that takes our kids at a higher rate, dept. of corrections, probation and parole depts., other

systems that are disproportionately unfair to black and brown people such as the IRS, SSI, Unemployment System etc.”

III. Suggested Modifications for Resource Allocation within Current Priorities

1. Adjust the percentages for allocation to each priority, especially focusing on increasing funding available for child services and advocacy
2. Allocate funding equally for all CACs, both developing and accredited or adjusting funding based on analysis of number of crime victims served
3. Set-aside funds for survivors of commercial sexual exploitation

IV. Concerns Raised:

Some respondents raised specific issues they hoped to see addressed administratively within the overall framework of current priorities. Issues and suggested changes included:

1. “I think the unmet needs and staff fte enhancement were sort of all over the board. Marginalized communities need to be supported, by and for. I wonder if language access and culture influence the funding decisions.”
2. Unmet needs of those experiencing impact of multiple traumas, especially in marginalized communities, but have barriers within their own communities that prevent them from getting help
3. Creating opportunities for new programs to apply for funding - ESP tribal programs and consortiums of tribal programs
4. Multiple respondents identified bookkeeping costs of separate detailed tracking required for each distinct VOCA grant. One suggested a “block grant” approach which would permit tracking for the use of all VOCA funds while still allowing for application and award of funds by category.
5. DV and SA programs serve child victims of abuse and neglect – allocations based on child victim needs should be available for services provided by DV and SA programs as well as CACs.
6. Cost of living has already gone past the increase provided through FTE stabilization and compensation
7. Victim Witness Coordinator grants are not covering wages in high wage counties
8. Funding guidelines need to recognize that growing staff results in increased costs for space, phones, computers, and office expenses, etc.
9. Consider opening up the grant application process to allow applications from programs meeting “unmet needs” that are outside the normal recipient list for VOCA funding

10. Consider sustainability in the funding allocations. Adding and subsequently removing funds will be harmful to programs and services.
11. Stick with the basics. "if you're a school lunch program and suddenly you have new money, you don't spend it on a new "recess appetizer" program until you've done everything possible to make sure lunch is tasty and nutritious."

V. Highlighted Accomplishments of Current Priorities

Many respondents expressed support for both the current priorities and the processes used for allocating and awarding funds. Some respondents noted specific areas in which the new funding has made major differences in their communities, including:

1. The state sets an exemplary standard of how government funders can partner with providers to really have the pulse of what survivors need and what works best on the ground to provide that.
2. As a new recipient of VOCA funding (within the past two years), I can say that being able to address victimization via specific crimes (i.e. sex trafficking) as well as more broadly defined "unmet needs" has been a huge benefit to our agency, as well as to the community. Issues that we had been struggling to successfully address for years have finally found the financial support needed to give root to needed services.
3. Survivors are being given options that they have never had before and creating increased trauma informed care and safety. Survivors are able to remain safety in their homes or being safely relocated and rehoused.
4. Having funding to provide an advocate in the Children's Justice Center has been a critical component to providing appropriate services to these victims and their families.
5. The CAC Child Centered Services wouldn't exist without those (VOCA)funds. The launch of a CAC while we work on accreditation nationally has taken off. We are meeting the needs of so many we weren't serving before.
6. The mobile advocacy response funding has allowed the services to reach the survivors in need
7. Enhancement and Expansion and Culturally and Community Specific Services have had the greatest impact for our community
8. The funding to recruit and maintain employees was huge. Our directors will be retiring, and the wage scale has to rise if we hope to entice experienced people to apply. In addition, our wage scale for every position was below where it has to be.
9. Being able to give our staff raises and extra benefits provides well-seasoned advocates for clients and provides longevity for the agency
10. Comp and FTE actually made a huge difference for us in attracting and retaining qualified staff.

11. Our Enhancement/Expansion grants have allowed us to provide homeless prevention services and mental health therapy programming in ways that we were not able to achieve prior to securing these funds.

VI. About Survey Respondents

1. 102 responses were received from 249 invitations to participate in the survey – response rate 41%
2. Respondents had received funding through a variety of categories. The most frequently reported categories of funding received were:
 - Training Bank, Language Bank,
 - Enhancement and Expansion of Current Services, and
 - Improved Compensation and FTE.
3. Direct Service/Advocacy Providers (32% of respondents) and Victim Services Agency Managers (32% of respondents) comprised the largest portion of the survey respondents, with program managers in multi-purpose agencies comprising 25% of respondents.
4. 30% of respondents had been involved with victim services/advocacy for less than 1 year; 6% has been involved for more than 10 years.

VOCA/Crime Victims Services Statewide Stakeholders Meeting Notes

November 29, 2018

Attendees:

Stakeholders:

- Tamaso Johnson, Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV)
- Linda Olsen, WSCADV
- Deadria Boyland, WSCADV
- Mark McClain, Pacific County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, representing Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA)
- Christy Peters, Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney's office, representing WAPA
- Paula Reed, Children's Advocacy Coalition of Washington
- Jim Bamberger, Office of Civil Legal Aid
- Dana Boales, Office of Civil Legal Aid
- Ryan Murrey, Washington State CASA
- Laura Merchant, Harborview, representing Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner grantees
- Steve Eckstrom, Department of Corrections
- Maty Brimmer, Crime Victim's Compensation Program
- Andrea Piper-Wentland, Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs (WCSAP) *via telephone*

OCVA and DSHS staff: –

- Stephanie Condon, Program Manager, Domestic Violence Unit, DSHS
- Pearl Gipson-Collier, VAWA/DVLA Section Lead, OCVA
- Nicky Gleason, Victims of Crime Section Lead, OCVA
- Trisha Smith, Sexual Assault Section Lead, OCVA
- Rick Torrance, Managing Director, OCVA

Facilitator: Kay Sohl

Goals of the Meeting:

- Review November 2018 VOCA Stakeholder Survey findings
- Invite coalition and other stakeholder feedback and observations regarding survey findings
- Obtain stakeholder feedback regarding OCVA intent to sustain the priorities of the VOCA 2015-2019 Plan for use of VOCA funds in 2020-2022
- Identify communication strategies and next steps

OCVA's Plan for 2020-2022 VOCA Funding

Rick Torrance, Managing Director, Office of Crime Victims Advocacy thanked participants for attending the meeting and for helping OCVA publicize the online stakeholder survey. Rick noted that OCVA had conducted an extensive planning process in 2015 to identify priorities for the 2015-2019 VOCA Plan, including conducting stakeholder discussion sessions in four locations around the state with over 160 participants, and reviewing the results of an open online survey.

Rick noted that the implementation of the priorities established through the 2015-2019 Plan has resulted in substantial additional funding for crime victim service providers. Because implementation of the 2015-2019 plan priorities was phased in over the first two years of the plan, OCVA believes that it is still too soon to evaluate the full impact of the new priorities. Rick noted that all signs so far are extremely positive.

As OCVA began considering potential plans for the use of VOCA funding through 2020-2022, staff suggested that OCVA evaluate the potential value of staying the course through continuation of the 2015-2019 VOCA Plan priorities. Before reaching a decision on a proposal to sustain the 2015-2019 VOCA Plan priorities, OCVA wanted to consult the individuals, organizations, and coalitions with the greatest knowledge of the needs of crime victims and the experiences of crime victim service providers. OCVA worked with consultant Kay Sohl to design and distribute an online survey to seek input to guide the 2020-2022 funding priorities.

Rick reported that after considering the findings from the online survey, as well as the analysis of OCVA and DSHS staff, OCVA has reached a preliminary decision to sustain the 2015-2019 priorities for the 2020-2022 period. But prior to making a final decision regarding this strategy, Rick and OCVA and DSHS staff want to hear directly from the stakeholders gathered for today's meeting and from any coalitions which were not able to attend the meeting.

Stakeholder Survey Findings:

In November 2018, OCVA invited 242 public agencies, nonprofits and Tribal governments that received funding through the 2015-2019 VOCA Plan, as well as 7 applicants that applied for but did not receive funding, to complete a brief on-line survey. 102 responses were received, representing a 42% response rate.

A document outlining the Online Survey Findings and Highlights is attached.

Kay Sohl presented key findings from the survey (see attached pdf of the 11/29/18 Power Point presentation):

- **85% of survey respondents** agreed that the **current priorities should continue to guide the use of VOCA funds**
- **48% of respondents** reported that **current priorities are broad enough to encompass significant victim needs**. An **additional 22%** reported that they were unsure if there were other significant victim needs that do not fit within current priorities.
- **30%** of respondents reported that **some significant victim needs do not fit within current priorities**.

Survey respondents were asked to identify victim needs that they believed did not fit within current VOCA funding priorities. Kay observed that virtually all the needs identified appeared to fit within current VOCA funding priorities, with many of the needs being addressed at least partially in one more current VOCA awards.

Survey respondents were also asked to identify unmet or emerging needs, including those which fit within current VOCA funding priorities but have not yet been adequately addressed in their communities. The most frequently mentioned unmet or emerging needs were:

- Civil legal assistance
- Affordable housing
- Emergency funding – client assistance such as food, transportation, etc.

Other frequently mentioned unmet or emerging needs included:

- Lack of services in rural counties
- Needs of crime victims who live with a disability
- Hate crimes towards refugee and immigrant and other marginalized communities
- Human Trafficking
- Homelessness prevention for crime victims
- Funding for client mental health services
- Maintenance of effort – providing support to sustain current services when other sources of funding are lost
- Addressing technology enabled coercive control
- Public awareness outreach

Implementation Concerns and Questions:

Survey respondents urged OCVA to consider a variety of concerns and questions as they worked to **implement** the 2020-2022 VOCA funding strategy.

Kay highlighted several themes which emerged in respondents' implementation concerns and questions, including:

- Concern that organizations that provide crime victim services by and for marginalized communities may need additional assistance to increase their capacity to seek and obtain VOCA funding.
- Recognition that crime victims experiencing the impact of multiple traumas, especially in marginalized communities, may have barriers within their own communities that prevent them from getting help.
- Desire to see the allocation of resources for CACs and/or for services for child victims of crime be increased.
- Concerns regarding bookkeeping costs of requirements to maintain separate detailed tracking for each distinct VOCA grant. Request for consideration of a "block grant" approach which

would permit tracking for the use of all VOCA funds while still allowing for application and award of funds by category.

- Recognition that the cost of living has already gone past the increase provided through FTE stabilization and compensation.
- Recognition that growing staff results in increased costs for space, phones, computers, office expenses, etc.
- Request for consideration of a different approach to establishing the level of language bank and training funding provided to each organization receiving VOCA funding. Desire to see funding levels determined by volume of services rather than through uniform allocations for each prog. Funded.

Stakeholder Feedback and Input:

Stakeholders were asked to share feedback that they were hearing from members of their coalitions or networks and their own observations regarding the survey findings and OCVA's proposed plan to sustain the priorities of the VOCA 2015-2019 Plan for use of VOCA funds in the 2020-2022 grant period.

Participants concurred with the survey findings as reported, and with the overall OCVA plan to utilize the 2015-2019 priorities to guide the use of 2020-2022 VOCA funding.

Participants noted a variety of specific crime victim needs that remain challenging for crime victim service providers within their network of service providers. Among the concerns expressed were:

- The desire to see greater cross discipline collaboration among the various types of crime victim services providers
- Desire to see joint trainings presented by Crime Victims Compensation staff and OCVA staff to help crime victim service providers more fully understand the best ways to assist crime victims with utilizing CVC and VOCA funds effectively
- Recognition that crime victims need more consistent, sustained civil legal representation especially in relation to contested matters. Concern that while various efforts to provide training about civil legal procedures and rights are useful, crime victims have continuing needs for sustained legal representation on contested matters.
- Desire for OCVA's commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion be reflected in the priorities for the use of VOCA funds and in implementation decisions
- Concern regarding the sustainability of services initiated through new VOCA funding
- Desire to see use of restorative justice principles incorporated in crime victim services efforts
- Recognition that lack of access to affordable housing is a major problem for many crime victims
- Desire to increase awareness of the crime victim services which are provided through VOCA funding and to encourage provision of clear notification to all crime victims regarding access to victim services

OCVA Timelines:

Nicky Gleason, Victims of Crime Section Manager, explained the factors OCVA is considering as it establishes timelines for the next cycles of applications for VOCA funding.

Factors include:

- End dates for projects that may seek continuation funding
- Allowing for adequate timeframes for preparation of applications
- Time required to provide effective outreach to new applicants
- Workload (both within OCVA and DSHS and among crime victim service providers)

Nicky noted that OCVA is considering offering longer project cycles, including the possibility of offering two and three-year applications to provide greater continuity of funding for service providers.

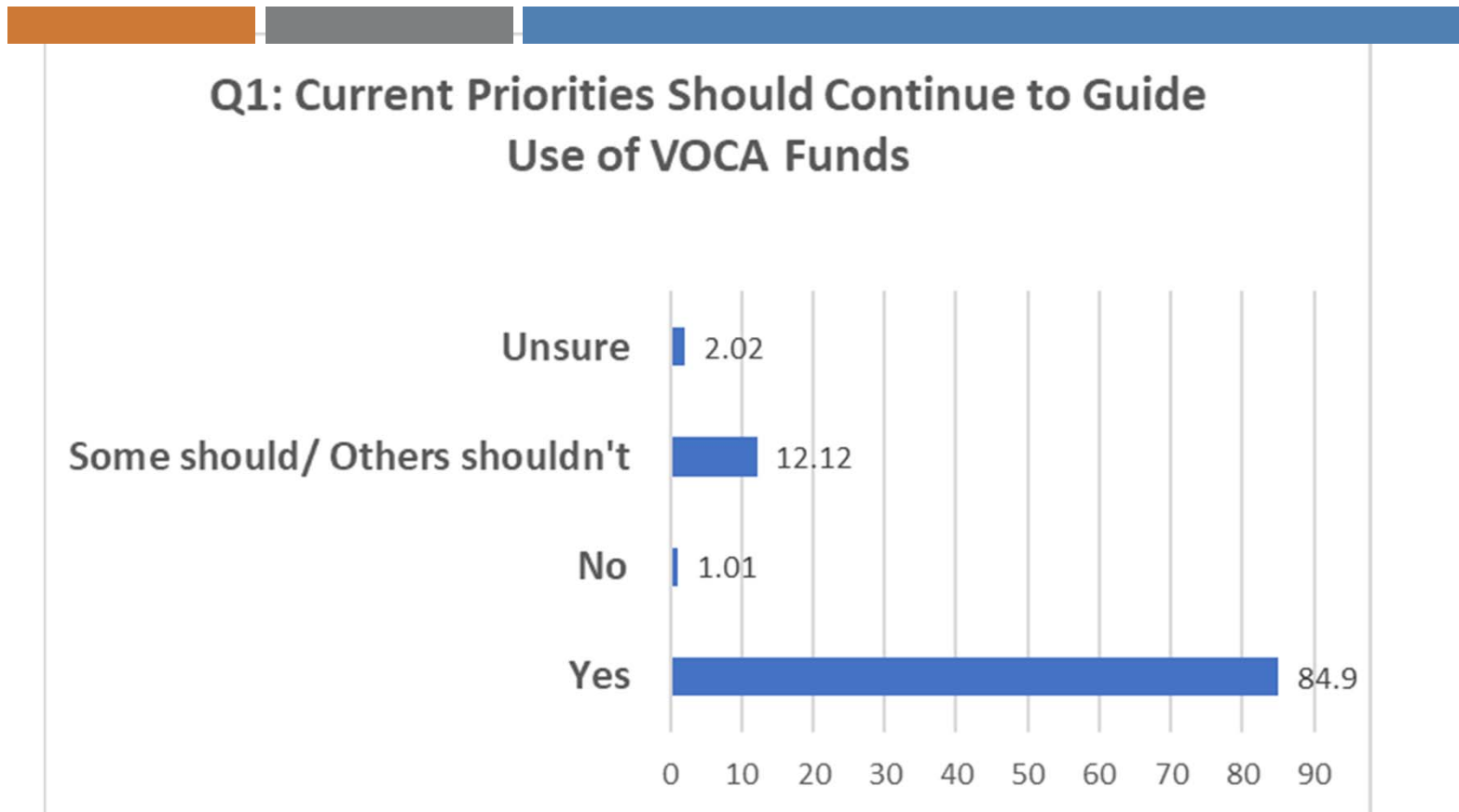
Nicky shared an initial draft timeline for 2019 applications for VOCA funding (see attached PowerPoint). OCVA will keep all current contract holders and any other entities that have expressed interest in VOCA funding informed as application deadlines and formats are established.

Communication Strategies:

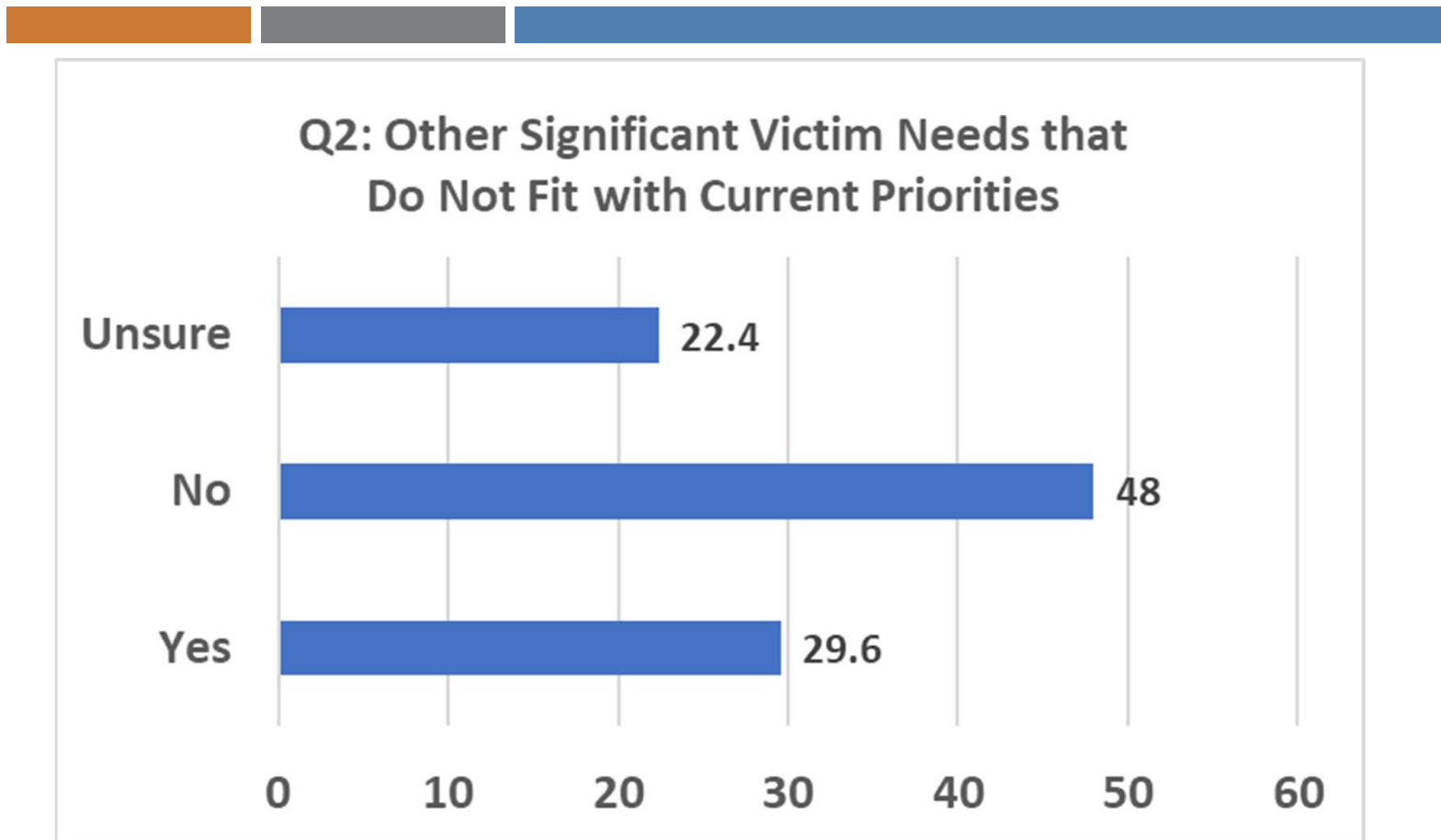
OCVA will post notes from this meeting on the OCVA website and forward electronic copies of the notes and attachments to all m coalition leaders. OCVA will also post the final report on the survey and stakeholder input which is expected to be available by December 21, 2018 and will also announce and post final plans for 2020-2022 funding priorities. OCVA will communicate regularly with all coalitions and service providers as plans and timelines for 2019 VOCA applications processes are finalized.

2018 VOCA Stakeholder Survey Responses

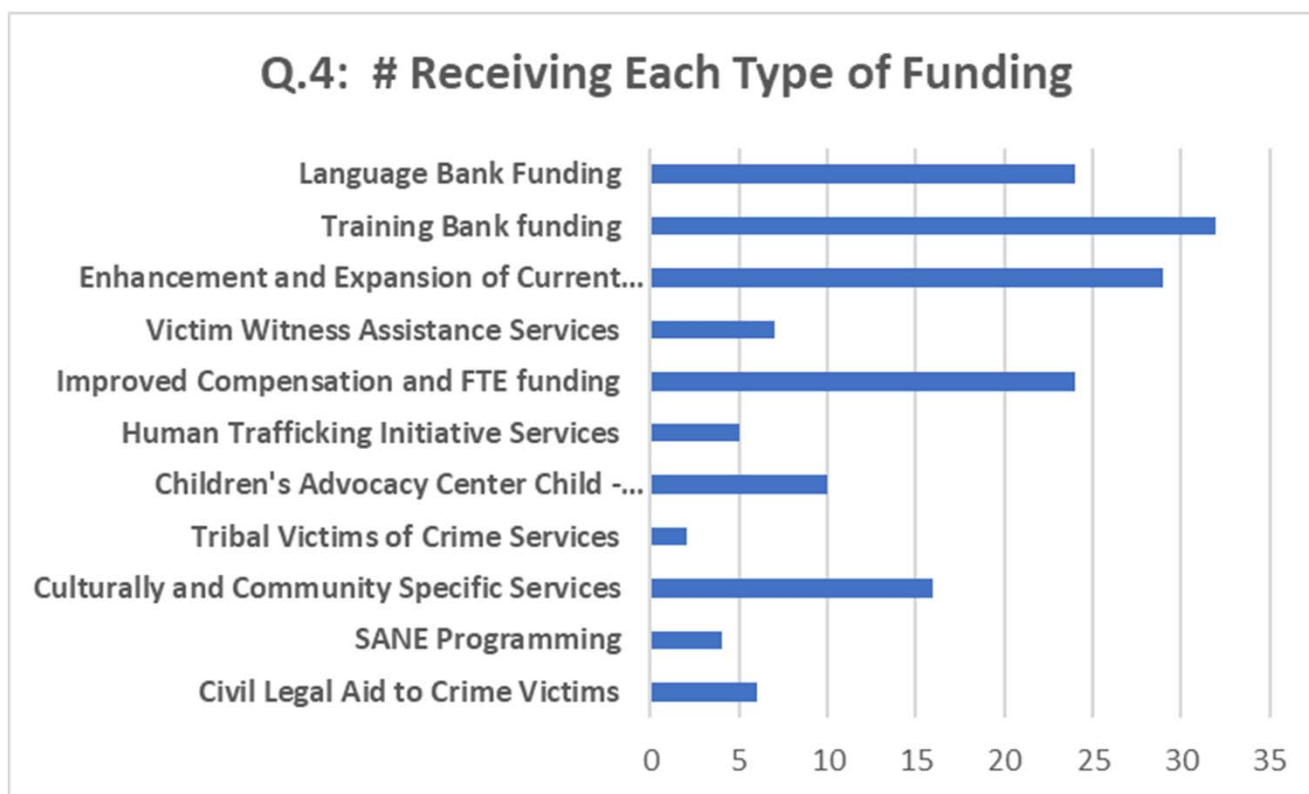
Question 1: Current Priorities



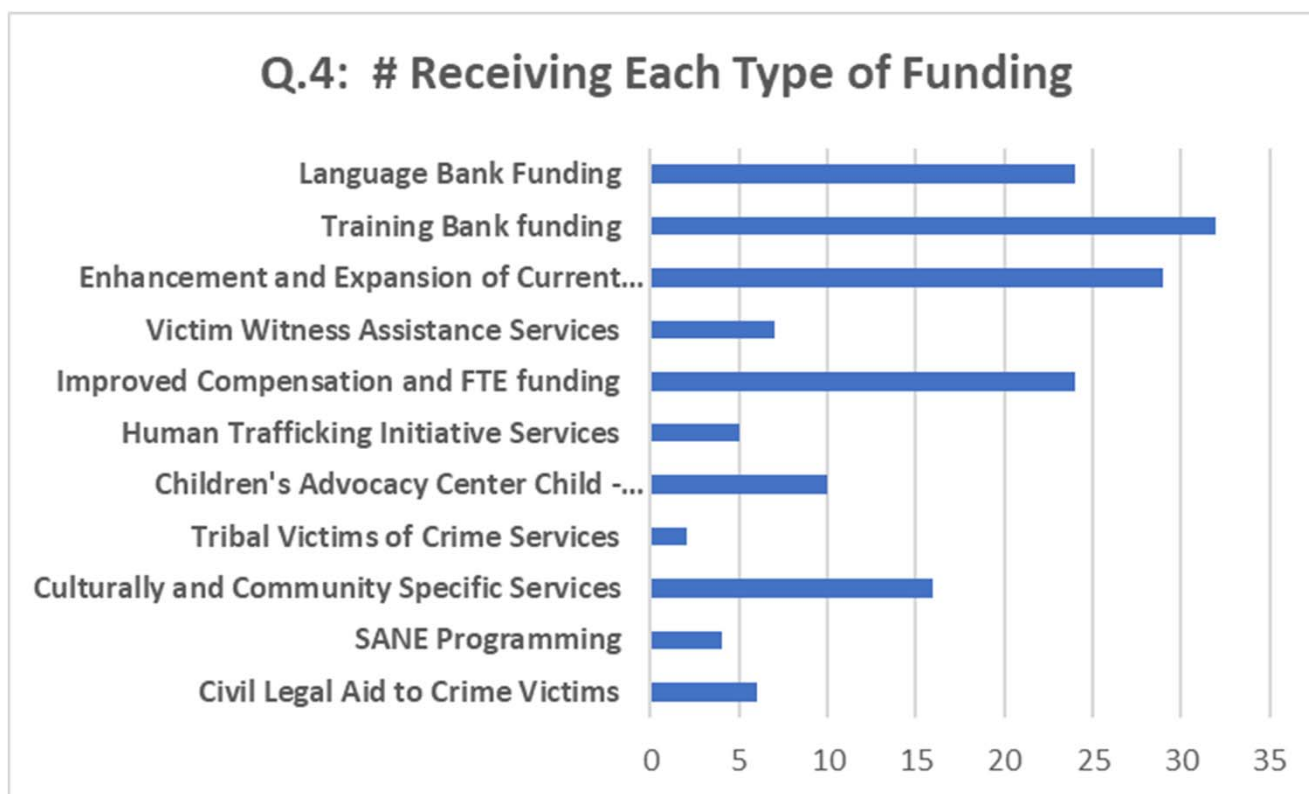
Question 2: Other Significant Needs



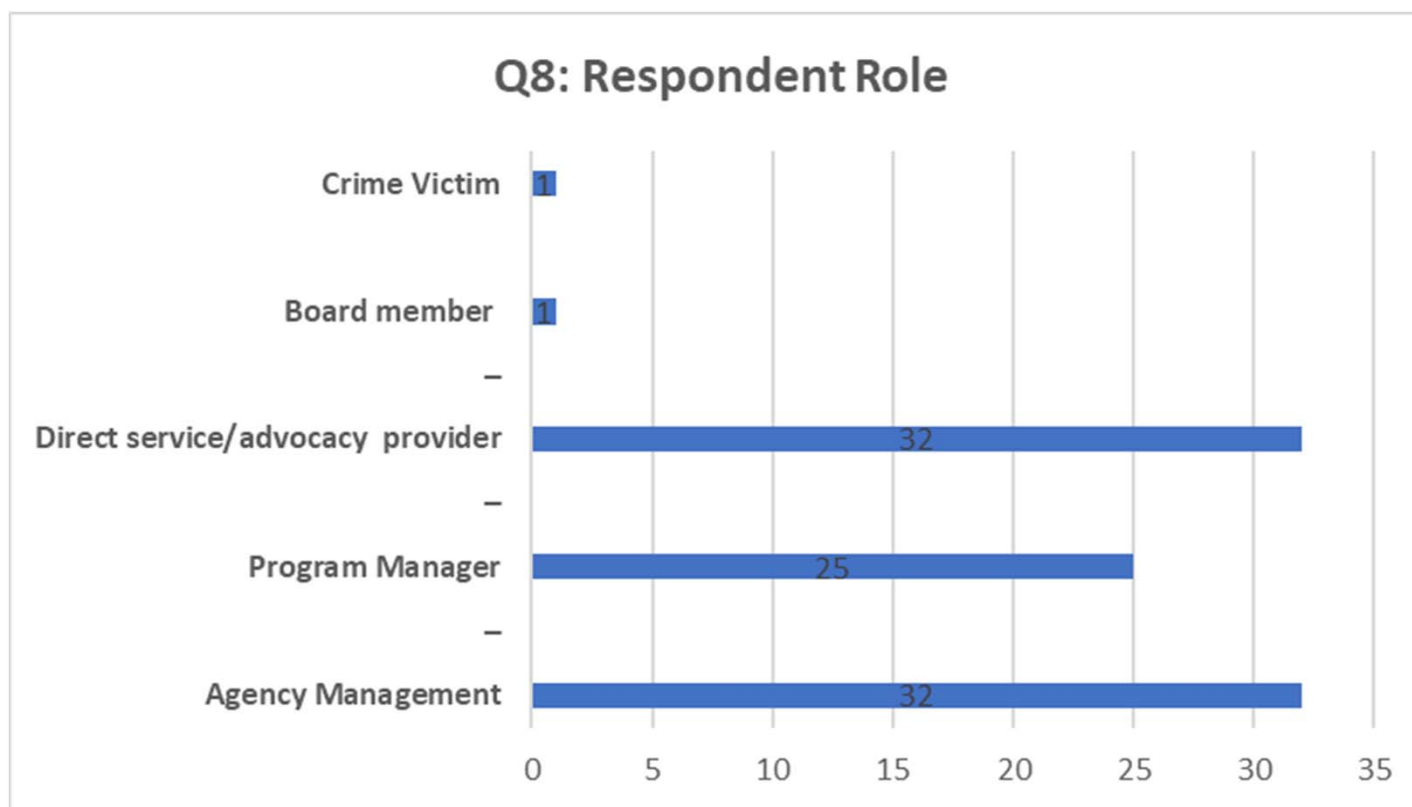
Survey Responses



Survey Responses



Survey Responses



Survey Responses

