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OVS Newsletter

January 11, 2022

In this Issue...

* [VCAP Quarterly Discussions](#_VCAP_Quarterly_Discussions)
* [Quarter 4 RASA/VOJO Program Reports Due January 20, 2022!](#_Quarter_4_RASA/VOJO)
* [Revised Consolidated Victim Service Program Standard](#_Revised_Consolidated_Victim)
* [Upcoming STOP Competitive Solicitations](#_Upcoming_STOP_Competitive)
* [January Is National Slavery And Human Trafficking Prevention Month: What Is It, And What Are The Signs?](#_January_Is_National)
* [Why More American Children Are Dying By Gunfire](#_Why_More_American)
* [My Generation Lives In Daily Fear Of A School Shooting](#_My_Generation_Lives)
* [Mass Shooting Total Was The Highest In Seven Years](#_Mass_Shooting_Total)
* [States Debate Funding For New Suicide Hotline 988](#_States_Debate_Funding)

Upcoming Trainings & Events

* [Trauma-Informed Strategies To Address Victim And Witnesses Intimidation And Retaliation](#_Trauma-Informed_Strategies_To)
* [What's Happening For Deaf Survivors of Domestic And Sexual Violence?](#_What's_Happening_For)
* [Left Hand, Meet Right Hand: Coordinating The Response To Stalking](#_Left_Hand,_Meet)
* [Violence Across The Lifecourse: Child Maltreatment, Intimate Partner Violence, And Elder Mistreatment](#_Violence_Across_The)
* [Complex Homicide Webinars](#_Complex_Homicide_Webinars)
* [Social Reactions To Sexual Assault](#_Social_Reactions_To)
* [Victims Compensation Assistance Program Online Trainings](#_Transformational_Collaborations:_Co)

**Employment Opportunities**

* [Transitions Of PA – Employment Opportunities](#_Transitions_Of_PA)
* [NOVA – Employment Opportunities](#_NOVA_–_Employment)

[Return to top](#_top)

# VCAP Quarterly Discussions

VCAP will be holding quarterly discussions for those who file VCAP claims.  Our first virtual meeting will be on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 10:00-11:30 am.  For training tracking purposes, all those attending should register.  If you are interested in attending this discussion, please complete the registration form by Friday, March 18, 2022.  A link to the Microsoft Teams meeting will be sent on Monday, March 28, 2022.  If you have any topics you would like to discuss, please include them on the registration form.  We will do our best to cover any suggested topics.

Please click [here](https://forms.office.com/g/gLs7Y5qntw) to register.

Registration closes Friday, March 18, 2022.



[Return to top](#_top)

# Quarter 4 RASA/VOJO Program Reports Due January 20, 2022!

**Important Message For All RASA and VOJO Programs – Quarter 4 Program & Fiscal Reports due Thursday, January 20, 2022.**

**Quarter 4 Program Reports for the 2021-2022 RASA/VOJO Funding Cycle will cover the time period from October 1, 2021 to December 31, 201 and should be submitted in Egrants by no later than Thursday, January 20, 2022.**

Below are instructions for the report sections that will need to be completed.

**Other Standard Questions Section** – Please complete the questions in this section to recap the first year of the grant and be sure to enter a response to each question in this section, even if it is not applicable.

**Annual Training Certification Section** – Please complete this section to certify if all RASA and/or VOJO funded staff have completed their annual training hours for calendar year 2021. All RASA/VOJO funded staff are required to complete at least 10 hours of annual training each calendar year (January through December). One (1) hour must be dedicated to Cultural Responsiveness Training per PCCD Standards. If staff did not complete at least 10 hours of annual training in 2021, please list the following: 1) their name, 2) how many training hours they were able to complete in 2021, and 3) explain how they will make up the training hours still needed for 2021 in calendar year 2022. This is in addition to the ten (10) training hours that will be required for 2022.

**REMINDERS:**

Please select “No” when asked to make the report a Final Program Report.

You do not need to enter anything in the “Briefly List Activities Conducted During This Period” Section on the main page of the report. You may simply enter “Not Applicable” in this section on the main page of the report and save it.

**It is very important to submit your program report in Egrants by the due date of January 20, 2022**. PCCD applies a risk level to each sub-grantee. One of the factors that impacts an agency’s risk level is delinquent quarterly reports. RASA and VOJO Reports submitted later than January 20, 2022 may adversely impact the agency’s risk level. If for any reason you are unable to enter your report data and submit the report by the due date, please contact our office to let us know so we may instruct you on how to proceed in order to avoid your report being delinquent.

If you should have any questions or need assistance completing your quarterly program reports, please contact Vicki McCloskey at [Vmccloskey@pa.gov](mailto:Vmccloskey@pa.gov) or (717) 265-8746, or Maria Katulis at [Mkatulis@pa.gov](mailto:Mkatulis@pa.gov) or (717) 265-8741.

Quarterly fiscal reports for RASA and VOJO grants will also be due in Egrants by January 20, 2022. If you have any fiscal report questions, please contact the fiscal staff person listed on your grant for assistance.

If you need technical assistance with Egrants, you may contact the Egrants Support Line at (717) 787-5887 or [RA-eGrantsSupport@pa.gov](mailto:RA-eGrantsSupport@pa.gov).

[Return to top](#_top)

# Revised Consolidated Victim Service Program Standard

At the November 9, 2021 Victim Services Advisory Committee, all sections of the revised of the Program Administration were approved and updated to Consolidated Victim Service Program Standards.

*The Program Administration Standard* ensure programs maintain and regularly review plans and processes that allow for successful services to be developed and delivered, identifies funding sources and aligns those resources and services with established program performance measures.  Program administration shall provide adequate resource supports and necessary guidance to program staff to effectively support victims of crime.

The revised standard has been updated in the Consolidated Victim Service Program Standards and can be located at [Consolidated Victim Service Program Standards](https://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/Consolidated%20Victim%20Service%20Program%20Standards%20-%20CURRENT.pdf) or on the PCCD [website](https://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/Victim-Services--Rights,-Services,-Technology-and-Training.aspx).

OVS staff will begin to review the new standards during the July-December 2022 monitoring visits. All Victim Service Providers are encouraged to review the applicable standard and ensure their policy(ies) conforms to the standard. If you have any questions, please contact the program contact that is associated with your grant in Egrants.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact Brian Swoyer at [bswoyer@pa.gov](mailto:bswoyer@pa.gov) or 717-265-8724.

[Return to top](#_top)

# Upcoming STOP Competitive Solicitations

The Office of Victims’ Services anticipates the release of two separate competitive solicitations for STOP Formula Grant Funding in early 2022. We anticipate awarding one to two projects for each of the competitive solicitations. The call for these solicitations originates in [Pennsylvania’s current STOP Implementation Plan](https://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/STOP%20Final%20Version%20for%20Website.pdf), which sets the goals and priorities for use of the funding from 2022-2025. OVS is providing this information to the field to encourage the cross-system conversations and planning critical to writing successful applications.

The focus of one solicitation is culturally specific populations. During the STOP Implementation Planning Process, the Statewide STOP Planning Committee emphasized the importance of listening to and learning from the experiences of culturally specific populations. This includes taking time to identify the barriers victims face in obtaining services and supports and developing solutions in partnership with organizations whose mission includes serving such populations. Of particular concern to the Statewide Planning Committee was the need to develop accessible high-quality victim services and supports for racial/ethnic minority victims; victims with limited English proficiency and immigrants, refugees and undocumented individuals. The solicitation for culturally specific projects will require the development and/or enhancement of meaningful collaborations between mainstream victim service agencies and culturally-specific, community-based organizations to provide services in a culturally appropriate manner.

The focus of the second solicitation is to improve coordinated responses to sexual assault in communities across the commonwealth. Survivors of sexual violence are more likely to share their experiences and seek assistance from law enforcement, courts and other systems if the processes they encounter are victim-centered, trauma-informed and culturally responsive. One of the most promising approaches for improving victim experiences is the multidisciplinary Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Model, which provides an organized and community-based response to sexual assault. This competitive solicitation will encourage the development or enhancement of SARTs in local communities through training, support personnel (e.g., SART Coordinators) or improved coordination with existing multidisciplinary teams.

Potential applicants are encouraged to read through Pennsylvania’s STOP Implementation Plan for the context and detailed information used by the STOP Implementation Planning Committee in recommending these targeted solicitations.

[Return to top](#_top)

# January Is National Slavery And Human Trafficking Prevention Month: What Is It, And What Are The Signs?

British socialite Ghislaine Maxwell [was found guilty of luring teenage girls to be sexually abused](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/12/29/verdict-reached-ghislaine-maxwell-sex-trafficking-trial/8979922002/) by financier Jeffrey Epstein. Her trial brought the stories of human trafficking survivors into the public eye. Much more often, trafficking operates in the shadows, [reports USA Today.](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2022/01/11/national-slavery-human-trafficking-prevention-month-what-to-know/9111171002/)

Please click [here](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2022/01/11/national-slavery-human-trafficking-prevention-month-what-to-know/9111171002/) to read.

[Return to top](#_top)

# Why More American Children Are Dying By Gunfire

In a recent report in the *New York Times* researchers describe the increase as a consequence of rising nationwide homicide rates, untreated traumas of Covid-19 and a surge of gun-buying that is putting more children into close contact with guns - both as victims and those wielding guns.

Please click [here](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/05/us/american-children-gun-deaths.html?searchResultPosition=1) to read.

[Return to top](#_top)

# My Generation Lives In Daily Fear Of A School Shooting

In a guest column in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, a Georgia teen denounces the lack of efforts to reduce gun violence, which has become a constant and feared presence in the lives of American students.

Please click [here](https://www.ajc.com/education/get-schooled-blog/forsyth-student-we-live-in-daily-fear-of-a-school-shooting/JL2IGMLJKJE6FO57VEIREYHSH4/) to read.

[Return to top](#_top)

# Mass Shooting Total Was The Highest In Seven Years

In the first three days of the year, there have been at least nine mass shootings nationwide that left 10 people dead and 29 others injured, says the [Gun Violence Archive 2022](https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/), reports *The Trace*.

Please click [here](https://www.thetrace.org/newsletter/amid-a-year-of-record-violence-some-good-news/) to read.

[Return to top](#_top)

# States Debate Funding For New Suicide Hotline 988

State officials across the U.S. are debating over how to pay for a new suicide hotline. The new 988 number is set to launch in July. The three-digit code will replace the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's 1-800-273-TALK number.

Please click [here](https://www.ncja.org/crimeandjusticenews/states-debate-funding-for-new-suicide-hotline-988) to read.

[Return to top](#_top)

# ****Trauma-Informed Strategies To Address Victim And Witnesses Intimidation And Retaliation****

From the National Center for Victims of Crime, here is a day-long web event on **Thursday, January 13, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST**

A deep understanding of victim and witness intimidation and retaliation is crucial in any agency’s violent crime reduction strategy. Across our country, jurisdictions seek training and technical assistance to inform their policies and approaches when engaging with victims, witnesses, families, and communities experiencing violent crime.

Please click [here](https://victimsofcrime.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZIyxdIdKTYGX01OeJ1aY8g) to register.

[Return to top](#_top)

# What's Happening For Deaf Survivors of Domestic And Sexual Violence?

Deaf domestic and sexual violence programs are few and far between in comparison to hearing programs. There are only 20 "for Deaf, by Deaf" programs compared to approximately 3,000 programs designed for hearing survivors. What does this mean for Deaf survivors of domestic and sexual violence trying to heal from violence and abuse? Join this panel discussion with advocates from Deaf domestic and sexual violence programs to learn more about the state of Deaf services.

January 25, 2022 @ 2 pm

Please click [here](https://vawnet.org/events/whats-happening-deaf-survivors-domestic-and-sexual-violence) to register.

[Return to top](#_top)

# ****Left Hand, Meet Right Hand: Coordinating The Response To Stalking****

Keeping victims safe and holding offenders accountable requires that diverse professionals -- including (but not limited to) victim advocates, law enforcement, prosecutors, educators and others -- view their work through a “stalking lens,” take pro-active steps to incorporate a stalking response into their roles, and work together. In honor of National Stalking Awareness Month, this session will provide practical strategies for building stalking into a coordinated community response.

Jan 26, 2022 11:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Please click [here](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zYWJDoo5SJSABriYxyCv1Q?_x_zm_rtaid=dRHleHKfR8S0kX2fjUgA6w.1641994952706.6d51c5c1e8eace3b3fadd03175d86425&_x_zm_rhtaid=774) to register.

[Return to top](#_top)

# Violence Across The Lifecourse: Child Maltreatment, Intimate Partner Violence, And Elder Mistreatment

This webinar will present what is known about connections between child maltreatment and later forms of violence that extend to and beyond mid-life. Of interest to all those looking to reduce violence and improve our response to victims.

January 27, 2022 2-3 pm

Please click [here](https://victimresearch.org/event/violence-across-the-lifecourse-child-maltreatment-intimate-partner-violence-and-elder-mistreatment/) to register.

[Return to top](#_top)

# Complex Homicide Webinars

The National Center for Victims of Crime has provided webinars for those working with homicide survivors.

Please click [here](https://www.ncvctta.org/complex-homicide-webinars) to register.

[Return to top](#_top)

# Social Reactions To Sexual Assault

**Wednesday, February 23, 3:00 – 4:00 pm ET**

*Social Reactions to Sexual Assault*. This webinar will review research on correlates and impacts of social reactions made to victims disclosing sexual assault and partner violence.

Please click [here](https://victimresearch.org/event/social-reactions-to-sexual-assault/) to register.

[Return to top](#_top)

# Victims Compensation Assistance Program Online Trainings

The following trainings will be held on January 19, 2022

* Motor Vehicle-Related Crime Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Funeral & Burial Expenses Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on January 25, 2022.

* Relocation Expenses Clinic – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Loss of Support Clinic – 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on February 1, 2022.

* Basic Compensation - 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

The following trainings will be held on February 8, 2022.

* Counseling Cash Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Loss of Earnings Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

All trainings count towards 1 hour of the required RASA/VOCA/VOJO training hours, except Basic Compensation which counts towards 2 and DAVE training which counts towards 2.15.

Please click [here](https://pccd.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=pccd&service=6) to register.

[Return to top](#_top)

# Transitions Of PA – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://www.transitionsofpa.org/employment-opportunities) to view current opportunities.

[Return to top](#_top)

# NOVA – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://novabucks.org/) to view current opportunities.

[Return to top](#_top)

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The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, **January 26, 2021**.  If you would like any training events, fundraisers, or notable news published in this newsletter, please submit them to Lea Dorsey at [ledorsey@pa.gov](mailto:ledorsey@pa.gov)  by Wednesday, **January 19, 2021**.

You have signed up to receive the OVS Newsletter from the Office of Victims' Services.  This newsletter will be sent to you on a biweekly basis via email.  If your email address changes or you would like to be removed from the OVS Newsletter distribution list, please contact Lea Dorsey at (717) 265-8733 or via email at [ledorsey@pa.gov](mailto:ledorsey@pa.gov).

[Return to top](#_top)

Pennsylvania’s [Office of Victims’ Services](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/default.aspx)  |  3101 North Front Street  |  Harrisburg, PA  17110 |

(717) 783-0551

[www.pccd.pa.gov](http://www.pccd.pa.gov)

**PA Crime Victims Website**

[www.pcv.pccd.pa.gov](http://www.pcv.pccd.pa.gov)

**Twitter:** [@PaCrimeCom](https://twitter.com/PaCrimeComm)m.