**File 7 Statement Regarding Plan to Subgrant Funds**

To plan for and responsibly and efficiently utilize increased VOCA fundsfor services and costs allowable under the VOCA Rule, DCJS staff continue pursuing a series of near term and longer term strategies to identify and meet victim assistance needs in Virginia.

For example, in anticipation of Virginia’s increased VOCA award in 2015, DCJS conducted an extensive survey of victim advocates statewide in order to identify needs. Additionally, DCJS conducted four regional Listening Sessions in order to gather additional input from victim advocates and allied professionals across the state.

These sessions provided an opportunity for current grantees, victim advocates, allied professionals, and the general public to offer comments, suggestions, and recommendations on utilizing the additional VOCA funds. Approximately 446 people attended the sessions.

The Listening Session Summary Report is available at:

<http://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/victims/documents/VOCA_SummaryReport_0112.pdf>

In accordance with Listening Session input and other research DCJS:

* Developed grant application guidelines to support funding of new initiatives and projects addressing the needs of unserved and underserved populations, as identified through the survey, Listening Sessions, and subsequent research, and;
* Developed funding formulas to allocate adequate funding to support direct service delivery through expanded existing programs including Victim/Witness Programs, Sexual Assault Crisis Centers, Domestic Violence Shelters, and CASA projects serving crime victims in priority categories, as required by the VOCA statute and the VOCA Rule.

As a result of these efforts and stakeholder input, in June 2017, the Criminal Justice Services Board awarded over $34 million to maintain and expand core victim services through VOCA funded projects including: victim/witness programs, domestic violence shelters, sexual assault crisis centers, and child abuse programs. A total of 59 New Initiative Projects, addressing identified under-served populations were also funded.

Examples of the types of projects/services funded include development or enhancement of services and resources for:

* Victims with disabilities
* Non-English speaking victims
* Victims of trafficking
* Immigrant victims
* Victims within LGBTQ communities
* Emergency legal services for victims
* Forensic interviewing/nursing programs

**Continuation/Expansion Funding**

DCJS anticipates maintaining and expanding core victim services through VOCA funded projects including victim/witness programs, domestic violence shelters, sexual assault crisis centers, and child abuse programs.

DCJS also anticipates supporting continuation of New Initiative grants supporting organizations that have not traditionally received VOCA funds, if these projects continue to meet priority needs identified in effective grant guidelines and demonstrate the capacity and expertise to provide direct services, especially to underserved and marginalized victim populations.

DCJS also surveyed VOCA Administrators nationwide to identify new projects funded with VOCA and to gather input regarding the projects identified as having the greatest impact. Results from this survey, an anticipated follow-up survey of victim assistance stakeholders in Virginia, and regional roundtable discussions with programs and service providers will also inform allocation of FFY18 VOCA funds.