**File 8 Statement Regarding Plan to Subgrant Funds**

DCJS plans to continue to subgrant funds in order to maintain and expand victim services in Virginia. As informed by feedback mechanisms and consistent grant review processes, subawards will made in accordance with agency and state procurement policy and conform to applicable federal law, including the Procurement Standards of the DOJ Part 200 Uniform Requirements (as set out at 2 C.F.R. 200.317 - 200.326).

Both new and continuation subawards are made using a consistent process. At a minimum, all applicants for funding are required to submit itemized budgets and budget narratives that reflect prospective award amounts. In solicitations that are competitive, applicants are also asked to provide additional documentation that is consistent with agency-published grant guidelines. Applications are reviewed based on the information provided in response to these guidelines and the clarity, substance, and strength of the case made for funding. Reviewers also consider geographic location, budget justification, cost effectiveness of proposed projects, availability of funds, and the ability to complete the goals of the grant based on programmatic design, applicant’s financial health, and organizational capacity. Budgets are also closely reviewed to ensure that costs are reasonable, necessary, allowable and allocable. Funding recommendations are made following review. These recommendations are then reviewed by the Grants Committee of the Virginia Criminal Justice Services Board, who make final funding determinations.

To plan for and efficiently utilize VOCA funds for services and costs allowable under the VOCA Rule, staff consistently work to identify and meet victim assistance needs in Virginia. The agency partners with allied stakeholders through participation on the State Advisory Council for Sexual and Domestic Violence. This group includes representatives from the Virginia Department of Social Services, the Virginia Department of Health, the Virginia General Assembly, the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, and local direct service providers. The Advisory Council provides guidance and feedback on the landscape of sexual and domestic violence services in Virginia. In addition, DCJS has continued to intentionally seek feedback from service providers in the field, most recently through focus groups and a follow-up survey of service providers. Performance reports and data are also reviewed and analyzed in order to identify gaps in service and opportunities for future projects.

In accordance with the findings from these feedback mechanisms DCJS:

* Developed grant application guidelines to support funding of new initiatives and projects addressing the needs of unserved and underserved populations;
* Developed a streamlined grant application process and combined multiple victim services grant programs in order to reduce duplication of effort and the administrative burden for funded direct service subgrantees;
* 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 2019, the Criminal Justice Services Board awarded over $59 million to maintain and expand victim services in Virginia. Approximately 67% of funding supported continuation projects and the maintenance of core services. Examples of funded projects included: victim/witness programs, domestic violence shelters, sexual assault crisis centers, and child abuse programs. 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

In addition, brand new initiatives were funded, including a hospital-based violence intervention project to be implemented in seven hospital systems across the Commonwealth and school-based mental health services for victims of crime. Performance reporting and data and feedback from current grantees, victim advocates, allied professionals will continue to inform the allocation of FFY19 VOCA funds.

DCJS is committed to continuing to solicit feedback from the victim services field and other stakeholders in order to strategically plan sustainable programming in the future. It is anticipated that core victim services will be maintained and expanded through VOCA funded projects including victim/witness programs, domestic violence shelters, sexual assault crisis centers, and child abuse programs. DCJS also anticipates continuing to support new and innovative projects and organizations that have not traditionally received VOCA funds. All funded projects will 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.