



Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

Victims Services Quarterly Conversation #2

January 9, 2019



Virginia Department of
Criminal Justice Services

www.dcjs.virginia.gov



VS Quarterly Conversations

- Held beginning of each quarter
- Mix of specific topics & discussion
- DCJS & VS announcements
- Q&A



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DCJS & Victims Services Announcements



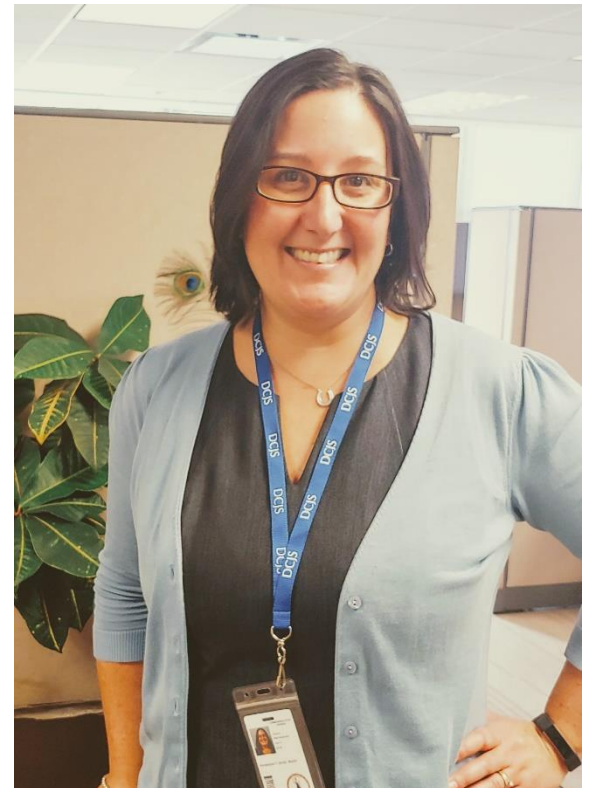
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Announcements: New Victims Services Staff

- Welcome,
Andi Martin!





Announcements: New Victims Services Staff

- Andi is the new Sexual Assault & Intimate Partner Violence Program Coordinator
- Andi will be coordinating SADVGP, SASP, SART efforts, and other projects





Announcements: Federal Government Partial Shutdown

- Memo emailed to all grant recipients from DCJS Grants Management
- Submit vouchers/requests in GMIS by **Friday, January 11, 2019**
- Amounts will then be included in our federal GPRS request next week





Announcements: SADVGP

- **PMT Reminder:**
Data entry for the quarter ending December 31, 2018 is now open





Announcements: SASP

- CY 2019 award packages should have been received by all SASP recipients
- Info on CY18 annual reporting and CY19 budgets was emailed on Friday, December 21st (in two separate emails)





Announcements: SASP

- CY18 annual reports are due **Thursday, January 31, 2019**
- CY19 itemized budgets and budget narratives are due **Friday, March 1, 2019**





Announcements: Victim/Witness

- Reporting as-usual



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Announcements: VSDVVF

- VSDVVF Discretionary Recipients:
 - New reporting processes continue for the Oct-Dec 2018 reporting period
 - For those using PMT, data entry for last quarter is now open; must also submit narrative form in GMIS for the Oct-Dec 2018 quarter





Announcements: VSDVVF

- VSDVVF Prosecution Recipients:
 - Reporting as-usual



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Announcements: VSTOP

- CY 2019 award packages should have been received by all VSTOP recipients
- Look for an email this week regarding new grant condition





Announcements: VOCA New Initiatives

- Currently in 9-month grant cycle extension period
- **PMT Reminder:**
Data entry for the quarter ending December 31, 2018 is now open
- PMT data entry should now be accessible to all





Questions?





Discussion and Q & A



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Discussion Topic: Victims of Crime Act Funding

- Please use chat box for questions or comments



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Discussion Topic: Victims of Crime Act Funding

Grant Application Guidelines for Fiscal Years 2020, 2021, 2022



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Discussion Topic: Guidelines Overview

- All applicants requesting VOCA funding will write **one grant application**



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Discussion Topic: Guidelines Overview

- Funding is available in three categories, two of which are open to all applicants





Discussion Topic: Guidelines Overview

- Grant application guidelines will be posted on DCJS website within the next week



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Discussion Topic: Priority Areas & Unique Projects

Transitional Housing/ Rapid Rehousing Services



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Discussion Topic: Priority Areas & Unique Projects

Why is housing a priority?

- Studies have established the correlation between homelessness, and domestic and sexual violence.
- One out of four homeless women cite domestic violence as a major contributor to their homelessness.
- 80% of homeless women with children report experiencing either domestic or sexual violence.
- Women who have experienced domestic violence are four times more like to have experienced housing instability.
- 57% of all homeless woman report domestic violence as the immediate cause of their homelessness.
- (Safe Housing Partnerships. “Intersections of Domestic Violence and Homelessness” found at https://safehousingpartnerships.org/sites/default/files/2017-05/SHP-Homelessness%20and%20DV%20Infographic_1.pdf)





Discussion Topic: Priority Areas & Unique Projects

Housing and healing

- Research has shown that the greater the number of housing instability factors, the greater the likelihood that survivors will experience PTSD, depression, and reduced quality of life.





Discussion Topic: Priority Areas & Unique Projects

VOCA allowable housing costs

- In 2016, the VOCA Rule clarified the use of VOCA funds in victim related expenditures. It states, “Under the Rule, states may use VOCA funds for housing and shelter purposes to the extent that such is necessary as a consequence of the victimization and for the well-being of the victim. “

VOCA Allowable Costs Related to Transitional Housing

VOCA funds can be used for:

- Travel expenses
- Rental assistance (including security deposits, utilities, and other costs related to relocation)
- Voluntary support services such as childcare and counseling
- Reasonable moving expenses

VOCA Allowable Costs Related to Relocation

VOCA funds can be used for:

- Reasonable moving expense
- Security deposits on housing
- Rental expenses
- Utility startup costs





Discussion Topic: Priority Areas & Unique Projects

Models of Housing

- Traditional Emergency Shelter
 - Short Term
 - Comprehensive Advocacy
 - Addresses Immediate Safety Concerns
- Transitional Housing
 - Bridge between short term stay and permanent housing
 - Typically stays up to 24 months
 - Comprehensive advocacy services
- Flexible Funding/Housing First
 - Goal is to first obtain safe and stable housing, then provide additional advocacy services
 - Funds are used to meet survivor identified needs such as rental assistance or utility assistance
 - Community-based advocacy





Discussion Topic: Priority Areas & Unique Projects

Housing needs in Virginia

- The National Network to End Domestic Violence conducted an unduplicated count of adults and children seeking domestic violence services on September 13, 2017.
- In just one day in Virginia:
 - 1,514 victims of domestic violence were served
 - 628 adult and child victims received emergency and transitional housing
 - 185 requests for assistance were not met. Of these, 54% were for housing





Discussion Topic: Priority Areas & Unique Projects

Innovative housing Programs

- District Alliance for Safe Housing (DASH)
 - Nonprofit in Washington D.C.
 - Primarily serves survivors of IPV, sexual assault, torture, or sex trafficking
 - Provides emergency, long-term residential services, advocacy, counseling, and support services.
 - Trauma-informed services





Discussion Topic: Priority Areas & Unique Projects

DASH-Empowerment Project

- Scattered-site transitional to permanent housing project.
- Targeted to survivors whose credit and rental histories were damaged during abusive relationships.
- Participants choose own apartment that best suits their needs with landlords with whom DASH have established relationships.
- DASH provides rental subsidy, intensive supportive services, and resources.
- Goal is that survivors become financially independent within two years.
- DASH Empowerment Advocate provides financial education and case management to help survivor repair credit, save money for future, and pay down debt





Discussion Topic: Priority Areas & Unique Projects

DASH- Survivor Resilience Fund

- Flexible Funding Model
- Helps survivors meet needs which threaten their permanent housing, achieve safety, and gain the support they need to move forward
- Provides financial assistance for items such as home security measures, moving costs, legal fees, and repairs to damaged property
- DASH Advocates develop safety and wellness plan with survivors to help them safely remain in community





Discussion Topic: Priority Areas & Unique Projects

DASH- Flexible funding results

- Study completed with survivors in DASH program between March 2014 and August 2015
- Average grant to survivor was \$2,079
- 55 grants provided during the study's time frame
- 47% of grants were for rental assistance
- 94% of participants had safe and stable housing within 6 months



- (Sullivan, C. Bomsta, H., Hackalayo, M. "Flexible Funding as a Promising Strategy to Prevent Homelessness for Survivors of Interpersonal Violence" Journal of Interpersonal Violence (August, 2016)



Discussion Topic: Priority Areas & Unique Projects

DASH

- For more information:
 - <https://www.dashdc.org/>





Discussion Topic: Priority Areas & Unique Projects

Volunteers of America Oregon Home Free Program

- Historically operated an emergency shelter with structured, comprehensive advocacy
- Study revealed that only 15% of Oregon's domestic violence survivors were reaching out to shelters or crisis line for help
- Agency realized they were only serving a small percentage of households in need and changed focus of program. Closed the emergency shelter and started community-based, flexible-funding model.





Discussion Topic: Priority Areas & Unique Projects

Volunteers of America Oregon Home Free, cont.

- VOA's Home Free model offers
 - Motel voucher program for survivors in immediate danger
 - Community-based advocates with outposts in courthouse, child welfare offices, self sufficiency offices, and local police stations.
 - Assists survivors in obtaining housing. Offers flexible financial assistance for rent, utilities, and other costs
 - Advocates work with survivor for up to 24 months to address issues such as criminal and civil proceedings, counseling, housing, employment
 - Services are flexible and driven by individual needs and goals





Discussion Topic: Priority Areas & Unique Projects

Volunteers of America Oregon Home Free, cont.

- Results

- In period of five to six years, organization moved from sheltering 150 survivors and their children to providing individualized community based services to 4,500 survivors and children a year.
- Now serving higher proportion of Latino, African-American and Native American households than with traditional shelter.
- For more information, visit www.voar.org/homefree

Or

- https://safehousingpartnerships.org/sites/default/files/2017-01/2680_file_Home_Free_Best_Practice_Write_Up.pdf





Discussion Topic: Priority Areas & Unique Projects

Domestic Violence Housing First

- Rapid Rehousing- Flexible funding model
- Founded in as five-year demonstration program through the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Focuses on first obtaining safe housing for survivors and then providing necessary services.





Discussion Topic: Priority Areas & Unique Projects

Domestic Violence Housing First Principles

- Survivor-driven, trauma-informed, mobile advocacy
- Community engagement
- Flexible financial assistance





Discussion Topic: Priority Areas & Unique Projects

DV Housing First-Mobile Advocacy

- Funds available regardless of survivor's income
- Advocates work with survivor to determine the amount of assistance needed to meet survivor's immediate need
- Funds are used to support housing, employment, and safety
- No cap on funds
- Financial assistance is not dependent on meeting any goals or participating in any programs.





DV-Housing First Results

- In 2016-2017, total of 289 payments made
- Total of \$147,840 spent in assistance
- Rental assistance was the most frequent type of assistance provided.
- Average payment for rental assistance was \$806.60
- Within one year, 95% of participants remained stably housed.





Discussion Topic: Priority Areas & Unique Projects

DV Housing First

- For more information, including an organizational toolkit, please visit:

<https://wscadv.org/projects/domestic-violence-housing-first/>





Discussion Topic: Priority Areas & Unique Projects

Telemedicine





Discussion Topic: Priority Areas & Unique Projects

“Soft” Victim Interview Rooms



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Discussion Topic: Priority Areas & Unique Projects

Forensic Nurse Examiner/ Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Projects





Questions & Discussion



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