Needs Assessment for Victims of Crime in North Carolina

Governor's Crime Commission

Purpose

- **Conduct a comprehensive victim needs assessment** of the services available to victims of crime in the state.
  - Useful to set funding priorities for different GCC funding streams
  - Identify victim/community needs and determine program capacity
  - Identify gaps in services and provider training
  - Pinpoint strengths and challenges in meeting the victim service needs of the community/state

Statewide Strengths and Challenges Identified by the Assessment

- What services are currently available and accessed by victims of crime?
- How do community members know/find out about resources or services?
- What victim services are needed but not available?
- What are the barriers to victims accessing services?
- What type of training or tools do organizations that provide services to victims need that they do not currently have?
- What capacity building efforts within victim service organizations are needed?

Assessment Parameters

- Unique geographical needs/services (including, but not limited to, tribal communities [federally recognized and not] and veterans/military victims)
- Underserved victims such as;
  - Teens
  - Non-English speaking
  - Undocumented
  - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender
  - Victims with disabilities
  - Veterans
  - Older adults
  - Refugees
  - Victims of specific crime types (not DV/SA)
- Transient victim populations; victims who live in a different area from where they were victimized

Identify Challenges or Barriers for Service Organizations (may include)

- Adherence to evidence-based practices
- Service limitations due to federal funding restrictions for specific populations
- Service delivery capacity and challenges
- Access to support services and community partnerships (e.g., detox)
- Screening for poly-victimization
- Screening families for legal needs
- Changing business practices of providers to meet the needs of victims
- System-based victim advocates
- Outreach to provide community information on services available
- Knowledge of victims' rights

Input from Community Stakeholders

- District Attorneys
- Local veteran offices
- Hospitals
- Survivor support groups/non-traditional support groups (e.g., NA/AA)
- First responders
- Schools
- Civil legal providers
- Offender treatment programs, probation, diversion programs

Final Report Will Include:

- summary of current, statewide services available and delivered to victims of crime;
- gap analysis comparing current resources/services available for victims of crime with resources/services needed;
- explanation of organizational characteristics or components found to affect effective service delivery;
- description of any impediments to providing services; and
- recommendations, supported by research, to guide the planning of future service needs through directed funding priorities.

Next Steps

- Proposals from interested researchers
- Assessment of proposals
- Memorandum with University

Any Questions?