

Minnesota Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Program Standards for Victim Service Programs

STATEWIDE CRIME VICTIM COALITION PROGRAM STANDARDS

A statewide crime victim coalition is a membership-based organization that supports the elimination of violence, advocates on behalf of crime victim/survivor issues, challenges ideas and attitudes which permit violence and the systemic oppression of victims/survivors to continue, and responds to the needs and concerns of communities through input from its member programs. Coalition activities work to increase the capacity of direct service providers to promote and provide high quality crime victim services.

Public Awareness

- Public education which may include presentations, social media, general awareness events, and awareness campaigns
- Media awareness through social and traditional media work
- General communication and response including maintaining a website, a method of communicating with the general public, responding to requests for information/resources, and connecting public with local programs/advocacy

Public Policy/System Change

- Education and training to system personnel, advocates, and general public on policy issues
- Convene policy makers – bring voices of survivors and advocates into discussion
- Improve system responses through criminal justice collaboration, and work with tribal and state agencies on policy issues which may include legislative, government agencies, and legal policy approaches
- Respond to requests from policy makers
- Coordinate with state, national, and tribal policy makers

Capacity Building & Membership Support

- Assessment of needs from member programs, survivors, and communities
- Training and education for members, system personnel, and community
- Capacity building through technical assistance for member programs, system programs, and communities; respond to requests for information; and provide resources and support
- Convene member programs, system personnel, and communities
- Advocate for needs of member programs, survivors, and community

Overarching Commitments:

- Commitment to Accessibility: Provide respectful, welcoming, accessible, and inclusive environments for all individuals.

- Commitment to Using a Trauma-informed Approach: Provide services in a way that recognizes, understands, and responds to the effects of trauma experienced by crime victims/survivors, and work with member programs to further trauma-informed work. A trauma-informed approach to services emphasizes physical, mental and emotional health and safety, and helps victims/survivors rebuild a sense of control and empowerment. Services need to be flexible to respond to the impact of different types of trauma, and on meeting victims' self-defined needs toward recovery and healing. For more information: <https://www.ovcttac.gov/taskforceguide/eguide/4-supporting-victims/41-using-a-trauma-informed-approach/>