

Dear Colleague:

OVS is calling for your help! Some of you may know that the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), Department of Justice (DOJ) and other federal agencies are funding the National Census of Victim Service Providers, a critically important national count of programs that serve victims of crime. This survey will provide much needed data on the field in general, identify gaps in services, staffing, funding, types of victims served, records systems and other pressing issues. This census will also help identify trends in victim services in New York and nationally, and the greater the response, the more complete and useful the census will be especially in determining where to focus future funding.

To date, only 27% of programs have responded to the census. As New Yorkers, we need to lead by example so we strongly encourage programs that serve crime victims to participate so that we get a complete picture of the field in the State. Programs can contact [ncvsp@norc.org](mailto:ncvsp@norc.org) to find out if the census request has already been sent to them or to request an invitation. Additional information is available at: <http://www.rand.org/jie/justice-policy/projects/nsvsp.html>.

Please take a few minutes to respond to the survey. Your input is vital and critical to this project as VOCA funded organizations. You should also consider sharing this information with other crime victim programs in your area even if they do not currently receive VOCA funding. Their input will be useful as well.

On behalf of OVS, thank you for taking the time to respond and serve crime victims in New York State.

Sincerely,

**Emma Graham**

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