**Charles Ramsey**

*Chairman*

**Michael Pennington**

 *Executive Director*

OVS Newsletter

January 2, 2020

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Credits towards VOCA/RASA/VOJO training requirements are available for all sessions (unless indicated otherwise in the session description). To receive training credits: 1) you must be logged into the session and 2) the WebEx application must be on your computer for the entire duration of the session. As the OVS recognizes that emergencies may arise and you may not be able to attend the entire session, there is no prohibition against attending part of a session (although training credits will not be given in that instance).

* + [Training/Networking Opportunities](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/OVS-Training-Networking-Opportunities.aspx)
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# Important Message For All RASA And VOJO Programs – 4th Quarter Program Reports Due January 20, 2020

**4th Quarter Program Reports for RASA and VOJO will cover the time period from October 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 and should be submitted in Egrants by no later than Monday, January 20, 2020.**

Below are instructions for the new report sections that will need to be completed in the 4th quarter program reports in addition to the regular report sections you normally complete.

**Other Standard Questions Section – Please complete the questions in this section to recap the first year of the grant and be sure to enter a response to each question in this section, even if it is N/A.**

**Annual Training Certification Section – Please complete this section to certify if all RASA and/or VOJO staff have completed their annual training hours for calendar year 2019.  All RASA/VOJO funded staff are required to complete at least 10 hours of annual training each calendar year (January through December).  If staff did not complete at least 10 hours of annual training in 2019, please list the following:  1) their name, 2) how many training hours they were able to complete in 2019, and 3) explain how they will make up the training hours still needed for 2019 in calendar year 2020 (in addition to the 10 training hours that will be required for 2020).**

**REMINDERS:**

**This is not a Final Program Report.  Please do not click on the “Final Report” button on the main page.**  The Final Program Report will be due January 2021, after your two-year grant has ended.

**You do not need to enter anything in the “Briefly List Activities Conducted During This Period” Section on the main page of the report.**  You may simply enter N/A in this section on the main page of the report and save it.  (This applies to ALL quarterly program reports you complete for the 2019-2020 RASA/VOJO grants.)

**It is very important to submit your program report in Egrants by the due date of January 20, 2020.  PCCD applies a risk level to each sub-grantee.  One of the factors that impacts an agency’s risk level is delinquent quarterly reports.  RASA and VOJO Reports submitted later than January 20, 2020 may adversely impact the agency’s risk level.  If for any reason you are unable to enter your report data and submit the report by the due date, please contact our office to let us know so we may instruct you on how to proceed in order to avoid your report being delinquent.**

If you should have any questions or need assistance completing your quarterly program reports, please contact Vicki McCloskey at Vmccloskey@pa.gov or (717) 265-8746, or Maria Katulis at Mkatulis@pa.gov or

(717) 265-8741.

**Quarterly fiscal reports for RASA and VOJO grants will also be due in Egrants by January 20, 2020.**  If you have any fiscal report questions, please contact the fiscal staff person listed on your grant for assistance.

If you need technical assistance with Egrants, you may contact the Egrants Support Line at (717) 787-5887.

Wishing you all the best in the New Year!

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# Reporting Webinar For STOP Formula Grant Recipients

The Semi-Annual Progress Reports are due in Egrants by January 20, 2020.

The VAWA Measuring Effectiveness Institute will be hosting a webinar to help subgrantees craft compelling narratives for the annual report.

The webinar is free and will take place on Monday, January 13, 2020 from 2-3 pm EST. Please click [here](https://www.vawamei.org/training/crafting-narratives-webinar-telling-the-story-behind-your-data-january/) to register.

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# OVS Releases 2020 Monitoring Schedule

A copy of the 2020 monitoring schedule is now available and has been placed on the PCCD website. You can access the schedule by clicking [here](https://prdpccd.pwpca.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/Compliance.aspx).

The assigned PCCD staff will be contacting you and working with you to determine a date that is best for everyone.

If your agency is not on the 2020 monitoring schedule, please contact Heather Cureau at 717-265-8712 or by email at hcureau@pa.gov.

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# Fraud Alert: Scammers Claiming To Be With OVC

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) has received multiple reports that their office’s name is being used as part of an imposter scam targeting individuals throughout the country. OVC is **not** making these phone calls. These scammers falsely represent themselves as OVC employees and attempt to obtain or confirm personal information from the call recipient, such as a social security number, or will ask for money by suggesting the person’s social security number has been compromised. The scammers may call from a local number and provide a “case number,” but it is all a fraud.

OVC encourages the public to remain vigilant and do not provide personal information during calls in which someone claims to be from OVC or the “OVC Fraud Prevention Unit.” OVC has no such unit. OVC also encourages those who have received one of these calls to report this information to them through the OVC Resource Center at the National Criminal Justice Reference Service by email or by phone at 800–851–3420. Individuals may also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission [online](https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/) or by calling 877–FTC–HELP (877–382–4357).

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# Stalking Awareness Month 2020

January 2020 marks the sixteenth annual National Stalking Awareness Month (NSAM), an annual call to action to recognize and respond to the serious crime of stalking. To honor NSAM, access information and resources [here](https://www.stalkingawareness.org/stalking-awareness-month-2020/).

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# 2020 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week (NCVRW)

Every April, OVC helps lead communities throughout the country in their annual observances of NCVRW, which will be observed in 2020 from April 19–25. This year's theme is **Seek Justice | Ensure Victims' Rights | Inspire Hope**. The weeklong initiative promotes victims' rights and honors crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf. The 2020 color palette, customizable Theme Poster, and the Theme Poster source art are now available to help the field prepare for NCVRW.

* Theme Colors: dark blue, dark green, with an optional light green. View the [2020 NCVRW Color Palette](https://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw/pdf/2020NCVRWThemePalette.pdf) (PDF 487 kb).
* Theme Poster: Download a customizable copy of the [2020 NCVRW Theme Poster](https://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw/pdf/2020NCVRW_Theme_Poster-11x17-english.pdf) (PDF 204 kb) and the [2020 NCVRW Theme Poster Source Art](https://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw/images/00-2020_NCVRW_Theme_Poster_final_eng.eps) (Illustrator 7 mb).

Sign up for the [National Crime Victims' Rights Week Subscription List](https://puborder.ncjrs.gov/Listservs/Subscribe_NCVRW.asp) to receive information about the release of the 2020 NCVRW Resource Guide.

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# Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs): Leveraging The Best Available Evidence

Adverse Childhood Experiences, or ACEs, are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood (0-17 years) such as experiencing violence, abuse, or neglect; witnessing violence in the home; and having a family member attempt or die by suicide. These traumatic events in childhood can be emotionally painful or distressing and can have effects that persist for years. Factors such as the nature, frequency and seriousness of the traumatic event, prior history of trauma, and available family and community supports can shape a child’s response to trauma.

ACEs and their associated harms are preventable. Creating and sustaining safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for all children and families can prevent ACEs and help all children reach their full health and life potential. This new publication from the CDC offers guidance on the best available evidence for prevention to help practitioners ensure that their work will be impactful. Please click [here](https://preventipv.org/materials/preventing-adverse-childhood-experiences-aces-leveraging-best-available-evidence) to download the publication.

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# [National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and Firearms](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001h5wF1XYCmK0DRDSPA9-P_2poNW55yOUl7kV9GKeMI5_-h24253_R4l6c3i_aqbf-zwM4tx7PF5UctyM6OiGM_F-hHyAj_1Qa9uahRlvNJ8AKvGRVQL8WiLXvxwyzQMws30_YiIDxyOimYdTbUrFSLTEWNJNQHwQC&c=xYa7BzW50Gh2VS6RgGLXW2EUlNTtBC3ZXESfSngAGZIcWDOaAQcFsw==&ch=vgnvlrAs3XVXCkKT9st-tzC3pjKpsIOnXmIHdpnxnczOXMjMqHWnTw==" \t "_blank)

The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and Firearms offers technical support, training assistance, and information to advocates, criminal justice professionals, and communities who are looking to reduce the rate of domestic violence-related firearm homicides. Through the Safer Families, Safer Communities website, advocates can learn about various strategies within the justice system to disarm domestic violence offenders, read about local efforts to curb gun violence across the United States, and access a library of guides, tools, and information that can improve implementation of firearm prohibitions at federal, state, and local levels. Please click [here](https://www.preventdvgunviolence.org/news/watch-intersection-of-firearms-and-domestic-violence.html) to learn more.

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# National Alliance Of Victims’ Rights Attorneys & Advocates

The National Alliance of Victims' Rights Attorneys & Advocates (NAVRA) is a project of the National Crime Victim Law Institute and is a membership alliance committed to the protection, enforcement, and advancement of crime victims' rights nationwide. NAVRA strives to increase the availability of expert services for crime victims by providing members with a range of professional development resources. Please click [here](https://navra.org/) to learn more.

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# Statewide STOP Violence Against Women Survey

Pennsylvania is formulating its implementation plan to the federal Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) to outline how STOP Formula Grant Funding will be used over the next four years, beginning in 2021. Your input as a provider of services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, dating violence and elder abuse is critical to informing this process. Please take the time to complete the survey by January 31, 2020. All responses are anonymous. Please share across your professional networks. Thank you for helping the planning process! Please click [here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/STOP2019) to complete the survey.

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# First Of Its Kind Report Provides Data On Victim Service Providers In U.S.

The National Census of Victim Service Providers is the first-ever national data collection of programs responding to victims and survivors of crime and abuse. The recently released report, Victim Service Providers in the United States, 2017, provides the most comprehensive picture of the victim services field to date. The census was conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics with support from OVC. According to the census, nearly 12,200 victim service providers operated in the United States in 2017. Data from this census was used to select a representative sample for the [National Survey of Victim Service Providers](https://www.bjs.gov/content/nsvsp.cfm), which will provide national information about different ways programs are structured, organized, and resourced to carry out their mission. This data will assist funders and policymakers in better understanding the work and needs of victim service providers.

Please click [here](https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=6729) to read “Victim Service Providers in the United States, 2017”.

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# Pennsylvania Dioceses Offer $84M To 564 Clergy Abuse Victims

Pennsylvania’s Roman Catholic dioceses have paid nearly $84 million to 564 victims of sexual abuse, a tally that’s sure to grow substantially in the new year as compensation fund administrators work through a backlog of claims, according to an Associated Press review. Seven of the state’s eight dioceses launched victim compensation funds in the wake of a landmark grand jury report on sexual abuse by Catholic clergy. The funds were open to claims for a limited time this year. They are independently administered, though each diocese set its own rules on eligibility. To date, the average payout across all seven dioceses has exceeded $148,000 — a fraction of what some adult victims of childhood abuse might have expected from a jury had they been permitted to take their claims to court. Under state law, victims of past abuse only have until age 30 to sue. Please click [here](https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/pennsylvania-dioceses-offer-84m-564-clergy-abuse-victims-67932170) to read more.

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# Coatesville Police Say 11 Questions Can Reduce Domestic Violence. Why Aren’t More Police Officers Asking Them?

For the first 15 years that Rodger Ollis worked as a police officer, he walked away from a lot of domestic abuse calls wondering if he had done enough. He wondered if he’d be back to the same home in a few days or hours. Sometimes it was the victim who called police, other times a neighbor. Responding to these calls often put officers in the middle of volatile situations, with plenty of yelling and crying. Sometimes there wasn’t enough evidence to arrest a suspected abuser. The criminal code, Ollis likes to say, is really good at handling a punch. But other types of abuse — emotional, financial — are harder to see and don’t always rise to a criminal level. And even if he did arrest someone, Ollis said he didn’t know if the victim would reach out to a domestic violence program for help, if they would have the support to leave a relationship and move on with their life. Then, about seven years ago, he learned how to use a new tool — the Lethality Assessment Program. Please click [here](https://papost.org/2019/12/12/coatesville-police-say-11-questions-can-reduce-domestic-violence-why-arent-more-police-officers-asking-them/) to read more.

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# Housing Assistance Grants For Victims Of Human Trafficking

Through the [FY 2020 Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Human Trafficking](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAxOTEyMDQuMTM4NjQ5MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5vdmMuZ292L2dyYW50cy9wZGZ0eHQvRlktMjAyMC1Ib3VzaW5nLUFzc2lzdGFuY2UtR3JhbnRzLWZvci1WaWN0aW1zLW9mLUh1bWFuLVRyYWZmaWNraW5nLnBkZiJ9.nj6xvjVYbhdw01v-akwSMhMw8fO5z81mWP61q2vV4gE%2Fbr%2F72293252977-l&data=02%7C01%7CKAbuckley%40pa.gov%7C8f34bfd3f6da4c2a38d908d77cf8c3c3%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C1%7C637115280195591993&sdata=QP8dDBr8FWy%2FhJuC%2F3ZxpQUwKzIqzTKEVs398Vm0cm4%3D&reserved=0) solicitation, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) seeks to provide funding for housing and support services to victims of human trafficking. The program will support—

* transitional housing, including funding for the operating expenses of a newly developed or existing transitional housing program;
* short-term housing assistance, including rental or utilities payment assistance and assistance with related expenses.

Projects must also include support services designed to enable victims of human trafficking and any dependents to locate and secure permanent housing and find employment.

[**Apply**](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flnks.gd%2Fl%2FeyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAxOTEyMDQuMTM4NjQ5MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5ncmFudHMuZ292L3dlYi9ncmFudHMvdmlldy1vcHBvcnR1bml0eS5odG1sP29wcElkPTMyMjgzNyJ9.R7XqWv51IiIj3nM7Ix5o266j3q6ojxrP2R8JtB9TtOc%2Fbr%2F72293252977-l&data=02%7C01%7CKAbuckley%40pa.gov%7C8f34bfd3f6da4c2a38d908d77cf8c3c3%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C1%7C637115280195601951&sdata=WFmZaM8wTlyoByfoq1NzF8wFBvVJt7%2BH%2FNIq%2BMItHH0%3D&reserved=0)**by February 3, 2019.**

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# [New Training Bulletin: “Becoming Trauma Informed: Learning And Appropriately Applying The Neurobiology Of Trauma To Victim Interviews”](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0016Md4BNarEXhNmI40Z5mBTpAvkJ5S-jJqJdozR2jGuw9Btj6K5ZzBkQssm-SftED0HMW__5IZljAHY0s_V0t63awWaEaViJzQsap7RTPO_AX4eynMlpARLetwh2Y58lMtUzkNqHuXTL6DPXrG_Yu4GO4dUMDxTFvs83YYGlq1aFXySJDVEtXqrHBTWExkVxFiNwk1ixm78hj4FZ3sOJxSZw==&c=NUnX2FjjGSA-H8T-UYkSffN1rFJzBVPgEHSm1Dz6MYBiosAPifh2PA==&ch=bz6uE5n-1b556NymqwC5rUM_Lbrydb5ku6FKI05dDA8tjPJ3wV4pCg==" \t "_blank)

When sexual assault victims are interviewed, they are often asked to recount their memories in ways that are inconsistent with how those memories were encoded and stored. This methodology is further complicated by the reality that stress experienced during the interview can impair memory retrieval. In this new Training Bulletin, End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI) explores the implications of neuroscience research, to assist law enforcement agencies in improving their interview practices with victims and witnesses. Please click [here](https://www.evawintl.org/Library/DocumentLibraryHandler.ashx?id=1364) to learn more.

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# Enhancing Campus Sexual Assault Prevention Efforts Through Situational Interventions

Situational prevention is a largely unaddressed level of prevention intervention. Situational prevention, which emphasizes reducing the environmental opportunities for violence to take place, has a critical importance within a comprehensive sexual violence prevention approach.

In January 2020, a report, *Enhancing Campus Sexual Assault Prevention Efforts through Situational Intervention*, will be released. In this web conference, the report’s authors will share the methodology developed that can be used across a range of college and university settings to: identify specific campus spaces perceived to be unsafe; identify multiple dimensions within those spaces that contribute to safety concerns and create perpetration opportunities; and generate place-based strategies that can address those environmental conditions.

Date: January 15, 2020

Time: 3:30 p.m. (EST)

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

* Describe the theoretical approaches used to inform this situational prevention methodology
* Identify the essential elements of a Situational Prevention methodology
* Identify potential environmental opportunities to prevent sexual violence in college campus settings

Please click [here](https://events-na1.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/2369022934/en/events/event/shared/2701045458/event_landing.html?sco-id=3404998898) to learn more and to register.

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# Online CLE Training: Representing LGBTQ Victims Of Crime

**Date:**  Tuesday, January 21, 2020
**Time:**  11:00 a.m. - 12:05 p.m. (Pacific)
**Duration:**  60 minutes (1.0 credit)
**Cost:**   $30.15 for Enhanced NAVRA members, $45.00 for Basic NAVRA members/General Public.

**Presenter:**
Shary Sanchez, Attorney in Charge, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley

**MCLE Accreditation:** An application will be submitted to the Oregon State Bar for 1.0 general MCLE credit.  This program will be approved for 1.0 general MCLE credit with the State Bar of California; NCVLI is an approved CA multiple activity provider. The training may be eligible for MCLE credit in other states; a certificate of attendance will be available after the program.

**Registration is now open!** Please click [here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/navra-121-online-cle-representing-lgbtq-victims-tickets-86735477147) to learn more and to register.

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# SAVE THE DATE: Fifth Annual Southeastern Pennsylvania Forensic Nursing Conference

Save the date for the Fifth Annual Southeastern Pennsylvania Forensic Nursing Conference!

Date: Friday, May 1, 2020

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Abington Jefferson Health, 1200 Old York Road, Abington, PA 19001

Cost: $65 (includes breakfast and lunch)

We will be applying for CEUs for Registered Nurses and Social Workers

**Registration is scheduled to begin approximately March 1, 2020**

Topics include:

* Suspect exams
* Male violence in intimate relations and the Emerge program of Massachusetts
* From Forensic Exam to Prosecution
* Women That Molest Children
* How traffickers are using the prison system to recruit and exploit women who have been incarcerated
* The Me Too Movement

For questions, please contact Debbie Nugent at 267-488-1487 or debbie@novabucks.org.

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# Victims Compensation Online Trainings

The following trainings will be held on January 7, 2020:

* Basic Compensation – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on January 15, 2020:

* Stolen Benefit Cash Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Crime Scene Cleanup Expenses Clinic - 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
* Sexual Assault Counseling Claims Legislative Change – 12:15 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on January 21, 2020:

* Loss of Earnings Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Motor Vehicle-Related Crime Expenses Clinic - 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
* Sexual Assault Counseling Claims Legislative Change – 12:15 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The following training will be held on January 23, 2020:

* Restitution Basics – 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

All trainings count towards 1 hour of the required RASA/VOCA/VOJO training hours, except Basic Compensation, which counts towards 2 hours, and DAVE training, which counts towards 2 hours and 15 minutes.

Please click [here](https://pccd.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=pccd&service=6) to register.

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# 2020 Freedom Network USA Human Trafficking Conference

The 2020 FNUSA Conference will take place on **March 18-19** in Miami, FL. This year we will explore how anti-trafficking work has grown and evolved since the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act in 2000. Twenty years later, survivors are receiving more compassionate and effective services and advocates have forged pathways to influence policy. Community leaders across the country are developing new approaches, tools, and partnerships to address human trafficking. These innovations are changing the way we work together and our collective impact.

However, some challenges linger. Survivors still fight for a seat at the table, collaboration remains difficult, and entire populations are overlooked and underserved. As awareness of human trafficking increases, prosecutions are down, and human rights protections are being stripped away. Using conference sessions, networking time, and physical space, we will confront these challenges and build solutions that are intersectional, representative, and rooted in human rights.

For more information and to register, please click [here](https://freedomnetworkusa.org/conference/).

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# 2020 International Conference On Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence And Violence Across The Lifespan

The 2020 ***International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence and Violence Across the Lifespan*** will be held **April 14-16** in Washington, DC.

Our annual conferences focus on sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking, human trafficking and elder abuse. We consistently bring together law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, victim advocates, judges, parole and probation officers, rape crisis workers, health care professionals, faith community members, educators, researchers and others in this three-day conference highlighting promising practices and emerging issues to effectively respond to these crimes in all of our communities.

For more information and to register, please click [here](http://www.cvent.com/events/international-conference-on-sexual-assault-domestic-violence-and-violence-across-the-lifespan/event-summary-8e6420fcdc134cbba1abe0215e8f6422.aspx?fqp=true).

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# 2020 Foundational Academies - SAVE THE DATE!

April 15 – 17, 2020

State College, PA

\*Accommodations provided only at this Academy

July 15 – 17, 2020

Cranberry Township, PA (Pittsburgh Area)

\*A small block of rooms will be available at discount.

October 7 – 9, 2020

King of Prussia, PA

\*A small block of rooms will be available at discount.

**Registration for each academy will open approximately 60 days prior to the state date under the PDAI Training Calendar at** [**www.pdaa.org**](http://www.pdaa.org)**.** Registration is first come, first served for those VOCA, VOJO, and RASA funded individuals who are required to attend per PCCD’s Consolidated Victim Services Standards. There is also a supplemental online training requirement in addition to the 3-day classroom academy. Lunch will be provided at all Academies in 2020 instead of breaktime snacks.

If you have any questions about the above webinar, the 2020 Academies, or wish to be added to her Quarterly Restitution & V/W Training Newsletter, please email the Training Consultant, Amy Smulktis, at AJS@RestitutionConsulting.com.

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If your program is offering new or extended services, or implementing new initiatives that you would like to highlight, please submit your news article to Stacie Brendlinger at sbrendling@pa.gov.

The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, **January 15, 2020**. If you would like any training events, fundraisers, or notable news published in this newsletter, please submit them to Stacie Brendlinger at sbrendling@pa.gov by Wednesday, **January 8, 2020**.

You have signed up to receive the OVS Newsletter from the Office of Victims' Services. This newsletter will be sent to you on a biweekly basis via email. If your email address changes or you would like to be removed from the OVS Newsletter distribution list, please contact Stacie Brendlinger at (717) 265-8722 or via email at sbrendling@pa.gov.

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[www.pccd.pa.gov](http://www.pccd.pa.gov)

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