**Charles Ramsey**

*Chairman*

**Michael Pennington**

 *Executive Director*

OVS Newsletter

December 19, 2019

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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)
	+ [Additional RASA/VOJO/VOCA Approved Training](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/RASA-VOCA-VOJO-Trainings.aspx)

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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.

OVC will conduct one pre-application webinar on Thursday, December 19, from 2:00–3:00 p.m. eastern time to review requirements and conduct a question and answer session. Please click [here](https://ojp.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=ojp&service=6&rnd=0.0440027383844378&main_url=https%3A%2F%2Fojp.webex.com%2Fec3300%2Feventcenter%2Fevent%2FeventAction.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26%26%26EMK%3D4832534b0000000486ab9290cc313d45445f733b533c7c386cfa91b956b8df75cfd25183381fbd26%26siteurl%3Dojp%26confViewID%3D145825186337271350%26encryptTicket%3DSDJTSwAAAAQYdZ0t4HkuPrIUbqSI1tdsW0HdJKtSgkXZiUL_YOoxGg2%26) to register.

[**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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# RALIANCE Announces The Launch Of RALIANCE Business

RALIANCE, a national nonprofit partnership dedicated to ending sexual violence in one generation -- announces the launch of RALIANCE Business. In collaboration with founding partner Uber Technologies, the new resource center is designed to promote consistent, data-driven strategies to help companies and organizations address and prevent sexual misconduct, sexual harassment and sexual assault in their workplaces and across their operations. With more than 100 years of collective experience and resources on sexual violence prevention, RALIANCE Business will provide organizations and their leadership teams with assessments, policy reviews, trainings, communications support and other tools and guidance to help them improve their workplace culture and platform safety. RALIANCE Business is also developing an accreditation system that will benchmark corporate efforts to develop effective sexual assault prevention and response policies. Please click [here](https://www.raliance.org/business/) to learn more.

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# Batterer Intervention Programs Have Mixed Results

Courts often mandate that convicted abusive partners attend batterer intervention programs in addition to serving a probation term. NIJ-funded researchers have evaluated the most common batterer intervention programs. A number of batterer program evaluations have been conducted, but with inconsistent results. One approach that researchers have used is to integrate the results from various evaluations is known as meta-analysis. There are a number of interventions that are common in the treatment of domestic violence offenders. Meta-analyses of two prominent approaches — the Duluth model and cognitive behavioral therapy — have been reviewed and rated under NIJ’s CrimeSolutions.gov process. Please click [here](https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/batterer-intervention-programs-have-mixed-results) to read more.

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# Law Enforcement Looks To Research To Help Fight The Opioid Crisis

The scope of the opioid crisis is without precedent, in terms of lives lost and families and communities devastated. An average of 130 people in the United States die every day from an opioid overdose – a factor contributing to the now declining life expectancy of Americans. Law enforcement agencies across the country have responded to the crisis with a multitude of ideas and initiatives. More broadly, the Department of Justice (DOJ) and other federal agencies recognize a need for a stronger national response that can distill from those local initiatives promising general practices, identify and promote new answers to national needs, and develop strategies to reduce opioids’ national impact. A working group of law enforcement leaders and other experts, called by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), DOJ’s research arm, has spotlighted effective practices and identified priority research needs as well as opioid-related challenges. Please click [here](https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/law-enforcement-looks-research-help-fight-opioid-crisis) to read more.

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# Intersection Of Firearms And Domestic Violence

Did you know that most mass shootings in the US happen inside private homes, and not in public spaces? This video, produced by the Battered Women's Project, features Deputy Director of the NRCDVF Alicia Nichols. Listen to her run through some surprising statistics and offer suggestions on how to keep victims/survivors of IPV safe from firearm violence. Please click [here](https://www.preventdvgunviolence.org/news/watch-intersection-of-firearms-and-domestic-violence.html) to watch.

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# Examining Uber’s Use Of The Sexual Misconduct And Violence Taxonomy And The Development Of Uber’s United States Safety Report

This report outlines an assessment of Uber’s integration of the Sexual Misconduct and Violence Taxonomy into its system of receiving and accurately categorizing reports of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and sexual assault from users of its platform. Uber’s approach to using these data in the development of their 2019 United States Safety Report is also assessed. Please click [here](https://www.nsvrc.org/uber-taxonomy-use) to learn more.

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# Press Release: New Restitution Resource Center Will Help States Improve Services For Crime Victims

﻿The U.S. Department of Justice’s [Office for Victims of Crime](https://www.ovc.gov/) has funding to create a new centralized resource center designed to help states improve their ability to effectively order, collect, disburse, and fulfill restitution sentences.

Victims frequently sustain financial losses as a result of the crimes committed against them. Repayment of those financial losses, or restitution, by the person who was convicted of the crime can be a crucial resource for victims. Orders for restitution are critical; however, even when courts order people to pay restitution, there is no guarantee that the amount ordered will be collected. Many state policymakers are unclear about restitution outcomes, impeding their ability to make policy improvements to help victims recover financially and ensure that people who owe restitution fulfill their obligations.

The Restitution Resource Center (RRC) will help states improve the quality of their restitution systems by providing a central source for best practices and successful innovations in the field as well as facilitating peer networks and information exchange. Technical assistance will be available to select states as they seek to advance data collection and sharing, improve coordination between various agencies, and develop policies that enhance the management of restitution practices. Please click [here](https://law.lclark.edu/live/news/42324-press-release-new-restitution-resource-center-will) to read more.

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# NOMOREVerbalAbuse

Did you know that nearly half of all women and men in the U.S. have experienced verbal abuse from a partner? ([CDC, 2017](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs-statereportbook.pdf)). Verbal abuse is an often-overlooked component of intimate partner violence. It is difficult to detect, assess, and substantiate, and many cases go unreported. Some victims of verbal and emotional abuse may not even consider themselves victims, because they associate domestic violence only with physical abuse. But the impact of verbal abuse can be just as damaging to those who experience it.  The National Resource Center on Domestic has teamed up with NO MORE and are launching the [#NOMOREVerbalAbuse](https://www.nomoreverbalabuse.org/) campaign and website. Please click [here](https://www.nomoreverbalabuse.org/) to learn more.

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# Why I Choose To Sleep On The Street For One Night Each November

It's a staggering statistic: Every year, more than 4.2 million kids and young adults in the US experience a period of homelessness, and an estimated 700,000 of those are unaccompanied minors--without a family or an adult guardian. As president of a property management company and the father of three daughters ages 20 months to 13 years, the importance of having a safe, warm place to call home and of protecting children, teenagers and young adults from the evils of the world are deeply ingrained in me. That's why--to raise awareness about homeless youth and human trafficking--I spent Thursday night sleeping outside on the cold, hard pavement with only a cardboard box and a sleeping bag to protect me from the elements. Please click [here](https://www.inc.com/entrepreneurs-organization/why-i-choose-to-sleep-on-street-for-one-night-each-november.html) to read more.

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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.  Register and pay by **December 30, 2019** and save $125 off of the full registration.

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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# Pennsylvania Victim Services Training (PVST) Website

As a reminder, the Office of Victim Services maintains and assists with the development of training content on the Pennsylvania Victim Services Training (PVST) website.  There are currently 23 training modules on the side to provides training for victim advocates within PCCD-funded programs and other allied professionals whose work brings them into contact with crime victim populations. The PVST is provided in a Learning management System that allows the registered learner to document and receive credit for training completed. These training credits can be used towards the 10-hours of training needed annually to meet the Training Standard established by the Victim Services Advisory Committee.  The most recent additions to the PVST are Human Trafficking Part 1 & Part 2, as well as, Economic Justice for Victims of Crime. Other training topics on the PVST include Elder Abuse, LGBTQ Victims, Older Adults, Victims with Intellectual Disabilities, etc. This website is a great way to increase your knowledge as well as earn required training credits. The website can be accessed [here](https://pavictimservicestraining.org/).  To register, those interested will need to use the registration code **7223**.

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# Victims Compensation Online Trainings

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

* Sexual Assault Counseling Claims Legislative Change – 9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
* 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 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 1, 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, **December 25, 2019**.

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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Pennsylvania’s [Office of Victims’ Services](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/default.aspx) | 3101 North Front Street | Harrisburg, PA 17110 | (717) 783-0551

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

**PA Crime Victims Website**

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

**Twitter:** [@PaCrimeCom](https://twitter.com/PaCrimeComm)m.