SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR NATIONAL SURVEY OF VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDERS

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), through a cooperative agreement with ICF (Award: 15PBJS-24-GK-02863-BJSB), requests clearance to conduct the 2026 National Survey of Victim Service Providers (NSVSP). The 2026 NSVSP is part of the larger Victim Services Statistical Research Program (VSSRP) that BJS developed to capture, on a routine basis, information about the diverse programs and organizations that serve victims of crime or abuse in the United States. The NSVSP complements the National Census of Victim Service Providers (NCVSP), which enumerates all victim service providers (VSPs) in the United States and captures basic information about these organizations, by providing more in-depth information about both the organizations serving victims and the victims receiving services from a sample of VSPs drawn from the NCVSP. The first NSVSP administration was conducted in 2019 and was approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) (OMB No. 1121-0363; exp. 02/28/2022). The 2026 NSVSP will be the second administration of this collection (see **Attachment 1** for the 2026 NSVSP instrument). Changes have been made to the 2019 NSVSP instrument to reduce respondent burden and improve overall data quality, and these changes are described in more detail later in this Supporting Statement and in Supporting Statement B.

The goals of the NSVSP are to collect detailed information on topics including, but not limited to, the number and characteristics of victims served by VSPs, the types of crime or abuse VSPs provided services for, the specific types of services provided to crime victims by VSPs, the size and makeup of VSPs' staff, and VSPs' funding sustainability. The 2026 NSVSP will also include a new section on VSPs' preparedness and response activities related to mass violence incidents. The 2026 NSVSP will use the 2023 NCVSP (OMB No. 1121-0355; exp. 08/31/2026) as its sampling frame.

VSPs are grouped into two major categories for the purposes of data collection:

(a) Primary providers, or entities that principally function to provide services to crime victims (e.g., domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, and homicide survivor groups); and
(b) Secondary providers, or those that assist crime victims as one of their many functions and have a program, center, or specific staff designated to serve crime victims (e.g., prosecutor-based providers, hospital-based providers, and campus providers).

The NSVSP will survey VSPs that serve victims as their primary function or secondary function through designated staff and programs. BJS will not include incidental providers (i.e., agencies that might serve crime victims as part of their regular services but have no designated programs or staff, such as homeless shelters) in the survey because these organizations were not included on the 2023 NCVSP frame. Incidental providers cannot be compared to primary and secondary VSPs and are out of scope for the purposes of the data collections in the VSSRP.

Definitions

A VSP is any organization, program, division, department, or other entity which provides services or assistance to victims of crime or abuse. Key definitions for the NSVSP include –

- **Crime**: An illegal act, which if done by a competent adult or juvenile, would be a criminal offense.
- **Abuse**: Includes physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, or economic actions or threats to harm or control another.
- **Victim**: Any person who has experienced past, ongoing, or suspected crimes and abuse (e.g., crimes that are not reported to law enforcement or not prosecuted). Victims include (1) primary victims (persons directly harmed or threatened by crimes or abuse) and (2) secondary victims (family, friends, or household members of the person who also experienced harm due to a crime).
- **Service**: Efforts that…
    - respond to the emotional and physical needs of victims;
    - assist victims with their safety and security;
    - assist victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice or other legal process;
    - assist victims in stabilizing their lives; or
    - respond to other needs of victims.

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Attach a copy of the appropriate section of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information.

Title 34, United States Code, Section 10132 of the Justice Systems Improvement Act of 1979 authorizes BJS to collect and analyze statistical information on criminal victimization and the operation of the criminal justice system at the federal, state, and local levels. This authorization covers the collection of information on the capacity of the criminal justice system and partner victim service agencies to meet the needs of crime victims (see **Attachment 2**).

The proposed 2026 NSVSP will provide critical information on the current composition of the victim services field, how characteristics of the field vary by VSP type and region, and changes since the NSVSP was last conducted in 2019. The 2026 NSVSP is important because it will contribute to knowledge regarding victim services and update what is known about the availability and use of services to support victims of crime or abuse compared to 2019.

Prior to the 1980s, crime control policy paid little attention to victims of crime. This changed dramatically in the 1980s with the creation of the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) and other criminal justice policy and practice efforts aimed at responding to victims' needs but also accounting for their suffering. In the 1990s, OVC was joined by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) in supporting service provision as well as advocacy for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. In the past few decades, these programs have been intent on building and maintaining the service infrastructure necessary to make victims of crime whole

again. Data collected through the NSVSP will provide current, detailed information on the national victim service infrastructure.

Over the past approximately 40 years, the federal government has devoted more resources and attention to victim assistance, and the data collections in the VSSRP help inform whether federal funds are being used in a way that effectively meet the needs of crime victims. From the time Congress created the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) in 1984, the federal government has provided a significant portion of the financial support for victim-serving entities. While that funding has been crucial, fluctuations in collection and disbursement from the CVF mean that amounts available for grant-making vary annually. Federal and state administrators of VOCA funds and other federal grants must have data regarding changes in the victim services network to ensure that funding is being used effectively. A routine collection of empirical data from VSPs is needed to understand how VSPs are staffed and resourced to provide services to victims, the types of services provided, and where there are gaps in the provision of services.

Additionally, OVC is continuing to implement recommendations in its Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services report by advancing the use of research and statistics for victim service provision. The report describes the need for research to "expand the profession's fundamental understanding of who is affected by crime, how they are affected, what works to help victims recover from their trauma, and what other issues affect the delivery of services to victims and the protection of their legal rights" (pg. 1). It highlights the challenges for the victim services field to respond effectively to crime victims without up-to-date, accurate data, particularly when there continue to be major changes in the nature and reach of crimes. For example, major changes in U.S. demographics, advances in technology, attitudinal shifts, and better methods for identifying victims of certain types of crime (e.g., trafficking) increase the necessity of empirical data on who has access to victim services and whether service providers are equipped to adequately respond to all crime victims. The NSVSP and the NCVSP provide essential pieces of those data.

Most of what is known about victims of crime and their help-seeking behaviors comes from BJS's National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). This large, nationally representative survey of the non-institutionalized residential population collects a great deal of information on victims, offenders, the social context of the incident, the harms resulting from crime, and if victims received assistance from a VSP. Although the redesigned NCVS instrument,[1] which was fully implemented in January 2025, collects more information about victims' self-reported use of victim services compared to the legacy NCVS instrument,[2] the NCVS cannot be our only source of data on victims of crime. A number of important population groups are omitted by design from the survey, including the homeless, children under age 12, homicide victims and their families, and institutionalized populations, such as the elderly in nursing homes and prisoners. Many crimes are relatively rare, and as a result, the victims of these rare crimes and the services they receive cannot be identified with much precision in a sample of reasonable size. In addition,

[1] The new and expanded items on victim services can be found in the "Victim Services (VS)" section of the redesigned NCVS instrument: 2025-ncvs-redesign-questionnaire.pdf.
[2] The legacy NCVS instrument was retired in December 2024 and can be found here: National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) | Bureau of Justice Statistics.

for some important types of crimes (e.g., human trafficking or mass violence), victim surveys may not be the best source of information on the crime and its consequences. If there is to be a more complete picture of victims, victim survey data must be supplemented and complemented by data on victims and crimes from police and victim service agencies.

The existing nationally representative data on offenses known to the police provide only a limited look at victims. In 2021, the FBI transitioned to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), replacing the historical Summary Reporting System, as the official data collection for crimes recorded by police. NIBRS collects detailed information on victims, offenders, weapons, and the social context of the crime event. Although 90% of the U.S. population is now covered by NIBRS as of August 2026, based on NCVS data, many crimes never come to the attention of the police.[3]

Furthermore, there are some questions about the victim services field that will be best answered with data collected directly from VSPs. For example, VSPs are best positioned to provide information about how they are structured (e.g., are they a program within a police department or a community-based agency that partners with police, and does this make a difference in their roles and service provision?), the types of crime victims they serve, the services they provide, the size of their staff, and their capacity to meet the demand for services. Only the NCVSP and the NSVSP together provide both a complete enumeration of VSPs in the U.S., regardless of organization type (NCVSP) *and* a detailed picture of topics including, but not limited to, the range of services being provided to victims and the number and characteristics of victims who were served (NSVSP), from a nationally representative sample of VSPs.

With authorization under the Justice Systems Improvement Act and in collaboration with many stakeholders within the victim services field, BJS is well-positioned to update the empirical knowledge base about the characteristics and functions of VSPs. The proposed request is to conduct the NSVSP from February 2027 to July 2027 with a nationally representative sample of about 6,500 VSPs drawn from the 2023 NCVSP frame. The proposed 2026 NSVSP will provide critical, updated information on victim assistance that occurred during calendar year 2026, including information on the number of victims served, the demographic characteristics of victims, the types of victimizations VSPs provided services for, the types of services provided by VSPs, VSPs' staff size, service gaps, and preparedness to response to mass violence incidents.

[3] Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2026). Crime Data Explorer. Accessed from https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/rcitn.

2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.

The information to be collected in the 2026 NSVSP is one component of the larger VSSRP at BJS. The 2026 NSVSP will allow BJS to collect updated, detailed information about a sample of VSPs to generate nationally representative estimates that can be used by BJS, other Department of Justice (DOJ) entities, and external stakeholders. The data collected will have utility when used both independently and in conjunction with other existing sources of data to generate a more complete national picture of victimization and victim services in the United States.

BJS Uses

The 2026 NSVSP will contribute both new and updated information to BJS's VSSRP portfolio. BJS statisticians will use the 2026 NSVSP data to produce a number of timely reports and products. These reports will be relevant to the priorities of the DOJ and the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) as well as the expressed needs and interests of other governmental agencies within and outside of OJP and DOJ. These reports and data products will be disseminated to the public through multiple channels including the BJS website and the BJS JUSTSTATS listserv.

The following BJS reports used 2019 NSVSP data. BJS anticipates that the 2026 NSVSP data will be used to both write new reports and to update the following:

- *Services for Crime Victims, 2019* – examines the top types of victim services provided to crime victims, top referral sources, and top gaps in services, overall and by VSP type. Published October 2021.
- *Human Trafficking Data Collection Activities, 2021* – annual report that presents information on arrests, prosecutions, convictions, and sentences for human-trafficking related offenses. The availability of data in the 2019 NSVSP on services provided to human trafficking victims was highlighted in this report. Published October 2021.
- *Tribal Crime Data Collection Activities, 2022* – annual report that describes the data collected and analyzed in accordance with the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010. Estimates on the most common services provided by tribal VSPs from the 2019 NSVSP were highlighted in this report. Published July 2022.

The 2026 NSVSP will capture updated information on topics collected in the 2019 NSVSP, including crime types VSPs provided services for, the demographic characteristics of victims served by VSPs, and VSPs' resources and capacity, including their counts of full-time, part-time, unpaid, and contractor staff, and direct service staff annual training requirements. The 2026 NSVSP will also provide among the first nationally representative data on VSPs' capacity to respond to mass violence incidents and what criteria they use to define mass violence incidents. The 2026 NSVSP sample is designed to produce subgroup estimates by VSP type and region, enabling BJS to examine the above topics by these characteristics. Below are examples of the pressing questions that can be addressed with data collected through the 2026 NSVSP:

a. *How many victims received direct services from VSPs during the 2026 calendar year?*
b. *What are the demographic characteristics of victims served by VSPs during the 2026 calendar year?*

c. *What types of victimization do clients experience, and what services did VSPs provide in response during the 2026 calendar year? How do these patterns differ across VSP type and region?*
d. *What types of agencies refer victims to VSPs, and from which types of agencies do VSPs receive the most referrals?*
e. *What service gaps do VSPs identify in their communities, including unmet needs related to housing, mental health, legal assistance, and safety services?*
f. *What are the staffing levels and training requirements of VSP staff?*
g. *What methods do VSPs use to assess effectiveness of their services?*
h. *To what extent are VSPs prepared to respond to mass violence incidents? Do they have a documented plan that outlines how they will respond? Are they formally included in their local jurisdiction's communications protocols for responding to mass violence incidents? What communication methods do VSPs themselves use to provide public information about mass violence incidents?*

Uses by Other Governmental Agencies

For OVC, OVW, and VOCA administrators, the type of information that can be learned from the NSVSP is critical to developing an empirically based approach to delivering victim services that is consistent with OVC's effort to transform the victim services field. Data collected from this survey sample, and the information collected in future iterations of both the NCVSP and the NSVSP, will yield information that government agencies can use to work more effectively together in providing assistance to victims of crime, such as by providing these data to VSPs to help them better understand where there are gaps in service provision. The proposed 2026 NSVSP will allow federal and state granting agencies to better understand what victim services they are supporting and what types of victims are being served. In addition, information about the size of VSPs and gaps in services will allow federal and state entities to better understand how to allocate funding resources, seek future funding for areas of need, and to plan appropriately for potential limitations or barriers to accessing funding. Information gathered from the 2026 NSVSP will be an important step in understanding how well-equipped, particularly in terms of staffing, the victim service field is to respond to crime victims now and in the future.

Other Uses

BJS offers access to NSVSP data through the National Archive for Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) of the ICPSR at the University of Michigan. Researchers can download the NSVSP data and data documentation to conduct their own analyses.[4] As of August 2026, the 2019 NSVSP data file and documentation have been downloaded almost 450 times. It is anticipated that academic researchers and other interested stakeholders will use the 2026 NSVSP data to prepare reports and scholarly publications to examine the relationship between crime and the availability and delivery of victim services, as they have with the 2019 data. Below is a list of recent academic journal articles that were published using 2019 NSVSP data:

- Hsu, K.H. (2025). Support for burglary victims: An analysis of victim service provider practices. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, *98*, 102420. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2025.102420.

[4] National Survey of Victim Service Providers, [United States], 2019

- Maher, C. A., Corsello, R. M., Engle, T. A., Kulman, J.D., & Nedelec, J.L. (2024). Correlates of victim services for fraud and identity theft among victim service providers. *Journal of Criminal Justice, 95*, 102318. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2024.102318.
- McCullough, M., & Maher, C.A. (2026). Trauma-informed expungement support for criminalized survivors: The role of victim service providers. *Victims & Offenders*, 1-27. https://doi.org/10.1080/15564886.2026.2634650.

The data will also have utility for victim advocates and victim service professionals. Data from the NSVSP will allow VSPs to better understand where they fall in relation to other VSPs in terms of VSPs' size, the types of victims they serve, and the types of services they provide. VSPs could also use data from the survey to identify areas across the nation and across regions where there might be gaps in particular types of services. VSPs can use this information to reallocate funding and resources or request additional funding and resources to be used to fill those gaps.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also, describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.

The NSVSP instrument and the procedures to collect, clean, and analyze the data have been developed based on best practices to obtain high-quality data and minimize burden to survey participants and researchers. The primary mode of data collection is a web-based, self-administered survey instrument (see the survey welcome screen in **Attachment 3**). The 2026 NSVSP instrument has been designed for online data collection using specialized survey software. The web survey will be accessed behind a secure log-in page and each VSP will gain access via a unique login and password. The web survey will be secured through SSL encryption and will meet Section 508 accessibility standards. The web survey is designed to minimize respondent burden by providing an intuitive user experience and incorporating automatic data validations for numeric range and logic errors. Respondents will be able to stop and save their responses to the survey and return to complete them at a later time, if needed. The web survey will be programmed to include features such as a progress bar to illustrate the amount of the questionnaire completed, the amount left to complete, and the ability to print a copy of responses once the web survey is completed. Each page of the survey will include clear instructions on how to contact the survey help desk for support needs.

Although the primary mode of data collection will be a self-administered web survey, the survey software will also allow for the collection of data via Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI). Specifically, the CATI data will be collected during the nonresponse follow-up phase of the survey fielding, where a trained interviewer will complete the web survey with respondents who indicate they would like to take the survey over the phone. The software is built so that the survey will only need to be programmed once to accommodate either mode of data collection. It also allows for seamless integration of survey data from multiple modes into one database.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item A.2 above.

The 2026 NSVSP will not duplicate any other data collection efforts. The 2026 NSVSP will collect standardized, updated data on numbers of victims served, crime and abuse types VSPs provided services for, victim characteristics, details about VSP staffing and funding levels, and specific types of services offered from the broad range of VSPs across the nation. It will also be among the first data collections to collect nationally representative information about VSPs' preparedness and response activities for mass violence incidents.

Apart from the 2017 and 2023 NCVSP and the 2019 NSVSP, only one other national data collection related to victim services exists, and it is different from the proposed 2026 NSVSP in design, scope, and purpose. Annually since 2006, the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) conducts a 1-day (24 hour) census of U.S. domestic violence shelter programs.[5] The collection documents the number of individuals who sought services in a 24-hour period, the types of services requested, and the barriers the shelters experienced in providing services to victims of domestic violence, including not being able to meet victims' needs because of a lack of resources. In contrast to the NNEDV's data collection, the 2026 NSVSP will cover a one-year time period (calendar year 2026) and will not limit its focus to domestic violence shelters. The 2026 NSVSP will field questions to a wide range of VSPs to provide a current, nationally representative picture of victim services in the U.S. Other BJS data collections, such as the Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies and the National Survey of Prosecutors, contain some items that measure victim service provision among these entities, but the focus of these collections is not to collect comprehensive data on their victim service provision.

5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden.

Data from the 2019 NSVSP show that about one-third of VSPs had between 0-2 full-time paid staff or contractual workers. Recognizing that a considerable portion of the VSP field has a small number of paid staff working full time at their organization, BJS has made a concerted effort to reduce respondent burden in the 2026 NSVSP. BJS estimates that the 2026 instrument will take respondents, on average, 25 minutes to complete, down from 45 minutes for the 2019 instrument. At the beginning of the project award, the 2019 NSVSP instrument and resulting data were reviewed by ICF for data quality issues, such as high item-level missing. ICF survey methodologists made additional recommendations to BJS to revise the 2019 NSVSP instrument, and a draft of the instrument was shared with a panel of subject matter experts and practitioners from the VSP field for their review and feedback in May 2025. New or substantially revised items were then cognitively tested through two rounds of testing in late 2025 and early 2026, respectively. The first round of testing was conducted with 30 VSPs and a second round was conducted with 13 VSPs (see Supporting Statement B for a detailed summary of the cognitive testing results and **Attachment 4** for the full 2026 NSVSP Cognitive Testing Report). Additional changes were subsequently made by BJS project staff and leadership after cognitive testing was complete. Changes to the 2026 instrument that were implemented specifically to minimize burden include:

[5] All reports are available online: https://nnedv.org/resource-library/. See the most recent full report from 2025: Domestic Violence Counts: 20th Annual Report - NNEDV.

- Removing the items in the **Victim Characteristics** section that asked respondents to provide counts of victims served by sociodemographic characteristics and presenting victimization types and replacing these with "select all that apply" and "yes/no" items.
- Removing the **Sex Trafficking Victim Characteristics** section entirely, which asked VSPs to provide counts of sex trafficking victims served by various demographic characteristics, and replacing it with a new special topic section on **Mass Violence Incidents (Section G).** The mass violence section is designed to be answered with little to no need to query organization records.
- Removing the items that asked respondents to provide counts of staff in specific roles (e.g., administrative positions) by full- and part-time status, as well as removing the series of items that asked about the job characteristics (e.g., salary and benefits) of the highest management and most recent direct hire positions, in the 2019 **Human Resources** section (now called **Staffing and Resources [Section F]**). The revised section only asks for overall staffing counts and a few items on staff training requirements and funding levels that most respondents should be able to answer without querying organization records.

A helpdesk will be staffed to provide assistance by phone and email to all respondents during normal business hours (Eastern Time) and will be available to all respondents through a toll-free number. Phone numbers and e-mail addresses for the project's principal investigators will be provided to respondents. This information will be available via the survey communication materials and the project website.

VSPs may need to check case management systems or other records to answer some of the questions in the NSVSP. ICF will provide support to VSPs that need help accessing and reporting this information, and this support will be offered to respondents via the survey communication materials and the project website. Options will include brief instructional guides, group sessions, or one-on-one coaching sessions for accessing and reporting data. In addition to the options of completing the survey online or via CATI, VSPs will also have the option to upload a data report to the NSVSP portal, and ICF will fill in the relevant survey questions using this report. By offering multiple options to complete the survey, it is BJS's goal to reduce burden on all agencies, and small agencies in particular.

6. Describe the consequence to federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

If the 2026 NSVSP is not conducted, there will be no current empirical data available to answer detailed questions about VSPs in the U.S., including, but not limited to, critical information about the services offered by VSPs across the country, the number and types of victims they serve, and VSPs' preparedness for mass violence incidents. The victim services field will not have access to current data about whether they are reaching all victims in need of their services or adequately meeting the short- and long-term needs of the victims they do serve. VSPs need updated data to benchmark their performance against the performance of other VSPs that are similar to them across the nation and to determine whether the progress they are making in serving victims is comparable to the progress being made by other VSPs. Federal agencies,

practitioners, and researchers need current data for efficient planning and funding purposes and to understand the impact of the billions of federal dollars spent every year on victim services. To date, the 2019 NSVSP collection is the only other nationally representative dataset that has detailed data available on these topics, but it no longer accurately reflects the current landscape due to VSP turnover between survey collections.

In addition, it is important that the NSVSP continue to be conducted shortly after the NCVSP. Based on the frame development work that was conducted to develop the 2023 NCVSP roster, BJS expects that some VSPs will change leadership, contact information (e.g., point of contact, phone numbers, mailing addresses), and even their status as active victim service providers in the time between the 2023 NCVSP and the 2026 NSVSP. Conducting the NSVSP in 2027 as opposed to waiting an additional year or two to field the survey will reduce costs associated with having to update contact information and with sampling ineligible entities.

7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner:

- **requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly;**
- **requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;**
- **requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document;**
- **requiring respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records for more than three years;**
- **in connection with a statistical survey, that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study;**
- **requiring the use of statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;**
- **that includes a pledge of confidentially that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or**
- **requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secret, or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentially to the extent permitted by law.**

There are no special circumstances.

8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden.

Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

Consultation with representatives of those from whom information is to be obtained or those who must compile records should occur at least once every 3 years -- even if the collection-of-information activity is the same as in prior periods. There may be circumstances that may preclude consultation in a specific situation. These circumstances should be explained.

The research under this clearance is consistent with the guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.6 and 5 CFR 1320.8(d). The 60-day notice was published in the Federal Register, Volume 91, Number 175, pages 59732-59733 on September 11, 2026. The comment period ended on November 10, 2026 and BJS did not receive any public comments. The 30-day notice was published on November 16, 2026, 91 FR 73620 and is open for public comment until December 16, 2026.

Outside Consultations

Outside consultations have been especially important for the development of the 2026 NSVSP as BJS has sought to reduce survey burden compared to the 2019 NSVSP and, more generally, to increase knowledge of and engagement with the VSSRP data collections among the victim services field. As the instrument was being revised before its administration in 2027, ongoing discussions were held with staff in OVC and OVW to better understand the needs of the field, the current state of reporting, and what were the most significant gaps in data. BJS also worked with a panel of subject matter experts to ensure the survey instrument and corresponding survey outreach resonated with the victim services field.

In late spring 2025, the expert panel provided written feedback on a draft of the 2026 NSVSP instrument. ICF compiled the feedback to identify specific sections or questions on the instrument where panelist feedback needed further discussion. On May 16, 2025, a 90-minute virtual meeting was held with the expert panel. During this meeting, the expert panel provided feedback on specific sections of the questionnaire and outreach material. This meeting was instrumental in crafting the content of the survey to encourage VSP cooperation and participation while also ensuring the data will be accessible and useful to policymakers and the victim services field. For example, experts recommended providing respondents with a description of the types of data that will be required to complete the survey and a recommendation for who should complete it to reduce the likelihood the VSP would need to stop and start the survey many times as they find the data or information needed. The expert panel also recommended, and findings from the cognitive testing confirmed, that VSPs wanted to know more about the end use of their data. Information about what organization-level data will be needed to complete the survey and

statistics using data from prior VSSRP collections were incorporated into the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document that will be shared with respondents (see **Attachment 5**) and the study communication materials (see **Attachments 6-15**).

The expert panel and federal partner contributors have provided consultation on various aspects of the data collection throughout the development of the project. These individuals included:

- Ginger Baran, Office on Violence Against Women
- Kathy Buckley, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Office of Victims' Services
- Bridgette Butler, VSP Consultant
- Paul Caccamise, National Center for State and Tribal Elder Justice Coalitions
- Shakyra Diaz, Alliance for Safety and Justice
- Meg Garvin, National Crime Victim Law Institute
- Jeffrey Nelson, Office for Victims of Crime
- Cyrus O'Brien, Alliance for Safety and Justice
- Ashley Russell Ellis, Office for Victims of Crime
- James Simonson, Office for Victims of Crime
- Olivia Storz, Office on Violence Against Women
- Amanda Stylianou, HEAL Trafficking

9. Explain any decision to provide any payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

No government funds will be used as payment or for gifts to respondents.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

All NSVSP information about individuals or VSPs is confidential by law under Title 34, U.S.C., Sections 10231 and 10134. Pursuant to these statutes, BJS, its employees, and its data collection agents will only use the information provided by VSPs for statistical or research purposes and will protect it to the fullest extent under federal law. In the survey communication materials, VSPs are notified that their participation in the survey is voluntary and are informed that their responses will be kept confidential. In addition to survey communication materials, the FAQ document, which will be provided to all respondents on the project website, will inform respondents of the public reporting burden for this collection of information, the principal purposes for collecting the information, and the various uses for the data after it is collected, which satisfies the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974.

BJS is authorized to conduct this data collection under Title 34 United States Code, Section 10132. BJS may use the information it collects only for statistical or research purposes and must gather it in a manner that precludes its use for law enforcement or any purpose relating to a private person or public agency other than statistical or research purposes [Title 34 U.S.C. Section 10134]. By law, BJS is required to protect the confidentiality of information identifiable to a private person against unauthorized disclosure or misuse [Title 34 U.S.C. Sections 10134

and 10231]. The BJS Data Protection Guidelines provide more detailed information on how BJS and its data collection agents will use and protect data collected under BJS's authority.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. This justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.

Not applicable; there are no questions of a sensitive nature.

12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. The statement should:

- **Indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated. Unless directed to do so, agencies should not conduct special surveys to obtain information on which to base hour burden estimates. Consultation with a sample (fewer than 10) of potential respondents is desirable. If the hour burden on respondents is expected to vary widely because of differences in activity, size, or complexity, show the range of estimated hour burden, and explain the reasons for the variance. General, estimates should not include burden hours for customary and usual business practices.**

- **If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form.**

- **Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories. The cost of contracting out or paying outside parties for information collection activities should not be included here. Instead, this cost should be included in Item 14.**

BJS estimates the respondent burden for the 2026 NSVSP at approximately 2,115 hours. The estimate was calculated based on a total sample size of 6,482 VSPs across both an initial and a reserve sample and time estimates based on the results of cognitive testing. The reserve sample will be released and contacted if response rates for the initial sample fall below 80%. It is expected that about 15% of the 5,266 VSPs in the initial sample and 15% of the 1,216 VSPs in the reserve sample will be ineligible. For those approximately 973 out-of-scope entities across the initial and reserve samples, the burden will be less than 5 minutes to answer the eligibility questions at the beginning of the survey before being routed out of the instrument. For the approximately 3,579 active VSPs that are needed to participate to produce the desired national and subgroup estimates (see Supporting Statement B), results from cognitive testing suggest the survey will take approximately 25 minutes per VSP to complete. See Table 1 for calculations.

Table 1. 2026 NSVSP Estimated Annualized Respondent Cost and Hour Burden

Activity	Number of Respondents	Freq.	Total Annual Responses	Participation Time (minutes)	Total Burden (Hours)	Hourly Rate*	Monetized Value of Respondent Time
Survey Outreach	6,482	1	6,482	5	541	$36.50	$19,746.50
Active VSP Respondents	3,579	1	3,579	25	1,492	$36.50	$54,458.00
Out-of-scope/ ineligible VSPs	973	1	973	5	82	$36.50	$2,993.00
Totals	6,482		6,482		2,115	$36.50	$77,197.50

*Estimates are based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics profile for "21-1029 Social Workers, All Other" using their mean hourly wage in 2025. Accessed from: Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics Profiles

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden shown in Items 12 and 14).

- **The cost estimate should be split into two components: (a) a total capital and start up cost component (annualized over its expected useful life); and (b) a total operation and maintenance and purchase of service component. The estimates should take into account costs associated with generating, maintaining, and disclosing or providing the information. Include descriptions of methods used to estimate major cost factors including system and technology acquisition, expected useful life of capital equipment, the discount rate(s), and the time period over which costs will be incurred. Capital and start-up costs include, among other items, preparations for collecting information such as purchasing computers and software; monitoring, sampling, drilling and testing equipment; and record storage facilities.**

- **If cost estimates are expected to vary widely, agencies should present ranges of cost burdens and explain the reasons for the variance. The cost of purchasing or contracting out information collection services should be a part of this cost burden estimate. In developing cost burden estimates, agencies may consult with a sample of respondents (fewer than 10), utilize the 60-day pre-OMB submission public comment process and use existing economic or regulatory impact analysis associated with the rulemaking containing the information collection, as appropriate.**

- **Generally, estimates should not include purchases of equipment or services, or portions thereof, made: (1) prior to October 1, 1995, (2) to achieve regulatory compliance with requirements not associated with the information collection, (3) for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the government, or (4) as part of customary and usual business or private practices.**

There are no anticipated costs to respondents beyond the employee time expended during completion of the survey instrument. Respondents are not being asked to purchase anything or maintain any services as part of this data collection.

14. Provide estimates of the annualized cost to the Federal Government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff), any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information. Agencies also may aggregate cost estimates from Items 12, 13, and 14 into a single table.

There are no capital or start-up costs associated with the data collection. The total cost to the Federal government for the 2026 NSVSP data collection is $1,602,785, paid by BJS with funding from OVC. This is the cost associated with the final cleaning of the 2023 NCVSP frame, drawing a representative sample of VSPs from this frame, cognitively testing and finalizing the 2026 NSVSP instrument, administering the 2026 NSVSP to a sample of approximately 6,500 VSPs (if the reserve sample is released), cleaning and analyzing the resulting data, and producing a comprehensive final project report for BJS. The contractor costs include the amount spent on data collection, outreach efforts, project management, data monitoring and processing, and data documentation. The project is expected to take about three years, beginning in January 2025 and ending by December 2027. See Table 2 for a detailed breakdown of costs to the Federal government.

Table 2. Estimated Costs for the 2026 NSVSP

Items	Cost	Total
BJS Costs		

Staff Salaries*		
GS-15 Supervisory Statistician (step 1: $169,279 at 10%)	$16,900	
GS-13 Statistician (step 1: $121,785 at 40%)	$48,700	
GS-15/SES/SL BJS leadership (step 5: $191,850 at 3%)	$5,800	
GS-14 Lead Editor (step 1: $143,913 at 5%)	$7,200	
Contract Writer/Editor ($140,000 at 3%)	$4,200	
GS-14 Information Technology Specialist (step 1: $143,913 at 5%)	$7,200	
Salaries Subtotal:	$90,000	
Fringe benefits (30% of salaries)	$27,000	
Salary & Fringe Subtotal:	$117,000	
Other administrative costs of salary and fringe (15%)	$17,550	
Total staff costs:	$134,550 x 3 years	$403,650
ICF cooperative agreement total:	$1,199,135	$1,199,135
Total Estimated Costs:		$1,602,785

*Salary figures for federal employees are based on the 2026-DCB General Schedule Salary Table, available here: DCB.pdf. Salaries in the "Cost" column are rounded to the nearest 100.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments.

The decrease in respondent burden from 3,322 hours for the 2019 NSVSP to an estimated 2,115 hours for the 2026 NSVSP is attributed to decreases in both the collection's sample size and the estimated time to complete the survey. The 2026 NSVSP sample (N = 6,482, inclusive of the initial and reserve samples) is smaller than the 2019 NSVSP sample (N = 7,237) due to a change in the subgroup estimates it is designed to produce and because it assumes a higher response rate based on improvements to the sampling plan and communication strategies (see Supporting Statement B for more information). The 2026 survey instrument was also revised to be substantially shorter and less burdensome for respondents to complete, resulting in an estimated time to complete of 25 minutes, down from 45 minutes in 2019. See #5 for additional information on survey changes that impacted the burden.

16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulations, and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.

BJS plans to release one or more statistical reports describing the characteristics of VSPs across the nation. The reports will utilize data from all sections of the survey and will be organized topically to highlight both the breadth and depth of the 2026 NSVSP data. In these reports, BJS plans to publish estimates of key measures by VSP type and region, where applicable. BJS will also work with OVC stakeholders to identify additional reports or data products, such as infographics and interactive maps, that would be of interest and value to the victim services field and the public. See #2 for more detailed information about planned data products.

BJS will archive the cleaned 2026 NSVSP data file and documentation through NACJD at ICPSR. The public-use data file and supporting documentation will be made available for download without charge and in multiple formats (e.g., R, SPSS, and SAS) that make it possible for other researchers, practitioners, policymakers, VSPs, and the public to access and analyze the information. All BJS publications and products will be available on the BJS website.

ICF will coordinate closely with BJS to draft the final study report, which is expected to be a public document and will likely be published as a BJS-funded report or as an appendix to the NACJD study documentation. The goal of this report is to provide potential users of the 2026 NSVSP data with accessible, user-friendly information about the project that will promote and facilitate use of the results. ICF will submit the final report summarizing the 2026 NSVSP administration, methodology, and recommendations for analyzing and using the data for scholarly analysis and extracting valuable information to inform policy and identify gaps in services. They will also submit examples of code or syntax (e.g., R, SPSS, and SAS) that others can use to conduct basic analyses.

Pending OMB approval, the 2026 NSVSP data collection is scheduled to begin in February 2027 and will conclude by July 2027. ICF will clean and verify data on a continual basis over the course of data collection, and final data cleaning will take place in late summer 2027. The data file and documentation will be delivered to BJS in fall 2027.

The anticipated schedule is as follows:

February 2027	Data collection begins
July 2027	Data collection ends
Fall 2027	Data file and documentation delivery to BJS
Summer 2028	Initial BJS report release/data file published through NACJD

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.
Not applicable. The OMB control number and expiration date will be located on the welcome screen of the online survey instrument (see **Attachment 3**).

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.
This collection of information does not include any exceptions to the certification statement.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS.

This collection contains statistical data.

List of Attachments:

Attachment 1: 2026 NSVSP Instrument
Attachment 2: Title 34, U.S.C., Section 10132 of the Justice Systems Improvement Act of 1979
Attachment 3: Welcome Screen for Online Instrument
Attachment 4: 2026 NSVSP Cognitive Testing Report
Attachment 5: Frequently Asked Questions
Attachment 6: Invitation Letter
Attachment 7: Invitation Email
Attachment 8: Reminder Email #1
Attachment 9: Reminder Email #2
Attachment 10: Nonresponse Email #1
Attachment 11: Nonresponse Letter #1
Attachment 12: Nonresponse Email #2
Attachment 13: Nonresponse Email #3
Attachment 14: Nonresponse Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) Script
Attachment 15: Final Thank You Email