



CELEBRATES  
**35 YEARS**



**LOOKING FORWARD**



NCVC Executive Director Renee Williams with NBC News anchor Lester Holt

## About Our Cover

*Looking Forward* meets the future head on. The people chosen for the cover represent the field: providers, survivors, partners, and all those working for change. A Monarch butterfly was chosen because Monarch butterflies can fly with 70% of their wings missing. Monarchs, like survivors, are resilient, strong and capable, despite external perceptions.

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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS STATEMENT



Ala Isham



Alexander Auersperg



Kim Goldman



Melvin L. Hewitt, Jr.



Hedi Bogda



David Brown



James Clemente



Keith Franz



Philip M. Gerson



Michael Haggard



Randall Kaplan



Ronald C. Long



Stephen Rickman



Hon. Eric Smith



Kerry Watson, Jr.



Alexandra Galloway

Dear NCVC friends and supporters,

We are pleased to present NCVC's 35th anniversary report: *Looking Forward*. This report chronicles the progress that we've made, redefines leadership and maps a path forward. We are both invigorated by the leaps and bounds that the National Center is taking to continue to expand, forge equitable partnerships and reach all survivors. We feel privileged to be a part of such a strong and multi-faceted community of survivors, advocates, healthcare workers, attorneys and justice actors working in concert towards the same goal.

This has been a year of darkness, of uncertainty. Just as victims and survivors do, we've found the strength and courage to keep going. NCVC has been able to find the light, re-center, and take this opportunity to re-build, through the formation of our five centers, and chart a path forward.

We have long been supporters of the National Center, and have always appreciated the value that NCVC brings to victims and survivors in the victim's rights movement. We are proud of the future that we are building and would like to thank the staff of the National Center for their tireless efforts to expand support to survivors and providers across the nation.

We hope that, as you read through this report, you will think critically about what role you can play in supporting survivors and helping individuals, families and communities heal.

In the words of Margaret Mead, "never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world."

We hope to see you at this year's National Training Institute in Atlanta.

With hope,

Melvin Hewitt, Jr. and Kim Goldman, Co-Chairs

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR INTRODUCTION



**Renée Williams** is the Executive Director of the National Center and the Director of the National Crime Victim Bar Association (NCVBA). Renee has long been an advocate for victims and survivors and uses the legal profession to enact systemic and personal change.

**Honoring Our Shared Compassion and Resilience**

Dear Friends,

No singular word or phrase can accurately describe the challenges and impact that this year has wrought on our collective consciousness, and especially for survivors of crime and the heroes that provide them with services. To do so runs the risk of insincerity, rote repetition and misrepresentation.

This year's violence, with its mass shootings, numerous public tragedies, as well as the many traumas that didn't make the news or social media activism, has shown not only how needed this work is, but what steps we need to take, as a field, to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

This year, the year of our 35th anniversary, I've found strength in our staff, our partners, our members, and our volunteers. I have been uplifted, finding hope and even joy, in stories from those we serve, the survivors of crime who persist. I have found inspiration in our Victim Assistance Specialists, especially our five volunteer Specialists, who assist visitors at VictimConnect, our national hotline. Because of their dedication, our hotlines served nearly 15,000 visitors this year alone.

To our readers, I encourage you to pay special attention to the challenges that this report identifies. It is only by banding together, putting aside differences, and working together collaboratively, that we can reach all survivors and victims and build safer communities for the next generation.

As Gene Patterson, our first Executive Director wrote as part of our first annual report over 35 years ago: "We are often humbled by witnessing the extraordinary zeal of those crime victims who have channelled their pain into organized efforts to help other crime victims."

I, too, feel extraordinarily humbled and grateful to work with passionate survivors and advocates every day. Thank you to our staff, supporters, and our committed Board of Directors for your dedication to the National Center.

***Honoring Our Shared Compassion and Resilience,***

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Renée E. Williams". The script is elegant and cursive.

Renée E. Williams, Esq.  
Executive Director,  
National Center for Victims of Crime





## THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR Victims of Crime

**“Our Mission statement is simple but challenging: the Sunny Von Bulow National Victim Advocacy Center promotes responsiveness of the judicial system to the rights and needs of crime victims and implements programs to heighten America’s consciousness concerning the plight of victims.”- E. Gene Patterson, the Center’s first Executive Director.**

The National Center, born from personal tragedy, turned that pain and hurt into systemic change and became a founding member in the field of victim’s rights. On February 6th, 1986, E. Gene Patterson, the Center’s first Executive Director, wrote: “Our Mission statement is simple but challenging: the Sunny Von Bulow National Victim Advocacy Center promotes responsiveness of the judicial system to the rights and needs of crime victims and implements programs to heighten America’s consciousness concerning the plight of victims.”

Now, 35 years later, with a slight name change to the National Center for Victims of Crime, we remain steadfastly connected to that goal. Our center was started to assist grassroots organizations, to help create organizations and to create and build up nationwide and statewide coalitions. From the beginning, we helped to create justice for victims. Our work focused on supporting survivor-led, service driven organizations. To learn more about our history, view the twin publication: *Honoring Our Legacy*, accessible on our website.

## O U R H I S T O R Y

# INTRODUCING OUR CENTERS AND NTI

## CENTER FOR VICTIM SERVICE PROFESSIONALS

A CENTER OF  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
VICTIMS OF CRIME

The Center for Victim Service Professionals (CVSP) identifies the needs of professionals in the field, and provides support, training, technical assistance and resources to law enforcement officers, victim advocates, attorneys, and judges.

The Center provides Training and Technical Assistance for Project Safe Neighborhoods, a Department of Justice Initiative. The Center also manages the Building Bridges Project, a grassroots partnership with four branches of the Southern California NAACP.

## CENTER FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION

A CENTER OF  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
VICTIMS OF CRIME

The Center for Research and Innovation (CRI) synthesizes and analyzes the information NCVC houses so that we can better understand victimization trends and victim needs. The CRI analyzes internal data to answer important questions in the field, forges external research partnerships, consults to provide expertise, conducts original research and disseminates findings at academic conferences, panels, and through journals.

## CENTER FOR VICTIM & SURVIVOR SERVICES

A CENTER OF  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
VICTIMS OF CRIME

The Center for Victim and Survivor Services (CVSS) provides direct emotional support and empowers victims as they navigate the physical, emotional, legal, and financial consequences of crime.

This Center offers consulting and direct services through the D.C. Victim Hotline and the VictimConnect Resource Center. The D.C. Victim Hotline is a 24/7 hotline for District of Columbia residents. VictimConnect is a nationwide resource center available Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 7:30PM EST. This Center also heads the National Hotline Consortium, a resource sharing collaborative space for ten leading national hotlines.

## THE NATIONAL CRIME VICTIM BAR ASSOCIATION

The National Crime Victim Bar Association (NCVBA) is an affiliate and program of the National Center for Victims of Crime. We are the nation's first professional association of attorneys and expert witnesses dedicated to helping victims seek justice through the civil system.

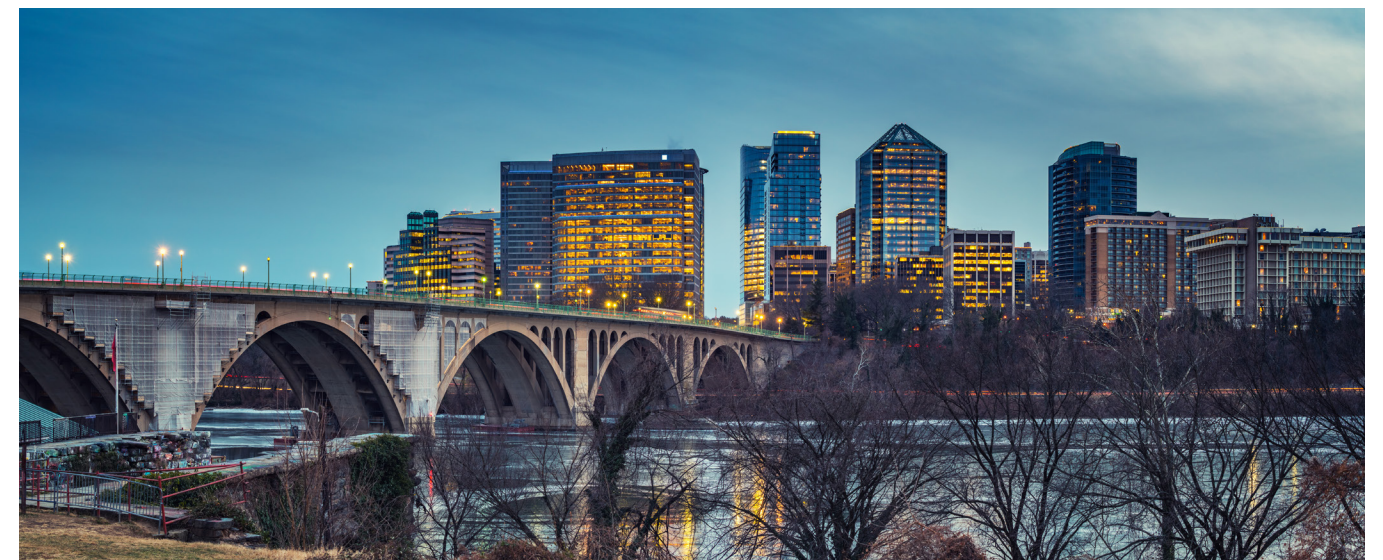
The Victim Assistance to Support Tribes (VAST) Center seeks to ensure that all AI/AN victims of crime and abuse have access to the care and assistance they need, including justice, safety, and support; in order for the journey toward healing to begin.



VAST runs the Tribal Resource Tool, which connects AI/AN victims and survivors with over 1,000 resources across the country. VAST also offers training and technical assistance and works with native partners and tribal nations to better serve AI/AN victims of crime.



The National Training Institute (NTI) is a forward thinking annual conference that showcases revolutionary developments in the field of victim and survivor services. NTI emphasizes a multidisciplinary approach to sharing promising practices, current research, and effective programs and policies that are victim-centered, practice-based, and research-informed.



Arlington, VA, home to the National Center for Victims of Crime





## BUILDING BRIDGES PROJECT



The Building Bridges Project is a partnership between four branches of the Southern California NAACP, community organizations and local law enforcement. Building Bridges addresses a reality: Communities of color experience higher rates of violence than their white peers and lower rates of accessing services. Despite high rates of victimization, only 10.1% of Black serious violence victims received assistance from victim service agencies from 2010-2015. Nearly 90 percent of victims of a serious crime did not receive assistance in the aftermath of their trauma.

We need more culturally relevant, accessible and trauma informed services and to create the foundations for people to feel comfortable accessing them. Many communities of color do not feel comfortable accessing services when they experience a crime or may be unaware that these services exist. This is due, in part, to historical mistrust, a poor relationship with law enforcement, “and feelings that, even if a report is made, they still may not get justice.”

The Building Bridges project seeks to address underreporting, improve service provision and rectify disparities in treatment and services for crime victims from communities of color. This project promotes reconciliation through a productive and healing dialogue about what law enforcement should know in order to achieve effective encounters with victims of crime from marginalized communities.

Constructive, healing conversations between communities of color, community organizations and law enforcement, are necessary to improve trust in law enforcement and to better serve victims of crime. An essential component of this project is it's centering of community voices and concerns, working with the community and those who provide services to the community to understand what they need.

For more information, visit [victimsofcrime.org/building-bridges-project/](https://victimsofcrime.org/building-bridges-project/)

**ONLY 10.1%**  
OF BLACK SERIOUS VIOLENCE VICTIMS  
RECEIVED ASSISTANCE FROM 2010-15



BUILDING BRIDGES  
PROJECT

NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
VICTIMS OF CRIME

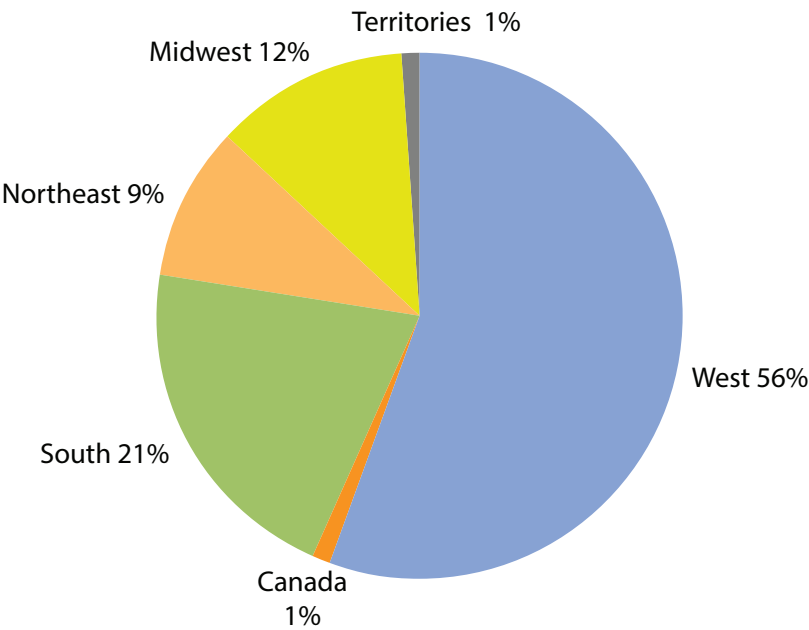


WHAT WE DO

Assisted over  
**10,500**  
visitors by chat, text and call through the  
VictimConnect Resource Center

Provided support to over  
**3,700**  
visitors through the D.C. Victim Hotline

National Training Institute  
2019 Attendee Profile

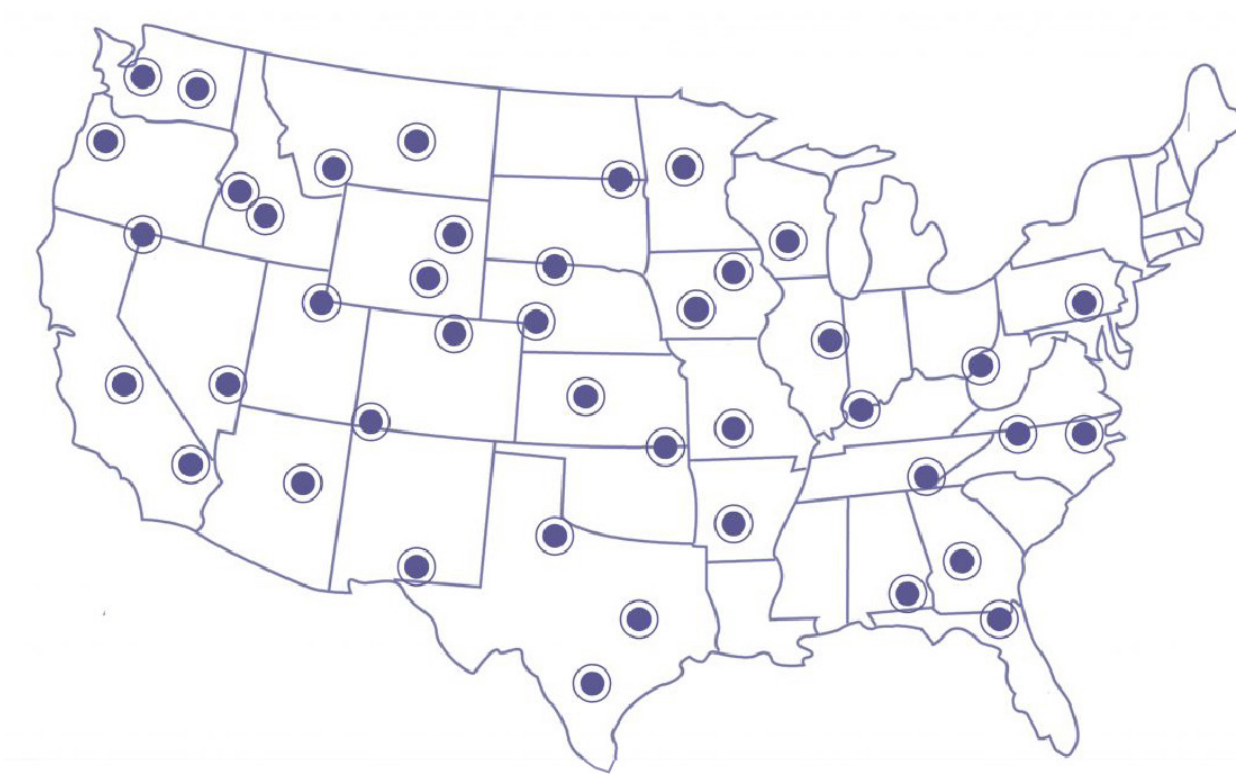


Held webinars for over  
**5,800**  
attendees

Connected **AI/AN survivors** of abuse with nearly  
**1,000**  
local, culturally relevant resources through the  
Tribal Resource Tool

NCVC's Impact is Nationwide

Resources available to AI/AN survivors through  
the Tribal Resource Tool





# WHERE WE ARE TODAY AND WHERE WE'RE GOING



## OUR VISION

The National Center for Victims of Crime recognizes the complexities of victimization and has restructured into five centers to assist victims and providers at every stage of victimization. This restructuring will better equip the field to reduce suffering, effectively provide a high level of support, expand services and prevention to build safer communities of tomorrow.

## WHAT LEADERSHIP MEANS

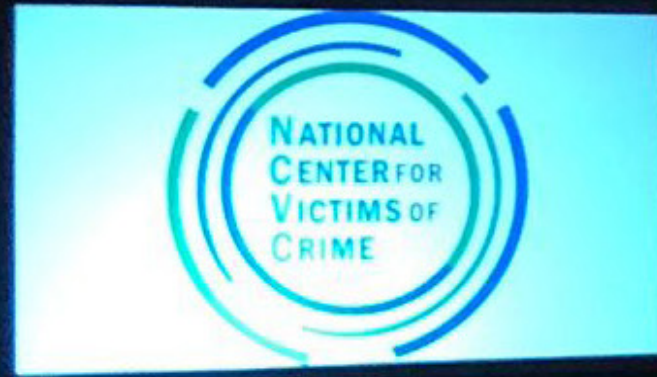
The National Center for Victims of Crime has long been regarded as a leader in the field. We're re-defining leadership, finding strength and reinvesting in partnerships at both the national and grassroots level. We can end the cycle of violence and trauma together by investing in multi-sector partnerships with actors across the nation.



## COLLABORATION TO BETTER THE FIELD

The National Center for Victims of Crime is prepared to meet the future head on. We will continue to bring together the field of victim's services, encourage and foster collaboration, and lift up voices and perspectives that have been shut out. Our work with the Victim Assistance and Support to Tribes and through the Building Bridges Project are excellent examples of the path that we continue to take.





## THE MAIN CHALLENGES FACING THE FIELD

We are proud of the strides that we've made, but we have so far to go. These challenges are opportunities to expand and also better serve victims and survivors.

Jurisdictional complexities continue to threaten the safety of victims. Issues of criminal jurisdiction, including the reliance on VAWA Reauthorization in Indian Country, continue to negatively affect AI/AN victims of crime in accessing justice, safety and services.

There is deeply unequal access to services in rural communities.

There is a disconnect in how the field provides services and what those services look like for communities who are seeking holistic, restorative or transformative justice. We need to increase accessibility and relationship build with minoritized communities to address this disconnect.

There continues to be a sole focus on the crime type and therefore, a failure to address polyvictimization and trauma holistically.

The criminal justice system prioritizes the wants and needs of the people, even when it's at the expense of the person.

There is a lack of diverse, flexible, and comprehensive options for individuals to engage with the system at every stage—arrest through community supervision.

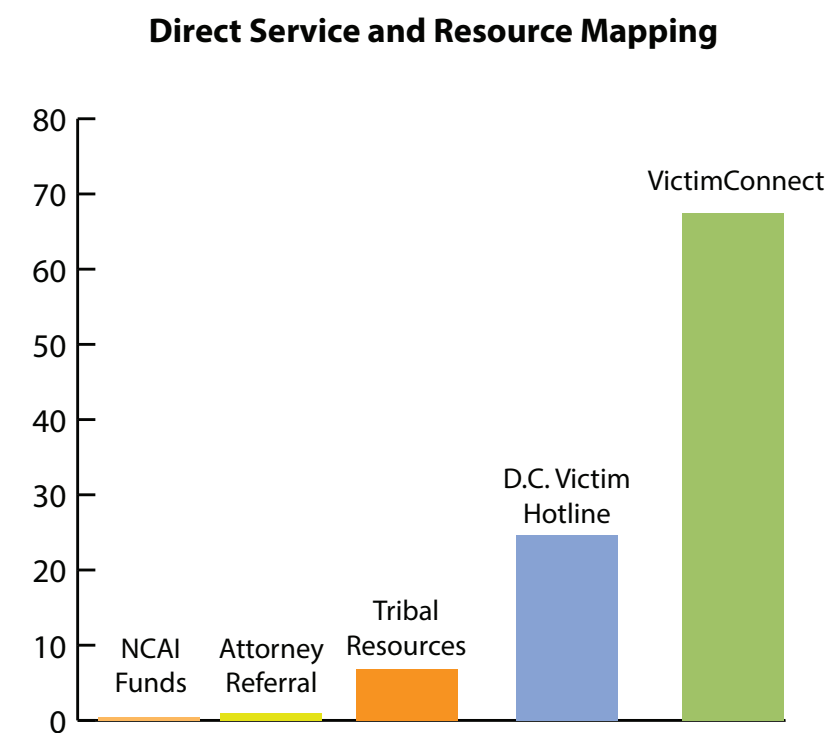
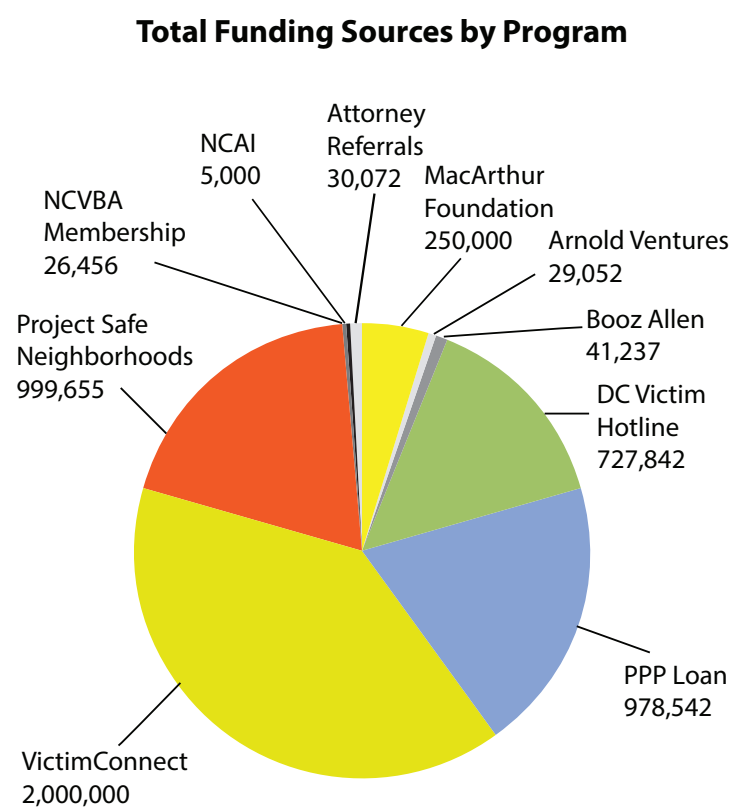
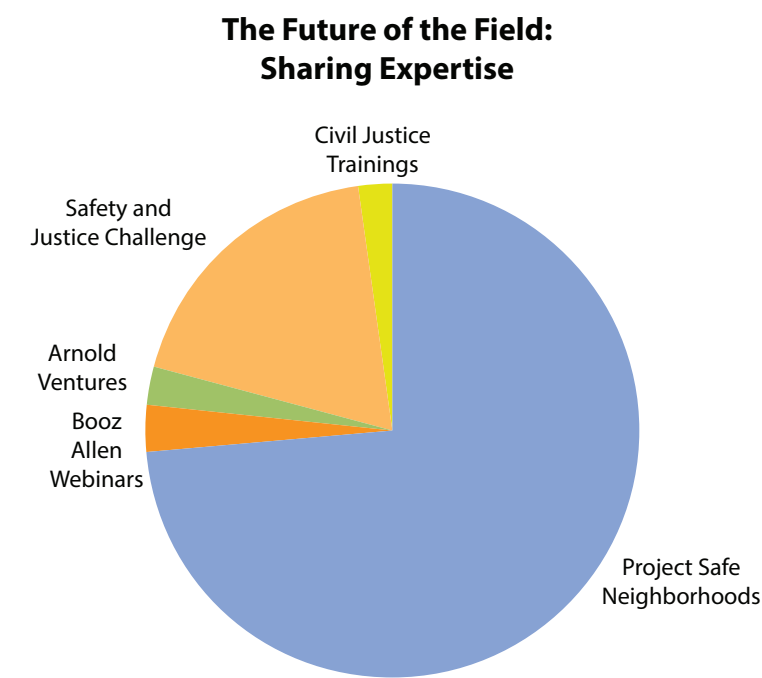
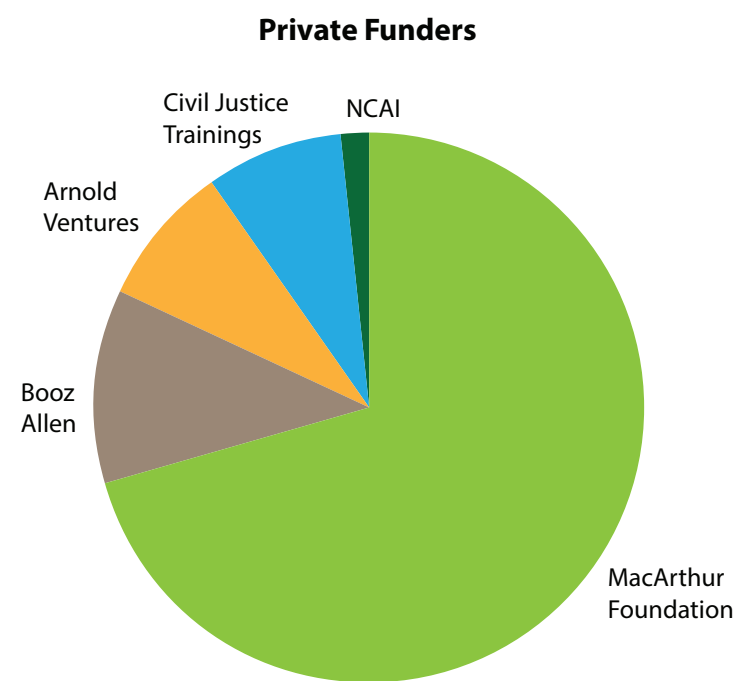
Our services need to reflect the unique needs of victims who are currently or formerly incarcerated.

Victims lack meaningful access to the court system. Victims are only guaranteed representation in the form of a prosecutor, who is not their attorney.

We need to better meet the needs of victims who do not want to go through the traditional justice process and involve grassroots leaders in these efforts.



# FUNDING AND FINANCIALS



The National Center for Victims of Crime would like to express our deep gratitude to our supporters throughout our thirty five years. We would like to express a special thanks to our fearless, supportive Board of Directors and to our founders: Alex and Ala. We would also like to thank those who have contributed, who we view not as donors but as members of our community.

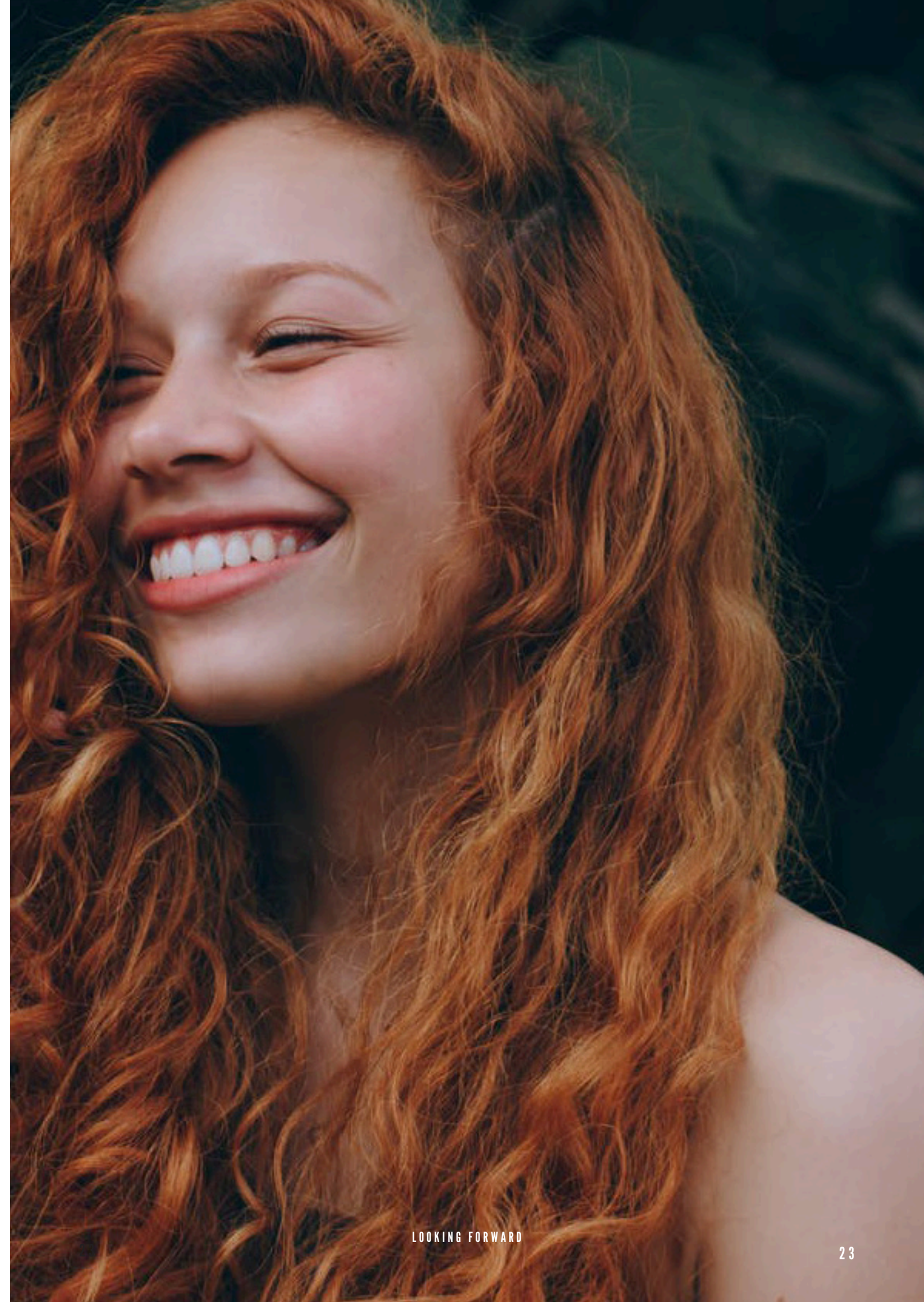
With your support, we have built a strong foundation that has enabled us to foster strong partnerships with a wide range of partners including: community groups, re-entry programs, justice-impacted persons, fellow local and national nonprofits, state and local governments, federal agencies, unions,

universities, research organizations, health groups, tribal partners, mental health practitioners, advocates, attorneys, and survivors.

It is a true privilege to know and work with you all, and it is a greater privilege to support and center the voices of victims and survivors, to change and shape the national conversation and to fight for those impacted by all crime types.

Thank you for sticking by us, for your advocacy for allowing us to build trust. Thank you for working with us to support victims and survivors, to change systems to reflect victim's rights, and to help communities heal.

## THANK YOU FROM THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME





The National Center for Victims of Crime asks that, after reading *Looking Forward*, you think critically about what role you can take to build a safer, more just, more equitable future. In the words of famed activist Harriet Beecher Stowe:

*"The past, the present and the future are really one: they are today."*

Help us build this future by becoming a member.

[victimsofcrime.org/membership](https://victimsofcrime.org/membership)



[www.victimsofcrime.org](https://www.victimsofcrime.org)



[twitter.com/CrimeVictimsOrg](https://twitter.com/CrimeVictimsOrg)



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[instagram.com/crimevictimsorg](https://instagram.com/crimevictimsorg)

3118 Washington Blvd. | P.O. Box 101207 | Arlington, Virginia 22210