

CALIFORNIA VICTIM/WITNESS ADVOCATE TRAINING PROGRAM
Component: 40.20.451

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

California Penal Code §13835.10 statutorily mandates Cal OES to establish a statewide victim assistance training program that addresses minimum training and selection standards for Victim/Witness Advocates. The California Victim/Witness Advocate Training (TP) Program is structured as a collaborative approach between the California Crime Victim Assistance Association and Cal OES. The purpose of the TP Program is to develop and provide high-quality training(s) to ensure the delivery of a comprehensive curriculum focusing on trauma-informed services to victims of violent crime.

To accommodate the diversity of victim service needs in the State of California, the TP Program has developed and implements a centralized training delivery model. The TP Program has established a performance-based training that merges validated elements of existing curriculum, introduces knowledge of emerging crime trends, addresses changes in laws and legislation, incorporates changes in the delivery of service provision, and embraces and incorporates societal and cultural diversity while maintaining service standards. The TP Program continually reviews and updates learning goals/objectives and curriculum to ensure the information being presented remains current and relevant for the needs of Victim/Witness Assistance and Unserved/Underserved Victim Program Advocates. A formal reassessment of the curriculum is conducted every five years.

The TP Program training components include the following courses that are incorporated into the yearly objectives to meet the needs of the Victim/Witness field:

- 40-Hour Entry Level Advocate Training
- 24-Hour Coordinator/Supervisory Training
- 16-Hour Advanced Advocate Training
- Training the Trainer (TOT)
- Continuing Education Webinars

FUNDS AWARDED

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Types of Funding</u>	<u>Total Funding</u>
FY 2014/15	Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) FFY14 Training	\$ 210,000
FY 2015/16	VOCA FFY15 Training	\$ 500,000
FY 2016/17	Unknown	

2014/15 PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

The TP Program piloted the Advanced Advocate Training course during 2014/15. One 16-Hour Advanced Advocate Training Course was conducted with 53 participants. Course prerequisites included three years of experience as a Victim/Witness Advocate and completion of the 40-Hour Entry Level Victim/Witness Advocate course.

Two 40-Hour Entry-Level Victim Advocate Training courses were conducted during 2014/15. A total of 100 participants received training.

Six continuing education webinars were conducted to fulfill the requirement of the 16 hours of non-entry level yearly specialized curricula of continuing education on advanced topics. A total of 275 confirmed/validated registrants participated in the webinars. The webinars were closed-captioned to meet the needs of our partner advocates.

2015/16 PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

Not Available

2016/17 PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

Not Applicable