

# Crime Victims Institute

## G1 Building The Reputation Of The Crime Victims’ Institute, Especially Within University Administration

**Goal Description:**

To increase the visibility and reputation of the Crime Victims' Institute and increase awareness of the Institute's mission.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**G1 Demonstrate Professional Knowledge Of Victim Services Delivery**

**Performance Objective Description:**

The Crime Victims' Institute will take part in training in order to promote a better understanding and knowledge of the victim service delivery process.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**G1: Completion Of Training Relevant To Victimology And/or Victim Services**

**KPI Description:**

New CVI Staff and CVI funded students will complete the online Texas Victim Assistance Training within their first six months of employment.

**Results Description:**

CVI did not have any new staff or funded students that had not already completed the Texas Victim Assistance Training.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**G1: Staff Training**

**Action Description:**

Any new CVI staff or CVI-funded students hired during the next cycle will complete TVAT training and others as appropriate

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**G1 Promote Victim Studies/services Related Activities Within University Community**

**Performance Objective Description:**

Activities will be performed to promote victim studies/services within the university.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**G1: Organizing And/or Sponsoring Victim Studies/services Related Activities**

**KPI Description:**

The Crime Victims' Institute will participate, sponsor, and/or organize at least two victim studies/services activities per year.

**Results Description:**

CVI and the Crime Victims' Services Alliance sponsored the Clothesline Project (October 2016) in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

CVI worked with a number of other campus organizations to sponsor multiple activities in April 2017 in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**G1: Campus Events**

**Action Description:**

CVI-Staff and CVI-affiliated graduate students/faculty will continue to work closely with CVSA and other student university organizations to sponsor campus events highlighting issues in victimization/victimology to raise awareness among the campus and broader community.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**G1 Raise Awareness Of CVI Research Activities**

**Performance Objective Description:**

CVI research activities will be featured and distributed through the CVI Newsletter.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**G1: Publish CVI Newsletter Highlighting Research Activities And Issues**

**KPI Description:**

The CVI newsletter containing information regarding current and upcoming activities and research will be published and distributed quarterly.

**Results Description:**

Four issues of the CVI newsletter were distributed:

- 1. July 2016
- 2. October 2016
- 3. January 2017
- 4. April 2014

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**G1: CVI Newsletter**

**Action Description:**

CVI staff/affiliated graduate students/faculty will identify relevant stories highlighting current issues in victimization and victim services for inclusion in the newsletter, which will continue to be disseminated quarterly.

**G2 Excellence In Research**

**Goal Description:**

The Crime Victims' Institute will achieve excellence in research by providing the most up to date research and analysis of current and emerging victim issues.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS - - - - -

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**G2 Produce Peer-Reviewed Research Products**

**Performance Objective Description:**

The Crime Victims' Institute will submit publications aligned with Institute research to peer-reviewed journals.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**G2: Peer-reviewed Publications**

**KPI Description:**

The Crime Victims' Institue will submit research publications to peer-reviewed journals.

**Results Description:**

The Director, Assistant Director, and CVI-affiliated faculty and students submitted 7 manuscripts to peer reviewed outlets, of which 3 have been published and the remaining are in various stages of revision for resubmission.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**G2: Peer-Reviewed Publications**

**Action Description:**

CVI will continue to track the number and placement of peer-reviewed publications produced from CVI-funded projects and will assess the quality of publication outlets. CVI will continue to encourage faculty-affiliates and graduate students who receive Institute funding support to pursue publication of their research through peer-reviewed journal outlets.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**G2 Receive External Funding For CVI Research**

**Performance Objective Description:**

The Institute will explore and apply for external funding through relevant grants.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**G2: Grant Applications**

**KPI Description:**

The Crime Victims' Institute will investigate relevant grant opportunities for submission and will submit at least two grant applications.

**Results Description:**

The Director and Assistant Director have been working on an ongoing large federal grant awarded through Office of Violence Against Women for \$393,000 to evaluate Houston Police Department's mandatory sexual and family violence training and focus on victim-centered and trauma-informed responses to victims.

Additionally, CVI-affiliated faculty have applied for three grants and two of them have been funded for a total of \$249,000 in award funds.

**Applied and funded:**

- 1. Children's Justice Act: Law Enforcement Breadth Metric: Capturing Referrals the meet CAC Case Acceptance Criteria. Texas Center for the Judiciary, \$199.881

2. Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas. Law Enforcement Breadth Metric Project. Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, \$50,000.

**Under Review:**

1. Smart Prosecution Initiative. Harris County SAFE Court 2017: Bureau of Justice Assistance, Department of Justice. Requested: \$75,000.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**G2: Grant Applications**

**Action Description:**

CVI will consider all request for proposals through local, state, federal, and private funding sources. Ass appropriate for staffing levels and available resources, CVI will apply for at least one grant during the next cycle.

**G3 Connection With Academic Programs**

**Goal Description:**

The Crime Victims' Institute will achieve a connection with academic programs through various methods that will involve career development and/or research opportunities for graduate students.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**G3 Provide Career Development Opportunities For Students Interested In Victim Services**

**Performance Objective Description:**

CVI will sponsor events to highlight career opportunities for students interested in victim studies/services.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**G3: Career Development Events**

**KPI Description:**

CVI will sponsor at least one event highlighting potential career opportunities for undergraduate and/or graduate students interested in victims studies/services

and/or

CVI will support at least one graduate student to attend a victimology or victim services conference/workshop.

**Results Description:**

CVI funded four graduate students (one master's-level student and three doctoral-level students) to attend victimization-related workshops and conferences enhancing knowledge and training relevant to victimology and victim services that included:

- 1. Battered Women's Justice Project
- 2. Conference on Crimes Against Women
- 3. Texas Victims' Services Association Symposium
- 4. Conference on Crimes Against Children

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**G3: Career Development Events**

**Action Description:**

Recent budgetary cuts and staffing changes to CVI call for the need to re-evaluate our ability to continue to offer career development events for undergraduate students.

CVI will continue to support at least one graduate student to attend a victimology or victim-services conference/workshop whether in Texas or at the national level.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**G3 Support Graduate Students Involved In CVI Research Projects**

**Performance Objective Description:**

The Institute will encourage and support graduate students by involving them in research projects.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**G3: Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship**

**KPI Description:**

The CVI summer research program will fund at least one graduate student to conduct research on a topic related to victimization.

**Results Description:**

CVI funded two doctoral students for summer fellowships during summer 2017.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**G3: Graduate Student Summer Funding**

**Action Description:**

CVI will assess budget availability and appropriateness of topics in considering whether and how many graduate research assistance to provide with summer funding during the next cycle.

**G4 Translate research into practice**

**Goal Description:**

To translate scientific research into evidence-based guidelines for victim services professionals and criminal justice system practitioners who interface with victims in Texas.

**RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS** -----

**RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1**

**G4 Dissemination of scientific information related to victimization.**

**Performance Objective Description:**

The Crime Victims' Institute will produce technical reports and translational research on victimization-related topics for dissemination to victims' service providers, state legislators, and other key constituents.

**RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2**

**G4 Technical Reports**

**KPI Description:**

The Crime Victims' Institute will publish at minimum, four technical reports on scientific research addressing victimization-related topics for dissemination to victims' service providers, state legislators, and key constituents.

**Results Description:**

During the 2016-2017 reporting period, CVI produced 4 technical reports on topics that included intimate partner violence, campus sexual assault, sexual minority survivors, and safety planning.

**RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3**

**G4: Technical Reports**

**Action Description:**

CVI will continue to publish technical reports that synthesize scholarly research or translate primary research for a broad, practitioner audience. CVI will publish at least four technical reports on victimization-related topics during the next cycle.

**RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1**

**G4 Increase visibility of CVI as a resource for practitioners**

**RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2**

**G4 Conference/Workshop attendance**

**KPI Description:**

The Crime Victims’ Institute will attend, exhibit, and or present research at a minimum of one professional conference/workshop tailored to victim service providers and criminal justice practitioners to further circulate technical reports and present translational research to interested audiences and relevant constituents.

**Results Description:**

The Director and CVI-affiliated faculty attended and presented research at two conferences for the 2016-2017 period:

- 1. Texas Victim Services Association Research Symposium
- 2. Texas Victim Services Association Bi-Annual Meeting

**RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3**

**G4: Conference/Workshop Attendance**

**Action Description:**

Depending on budget and staff availability, CVI will attend, exhibit, and or present research at a minimum of one professional conference/workshop tailored to victim service providers and criminal justice practitioners to further circulate technical reports and present translational research to interested audiences and relevant constituents.

**RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1**

**G4 Publish reviews of the current state of knowledge related to victimization**

**Performance Objective Description:**

The Crime Victims’ Institute will disseminate a special series focusing on one form of victimization, with issues devoted to prevalence, system response, aftermath, prevention, and resources for best practices in Texas.

**RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2**

**G4 Special issue series**

**KPI Description:**

The Crime Victims' Institute will publish and disseminate one special issue series (consisting of multiple reports) on a timely victimization topic and will address prevalence, response, aftermath, prevention, and best-practices.

**Results Description:**

CVI finalized the last issues of the special series on Human Trafficking and began a special series on Campus Sexual Assault.

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

#### **G4: Publish Special Topics Report Series**

##### **Action Description:**

The Crime Victims' Institute will disseminate a special series focusing on one form of victimization, with issues devoted to prevalence, system response, aftermath, prevention, and resources for best practices in Texas. This will include, at minimum, four issues within the series for the next cycle.

### **Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement**

#### **Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):**

CVI anticipates hiring at least one new staff person during the next cycle. This will allow the Institute to return to levels of activity as indicated in our goals and objectives. New staff will attend relevant trainings related to victimization and victim services, as well as trainings to assist in completing CVI activities, including newsletters, reports, and grant applications. The plan for next cycle is to continue quarterly newsletters and to develop a new research report series addressing campus sexual assault. CVI staff will also manage a large, federal grant and consider additional opportunities for grant funding.

#### **Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:**

CVI was successful in meeting its goals during the 2016-2017 cycle. CVI had four main goals addressed below:

\*Building the reputation of CVI - It is critical to the mission of CVI that the personnel associated with the Institute are knowledgeable about victimization and victim services and that the importance of CVI's work is communicated to relevant audiences. We continue to excel in training and outreach. All staff have completed more than the minimum training requirement by participating in additional webinars on relevant topics. CVI continues to be actively involved in outreach by partnering with other groups across campus and within the victim services field on awareness-raising activities and events. We regularly share this information through the CVI newsletter with various audiences, including university personnel, the CVI Advisory Board, the Texas legislature, and victim services professionals. CVI will continue to improve our knowledge through additional training opportunities, to engage the university and broader community in outreach efforts, and to share relevant knowledge and highlight our activities through the newsletter.

\*Connection with SHSU's academic programs - With a focus on translational research and outreach, CVI prioritizes connection with academic programs within the College of Criminal Justice. The Institute also funded two PhD students for summer fellowships to complete research projects related to victimization. Pending available budget, we plan to continue providing opportunities for students to be engaged in the research conducted by CVI and to conduct their own research relevant to CVI's mission. The Institute also provides funding for graduate students to attend and present their research at both national academic conferences and local victim service conferences.

\*Excellence in research - CVI's mission is to conduct research on issues relevant to victimization, victim services, and prevention. We continue to be successful in fostering peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations, and translational reports derived from the numerous projects that are ongoing. During the 2016-17 cycle, CVI-affiliated faculty submitted three grant proposals--two of which were funded, meeting that particular goal. We also have continued to manage and work on a large, federally funded grant project during the 2016-17 cycle.

\*Translate research into practice - Part of CVI's mission in conducting research on victimization includes the dissemination of best practices for practitioners, victim service providers, criminal justice agencies, and other constituents.

CVI's activities remained somewhat restricted during this cycle as a result of reductions in personnel. We did not disseminate as many research reports as we typically do, and we did not submit as many grant applications as planned. We anticipate returning to full form during the next assessment cycle.

### **Plan for 2017-2018**

#### **Closing Summary:**

CVI used funds in a fiscally responsible way by paying 17% of a staff person's time to address all budget, purchasing, and financial operations for the Institute at the end of FY 2016-2017.

The planned hiring of a dedicated CVI staff person was delayed due to a university-wide hiring freeze. The plan for the next cycle is to hire one additional staff member who will attend relevant trainings related to victimization and victim services, as well as trainings to assist in completing CVI activities, including newsletters, reports, and grant applications.

CVI will continue disseminating quarterly newsletters that provide updates on current projects and relevant Institute information, and will develop a new research report series focusing on Hate Crimes.

CVI staff will continue to manage a large, federal grant and apply for a substantial state grant to assess gaps in victim service provisions in Texas. CVI will consider additional opportunities for grant funding.