There are definite benefits and a positive impact achieved when elder abuse coalitions and aging services begin to collaborate with crime victim services as partners and stakeholders for strategic planning within communities. The most important benefit is enhanced wrap-around services for older adult victims of abuse and other crimes. There are also enhanced opportunities for shared outreach and joint activities to address elder abuse within the community. Collaboration and strategic planning are critical for providing the most effective services to older victims in an era of shrinking budgets and reduced staffs.

**How to Locate Crime Victim Services:**
Office for Victims of Crime (U.S. Department of Justice)
- Online Directory of Crime Victim Services
- U.S. Resource Map of Crime Victim Services & Information
- [www.ovc.org](http://www.ovc.org)

**Collaboration Creates a Victim Centric Approach**

![Victim Centric Approach](image)

**Collaboration for Older Victims’ Rights and Services**
- Work together on public awareness activities:
  - World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
  - National Crime Victim Rights Week
- Identify joint public policy initiatives.
- Share research initiatives & data collection.
- Provide cross-training & technical assistance.
- Share information & referral services.
- Seek ongoing funding for mutual interests.

**Why Do Joint Strategic Planning?**
- In the current environment, everyone must focus on making operations as efficient and effective as possible, including aging and victim services.
- Everyone has increasing demands for services, shrinking resources, and greater expectations.
- Strategic planning is a proactive tool to seek and manage change.

**Benefits of Strategic Planning**
- Helps identify the community’s status of older victim services.
- Creates a shared vision for the future.
- Creates shared tasks to achieve joint goals.
- Helps establish joint priorities.
- Sets targets for performance.
- Incorporates ways to check progress.
- Provides guidance for ongoing operational and capital plans and budgets.

**Strategic Planning Resources for Victim Services**
- Office for Victims of Crime Training & Technical Assistance Center
  - [Strategic Planning Toolkit](http://www.ovcttac.gov/views/resources/dspStrategicPlan.cfm)
- National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators, [www.navaa.org](http://www.navaa.org)
- National Center for Justice Planning, [www.ncjp.org](http://www.ncjp.org)