



## ON CAMPUS

The Office of Victim Assistance (OVA) provides free and confidential information, consultation, support, advocacy and trauma-focused short-term counseling services to University of Colorado Boulder students, faculty and staff who have experienced a traumatic, disturbing or life-disruptive event. Our goal is to ensure that members of our community feel supported after a potentially life-altering event that can impact all areas of

their life, including their mental health, academic career and employment.

OVA's counselors and advocates are highly trained and experienced in the area of trauma counseling and advocacy and serve as CU Boulder's trauma experts. All clinical staff are licensed therapists at either

the master's or doctoral level (i.e. psychologists, LPCs and LCSWs), and all are specialists in victim advocacy as well as experienced and to develop skills to

move forward in their lives. Advocacy services vary from person to person, and are unique to each person's lived

experience. Advocacy can include receiving information about rights and reporting options, help navigating complex systems (e.g. criminal justice, legal, educational, hospital/medical), resource accompaniment and connection with/referral to other resources.

This year, OVA provided 2,626 appointments and outreached individually to 2,244 people. We typically see a relatively even split in terms of type of service utilized, with approximately half of clients using

counseling and half using advocacy. Many of our clients utilize both.

Our small but mighty team of seven serves our entire campus community of more than 47,000 people, including faculty and staff. This team includes five advocate counselors, one embedded police advocate and an office manager. OVA primarily serves undergraduate students, as shown in figure 1, staff

While there are many things to be done about experiences of bias and discrimination at all levels of our institution, OVA wanted to contribute beyond the individual advocacy and counseling support

In June 2021, OVA embarked upon a