

VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT

Victim Compensation and Victim Assistance Formula Grant Programs

Overview

Since its passage in 1984, the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) has served as a major source of funding for victim services throughout the Nation. The foundation of this support is the Crime Victims Fund (CVF). The CVF, administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), provides monies generated from federal criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalty fees, and special assessments as well as gifts, donations, and private bequests. All funds come from federally convicted criminals and donations, not taxpayers, and are deposited into the CVF. Each fiscal year, Congress establishes the appropriation cap, allocating VOCA funds across multiple funding streams that support federal, state, and tribal programs and services.

This document *only* focuses on the VOCA Victim Compensation Formula Grant Program and the VOCA Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program.

VOCA Formula Grant Programs

VOCA formula grants are non-competitive funding distributed by OVC to states and territories each fiscal year. OVC administers two VOCA formula grant programs: (1) the VOCA Victim Compensation Formula Grant Program and (2) the VOCA Victim Assistance Grant Program. The Governor of each state determines the state or territorial agency (or agencies) responsible for the administration of state VOCA formula program funding. This is referred to as the VOCA state administering agency (SAA).

VOCA Victim Compensation Formula Grants

Victim Compensation Formula Grants provide funding to supplement state funded compensation programs offering financial assistance and reimbursement to victims for crime-related, out-of-pocket expenses. Expenses may include medical and dental care, counseling, lost wages and income, and funeral and burial expenses.

VOCA Victim Assistance Formula Grants

Victim Assistance Formula Grants provide funding to thousands of victim service provider programs nationwide. From the VOCA Victim Assistance Formula Grants, states provide subgrants to local community-based organizations, governmental agencies, and tribal entities providing services directly to victims. Direct services may include crisis counseling, shelter, transportation, therapy, telephone and onsite information and referrals, criminal justice support and advocacy, and additional services. VOCA Victim Assistance Formula Grants may also be used to develop new, or enhance existing, programs addressing emerging needs, gaps in services, and/or the training needs of victim service advocates as identified by the VOCA SAA.

Eligibility to Access VOCA Victim Assistance Formula Funds

Organizations and federally recognized tribes serving survivors of human trafficking may be eligible to receive VOCA Assistance Formula Grant funding to meet anti-trafficking needs more comprehensively. Each respective VOCA SAA can provide interested victim service providers with information on how to apply for these funds.

Accessing VOCA Formula Funding

Visit ovc.ojp.gov/states to learn more about accessing a state's VOCA Victim Compensation Formula Grants and Victim Assistance Formula Grants. On the website, select your state in the drop-down menu to access the VOCA SAA's website. All VOCA formula funding opportunities in the state will be listed on this website.

Additional Information

[OVC Fact Sheet: Crime Victims Fund](#)

[OVC Victim Compensation and Assistance Formula Grants](#)

[The Crime Victims Fund: Federal Support for Victims of Crime](#)

Contact the Human Trafficking Capacity Building Center at contact@ovc-htcbc.org or [1-844-682-0411](tel:1-844-682-0411) and visit htcbc.ovc.ojp.gov to learn more about how to start, sustain, or grow your anti-trafficking work.