

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Eligibility

Eligible Programs

Programs must be operated by public or nonprofit agency, or a combination of such agencies, and provide direct services to crime victims. These programs include, but are not limited to, sexual abuse and rape treatment centers, domestic abuse programs and shelters, child abuse programs, prosecutor based victim services, and other community-based victim coalitions and support programs including those who serve survivors of homicide victims. Programs must also demonstrate a record of providing effective services to crime victims. This includes having community support and approval of its services, a history of providing direct services in a cost-effective manner, and financial support from other sources.

Those programs that have not yet demonstrated a record of providing services may be eligible to receive VOCA funding, if they can demonstrate that 25% of their financial support comes from non-federal sources. It is important that programs have a variety of funding sources besides federal funding in order to ensure their financial stability. Only those services provided directly to crime victims can be funded with VOCA funds.

Programs must also abide by any additional eligibility or service criteria as established by the CVAD (Crime Victim Assistance Division) including submission of statistical and programmatic information on the use and impact of VOCA funds.

Program Match Requirements

The purpose is to increase the amount of resources available to the programs supported by VOCA grant funds. A 20% cash or in-kind match is required. This match percentage is based on the total cost of each VOCA program (VOCA grant plus match). This match must be from non-federal sources, except as provided in the OJP Financial Guide. (<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/FinGuide/>). All funds designated as match are restricted to the same uses as the VOCA grant and must be expended within the grant period.

VOCA programs must maintain records that clearly show the source, the amount, and the period during which the match was allocated. The basis for determining the value of personal services, materials, equipment, and space must be documented. Volunteer services must also be documented.

Grant Period

Grant contracts will be awarded for a 12-month period beginning July 1 and ending June 30. The grant program allows for a three year application format that includes information on budget, statistics, activities, and services for the current year and projected for the first year of the three-year grant cycle. Contracts will be issued annually for every year of the three year grant period. The contract will include the amount of funds awarded for that year of the three-year grant period. A grantee must

be in compliance with state and federal rules and in good standing with the VSG grant requirements and procedures to receive funding in the second and third years of the cycle. The amount available to designated grantees in the second and third year of the cycle will be based on the Federal and State grant funds available.

No new grant applications will be accepted in year two of the three-year grant cycle. Applications from new grantees may be invited for the third year of the grant cycle. A new applicant in the third year of the funding cycle that is awarded funding will receive a contract for one year of grantee designation and funding. The new grantee will be eligible to apply for a three-year grant period after the first year of designation as a grantee.

Programs will not be allowed to carry over or extend prior awards into the next fiscal year. Any prior award amounts remaining un-obligated as of June 30 will revert to CVAD. CVAD can make exceptions to this as needed with approval from their CVA Board.

Grant programs are funded on a reimbursement basis and are subject to the availability of federal funds. All programs awarded grant funds must complete either monthly or quarterly claim vouchers requesting reimbursement, and program performance reports. Programs will be required to receive reimbursement via electronic transfer of funds (EFT).

Non-Supplanting Requirements

VOCA grant funds will be used to enhance or expand services and will not be used to supplant state and local funds that would otherwise be available for crime victim services. This is a federal requirement as required by Section 1404(a)(2)(c), codified at 42 U.S.C. 10603(a)(2)(C).

Meeting eligibility requirements does not mean your agency will be awarded grant funds. For more information about the grant award process please contact Victim Services Grant Administrator Donna Phillips at 1-800-373-5044.