

VOCA 2022

FUNDING SUMMARY

Victims of Crime Act Formula Grant Program

Award Period October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023

INTRODUCTION

This is the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet's Funding Summary for the Victims of Crime Act Formula Program (VOCA) subawards, which will encompass the grant period October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023.

The mission of the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet (JPSC) is to ensure the safety and security of Kentucky communities through a fair and impartial administration of taxpayer resources. Our approach centers on protecting citizens, restoring victims and reforming wrongdoers - all in a focused environment where everything is measured for accountability and performance. The Cabinet seeks the best possible return from our public safety investment, using evidence-informed programs, fiscal discipline, and data-driven strategies. Likewise, we are committed to holding offenders to the highest standards of personal accountability and responsibility.

The Grants Management Division (GMD), within the JPSC, prepared this report.

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VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT FUNDING

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Formula Victim Assistance Grant Program awards may be used to provide funding to public agencies and not-for-profit organizations that offer direct services to victims of crime. Priority is given to projects that provide services to victims of child abuse, sexual assault, and domestic violence.

In addition to these priority categories, the VOCA program funds projects that serve other individuals such as victims of burglary or theft, survivors of victims of homicide, victims of drug and alcohol-related crime, elderly victims, and adult survivors of sexual abuse and/or assault which was suffered while they were children. Services to these groups focus on crisis intervention and assistance in obtaining



benefits from compensation programs. State agencies, local units of government, and private not-for-profit organizations may apply for these funds.

The Crime Victims Fund (CVF) was established by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) of 1984. The CVF is financed by fines and penalties paid by convicted federal offenders, not from tax dollars. As of June 2022, the CVF balance is over \$3 billion and includes deposits from federal criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalties, and special assessments collected by U.S. Attorneys' Offices, federal courts, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Please note this balance does not take into account VOCA Assistance and Compensation federal awards that will be made in September 2022.

STATE ADMINISTERING AGENCY

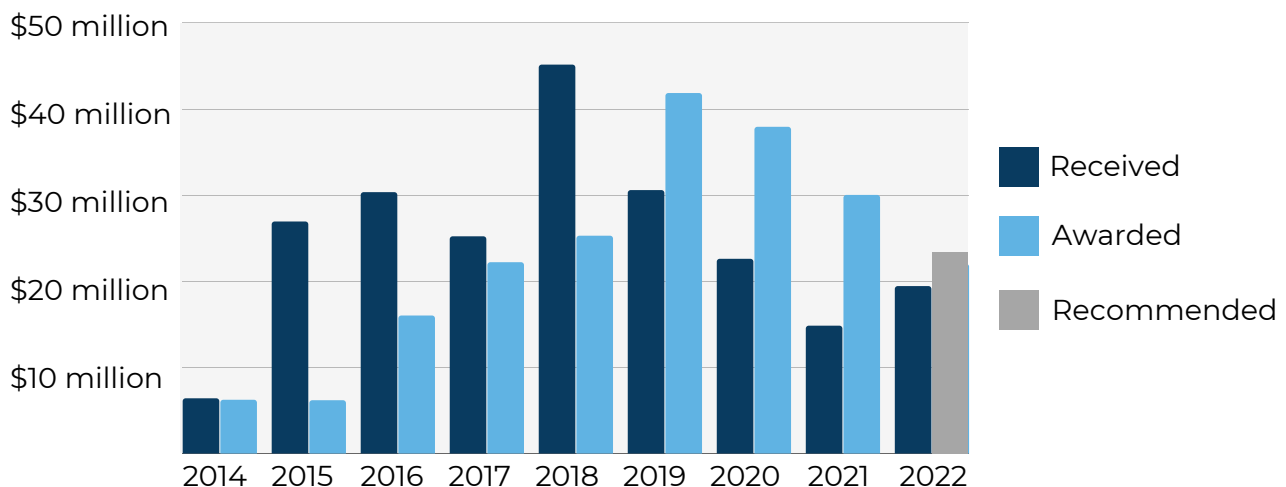
The JPSC is the State Administering Agency (SAA) for federal criminal justice grants in Kentucky. The JPSC coordinates diverse funding sources, including VOCA grants, to assure delivery of the most efficient and effective services to crime victims. Within the JPSC, the Grants Management Division (GMD) is responsible for administration of VOCA subawards from application through closeout, as well as subrecipient monitoring and implementation of an annual competitive VOCA solicitation process.

As the SAA, the JPSC has discretion to determine which organizations will receive funds, and the amount of their awards, subject to the requirements of VOCA, VOCA Final Rule 28 C.F.R. § 94, and the provisions of the Department of Justice (DOJ) Grants Financial Guide relating to conflicts of interest. The JPSC ensures compliance with the pass through requirement to allocate a minimum of ten percent of each year's VOCA grant to the following three priority categories of victims specified in the certification requirement in VOCA: (1) sexual assault, (2) spousal abuse (including domestic and intimate partner violence), and (3) child abuse. An additional ten percent must be allocated to the fourth priority category of previously underserved victims, as determined by crime victimization type, the demographic characteristics of the crime victim, or both.

FUNDING AVAILABILITY SUMMARY

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) VOCA awards to the JPSC for FFY 2019, FFY 2020, and FFY 2021 were reduced from prior FFY award amounts by 32%, 26%, and 37%, respectively. JPSC provided regular updates to recipients of VOCA 2021 subawards about the status of the Crime Victims Fund and effects on Kentucky VOCA Assistance funding availability in its bi-monthly newsletter. JPSC received one-year extensions on each of its largest VOCA Assistance awards to be able to continue using those funds to support programs. Those funds have been exhausted, and going forward, GMD projects to be in a position to subaward the federal award received the prior year. Regular communication regarding the funding status will continue to be provided to subaward recipients throughout the upcoming grant cycle via the *GMD Quarterly Newsletter*.

VOCA FUNDING HISTORY
Kentucky VOCA Funds by Federal Funding Year (FFY)



VOCA 2022-23 SOLICITATION

SAAAs are required to have a documented methodology for selecting subrecipients, follow Department of Justice (DOJ) grant rules regarding conflict of interest, and are encouraged, but not required, to fund eligible subrecipients through a competitive process. Each year, the JPSC awards VOCA funds through a competitive solicitation process. The VOCA 2022-23 solicitation was publicly advertised and open from April 4 through May 13, 2022. Applications were submitted in *Intelligrants 10.0* (IGX), JPSC's electronic grants management system. GMD staff were available throughout the application process to offer technical assistance with the IGX platform.

- A total of 135 prospective subrecipients applied for VOCA 2022-23 awards and requested a total federal share of \$33,950,975.
- 125 (92.5%) applicants had received a VOCA subaward during the prior year. Federal share request across continuing programs totaled \$32,993,366.
- 10 (7.4%) applicants were not recipients of prior year VOCA subawards. Federal share request across these programs totaled \$957,609.
- 4 Statewide victim service program coalitions received awards to provide training and technical assistance to their member programs.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

In accordance with the VOCA Final Rule, 28 C.F.R. § 94.104(b), JPSC prioritized funding for programs serving victims of sexual assault, spousal abuse, child abuse, and previously underserved victim categories. JPSC will exceed the VOCA Final Rule requirement of allocating a minimum of 10% of this award to assist victims belonging to each of the four (4) priority categories.

The Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) designates not-for-profit organizations to serve as regional victim service providers (VSPs) for victims of specific types of crime within each of Kentucky's 15 Area Development Districts. VSPs affiliated with the Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence (KCADV) provide services in response to intimate partner violence and related victimizations. VSPs affiliated with the Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs (KASAP) provide specialized services to individuals impacted by sexual violence and related victimizations. VSPs affiliated with Children's Advocacy Centers of Kentucky (CAC Kentucky) provide services to children and caregivers impacted by child sexual abuse and related victimizations. In order to avoid competition, conflict, or duplication of services, JPSC gives funding preference to

these regionally-designated VSPs. Other organizations that provide targeted services to these specific types of crime are also supported within those regions, if a program focuses on particular underserved populations or identifies within their project proposal additional need for services within that particular region.

The JPSC is actively working to expand services beyond its traditional client and subrecipient base in order to maximize the effective use of funds, better meet the evolving and complex needs of victims, and advance equity and support for underserved communities in Kentucky. Based on the information gathered from the state administrator's support network, as well as members of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Implementation Planning Committee (IPC) and other multi-disciplinary and/or collaborative partnerships, existing information from the U.S. Census and other government entities, and responses to a recent needs assessment survey, JPSC identified 15 areas of unserved, underserved, and inadequately served populations.

Unserved, Underserved, and Inadequately Served Victim Populations

- Persons with one or more disability
- LGBTQI victims
- Victims of sex/ labor trafficking
- Victims of sexual assault on a campus setting
- Documented and undocumented immigrants and refugees
- Spouses and children of combat veterans
- People of color
- Native American victims
- Individuals from traditionally marginalized religious groups
- Incarcerated or under the supervision of corrections or juvenile justice entities
- People who are deaf/hard of hearing
- Victimized elders
- Geographically isolated victims
- Those affected by rural/ urban poverty
- Those who have been victimized prior to reaching adulthood



AWARD RECOMMENDATION PROCESS

Consultation with SAAs in other states revealed some SAAs employ a variety of strategies, including flat award percentage reductions across all of their VOCA subawards, to reach their level of available funding. JPSC did not employ a flat percentage reduction to reach the \$22.8 million in available funding determined by the three-year average of previous federal awards. Instead, JPSC utilized a layered approach which contemplated many critical factors, including program size, award size, the availability of direct services throughout the State and the sustainability of such services, the unmet needs of crime victims, and the extent to which other sources of funding were available for direct services. A fair and consistent methodology was applied to all application review and recommendation decisions:

Application Review

Each application was reviewed by at least three (3) Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). An additional SME was assigned to applications that did not receive a VOCA subaward in the prior grant year. SMEs generated reviewer comments for each application, which will be made available to applicants upon request.

Subject Matter Expert Group Review Meetings

1. The SMEs participated in a total of four (4) award recommendation meetings from July 26 to August 4, 2022.
2. The group considered reviewer comments to determine any prior year VOCA subrecipients who would not receive a VOCA 2022-23 subaward. A total of six (6) programs in receipt of a prior year award were not recommended for a VOCA 2022-23 subaward, all of which had withdrawn their application prior to the close of the award recommendation process.
3. The group reviewed solicitations from a pool of 10 applicants who were not recipients of prior year VOCA subawards. Three (3) applicants were recommended as candidates for other funding sources administered by JPSC. The remaining seven (7) were not recommended for funding at this time.

Subject Matter Expert Group Review Meetings (Continued)

4. Five (5) applications were submitted after the deadline and, per *JPSC GMD Management Policy and Procedures*, were not considered until the reviews of timely application submissions were completed and recommendations had been made. Two (2) applications submitted after the deadline were recommended for funding. In each case, the applicant was identified as the only service provider of its kind covering a multi-county service area that was equipped to provide essential specialized services to individuals who have experienced victimization within a priority victimization category as defined by VOCA Final Rule.
5. Tiered percentage reductions were then applied to all applicants to reach the limit of available funds. Programs were organized into discrete groups by federal award size received the prior VOCA grant year.
 - Fifty-three (53) programs with award amounts of \$125,000 or less received a 10% reduction
 - Fifty-nine (59) programs with award amounts of \$125,001 - \$749,999 received a 20% reduction
 - Four (4) programs with award amounts of \$750,000 and greater received a 25% reduction

AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS

\$22,835,365

in VOCA 2022 awards was recommended by JPSC in support of 120 programs. These funding allocations ensure that services are available throughout the Commonwealth to support victims of crime. This includes funding for programs that provide specialized, direct services to individuals in the priority victim categories required by the VOCA Final Rule. A full list of subrecipients and subaward amounts will be published following execution of approved subaward documents on the JPSC GMD [website](#). These award recommendations prioritize services to individuals impacted by the following crimes and those who are members of an underserved population identified in the recent needs assessment:

Sexual Assault

- 16 sexual assault service providers were funded
- 13 programs were affiliated with KASAP (5 dual coalition programs)
- 3 were hospital based sexual assault forensic examination (SAFE) programs

Intimate Partner Violence

- 17 shelter and intimate partner violence service providers were funded
- 14 programs with 15 shelters were affiliated with KCADV (3 dual SA/ DV coalition programs)
- 3 were community-based programs providing emergency shelter or services to marginalized or underserved populations

Child Abuse

- 42 child abuse service providers were funded
- 15 were CACs affiliated with CAC Kentucky (2 dual SA/ CAC coalition programs)
- 18 were Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs affiliated with the Kentucky CASA Network (KCN)
- 1 was a hospital-based pediatric forensic medicine provider
- 8 were community-based programs offering shelter, therapy, and/or other supportive services to victims of child abuse

Underserved

- 10 programs specializing in services to documented and undocumented immigrants and refugees, victims of sex/labor trafficking, LGBTQI victims, victimized elders, geographically isolated individuals, those affected by rural/ urban poverty, people of color, survivors of homicide, and veterans were funded

In addition, VOCA 2022-23 subaward recommendations include support for 4 state coalitions to provide training and technical assistance to member programs, 25 prosecution-based, 7 law-enforcement based, and 6 legal assistance programs, a majority of which offer intimate-partner violence-specific direct services as well as respond to needs of other crime victim groups. With these awards, GMD will exceed the minimum 10% allocation for the priority victim categories required by the VOCA Final Rule while also providing strong support to regionally-designated service providers. All regionally-designated victim service providers affiliated with KASAP, KCADV, and CAC Kentucky received VOCA 2022-23 subawards.

STATEMENT OF NON-PROSCRIPTION

JPSC recognizes that agencies are the experts on the needs of their respective programming. With this in mind, the JPSC elected not to be proscriptive with how subrecipients rearrange their VOCA 2022-23 budget within the award amount during the budget modification phase. With the exceptions of denying unallowable costs, subrecipients are encouraged to reorganize their budget to best meet the approved project scope and their agency's needs.

RISK ASSESSMENT

In accordance with the *Department of Justice Grants Financial Guide* and 2 C.F.R. § 200.332(d), (e), and (f), JPSC GMD is required “evaluate each subrecipient’s risk...for purposes of determining the appropriate subrecipient monitoring”. Monitoring ensures that the subaward is being used for the authorized purpose, in compliance with the federal program grant requirements, laws, and regulations. To fulfill this requirement, GMD performs a risk assessment as part of the application review process under each funding source managed by the division. Once a final award recommendation is approved, that risk assessment is revised to reflect the recommended award amount and a monitoring schedule is established based upon the overall assessment of risk.

Note: VOCA 2022-2023 award recommendation amounts were NOT impacted by applicants’ risk assessment scores. Rather, risk assessment scores will only be used to develop a risk-based monitoring schedule as defined in JPSC GMD’s VOCA Subrecipient Monitoring Plan, which was approved by OVC in 2022. The subrecipient’s assessed level of risk (Low, Medium, High) will be communicated at the time of subaward notification.

FINAL APPROVAL

Award recommendations generated by GMD were submitted to JPSC leadership and the Governor's Office for final approval.

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