

VOCA Funding Review FY20: Reflection & Outlook

The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) administers federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds which support crime victim assistance projects statewide. The VOCA funding allocation significantly increased in recent years and is set to increase again. We are seeking your input and expertise to better understand the impact of VOCA funding currently, and to identify and prioritize gaps in services as well as new and innovative services and projects. We are asking you to reflect on how the funds have been utilized and to consider how Virginia could most effectively use the anticipated increase in VOCA funds.

Your feedback will help to create the future of victims' services in Virginia. Through this review, we hope to learn more about:

- where the priorities are in victims' services,
- which areas have been enhanced as a result of VOCA funding,
- what the needs are in your community, and
- what ideas you have to provide and enhance services to victims in your areas of expertise.

VOCA funds cannot support prosecution activities, prevention, perpetrator services, or training for non-direct services personnel. A link to the VOCA Final Rule is provided as a reference for eligibility and allowable activities: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/07/08/2016-16085/victims-of-crime-act-victim-assistance-program> .

Please submit one review per agency/program. As you respond to the questions, please keep in mind the primary purpose of these grants is to support the provision of direct services to victims of crime throughout Virginia. We encourage you to consult with other agency/program staff prior to completing the review. DCJS will use the results to improve the administration of grant programs, enhance our response to stakeholders, and demonstrate our continued commitment to victims of crime.

Please respond by September 14, 2018

Identification Information:

We would like to be able to contact you should we need clarification.

1. Name/contact information of the person responding to the questions in this review.

First name: _____

Last name: _____

Email address or phone number: _____

Funding Reflection Questions:

Agency information

2. Agency/Program name: _____

3. Agency/Organization type: *(select all that apply)*

- Federally Administered
- State Administered
- City Administered
- County Administered
- Town Administered
- Faith Based
- Private, Non-profit
- For Profit
- Law Enforcement
- Prosecution
- Other *(specify)* _____

4. Agency/Program type: *(select one)*

- Child Abuse/Neglect Program
- Dual Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Agency
- Legal Assistance Program
- Medical Facility
- Stand-alone Domestic Violence Program
- Stand-alone Sexual Assault Crisis Center
- Victim/Witness Assistance Program
- Other *(specify)*: _____

5. Does your agency currently receive VOCA funds?

Yes/No

*(If no, respondents should skip to **Funding Outlook** portion of the survey.)***VOCA Fund Management**

You indicated in the previous question that your agency/program currently receives VOCA funds. The questions in this section are specific to VOCA funding (questions 6 – 9a).

6. In what ways have you been able to expand, enhance services to victims, or develop new projects with VOCA funds? *(select all that apply)*

- Hiring staff
- Expanding current staff
- Staff travel
- Staff development
- Equipment
- Repair & maintenance

- Supplies
- Emergency client assistance (i.e. transportation, lodging, food)
- Providing training
- Outreach
- Consultation services
- Providing new services
- Other (specify): _____

7. Did your agency face any issues or difficulties with expending VOCA funds?

Yes/No

(if 7 = yes)

7a. You indicated that your agency faced issues/difficulties expending VOCA funds. Please explain: _____ (limit 500 characters)

8. Which resources could better assist you in managing your award? (select all that apply)

Grant management

Technical assistance

Budget development

Human resources

Organizational capacity

Sustainability

Other (specify): _____

9. Does your agency have a sustainability plan in place to maintain financial support for VOCA-funded projects if funding were reduced?

Yes/No

9a. Please explain what your organization would do if funding is reduced.

_____ (limit 500 characters)

Funding Outlook Questions:

The questions in this section ask about your community's service gaps and your agency/program's general funding needs, priorities, capacity, and fund management; not just those related to VOCA funding.

Ranking Needs: Questions 10, 11, and 12 ask you to rank order from a list of possible responses. Selecting one item at a time, drag your top five choices from the list on the left, and drop them into the box on the right. Then, in the box on the right, drag each item up or down until they are in order with your first choice on the top, your second choice second from top, and so on. (These instructions apply to the online survey.)

10. In addition to what you are currently doing for victims of crime, please rank the top 5 service needs/gaps in your community. When determining your ranking, consider if increased VOCA funding could enhance your agency's ability to address these gaps/needs.

24/hour Crisis Services
 Attorneys/Legal Assistance
 Child Advocacy Services
 Counseling Services
 Court Services/Court Accompaniment/Legal Advocacy
 Elder Abuse
 Emergency Financial Services
 Family Justice Centers
 Forensic Interviewing
 Hospital-based Victims Services (e.g., victim advocates on staff, hospital-specific case management victim services, Trauma Recovery Center model)
 Hospital/Medical Accompaniment
 Housing – Emergency
 Housing – Transitional
 Justice-Involved Youth
 Language Services
 LGBTQ Victim Assistance
 Long-Term Advocacy
 Medical Care
 Mental Health Care
 Other Culturally/Ethnic Specific Services
 Outreach/Services to Underserved Populations
 Polyvictimization (adults & children)
 Restitution Services
 Services for Immigrants
 Services for Individuals with Disabilities
 Sexual Assault/Forensic Nurse Examiner – Adult
 Sexual Assault/Forensic Nurse Examiner – Pediatric
 Substance Abuse Services
 Support Groups
 Technology
 Therapeutic Services
 Transportation
 Trauma Informed Counseling
 Victim Assistance in Jails and Prisons
 Work with Tribal Communities
 Other

10a. If you ranked “Other” among the top 5 service needs/gaps in your community, please explain:
 _____ (limit 500 characters)

Infrastructure Needs

11. Please rank your top 5 service delivery/infrastructure needs. When determining your ranking, consider if increased VOCA funding could enhance your agency's ability to address these needs.

- Increase Pay/Benefits for Existing Staff
- Increase the Number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Employees
- Increase Marketing Tools/Capacity
- Office – Maintenance
- Office – Expansion
- Shelter – Maintenance
- Shelter – Expansion
- Technology – Hardware
- Technology – Software
- Technology – Other (communication systems, assisted technology, etc.)
- Training and Training Materials
- Translation/Interpretation
- Programmatic Capacity
- Sustainability
- Other

11a. If you ranked “Other” or “Technology – Other” among your top 5 service delivery/infrastructure needs, please explain: _____ (limit 500 characters)

Groups with Highest Service Gaps/Needs

12. Please rank the top 5 victim/survivor demographic groups in your service area facing the highest gaps/needs in accessing or receiving services in your community. When determining your ranking, consider if increased VOCA funding could enhance your agency's ability to address these gaps/needs.

- Campus Victims
- Victims with Disabilities
- Victims of Human Trafficking
- Victims in Rural Areas
- Victims who are Immigrants/Refugees
- Victims who are Incarcerated
- Victims who are Teens/Youth
- Victims who are Veterans/Active Military or Partners/Children of Veterans/Active Military
- Victims who identify as Male
- Victims who identify as LGBTQI
- Victims who identify as a Person of Color
- Victims who are from Tribal Communities

Victims who are Seniors

Other

12a. If you ranked "Other" among the top 5 victim/survivor demographic groups facing the most need in your community, please explain: _____ (limit 500 characters)

Funding Priorities

13. If your agency had access to one-time/non-recurring funding, how would you use the funding? *(select all that apply)*

Increase Marketing Tools/Capacity

Office – Maintenance

Office – Expansion

Shelter – Maintenance

Shelter – Expansion

Technology – Hardware

Technology – Software

Technology – Other (communication systems, assisted technology, etc.)

Training and Training Materials

Translation/Interpretation

Programmatic Capacity

Other *(specify)*: _____

(if 13 = Technology – other)

13a. You indicated that your organization would use one time/non-recurring funds for other technology-related items. Please explain: _____ (limit 500 characters)

Agency/Program Capacity

The next question asks about your agency/program's capacity to expand with ongoing funding increases. We are trying to assess where the most growth potential currently exists, geographically, programmatically, and among victim/survivor demographic groups.

14. If your agency were to receive a significant increase in funding, does it have the capacity to expand?

Yes/No

(if 14 = yes)

14a. In which specific areas is your agency able to expand capacity? *(select all that apply)*

Program services offered

Expansion of service area

Expansion of client types served (able to provide services to more types of victims/survivors groups)

Other *(explain)*: _____

(if 14= no)

14b. You indicated that your agency does not have the capacity to expand. Please explain.

_____ (limit 500 characters)

15. Aside from funding levels, what, if any, barriers exist that prevent your program from expanding or enhancing services? *(select all that apply)*

Difficulty recruiting and/or retaining qualified staff

Limited administrative (Board of Directors, County Administrator, etc.) support for expansion

Limited community support for expansion

Limited infrastructure (shelter space, office space, etc.)

Changes we would like to make are not permitted for use of VOCA funds

We cannot come up with matching funds

Concerned about maintaining program expansion should funding cease

Difficulty training new staff (availability of necessary training courses, etc.)

Other *(specify)*: _____

16. What trends or innovations in serving victims/survivors do you see emerging within the next five years that could not be adequately addressed with the current level of financial resources?

(Please be brief, clear, and concise.)

_____ (limit 500 characters)

Service Area

17. Please select all of the jurisdictions that are included in your organization's service area. *(select all that apply)*

(will provide a list of all Virginia counties and cities, in alpha order + statewide)

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this survey.

DCJS is also planning to have roundtables/discussion sessions to collect additional feedback. Please stay tuned to our website for more details.