

## VOCA ALLOWABLE SERVICES

Only those costs directly related and essential to providing direct services to crime victims can be supported by VOCA funds. The following is a listing of services, activities, and costs that are eligible for support with grant funds (please note this list is not exhaustive).

### Allowable Direct Service Costs

(See the VOCA Final Rule § 94.119 for additional details, <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2016-16085/p-270>)

- **Services that respond to the immediate emotional, psychological, and physical health and safety needs of crime victims (excluding most medical care)**

VOCA funds may support services such as crisis intervention; accompaniment to hospitals for medical examinations; hotline counseling; safety planning; emergency food, clothing, transportation, and shelter; and window, door, or lock replacement or repair, and other repairs necessary to ensure a victim's safety.

On an emergency basis, and under certain circumstances, VOCA funds may support costs for non-prescription and prescription medicine, prophylactic or other treatment to prevent HIV/AIDS infection or other infectious disease, durable medical equipment, and other healthcare items.

- **Criminal justice and civil legal assistance** to help victims assert their rights as victims in a criminal proceeding directly related to the victimization, or otherwise protect their safety, privacy, or other interests as victims in a proceeding; assistance with filing for protective orders; assistance obtaining emergency custody orders and visitation rights; advocacy on behalf of victims; accompanying victims to offices and court; transportation, meals, and lodging to allow a victim who is not a witness to participate in a proceeding; interpretation services for a non-witness victim; providing child care and respite care to enable a victim who is a caregiver to attend activities related to the proceeding; notification of key dates; assistance with victim impact statements; and assistance with recovering property and restitution advocacy.
- **Personal advocacy and emotional support** to include: safety planning; crisis intervention; identification of victim's needs; case management; management of practical problems created by the victimization; identifying resources and providing information and referrals; transportation; traditional, cultural, and/or alternative therapy/healing (e.g., art therapy, yoga).
- **Mental health counseling and care** such as outpatient therapy/counseling (including, but not limited to substance-abuse treatment so long as the treatment is directly related to the victimization) provided by a person who meets professional standards to provide these services in the jurisdiction in which the care is administered.

- **Peer-support** for victims to meet other victims, share experiences, and provide self-help, information, and emotional support.
- **Forensic medical evidence collection examinations** for victims to the extent that other funding sources are insufficient. Funds can be used to provide appropriate crisis intervention and/or other types of victim services that are offered to the victim in conjunction with the examination. Sub-recipients are also encouraged to use specially trained examiners such as Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners.
- **Forensic interviews for victims of crime** in the context of a multi-disciplinary investigation and diagnostic team, or in a specialized setting such as a child advocacy center. The interviewer must be trained to conduct forensic interviews appropriate to the developmental age and abilities of children, or the developmental, cognitive, and physical or communication disabilities presented by adults. Results of the interview cannot be used only for law enforcement and prosecution purposes, but also for identification of needs such as social services, personal advocacy, case management, substance abuse treatment, and mental health services.
- **Transitional housing services for crime victims** (who cannot safely return to their previous housing due to the circumstances of their victimization) including, but not limited to: travel, rental assistance, security deposits, utilities and other costs incidental to the relocation to such housing; voluntary support services (such as child care and counseling); and program costs to support transitional housing units.
- **Relocation & housing services for crime victims** when necessary for the safety and well-being of a victim, VOCA funds may be used to pay for reasonable moving expenses, security deposits on rental housing, rental expenses, and utility startup costs.
- **Services for incarcerated victims** (limited to victim services and associated activities) related to victimization which occurred prior to incarceration or victimization which occurred during incarceration.

## **Allowable Costs for Activities Supporting Direct Services**

(See the VOCA Final Rule § 94.120 for additional details, <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2016-16085/p-315>)

- **Public awareness** and education presentations that are designed to inform crime victims of specific rights and services and provide them with (or refer them to) services and assistance
- **Coordination of activities** that facilitate the provision of comprehensive direct services to crime victims
- **Multi-system, interagency, multi-disciplinary response to crime victim needs** to include activities that support a coordinated and comprehensive response to crime victims' needs
- **Contracts for professional services** to support direct services for crime victims
- **Automated systems and technology** that support delivery of direct services to victims
- **Volunteer trainings** on how to provide direct services to crime victims
- **Restorative justice activities in support of opportunities for crime victims** to meet with perpetrators, if such meetings are requested or voluntarily agreed to by the victim
- **Specialized equipment or minor building improvements** that make services more accessible to victims with disabilities

## **Allowable Administrative Costs**

(See the VOCA Final Rule § 94.121 for additional details, <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2016-16085/p-335>)

- **Personnel costs** which are necessary and essential to effectively facilitate the provision of direct services
- **Skills training and training-related travel** for staff and volunteers (both VOCA-funded and non-VOCA-funded)
- **Organizational expenses** that are necessary and essential to providing direct services and other allowable victim services
- **Equipment and furniture expenses** that facilitate the delivery of direct services
- **Operating costs** that are necessary and essential to providing direct services to crime victims
- **VOCA administrative time and costs** spent performing tasks required for managing the VOCA grant
- **Leasing or purchasing vehicles** that are essential to the provision of direct services
- **Maintenance, repair, or replacement of essential items** that contribute to maintenance of a healthy or safe environment for crime victims
- **Project evaluation of grant-funded, direct service projects** to determine their effectiveness

## **VOCA Unallowable Costs**

For additional information and guidance regarding services, activities, and costs which cannot be supported with victim assistance grant funds or matching funds (cash or in-kind), please see the VOCA Final Rule § 94.122 at <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2016-16085/p-361>.

The following activities and costs **cannot be supported** with grant funds:

- **Lobbying**
- **Research and studies**
- **Active investigation and prosecution of criminal activities**
- **Fundraising**
- **Capital expenses**
- **Compensation for victims of crime**
- **Most medical care**
- **Salaries and expenses of management**
- **Professional dues and memberships in an individual's name**
- **Food and/or beverages for any meeting, training, or event** (outside of allowable victim-related, emergency food costs)
- **Hosting, coordinating, or organizing local or regional conferences and trainings**, unless specific approved by DCJS