

Victim's of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant

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History



- The Crime Victims Fund was established by the passage of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984. The fund is a major funding source for victim services nationwide including victim compensation and victim assistance grants.
- VOCA grant for the State of Missouri was fully transferred from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Social Services (DSS) in October 2017. DSS receives funding from the Department of Justice (DOJ), Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), for the Victims of Crime Act Grant (VOCA).
- The overall Federal Year funding is determined by the DOJ, and the DSS contracts are based on the available funding. The Crime Victim Fund is sustained by fines and fees paid by convicted federal offenders not tax payer dollars. Funds are collected by the Federal Government and deposited into the Crime Victims Fund on a monthly basis.



VOCA Fix

- The VOCA Fix was signed into law July 22, 2021 by President Biden, and allowed for funds to be collected under deferred and non-prosecution agreements which were previously not allowed, potentially increasing the amount of money collected.
- It also increased payments from 60% to 75% for the State Victims Compensation fund, to allow more money to be available for victims of crime compensation claims.
- Required states to create their own match waiver requirements, and waived match requirements through the pandemic



Funding Awards



- FFY17: \$34.4M
- FFY18: \$61.8M
- FFY19: \$41.7M
- FFY20: \$30.9M
- FFY21: \$19.2M*
- **This was expected to be \$20.2M; however, the VOCA fix diverted 5% to victim compensation and the amount reduced to \$19,229,300.*



How to apply



- VOCA contracts are awarded through a competitive bid process through a Notice of Funding Opportunity released by DSS
- Agencies are required to submit bids for each region based on the services the organization intends to provide in that region
- Agencies may include providing services to clients who come from other regions in their bid proposal
- Contracts are for 1 year
- 2 renewals may be offered
- <https://dss.mo.gov/dfas/victims-of-crime-act/>



VOCA REQUIREMENTS

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- VOCA requires 10% of the funds to be spent on the below categories which will consist of 40% of the total grant. Awards are based on the crime victimization rates and data from the Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP) and DSS Child Abuse and Neglect data.
 - Sexual assault: Includes rape and attempted rape- 10%
 - Spouse Abuse/Domestic violence: Includes aggravated assault and domestic violence- 10%
 - Underserved: Includes criminal homicide, negligent manslaughter, robbery, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, violent crimes, and property crimes- 10%
 - Child Abuse- 10%

Subrecipient Agency Eligibility Requirements

- Be operated by a public or nonprofit organization, or a combination of such organizations, and provide services to crime victims.
- Shall demonstrate a record of providing effective services to crime victims.
- Shall demonstrate that 25 percent of their financial support comes from non-federal and non-state sources, if new to VOCA.
- Use volunteers in the provision of services.
- Promote coordinated public and private efforts to aid crime victims within the community.
- Assist victims in seeking crime victim compensation benefits.





Am I
eligible?

Subrecipient Agency Eligibility Requirements

- Comply with the applicable provisions of VOCA, the Program Guidelines, and the requirements of the DOJ Financial Guide.
- Maintain statutorily required civil rights statistics on victims.
- Abide by any additional eligibility or service criteria as established by the Missouri Department of Social Services.
- Provide services to victims of federal crimes.
- Provide services to crime victims, at no charge, through the VOCA-funded project.
- Maintain confidentiality of client-counselor information, as required by state and federal law.

Types of VOCA subrecipients

- Child Abuse Advocacy Centers
- Coalitions
- Domestic and Family Violence Organizations
- Faith- based Organizations
- Sexual Assault Service Organizations (rape crisis centers)
- Multi-service agencies
- Shelters
- Prosecuting Attorney Victim Advocates
- Court or legal based Advocates
- Mental health service providers/advocates
- Other



Services provided by VOCA subrecipients

- Information and Referral
- Personal advocacy/accompaniment
- Emotional support or safety services
- Shelter/Housing services
- Criminal/Civil Justice System Assistance
- Assistance in filing Victim Compensation Claims



Services Provided during 10/1/20 - 9/30/21

THANK YOU!

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- Total Number of individuals who received services: 274,205
 - Total Number of anonymous contacts who received services: 28,356
 - Number of new individuals who received services in Missouri for the first time: 108,280
 - Number of individuals who presented with more than one type of victimization: 33,041
 - Number of individuals assisted with a victim compensation application: 7,852



Regions



- 7 regions were created that mirror the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MOCADSV) regions with the exception of some counties to ensure they remain in the same judicial district
- Regions include: Central, Kansas City, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest, Saint Louis
- Regions are based on the crime victimization rates and reported data from the Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP) and DSS Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) data.



Make the Connection

Regions

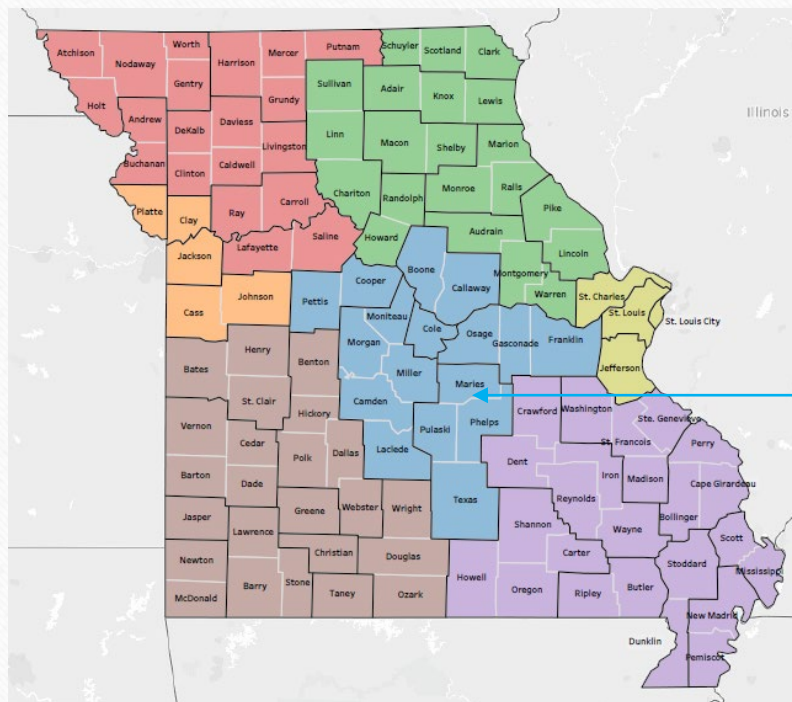
Northwest



Kansas City



Southwest



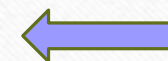
Northeast



Saint Louis



Central



Southeast

Federal Guidelines

Victims Of Crime Act, Crime Victims Fund

- [34 U.S. Code Chapter 201, Subchapter I, Part 20101](#)

Code of Federal Regulations

- [2 C.F.R., Subtitle A, Chapter II, Part 200](#)
- [28 C.F.R. Chapter 1, Part 94](#)

U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)

- [Financial Guide 2020](#)





Resources



- DSS- VOCA webpage

<https://dss.mo.gov/dfas/victims-of-crime-act/>

- Help for Victims of Crime

<https://dss.mo.gov/victimservices/index.htm>

<https://dps.mo.gov/dir/programs/cvsu/victimservices/>

- DOJ- Office of Victims of Crime webpage

<https://ovc.ojp.gov/>

- Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and KidsFirst: Training and Technical Assistance



April is Sexual Assault
Awareness & Prevention
Month

Events in April

**DENIM
DAY**
EST. 1999

- In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month
 - DSS staff will be wearing teal on April 6th
 - Collecting gently used denim jeans
 - Participating in Denim Day on April 27th



* Hosting an information booth at the National Crime Victims Rights Week Ceremony at the State Capitol on the South Lawn- April 28th at Noon

Program Contact Information

- DSS-VOCA UNIT
- Email: FSD.VOCAUnit@dss.mo.gov

