

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)

GRANT NOTIFICATION

To be placed on the mailing list to receive a Notice of Availability of VOCA Funds, contact the Victims Division at 405/264-5006 or email Stephanie Lowery at Stephanie.Lowery@dac.state.ok.us and provide your name, agency name, mailing address, and phone number.

VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) GRANT BOARD

The VOCA Board is a nine-member board that provides oversight to the VOCA grant. The board is charged with reviewing and approving grant applications, and providing overall direction to the grant program. The Board brings together a broad range of experience from a variety of disciplines.



PURPOSE

The purpose of the VOCA grant is to provide **direct services** to victims of all crime. Services are defined as those efforts that:

- Respond to the emotional and physical needs of victims.
- Assist primary and secondary victims of crime to stabilize their lives after a victimization.
- Assist victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system.
- Provide victims of crime with a measure of safety and security.

Grantees must utilize volunteers within their program and be able to inform victims about the availability crime victims compensation.

EXAMPLES OF VOCA EXPENSES

- Victim Advocate, Counselor, Volunteer Coordinator
- Travel costs between service counties
- Supplies (office, training)
- Facility costs
- Laptop, printer

MATCH REQUIREMENT

The VOCA grant requires a 25% match on awarded federal funds for all grantees except tribes. Tribes have a required match of 5.263%.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for VOCA funding, an applicant must be one of the following:

- State agency
- Unit of local government (i.e., city, county)
- Tribal Government
- Non-profit organization, including faith based organizations

AWARD PERIOD

July 1— June 30

AVERAGE AWARD IN 2014

\$47,435.00

APPLICATION TIMELINE

Notice of Availability of Funds - November
Applications Due - First Friday in March

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications are accepted through OKGrants at <https://grants.ok.gov>

If your agency is a new applicant in OKGrants, you must register first. Further directions on the registration process are located on the website.

VOCA: Frequently Asked Questions

Q: May funds be used to support services to children?

A: Yes, VOCA funds can serve all types of crime victims including white collar crime victims (financial/fraud victims).

Q: May funds be used to support projects that include education and prevention activities?

A: Yes and No. VOCA may be used for education and outreach activities to further explain the purpose of an agency's services. However, absolutely no prevention activities can be funded with VOCA.

Q. Is there is a minimum or maximum award?

A. VOCA does not have a minimum or maximum award requirement, however the average award in 2014 was \$47,435.00. The largest award was \$144,661.00 and the smallest award was \$8,116.00

Q. Does VOCA have Priority Areas like VAWA:

A. VOCA does have priority areas, but they are not like VAWA. Federal guidelines require states to allocate at least 10% of their VOCA funds to victim populations in each of the following priority areas: child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, and underserved.

Q. What types of victims are considered underserved?

A. Underserved victimization can be defined in various ways: by victimization itself, socio-economic status, geographical location, nationality, and others. Examples include, but are not limited to: federal crime victims, homicide survivors, gang violence, hate/bias crimes, DUI, economic exploitation/fraud, elder abuse, residents of rural areas or inner cities, non-English speaking individuals, hearing impaired individuals, persons with disabilities, Native Americans, migrant workers, and immigrants.

Q: Are volunteer related expenses allowable under this program?

A: Yes, supporting these activities would be allowable. Examples would include training and supervision of volunteers.

Q: May VOCA fund law enforcement agencies?

A: Yes, however, VOCA cannot fund any type of investigatory duties. This excludes VOCA from funding law enforcement officers. Current law enforcement agencies that have VOCA grants use the funds toward an in-house Victim Advocate.

Q. May VOCA fund a prosecutor position?

A. No, VOCA cannot fund any activities that are directed at prosecuting an offender and/or improving the criminal justice system's effectiveness and efficiency, such as witness notification, management activities, and expert testimony at trial. VOCA funds are used by District Attorney's Offices to fund Victim Witness Assistants to help with items such as victim compensation, court advocacy, property return, notification of criminal/court status, restitution advocacy, liaison between prosecutors and victims/families.

Q. May VOCA be used to fund legal services?

A. Yes, if it is advocacy related. These expenses include accompaniment to criminal justice offices and court; transportation to court; child care to enable a victim to attend court; notification of victims regarding trial dates, case disposition information, and parole procedures; restitution advocacy; and assistance with victim impact statements. VOCA funds cannot be used for non-emergency legal representation, such as divorces or civil restitution recovery efforts.

Q. Are indirect costs allowed under the VOCA grant?

A. No, under the VOCA federal guidelines, indirect costs are an unallowable expense.