

VOCA at a Glance

- Based upon President's Task Force on Victims of Crime *Final Report* (December 1982) recommendations
- Congress enacted Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) in October 1984
 - Bipartisan bill created the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) as a self-sufficient mandatory spending account.
 - Revenue derived mostly from criminal fines and payments assessed against federal offenders.
 - Funds originally used only for state and federal victim assistance and state crime victim compensation programs for victims of all types of crimes.
- Since its enactment, Congress has amended VOCA to also support:
 - OVC grants to support training and technical assistance; provide assistance to victims of federal crimes;
 - Children's Justice Act to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases;
 - U.S. Attorney's victim witness coordinators;
 - FBI victim assistance specialists;
 - Federal Victim Notification System;
 - Antiterrorism Emergency Reserve
 - Child Pornography Victims Reserve Fund
- In addition, Congress in some years has appropriated CVF for:
 - Office of Justice Programs management and administration;
 - Office of Inspector General VOCA audits;
 - Transfer for Violence Against Women Act programs; and
 - Grants for tribal victim assistance programs.
- Since its inception in 1985 through 2023, a total of \$39 billion dollars has been deposited into the CVF.
 - Two-thirds of all deposits have come from only 80 cases or .03% of all federal offenders ordered to pay a monetary fine.
 - Such precarious funding makes for less stable and reliable funding.
- In FY 2023, state VOCA victim assistance grants have been awarded to 6,458 subgrantee organizations which have provided services to 7.9 million individuals.
 - Of the total 7.7 million victimizations reported:
 - 3 million were for domestic and/or family violence
 - 873,503 were for adult physical assault
 - 706,292 were for child sexual assault
 - 687,357 were for child physical abuse/neglect
 - 443,226 were for adult sexual assault
 - Other victimizations included homicide survivors, drunk driving, burglary, elder abuse/neglect, sex/labor trafficking, hate crimes, mass violence and identity theft.
 - Services provided include, among others:

● Notification of criminal justice events	● Law enforcement advocacy
● Individual advocacy	● Support groups
● Information about victims' rights and the criminal justice system	● Transitional housing
● Individual counseling	● Forensic exams
● Referral to other services	● Relocation assistance
● Emergency shelter/safe homes	● Employer, creditor, landlord, academic intervention
● Crisis intervention	● Immigration assistance
● Hotline/crisis line counseling	● Emergency financial assistance
- VOCA grants to state crime victim compensation programs are based upon 75% of state-funded benefits which represents approximately 43% of total benefits paid.
 - In FY 23, total (state plus VOCA) funded compensation paid totaled \$360 million to 607,000 claimants.
 - Crime types covered were for assault, homicide, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, drunk driving, other vehicular crimes, stalking, robbery, burglary, child physical abuse/neglect, and human trafficking.
 - Benefits were paid for medical/dental, funeral/burial, economic support, sexual assault forensic examinations, mental health counseling and relocation expenses.