

How the Crime Victims Fund Is Disbursed

According to the VOCA statutory formula (42 U.S.C. 10601(d)), the annual VOCA cap is distributed to support specific programs, as follows:

Under the annual cap:

- The first \$20 million is used for formula grants to states to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse (Children’s Justice Act). \$17 million is transferred to the Department of Health and Human Services and \$3 million retained by the Office for Victims of Crime for grants to Native American tribes.
- After that, funds are set aside for certain Federal victim services:
 - Victim witness coordinators in U.S. Attorneys’ offices
 - Victim assistance staff in FBI offices
 - Federal Victim Notification System
- Of the amount remaining, after the above allocations:
 - Five percent for OVC discretionary grants for demonstration projects, training and technical assistance and services to victims of Federal crimes.
 - 47.5% of the remaining funds are available for state crime victim compensation grants with each state receiving a grant based upon 60% of its state-funded compensation benefits.
 - 47.5% of remaining funds are available for state victim assistance grants plus any amount not used for state crime victim compensation grants because of the 60% limitation.

Above the annual cap:

- Antiterrorism Emergency Reserve. In addition, up to five percent of amounts remaining in the Fund after the above allocations may be used to replenish the \$50 million AER which is available to assist victims of international and domestic terrorism or mass violence and compensation to international terrorism victims. By using amounts “above the cap,” replenishment of the AER does not reduce amounts available for other VOCA-authorized purposes.

Not Authorized under the VOCA Statute.

Congressional appropriators have also directed that amounts of the Crime Victims Fund cap be transferred or used for purposes not authorized under the VOCA statute.

- Management and Administrative Costs (M&A). Since 2012, Congress has directed that Office of Justice Programs’ management and administrative costs be paid by grant funds, rather than from a separate appropriation. In 2016, OJP’s M&A allocation from the Crime Victims Fund was \$78 million, most of which came from the amount that would otherwise be available for state VOCA victim assistance grants.
- Department of Justice Inspector General (DOJ OIG) – As part of the FY 2015, 2016 and 2017 appropriations, \$10 million was provided each year to the DOJ Office of the Inspector General “for increased oversight and auditing activities associated with the anticipated increases in both funds available, and in the number of grant recipients.”
- Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) – Congress transferred \$379 million in FY 2016 and \$326 million in FY 2017 out of the Crime Victims Fund to the Office on Violence Against Women for its grant programs.