

CVF Appropriation Talking Points

Introduction to VOCA and the Crime Victims Fund

The Crime Victims Fund, established through the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA), is the primary funding source for victim services throughout the nation. Deposits to the Crime Victims Fund originate from criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalties, and special assessments collected by U.S. Attorneys' Offices, federal U.S. courts, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons. To date, Fund dollars have always come from offenders convicted of federal crimes, not from taxpayers. VOCA dollars are the only funding source available for services to all victims of crime.

The Crime Victims Fund supports many initiatives beyond victim service programs-I.e. crime victim compensation programs, discretionary grant awards, victim specialists in US Attorneys and FBI offices, the federal victim notification system, etc.

Ask: Stabilize the CVF in FY21 and beyond to ensure steady quality, reliable services to crime victims

- Encourage collection of criminal fines and fees from federal prosecutions to be deposited into the Fund rather than deferred
 - Currently, there is an increase in deferred prosecutions and civil settlements, rather than criminal fines
 - Only 99 corporations were prosecuted in 2018; this number is down from 296 prosecuted in 2000
- Provide consistent, predictable funding of the annual cap to maintain existing services and programming and provide for future planning
 - The annual cap fluctuates year to year providing for limited future planning on how to utilize funding

FFY16	FFY17	FFY18	FFY19	FFY20
\$3.04b	\$2.57b	\$4.44b	\$3.35b	\$2.64b

- In FY21, NAVAA seeks a cap of \$2-2.3B from Congress
 - This recommendation represents a range potentially lower than FY20 and the President's FY21 levels, however necessary for long-term stability based on the current balance in the CVF.
- Possible changes to the VOCA statute in order to stabilize the fund may include:
 - All monetary penalties from deferred and non-prosecution agreements shall be deposited into the Crime Victims Fund
 - A percentage of civil fines and penalties shall be deposited into the Fund
 - Allow for additional years of spending for formula assistance and compensation awards to states
- Support the funding of VAWA and other non-VOCA eligible programming through general revenue appropriations rather than the CVF

- Beginning in FY16, Congress transfers funding from VOCA to VAWA

FFY16	FFY17	FFY18	FFY19	FFY20
\$379M	\$326M	\$492M	\$498M	\$435M

- FY20 final budget includes a transfer of \$435M;
 - VAWA transfers without proportional VOCA increase impacts the amount of funding released to SAAs for victim assistance grants.
- OIG funding- \$10M each year that remains in account even if not expended in fiscal year
- While recognizing the challenges that crafting a budget entails, we urge CJS appropriators to protect the CVF and move VAWA and non-VOCA eligible programming *back* to general revenue
- These transfers undermine the Crime Victims Fund's original purpose, it's integrity and the long-term ability to support core victim assistance services.
- Programs authorized by the Victims of Crime Act:**
 - Children's Justice Act grants
 - OVC discretionary grants
 - U.S. Attorney's victim/witness coordinators
 - State compensation formula grants
 - F.B.I. victim assistance specialists
 - State victim assistance formula grants
 - Federal victim notification system
 - Antiterrorism Emergency Reserve

Why does it matter?

- Data re: new victims supported by VOCA
- New organizations/subgrants through VOCA

Make it personal- be specific with your state!

- How many new victims your programs have served?
- How many new programs/subgrants are you overseeing vs. pre-increases in 2015?
- What are the new types of services you've been able to fund?
- Has the money meant more services in prosecutor's offices and law enforcement agencies?
- What victim demographics have greater access to services due to the increase (i.e. youth, elder, LGBTQIA+, etc.)?
- How many new positions are you funding? How many jobs will potentially be lost if cuts are made?
- Success stories-give your victim's voices-why are these services so vital?