



## Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance Future of Funding Webinar

Questions and Answers – FINAL 10.31.2024

### Crime Victims Fund (CVF):

Q: In the CVF funding chart, the blue bars represent the amount of money in the VOCA fund, or the amount of money coming into the VOCA fund for that year?

A: The blue bars in the chart displayed (<https://ovc.ojp.gov/about/crime-victims-fund/fy-2007-2024-cvf-balance.pdf>) represent the Crime Victims Fund balances for each federal fiscal year.

Q: The excess above the cap that congress places, when not spent, does it disappear into congress for use elsewhere, or does it come back to our work?

A: The funds in the CVF that are not put out to states remain within the fund until Congress puts additional funding out. The CVF is essentially a bank account that has funding that stays in it until it is used and until Congress determines a next cap. If states and territories do not use the federal funding that they are allotted, the unused funds are reallocated to states and territories in another fiscal year.

Q: Are there any indications that Congress would increase the cap in future years to get more money to states as the fund grows?

A: There is a constant push and pull for Congress between what is actually available in the fund and how much the cap should be. This was the case even when the CVF had a lot of money in the fund. National advocates are working on this. MOVA is involved with NAVAA, which is the VOCA Assistance Administrators Association. In that organization, we work alongside the domestic violence coalitions and sexual assault coalitions to advocate for the cap and for fixes to VOCA.

Q: Why is Congress capping spending from the fund? What happens to the rest of the monies that are coming in from fines, forfeited bonds and other financial penalties in certain federal cases? Is this number decreasing because these dollars are decreasing or is Congress is using the balance dollars on other interests?

A: The dollars that are in the fund stay in the fund. Congress sets the cap based upon the notion that all of the money is not put out to states each year. Congress leaves money in the balance for

the next year because it is unknown what additional dollars may come in. Those dollars are not used to support other federal priorities. The amounts have shifted over the past years because there was a shift in the way cases at the federal level were prosecuted and settlements were not being settled as convictions but as non-prosecution agreements. Prior to 2021, those dollars when settled without a conviction went to the general treasury rather than the CVF. Many advocates within NAVAA worked to amend the VOCA statute to change this, and President Biden signed that bill in 2021 (The VOCA Fix Act). So now, when cases are negotiated by the U.S. Attorney's Office or the Department of Justice, those dollars (whether it is a conviction or whether it is a deferred prosecution agreement) go back into the CVF.

Q: When is the CVF cap set for the next year?

A: The timing changes. If Congress is working through a continuing resolution, which has happened several times in the past, it impacts when the cap is set. When Congress passes the budget, that is when we know what the next cap is going to be. Several months later, The Office for Victims of Crime lets states and territories know what their formula allocation will be.

Q: Is there any sense of what the chances are of the federal fixes to VOCA going through?

A: This information is currently unknown to MOVA.

Q: Do we know why the CVF funding fluctuates? Is it solely based on the monies secured through fines/restitution, etc., or are there other factors and/or political influences at play?

A: The amount of funding in the CVF fund comes directly from prosecutions and negotiated settlements. How much Congress determines to put out as a cap is certainly impacted by advocacy, it's impacted by how much money is in the fund, and it's impacted by what is in the President's budget.

### **Current MOVA Budget:**

Q: Do VOCA funds have an expenditure "lifespan"? I see that 2023 VOCA Award funding is being allocated to SFY2026 & SFY2027.

A: The performance period of VOCA awards is 3 years. No cost extensions have allowed MOVA to utilize the awards over 4 years.

Q: Has MOVA always had a practice of spreading out federal VOCA awards over multiple years or was this adopted simply to mitigate the impact of reduced federal funding?

A: We have been requesting no cost extensions over the last 3 years, due to the new allowability included in the VOCA Fix Act, which has allowed us increased flexibility in spreading VOCA funds over multiple years. We have, however, often spread funding from specific VOCA awards over the course of multiple years even when the awards were higher in order to have more consistent levels of funding each year.

This spending strategy is illustrated in the budget scenarios provided. For example, in the image below, you can see the 2023 VOCA award in the lefthand column, totaling \$26,525,978.85. If you follow the row with the 2023 VOCA award out to the right, you can see that the funding is available in the SFY2025 award cycle (shaded green) but there aren't any dollars planned to be spent from the award that year. Moving further to the right in the SFY2026 column, you can see the approximately \$12,000,000 from that award budgeted to be spent and approximately \$14,000,000 budgeted to be spent in SFY2027.

|                              |                              |                  | State Fiscal Year (SFY)                          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |              |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--------------|--|--|--|--|
| Funding Sources              | Funding Type                 | Total            | SFY 2025<br><small>(July 2024-June 2025)</small> |  |  |  | SFY 2026<br><small>(July 2025-June 2026)</small> |  |  |  | SFY 2027<br><small>(July 2026-June 2027)</small> |  |  |              | SFY 2028<br><small>(July 2026-June 2028)</small> |  |  |  |
|                              | State Appropriation          |                  | \$20,000,000                                     |  |  |  | \$0  |  |  |  | \$0  |  |  |              | \$0  |  |  |  |
|                              | Drunk Driving Trust Fund     |                  | \$306,112  |  |  |  | \$222,010  |  |  |  | \$222,010  |  |  |              | \$222,010  |  |  |  |
|                              | Human Trafficking Trust Fund |                  | \$66,000   |  |  |  | \$0  |  |  |  | \$0  |  |  |              | \$0  |  |  |  |
|                              | SAFEPLAN                     |                  | \$1,920,630                                      |  |  |  | \$1,920,630                                      |  |  |  | \$1,920,630                                      |  |  |              | \$1,920,630                                      |  |  |  |
|                              | 2020 VOCA Award              | \$ 32,857,185.45 | \$935,317  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |              |  |  |  |  |
|                              | 2021 VOCA Award              | \$ 20,414,083.55 | \$12,015,148                                     |  |  |  | \$2,395,039                                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |              |  |  |  |  |
|                              | 2022 VOCA Award              | \$ 28,313,037.15 | \$6,924,129                                      |  |  |  | \$21,379,266                                     |  |  |  |  |  |  |              |  |  |  |  |
|                              | 2023 VOCA Award              | \$ 26,525,978.85 |  |  |  |  | \$12,033,657                                     |  |  |  | \$14,492,322                                     |  |  |              |  |  |  |  |
|                              | 2024 VOCA Award              | \$ 15,252,143.35 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | \$15,254,143 |  |  |  |  |
|                              | 2025 VOCA Award              |                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |              |  |  |  |  |
| 2026 VOCA Award              |                              |                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |              |  |  |  |  |
| 2027 VOCA Award              |                              |                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |              |  |  |  |  |
| Key                          |                              |                  | Total  |  |  |  | Total  |  |  |  | Total  |  |  |              | Total  |  |  |  |
| Known available funds        |                              |                  | \$42,167,336                                     |  |  |  | \$37,950,602                                     |  |  |  | \$16,634,962                                     |  |  |              | \$17,396,783                                     |  |  |  |
| Potential one year extension |                              |                  | % Change   |  |  |  | % Change   |  |  |  | % Change   |  |  |              | % Change   |  |  |  |
| Unknown or estimated funds   |                              |                  | -5.2%  |  |  |  | -10.0%   |  |  |  | -56.2%   |  |  |              | 4.6%   |  |  |  |

\*The numbers included in this image are estimates at the current point in time. These numbers are subject to change based on factors such as spending and receipt of additional funds.

Q: Is there any estimate of what the size future VOCA awards to Massachusetts will be? Do you know if they will be larger, smaller, or a similar size to the 2024 VOCA award?

A: We don't know the amount of MOVA's next VOCA award. We anticipate that we will have more information about the size of 2025 awards in Spring/Summer of 2025 and will use that information to inform our future budget projections.

Q: Does MOVA anticipate VOCA awards in 2025 to 2027?

A: We do anticipate receiving VOCA awards moving forward, however, we do not know what the amounts will be at this time so they are not included in our current budget. As we receive them, they will be included in our budget and increase our ability to further support grant awards.

Q: If we get enough VOCA bridge funding next year, would the "cliff" (or steep drop in funding) be pushed out another year?

A: The goal is that we can identify VOCA Bridge funding, state funding, or other funding opportunities that allow us to push out and minimize reductions. Additional investments, depending on the type, will likely impact the fiscal year they are intended for, but also push out reductions another year.

### **SFY26 MOVA Grant Procurements**

Q: Will MOVA have some guidance for us about how to submit our new applications as far as what sorts of funding we should be requesting? I think most of us are doing that submission early next year.

A: FY26 will be a grant renewal for current recipients. Guidance will be included in the request for grant applications (RGA). This is anticipated to be released on December 4th.

### **Advocacy & Engagement Opportunities**

Q: Are there ways we can impact VOCA at the federal level? Are there opportunities that you will be sharing for advocacy efforts to try to secure additional funding?

A: MOVA will share opportunities to help advocate for increased funding on a state and federal level as they're identified. If you are a current grant recipient and aren't sure if you're on our mailing lists, please reach out to your program coordinator. In addition, you can follow us on social media and sign up for our policy specific updates via this link:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/MOVA2/SignUpForPolicyUpdatesFromMOVA>