
Contact: Stephanie McCarthy,
Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs
Phone: (413)-325-7445
Email: stephanie.i.mccarthy@mass.gov

MOVA Announces Reduced Victim Service Grants Due to Federal Funding Shortfall; Highlights Need for State Investment in VOCA Bridge

The Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA) will award federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding to [124 victim service programs](#) across the Commonwealth to provide free, direct services to crime victims. The Victim and Witness Assistance Board (VWAB), MOVA's governing body, voted to grant \$32,608,116 for one year of services beginning July 1, 2022. As a result of critically low federal funding, these awards represent an average 22% cut per program from current funding levels.

All currently-funded VOCA programs were eligible to apply for the FY23 VOCA grant. As part of its grant review, MOVA considered: geographic location(s); services to culturally specific populations; and overall grant compliance. While the primary focus of funding remained on maintaining personnel where possible, MOVA predicts these reduced awards will impact an estimated 220 positions throughout the Commonwealth.

"The needs of crime victims have not been reduced, despite a reduction in the funding to provide critical services," said MOVA Executive Director Liam Lowney. "These funding cuts were devastating to make, as we know that reduced funding means a loss of jobs for service providers and a loss of support for victims and survivors. We hope to have the opportunity to restore services and save jobs with an imminent state investment."

MOVA has requested funding from the Legislature to address this significant shortfall. The VOCA Bridge is a multi-year, \$60 million funding request to bridge cuts to VOCA programs. A one-time state investment will support and stabilize critical victim service programs throughout the Commonwealth and ensure access to trauma-informed services. A fully-funded VOCA Bridge will allow MOVA to sustain these services for victims and survivors impacted by violence.

###