

# Victim Services are at Risk in Massachusetts: Support the VOCA Bridge

**H.4479 invests \$60M to bridge impending cuts to programs to maintain critical victim services**

## SERVICES AND SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME:

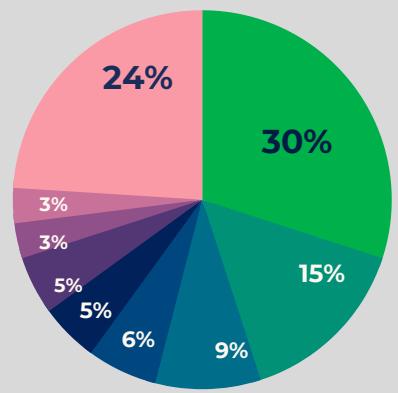
VOCA funding in Massachusetts supports **161** victim service programs throughout all counties in the Commonwealth.

January 1 – March 31, 2021, was the first quarter MOVA funding served **over 20,000 victims**.

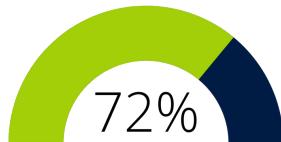
FY21 funding served over 96,000 victims, the **highest record in agency history**.

### Victims Served in FY21

- Domestic and Family Violence
- Victims of Physical Assault
- Child Sexual Abuse/Assault
- Adult Sexual Assault
- Child Physical Abuse or Neglect
- Survivors of Homicide
- Stalking/Harassment
- Human Trafficking
- Other



## STAFFING AND PERSONNEL



In FY21, approximately 72% of MOVA's funding awards to programs were spent on personnel and staffing which would be in jeopardy as grants are reduced.

## INCREASED ECONOMIC HARDSHIP FOR PROGRAMS

In addition to the VOCA reductions, victim service programs are losing outside funding as a result of COVID-19 which inhibits their ability to provide the match requirements as mandated by the federal government:

In FY21, MOVA waived **\$2,960,995.32** in match waiver requests among **125** unique programs.

This is a significant increase from the waivers approved in FY20, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, which was **\$1,648,610.57** among **35** unique programs.

## REMOTE AND VIRTUAL ACCESS FOR VICTIMS

Victim service providers experienced **increases** in program participation after the shift to a virtual setting.

The majority of victim service agencies intend to maintain a **hybrid** workplace. Funding will be necessary to maintain the technological services established to support victims during COVID.