



Notice of Intent to Award Emergency Funding to Support Victim Services

Background:

MOVA operates under the guidance of the Victim and Witness Assistance Board (VWAB). The VWAB administers federal funds for victim services available through the Federal Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA), VOCA statute 34 USC 20103, which authorizes states to subaward annual VOCA grants for the financial support of eligible crime victim assistance programs.

Via an emergency procurement ([MGL Chapter 30B, Section 8](#)), MOVA anticipates awarding in excess of \$4,000,000.00 in VOCA funds which will support all currently funded VOCA and SAFEPLAN agencies as they navigate the impacts of COVID-19 in providing victim services, along with making emergency supports accessible to clients; and intends to award up to \$600,000.00 in VOCA funds to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) which will support funding for non-VOCA funded victim services agencies.

Proposed Contracts/ISAs:

Select vendors: all currently funded VOCA and SAFEPLAN agencies; Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Duration and Amounts:

Eligible currently funded VOCA and SAFEPLAN funded entities will be able to request up to \$50,000.00 per agency. If an agency determines they have an extenuating need for funding beyond \$50,000.00, they are to contact Kristin Potrikus, Senior Grants Manager, by April 3, 2020 at Kristin.potrikus3@mass.gov. Contracts/ISAs are anticipated to be in excess of \$4,000,000.00 for the duration of April 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. MOVA reserves the right to award additional funds to support the emergency need, if funding is available.

DPH will be eligible to request up to \$600,000.00. The ISA is anticipated to be up to \$600,000.00 for the duration of April 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021. MOVA reserves the right to award additional funds to support the emergency need, if funding is available.

Reasons for Vendors' Selection:

Through an emergency procurement ([MGL Chapter 30B, Section 8](#)), MOVA intends to forgo a competitive procurement and make additional funding available to all currently funded VOCA and SAFEPLAN agencies and DPH for the following costs:

- Agency temporary personnel costs to address direct victim services staffing gaps, including:
 - Temporary staffing to support direct victim service needs impacted by COVID-19;
 - Overtime costs;
 - Hazard pay;
 - Incentive pay or bonuses for currently funded staff or temporary staff;
- Agency support costs necessary for telework including, but not limited to:

- Technology support for personnel;
- Reimbursements to personnel for use of personal technology at home;
- Technology which would allow staff to provide services virtually/remotely;
- Client assistance:
 - Emergency rental and utility assistance costs;
 - Pre-paid gift cards for clothing, food or grocery;
 - Emergency shelter for victims;
 - Emergency relocation and storage costs for victims;
 - Victim emergency basic need items;
 - Childcare or respite care when such needs present a barrier to the funded agency providing services;
 - Transportation for clients in the event of an emergency

These agencies are in a unique position to provide to these named services and supports to the Commonwealth's victims of crime, as they are currently supported by MOVA and/or DPH to do so and are experiencing a significant need based on the impact of COVID-19, along with reporting a significant need for their clients. This funding will further support these currently funded programs by ensuring services can continue, staff have the capacity to telework, and clients receive the supports they need.

We remind all potential sub-recipients of this funding to review MOVA's [VOCA Policies and Procedures Manual](#). Federal funds must be used to supplement and not to supplant state funds that have been appropriated for the same purpose. Therefore, awarded funds cannot be used to supplant - or replace - existing state funds already allocated for the same purpose.

Grant funds should not be used to purchase items or services that would otherwise be purchased with the sub recipient's own funds for this project. Expenditure of funds for the acquisition of new equipment or services, when equipment and/or personnel required for the successful execution of projects are already available, or budgeted for within the sub recipient organization, will be considered supplanting and will be disallowed.