

## State & Federal funding for Crime Victim Support Services

**Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants:** The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) of 1984 created the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) to collect fines/payments from violations of federal law so these funds can support crime victims. Congress allocates funding from the CVF each year in the federal budget for two formula grants to states: VOCA victim compensation grants support state victim compensation funds to reimburse victims for select crime-related costs and **VOCA victim assistance grants** support victim service provider organizations, children’s advocacy centers, violence prevention projects, human trafficking and homicide service providers, law enforcement, county attorneys, victim witness coordinators, courts, and human services providers. *VOCA victim assistance grants to states remain the largest source of funding for victim services nationwide.* Funds enable states to improve access to comprehensive services, better support victims in the legal system, and increase capacity to offer post-crisis services supporting long-term stability. The Attorney General’s Victim Assistance section administers Iowa’s VOCA grants and awards funding through a competitive grant process. Federal cuts to VOCA only impact *victim assistance* grants because compensation grants use a different formula. **Iowa’s FY24 VOCA victim assistance grant was \$7.6 million, a 42% cut/loss of \$5.4 m compared to FY23’s grant of \$13.1 million.** (Gov Reynolds awarded \$5.5 m in federal ARPA \$\$ for victim services to mitigate FY24 cut.)

**Federal Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) grants:** The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) enacted in 1984, is the foundation of our national public health response to intimate partner violence (IPV). FVPSA state formula grants support essential victim services including housing assistance, counseling services, crisis lines, and other vital services. Administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, FVPSA is the only federal funding dedicated to supporting services to help victims reclaim autonomy and economic security. The Attorney General’s Victim Assistance section administers Iowa’s FVPSA grant and awards funding through a competitive grant process. Organizations can also apply directly to the federal government for FVPSA discretionary grants. **Iowa’s FY24 FVPSA formula grant was \$1.6 million.**

**Federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grants:** The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 1994 provides a variety of grants to states to support effective responses to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. VAWA grants are administered by the U.S. Department of Justice to promote coordination between multiple-system stakeholders including victim service providers, law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges. VAWA includes non-discrimination protections to ensure equal access to services and housing. States receive VAWA STOP formula grants to support criminal justice system stakeholders and victim service providers & Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) formula grants to support rape crisis centers. The AG’s Victim Assistance section administers Iowa’s VAWA grants and awards funding through a competitive grant process. Organizations can also apply directly to the federal government for VAWA discretionary grants. **Iowa’s FY24 VAWA formula grants = \$2.8 m. (STOP \$1.9+ SASP \$854,696)**

**State funds:** Iowa allocates state funds for victim services through the annual Justice System Appropriations bill which includes funding for the Department of Justice, Department of Public Safety (law enforcement, sheriffs), Department of Corrections, Homeland Security, Public Defender, etc. There is a dedicated budget line item for ‘victim services’ which currently allocates \$5 million to the Attorney General to pay for support services to domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking victims. Funding is administered by the AG’s [Victim Assistance](#) section and awarded through a competitive grant process. **Iowa has provided \$5 million for each of the last 10 years.**