

State & Federal funding sources for victim services

State funds: Iowa allocates state funds for a variety of stakeholders serving crime victims through the annual Justice System Appropriations bill which includes funding for the Department of Justice, Department of Public Safety (law enforcement, sheriffs), the Department of Corrections, Homeland Security, Public Defender, etc. There is a dedicated budget line item for ‘victim services’ which currently allocates \$5 million in funding for domestic violence and sexual assault victim services. This funding is administered by the Attorney General’s [Victim Assistance](#) section via a competitive grant process and is allocated through a competitive grant process to agencies providing direct services to victims of violent crime including families impacted by homicide; survivors of domestic and sexual violence including stalking, rape, child abuse, human trafficking.

Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds – The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) of 1984 created the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) to collect fines and payments from violations of federal law so these *non-taxpayer funds* can be available to support crime victims. Each year in the annual federal budget appropriations process, Congress determines the amount of CVF funds to allocate to support two formula grant programs to states- victim compensation grants to help support state compensation funds and VOCA victim assistance grants that are distributed to local crime victim service providers and other legal system stakeholders. *VOCA victim assistance grants to states remain the largest source of funding for victim service providers nationwide.* These funds enable direct service providers to dramatically expand access to services in rural and underserved communities and offer post-crisis services supporting long-term stability. Iowa’s two federal VOCA formula grants are administered by the Attorney General’s Victim Assistance section but federal funding cuts to VOCA only impact victim assistance grants because the allocation of VOCA victim compensation grants uses a different formula (based on state victim compensation fund collections).

Federal Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) funds – The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) enacted in 1984, is the foundation for our nation’s comprehensive public health response to gender violence. FVPSA state formula grants support essential victim services including emergency shelter, permanent housing support, 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 providing housing and economic security to gender violence victims. Federal FVPSA state formula grants to Iowa are administered by the Attorney General’s Victim Assistance section. (Organizations can also apply directly to the federal government for other FVPSA discretionary grants).

Federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funds – 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 grant programs 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 essential civil rights protections to ensure equal access to services and housing. States receive STOP VAWA grants that support criminal justice system stakeholders and victim service providers as well funding for the Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP). Federal VAWA formula grants to Iowa are administered by the Attorney General’s Victim Assistance section. (Organizations can also apply directly to the federal government for other VAWA discretionary grants).