

## State & Federal funding for victim support services

**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), the Department of Corrections, Homeland Security, Public Defender, etc. There is a dedicated budget line item for 'victim services' which currently allocates \$5 million for services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Funding is administered by the Iowa Attorney General's [Victim Assistance](#) section and awarded through a competitive grant process to agencies providing support services to crime victims. **Iowa has provided \$5 million for the last 10 years.**

**Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants:** 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 support crime victims. Each year in the annual federal budget process, Congress determines the amount of CVF funds to allocate to support two formula grants to states: VOCA victim compensation grants support state victim compensation funds and VOCA victim assistance grants support local victim service provider agencies, children's advocacy centers, violence prevention projects, human trafficking and homicide service providers, law enforcement agencies, county attorneys, victim witness coordinators, courts, and other human services providers. *VOCA victim assistance grants to states remain the largest source of funding for victim service providers nationwide.* These funds enable service providers to expand access to services in rural and underserved communities and increase capacity to offer post-crisis services supporting long-term stability. Iowa's two VOCA formula grants are administered by the Attorney General's Victim Assistance section through a competitive grant process. Funding cuts to VOCA only impact victim assistance grants because victim compensation grants use a different formula. **Iowa's [FY24 VOCA](#) victim assistance grant was \$7.6 million, a 42% cut or loss of \$5.4 million compared to [FY23's grant](#) of \$13.1 million.**

**Federal Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) grants:** The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) enacted in 1984, is the foundation for a national 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. 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 FVPSA discretionary grants. **Iowa's [FY23 FVPSA](#) 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 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 civil rights protections to ensure equal access to services and housing. States receive VAWA STOP formula grants that support criminal justice system stakeholders and victim service providers ([FY23 award](#) \$1.9 m) and Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) formula grants to support rape crisis centers ([FY23 award](#) \$858,000). VAWA formula grants to Iowa are administered by the Attorney General's Victim Assistance section (**VAWA FY23 total \$2.8 m**). Organizations can also apply directly to the federal government for VAWA discretionary grants.