

State VOCA Administrators and Tribal Victim Services: Working Together to Ensure Better Outcomes for AI/AN Victims of Crime

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OVC Videos



What is the Office for Victims of Crime? https://www.ovc.gov/about/index.html

What is the Crime Victims Funds? https://www.ovc.gov/about/index.html



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OVC Funding Overview



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OVC Funding



- OVC administers the Crime Victims Fund.
- Federal, state, and tribal victim assistance programs receive formula grants, discretionary grants, and set-asides according to annual allocation processes or a competitive grant process.



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Increased Obligation Limit on Crime Victims Fund



- FY16 Crime Victims Fund obligation limit: \$3.042 billion
 - \$2.25 billion was awarded to state Victim Assistance programs.
- Most available in the history of the Fund.
- Significant increase in available funds enabled states to address unserved and underserved victim populations.



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Funding Allocation Process



After Congress sets the annual obligation limit, OVC allocates funds according to the following process.

- Federal Set Asides:
 - The Children's Justice Act receives \$10 million plus 50% of the previous year's deposits over \$324 million, with a maximum award of \$20 million.
 - The Executive Office for United States Attorneys (EOUSA) receives funding for victim coordinators and specialists who provide direct services for victims of federal crimes.
 - The FBI receives funding for victim specialists in field offices across the country to assist victims of federal crimes and provide information on cases as they progress and throughout court proceedings.
 - The federal Victim Notification System (VNS) receives up to \$5 million.
 VNS is an automated database that notifies victims of major case events regarding individuals who have committed crimes, such as information on their release or detention status.



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Funding Allocation Process (cont.)



- After the set asides are allocated, five percent of the remaining balance is allocated for OVC discretionary initiatives.
- Allocations for state compensation formula grants may not exceed 47.5% of the remaining balance, and 47.5% is allocated for state assistance formula grants.
- State compensation grants are determined by calculating 60% of the state compensation payout 2 years prior.
- If the allocation from the Fund provides enough funding needed for each state compensation program to provide full grants, then the remaining amount rolls over to state assistance allocations.



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Discussion Points for the Table



- (1) Discuss challenges tribe/victims have faced accessing state VOCA compensation and/or useful practices or solutions to address this issue.
- (2) Discuss how tribes can apply for state VOCA assistance funding for victim services programs, include information about types of programs, process and any challenges.
- (3) Discuss if there are any resources, help or training and technical assistance (TTA) that OVC can provide to assist with state/tribal collaboration to assist victims of crime.



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