

Victim Services Funding Act FAQ

April 25, 2024

Victim Services Funding Act Information Session FAQ

Child Advocacy Center Grants

Q: After the sunset date of 6/30/2025 will CAC funding go back to \$17k?

A: Yes. Unless additional legislation is introduced and passed, funding will go back to \$17,000 per CAC in 2025.

Q: Does the CAC grant cover therapy services for children? Could that be considered educating them about coping skills?

A: Mental Health services within a CAC may be eligible under the categories of Medical Advice or Education. Please see the funding announcement for examples of activities that may fit under these categories, and note that other activities may be eligible as long as it is explained how they fit under one or more of the categories identified in statute.

Q: For the CAC grant under the umbrella of quality, can funds be used to support necessary updates to the facility, to add in in a safe comforting space? I saw within the grant other lateral expenses were allowable.

A: If updates of the facility are needed for Quality Assurance or to meet best practice standards as outlined by National Children's Alliance or American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, they may be considered eligible expenses.

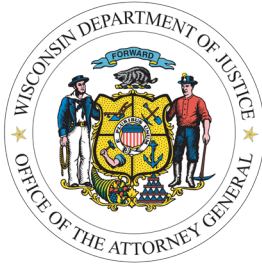
Sexual Assault Victim Services Grants

Q: Do we have to provide all of the services listed (advocacy, counseling, hotline, education)?

A: All of the services listed in the statute need to be provided or propose to be provided to be eligible for SAVS funding.

Q: Is there a shelter requirement for SAVS funding?

A: No, shelter is not a requirement for SAVS funding.



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Q: Will this funding and funding cycle impact the already established SAVS competitive future funding opportunities?

A: No, this will not affect the future SAVS competitive funding opportunities. This SAVS funding will be a separate grant from your current SAVS grant, and spending of these funds must be prioritized as the end date is 6/30/2025.

Q: Is Sex Trafficking eligible under SAVS?

A: For sex trafficking victims, OCVS interprets those services as eligible as there is nowhere in the statute or guidelines that says otherwise.

Q: How is counseling/therapy defined for the SAVS funding?

A: There is no definition of counseling in the SAVS statute or guidelines and may be defined by the agency. However, therapy should be provided by a licensed professional.

Domestic Abuse Grants

Q: Will there be an increase in DV funding for those with shelters?

A: Funding will not be allocated directly to any specific program type; however, shelter programs will have an opportunity to apply via a non-competitive funding application process.

Q: Are public awareness campaigns eligible for DV Community Education?

A: Yes, DV funds may be used for DV Community Education including public awareness campaigns.

Q: Can funds be used to support capital needs? For example, our DV shelter has a play space in our secure enclosed campus, but it is in need of significant repair, and it is solely for use of families within shelter. Could this grant support those necessary repairs/updates?

A: Yes, capital expenses are an allowable cost and may be included in your grant application budget. All capital expenses must be pre-approved.



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Q: Have there been any discussions within DCF about whether “advocacy” to victims includes legal representation?

A: Yes, a domestic violence program may use DV funds to support legal advocacy or legal representation.

Q: For the DV funding, you DON'T need to have a shelter?

A: Correct.

Q: Can the shelter requirement be met by providing emergency shelter in motels?

A: Shelter is not a required service to receive DV funding under Wis. Act 241. However, shelter expenses are an allowable cost. Shelter may be provided via a “brick and mortar” shelter building or through other means such as hotel vouchers.

General

Q: Is this funding going to be on a competitive grant basis?

A: No, the Victim Services Act funding will not be competitive, but will require a non-competitive grant application.

Q: Is the DV/SA funding a competitive RFP?

A: No, the funding announcement will be non-competitive.

Q: When will applicants be notified if they received an award?

A: OCVS expects to send intent to award letters by July 1, 2024.

Q: When will applications be due?

A: The due date will depend on the publication date of the funding announcement. The non-competitive funding announcement will be open for 4 weeks.



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Q: Will there be a cap on allocation amounts?

A: Applicants may determine the amount of their request. There is not a maximum cap for applications.

Q: How do we know if we as an agency qualify?

A: Eligibility will be outlined in the funding announcement. The applicant must review eligibility requirements and justify eligibility in the application.

Q: Does the counseling have to be provided by a professionally trained counselor?

A: There are no professional standards for “counseling” to be met or listed in the statute or guidelines.

Q: Is the 24-hour hotline a requirement? If one already exists in the community, can we refer victims to that instead?

A: If the 24/7 hotline exists in the community and agencies have a policy and agreement with the hotline agency, yes. For example, the Hmong Helpline serves Hmong victims statewide and meets the hotline requirement.

Q: Is there a possibility these funds will be renewed at the state level for 2025?

A: OCVS is unaware of the possibility for renewed Act 241 funding in 2025.

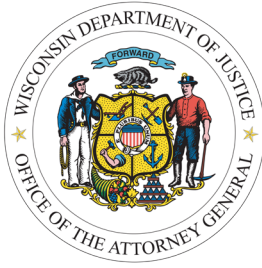
Q: Can a link to the state statute be provided?

A: 165.93 Sexual assault victim services; grants:

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/165/93/2>

49.165 Domestic abuse grants: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/49/iii/165>

165.96 Child advocacy grants: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/165/96>



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Q: Since this is a 2023-25 funding is there any opportunity to back-date funding?

A: Yes, funding may be backdated to the date the Act was signed by the Governor. Additional information will be provided with the award documents.

Q: Will organizations providing services to larger areas or urban areas with higher population levels be eligible for higher awards?

A: There is no cap on application amounts. Please ask for what your agency will be able to spend by 6/30/2025.

Q: Can you provide a link to the Act please?

A: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023/related/acts/241>

Q: What are the funding allotments for SAVS and DV?

A: SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIM SERVICES GRANTS. Of the moneys appropriated under s. 20.455 (5) (c), in the 2023-25 fiscal biennium the department of justice shall allocate \$6,400,000 to provide sexual assault victim services grants under s. 165.93 (2).

DOMESTIC ABUSE GRANTS. Of the moneys appropriated under s. 20.455 (5) (c), in the 2023-25 fiscal biennium the department of justice shall allocate \$2,400,000 to provide domestic abuse grants under s. 49.165.

CHILD ADVOCACY GRANTS. Of the moneys appropriated under s. 20.455 (5) (c), in the 2023-25 fiscal biennium the department of justice shall allocate \$1,200,000 to provide child advocacy grants under s. 165.96