

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) FACT SHEET

General VOCA Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for VOCA funds an organization must:

1. Be a **public or nonprofit** organization that provides direct services to crime victims. (For-profit organizations and individual practitioners are not eligible.)
2. Have a record of providing **effective direct services to crime victims** for a minimum of one year, have the support and approval of its services by the community, and have a history of providing services in a cost-effective manner. See 3 below.
3. Contribute a minimum **match** (cash or in-kind) of 20% of total project cost (this is equal to 25% of the federal funds awarded); Native American organizations have a 5% match requirement. Agencies that do not meet item 2. must demonstrate they have financial support from non-federal sources of at least 25%.
4. Use **volunteers**, unless OCVS determines there is a compelling reason to waive this requirement.
5. Promote a collaborative, **coordinated** approach for serving crime victims within the community served.
6. Assist crime victims in applying **for crime victim compensation** benefits.
7. Offer services to **victims of federal crimes** on the same basis as victims of state crimes.

Examples of eligible subgrant organizations: Law enforcement agencies, prosecutor offices, victim/witness assistance programs, rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, community mental health or social service agencies, child abuse treatment facilities, county social service agencies, courts, probation and parole authorities, hospitals, public housing authorities and religious-affiliated organizations. (Note: inpatient treatment facilities are not eligible.)

Examples of direct victim services: responding to the immediate emotional and physical needs (excluding medical care) of crime victims such as crisis intervention; accompaniment to hospitals for medical examinations; hotline counseling; emergency services that are intended to restore the victim's sense of security; mental health assistance such as counseling, group treatment and therapy; and assisting victims participating in criminal justice proceedings.

Examples of allowable costs: salaries and fringe benefits of positions that provide direct victim services; operating expenses which are necessary and essential to direct victim services (e.g. pro-rated costs of supplies, rent, copying, postage, printing, brochures, travel, equipment, telephone, pagers); emergency transportation; skills training for agency service providers. Indirect costs are not allowable.

Examples of unallowable services, activities and costs: crime prevention activities; lobbying and administrative advocacy for legislation or reform; fundraising activities; perpetrator rehabilitation or counseling, services to incarcerated individuals; needs assessments, surveys, evaluations, studies or research; activities directed at prosecuting offenders; activities directed at improving the effectiveness of the criminal justice system; indirect organizational costs (e.g. liability insurance, capital improvements, security guards, mortgage payments, etc.); reimbursing victims for incurred expenses or to supplement crime victim compensation awards; nursing home, in-patient or hospital care costs; relocation expenses; development of protocols, interagency agreements and other working agreements that benefit victims, in general, throughout the community; costs of sending individual victims to conferences; development of training manuals and/or extensive training materials.

For additional information, contact:

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