
VOCA/ARPA WEBINAR SERIES FAQ

General VOCA Questions

Is Wisconsin's VOCA funding still predicted to decrease during the next competitive grant cycle?

Yes. While OCVS does not have concrete answers at this time our early projections indicate that our next competitive grant cycle will be for around \$18 million. As a reminder, OCVS was able to award approximately \$44.5 million in the 2019 competitive.

What are allowable budget modifications moving forward?

In order to address reductions in OCVS federal VOCA award OCVS is limiting modification to \$6,000 or less per budget category per modification. This would not apply to updating personnel and benefits due to turnover. At this time it does not matter if the funds are tied to VOCA or ARPA.

What is the Excessive Turnback Policy

It is OCVS's new policy to help redistribute funds across the state in the event of excessive and continual turnback from a subrecipient. For additional information, please reference the policy posted on our website.

Is an active SAM.gov registration still required?

No; however, in order to be eligible for funding you must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) that is obtained through SAM.gov.

Will there be additional training about VOCA OVC PMT?

Yes. OCVS is currently working on a webinar series that is scheduled for summer 2023.

What are current travel rates?

Please contact your grants specialist to get the most updated information.

General ARPA Questions

What exactly is ARPA?

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is federal funding that supplies \$350 billion in added support for state and local governments. The funding is provided through the U.S. Treasury, referred to in the Function as “Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (“CSLFRF”), and is included in Subtitle M, section 9901 of the Act. Apr 2, 2021.

If there is ARPA underspending, can funds be moved to new categories?

Yes. Please follow VOCA modification guidelines when requesting budget changes.

Is ARPA funding competitive.

No. The 2022-2023 grant year and the 2023-2024 grant year are continuations.

Will ARPA funds continue after 2024?

No. ARPA funding ends December 31, 2024.

Is ARPA funding a separate application, or is it part of the continuation application?

The ARPA/VOCA funds are in the same funding announcement under the 2022-2023 VOCA/ARPA Continuation Grant Application found in Egrants. This will remain true for the 2023-2024 VOCA/ARPA Continuation Grant.

What services are unallowable with ARPA funds?

ARPA funds are held to the same guidelines as VOCA funds. See the Wisconsin State VOCA Guidelines at: <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/sites/default/files/ocvs/not-victim/WI-voca-program-guidelines-final-Jan-2022.pdf>

Does receiving these VOCA/ARPA funds make us ineligible to apply for other ARPA funds?

No, you may still apply for other ARPA funding administered outside of Wisconsin DOJ, Office of Crime Victim Services.

Can I charge Indirect Cost Rate (ICR) on the ARPA portion?

Yes, you can include an ARPA ICR and a VOCA ICR into the budget. Both funding sources need to be backed up by separate supporting documentation.

Are we going to be able to do modifications in ARPA?

Yes, budget modifications for ARPA funds are allowable.

ARPA Reporting Questions

Are ARPA and VOCA funds going to be split for fiscal reports or will they all be reported as the same as the VOCA was in the past?

ARPA and VOCA funds will be reported in one fiscal report. The grant budget is set up to delineate funds by starting line items funded by ARPA with “ARPA:”.

How do I report ARPA in the Office for Victims of Crime Performance Measurement Tool, or the (OVC PMT)?

At this time, Only VOCA data will go into the OVC PMT Report.

What is the Subrecipient Spending Report?

The Subrecipient Spending Report is not something that agencies will have to fill out. It is provided by OCVS after each quarter and will detail ARPA spending as reported in Egrants. It is being provided as a tool to better track ARPA spending over the course of the grant.

ARPA Documentation Questions

Does ARPA have to be tracked separately?

Yes. VOCA and ARPA funds must be tracked separately by either spreadsheets, financial codes, or other methods. Keep all documentation for each funding source (VOCA & ARPA) such as receipts, vouchers, payroll, and other items separate. Do not commingle funds. These are separate funding sources. Track and treat each as you do other separate funding sources. The only difference is that VOCA and ARPA are in the same funding announcement in Egrants, and reimbursement is entered into the same Fiscal Report in Egrants.

What if I receive ARPA funds from somewhere other than OCVS?

If you receive additional ARPA funds administered outside of OCVS, be sure that VOCA/ARPA and other ARPA funds are tracked separately.

When audited by VOCA will they audit ARPA funds too?

Yes, it is possible that both VOCA and ARPA funds will be audited. Please document all ARPA spending separately.