



National Alliance to  
End Sexual Violence



NEDV  
NATIONAL NETWORK  
TO END DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE

# Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Appropriations: Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Funds

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## Fiscal Year 2024, 2025, and 2026 Appropriations

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- ★ Subcommittee: Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS)
- ★ Agency: U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Victims of Crime (OVC)
- ★ FY24 Appropriation: \$1.353 billion
- ★ FY25 Appropriation: \$1.9 billion
- ★ **FY26 Request:**
  - \$1.9 billion in steady funding from the Crime Victims Fund (CVF). If the CVF cannot sustain the same level of funding as FY25, Congress must find other ways to maintain steady funding for this vital program.
  - Fund tribal services
  - No additional transfers
  - Co-sponsor and Pass H.R. 909/S. 1892, the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act

## Addressing Survivors' Needs

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**Rape crisis centers and domestic violence programs rely on VOCA funds to provide direct services like crisis intervention, shelter, housing, counseling, and court accompaniment to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.** Over 6,000 projects, including almost all rape crisis centers and domestic violence programs, rely on VOCA assistance grants to provide critical direct services for over six million victims a year.

**A 2024 National Alliance to End Sexual Violence (NAESV) survey of rape crisis centers** revealed that 20% of centers had a waiting list for therapy; 43% experienced a decrease in staffing; and 58% of programs saw an increase in demand for services.

### **Biggest unmet needs according to the NAESV survey:**

- ★ Shelter and Housing
- ★ Transportation
- ★ Basic Needs such as clothing and food
- ★ Emergency Medical Services

**NNEDV's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report** found that, during one day in 2024, 79,088 victims of domestic violence received services; however, on that same day, 14,095 requests for services went unmet due to a lack of resources.

**VOCA makes a difference!**

### **NAESV Rape Crisis Survey<sup>1</sup> and NNEDV DV Counts Report<sup>2</sup>**

Here is what rape crisis centers and domestic violence service providers are saying about VOCA:

***“We have essentially lost \$540,000 in the last two years due to VOCA cuts. We have cut back on all training and also cut two overall agency positions.” – Kansas Rape Crisis Center (NAESV Survey)***

***“The decrease in VOCA funds to our state has created significant hardship. If this continues, our organization will have to keep reducing positions and programming with no end in sight. Survivors are navigating some very high-risk situations. Without the assistance of our advocates, the domestic violence homicide statistics in Maine will skyrocket.” – Maine Advocate (NNEDV Report)***

***“We lost two employees, our counseling, and our housing program. We no longer have any housing or mental health dollars internally and have to fully rely on community partners, who are also struggling with funding.” – Oklahoma Rape Crisis Center (NAESV Survey)***

***“VOCA funding continues to decrease drastically. We are continuing to catch up with decreased federal funding while needing to meet an increased need for our services. We have experienced a 35% increase of clients over the past three years.” – Wyoming Advocate (NNEDV Report)***

***“[VOCA funding cuts have meant] we lost the ability to serve survivors in rural areas. However, our number of clients has increased as some surrounding centers have closed.” – Alabama Rape Crisis Center (NAESV Survey)***

***“Ongoing VOCA and other federal funding cuts have made it difficult to serve all survivors in need. We are often left to make heartbreaking decisions about whom we can assist. Survivors deserve access to shelter, reasonably priced housing, and other trauma-informed services. With more funding, we could help more survivors.” – Ohio Advocate (NNEDV Report)***

***“The costs of operating the organization have increased, and when funding stays the same or decreases, we face the prospect of scaling back services. For standalone rape crisis centers, VOCA funds often help to cover the essential services that our organizations have been providing for decades, and it is***

***challenging to secure local funding for these programs.” – Texas Rape Crisis Center (NAESV Survey)***

Distributing steady funding to states and territories from the VOCA fund in FY26 will allow rape crisis centers and domestic violence programs to continue providing essential services to survivors.

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## **Background**

The Crime Victims Fund (CVF) was created by Congress in 1984 to provide grants to state, territorial, and local programs that assist victims of crime. The CVF has been generated entirely by fines and penalties from federal prosecutions and non-prosecution and deferred prosecution agreements, not taxpayer revenues, and is the most essential and flexible source of funding for crime victim services across the nation.

From FY10 through FY14, the CVF collected an average of \$2 billion each year but disbursed only an average of \$700 million per year. Congress raised the cap (the amount released each year) significantly in FY16 and the next two years at the request of advocates, and programs were able to invest in new staff and expanded services.

Tragically, these investments could not be sustained because deposits into the CVF have dipped to historically low levels. As a result of this trend, states and territories are experiencing enormous cuts to their awards.

**The VOCA Fix Act is working.** To address dwindling reserves in the CVF and cuts to VOCA funds, Congress passed the VOCA Fix Act in 2021, directing deposits from deferred prosecutions and non-prosecution agreements to the CVF. Over \$1 billion has been deposited into the CVF from the VOCA Fix Act so far. In fact, without the passage of this legislation, the CVF would not have been able to sustain the FY25 release of VOCA funds.

**While the VOCA Fix Act has been working, it has not been sufficient to completely replenish the CVF.**

**States and territories need a steady stream of funding that can be relied on consistently.** Cuts and large fluctuations in the cap do not benefit survivors or victim services providers.

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## **The Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act (H.R. 909)**

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### **We Urge Congress to:**

- ★ Co-sponsor and pass H.R. 909, the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) Stabilization Act
- ★ Introduce and pass a Senate companion bill

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## The CVF is in Drastic Decline

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The CVF was created by Congress in 1984 to provide Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants to state, territorial, and local programs that assist victims of crime. CVF funding is non-taxpayer money generated by fines and penalties from federal prosecutions and non-prosecution and deferred prosecution agreements. VOCA uses funds from the CVF to support services to over six million victims of all types of crimes annually through almost 6,500 direct service organizations, such as domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, and child abuse treatment programs.

Deposits to the CVF began shrinking considerably in the past few years and, as a result, Congress has had to reduce VOCA grants to states and territories. Local VOCA-funded programs have been experiencing massive cuts in victim services funding. **From FY23 to FY24, funds were reduced by around \$600 million, causing an average 40% cut to state and territorial victim assistance grants**, compounding cuts from FY22 and FY21. A 40% cut in FY24 forced victim service programs to reduce or eliminate services, lay off staff, and, in some cases, close their doors. In FY25, funds were restored to FY23 levels. The needs, however, have increased.

**States and territories need a steady stream of funding that can be relied on consistently.** Cuts jeopardize survivors' safety.

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## The Solution: The Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act

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Introduced by in the Senate by Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and in the House by Representatives Ann Wagner (R-MO), Derek Schmidt (R-KS), Debbie Dingell (D-MI), Stephanie Bice (R-OK), Jim Costa (D-CA), and Nathaniel Moran (R-TX), the **Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act directly addresses this problem by directing excess funds collected through the False Claims Act (FCA) into the CVF through FY29.**

- ★ The FCA authorizes the federal government to hold entities that knowingly defraud government agencies liable for up to three times the monetary damages. Over the past two fiscal years, settlements and judgements under the FCA have totaled nearly \$5 billion.
- ★ The FCA requires that a portion of the damages collected is first repaid to the defrauded government agency and relevant whistleblowers. The leftover funds remain unobligated. **The Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act would only redirect these leftover, unobligated funds to the CVF, ensuring that payments to whistleblowers and defrauded government agencies will not be affected.**
- ★ This temporary infusion of resources will help stabilize the CVF, while retaining the Fund's original intent of being financed by legal fines and fees, not taxpayer dollars. More importantly, this legislation will give victim assistance programs the

support necessary to keep their doors open and help address the recent catastrophic cuts to VOCA funding.

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## Contact Us

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If you have additional questions, please contact Terri Poore, NAESV Policy Director, at [Terri@EndSexualViolence.org](mailto:Terri@EndSexualViolence.org), or Melina Milazzo, Director of Public Policy, at [MMilazzo@NNEDV.org](mailto:MMilazzo@NNEDV.org).

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<sup>1</sup> [https://endsexualviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/infographic\\_white\\_FINAL\\_brother1816.pdf](https://endsexualviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/infographic_white_FINAL_brother1816.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> National Network to End Domestic Violence. 2025. 19th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report. Washington, DC. Retrieved from: [www.NNEDV.org/DVCounts](http://www.NNEDV.org/DVCounts).