

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Crime Victim Fund (CVF)



National Alliance to
End Sexual Violence

FY25: \$1.9 billion released
FY26: \$1.95 billion
FY27 President's Budget: \$1.9 billion
FY27 Requests:

- Provide steady funding for the VOCA Crime Victims Fund (CVF) at **\$2 billion**. If the CVF cannot sustain this level of funding, Congress must find other mechanisms to maintain steady funding for this vital program without cutting other victims services programs.
- Fund tribal services
- No additional transfers

VOCA BACKGROUND

The Crime Victims Fund (CVF) was created by Congress in 1984 to provide grants to state and local programs that assist victims of crime. The CVF is derived entirely from fines and penalties paid by federal criminal offenders and is the most essential and flexible source of funding for crime victim services across the nation.

Deposits into the CVF had dipped to historically low levels creating a huge funding crisis for victim services. States have experienced enormous cuts to their awards in recent years.

Rape crisis centers (RCCs) rely on VOCA funds to provide direct services like crisis intervention, counseling, and court accompaniment to victims of sexual assault.

Over 4,000 agencies, including over 1,000 rape crisis centers, rely on VOCA assistance grants to provide critical direct services for over 3.4 million victims a year.

If an RCC only has the capacity to have one advocate on a 12-hour shift and the traveling SANE program has 2 nurses on shift and we have 2 to 3 cases back-to-back, ultimately one of those cases will go without an advocate based on the time needed to complete the 1st or 2nd case. Without a backup advocate to fill this void, cases can be missed, and survivors are without an advocate at the hospital. This is due to decreased staffing due to decrease in funding.

–Texas RCC

DEMAND IS HIGH FOR VICTIM SERVICES

According to a 2025 NAESV survey of Rape Crisis Centers:

- **60%** of programs report an **increased demand for services**.
- **Nearly 1/3** of programs reporting staff reductions had to **lay staff off** as a result of funding cuts.
- **Nearly 1/3** of programs report a **waiting list for mental health** counseling/therapy services.
- **Nearly half** of RCCs report having **no mental health counseling** or therapy providers on staff to support survivors of sexual assault.

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 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. While the VOCA Fix Act, passed in 2021, has provided a significant amount of additional funding, more must be done.

While we have the capacity to provide support for crisis response, medical support, basic needs, emergency shelter, and case management, current state- and federal-level cuts are making it increasingly difficult to do so effectively.

–Rhode Island RCC

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OTHER IMPORTANT VOCA ACTIONS

THE CRIME VICTIMS FUND STABILIZATION ACT (CVFSA):

In order to stabilize the balance of the CVF and prevent further cuts to VOCA grants, NAESV and many victims services organizations are supporting the bipartisan CVFSA (H.R. 909 / S.1892).

This legislation adds excess funds from the False Claims Act to the Crime Victims Fund for five years. H.R. 909 passed the House on January 12th, 2026 by unanimous consent, and we are now urging the Senate to take up and pass the bill.

FUNDING TRIBES:

NAESV fully supports funding tribal victim services from the CVF to meet the desperate needs of victims on tribal lands.

WAIVING MATCH:

Many programs, especially those in rural areas, cannot apply for all the funds they need because of the match requirement. Sufficient local funding is simply not available in many communities. While some states have a streamlined process for match waivers, others do not.

We recently lost VOCA funding to our shelter program, which supported housing to sexual assault victims. We are still operating but don't know how long we will be able to without VOCA.

-Arkansas RCC

Due to lack of funding we have had to close our offices in one of our counties and rely on limited staff in another county to cover both. This lack of funding has made serving 7000 square miles very difficult. We are no longer able to offer in person support groups in that county causing survivors to travel for services.

-Nevada RCC

Despite efforts to find alternatives, no accessible support groups exist within our rural region, leaving many survivors without the peer support they need. This gap highlights a significant unmet need in our community.

-Louisiana RCC

Distributing steady funding to states in FY27 will allow rape crisis centers to continue providing essential services to victims.

VOCA MAKES A DIFFERENCE

HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?
Contact Terri Poore, Policy Director
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