

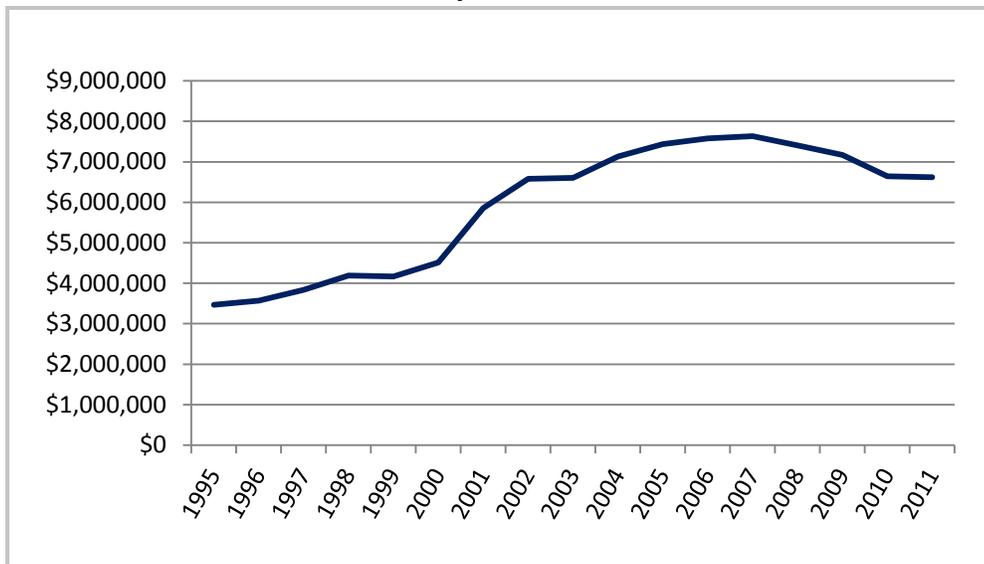
# RASA FUNDING STREAM

## Rights and Services Act

### History

The Rights and Services Act (RASA) Program was established in 1984 through an amendment to the Crime Victim's Act. RASA funding has been allocated to the counties since 1986. The money to support the RASA program comes from a \$25 penalty assessment imposed against certain offenders.

**Adult Penalty Assessment for the Victims' Services Program**



Act 86-1984 – Established \$5  
Act 35-1991 – Increase to \$15  
Act 86-2000 – Increase to \$25

### Programmatic Overview

- Prior to May 2011, RASA funding was only used to fund victim service staff who provide services to victims of adult offenders. This restriction to only serve victims of adult offenders was lifted in May 2011 due to Victims of Juvenile Offender (VOJO) funding being eliminated from the state budget for fiscal year 2011/12. This allowed RASA funded staff to be able to provide services to victims of both adult and juvenile offenders in order to assist VOJO staff who experienced a reduction in funding. The 2012/13 state fiscal year budget contained \$1.3M in VOJO funding.
- All 67 counties receive RASA funding where it is used primarily to support the salaries and benefits of individuals providing victims of adult and juvenile offenders with victim rights notification and procedural services such as early outreach, courtroom orientation and accompaniment, assistance with compensation claims, case status information and assistance with victim impact statements.
- RASA services are provided at no cost to the victim.
- RASA funded approximately 149.5 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff in 2011-2012
- RASA funding is provided on a two-year grant cycle and no match is required.

*Programmatic Overview Continued:*

- Individual county allocations are based on a formula that takes into consideration the county's population (25%), target crimes (25%) and penalty assessment collections (50%).
- Counties have the discretion to choose the structure of the delivery of RASA services. As a result, RASA funding is awarded to a mixture of 57 system-based victim/witness programs in district attorney's offices and 31 community-based, non-profit victim service programs.
- County Local Policy Boards are used to recommend the amount of funding allocated to programs providing RASA services.
- On average, RASA funded programs annually provide assistance to over 155,000 victims and witnesses of adult offenders in Pennsylvania.
- RASA funded programs complete quarterly fiscal reports and annual program reports.
- All RASA funded programs are monitored once every four years for programmatic and fiscal compliance and must comply with PCCD's Comprehensive Victim Service Program Standards, which includes mandatory training.
- By VSAC policy, RASA funds to support statewide initiatives may not exceed 4.5% of the available amount for each calendar year. (Examples: Address Confidentiality Program (ACP), the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) System, etc.).
- In July of 2011, \$1M was transferred from the Crime Victims Compensation Fund into RASA. This amount is not reflected in the Collection column in the chart below.

**Distribution of Funding from 2006 to 2011**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Collected</b>	<b>Agency Costs</b>	<b>VOJO Shortfall</b>	<b>Special Projects</b>	<b>Training and Administrative Support</b>	<b>Available for Grants</b>
<b>2006</b>	\$7,580,215	\$770,129	\$88,849	\$50,000	\$637,460	\$6,447,701
<b>2007</b>	\$7,634,804	\$748,580	\$41,159	\$305,907	\$624,110	\$6,871,638
<b>2008</b>	\$7,403,588	\$785,403	\$68,882	\$59,532	\$583,264	\$6,871,638
<b>2009</b>	\$7,166,789	\$668,420	\$108,911	\$215,775	\$508,712	\$6,973,189
<b>2010</b>	\$6,644,326	\$637,869	\$332,974	\$227,701	\$242,166	\$6,973,189
<b>2011</b>	\$6,616,401	\$551,009	\$62,974	\$57,261	\$298,854	\$6,973,189