

# VOCA FUNDING STREAM

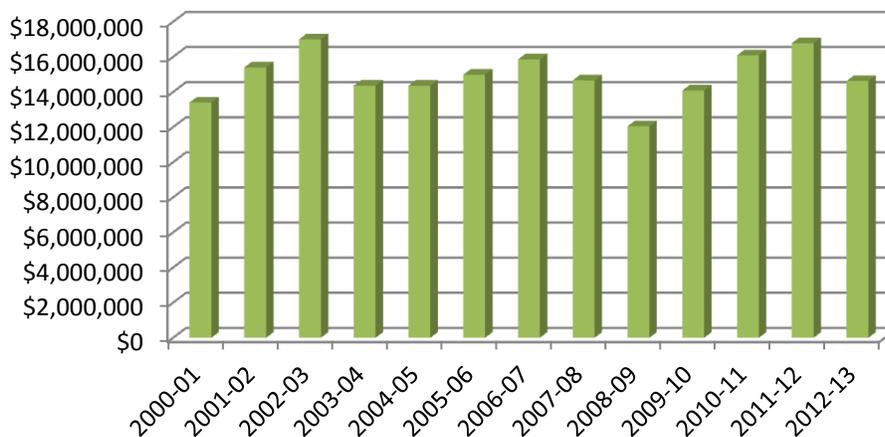
## Victims of Crime Act Assistance Grants

### History

The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Program through the federal Office for Victims of Crime was established by the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 as amended. Its purpose is to assist victims of crime to cope with the physical, emotional and criminal justice issues associated with crime. Pennsylvania has participated in the VOCA Program since 1986.

### Historical Funding Overview

#### VOCA



\*Does not include ARRA

### Problem Statement

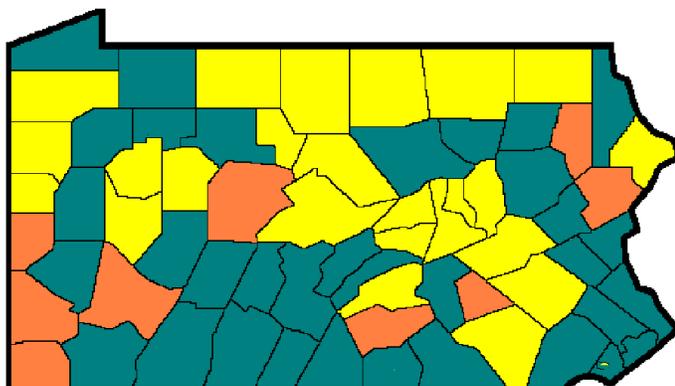
- The VSAC/Commission policy decision restricts VOCA assistance grants to programs providing “direct services” to victims of crime because Pennsylvania has a state funding stream (i.e. Rights and Services Act (RSA) to support the provision of procedural services to victims of crime.
- Direct services meet the physical and emotional needs of crime victims and helps them stabilize their lives in the aftermath of trauma (ex: crisis intervention, shelter, long and short-term counseling, and other emergency services that are intended to restore the victim’s sense of security.)
- Federal guidelines mandate that VOCA supported services must be free of charge; for this reason, programs are prohibited from charging a fee for VOCA-funded services.
- Only a limited amount of VOCA funding can be used for administrative purposes (i.e. supervision of staff, utilities, fiscal oversight)
- Since 2000, Congress has placed a limit or “cap” on the amount of money that can be released from the federal Crime Victims Fund on an annual basis.
- As of December 2010, the federal Crime Victims Fund contained an estimated \$8B. The current cap for FY 2012 is \$705M.

- At its December 2010 meeting, the Commission overturned a moratorium on funding new victim service programs with VOCA, which was in place since 2002. The lifting of the moratorium heightens competition for limited VOCA funds.
- The recession has negatively impacted victim service programs through multiple, consecutive funding cuts at the federal, state and private philanthropic levels, making it difficult to maintain core services and retain staff.
- In the FY 2012 budget, the Department of Justice made substantial changes to their administration of VOCA funding. They began deducting their management and operating fees out of the VOCA fund which equated to 12.8% less money for states to fund their 2012/13 VOCA programs. However, Pennsylvania's VOCA funded projects fared slightly better. Using remaining funds from previous federal VOCA allocations, year two (2012/13) of each county's VOCA allocation was reduced by 9%.
- In addition to grants to counties, VOCA is utilized to support Agency salaries and operating costs, the Direct Victim Services Unit (\$430K per year) and administrative support including training initiatives.

Year	Agency Costs	Training Initiatives and Administrative Support	Grant Expenditures
2007	\$642,868	\$0	\$14,020,572
2008	\$916,167	\$100,359	\$11,031,474
2009	\$1,063,933	\$140,882	\$12,838,991
2010	\$1,290,963	\$160,862	\$14,445,158
2011	\$1,332,494	\$34,725	\$15,314,712

### Programmatic Overview

- All 67 counties receive VOCA funding where it is used to provide direct services to victims of crime.
- VOCA funding is provided on a two-year grant cycle.
- In March 2012, Pennsylvania's state allocations towards domestic violence and sexual assault services was approved to be used as a state match instead of requiring projects to provide the required 20% match on an individual basis.
- 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%).
- Most VOCA funding goes to non-profit, community-based victim service programs; however, there are several system-based victim service programs in district attorney's offices that receive VOCA funding to provide direct services to other types of crime victims.
- On average, VOCA funded programs annually provide assistance to over 120,000 victims of crime in Pennsylvania.
- County Local Policy Boards are used to recommend the amount of funding allocated to programs providing VOCA services.
- All VOCA funded programs are monitored once every four years for programmatic and fiscal compliance and must comply with Comprehensive Victim Service Program Standards, which includes mandatory training.



Teal – Comprehensive Community Based Services  
 Yellow – Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Services  
 Orange – Comprehensive Services by DA's Offices