

Questions and Answers: VOCA Funding Committee (VFC) WebEx - December 2014

1. **Q:** Where can a recording of this Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Funding Committee WebEx be found?

A: The recording can be found on PCCD's website at:

<http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/VOCA-Funding-Committee.aspx>

2. **Q:** Where can the VFC forms be found?

A: The following forms can be found on PCCD's website at:

<http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/VOCA-Funding-Committee.aspx>

[VOCA Funding Committee Guidelines](#)

[VOCA Funding Committee Orientation Forms](#)

[VOCA Funding Committee Training Certification Form](#)

[Request for Reconsideration of VOCA Funding Committee Action Form](#)

3. **Q:** Will the PowerPoint from the WebEx be made available?

A: Yes. The VOCA Funding Committee PowerPoint was emailed to all WebEx participants and is also available on PCCD's website at:

<http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/VOCA%20Funding%20Committee%20Training.pdf>

4. **Q:** Who is eligible to be a VFC Chairperson?

A: The chair of the VFC is left to the discretion of the members. The chairperson cannot be employed by or represent the interests of a VOCA-funded agency, even if the chairperson abstains from voting. In other words, the chair cannot be a recipient of the VOCA funds..

5. **Q:** Does PCCD have a template for a conflict of interest policy?

A: PCCD does not have such a template to provide because of each county's unique structure.

6. **Q:** What are the minimum service requirements for potential new VOCA applicants?

A: New VOCA applicants must have at least two years experience providing services to victims of crime as the principle mission of the organization.

7. Q: Will training certificates be provided by PCCD upon completion of the VFC WebEx?

A: Training certificates will not be provided by PCCD. Each VFC chairperson is responsible for certifying that she or he has completed the training, as well as at least 50% of the VFC members. The VFC chairperson is responsible for completing and submitting the VFC Training Certification Form that is available on PCCD's website at:

<http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/VOCA-Funding-Committee.aspx>

This training certification form, along with the VFC policies and procedures, must be provided to PCCD initially this year as part of the reorganization of the LPB into the new VFC and subsequently when a change occurs to any of the VFC's policies and procedures. Once the training requirement has been met for 2015 each chair is asked to submit a signed copy of the form along with the VFC's approved policies and procedures to the following PCCD email account: RA-OVS-FundingInfo@pa.gov.

8. Q: Will VOCA grants continue on the same 2-year timeline that begins July 1 and ends Jun30?

A: Yes, grants will continue to run from July 1-June 30. A decision has not yet been made as to the length of the upcoming VOCA grant cycle.

9. Q: When does PCCD anticipate the release of the next VOCA Funding Announcement?

A: Additional details on the availability of VOCA funding in 2015-2016 will be provided in early February 2015.

10. Q: Do you anticipate that the increase in the amount of available federal VOCA funds will be a one-time event or on-going?

A: Unfortunately, that question still remains. We have not received any additional information from the federal government as to whether this increase in VOCA funding will be a one-time "windfall" or a "new normal."

11. Q: Is there a match required in order to receive VOCA funds?

A: Currently, no match is required.

12. Q: Can you provide more information regarding the concept of duplication of services?

A: It is important to consider the needs of victims, the services being provided and which agencies are providing these services. The VFC should consider these factors when evaluating possible duplication of services during the review of applications.

13. Q: Are VOCA funds available to District Attorney offices' that receive state Rights and Services Act (RASA) funding?

A: Yes, but VOCA funds cannot be used for procedural services, VOCA funding can only be used for direct services. Direct services and their definitions are those outlined in the federal VOCA regulations which can be found on the PCCD website at:

<http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/VOCA%20Service%20Definitions.pdf>

14. Q: Will the VFC receive an official notice from PCCD announcing the availability of VOCA funding?

A: PCCD's Office of Victims' Services (OVS) will inform VFC chairpersons about the availability of VOCA funding in 2015-2016 in early February 2015.

15. Q: Is it a VFC decision as to whether the VOCA application process must be open to agencies that currently do not receive VOCA Funding?

A: No. The VOCA application process will be open to any eligible agency wishing to apply to the VFC. The VFC will follow its own application policies and procedures to determine if the new eligible agency should be recommended for VOCA funding.

16. Q: If the District Attorney and the Victim/Witness Coordinator are located in the same agency, will they have only one vote as part of the VFC?

A: Yes.

17. Q: If the District Attorney and the Victim/Witness Coordinator are located in the same agency and the Victim/Witness Coordinator receives VOCA funding, may the District Attorney serve as the VFC chairperson?

A: No. The new guidelines specify that the VFC Chair cannot be a recipient of VOCA funds. Since the victim/witness coordinator receives funding, the District Attorney is not eligible to serve as a VFC chairperson.

18. Q: Presenters during the VFC WebEx indicated that an increase or decrease of 5% or more would cause a Change-Triggered Review (CTR) by PCCD. Does this process apply to an increase or decrease to the county's overall VOCA allocation?

A: No. A Change-Triggered Review shall not occur if the increase or decrease is solely the result of a change in the county's allocation.