

Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Competitive Solicitation

NEW Eligible Activities/Services with Special Requirements

INFORMATIONAL SESSION FOR PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS

PART 3

Presenter

Office of Victims' Services:

Daisy Pagan

Agenda:

- Overview of New Eligible Activities/Services
- Special Requirements for NEW Activities and Services

Please Note: the following is not an exhaustive list of VOCA eligible activities and services. Please refer to Appendix “B” of the VOCA 2019-2021 Competitive Funding Solicitation for a more comprehensive list or submit questions regarding eligibility at

Ra-ovs-fundinginfo@pa.gov

Eligible Program Activities

Funds for the proposed program may be used for starting new projects, improving existing projects or expanding existing projects. **See Appendix “B”**

The federal VOCA guidelines classify eligible activities/costs into three categories: Direct service costs, activities supporting direct services and subrecipient administrative costs. The federal VOCA guidelines can be found in the Federal Register at:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/07/08/2016-16085/victims-of-crime-act-victim-assistance-program>.

Guidance for each type of activity/cost is listed below:

Direct Service Costs/Activities: See §94.119 of the federal VOCA guidelines.

Costs for activities supporting direct services: See §94.120 of the federal VOCA guidelines.

Subrecipient Administrative Costs: See §94.121 of the federal VOCA guidelines.

New expanded VOCA eligible services

Procedural Services

Procedural Services are now an eligible service under VOCA.

- If your proposed project includes procedural services, you must provide a certification form signed by the local District Attorney's Office and/or Chief Juvenile Probation Office (**APPENDIX "C"**).
- This form must describe each of the direct services that will be provided.

New expanded VOCA eligible services

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

Substance Abuse Treatment must be a collaboration between victim service programs and licensed drug and alcohol programs because of the interrelated nature of trauma and substance abuse.

- A signed Memorandum of Understanding between the victim service agency and the licensed drug and alcohol treatment program is required.

New expanded VOCA eligible services

SERVICES TO INCARCERATED VICTIMS

- The incarcerated person must be a victim.
- The services must address issues that directly arise from the victimization.
- The need for the services does not directly arise from the crime for which the individual was incarcerated.

SHORT-TERM 45 DAY IN HOME CARE/SUPERVISION

This service is available for children and adults who remain in their own homes when the offender/caregiver is removed.

SHORT-TERM 45 DAY PLACEMENT CARE

- Short-term, up to 45 day nursing home, adult foster care, or group home placement for adults for who there is no other safe, short-term residence available.

New expanded VOCA eligible services

EXPANDED LEGAL SERVICES

Generally, all other **reasonable** legal assistance services is permitted, where the need for the services arises as a **direct result** of a person's victimization.

Criminal defense and tort suits are **not allowable costs**.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Available to victims who cannot safely return to their previous housing due to the circumstances of their victimization.

Allowable expenses would include travel, first month deposit, rental assistance, utilities, support services such as childcare, and counseling.

New expanded VOCA eligible services

RELOCATION

- Available to preserve life, safety, and well being of victims including, but not limited to, domestic violence victims, children, victims of sexual assault, victims of stalking, and victims of trafficking.
- Expenses must be reasonable and may include moving expenses, security deposits, rental assistance, and utility start up.

TRANSPORTATION

- Transportation was allowable for a victim to attend criminal proceedings.
- Newly expanded to include transportation, to include participation in other public proceedings arising from the crime including juvenile justice hearings, civil commitment proceedings, and attendance at probation and parole hearings.

New expanded VOCA eligible services

PEER SUPPORT

- Peer support includes activities that provide opportunities for victims to meet other victims, share experiences, and provide self help, information, and emotional support.
- Allowable expenses could include trauma informed counselor to assist in facilitating meetings.

ALTERNATIVE THERAPY

Alternative, trauma informed therapy such as art therapy, yoga, or equestrian therapy.

New expanded VOCA eligible services

EMERGENCY MEDICAL/HEALTH CARE EXPENSES

Emergency costs of non-prescription and prescription medicines. Also includes durable medical equipment (wheelchairs, crutches, hearing aids, eyeglasses) when the state compensation program or the victim's health care funding source cannot provide for these expenses within 48 hours of the crime.

New expanded VOCA eligible activities supporting direct services

PROJECT EVALUATION

Project Evaluation – The use of award funds to conduct project evaluation within a project to assess the effectiveness of the funded activities is permitted.

Funds may be used to conduct pre-and post- testing of volunteers, project evaluation, or for victim satisfaction surveys. In conducting such testing, grantees may not collect, analyze, or disseminate any information that would disclose the identity of an individual. Project evaluations are intended only to generate internal improvements to a program or service and should not constitute “research”. To determine whether a project would intentionally or unintentionally constitute research, please consult the decision tree in the “Research and the protection of human subjects” through the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#), at:

<https://ojp.gov/funding/Apply/Resources/ResearchDecisionTree.pdf>

Applicants should attach documentation to support any project evaluations plans that they intend to implement.

New expanded VOCA eligible activities supporting direct services

COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES

Activities that facilitate the provision of direct services.

Examples include:

- a) crisis response teams
- b) multi-disciplinary teams

Funds may be used for a portion of the salaries and benefits of the **coordinators**.

MULTI-SYSTEM, INTERAGENCY, MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESPONSE TO CRIME VICTIMS

Activities that support a coordinated and comprehensive response to the crime victims by **direct service providers**.

EXPANDED PUBLIC OUTREACH

Public outreach designed to inform crime victims of specific rights and services, or to refer them to needed services, are allowable. This includes public service announcements, billboards and media placement at movie theaters, on cable TV, and radio. Web redesign to provide this outreach is also allowable.

EVIDENCE BASED PROGRAMMING

The term “evidence-based” is reserved for programs that have been tested in more than one scientifically rigorous study (such as randomized control trials) and have consistently been shown to work better than a placebo or no treatment/intervention. For more information about what constitutes an “evidence-based”, “research-based”, and a “promising approach” program.

- Applicants must attach documentation to support any evidence-based practices they are proposing to implement.

Q&A

For questions, please send email messages to

Ra-ovs-fundinginfo@pa.gov

Answers for all questions posted at:

<http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Funding/Pages/Funding-Announcement-QA.aspx>

PCCD RESOURCES

- PCCD Website- www.pccd.pa.gov
- OVS Newsletter-
- PA Crimes Victims Website and App
- VCAP Manual
- Training Opportunities
 - Victim Service Training Opportunities-
 - Federal Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)- OVC-Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC)
https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/TrainingMaterials/dspOnline_VATOnline.cfm
 - OVS Training-PCCD Website- <http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/Victim-Services--Rights,Services,-Technology-and-Training.aspx>
 - PCCD Sponsored Training through the Pennsylvania District Attorney's Institute (PDAI)-<http://www.pdaa.org/pdai-pa-savin/>
- Register for funding announcement notifications: <http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Funding/Pages/default.aspx>

Time and Effort Reporting- information and timesheet templates:

<http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Funding/Pages/The-PCCD-Funding-and-Grants-Process-Time-and-Effort-Reports.aspx#taer>

PCCD Egrants Info.-<http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Funding/Pages/Egrants-Home.aspx>

For questions about the Egrants system, **call the Help Desk at (717) 787-5887 or toll free within Pennsylvania at (800) 692-7292** and ask for the Egrants Help Desk.

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