

Budget Briefing Packet FY 2022 & 2023

RAPE CRISIS CENTERS LINE ITEM
GRF 055501

Recipient Spending Report
Services & Intake Data
Federal Funding Cuts

EMBRACE
your
VOICE

tell your story.

Before lawmakers created the Rape Crisis Centers Line Item (GRF 055501), survivors in **less than half** of Ohio's 88 counties had access to rape crisis services. General restrictions on federal grants historically made expansion difficult, and the line item's first distribution of just under \$1 million allowed growth to 51 counties.

In 2016, the line item increased to \$1.5 million, and services expanded to 74 counties. Growth stagnated until 2019, when the legislature increased the line item to over \$4 million.

Simultaneous to this increase, the federal government reduced Ohio victim services funding statewide by 25% and warned of a larger reduction in the coming year - which amounted to 40% for crime victims services statewide in Fall 2020. The 2020 cut impacted GRF 055501 recipients dramatically, each sustained cuts between 22% and 57%, with three recipients lost 100% of their VOCA funding.

Amid these drastic cuts, service expansion stalled. New programs were added, but others cut back on services or ceased plans to expand in response. Ultimately, the GRF 055501 increase saved many rape crisis programs from shutting their doors completely.

This report highlights: rape crisis program recipient services data, GRF 055501 expenditures in FY 2019 and 2020, and increased program fiscal needs in the aftermath of 2020 federal cuts and in preparation for additional cuts in 2021.



With further VOCA cuts looming (an estimated 17% for rape crisis centers), an increase to \$9 million per fiscal year is necessary to avoid **losing half** of the services currently provided to Ohio citizens.

Sexual Violence is the most under-reported crime in the United States, due to a culture of victim blaming compounded by societal norms around gender.

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Sexual Violence is a crime of power and control, not love, not sex. Sexual Violence traumatizes survivors, who are often groomed, making them feel ashamed and unable to articulate their victimization.

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Sexual Violence survivors often fear not being believed or accused of "asking for" this horrible act because of where they were, who they were with, or what they were wearing. These preconceived notions of sexual violence have rendered survivors invisible.

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For decades, despite data demonstrating Sexual Violence is the most frequent type of gender-based discrimination, government agencies and foundations have prioritized funding for domestic violence and human trafficking services. Non-intimate partner sexual violence and non-trafficking sexual violence is harder for funders to examine, to rationalize, to explain. It is simply easier to see and acknowledge a survivor physically or financially trapped by their offender.

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OAESV and our members know that if conversations about sexual violence continue to be sidelined, if we fail to recognize its pervasiveness, if we silence survivors because they do not fit a cookie-cutter narrative and we cannot see their wounds, we will NEVER eradicate sexual violence.

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Our nation's inability to treat survivors of Sexual Violence with the same dignity, respect, and love that we offer survivors of trafficking and domestic violence is a failure. Our nation's inability to fund Sexual Violence response and prevention programs is a failure.

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We call on Ohio lawmakers to continue prioritizing funding for Sexual Violence survivors, to increase the resources necessary to demystify non-intimate partner sexual violence, and support survivors in their journey of healing and justice.

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1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men are sexually assaulted or abused before the age of 18. Be the reason Ohio survivors have the life-saving support they need.

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Recipients & Services Unique to RCCs

Codified at Ohio Revised Code Section 109.921, the Rape Crisis Trust Fund (GRF 055501) can be distributed to applying Rape Crisis Programs that meet the following criteria:

Recipient Categories:

"Rape crisis program" means any of the following:

- (a) The nonprofit state sexual assault coalition designated by the center for injury prevention and control of the federal centers for disease control and prevention;
- (b) A victim witness assistance program operated by a prosecuting attorney;
- (c) A program operated by a government-based or nonprofit entity that provides a full continuum of services to victims of sexual assault, including hotlines, victim advocacy, and support services from the onset of the need for services through the completion of healing, that does not provide medical services, and that may refer victims to physicians for medical care but does not engage in or refer for services for which the use of genetic services funds is prohibited by section 3701.511 of the Revised Code.

Spending Regulations:

A rape crisis program that receives funding out of the rape crisis program trust fund shall use the money received only for the following purposes:

- (1) If the program is the nonprofit state sexual assault coalition, to provide training and technical assistance to service providers;
- (2) If the program is a victim witness assistance program, to provide victims of sexual assault with hotlines, victim advocacy, or support services;
- (3) If the program is a government-based or nonprofit entity that provides a full continuum of services to victims of sexual assault, to provide those services and education to prevent sexual assault.

Core Operating Standards for Ohio Rape Crisis Programs:

Per Section 109.921 the Office of the Attorney General establishes rules and conditions for recipients, resulting in the **Core Standards for Ohio Rape Crisis Programs**, first promulgated in 2013 and updated in 2016.

Pursuant to these operating standards, GRF 055501 recipients provide the following:

Mandatory Services:

24-hour Crisis Hotline for Sexual Violence
Survivors
Hospital Accompaniment/Advocacy
Legal Advocacy
Community Awareness/Outreach
Crisis Intervention Information
Referral Systems, Coordination/Collaboration

Ancillary Services:

Prevention Education
Support Groups
Counseling/Therapy

Service Administration Standards:

Accessibility - Cultural Competency - Ethics & Accountability - Evaluation - Staff/Volunteer Training

Recipients



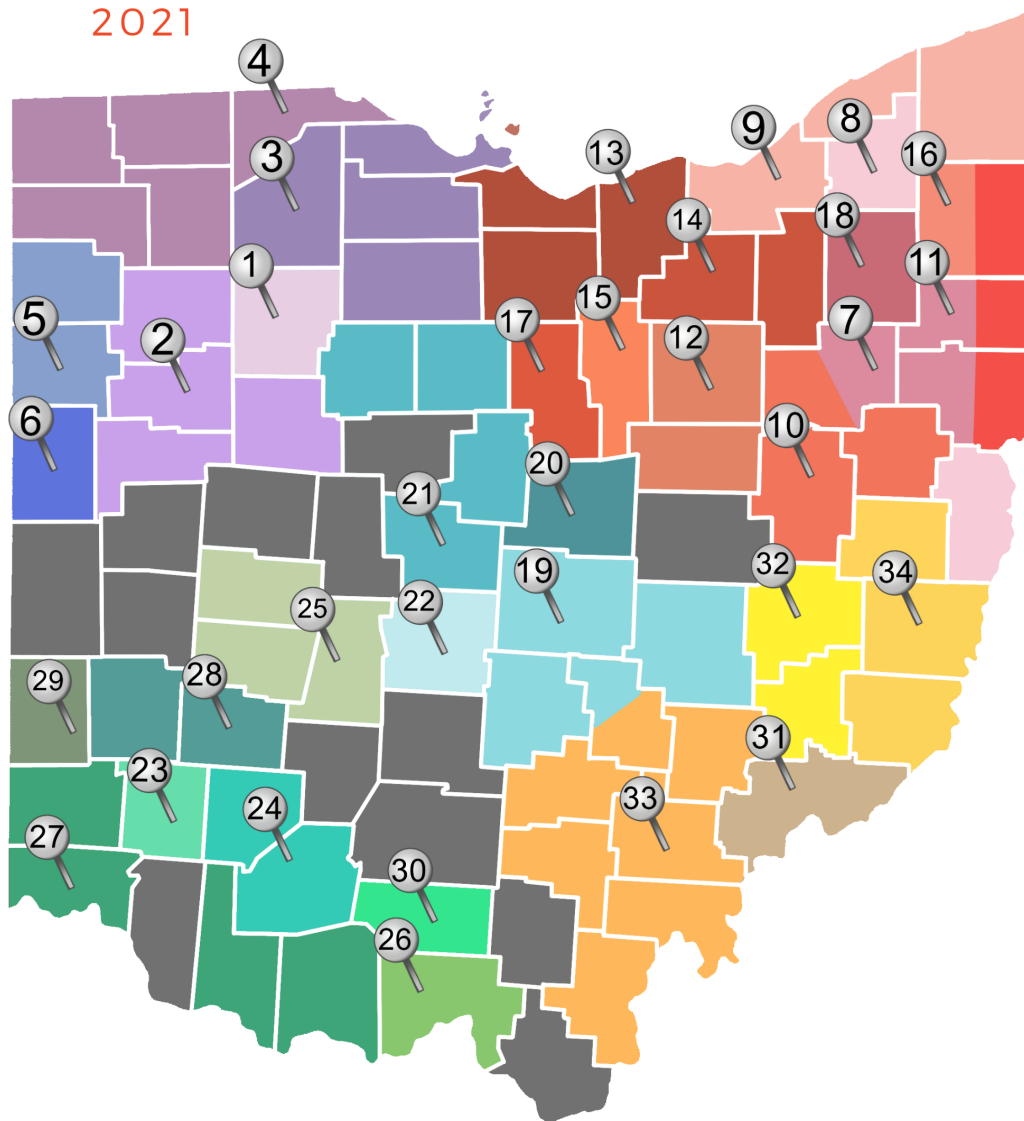
34 Rape Crisis Programs and the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence currently cover rape crisis services in Ohio's 88 counties - with less federal funding than other gender-based crime providers.

These programs serve survivors of all types of sexual violence, including those sexually assaulted intersecting with domestic/intimate partner violence, family-member sexual abuse, human trafficking, acquaintance/peer sexual violence, workplace/education sexual violence, immigration, disability access, and all forms of oppression.

Though our programs receive less federal funding than domestic/intimate partner violence or human trafficking programs, sexual violence more broadly impacts Ohio's population - 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men are sexually assaulted before they reach the age of 18. As our programs expand to new counties, the number of survivors reaching out continues to increase. We know that service numbers directly correlate to availability - unless Ohio lawmakers recognize sexual violence for the public health crisis it is and provide resources proportionate to need, sexual violence survivors will continue to suffer lack of services compared to other gender-based crime victims.

Rape Crisis Programs by Coverage Area

2021



NORTHWEST REGION

1. Open Arms Domestic Violence & Rape Crisis Services
2. Day One Crime Victim Services
3. The Cocoon
4. YWCA Rape Crisis Center of Northwest Ohio
5. YWCA Rape Crisis Center of Van Wert County
6. Family Crisis Network of Our Home

NORTHEAST REGION

7. Alliance Rape Crisis Program
8. ALIVE Sexual Assault Services
9. Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
10. COMPASS (Sexual Assault Education, Prevention & Support)
11. Rape Crisis Counseling Center of Compass Family & Community Service
12. OneEighty
13. The Nord Center's Sexual Assault Services
14. Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties
15. Rape Crisis and Domestic Violence Safe Haven
16. Rape Crisis Team of Trumbull County, Inc.
17. The Sexual Assault Program of The Domestic Violence Shelter, Inc.
18. Townhall II

SOUTHWEST REGION

23. Abuse & Rape Crisis Shelter (ARCS)
24. Alternatives to Violence Center
25. Project Woman
26. Southern Ohio Sexual Assault Treatment Center
27. Women Helping Women
28. YWCA Dayton Sexual Assault Program
29. Family Violence Prevention Center
30. Partnership Advocacy Center

CENTRAL REGION

19. Family Health Services of East Central Ohio
20. New Directions
21. Sexual Assault & Victim Services at HelpLine
22. Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio (SARNCO)

Rape crisis programs are identified in Ohio as providing a full continuum of services, including hotlines, victim advocacy, and support services from the onset of the need for services through the completion of healing, to survivors and co-survivors of sexual violence. To learn more about standards of service and to obtain contact information for rape crisis programs in Ohio, visit www.oaesv.org

SOUTHEAST REGION

31. Eve, Inc.
32. Haven of Hope
33. Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program
34. Tri-County Help Center Rape Crisis Program

Data Collection

Pursuant to Ohio Core Rape Crisis Center Standards and related operations, OAESV collects extensive information from Ohio Rape Crisis Centers for each year during which they receive GRF 055501 disbursements. Data is typically collected in July following the close of the applicable fiscal year. Thus, OAESV has full data for GRF 055501 recipients for FY 2019. In an effort to provide information reflecting COVID-19, OAESV conducted a supplemental update in late November 2020, collecting data for January 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020.

Hotline Calls Answered

2019 (full year) - 23,371

1,948 per month

2020 (first 9 months) - 23,482

2,609 per month

Monthly Calls Up 34% in 2020

Survivors Receiving Advocacy

2019 (full year) - 19,147

2020 (first 9 months) - 23,689

Ohio RCCs served 23% more survivors in the first 9 months of 2020 than in all of 2019 (a 50% monthly rate increase).

Prevention Education Services

Persons Reached by Prevention Education Trainings

2019 (full year) - 63,476

2020 (first 9 months) - 33,000

Many programs reported the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated delaying previously scheduled in-person prevention education programming, cancellations by recipients, and other COVID-related delivery issues.

With increased instances of child exploitation and sexual abuse, programs report increased need for scientific-based prevention education programming in FY 2022 and 2023.

Counseling/Therapy

Persons Receiving Counseling/Therapy from RCC-
Employed Mental Health Professionals

2019 (full year) - 4,037

2020 (first 9 months) - 2,203

Programs reported adjusting to virtual delivery, safe and confidential treatment locations for survivor patients, and other COVID-related factors impacted counseling services. RCCs anticipate demand for in-person therapy to exceed prior fiscal years once in-person services are back in place.

Support Groups

Persons Participating in RCC-run Support Groups

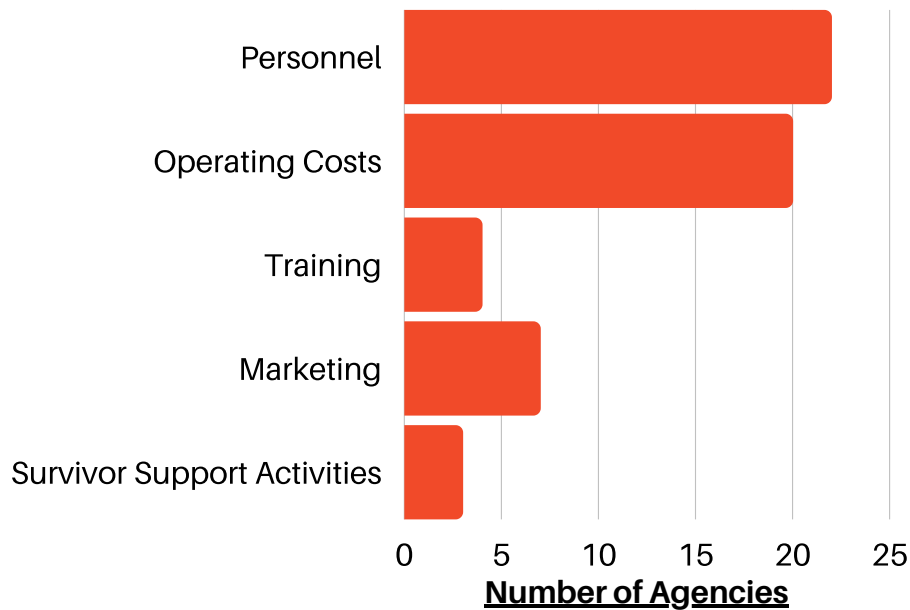
2019 (full year) - 1,699

2020 (first 9 months) - 1,056

One program reported cancelling support groups in 2020; others innovated with technology but still experienced reductions in support group numbers due to confidentiality and technology access restraints.

Program Spending of GRF 055501 Funds

Funding Expenditures



Programs Report Spending GRF 055501 on:

Northwest Ohio Programs:

- "Salaries for full-time advocacy staff, furniture for office and survivor meeting rooms"
- "Wages for Prevention Specialist & After Hour Advocate positions, telephone service, utilities, mileage reimbursements for travel to survivor meetings, supplies, payroll services, finance services, IT services."
- "Personnel costs for direct service advocates, advocacy coordinators, and violence preventionists; contracts for on-call advocates and therapist, mileage for advocates and preventionists, tablets for hospital tele-advocacy, emergency financial assistance for survivors."
- "Our 2020 Line Item funding supports our volunteers and 24-hour crisis line, providing a stipend to volunteers responding to hospital calls on nights and weekends. The Line Item funding also pays for the answering service, ensuring crisis call are always answered by a live person. In addition, this specific funding supports printed material that each survivor receives at the hospital, including a packet of resources on our RCC services, victim compensation, victim rights, and how to support a survivor of sexual assault. This fund also pays for the LPCC who facilitates support group and provides 1:1 counseling for survivors instead of charging the survivor or their insurance. Finally, this funding supports our efforts to expand services to a 4-county area with a physical office and dedicated staff."
- "Personnel, 24/7 hotline, wages for increased on-call advocates, clothing for survivors, advertising services during COVID-19, PPE"

Programs Report Spending

GRF 055501 on:

Southwest Ohio Programs:

- "Personnel to oversee Sexual Assault Response Program, which includes intervention and prevention support and services for survivors, hospital advocacy, therapy, 24/7 crisis line advocacy, legal advocate assistance, community training & education."
- "Funds for Fiscal Years 2019 and 2020 covered salaries for Prevention Education Staff, Campus Advocacy, Hospital Advocacy/Accompaniment, Child Advocacy Center collaboration, and community messaging including billboards, publications, and social media to ensure as many survivors as possible are aware of and able to access our services in the aftermath of violent crime."
- "Funds supported survivor/client assistance and technology platforms for survivor advocacy."
- "Staff salaries, marketing for survivor services, support group materials, and professional development"

Central Ohio Programs:

- "This year, almost half of our Line Item funding will be used to supplement the loss in VOCA funds so that emergency clothing supplies (the clothing sexual violence survivors wear when they go to the emergency room is often taken as evidence) and resource information for sexual violence survivors can be maintained at all area hospitals in service area. **The VOCA cuts caused the closure of another sexual assault program** for adult victims, so we will need to expand services to that county to serve those the closed program can no longer longer able to serve which will increase travel (mileage) expenses. Remaining Line Item funds support our ability to provide services on college campuses in a couple of counties in conjunction with student groups."
- "53.4% personnel salaries; 9.3% benefits associated with those salaries; 15.3% contract/professional fees; 11.9% operating expenses including printing, IT services, security expenses, utilities, travel to provide prevention, staff development; 10.1% capital purchase"
- "Salary for full-time violence prevention educator, maintain victim services programming in the face of statewide VOCA reductions."
- "Personnel salaries, contractors, supplies, travel, community and survivor awareness items"

Programs Report Spending

GRF 055501 on:

Northeast Ohio Programs:

- "Our program primarily spent RCF funding on personnel, to maintain our 24 Hour Hotline, Hospital Advocacy/Accompaniment, and Legal Advocacy. Remaining RCF funding to was used to create a new prevention position at the agency and provide that new staff person with equipment, as well as equip all our staff to work from home when possible to maintain services during the pandemic. We've also used the funding to increase training for staff, to offer staff the opportunity to get credentialing, to purchase supplies for the program, and raise awareness for our fairly new rape crisis program."
- "Salaries and Benefits, Furniture, Training, Mileage, Program Supplies, Dues & Subscriptions, Utilities, Maintenance"
- "Our program uses Rape Crisis Funds for salaries for 24/hour hotline staff who are are first line of service for survivors. We also use these funds for prevention efforts in the senior centers and women's recovery housing."
- "Funds were allocated to offset cuts to VOCA and maintain the quality of our prevention and outreach programming."
- "The majority of our rape crisis funding is used for our prevention program. This includes prevention staff salaries and benefits, travel and cellphone. A portion of RCF dollars also go towards the budget for rent, telephone, utilities, supplies, printing and training."
- "Personnel, consultants, contract help, telephone, supplies, utilities, staff travel for advocacy services"
- "To fill gaps created by VOCA cuts – to fund direct services, support groups, crisis call outs, crisis counseling, and outreach efforts"
- "Operating costs such as phone, utilities, supplies, salary expense"
- "Personnel, training, rent, equipment, phones"

Southeast Ohio Programs:

- "Purchased a building (63%), preventionist and advocate wages (31%) 6% operations and professional development"
- "Benefits, salaries, and supplies"
- "Staff salaries, utilities"
- "The majority of the RCF funds personnel costs, including cell phones for rape crisis advocates to deliver services. Some expenses were used to purchase awareness, prevention and education materials."

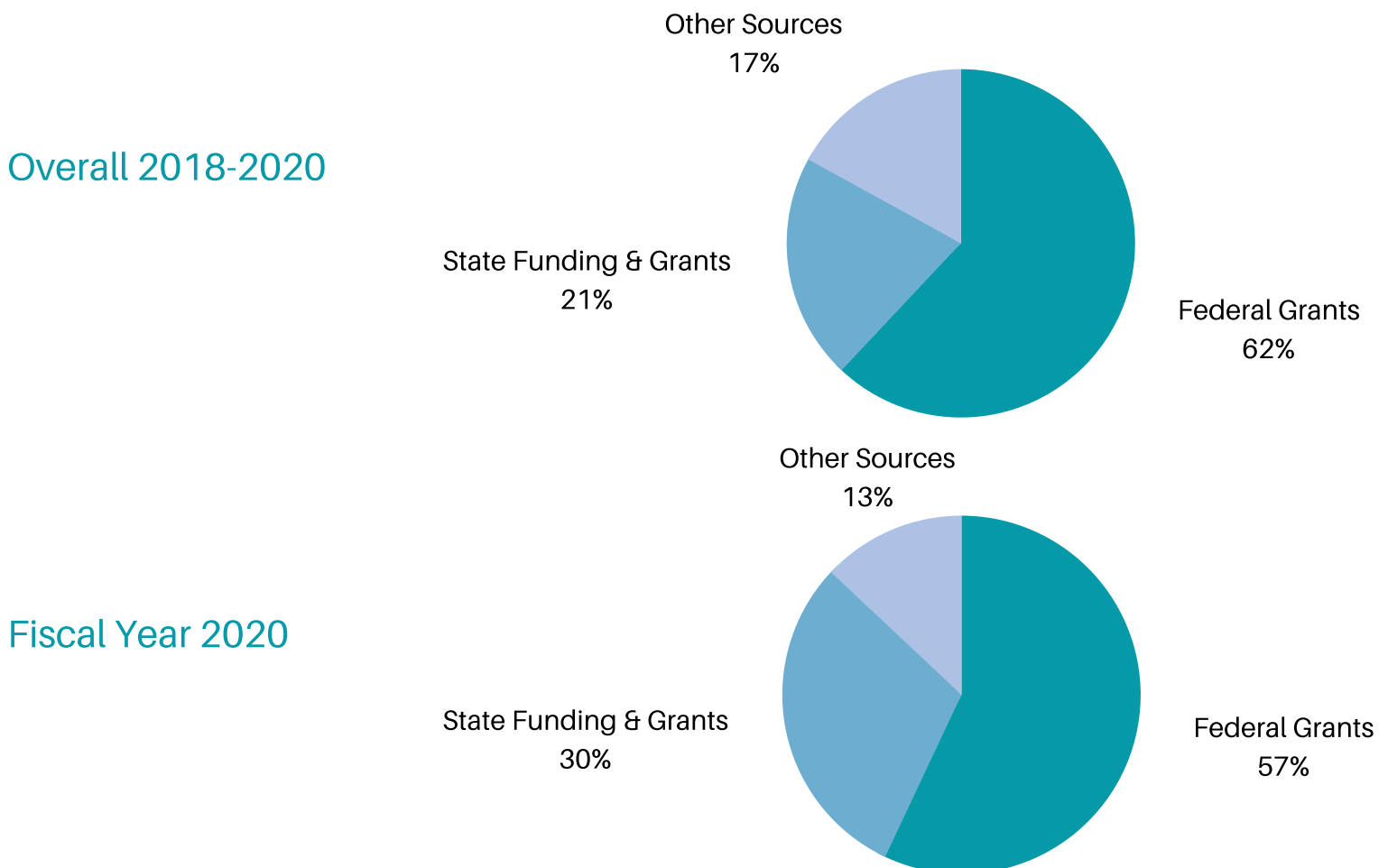
Impact of Federal Cuts

Since the creation of the Crime Victims Fund in the 1980s, fines from federal prosecutions have been deposited and distributed to states specifically to fund Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant projects. VOCA grants sustain Rape Crisis Centers and other programs serving victims of violent crime. In 2020, Congress announced a roughly \$600 million cut to federal funding awarded to states through the Victims of Crime Act, reducing the nationwide budget to about \$2 billion.

Ohio sustained a statewide VOCA cut of 25% in 2019, and 40% statewide VOCA cut in 2020. GRF 055501 recipient VOCA awards were cut between 22% and 57%, with three programs losing 100% of their VOCA funding. The cuts are the result of a significant decrease in federal criminal prosecutions, leaving less money from criminal penalties and fees to fuel the Crime Victims Fund - a problem that will persist for multiple upcoming federal budget cycles.

Ohio Rape Crisis Centers historically relied on VOCA grants for up to 90% of their operating budgets. In the past several years, these programs have worked diligently to reduce reliance on the Crime Victims Fund, but few other sources exist sufficient to completely replace VOCA.

Ohio Rape Crisis Center Funding Composition



Forecast for Sexual Violence Survivors

Ohio sexual violence survivors need life-saving services.

Ohio communities need sexual violence prevention education.

The primary federal funding stream for Rape Crisis Centers is drying up, and programs will close their doors to many Ohio counties if the State Rape Crisis Centers Line Item does not increase to \$9 million per fiscal year.

$\frac{1}{2}$
the funds =

$\frac{1}{2}$ the advocates
 $\frac{1}{2}$ the hotline staff
 $\frac{1}{2}$ the hospital advocacy
 $\frac{1}{2}$ the support groups
 $\frac{1}{2}$ the counseling
 $\frac{1}{2}$ the legal advocacy
Reduced access to physical office locations
Doubled case loads
Doubled wait list times

Advocacy as we know it will be **lost.**