



Federal Issues Fact Sheet Series

FY24 Funding for VOCA

Federal Budget Explainer

Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 VOCA Appropriation

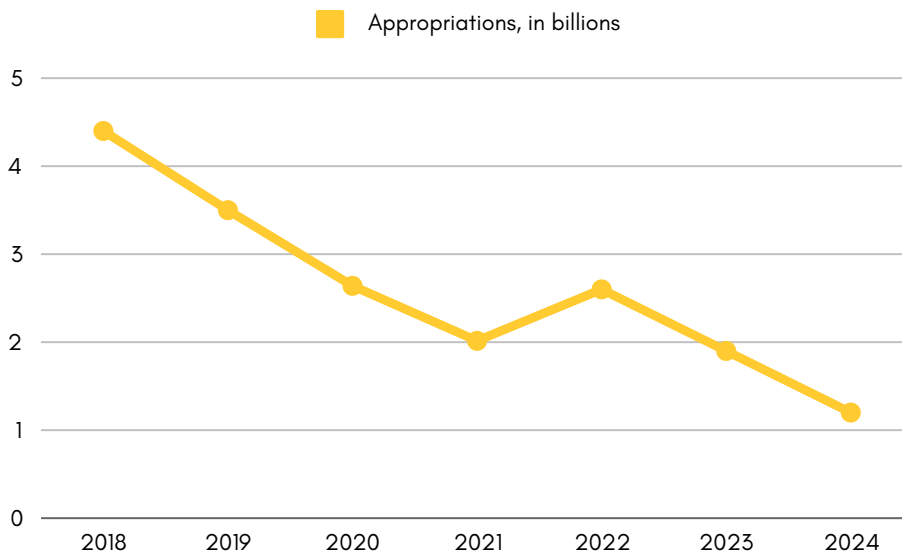
The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) will be funded at \$1.353 billion for FY 24, which amounts to a nearly \$630 million cut to VOCA grants compared to FY23.

This final amount represents a \$153 million increase over the initial funding levels that were proposed in the President’s Budget and earlier versions of the U.S. House and U.S. Senate’s budgets (\$1.2 billion).

Of this \$153 million increase, \$80 million of it will be transferred to OVW/VAWA programs.

Overview of VOCA Funding

VOCA’s Crime Victims Fund (CVF) was created by Congress in 1984 to provide grants to state and local programs that assist victims of crime. The Fund is derived entirely from fines and penalties paid by federal criminal offenders, not taxpayer revenues, and is the most flexible source of funding for crime victim services across the nation. The chart below illustrates the decline in VOCA appropriations from fiscal years 2018 through 2024.



While the FY24 VOCA appropriation represents a nearly 40% cut from FY23, it is important to note that it also constitutes a 72% reduction in funding when compared to FY18. For six years, victim services organizations have endured funding cut on top of funding cut, even though VOCA has remained the main source of funding for many

agencies. VOCA doesn't just go to community organizations - law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and other systems-based offices may receive VOCA funding depending on the state.

The 2021 VOCA Fix & Crime Victims Fund

In 2021, President Biden signed the VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act. While this fix was urgently needed, it will take several years for the Crime Victims Fund to replenish to pre-2019 levels.

The VOCA Fix is a structural change to the VOCA statute that directs fees and fines collected as a result of criminal prosecutions in federal court resolved with non-prosecution and deferred settlements, such as plea bargains, to be deposited into the Crime Victims Fund. The Department of Justice has increasingly used this strategy to resolve federal criminal cases, requiring this change in law to address drastically declining deposits into the CVF.

The VOCA Fix Act is slowly working - over \$1 billion has been generated from this change thus far. For example, in December 2023 over \$96 million dollars was deposited into the Crime Victims Fund, the majority of which came from deferred and non-deferred prosecution agreements. This was the third highest total collected in the last year for these kinds of deposits. [As of February 2024, the balance of the fund currently sits at just over \\$1.1 billion.](#)

Additional Resources

The National Alliance to End Sexual Violence has several resources & handouts on federal appropriations for victim services and related programs, which you can access [here](#).

From the Office for Victims of Crime:

- [Monthly Director's Calls](#) : These calls typically provide a monthly status report on the Crime Victims Fund, providing up-to-date information on the Fund balance and deposits.
- [The Crime Victim's Fund Webpage](#): You can find updated charts with annual deposits and balance information on this webpage.

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