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## Iowa Specific VOCA Talking Points

### Jobs Lost

Approximately 80% of victim services funding supports payroll and benefits. From October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2021, victim services supported the equivalent of **1,191 full time jobs**. This funding includes all victim services, not just VOCA. Based on anticipated cuts:

FFY2021 - Effective 10/1/2021, CVAD anticipates **the equivalent of 105 full time jobs** will be affected.

FFY2022 - Effective 10/1/2022, CVAD anticipates **the equivalent of 500 full time jobs** will be affected.

### Victims Who Will Go Unserviced

Before COVID grantees recruited thousands of lowans to volunteer to assist with victim services, including advocacy and direct services to victims. Because of COVID volunteers have nearly disappeared and fundraising events have dwindled.

The following numbers represent victims served with all CVAD funds

	FFY2015	FFY2016	FFY2017	FFY2018	FFY2019*	FFY2020
<b>Total Victims Served</b>	<b>34,216</b>	<b>46,643</b>	<b>64,072</b>	<b>77,147</b>	<b>81,646</b>	<b>55,902</b>

\*This number represents a 15-month funding cycle

Based on anticipated cuts:

FFY2021 – CVAD projects grantees will be able to serve **50,933 victims; a reduction of 4,969 victims from FFY20.**

FFY 2022 – CVAD projects grantees will be able to serve **32,407 victims; a reduction of 23,495 victims from FFY20.**

### Prior VOCA Cuts

In FFY19 CVAD reduced funding for 20 programs and eliminated funding for 14 other programs who were focused on serving older lowans, Colleges/Universities, youth, BIPOC communities, trafficked individuals and victims trying to assert their right to restitution.

### VOCA Overall

#### **How victim services changed with the increase in VOCA funding**

- In FFY2015, CVAD funded 61 organizations and 87 projects
- From FFY2017-FFY2019 when VOCA increased, CVAD funded 113 organizations and 166 different victim services projects.
- FFY2020 cycle, CVAD funded 104 organizations and 140 projects.

In July 2018, the State of Iowa decreased their funding appropriation for victim services by more than \$1.7 million. This is the same year the VOCA award decreased by 16.89%. Because CVAD could not anticipate VOCA would increase more than 78% the next year, we cut approximately \$1.34 million from our grantees' budgets. We stopped funding 4 projects – a culturally specific chat line, the sexual abuse hotline, which was folded into the domestic violence hotline, a culturally specific program serving the LGBTQI population and one county prosecutor-based victim witness coordinator.

When VOCA increased in FFY 2016, CVAD funded a wide array of organizations whose mission, outreach and expertise serves youth, LGBTQI, detained youth, urban youth, older Iowans, men and boys of color, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities, people in crisis, victims experiencing mental health issues, victims in need of legal assistance, homeless victims and trafficked victims.

Additional VOCA funding allowed for the planning and creation of Central Iowa Trauma Recovery Center, a newly formed organization dedicated to providing culturally responsive approaches to providing mental health, legal advocacy, medication management and assertive outreach to survivors of trauma in central Iowa.

Iowa's victim services organizations have broadened their reach by serving more:

- Black, Indigenous and People of Color
- People with disabilities
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing victims
- Men and boys
- Children
- Refugees
- Victims of Elder Abuse
- Sexual assault victims
- Human trafficking victims
- Victims of bullying and hate crimes
- Victims of violent crimes
- Victims of drunk driving
- People in need of court accompaniment
- People who benefit from alternative or culturally specific support

**Our biggest concern with the VOCA decrease: Who do we stop serving?**