

THOMAS J. MILLER
ATTORNEY GENERAL

JANELLE MELOHN
DIVISION DIRECTOR



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE DIVISION

321 E 12TH STREET
DES MOINES, IA 50319
PHONE: (515)281-5044
TOLL-FREE: (800) 373-5044
FACSIMILE: (515)281-8199
WWW.IOWAATTORNEYGENERAL.GOV

Iowa Specific VOCA Talking Points

(March 10, 2021 update)

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 2 years of anticipated VOCA cuts:**

With the Federal Fiscal Year 2021 VOCA award, which Iowa will receive by 10/1/2021, CVAD anticipates **the equivalent of 105 full time jobs** will be affected with the CVAD grant year October 2021, to September 2022, which is most of the state fiscal year 2022 and part of the state fiscal year 2023.

With the Federal Fiscal Year 2022, VOCA award, which Iowa will receive by 10/1/2022, CVAD anticipates **the equivalent of 500 full time jobs** will be affected with the CVAD grant year October 2022, to September 2023, which is most of the state fiscal year 2023 and part of the state fiscal year 2024.

Victims Who Will Go Unserved

Before COVID grantees recruited thousands of Iowans 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:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Victims Served	34,216	46,643	64,072	77,147	81,646	55,902

For 2015-2018 the CVAD grant year was July-June (the same as the state fiscal year). The 2019 grant cycle was July to September (15-months) and in 2020 the grant year shifted to an October to September cycle (the same as the federal fiscal year). The grant year 2021 victims served numbers will be available in December 2021.

Based on anticipated cuts

With the Federal Fiscal Year 2021 VOCA award, which Iowa will receive by 10/1/2021, CVAD projects grantees will serve **50,933 victims, a reduction of 4,969** from the 2020 grant year (October 2019, to September 2020). These projected reductions are for the CVAD grant year October 2021, to September 2022, which is most of the state fiscal year 2022 and part of the state fiscal year 2023.

With the Federal Fiscal Year 2022 VOCA award, which Iowa will receive by 10/1/2022, CVAD projects grantees will serve **32,407 victims; a reduction of 23,495** from the 2020 grant year (October 2019 to September 2020). These projected reductions are for the CVAD grant year October 2022, to September 2023, which is most of the state fiscal year 2023 and part of the state fiscal year 2024.

Prior VOCA Cuts

For the grant cycle beginning October 1, 2019, CVAD reduced annual grant funding for 20 programs and eliminated funding for 14 other programs who were focused on serving older lowans, colleges and 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 the 2015 grant year, CVAD funded 61 organizations and 87 projects
- In the 2017-2019 grant cycle, with VOCA increases, CVAD funded 113 organizations and 166 different victim services projects.
- In the 2020 grant year, CVAD reduced the grantees funded to 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 with the Federal Fiscal Year 2016 award, CVAD funded a wide array of organizations whose mission, outreach and expertise serves youth, LGBTQI, detained youth, urban youth, older lowans, 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?