



OCVA Advocate

OFFICE OF CRIME VICTIMS ADVOCACY
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Serving as a voice within state government for crime victims and their families

RECOVERY ACT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES & TIMELINES

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed into law the landmark American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the "Recovery Act"). The stated purposes of the Recovery Act are:

- To preserve and create jobs & promote economic recovery;
- To assist those most impacted by the recession;
- To provide investments needed to increase economic efficiency by spurring technological advances in science and health;
- To invest in transportation, environmental protection, and other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits; and
- To stabilize state and local government budgets, in order to minimize and avoid reductions in essential services and counterproductive state and local tax increases.

As one of its many elements within the stated purposes, the Recovery Act provides the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) with funding for grants to assist state, local, and tribal law enforcement (including support for hiring), to combat violence against women, to fight internet crimes against children, to improve the functioning of the criminal

justice system, to assist victims of crime, and to support youth mentoring. As a result of the Recovery Act, the Office of Crime Victims Advocacy (OCVA) has applied for several Recovery Act grant opportunities to benefit victims, families and communities affected by crime. The purpose of the Recovery Act is to create and save jobs, jumpstart our economy, and build the foundation for long-term economic growth.

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The following is a short description and timeline for the Recovery Act grants OCVA/DSHS is currently seeking:

Victims of Crime Act

As a result of Recovery Act funding, the Department of Justice (DOJ), Office for Victim of Crime (VOC) will award successful state grantees a VOCA victim assistance formula grant to support the provision of services to victims of crime. Eligible services under this grant include:

- Respond to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims;
- Assist primary and secondary victims to stabilize their lives after victimization;
- Assist victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system; and
- Provide victims with a measure of safety and security.

Recovery Act Project Period

Applications for the VOCA Recovery Funds must be received by OCVA by Thursday, April 16, 2009. The anticipated VOCA Recovery Act grant award project period is on or around June 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants for the VOCA Recovery Act funding are current victim service grantees of OCVA or DSHS/Children’s Administration. Please contact grace call, VOCA Program Manager at 866/857.9889 or the OCVA website at www.ocva.wa.gov with further questions.

VOCA Recovery Act Amounts Available

Crime Victim Service Centers	\$294,500
Domestic Violence	\$294,500
Sexual Assault	<u>\$294,500</u>
Total	\$883,500

Violence Against Women Act

The Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) will award applicants applying for STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Recovery Act funding. By statute, the STOP program supports communities in their efforts to hire and retain criminal justice and victim services personnel that respond to violent crimes against women as a way to develop and strengthen effective law enforcement, prosecution strategies, and victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women. STOP VAWA Recovery Act guidelines place great emphasis on the hiring and retaining of criminal justice and victim services personnel who respond to violent crime against women, as well as supporting strategies that create and preserve jobs and promote economic growth while improving responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. STOP VAWA applications must address one or

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more of the STOP Formula Grant statutory purpose areas. Examples of STOP activities include: training, Coordinated Community Responses, STOP community planning process, and/or a local sexual assault, domestic violence, or stalking task force. To review these program purpose areas, refer to www.ovw.usdoj.gov.

Recovery Act Project Period

Applications for STOP VAWA Recovery Funds must be received by the OCVA by Thursday, April 16, 2009. The anticipated STOP VAWA Recovery Act grant award project period is on or around June 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010.

STOP VAWA Recovery Act Amounts Available

Victim Services	\$770,074
Law Enforcement	\$641,728
Prosecution	\$641,728
Discretionary	<u>\$385,036</u>
Total	\$2,438,566

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants for the STOP VAWA Recovery Act Funding are current or past recipients of the STOP Grant program administered by the OCVA. Law enforcement agencies, prosecutor's offices, and victim service organizations that have participated in, or benefited from, STOP activities are also eligible. *There is one exception to STOP eligibility criteria.* Governmental victim services agencies are not eligible for Recovery Act Funding under the STOP VAWA victim service program unless they are the only community-based service provider to adult victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or dating violence in the county. Match will be required. Please contact Pearl Gipson-Collier at 866/857.9889 or the OCVA website at www.ocva.wa.gov with further questions.

There is a combined Recovery Act VOCA & STOP VAWA application. If you are applying for more than one Recovery Act source (VOCA or VAWA), you will need to complete an application for each.

Transitional Housing Assistance

The Office on Violence Against Women's Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking or Sexual Assault provides funds to focus on a holistic, victim-centered approach to provide transitional housing services that move individuals into permanent housing. Grant awards will support programs that provide assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking who are in need of transitional housing, short-term housing assistance, and related support services. Transitional housing programs can meet the goals of the Recovery Act through employing victim advocates

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who work directly with victims, renovating housing for victims, offering additional housing units, and increasing job opportunities for victims through training, education and other support services. There is no budget cap for these applications, but it is recommended applicants consider submitting budgets for up to \$500,000.

Recovery Act Project Period

OCVA submitted an application to the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) on Wednesday, April 8, 2009. The anticipated grant award project period is June 1, 2009 through May 31, 2011.

Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant

The intent of the Edward Byrne Memorial grant, along with preserving and creating jobs, is to assist in the improvement of the criminal justice system, provide assistance to victims of crime (other than compensation) and support communities in preventing drug abuse and crime. Under the Edward Byrne solicitation, there are 8 categories in which applicants may apply for funding. OCVA intends to submit an application in support of Category VI: Improving Resources and Service for Victims of Crime. Applications are solicited under Category VI to develop new and enhance existing resources/services (other than compensation) available to all crime victims and their families, especially underserved populations. Areas of consideration should include all types of crimes such as criminal fraud/identity theft, hate crimes, domestic violence, and physical and sexual child abuse and exploitation. A range of resources and direct services for victims in this category may include assistance to victims through staffing domestic violence shelters, advocacy centers, hotlines, peer support, for example. There is no specific budget cap for Edward Byrne Memorial funds.

Recovery Act Project Period

OCVA will submit an application to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) by Monday, April 27, 2009. The grant award project period start date will be on or after July 31, 2009 for a period not to exceed 24 months.

Eligible Applicants

Applicants are limited to national, regional, state, or local public and private entities, including for-profit and non-profit organizations, faith-based and community organizations, institutions of higher education, tribal entities, and units of government that support initiatives to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system and provide assistance to victim of crime (other than compensation).

STATE BIENNIAL BUDGET: WHERE ARE WE NOW?

When Governor Gregoire released her budget proposal, in December, for the 2009-2011 biennium, the State was facing a shortfall of nearly \$3 billion. Now, as we saw in the March Forecast, that shortfall is growing precariously close to \$9 billion. There are proposed cuts and program reductions everywhere. Important programs. Programs that work. These are very challenging times, with extraordinarily difficult choices having to be made by our elected representatives.

All three (House, Senate, Governor) budgets have now been released. Both the House and Senate fiscal committees, Ways and Means, have held hearings on the budget bills. The House bill, 1244, saw executive action taken in the Ways and Means Committee on April 7. The Senate bill, 5600 has been in Ways and Means since March 31. Each chamber (House and Senate) will likely pass their own version of the budget.

State agencies are looking at significant staff reductions. Proposals are still in play that

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would reduce or eliminate community supervision of many offenders and/or early release of some offenders. Education, K-12, takes several reductions in both the House and Senate versions of the budget and a 42% reduction of the Basic Health Plan is proposed. The Senate budget proposes reductions to or eliminations of programs such as sex offender address verification, graffiti abatement, and the sex offender crackdown.

Given these proposed reductions, the continued good news is that, remarkably, **all three budgets are holding crime victim service funding at current level.** Now that all the budgets have been released and debated, the real work begins. A “conference committee” will be established, with representatives from the House and the Senate leadership and fiscal committees. The good news, again, for victim services is that since all three budgets agree, that funding level will go into the final budget.

The conference committee members will go in a room and begin, item by item, discussing and then concluding what to do with items where there is disagreement between the budgets. So, for instance, the Governor proposed a \$300,000 reduction to OCVA administration. The Senate proposed the same \$300,000 reduction to OCVA administration and the House had the reduction at \$163,000. One of the thousands of items to be discussed and decided by the conference committee is the level of reduction to OCVA administration.

Once the conference committee has finished its work, the way it is supposed to happen is that the representatives go back to their respective caucuses and report the results. Then, when the budget comes to the floor of each chamber for a vote, it is expected legislators will vote for the agreed upon bill. That’s a good theory and it is also not uncommon that a small number of

The 09-11 biennial budget is a high tribute to the value and importance of the work advocates do every day for victims of crime in Washington. This is a clear message that the House, the Senate, and the Governor all understand and appreciate this contribution.

legislators do vote against it – but it is also usual that enough “yes” votes are cast to pass the conference committee version of the budget.

The 2009 Legislative Session is scheduled to end on April 26. Current predictions (subject to change at any moment) is that Session will end on time and there will be a

2009-2011 budget.

Now we wait.

WASHINGTON TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE UPDATE

The Washington State Task Force against the Trafficking of Persons will have its last meeting in June. The group's funding is highly unlikely to appear in the state's new budget, due out this spring.

Since July of 2006, professionals from non-profits, law enforcement, and state agencies have been developing recommendations regarding what Washingtonians can do about human trafficking occurring here.

These recommendations are summarized in the 2008 report of the Task Force, which can be found on OCVA's website. Among other ideas, the report contains recommendations to increase the funds Crime Victim Service Centers receive to provide outreach and services to trafficking victims across Washington.

Although OCVA will no longer be staffing a “formal” anti-trafficking task force, we will continue to work against human trafficking. This will be done primarily by supporting the anti-trafficking work being implemented by Washington's Crime Victim Service Centers.

PRESIDENT PROCLAIMS APRIL AS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Below is the first Presidential Proclamation of SAAM. It was released April 8, 2009. Many thanks go to the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, along with Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape and the National Center for Victims of Crime, who worked extremely hard over the past several months with the White House as well as the Vice President's Office to make this happen.

April 8, 2009
NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH, 2009
- - - - -
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

Sexual assault scars the lives of millions in the United States. To increase awareness about this issue, prevent future crimes, and aid victims, this month we mark National Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Sexual assault is pervasive in the United States. Study after study has shown that this crime impacts people at all age levels and in every part of this Nation. One recent study found that 18 percent of women in this country have been raped in their lifetime. In addition, rates of sexual assault remain startlingly high for students from high school to college. A 2005 survey of high school students found that 10.8 percent of girls and 4.2 percent of boys from grades nine to twelve were forced to have sexual intercourse at some time in their lives. A study of college women found that 13.7 percent of undergraduate women had been victims of at least one completed sexual assault since entering college. Unlike victims of sexual assault in the larger community, students victimized by other students often face additional challenges in a "closed" campus environment. For example, a victim may continue to live in danger if the perpetrator resides in the same dormitory or attends the same classes. These statistics are all the more alarming given that, according to recent research, a majority of victims do not report their attacks to police.

Victims of all ages suffer from both the physical and emotional consequences of the attack. Sexual assault can lead to long-term health problems including chronic pain, stomach problems, and sexually transmitted diseases. It can also cause severe emotional harm that may be even more painful than the assault itself and resulting physical injuries. The effects of sexual assault go well beyond the direct victim: sexual assault also has a profound impact on a victim's family, friends, neighbors, and workplace.

Victims need an array of services to heal from the trauma of sexual assault, including crisis intervention, 24-hour sexual assault hotlines, medical and criminal justice accompaniment, advocacy, and counseling. Victim service providers are essential to this effort and work tirelessly to help victims cope with the trauma of sexual assault and transition from "victim" to "survivor."

Landmark legislation has helped fund these critical services. The Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA, Public Law 98-473) established the Crime Victims Fund to fund services such as forensic sexual assault examinations and compensation claims for both adult and child victims. For example, since 1997, VOCA funding has supported the development of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) programs and multi-disciplinary Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART). The Violence Against Women Act of 2005 (VAWA, Public Law 109-162) authorized the Sexual Assault Services Program, the first Federal funding dedicated exclusively to sexual assault services. The Program includes funding for culturally specific

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(President Proclaims SAAM, continued from page 6)

programs that serve victims who face unique cultural and linguistic barriers.

In addition to helping victims, offenders must be held accountable for their crimes. Sexual assault forensic examinations and trained examiners can ensure that victims are treated with requisite sensitivity and that critical evidence is collected to facilitate a successful prosecution. To this end, VAWA mandates that all States that accept Federal grants to combat violence against women ensure that sexual assault victims receive forensic examinations free of charge, even if the victim chooses not to report the crime to the police.

To make continued progress, my Administration supports efforts to help Americans better understand this issue. Working together, we can reduce the incidence of sexual assault and help all who have experienced this heinous crime.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2009, as National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. I urge all Americans to respond to sexual assault by creating policies at work and school, by engaging in discussions with family and friends, and by making the prevention of sexual assault a priority in their communities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

BARACK OBAMA

OCVA PROCESS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

OCVA is carefully reviewing and assessing grant, contract and monitoring processes to ensure we are continually victim-centered.

The dire budget circumstances we face, both as a state as well as a local community, are an opportunity to be as innovative and resourceful as possible, while continuing to balance the responsibilities of administering contract/grant funds and the structure necessary to perform these services.

The Process Assessment Survey is intended to gauge which processes contractors/grantees would like to see us focus on making more efficient and user-friendly.

While we must continue to meet standards of accountability, fiscal management, and service delivery, we want to hear from contractors/

grantees about how our practices impact advocates.

OCVA wants to hear from agencies about how we can make our processes easier to navigate, less time consuming, and more victim-centered. We are committed to listening to ideas and incorporating that feedback in to our work.

The survey was sent electronically to all OCVA contractors in mid-April. If you did not receive a copy of the survey and are interested in participating, please e-mail Nicky Gleason at nickyg@cted.wa.gov.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Office of Crime Victims Advocacy serves as a voice within state government for the needs of crime victims in Washington State.

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The OCVAAdvocate is a quarterly publication of this office. Unless otherwise noted, articles were written by OCVA staff. Topic ideas for future issues may be sent to the address below or e-mail ocva@cted.wa.gov.



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