

## VOCA Background

- The Crime Victim Fund helps an average of 3.7 million victims of all types of crime every year.
- The Fund comes from the collection of Federal criminal fines; **not taxpayers.**
- Congress has repeatedly pledged that all amounts deposited into the Fund would remain available for victim services.

The Victims of Crime Act of 1984 is the Federal government's principle means of providing support for programs that serve victims of all types of crime. Each year, Federal criminal fines, forfeitures and special assessments are deposited into the Crime Victims Fund (the Fund). These offender generated revenues -- **NOT TAXPAYER DOLLARS** -- are used to support these programs:

- Children's Justice Act -- to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases;
- U.S. Attorney's victim/witness coordinators -- to provide assistance to victims involved in Federal criminal prosecutions by funding 170 FTE United States Attorney Office victim assistance coordinators;;
- F.B.I. victim assistance specialists-- to help victims during Federal criminal investigations by funding 112 FTE victim assistance specialists;
- Federal victim notification system -- to provide automated notification to victims of the status of Federal criminal investigations and prosecutions and the offender's status in the Federal prison system;
- OVC discretionary grants -- to support national scope training and technical assistance and to provide services to victims of Federal crimes;
- State compensation formula grants -- to supplement State funds used to reimburse victims of violent crimes for medical expenses, mental health counseling, lost wages, loss of support and funeral/burial costs;
- State victim assistance formula grants -- to support direct victim assistance services -- such as counseling, emergency shelter, rape crisis centers, help in participating in the criminal justice system. Approximately 3.5 million - 4 million crime victims receive these services by more than 4,000 agencies annually;

- Management & administration (M&A) - For 2012 and future years, Congress directed DOJ to use grant funds to cover its grant M&A.
- Antiterrorism Emergency Reserve -- to replenish a special \$50 million reserve to assist victims of domestic and international terrorism and mass violence.

Prior to FY 2000, all of the money deposited into the Crime Victims Fund from the collection of Federal criminal fines, forfeitures and assessments, was allocated the following fiscal year according to a formula in the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) statute. Because of wide fluctuations in the amount deposited, beginning in FY 2000, Congress began imposing a limitation or "cap" on the amount of Fund deposits that could be obligated the following year.

Fiscal Year	Prv. Yr. Deposits	Cap	Fiscal Year	Prv. Yr. Deposits	Cap
2000	\$985,185,354	\$500,000,000	2008	1,017,977,475	590,000,000
2001	776,954,858	537,500,000	2009**	896,316,825	635,000,000
2002	544,437,015	550,000,000	2010	1,745,677,602	705,000,000
2003	519,466,480	600,000,000	2011	2,362,337,940	705,000,000
2004	361,341,967	621,312,500*	2012	1,998,220,205	705,000,000
2005	833,695,013	620,000,000*	2013	2,795,547,045	730,000,000
2006	668,268,054	625,000,000	2014	1,489,682,811	745,000,000
2007	649,631,046	625,000,000	2015	3,591,493,390	2,361,000,000

\* Includes rescissions.  
 \*\* Does not include \$100 million in Recovery Act funding

Congress said it was delaying use of the deposits above the cap in order "to protect against wide fluctuations in receipts into the Fund, and **to ensure that a stable level of funding will remain available for these programs in future years.**" [Conference Report 106-479] Congress also amended the [VOCA statute](#) to reflect the preservation of all deposits for future VOCA programs.