



# VAWA and Other Related Programs Appropriations for Fiscal Years '13, '14, '15 and '16

**NNEDV**

All numbers are expressed in millions (except as otherwise noted). FY stands for Fiscal Year.

Updated: May 2015

Name of Grant Program	FY '13 reduced by Sequestration & Rescissions*	FY '14 Budget	FY '15 Budget	FY '16 President's Budget	FY '16 House CJS Proposed Budget	Authorized/ Requested Level
<b>COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE APPROPRIATIONS</b>						
VAWA PROGRAMS						
STOP - Grants to Combat Violence Against Women	\$176.18	\$193.00	\$195.00	\$193.00	\$196.00	\$222.00
Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP)	\$23.30	\$27.00	\$30.00	\$27.00	\$35.00	\$40.00
Services for Rural Victims	\$34.02	\$36.00	\$33.00	\$33.00	\$33.00	\$50.00
Civil Legal Assistance for Victims	\$38.22	\$37.00	\$42.50	\$52.50	\$42.50	\$57.00
Transitional Housing (OVW)	\$23.30	\$24.75	\$26.00	\$25.00	\$28.00	\$35.00
Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies †	\$46.61	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$51.00	\$73.00
Consolidated Youth-Oriented Program ‡	\$9.32	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$15.00
Grants to Support Families in the Justice System	\$14.45	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$22.00
Violence on College Campuses (Campus Grants)	\$8.39	\$9.00	\$12.00	\$26.00	\$16.00	\$26.00
Protections and Services for Disabled Victims	\$5.36	\$5.75	\$6.00	\$5.75	\$6.00	\$9.00
Elder Abuse Grant Program	\$3.96	\$4.25	\$4.50	\$4.25	\$4.50	\$9.00
National Institute of Justice (NIJ)	\$3.26	\$3.25	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$8.00	-
Research on Violence Against Indian Women	\$0.93	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00
National Resource Center on Workplace Responses	\$0.47	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$1.00
Nat'l Clearinghouse on Sexual Assault of American Indian and Alaska Native Women	\$0.47	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50
Outreach to Underserved Populations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2.00
National Tribal Sex Offender Registry	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.00
Tribal Jurisdiction	-	-	-	\$5.00	\$0.00	\$5.00
VAWA 20/20 Initiative §	-	-	-	\$21.00	\$0.00	\$21.00
<b>VAWA CJS Total</b>	<b>\$388.24</b>	<b>\$417.00</b>	<b>\$429.50</b>	<b>\$473.50</b>	<b>\$449.00</b>	<b>\$605.50</b>
Rape Kit Backlog Community Response	-	-	\$41.00	\$41.00	\$41.00	\$41.00
VOCA Fund Cap (and Tribal Funding Stream) ¶	N/A	\$745.00	\$2.36B	\$1.00B	\$2.7B	\$2.6B
Vision 21 & Trafficking Initiatives	-	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$35.00	\$0.00	\$35.00



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Name of Grant Program	FY '13 reduced by Sequestration & Rescissions*	FY '14 Budget	FY '15 Budget	FY '16 President's Budget	FY '16 House Proposed Budget	Authorized/ Requested Level
<b>LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS</b>						
<b>ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES</b>						
Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA)°/Domestic Violence Shelters	\$121.19	\$133.50	\$135.00	\$150.00	TBD	\$175.00
National Domestic Violence Hotline**	\$3.04	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$12.00	""	\$12.00
<b>CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL</b>						
Rape Prevention and Education	\$39.39	\$38.00	\$38.80	\$44.40	""	\$50.00
DELTA - Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancement and Leadership Through Alliances°	\$5.13	\$5.20	\$5.40	\$5.40	""	\$6.00
Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (PHHSBG) Sex Offense Set-Aside Δ	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$0.00	""	\$7.00
<b>OFFICE ON WOMEN'S HEALTH</b>						
Violence Against Women Health Initiative	\$2.30	\$2.30	\$3.10	\$2.30	""	\$10.00
L-HHS Total	\$178.05	\$190.50	\$193.80	\$214.10	""	\$253.00
					""	

<b>TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS</b>						
VAWA Housing Vouchers^	-	-	-	\$37.50	\$0.00	\$37.50

PLEASE NOTE: This chart will continue to be updated throughout the FY 2016 Appropriations process.

Updates can be found at [www.nnedv.org/funding](http://www.nnedv.org/funding).

\* Rescissions and sequestration: In FY13, most discretionary programs, including those at OVW, were subjected to Sequestration cuts between 5-7%. The final bills included the following rescissions from OVW from unobligated or deobligated funds: FY13 and FY14, \$12 million; FY15, \$16 million.

¥ In FYs12-15, and in the President's FY16 Budget, \$4 million has been set aside in GTEAP for a homicide reduction initiative.

‡ VAWA 2013 consolidated youth and prevention programs into two programs. Appropriators funded these programs as one consolidated program for the past several years. The individual programs are called the CHOOSE program and the SMART program.

§ This program is for a comprehensive new initiative aimed at closing identified gaps in the fight against violence against women. This initiative will target \$15 million to improve law enforcement and prosecutorial response to sexual assault by bringing intensive resources to 11 jurisdictions and \$6 million to implement a domestic violence firearms lethality initiative in approximately 7 jurisdictions. The initiative will include a focus on using evidence-based interventions, where available, and documenting and evaluating results with the goal of identifying successful models that can be replicated across the nation. The President's 2016 Budget proposes \$21,000,000 for this program.

¶ VOCA: The President's FYs '14, '15 and '16 Budgets proposed setting aside \$25 million dollars from the amount of money released from the VOCA fund for the Vision 21 initiative, \$20 million for tribal victim services and \$10 million to address trafficking. In the final FY14 and FY15 bills, Congress appropriated \$12.5 million for the Vision 21 initiative from its general CJS funds and not as a set-aside of VOCA funds. We support \$35 million for Vision 21 through CJS funds. Tribal funding: We support establishing a VOCA Tribal funding stream. House FY16 CJS bill funds Vision 21 through VOCA.

° FVPSA, the National Domestic Violence Hotline, and DELTA are authorized through the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA).

\*\*This funding increase would maintain and increase capacity of the National Domestic Violence Hotline, fund a tribal domestic violence hotline, and other hotline-related projects.

Δ PHHSBG is authorized through the Public Health Services Act and includes a mandatory set-aside for providing services to rape victims and for rape prevention. The sex-offense set-aside was not cut by sequestration in 2013.

^ This new key initiative, part of the tenant-based rental assistance in Public and Indian Housing, would allow DV, SA, Dating, and stalking victims to acquire an emergency transfer from their current housing, when they are no longer safe, into new housing without having to become homeless or go to shelter. This will meet a crucial need of survivors, prevent homelessness and increase safety. The vouchers will help fulfill the emergency transfer policies mandated by VAWA 2013.



## FEDERAL FUNDING TO ADDRESS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is a pervasive and life threatening crime that impacts millions of victims each year. Federal policies have helped to significantly reduce these crimes and increase safety for victims. Congress has the opportunity to build upon these successes toward ending domestic violence. We urge Congress to provide federal investments that will improve and save victims lives, hold perpetrators accountable, and work to end domestic violence.

**☑ Fund targeted investments for the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (\$175 million) and related key programs at HHS:** The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) funds emergency shelters, crisis lines, counseling, victim assistance, and other vital services for over 1.3 million domestic violence victims and their children each year. FVPSA funding has remained relatively stagnant, resulting in too few services available for victims in need. As the only dedicated federal funding source for domestic violence services, FVPSA must be funded at its full authorization amount of \$175 million to meet the growing demand for services.

Additionally, we ask Congress to provide continued investments in related programs at HHS that work to address and prevent domestic violence and sexual assault, such as the National Domestic Violence Hotline, DELTA prevention grants, the Rape Prevention and Education program, and the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant.

**☑ Release additional funds from the Victims of Crime Act Fund (VOCA):** VOCA is a fund for victim services created out of fines and penalties paid by federal criminals, rather than taxpayer dollars. Over 4,000 agencies rely on VOCA to provide services to nearly 4 million crime victims annually. Congress should follow the Budget Resolution directive to release \$2.7 billion from the VOCA fund to address the gap in available services. Additionally, we urge Congress to reduce any administrative barriers to spending the funds, and to establish a VOCA tribal funding stream. Finally, Congress should support funding for the *Vision 21* initiative.

**☑ Fund targeted investments in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA):** U.S. Department of Justice VAWA programs are at the heart of our nation's response to domestic violence. Each of these programs is critical to ensuring that victims are safe, that offenders are held accountable, and that our communities are more secure. Key programs within VAWA include:

- The **Services, Training, Officers and Prosecutors (STOP)** state formula grant program supports coordinated community responses to domestic and sexual violence, and is the foundation of our nation's work to end domestic and sexual violence.
- The **Civil Legal Assistance for Victims** program helps to meet the civil legal needs of victims. This program provides practical solutions and long-term stability for victims and their children, and helps to lower incidents of domestic violence.
- The **Services for Rural Victims** grant program enables communities to develop services to meet the unique needs facing victims in rural areas.
- The **Transitional Housing** grant program provides an essential continuum between emergency shelter and permanent safe housing for survivors fleeing violence.
- The **Grants to Encourage Arrest** program increases offender accountability and reduces homicide.
- The **Sexual Assault Services Program** state formula grant that funds rape crisis centers.

These, along with all of VAWA's programs, must be funded at their full authorization levels in order to address the continued epidemic of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

**☑ Fund emergency housing transfer vouchers at HUD:** VAWA 2013 included a lifesaving emergency transfer provision for victims who need to flee their current housing. The law mandates that HUD devise procedures under which victims in assisted housing, who are requesting emergency transfers, can obtain vouchers. We urge Congress to provide \$37.5 million for approximately 5,000 vouchers would help keep survivors safe while reducing homelessness.

## Overview of Labor, Health and Human Services – Department of Health and Human Services Programs

### **Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) – \$175 million funding request**

The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) program supports lifesaving services including emergency shelters, crisis hotlines, counseling, and programs for underserved communities throughout the United States and territories. A formula grant administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, FVPSA is the only federal funding source dedicated to domestic violence shelters and programs. FVPSA is the cornerstone of our nation's efforts to address domestic violence. There are more than 2,000 community-based domestic violence programs for victims and their children (approximately 1,500 of which are FVPSA-funded through state formula grants). Many programs across the country use their FVPSA funding to keep the lights on and their doors open. The importance of this funding cannot be overstated: victims in every community must have a place to flee to when they are escaping life-threatening violence.

A recent multi-state study, funded by the National Institute of Justice, shows conclusively that the nation's domestic violence shelters address both the urgent safety needs and long-term security needs of victims and are helping victims protect themselves and their children.

Despite FVPSA's great promise, community-based domestic violence programs report that they cannot meet the overwhelming demand for services. Increased attention on domestic violence through high profile abusers and increased training for law enforcement, prosecutors and court officials, investments in homicide reduction programs, and efforts to increase screening and referral by healthcare and social service professionals, have led to a corresponding increase in demand for emergency shelter, hotlines, and supportive services.

The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) DV Counts: Census found that in just one day during 2014, while more than 67,646 victims of domestic violence received services, nearly 10,871 requests for services went unmet, largely due to lack of funding. Of those unmet requests, 56% were for safe housing. In 2013, domestic violence programs funded by the Family Violence Prevention & Services Act (FVPSA) provided shelter and nonresidential services to more than 1.3 million victims. However, due to lack of capacity, an additional 186,552 requests for shelter went unmet. In 2014, domestic violence programs laid off nearly 1,400 staff positions including counselors, advocates and children's advocates (in addition to the 1,700 laid off in 2013), and also had to reduce or completely eliminate over 1,800 services including shelter, legal advocacy, and counseling.

For those individuals who are not able to find safety, the consequences can be extremely dire, including continued exposure to life-threatening violence or homelessness. It is unacceptable that victims cannot find safety for themselves and their children due to a lack of adequate investment in these services. In order to help meet the immediate needs of victims in danger and to continue this work to prevent and end domestic violence, FVPSA funding must be increased to its authorized level of \$175 million.

Additionally, FVPSA will be up for reauthorization soon. It is essential that this vital and lifesaving foundation of our nation's response to domestic violence is sustained.

### **Related programs at the Department of Health and Human Services (see chart)**

All programs work together to develop effective responses to domestic and sexual violence, and funding for these vital programs is important, as well. Key programs within the LHHS bill include the National Domestic Violence Hotline funded through the Administration for Children Youth and Families, as well as the DELTA domestic violence prevention grants, the Rape Prevention and Education state formula grants, and the Preventive Health and Health Services Block grant, funded through the Centers for Disease Control.

## OVERVIEW OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE SCIENCE – DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

### Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) – release \$2.7 billion from VOCA fund

VOCA uses non-taxpayer money from the Crime Victims Fund to provide several unique programs that serve victims of crime, including state formula victim assistance grants. The VOCA fund is generated through fines paid by federal offenders to support services to 4 million victims of all types of crimes annually through 4,400 direct service agencies such as domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, and child abuse treatment programs. Additional VOCA funds need to be released to respond to the crisis caused by the dangerous lack of available services for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

With an obvious need for additional resources and more than \$12 billion dollars in the Fund, now is the time to establish a long-term and consistent basis for determining the annual VOCA cap in order to serve more victims of crime. The balance in the Crime Victims Fund is more than enough to significantly increase the VOCA funding released without jeopardizing the Fund's future sustainability. Advocates have been urging that funding released be closely aligned with the funding that is deposited. One option is that the annual funds released from the VOCA Fund would be set at a level no less than the average amount deposited into the Fund over the three previous fiscal years. Congress followed this formula in FY 15 and released \$2.3 billion.

The FY 2016 Budget Resolution addresses this issue by directing appropriators to release approximately \$2.7 billion in FY 16. The House Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations subcommittee bills followed that directive and released \$2.7 billion in their FY 16 bill and we believe the Senate will release the same amount. With FY 16 funding essentially secured, it is important for Congress to address a few key issues.

Congress should direct the Office on Victims of Crime to eliminate any barriers to spending the increased funds. It is vital that the funds are quickly and efficiently distributed to victim service providers who can use them to begin to reduce the number of victims who are turned away from services due to lack of capacity and allow victim service providers to offer additional services.

Additionally, Congress should use the opportunity to establish a new funding stream for tribes. Currently, tribes have no access to federal VOCA funds and yet their need for services is great. In fact, American Indian and Alaska Natives are 2.5 times more likely to experience violent crime than other Americans. Without access to VOCA funds, victims on tribal lands will continue to lack sufficient help when fleeing domestic violence and facing other crimes.

Finally, Congress should fund *Vision 21*, an initiative of the Department of Justice's Office on Victims of Crime (OVC) *Vision 21*.

### Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) programs

#### **VAWA STOP Program – \$222 million funding request**

VAWA's STOP Grant Program, one of the most far-reaching VAWA programs, is the core element of effective coordinated community responses to domestic violence and sexual assault. These responses help hundreds of thousands of victims find safety and receive services, while holding perpetrators accountable for their actions. As the foundational VAWA program, STOP awards funds to every state and territory through a formula-based system. States use STOP funding to train law enforcement, prosecution and courts to improve the system-wide response to domestic and sexual violence. Many states establish special units in law enforcement agencies and prosecutors' offices to address domestic and sexual violence. Victims benefit from services including advocacy, crisis intervention, local hotline call advocacy, counseling and support, and victim witness notification. Additionally, STOP-funded programs help survivors obtain orders of protection and promote the prosecution of domestic and sexual violence cases.

In 2012, STOP funds helped 430,350 victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking; funded over 2,200 staff; and provided professional training for over 200,000 individuals. Increased investment in STOP will allow communities to expand their lifesaving homicide reduction efforts, continue to improve their law enforcement and prosecution responses, and serve more victims.

In addition, Congress must ensure the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) penalty must not be applied to the STOP program. This penalty cuts 5% of STOP funding in states that are not in full compliance with PREA. Cutting money for victim services and related activities will not help achieve the vital goals of PREA.

### **Civil Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) – \$57 million funding request**

Research indicates that the practical nature of legal services gives victims long-term alternatives to their abusive relationships. However, the retainers or hourly fees for private legal representation are beyond the means of most victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. Legal services are second only to medical services as the most-requested need of victims. Sadly, 64% of women who reported needing legal services received no assistance from an attorney. The LAV program is the only federally funded program designed to meet the legal needs of victims. Targeted increases to the LAV program are a sound investment in long-term solutions to violence.

### **Rural Grant program – \$50 million funding request**

Rural victims face unique barriers, including under-resourced law enforcement and a lack of access to services, child care and public transportation. Funding for the Rural Grant Program, which supports services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault living in rural and isolated areas, has either been cut or remained stagnant for the last several years despite the great need. A number of additional states became eligible for rural grant funding through the VAWA 2013 reauthorization.

### **Transitional Housing program – \$35 million funding request**

The Transitional Housing program helps communities in every state give victims a safe place to begin to rebuild their shattered lives. The National Domestic Violence Counts Census found that last year, on just one day, 5,381 adults and 7,371 children were housed in domestic violence transitional housing programs. On the same day, however, 6,126 requests for emergency shelter or transitional housing were denied due to a lack of capacity. The extreme dearth of affordable housing produces a situation where many victims of domestic violence must return to their abusers because they cannot find long-term housing, while others are forced into homelessness. Increased investment in the Transitional Housing program will allow more states and localities to ensure that victims have access to safe housing.

### **Grants to Encourage Arrest (GTEAP) – \$73 million funding request**

GTEAP helps communities develop and sustain a seamless and comprehensive criminal justice response to domestic violence by enhancing victims' safety and holding perpetrators accountable. GTEAP encourages governments and courts at the state, local, and tribal level to treat domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking as serious violations of criminal law. This homicide reduction initiative set aside of \$4 million is designed to address the high homicide rate of abuse victims, especially those in escalating domestic violence situations.

### **Sexual Assault Services Program – \$40 million funding request**

The Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) is the only federal funding source dedicated to providing direct services to adult and minor victims of sexual violence, and is distributed through a state formula grant. Services include accompaniment through medical and legal systems, hotlines, crisis intervention, and advocacy. Increased funding will help hire advocates, eliminate waiting lists, and respond to the unmet needs of victims. Research shows these services increase prosecution and help victims recover. When advocates are present in the legal and

medical proceedings following rape, victims fare better in both the short- and long-term recovery, experiencing less psychological distress, physical health struggles, sexual risk-taking behaviors, self-blame, guilt, and depression. However, current funding levels are woefully inadequate to meet the need. The nation's 1,315 sexual assault programs often lack the resources to meet victims' most basic needs.

**Remaining VAWA programs – full funding (see chart):** All VAWA programs work together to improve the system-wide response to domestic and sexual violence and to meet the unique and pressing needs of victims. VAWA programs, including new initiatives included in the President's budget, should be funded at their full authorization levels.

## **Overview of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Programs**

### **VAWA Housing Choice Emergency Transfer Vouchers – \$37.5 million**

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), reauthorized in 2013, expands landmark housing protections designed to ensure that victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking can access the criminal justice system without facing discrimination or jeopardizing their current or future housing. The law includes a lifesaving emergency transfer provision for victims who need to flee their current housing and law mandates that HUD devise procedures under which victims in assisted housing who are requesting emergency transfers can obtain vouchers.

Advocates and survivors identify housing as a primary need of victims and a critical component in survivors' long term safety and stability. Despite their need for safe housing, countless victims become homeless as a result of these crimes or are forced to remain in danger.

Congress should support the proposal in the Administration's FY 16 budget for \$37.5 million for approximately 5,000 new vouchers for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking who require an emergency transfer from their current assisted housing, as authorized by VAWA 2013. This new key initiative, part of the tenant-based rental assistance in Public and Indian Housing, would allow victims to acquire an emergency transfer from their current housing, when they are no longer safe, to new housing without having to become homeless or go to shelter. The vouchers will help fulfill the emergency transfer policies mandated by VAWA 2013, prevent further violence, and keep more victims safe.