**Federal Appropriations Account Information for Fiscal Year 2022**

**(Oct. 1, 2021- Sept. 30, 2022)**

**SAMPLE FORM TO SEND TO MEMBER OF CONGRESS**

**Department of Justice**

**Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Crime Victims Fund**

**1) Organization Completing Application:**

Organization Name: Your State Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Mailing Address:

Physical Address (if different from mailing address):

**2) Contact person(s) in organization:**

Name: State Coalition ED or Rape Crisis Center, list your name and title

Phone number: cell and office numbers so they can reach you

Email Address: ED’s email, do not use info@ email address

**3) Lobbyist or other representative(s), if applicable:**

Name: Terri Poore, Policy Director, National Alliance to End Sexual Violence

Phone number: 850-228-3428

Email Address: terri@endsexualviolence.org

**4) Appropriations Bill/Subcommittee (check one):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Agriculture and Related Agencies |
| X | Commerce, Justice, and Science |
|  | Defense  |
|  | Energy and Water Development |
|  | Financial Services |
|  | Homeland Security |
|  | Interior and Environment |
|  | Labor, HHS, and Education |
|  | Legislative Branch |
|  | Military Construction and Veterans’ Affairs |
|  | State and Foreign Operations |
|  | Transportation and HUD  |

*(For questions #5-7, please be specific – e.g.: Department: Transportation; Agency: Federal Transit Administration; Program: Busses and Bus Facilities)*

**5) Department (if applicable):** Department of Justice

**6) Agency:** Office on Victims of Crime

**7) Account, agency subdivision, program, activity, etc., through which this project would be funded:**  Victims of Crime Act/Crime Victims Fund

**8) Amount of programmatic request for FY 2019:** $2.6 billion

**9) Description of program request:**

**10) Justification for use of federal taxpayer dollars:**

**Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) – request $2.01 billion release for the Crime Victims Fund.**

VOCA uses non-taxpayer money from the Crime Victims Fund for several programs that serve victims of crime, including state formula victim assistance grants. These funds, which are generated by fines paid by federal criminals, 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 are critically needed to respond to the crisis caused by the dangerous lack of available services for victims of sexual assault.

Deposits to the fund began shrinking considerably in the past few years and programs will be experiencing painful cuts in victim services funding. Congress must update language to increase deposits to the fund to avoid continued cuts to local programs and increased gaps in survivor services. Unless revenues into the Fund are supplemented, there is a good chance that the entire Fund balance could be depleted within the next few years. **Congress should provide steady funding in FY 2022.**

We urge you to request that the committee keep the VOCA cap steady, supplement deposits with payments made pursuant to deferred and non-prosecution agreements, with no transfers to other programs. Additionally, we urge you to continue a federal funding stream from VOCA for Tribes. Individuals on tribal lands experience disproportionately high rates of domestic and sexual violence and desperately need funding for victim services.

**11) Bill / Report language required (if any):**

Direct the Department of Justice to train United States attorneys on the importance of the Crime Victim Fund and supplement deposits into the fun from deferred and non-prosecution agreements.

**12) Amount/policy included specifically for this item in the President's budget request for FY 2022**:

unknown

**13) Federal funding history:**

E.g. $100,000 in FY14, $150,000 in FY13. Please include the complete funding history.

FY 16 3.04 Billion; FY 17 $2.57 Billion; FY 18 $4.3 Billion; FY 19 $3.4 Billion; FY 20 $2.64 Billion; FY 21 $2.01 Billion.

**14) If this request received Congressional appropriations in previous years, please list the fiscal year and provide the exact report or bill language as it appears in most recent House, Senate, or Conference report:**

Department of Justice, Office on Victims of Crime

**15) Is this request being submitted by other Members? If so, please provide the name of each Member that will be submitting the request:**

Unknown

**16) Other Comments/Misc. information?**

Please attach separate sheets as needed.

Victims of sexual assault suffer. They are more likely to struggle professionally, academically and from depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, and to contemplate suicide.

VOCA funds ensure quality services. Advocates funded with VOCA help the criminal justice system respond better. Research shows that when victims receive advocate-assisted services following assaults, they receive more helpful information, referrals and services and experience less secondary trauma or victimization by medical and legal systems. Rape survivors supported by advocates were 59% more likely to have police reports taken than survivors without advocates, whose reports were only taken 41% of the time.

Advocates help victims heal. 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.

62% of rape crisis programs have a waiting list for counseling services, 35% lack a therapist on staff, and many survivors are waiting many weeks or even months for counseling. Attention to campus and military sexual assault cases, as well as high profile media cases, has meant more victims have come forward needing critical recovery services. Programs must be expanded to meet the demand.