

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) 2009 Fact Sheet

PAID ENTIRELY BY CRIMINALS – NOT TAXPAYERS!! The Crime Victims Fund is a separate account paid entirely by Federal offenders and dedicated exclusively to support victim services. According to the Office of Management and Budget, the Fund will have a 2009 opening balance of \$1.9 billion and will collect an additional \$710 million during the year.

DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO MILLIONS OF CRIME VICTIMS. Every year, state VOCA assistance grants support direct services to 3.8 million victims of all types of crimes (domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, drunk driving, elder abuse, robberies, and survivors of homicide victims, etc) through 4,400 local agencies (such as domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, prosecutor- and law-enforcement-based programs, Court-appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs, drunk driving victim and homicide survivor support groups, and child advocacy centers).

VOCA ASSISTANCE GRANTS CUT! In 2000, Congress started capping annual obligations from the Fund to ensure “stable funding” in future years. Yet, despite huge balances in this non-taxpayer Fund, VOCA assistance grants have actually *been cut by \$87 million (22 percent) since 2006*. This was because 1) the cost for other VOCA programs increased; 2) in 2008 Congress lowered the cap; and 3) the Office of Justice Programs began charging the Crime Victims Fund for management and administrative costs. As a result, programs have cut services, shortened hours, reduced caseloads, laid off staff and, in some instances, closed their doors.

RESTORE VOCA ASSISTANCE GRANTS TO 2006 AMOUNTS. The 2009 VOCA cap should be sufficient to bring VOCA assistance grants back to the same dollar amount awarded in 2006—*four years ago*. This reasonable amount does *NOT* include costs to serve more victims of more crimes or to even make up for increased costs of providing services, such as higher prices for utilities to heat and operate shelters, gasoline to transport clients, or postage to mail victim notification letters.

STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION! Both the Senate and House Appropriations Committees have made some progress in making up for the cuts in state VOCA assistance grants, but still fall somewhat short of the amount needed to restore these grants to the amounts received in FY 2006.

Under the Senate bill, which increases the VOCA cap to \$635 million, VOCA assistance grants would be \$52 million less than the 2006 amounts. The House bill raises the VOCA cap to \$650 million and provides a separate non-VOCA appropriation for OJP’s management and administration (estimated at \$36.8 million in FY 2009). Nationally, state VOCA victim assistance grants will be 12.6 percent larger under the House bill.

Crime Victims Fund (in millions)	2006	2007	2008	2009 estimate	
				Senate	House
Opening Fund Balance (per OMB)	1,307.0	1,333.0	1,730.0	1,904.0	1,904.0
Cap	625.0 ¹	625.0	590.0	635.0	650.0
OJP Management & Administration ²			34.2	36.8	-0-
Children’s Justice Act	20.0	19.9	19.0	20.0	20.0
US Attorneys victim/witness coord. ³	21.9	22.2	22.4	23.0	23.0
FBI victim specialists ³	8.7	11.9	9.2	9.5	9.5
Victim Notification System ³	5.5	5.0	6.4	6.6	6.6
Training/Technical Assistance grants	29.6	28.2	18.4	21.2	29.5
Compensation grants	143.4	165.7	171.3	173.6	173.6
State victim assistance grants	395.9	370.6	309.0	344.2	387.7

¹ Includes \$1.4 million in carryover and adjustments.

² In 2008, OJP charged the Fund 4.9 percent for its overall management and administration costs and 0.9 percent for the Office of Audit, Assessment and Management. The OAAM charge of \$5.5 million was taken entirely from training and technical assistance grants. Assumes the same percentages would be charged in 2009.

³ Assumes 3 percent annual increase in 2009.

State-by-state comparison of House and Senate VOCA funding			
State	House (est.)	Senate (est.)	Difference
Alabama	5,953,000	5,295,000	658,000
Alaska	1,295,000	1,199,000	96,000
Arizona	7,637,000	6,776,000	861,000
Arkansas	3,828,000	3,426,000	402,000
California	43,844,000	38,613,000	5,231,000
Colorado	6,091,000	5,416,000	675,000
Connecticut	4,697,000	4,190,000	507,000
Delaware	1,509,000	1,387,000	122,000
District of Columbia	1,198,000	1,114,000	84,000
Florida	21,802,000	19,231,000	2,571,000
Georgia	11,449,000	10,127,000	1,322,000
Hawaii	2,026,000	1,842,000	184,000
Idaho	2,214,000	2,007,000	207,000
Illinois	15,804,000	13,957,000	1,847,000
Indiana	8,012,000	7,105,000	907,000
Iowa	4,055,000	3,626,000	429,000
Kansas	3,795,000	3,397,000	398,000
Kentucky	5,502,000	4,899,000	603,000
Louisiana	5,904,000	5,252,000	652,000
Maine	2,080,000	1,890,000	190,000
Maryland	7,201,000	6,392,000	809,000
Massachusetts	8,213,000	7,282,000	931,000
Michigan	12,610,000	11,148,000	1,462,000
Minnesota	6,646,000	5,904,000	742,000
Mississippi	3,987,000	3,566,000	421,000
Missouri	7,451,000	6,612,000	839,000
Montana	1,621,000	1,485,000	136,000
Nebraska	2,608,000	2,353,000	255,000
Nevada	3,392,000	3,043,000	349,000
New Hampshire	2,067,000	1,878,000	189,000
New Jersey	10,934,000	9,675,000	1,259,000
New Mexico	2,809,000	2,530,000	279,000
New York	23,657,000	20,862,000	2,795,000
North Carolina	10,897,000	9,642,000	1,255,000
North Dakota	1,261,000	1,169,000	92,000
Ohio	14,252,000	12,592,000	1,660,000
Oklahoma	4,748,000	4,235,000	513,000
Oregon	4,863,000	4,336,000	527,000
Pennsylvania	15,372,000	13,577,000	1,795,000
Rhode Island	1,787,000	1,632,000	155,000
South Carolina	5,592,000	4,977,000	615,000
South Dakota	1,429,000	1,317,000	112,000
Tennessee	7,640,000	6,778,000	862,000
Texas	27,988,000	24,671,000	3,317,000
Utah	3,486,000	3,125,000	361,000
Vermont	1,246,000	1,156,000	90,000
Virginia	9,569,000	8,474,000	1,095,000
Washington	8,043,000	7,133,000	910,000
West Virginia	2,675,000	2,412,000	263,000
Wisconsin	7,127,000	6,327,000	800,000
Wyoming	1,110,000	1,036,000	74,000
Puerto Rico	5,190,000	4,624,000	566,000
Virgin Islands	630,000	614,000	16,000
Am. Samoa	269,000	260,000	9,000
Guam	386,000	363,000	23,000
North Mariana Is.	283,000	273,000	10,000