

REDUCED VOCA FUNDING

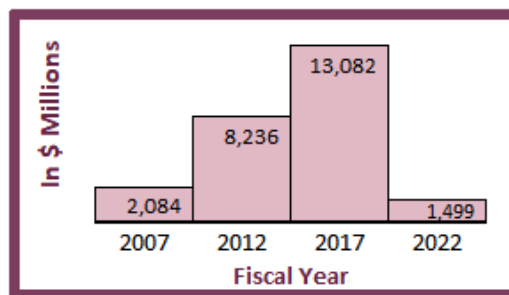
Victim Assistance grant funds from GCC's largest funding source, the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), are in jeopardy.

The VOCA Victim Assistance grants come from the U.S. Crime Victims Fund which is not funded from tax dollars. Instead, the CVF is primarily made up of deposits from federal criminal fines, fees, and penalties. Each federal fiscal year, (FFY) Congress determines how many dollars to release from the CVF for programs such as the VOCA Victim Assistance grants which GCC administers.

Deposits to the CVF have been decreasing since 2017 as a result of decreased federal prosecutions. Currently, the balance in the CVF is \$1.49 billion, down from more than 13 billion in 2017. The last time the fund was lower than this was in FFY2006!

A congressional bill would lower the amount to be released from the CVF for grant programs for FFY23 to \$1.795 billion, which is still more than the CVF's balance as of September 2022 (only \$1.49 billion). While deposits may continue to be made to the fund, it is likely the CVF may be depleted or almost depleted once FFY23 grant funds are released to the states, according to the U.S. Office for Victims of Crime. This means that GCC's VOCA funding for FY24 and beyond is likely to remain shaky while we wait for the CVF to be replenished from future federal criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalties, and special assessments collected by U.S. Attorney's Offices and deposited into the CVF.
[Crime Victims Fund | Office for Victims of Crime\(ojp.gov\)](https://www.ojp.gov/crime-victims-fund).

Crime Victim Fund
Comparative Year-End Balances



Like all U.S. Attorney offices, our North Carolina U.S. Attorney's prosecutions impact the balance of the CVF. This is why we require all GCC's VOCA applicants to write to our three regional U.S. Attorneys' Offices (Michael Easley in the Eastern District, Dena King in the Western District, and Sandra J. Hairston for the Middle District) indicating that the subrecipient agency will help our U.S. Attorney's Offices serve federal crime victims in our state.

For entities applying for VOCA funds, be aware as the CVF balance goes down, so do the funds available for GCC to support victim services across our state.

Most Common Application Errors for GCC Grants

1. Not having read the most current RFA.
2. Not leaving enough time to get Authorizing Official signature before submitting.
3. Submitting without the budget narrative.
4. Selecting the incorrect priority.
5. Detailed Supply List not attached.
6. Not selecting and uploading indirect costs.
7. Project attachments not present and not labeled as requested in RFA.
8. Missing organization documents such as EEOP.
9. Project timeline does not include enough information.
10. Incorrect signatory officials.

Upcoming GCC Reporting Deadlines

- New Grant Applications due January 31, 2023 by 11:59 PM
- Notice of Grant Implementation – Immediately as all new grants open
- Initial Sub-grant Award Report (VOCA Only) – Immediately as new VOCA grants open
- PMT Quarterly (October 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022) – Due January 10 for Byrne JAG / Due January 31 for VOCA OVC
- VAWA STOP Progress Report – January 31 for first year
- CESF Project Progress Report – January 31
- Current projects Utilization Report – Jan 31