

PROTECT INDIANA CRIME VICTIMS

RESTORE VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT FUNDS (VOCA)

BUDGET REQUEST: A group of organizations who protect Indiana crime victims requests an appropriation of \$12 million in FY25-27. The Department of Justice (DOJ) has predicted a shortfall in Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant to manage the growing needs of victims served by nearly 200 local programs. The funds are needed to ensure resources, staff and infrastructure to help those most in need.

40% DECREASE IN FUNDING SINCE 2019

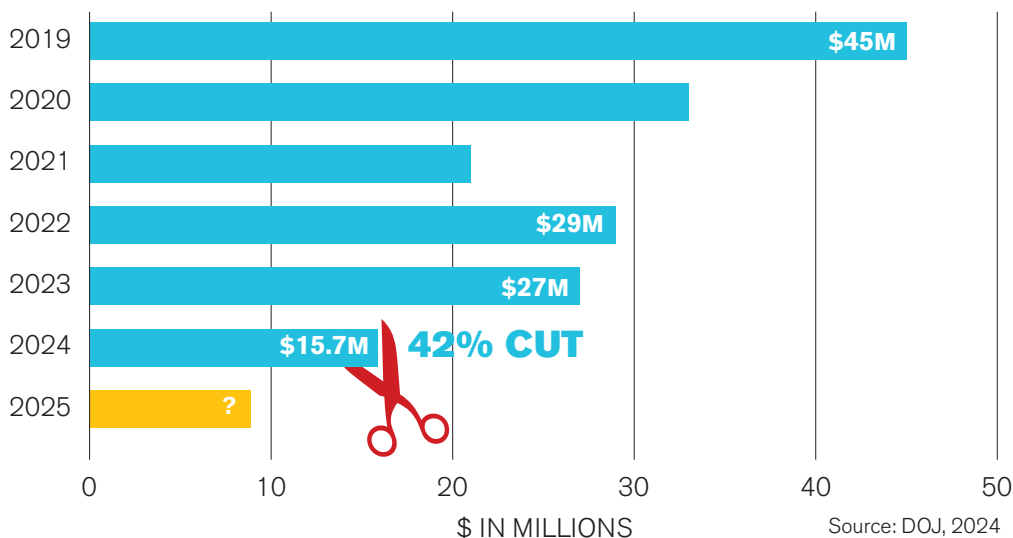
Together,
our programs
served over
200,377
adults and
children
in FY23.

VOCA funding is critical to the **nearly 200 local programs** to deliver services to victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking. Funds are used in a variety of ways to support victims including: therapy, case management, legal advocacy, transportation, prevention education, shelter needs and more.

Indiana's child advocacy centers, domestic violence shelter programs and rape crisis centers have suffered from a **40% decrease in VOCA funding**, since 2019, which has resulted in elimination of staff, increased caseloads, reductions in some services, especially court advocacy, community education, and economic and housing supports. The 2024 proposed federal budget includes a **42% cut from 2023 funding levels**.

While the federal 2021 "VOCA Fix" provided a path forward to increase the availability of grant funds, it will take several years for the fund to build up. **Unfortunately, victims in Indiana can't wait — our local programs need help now to ensure continued cuts do not further impact services.**

ANNUAL INDIANA VOCA ALLOCATIONS



VOCA\$

SERVES ALL
VICTIMS OF CRIME,
CHILD ABUSE,
SEXUAL ABUSE,
SEXUAL ASSAULT,
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AND HUMAN
TRAFFICKING

HOW ARE OTHER STATES ADDRESSING VOCA CUTS?

- Alabama: **\$7.5m** to support children's advocacy centers
- Georgia: **\$4.8m** for domestic violence/sexual assault service providers
- Ohio: Increased general fund to **\$20m/2 years** for domestic violence programs, \$30m/2 years for sexual assault programs
- Maryland: Requires **\$60m** total for victim services programs. The state is required to backfill any shortage of VOCA funds in future years.
- Missouri: **\$30m** for domestic violence/sexual assault service providers
- Texas: **\$160m** ARPA funds for all victim service providers
- Michigan: **\$30m** allocated to crime victims' rights sustaining grants
- Minnesota: **\$11m** to support sexual assault services
- Tennessee: **\$7m** to support children's advocacy centers
- Wisconsin: **\$45m/3 years** (\$20m for victim services + \$25m violence prevention)

WHAT WILL THESE CUTS MEAN?

Currently in Indiana, approximately **590 people are employed through VOCA funds**. These include social workers, advocates, healthcare providers, lawyers, and law enforcement. A 42% cut could result in 236 of these people being unable to help and support victims.

“ I depend on the advocates at the Child Advocacy Center to help child victims through this process. Without them, I could not prosecute these horrible crimes and hold perpetrators accountable. ”

David R. Sutter
Jefferson County Prosecutor

“ A parent could never prepare themselves on how to handle these devastating situations they are faced with — but the folks at Susie's Place and the Victims Advocacy Team provided the utmost support and guidance along the way. We will be forever grateful for their help. ”

Cheryl S



“ Over the years, the Kosciusko County Sheriff's Office has leaned on and depended on The Beaman Home to support victims of domestic violence or sexual assault in understanding the criminal justice process and providing safe shelter for victims that are in danger or fleeing from violence. ”

Jim Smith, Sheriff
Kosciusko County Sheriff's Office

\$11,589,432
DOLLARS LOST IN INDIANA



HELP US RESTORE THE CUTS THROUGH THE STATE BUDGET!

Learn more at www.protectindianacrimevictims.org

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CRIME VICTIMS**