



ILLINOIS CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION AUTHORITY

300 W. Adams Street • Suite 200 • Chicago, Illinois 60606 • (312) 793-8550

Victims of Crime Act Competitive Funding Opportunities

Background

The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program, administered by the Office for Victims of Crime and funded by the Crime Victims Fund, provides federal formula block grants to states and territories on an annual basis.

VOCA funding must be used to support direct services to victims of crime designed to respond to victims' emotional, psychological and physical needs, assist victims in stabilizing their lives, restore a measure of safety for victims, or assist victims in understanding and , participating in the criminal justice system. VOCA requires a minimum of 10 percent of a State's annual VOCA grant to be allocated to each of the following program areas: domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and underserved victims of violent crime (as defined by the State). VOCA funds may not be used to supplant or replace state and local funds that would otherwise be available for crime victim services and must be used to develop new projects or expand existing projects.

For more information on the VOCA Program please visit:

<http://ojp.gov/ovc/about/victimsfund.html>.

ICJIA recently completed a statewide assessment of victim needs and services in Illinois. The report was presented to the ICJIA Ad Hoc Victim Services Committee for consultation and coordination with other state agencies. The final report's recommendations were approved by ICJIA Board in January 2017. These recommendations outline a comprehensive plan to address victims' needs in Illinois and will be reflected in ICJIA's VOCA funding opportunities as appropriate. Please see the following link to access the report and recommendations.

<http://www.icjia.state.il.us/articles/ad-hoc-victim-services-committee-research-report>

Federal and State Requirements of ICJIA's Grantmaking Process

ICJIA will administer VOCA funds in accordance with the following:

- VOCA Statute, 42 USC 10603, the VOCA Victim Assistance Program Final Guidelines and Rule, guidance issued by the Office for Victims of Crime, the Department of Justice Grants Financial Guide, government-wide grant rules and all other applicable federal laws.
- State law, including the 2014 Illinois Grant Accountability and Transparency Act which requires a rigorous use of competitive notices of funding opportunity.
- ICJIA's administrative rules.

ICJIA anticipates the release of several competitive funding opportunities in 2017 and 2018. The chart below provides general guidance on strategic focus, release and grant timing. ICJIA cannot provide more detail regarding upcoming funding opportunities as doing so may disqualify potential applicants from funding.

Strategic Initiative	Application Released	Program Start
Comprehensive Legal Assistance	First Quarter 2017	Third Quarter 2017
Child Abuse, Financial Exploitation, and Impaired Driving	Second Quarter 2017	Third Quarter 2017
Child Advocacy Centers, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services	Second Quarter 2017	Third Quarter 2017
Community Violence	Second Quarter 2017	Third Quarter 2017
Law Enforcement, Prosecution and Court based Victim Services	Fourth Quarter 2017	First Quarter 2018
These funding opportunity timelines are tentative and subject to change. Additional funding opportunities may become available.		

Each funding opportunity will be posted on the ICJIA website and announced via our listserve, Twitter and Facebook pages. Please connect with this resources if you haven't already done so. In addition, it will be posted in the Daily Register.

In addition, there are several steps a potential applicant should take to prepare for a solicitation:

- Apply for pre-qualification through the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal, www.grants.illinois.gov. During pre-qualification, Dun and Bradstreet verifications are performed, including a check of Debarred and Suspended status and good standing with the Illinois Secretary of State.

The pre-qualification process also includes a financial and administrative risk assessment using an Internal Controls Questionnaire (ICQ). The ICQ must be submitted through the GATA portal and approved by a State cognizant agency by the date an application is received at ICJIA or any other state agency. All applications will be pre-screened for completeness and ICQ approval. Applications from agencies that do not have an approved ICQ will not be reviewed.

- Watch the ICJIA webinar on VOCA eligibility, which you can access here: <http://www.icjia.org/sites/voca-rules-allowability-webinar>. It provides a good overview of how VOCA funds can be used.