

September 20, 2021

OVC Bulletin:

VOCA Victim Assistance Funds May Support Community Violence Intervention Efforts

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), issues this Bulletin, clarifying that Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance formula funding may be used to support community violence intervention efforts. The VOCA statute and the VOCA Victim Assistance Program Rule (VOCA Rule) do not prohibit using VOCA Victim Assistance formula funding for community violence intervention programs.

VOCA Victim Assistance Program funding is intended to provide direct services to assist victims of crime. 28 C.F.R. § 94.103(a). So long as the driving factor of community violence intervention programs is to provide direct services to assist victims of crime, those efforts may be funded with VOCA Victim Assistance Program funds. These direct services may include, but are not limited to, hospital- and community-based violence intervention programs that provide multidisciplinary victim services, such as safety planning, advocacy, trauma-informed care, and ongoing support services and assistance for survivors. Many states, such as New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, have used VOCA Victim Assistance formula funds to support hospital-based violence intervention programs.

Funding community violence intervention programs to assist victim populations that have been traditionally underserved, such as victims of violent crime in high crime areas and victims of gang violence, is one method of meeting the VOCA Rule requirement that States and Territories allocate at least 10 percent of their VOCA Victim Assistance funding to “underserved victims of violent crime,” as specified in 34 U.S.C. § 20103(a)(2)(B). 28 C.F.R. § 94.104(c); VOCA Rule Preamble re: 28 C.F.R. § 94.104, 81 Fed. Reg. 44515, 44519.

If you would like more information about how your State or Territory can support community violence intervention efforts with VOCA funding, please contact your OVC program manager or [The OVC Center for VOCA Administrators](#).