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During the SFY23 legislative session budget hearings, the Department of Social Services (DSS) stated a formula funding plan would be developed with a stakeholder group. To facilitate this task, DSS convened eleven (11) stakeholder meetings from October 2022 through July 2023. The first meetings included multiple stakeholders that represented all agencies. After discussions in these meetings, the group concluded a smaller stakeholder group of member organizations would develop a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) formula funding plan. The plan would then be shared with all VOCA providers.

### **Stakeholders Included or Represented During Meetings**

- Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence – Membership organization (66 VOCA funded agencies are members) and DSS technical assistance provider for VOCA and Domestic Violence Shelter Services. Organizational members<sup>1</sup> pay .3% of a program’s domestic and/or sexual violence service budget with a yearly minimum of \$300. Affiliate members pay \$300. Membership is open to multiple types of agencies and organizations.
- MO Network of Child Advocacy Centers dba MO Kids First – Membership organization that provides training and technical assistance to Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) to ensure they meet accreditation and DSS technical assistance provider. (Note: All CACs are nationally accredited, and there are strict accreditation requirements for the various types of services such as interviews, mental health services, forensic interviews, etc.) The only members are the 15 CACs. MO Kids First receives \$50,000 in membership dues based on a formula with a minimum of \$500 membership due.
- MO Court Appointed Special Advocates (MO CASA) – Coordinating agency for CASA programs. There are 24 CASAs, and 19 are currently VOCA providers. MO CASA receives \$100 a year for membership fees from the CASAs.

AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

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- Missouri Association for Prosecuting Attorneys (MAPA) – Membership organization that assists PAs in access to continuing education, lobbying, coordinates training, and provides technology support for all counties with Karpel Case Management (database to track criminal cases and victim assistance). Membership fees are \$344.60 for each elected official and \$114.86 for an assistant prosecutor or investigator, with fees increasing 2% annually. There are 450 assistant PA/Investigators.
- MO Coalition Against Trafficking and Exploitation (MO-CATE) – Membership organization working towards community collaboration to respond to human trafficking. No membership fees at this time.
- Department of Public Safety (DPS) – Previously administered VOCA and currently administers Violence Against Women, Sexual Assault Services Program, Victims Compensation, State services to Victims Fund, Protection Program for Victim/Witnesses of Violent Crimes, Title II Grant- Juvenile Justice, and Missouri Victim Automated Notification System.
  - Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP) – Receives VOCA funding for one (1) initiative.<sup>4</sup>
- 138 VOCA Providers

Note: MAPA provides funding for 70 Prosecuting Attorney (PA) Offices. This will add the ten (10) remaining PAs.

The smaller stakeholder group developed a formula funding plan that was shared with all VOCA providers through a WebEx on July 19, 2023. During and after the WebEx, DSS received feedback from organizations with no consensus on the VOCA funding allocation methodology. Meeting minutes are included in the attached document, and are available on the Department of Social Services (DSS) website at: [Victims of Crime Act | division | Missouri Department of Social Services \(mo.gov\)](#)

### **Binder Contains the Following Information**

- A synopsis of the VOCA program
- Recommendation of funding allocations with the forecasted impact based on current allocations
- Attachments that are referenced in the synopsis and recommendation documents

## Overview of the Proposed FFY25 Changes Based on Provider Input

Current	Proposed
1. DSS conducts a competitive bid process (180 contracts).	1. DSS will contract with up to six five (5) agencies as sub recipients of the funds to aid in the distribution of funds based on the type of agency.
2. DSS contracts directly with MSHP for school suicide hotline and human trafficking training for officers.	2. DSS will continue to contract directly with MSHP, but also contract directly with DeafLEAD, and Legal Aid/Legal Services as these agencies provide statewide services.
3. There is currently no cap on the funding amounts agencies are eligible for.	3. A cap of \$750,000 for non-statewide services to reduce the contract amounts as the VOCA fund is anticipated to continue to decline.  This will not impact the FFY24 contracts. For FFY24, 10 agencies received 23% of the total VOCA grant. If this cap was in place for FFY24, the contracted amounts would have decreased by \$5.5M.
4. There is currently not a base amount on the funds an agency can receive.	4. Agencies receiving \$200,000 or less will receive the lesser of \$200,000 or their bid amount.  This does not impact FFY24. During the FFY24 bid process, the agencies at \$200,000 or less were also either given the lesser of their bid amount or expenditures. If the base amount was in place for FFY24, this would have impacted 38 agencies and increase the contracted amount by \$1.4M.
5. VOCA has regional allocations.	5. Discontinue regional allocations, instead rely upon sub-recipients to distribute funds across the regions based on demonstrated need across the various types of agencies.
6. MO Kids First and MOCADSV provide Technical Assistance.	6. DSS will provide a robust training plan including federal training that is available, and procure additional training if needed.

## Details of the Proposed FFY25 Changes Based on Provider Input

1. Contract with five (5) agencies to be the sub recipient of VOCA funds. This will allow these agencies to determine the allocation methodology and submit their application to DSS for approval, as well as ensure a consistent percentage of the grant towards statewide services, regardless of whether there are increases or decreases in the overall VOCA grant amount.<sup>5</sup>

DSS intends to fund the majority, or all, of these costs with the 5% administration cap that DSS currently allocates for DSS operations. Applications will be accepted for an organization to be the sub recipient of federal funds for the following types of agencies:

1. Child Advocacy Centers:

- a. Contracted Number of Agencies: 14
- b. Last 12 Month Award: \$4,945,696
- c. Allocation After Proposed Adjustments and Recommended Award: \$5,053,368
- d. Percent of Total: 11%

2. Court Appointed Special Advocates:

- a. Contracted Number of Agencies: 19
- b. Last 12 Month Award: \$2,158,990
- c. Allocation After Proposed Adjustments and Recommended Award: \$2,825,464
- d. Percent of Total: 6%

3. Prosecuting Attorneys:

- a. Contracted Number of Agencies: 804
- b. Last 12 Month Award: \$4,758,748
- c. Allocation After Proposed Adjustments and Recommended Award: \$4,864,446
- d. Percent of Total: 11%

4. Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence:

- a. Contracted Number of Agencies: 53
- b. Last 12 Month Award: \$24,085,492
- c. Allocation After Proposed Adjustments and Recommended Award: \$20,129,818

d. Percent of Total: 44%

5. Multiple Services:

a. Contracted Number of Agencies: 36

b. Last 12 Month Award: \$10,543,540

c. Allocation After Proposed Adjustments and Recommended Award:  
\$9,584,284

d. Percent of Total: 21%

An agency interested in being a sub recipient will submit an application indicating they agree to certain terms and conditions, including, but not limited to:

- Board members cannot receive VOCA funds.
- Can only apply for one category of funding.
- Cannot provide direct services to victims, advocate for or against abortion, or use the funds for lobbying purposes or equipment purchases.
- Must invite DSS to all meetings that provide VOCA information to a group, and provide the same VOCA information and services to agency members and non-members.
- Must comply with all DOJ and DSS requirements, including but not limited to: those outlined in the DSS handbook, allowable costs, submitting required reports, submitting invoices and budget/budget narratives, monitoring, risk assessments, etc. (see attachment 17, 18, and 19 for information on the requirements).
- Agencies approved to be a sub recipient will submit a budget and budget narrative with costs associated with the VOCA program, including, but not limited to: monitoring, invoicing, training specific to their providers, supplies, etc.

2. Contract directly with agencies that provide services that are necessary to operate the VOCA program. The agencies outlined below provide statewide services, and receive referrals from VOCA providers on a regular basis.

1. Missouri State Highway Patrol: 1 contract<sup>4</sup>

a. Last 12 Month Award: \$36,015

b. Proposed Allocation: \$36,015

2. DeafLEAD:

- a. Last 12 Month Award: \$837,622
- b. Proposed Allocation: \$1,000,000 (Proposed increase is based on the original request, and the increase in the need of services since 2021)

3. Legal Aid/Legal Services: 4 contracts

- a. Last 12 Month Award: \$1,018,698
- b. Proposed Allocation: \$1,750,000 (Proposed increase based on the number of victims currently on waitlists that need legal representation)

▪ Total

- Last 12 Month Award: \$2,047,786
- Allocation After Proposed Adjustments and Recommended Award: \$2,949,990
- Percent of Total: 6%

3. Reduce the total funding any one agency can receive to \$750,000 for non-statewide services. This will not impact the FFY24 contracts. For FFY24, 10 agencies received 23% of the total VOCA grant. If this cap was in place for FFY24, the contracted amounts would have decreased by \$5.5M.

*- See "Recommended Sub recipient and Current Allocations with Adjustment Projections" for the impact by agency.*

4. Allow agencies that bid at or below \$200,000 to receive their maximum bid, up to \$200,000. This does not impact FFY24, during the FFY24 bid process, the agencies at \$200,000 or less were also either given the lesser of their bid amount or expenditures. If the base amount was in place for FFY24, this would have impacted 38 agencies and increase the contracted amount by \$1.4M.

*- See "Recommended Sub recipient and Current Allocations with Adjustment Projections" for the impact by agency.*

5. Discontinue regional allocations, instead rely upon sub-recipients to distribute funds across the regions based on demonstrated need across the various types of agencies. Regional allocations were put in place for contracts beginning April 1, 2022. This was implemented due to the disparities in VOCA funding in St. Louis and Southwest Missouri.

6. Provide a robust training package for VOCA providers with additional training based on provider feedback (i.e. gun violence, human trafficking, grant writing, fund raising, operating a small business, etc.). The total amount of training for VOCA and DVSS is anticipated to be less than the current allocations for training. These trainings are expected to include:
  - a. Free training from the Office of Victims of Crime (OVC). DSS is in the process of coordinating with OVC and their training providers to determine trainings available that DSS can host on an internal web page, as well as up to four (4) trainings per year that can be tailored to Missouri.
  - b. DSS will review other state websites to determine what can be replicated for Missouri.
  - c. DSS will determine trainings that can be developed in-house to ensure all grantees have access to information on completing federal reporting requirements, information on grant writing, developing budgets, non-profit fundamentals, etc. DSS has already began this process.

While DSS understands not all agencies will agree with the methodology outlined in the above, DSS believes this approach is in the best interest of the VOCA program and is best positioned to mitigate significant impacts to programs resulting from future funding fluctuations. In addition, these changes will improve access to VOCA funding and supports for a majority of the agencies across the state, and ensure designated allocations for the different crime types. DSS also intends to continue supporting the VOCA program through provider communication and ongoing training.

After submission to the General Assembly and Governor's Office, DSS intends to hold a stakeholder feedback call. DSS will compile all comments from the call and subsequently make recommendations to the General Assembly and Governor's Office if the majority of the VOCA providers indicate a change is necessary for VOCA operations, or if they indicate this proposed approach will adversely affect the overall program.

Sincerely,

Patrick Luebbering  
Chief Financial Officer

<sup>1</sup>Of the agencies listed under DV/SV, 45 are organizational members, 2 are affiliate members, and 6 are not members.

<sup>2</sup>The VOCA grant for FFY24 included \$7.9M in General Revenue.

<sup>3</sup>DSS contract language for the sub recipients will require the allocation methodology to be submitted for review. The sub recipient will assume all of the federal responsibility of administering the grant including: monitoring,

invoicing, reporting, etc. DSS will pay the administration costs from the 5% allocation reserved for DSS administration.

There have been a few agencies that do not want to contract directly with these agencies, but it is preferential, and not based on concerns regarding the agencies ability to administer the program.

<sup>4</sup> Currently there are 2 contracts. The MSHP hotline contract expires effective January 31, 2024. MSHP is not requesting future funding of \$155,451 as they now have funding in their budget to support the hotline.

<sup>5</sup> Kids First receives a contract of \$58,592, and MOCADSV receives Technical Assistance (TA) contracts of \$331,460 in VOCA and \$668,574 from DVSS.