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During the House Budget Committee hearing on February 13, 2024, the Department of Social Services (DSS) stated a summary of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding allocation recommendations would be provided. Below are the four (4) options as discussed.

- Option #1:

Contract with up to five (5) agencies to be subrecipients of federal funds for the agency types outlined below. These agencies would develop an allocation methodology plan to be approved by DSS, and administer the funding.

1. Domestic Violence/Sexual Violence
2. Child Advocacy Centers
3. Court Appointed Special Advocates
4. Prosecuting Attorneys
5. Multi-Service Agencies

- Option #2:

Contract with up to five (5) agencies to be subrecipients of federal funds for the agency types outlined below. These agencies would develop an allocation methodology plan to be approved by DSS, and administer the funding.

1. Domestic Violence/Sexual Violence
2. Child Advocacy Centers
3. Court Appointed Special Advocates
4. Prosecuting Attorneys
5. Multi-Service Agencies

In addition, the DSS approved allocation plan will include allowing agencies receiving \$50,000 or less to continue to receive their current allocation. These agencies must continue to meet VOCA requirements.

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- Option #3:

DSS will continue to directly contract with all providers that continue to meet VOCA requirements. If there are funding fluctuations, all agencies will receive a proportionate change to their funding level

- Option #4:

DSS will continue to directly contract with all providers that continue to meet VOCA requirements. If there are funding fluctuations, all agencies will receive a proportionate change to their funding level based on the new funding level.

Agencies receiving \$50,000 or less will continue to receive their current allocation if there are funding reductions. The agencies receiving over this amount will receive a proportionate decrease of the remaining funds.

DSS will need to implement a formula funding option for contracts beginning October 1st and notify VOCA providers as soon as possible, as they will have to adjust their operations accordingly and ensure the community is aware of programmatic changes. DSS is requesting the General Assembly provide feedback to the VOCA unit's email at fsd.vocaunit@dss.mo.gov by May 17, 2024 which is the end of the 2024 General Session. If DSS does not receive feedback, DSS will pursue Option #4 as outlined above.

To access meeting minutes, provider comments, maps of the VOCA providers and service areas, various spreadsheets on allocations and potential allocations, and additional analysis, please use this link: <https://dss.mo.gov/dfas/victims-of-crime-act/pdf/voca-analysis-and-recommendations.pdf>

Sincerely,



Patrick Luebbering
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