

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Assistance Recovery Act Funds:

West Virginia will be applying for \$620,000 in VOCA Recovery Act Funds. These funds will be utilized for the purpose of to preserve and create jobs and promote economic recovery. West Virginia VOCA Recovery Act grant funds are to support the provision of services to victims of crime. Services under this grant program are defined as those efforts that (1) respond to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims, (2) assist primary and secondary victims of crime stabilize their lives after a victimization; (3) assist victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system; and (4) provide victims of crime with a measure of safety and security such as boarding-up broken windows and replacing and repairing locks.

The purpose of VOCA is to enhance and expand direct services to victims of crime with special emphasis placed on victims of domestic violence, child abuse, and sexual assault.

Direct Services include:

1. **Counseling** refers to in-person crisis intervention, emotional support, and guidance and counseling provided by advocates, counselors, mental health professionals, or peers. Such counseling may occur at the scene of a crime, immediately after a crime, or be provided on an on-going basis.
2. **Follow-up** refers to in-person contacts, telephone contacts, and written communications with victims to offer emotional support, provide empathetic listening, check on victims progress, etc.
3. **Therapy** refers to intensive professional psychological and/or psychiatric treatment for individuals, couples, and family members related to counseling to provide emotional support in crisis arising from the occurrence of a crime. This includes the evaluation of mental health needs, as well as the actual deliver of psychotherapy.
4. **Group Treatment/Support** refers to the coordination and provision of supportive group activities and includes self-help, peer, social support, etc.
5. **Shelter/Safe House** refers to offering short and long-term housing and related support services to victims and families following victimization.
6. **Information/Referral (In-Person)** refers to in-person contacts with victims during which time, services, and available support are identified.
7. **Criminal Justice Support/Advocacy** refers to support, assistance, and advocacy provided to victims at any state of the criminal justice process, to include post-sentencing services and support.

8. **Emergency Financial Assistance** refers to cash outlays for transportation, food, clothing, emergency housing, etc.
9. **Emergency Legal Advocacy** refers to filing temporary restraining orders, injunctions, and other protective orders, elder abuse petitions, and child abuse petitions but does not include criminal prosecution or the employment of attorneys for non-emergency purposes, such as custody disputes, civil suite, etc.
10. **Assistance in Filing Compensation Claims** includes making the victim aware of the availability of the crime victim compensation, assisting the victim in completing the required forms, gathering the needed documentation, etc. It also may include follow-up contact with the victim compensation agency on behalf of the victim.
11. **Personal Advocacy** refers to assisting victims in securing rights, remedies, and services from other agencies; locating emergency financial assistance, intervening with employers, creditors, and others on behalf of the victim; assisting in filing for losses covered by public and private insurance programs including workers compensation, unemployment benefits, welfare, etc.; accompanying the victim to the hospital; etc.
12. **Telephone Contact** refers to contacts with victims during which time services and available support are identified. This does not include calls during which counseling is the primary function of the telephone call.
13. **Transportation** refers to transporting a victim from a crime scene, to court, or any other situation deemed necessary and is directly related to their victimization.