

# ***ADVISORY BULLETIN***

**TRANSMITTAL NO. 2020-05**

**TO: ALL FUNDED PROGRAMS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**FROM: ELIZABETH CRONIN, ESQ.  
DIRECTOR**

**SUBJECT: VOCA Funding Update and Match Waiver**

**DATE: July 10, 2020**

Dear Colleague:

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 global pandemic, the New York State Office of Victim Services has been focused on finding ways to help our funded programs navigate this unprecedented time, which has changed the way you provide services and placed additional financial stress on your program. It is our goal to help you meet these challenges so you can continue to provide critical services to your clients and communities.

To that end, we have worked with the federal Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) and the New York State Division of the Budget on two initiatives that will give your programs greater flexibility with your current grant funding and provide additional funding for the second year of your contracts, which begin Oct. 1, 2020.

## **OVS Match Waiver Policy**

OVS has developed an OVC-approved **Match Waiver Policy** for New York State. This policy gives the agency the authority "...to issue partial, or full, match waivers to some, or all OVS subrecipients during any contract term when unique circumstances justify such action. Examples of unique circumstances include, but are not limited to, a natural disaster, a pandemic, or a mass violence incident."

**To assist programs at this time, OVS has issued a blanket waiver of the match requirement for all current OVS contracts utilizing (Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) award numbers 2017-VA-GX-0047 AND 2018-V2-GX-0047).**

Waiving the match requirement will provide programs with added flexibility in spending your awards on VOCA-allowable expenses and allow programs that serve victims and survivors of domestic violence to ease administrative burdens raised by the Governor's COVID-19 Domestic Violence Task Force.

## **Additional Funding**

All recipients of grant funding under the OVS 2019-2022 Request for Applications (RFA) for the VOCA Victim and Witness Assistance Grant Program will receive **additional VOCA funding** for the second year of their contracts (10/1/2020-9/30/2021).

**OVS was able to identify additional VOCA funds subsequent to the issuance of the RFA. These funds are available on a one-time basis only. Under the OVS plan, these funds will be pro-rated for each program based on the total funding that the program received under the 2019-2022 RFA.**

As you know, OVS will soon be negotiating the second-year contracts. You can expect to receive your Year Two award letters, which will include the amount of additional funding allocated to your program, in the coming weeks. Should you have any questions about the match waiver or additional funding as they apply to your program, please email or call your assigned Contract Management Specialist.

These are extraordinary and challenging times. On behalf of the entire staff of OVS, thank you for your continued commitment to providing the highest quality services to innocent victims for crime in New York State.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Elizabeth Cronin".

Elizabeth Cronin, Esq.  
Director