

ADVISORY BULLETIN

TRANSMITTAL NO. 2021-01

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

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

SUBJECT: VOCA Fix Legislation Update

DATE: March 18, 2021

Dear Colleague:

There is great news about the VOCA Fix bill. On March 17, the House of Representatives voted to pass HR 1652 VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021. This was a bipartisan vote of 384-38. The bill now moves to the Senate where it also has bipartisan support. [Here's a copy of H.R. 1652](#). There is no date yet for the Senate vote, but it is expected to be soon.

An article regarding the Crime Victim Fund and the VOCA Fix legislation is available on [Roll Call](#).

Some of the features of this bill include:

- Directing criminal settlements from Federal non-prosecution and deferred prosecution agreements, which are currently deposited into the General Treasury, into the CVF (known as the “deposits fix,” this change would be the most significant and could make an additional \$4–\$7 billion of non-taxpayer money available to the CVF over the next few years)
- Increasing the percentage that state compensation programs are reimbursed by the Federal government from 60 to 75 percent
- Allowing states to apply for a no-cost extension for VOCA assistance grants
- Giving states the ability to waive subgrantee match requirements for VOCA assistance grants
- Providing additional flexibility for state victim compensation programs to provide compensation for victims, even if they do not interact with law enforcement

You can also visit the [National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators \(NAVAA\) website](#) to learn more about this legislation and we encourage you to share the information with your colleagues, coalition members and other key partners impacted by VOCA funding.

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.



Elizabeth Cronin, Esq.
Director