

THE FOLLOWING IS A BROADCAST EMAIL TO ALL OVS FUNDED VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Dear Colleague:

It's official! Your voices were heard and the FFY 2016 federal budget was enacted with \$3.042 billion released from the VOCA fund! Of that, about \$379 million will be going to VAWA. Initial estimates are that there will be about \$2.26 billion for VOCA victim assistance grants. This means a 15.5% increase over FFY 2015! This is great news because it will provide more sustained funding over a longer period of time and allow OVS and providers to better plan for the future. Of course, it also means that any increase in available federal funding requires an increase to the required state match.

We will be contacting you in the near future to ask for your input on ideas for programming as we did when the VOCA cap was raised last year. Our partnership is vital to providing services to crime victims in New York and we now have this incredible opportunity. But, as with any opportunity comes accountability so we need to think not only creatively, but realistically and strategically. This budget also comes with \$10 million in funding for the Inspector General so oversight by OVC will be increased.

As you know, there has been no increase in the funding for compensation. As we expect there to be an increase in filed claims as we increase capacity for programs, this may be the next issue on which to focus advocacy.

On behalf of the New York State Office of Victim Services, thank you for your commitment to providing the highest quality services to innocent victims of crime in New York State.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Cronin, Director
New York State Office of Victim Services