

ADVISORY BULLETIN

TRANSMITTAL NO. 2021-02

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

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

SUBJECT: VOCA Match Waiver

DATE: June 30, 2021

Dear Colleague:

The New York State Office of Victim Services (OVS) remains focused on finding ways to help our funded programs during this unprecedented time, which has changed the way you provide services and caused 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 and effective today, OVS is extending the Match Waiver Policy it first implemented in 2020. All OVS contracts ending on Sept. 30, 2022, and utilizing Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) awards 2019-V2-GX-0040 and 2020-V2-GX-0043 will no longer require a match.

Waiving this match requirement provides programs with added flexibility in spending your awards on VOCA-allowable expenses and allows you to continue to provide services.

OVS worked with the federal Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) last year to develop the policy, which 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."

Should you have any questions about the match waiver, please email or call your assigned Contract Management Specialist.

On behalf of the entire staff of OVS, thank you for your continued commitment to providing the highest quality services to victims of crime in New York State.