

Funding Available for Elder Abuse Victim Assistance Webinar Transcript

- #1. I hope everyone is on. We are recording this session. My name is Julie Schoen and I am very happy to be with you today. We have quite a wonderful registration. I am giving it just a few more minutes because I see people are still coming on, but we do want to be very timely, as we have a lot to cover today. This is a very exciting topic. So, just a couple of housekeeping rules before we get started. You are all muted and at the end of the session, we will definitely take your questions. So hopefully everyone sees the question box where you can be submitting written questions. I will be moderating the questions throughout the session and at the end after all the speakers have presented, we will be then taking your questions to all the panelists, so if you would mind typing those in, we would greatly appreciate it. I also want you to know that all the slides will be given to you. We will be archiving this webinar and you will all receive a link afterwards and we will have all these great materials, because there's some really good information that we are going to receive. Okay. It is 12:02, so I think I need to begin. And I just want to welcome you all.

When the National Center for Elder Abuse was asked by Bonnie Brandl of NCALL and Risa Breckman of the New York City Elder Abuse Center we were thrilled because we are just learning so much about victims' services and we thought this would be a great opportunity for us to also learn, as well as collaborate. And understanding access to funding is vital to all of our programs. So, I think that throughout the course of the webinar today, we will all be finding out about the different funding sources and what we can access. So, before we get started, I want you to notice all of the different logos of the different agencies involved today. This is truly a collaborative effort. We have the Elder Justice Coalition present. We have the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators. We have the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life, the National Center on Elder Abuse, of course, and the National New York City on Elder Abuse Center. So, as we go through the course today, you will hear a little bit about each of our agencies, so since I'm beginning, I'm going to let you just know a little bit about the National Center on Elder Abuse. At the end of the presentation you will have links to all of our sites and we hope that you will avail yourself of all of this information.

We want you to know that NCEA is here to provide for you all of the information that you could possibly want on elder abuse issues. We want to further the field in elder abuse and we are definitely following the tenant of the elder justice road map. Today's webinar is part of that messaging of the elder justice road map. We are going to be defining resources and opportunities to forward the field and to tell you about these different funding opportunities. We also want to keep you abreast of what is trending now in the elder abuse field and it is our pleasure to be part of this great informational webinar today.

So, now I get to introduce to you one of our partners who is really one of the innovators of the Elder Justice Program itself and she is Risa Breckman, who is a licensed clinical social worker that is the Director of the New York City Elder Abuse Center, a highly

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collaborative organization that aims to prevent abuse and improve the way professionals, organizations and systems respond to it.

And since 1982, Risa has been at the forefront of developing programs, protocols, educational forums, and materials on elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. She recently worked with the Department of Justice and Administration for Community Living and elder justice leaders to design and implement the elder justice roadmap project and co-authored the Elder Justice Roadmap Report in 2014, which affirms that elder abuse is indeed a problem with solutions. And hopefully, what we present to you today will be part of that solution. So, Risa, thank you very much.

- #2. Thanks, Julie. During today's webinar, I'm trying to—let's see, during today's webinar, participants will be better able to apply for funding from two federal programs, Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and Office on Violence Against Women's Abuse Later Life Program to support victims services for older adults in your communities and also inform VOCA administrators, key decision makers, and policy leaders about elder victims' unique service needs. Just a quick look at today's webinar schedule. First, we will focus on the US Victims of Crime Act, or as the slide states, VOCA 101, and how the elder justice field can learn more about VOCA funding and programs in your states. Next, we will learn about VOCA funding and elder justice work, focusing on how to educate decision makers and policy makers about the service needs of elder abuse victims and then we will hear about OVW's Abuse in Later Life program and OVW stands for Office on Violence Against Women. We will then have time for a brief question and answer session and then we will wrap up with brief closing remarks.

Before we move into the presentations, however, we want to do a one-question poll with everyone on the webinar to help the presenters better understand your familiarity with VOCA funding. The poll is visible in the meeting room on your computer screen. I will read the question to you and the three possible responses. Please select one response that best relates to you personally. The question is, "To what extent are you familiar with VOCA funding?". The three possible responses are a lot, somewhat, not at all. And I will give you a few seconds. We will close the poll in five seconds. Five, four, three, two, one, closed. Okay, thank you for taking the poll.

It is with much pleasure that I introduce our first presenter to you, Steve Derene, who will be speaking to you about VOCA funding. Steve is the Executive Director of NAVAA, the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators. NAVAA is a nonprofit organization that represents the 56 state and territorial agencies that are designated to administer the US Victims of Crime Act Victim Assistance formula grants. NAVAA's mission is to advance education, research and public service to assure accessible quality services for crime victims nationwide, to strengthen exchange of information and communication among its members and to provide its members with training and technical assistance to effectively respond to the issues and challenges of supporting those services. So Steve, over to you.

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- #3. Thank you very much. As explained, our organization represents the 56 state agencies and the pass through entities for Federal Victims of Crime Act. I was also interested in seeing that as a result of the poll, relatively few of you claim to know a lot about VOCA because as the title of this presentation suggests, this is really going to go over some fundamentals. I will be talking about the Crime Victims Fund, which is the source of funding for VOCA, where the money comes from. I switched the audio here. Can you hear me better? I hope so. As I was saying, the poll shows that relatively few of the participants on the webinar know a lot about VOCA because what I'm going to cover are some really fundamental information about both the Crime Victims Fund, which is the source of the revenue for VOCA, the Victims of Crime Act itself, where the money comes from, where it goes. It is a little bit more complicated than most federal programs. And also some information on what the requirements are to get a VOCA grant and sort of where we are in terms of funding. At the current time, many of you I assume have become aware that over the last year there has been a large infusion of funding from VOCA, which has generated a lot of attention. And one of the things that I've been trying to do, and our association has been trying to do, is to reach out to organizations and groups that might not have previously been familiar with VOCA or had access to the funding.

So with that, just a bit of history. The Crime Victims Fund was created in 1984 as a result of a task force report on victims of crime that was initiated during the Reagan Administration. It is a very bipartisan program and the basic purpose—the task force reported itself contains 64 recommendations, but the one recommendation that has gotten the most attention in terms of implementation was the creation of a program of federal support for victims of all types of crime. And I will emphasize throughout that really VOCA is the only federal program intended to provide support for victims of all types of crime, unlike some other programs, which are targeting certain populations. While VOCA has some priorities, it is really open to victims of all types of crime. Back in 1984, believe it or not, there were actually questions about federal spending and federal budgets, so there was a great concern particularly during the Reagan Administration, of being very prudent in the spending.

So, the Crime Victims Fund was established as a special account to be self-sufficient. It is also considered a mandatory spending account, which, as you will see, means that by law whatever was deposited into the fund was intended to be distributed, although that hasn't always been the case. One of the points that we've been making a lot about VOCA and the Crime Victims Fund is that it is entirely paid for by federal criminal offenders, primarily criminal fines on persons and organizations and corporations that are victim of federal crime. So, a lot of times you will see newspaper headlines that talk about fines paid by such and such. They really got to be criminal fines. A lot of times, those are civil fines or other types of settlement, but it is important to know that virtually all of the money in the Crime Victims Fund does not come from taxpayers money and that has certain political advantages in the sense that it does not add to the nation's debtor deficit, which is often a controversial issue in federal budgeting.

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So here's how it works. Before the year 2000, whatever money was collected from offenders was put into the fund and the following year, that money was then distributed to Victims Services. In 2000, Congress changed that to put a cap on the fund so that the money that went into the fund, not all of it was necessarily released the following year. That that capping of the fund resulted in a certain balance being retained in the fund. Actually, as you can see from this chart, originally because of the concern for federal spending, there was a cap, but that was on deposits into the fund. It was originally set at one hundred million dollars. That was gradually increased and that cap on funds into the fund was removed in 1993. The cap that has been in place since 2000 has been caps on money coming out of the fund. So that's a significant difference. In this chart you can see the green bars are the amounts that are retained in the fund that, as we would refer to it as amounts over the cap, and that money has continued to accumulate. There are—you might see a couple of red bars there. Actually, there are three of them, one you can't see. These are years in which the cap was actually higher than the amount of money deposited into the fund and so sort of like your savings account, they actually drew down some of the money that had been already deposited into the fund. But as you can see in recent years, the amounts collected have really jumped, meaning that the amount that is retained in the fund has really grown. And this chart shows you the accumulated balance. The red line shows you the cap. So while the cap has gradually increased from 2000 to 2014, the amount retained in the fund has really skyrocketed. And then, as I mentioned earlier, in 2015, the cap actually increased three times in that one year.

So here's where the money comes from. Virtually, all of it comes from criminal fines. There is also a special assessment. Back when VOCA was enacted in 1984, actually nobody in the federal government knew how much they collected in federal fines and there was concern that there wouldn't be enough money generated so they created a special assessment.

Today those special assessments range from \$25 for individuals convicted of federal misdemeanors to \$400 for corporations convicted of felonies. So we've actually seen cases where a company has been fined a billion dollars in a criminal fine and plus \$400 as a special assessment. There are a couple of other sources that do not really generate much, if any, amounts. Forfeit appearance fines. Son of Sam, you may be familiar with, has never really collected any money. In fact, that statute that was enacted at the federal level would probably be declared unconstitutional as currently crafted. And there are a few exceptions. The most prevalent one is the environmental cases so cases like Exxon, BP, which are based on clean air, clean water act violations. That money does not go into the Crime Victims Fund. That money is targeted for other environmental restitution programs.

Okay, so here's where the money goes. And it is a common belief that whatever the VOCA cap is, it all goes out into the field for victim assistance programs, but in fact, there is a number of programs that share in the amount of money released every year under the cap. Very briefly, these are the Children's Justice Act Grant, state formula grants that support investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases. A certain amount

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is set aside to support victim witness coordinators in the US Attorneys offices, victim assistance specialists in the FBI. There is a federal victim notification system. The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) can retain a certain amount for discretionary grants. And those discretionary grants are by statute used for certain types of training, technical assistance, demonstration projects, and also services for victims of federal crimes. And there's an amount that goes to state crime victim compensation programs. Those are distributed on a formula basis and then the state victim assistance formula grants and that's what we will be talking about today.

There is also a separate reserve, a fifty million dollar reserve, that is used for incidents where, such as the Boston bombing, Aurora, other types of incidents, which there is a need to assist both compensation assistance programs and responding to certain types of not just terrorism but also other types of mass violence incidents. And then, since 2012, a certain portion of the money is retained by the Office of Justice programs for its management and administrative expenses. So this just gives you a brief itemization of how the money is distributed, what the formula is. I won't go through all of these, but you can see the significant difference between 2014 when the cap was 745 million and 2015 when the cap was bumped to 2.3 billion. There is a new line item for the Inspector General. Congress directed the Inspector General to pay particular attention to the victim assistance grants because of the increase in funding. And so you can see here—I won't go through this whole formula, but the amount going to states for assistance grants quadrupled from 456 million to almost two billion dollars. Okay, and this is just to give you a little background.

Up until this bump last year, although the cap has increased, this red field shows you what the funding level should have been in order to just keep pace with inflation compared to when the cap was first imposed in 2000 and you can see it actually despite the growth in the fund deposits, the amount going to state assistance grants actually fell behind by almost 12% in terms of real dollars, so we weren't even keeping pace with the rate of inflation despite the large increase in the cap. And what that resulted in—these are data from the Office for Victims of Crime—over that period of time from 2007 to 2014, we actually saw a decrease in the number of victims served by 14%. So that failure to even keep pace with inflation really had a cost in terms of the ability for VOCA assistance programs to keep meeting the needs out there. I will just point out that in the category of elder abuse, we actually saw a drop of 45%, although for data collection purposes, elder abuse could also be covered in some other categories such as domestic violence, survivors of homicide victims, so, it's not necessarily mutually exclusive categories.

So here's how the money gets distributed. I'm just talking about the VOCA assistance fund. There are 56 jurisdictions. Every state and territory gets a base amount. The remainder is distributed based on population. Each grant the jurisdiction has the year the grant plus three. So in theory there are four years to spend each grant and in reality it's closer to three because we don't actually get the grants for sometimes as much as a year after the beginning of the grant year. The other thing I emphasize is that every state has

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great discretion in selecting the particular sub-grantees and the amounts that they award. So while we go through some of these requirements just bear in mind that although certain activities, certain costs can be supported, it doesn't mean they necessarily have to be supported. So every state goes through a process of need assessments, setting priorities, and so the fact that something may be funded doesn't necessarily mean it can or will be funded. Governor designates the agency. Most of the agencies, not all of them, tend to be located within state agencies that have something to do with criminal justice, an attorney general's office, public safety department, and the like. There statute requires that priority be given to services for programs that provide direct assistance to sexual assault, spousal abuse—that's determined the statute from 1984—and child abuse. There is a fourth category of previously underserved victims of violent crime. So every state has to dedicate at least 10% to each of those four categories. The other requirements from the statute is you cannot use VOCA funds or any federal funds to supplant state or local funds and I just sort of emphasize here that that supplantation sometimes is misunderstood to apply to any funds. It only applies to public funds, state, local, municipal, public funds. It doesn't apply to nonprofit organizations or the use of their funds. It also by statute states it may retain up to 5% for administration and training. I put administration in quotes because it's not strictly grant management. Under the current rule, states can use some of that money for types of services that are provided on a statewide basis or functions that are better served on a statewide basis such as a victim notification program, or the like, that really go the quality of services in the state.

According to the guidelines, you can see here the definition of crime victim for the purposes of VOCA is very broad and includes any person who suffers physical, sexual, financial, or emotional harm as a result of the commission of a crime. So, it's a very broad definition. It doesn't require there be an arrest or there be charges filed. We sometimes distinguish between primary and secondary victimization. None of that really goes to the services available to a person, who is defined as a crime victim for the purposes of VOCA assistance. Now, sometimes other programs have narrower definitions, but for VOCA assistance it is a pretty broad definition. The other thing I'd stress is that VOCA has always been targeted primarily to direct services. And you can see here the four categories of services, emotional, physical needs. Help victims stabilize. Assist them in participating in the criminal justice system and providing some security and safety. Direct services is really the key to understanding VOCA. Some other programs focus more on—or at least equally—on providing services or support for systemic improvement, policy changes, or collateral types of services that assist victims. VOCA is really focused on direct services to crime victims. The statute provides a number of requirements to be eligible to get a VOCA subgrant. You have to be a public or nonprofit agency. You have to have support financial support from sources other than the Crime Victims Fund. That is not match. We will talk about match in a second, but this is simply intended to prevent a situation where a new agency is created and dependant solely on VOCA for its support.

The program has to use volunteers unless there is a compelling reason to waive that. And it's volunteers engaged in some sort of victims services. It has to be consistent with the

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program—the Victim Assistance Program. It must promote coordination. It has to help victims get crime victim compensation benefits and it cannot discriminate against victims who disagree with the way the state is prosecuting the case. We can get into that later, if you want, but I think it was really—that was it. And much later, I think it was a result of families who were involved in capital cases. The families disagreed with the state seeking capital punishment. So the prosecutor would then treat the victims as being non-cooperative. Administratively, programs, these are administrative requirements. Must serve victims of federal crimes and provide a match. Now, the match, for most projects other than Native American projects, is 20% of the total project costs and I've sketched out there some examples. So if the total project is a hundred thousand, VOCA can contribute eighty thousand. Match is twenty thousand. So it's not as often thought of—it's not 20% of the federal dollars. It's 20% of the total match. For VOCA purposes, it happens to be that 20% of the total project cost is the same as 25% of the federal money just to make it easier to calculate. However, unlike the earlier comment I made about non-VOCA financial support, match is subject to the same requirements and restrictions as VOCA. So if you have match, which can be either cash or in kind, so many programs, for example, with volunteers, choose their volunteers—they are all part of the VOCA project. They are subject to the same requirements. So, if you have volunteers as match for your VOCA project, the volunteers must keep track of what they're doing, the same data collection requirements, etc.

OVC, because this is an administrative requirement, can waive the match, and frankly, in light of the large increase in funds available, OVC and the states recognize that coming up with enough match can really be detrimental to using the full funds, so they are very much aware of the need to waive match. I am going to go through this quickly. You can see most of the money is going to nonprofits as opposed to public agencies. Most victims—almost half—are the victims of domestic violence. Here is a list. I'm not going to go through them all of the numerated services. You will have the slide so you can refer to them later on. But basically, as I said, they are really meant to folks on victims services. They are not for investigatory purposes. They are not for medical care. There are a few very narrow exceptions. These are proposed. There is a new set of regulations that we've been waiting for. It may come out by early next year that would expand the allowable services that you can use VOCA funding for.

Here's a list of additional costs that can be covered by VOCA. And here's a list of unallowable costs. Fundraising. Lobbying. Purchasing vehicles is currently allowed under their proposed regulations. You could lease vehicles, but you can't buy them. I just pulled out a couple of items from the current guidelines that relate to elder abuse. You can see here that the previously undeserved category, as I said, that's got to be by type of crime. The current guidelines say that it may include economic exploitation, fraud, and elder abuse. It also defines elder abuse here as the mistreatment of older persons and it allows or specifies that emergency shelter can include short-term nursing home shelter for elder abuse victims for whom no other safe short-term residence is available. The proposed regulations, once again, is something that might be of interest to elder abuse advocates. It does expand the allowable use of VOCA for legal assistance. Right now it's a very

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narrow use related to emergency situations involving health and safety. This would expand it to include civil legal services including protective orders, family custody issues and intervention with creditors, law enforcement and others.

Here are five tips, if you want to apply for VOCA, or for that matter, any governmental funding. This is just my general advice. Follow the instructions. Forget what you learned in grant writing. Just follow the instructions. Reread the instructions and follow them. I can tell you nothing is more frustrating than to review grants and people are going off on something they think you want to know, but it's not really contained in the instructions or what we're looking for. Check your math and go over this again. That's just my friendly advice. Where we are in funding for federal fiscal year 2016, frankly nobody knows for certain. The House originally proposed raising the VOCA cap from the current 2.3 billion to 2.7 billion. That, I'm estimating, would increase the state VOCA assistance grants by 17%. The Center, however, although they would raise the cap from 2.3 from 2.6, would actually transfer out 441 million dollars, meaning the amount available for state grants could actually be cut by 8%. The current budget deal, you may have been reading about this.

There have been articles in the Wall Street Journal and other places. Actually, it already has removed one and a half billion dollars from the Crime Victims Fund. Total spending by the government would be increased by 80 billion over two years but because of that decision, and we don't know really what's going to happen yet, but one of the—some of the speculation is if they took that entire 1.5 billion from this current year, it would reduce the VOCA cap to 1.2 billion, meaning state assistance grants could be cut by 55%. And I have to tell you that one of the problems of this is that states have been spending the last year, planning and doing needs assessments, strategic planning, focus groups, surveys, to figure out how to best use the increase in grants. This has pretty much put a halt to that because now we don't know to what extent we can really sustain funding for programs. The best advice I have to anyone interested in applying for VOCA funds, is you have to talk to your state administrator. You have to find out what their timetable is, what their priorities are. Many states have made some initial decisions to say okay we are going to spend some of this money right away, but we are going to hold back until we see what happens with future funding to see what we could sustain. So, on your screen, is our website. There is a link to state directories that gives you the agency, the phone number, and a link to the website of the agencies that administer VOCA assistance in the state. My suggestion is, if you don't already have made contact with your state administrator, do so to find out where they are and what their priorities are. And with that, here's my contact information. And we try to post as much information as we can on our website at www.NAVAA.org. And with that, I will turn it back.

- #2. Thanks, Steve. We are going to be doing questions and answers at the end of all of the presentations, so I am going to move forward and let you know that Bob Blancato, the Director of the Elder Justice Coalition, is unfortunately unable to make it today due to a flight delay. He is now stuck at an airport, but we are fortunate to have Meredith Ponder pinch hitting for him today. Meredith is the Federal Policy and Media Coordinator for the

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Elder Justice Coalition. The Elder Justice Coalition is a 3000-member national coalition of individuals and organizations dedicated to ending elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The coalition seeks to increase awareness of elder abuse, increased support and funding for national elder justice activities, including the Elder Justice Act, and monitoring and advocate for other relevant federal regulations and legislation pertaining to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation prevention. So, Meredith, over to you.

- #4. Hi, everyone. So, thank you so much on behalf of the Elder Justice Coalition for having us participate in this extremely useful webinar with distinguished participants from a variety of disciplines in this area. We have quite a few groups in the Elder Justice Coalition that are tied to victims' services and legal services. We have national and local APS groups, Adult Protective Services. We have national and local ombudsmen, law enforcement groups, elder law attorneys, and prosecutors and district attorneys. So, just wanted to give you a little context there.

We wanted to also share some statistics from the 2011 GAO reports on the percents of money going to elder abuse from across the government from the fiscal year 2009. Now, I'd like to note that this has improved slightly with the Elder Justice Initiative that was funded very recently in the past fiscal year, but there was only a total of about 12 million dollars going to elder abuse. And this ranges from .008% at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to 2.5% at the National Institute of Justice. And I wanted to share those percentages because it dovetails into the most important point that we'd like to make, which is that it is vitally important to move the discussion to one that recognizes and responds to the fact that victims of elder abuse are victims of crime and that all forms of elder abuse victims are victims of crime except potentially with the exception of self neglect victims. And that we desperately need federal support, increased federal support, for both victims services and for law enforcement capacity to arrest and prosecute. So, as Steve explained, the VOCA funding situation may not be looking good for fiscal year 2016 with the cut in the budget deal. And also as Steve mentioned the Department of Justice with the Office of Victims of Crime is working on a final rule, which emphasizes the need to use VOCA funds to support underserved victims, which would include elder victims of neglect, abuse, and exploitation. So, the issue is that these new initiatives that were started with the increase in fiscal year 2015, would include elder abuse programs and that these initiatives are potentially coming to a complete halt if there is not increased funding or continuation of funding in the fiscal year 2016. So, we are asking today's webinar participants to share whatever information they have with us on our contact page just out of interest in seeing what is going on in the field. Another way to get the information out there is to potentially speak to your policymakers as an individual and you can look at House.gov and Senate.gov for information on how to contact your policymakers to share your stories. So, I think that is it from the Elder Justice Coalition.

- #2. Thank you Meredith. And before we move on to the next presentation we want to do another poll with you and again, it's just one question, to help the presenters better understand your familiarity with VAWA funding. The poll is visible in the meeting room on your computer screen. I will read the question to you and the three possible responses.

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Please select the one response that best relates to you personally. So the question is, “To what extent are you familiar with VAWA funding?”. The three possible responses are a lot, somewhat, not at all. I will give you a few seconds. We will close the poll in five seconds. Five, four, three, two, one, closed. So, thank you for taking the poll. And now I have the pleasure of introducing our next speaker, Bonnie, Brandl. Bonnie is the Director of the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life, known as NCALL. In 1999, the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence created the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life.

Since 2002, NCALL has been providing technical assistance to the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women Enhanced Training and Services to End Abuse in Later Life Program. Today, NCALL is a nationally recognized leader on program development, policy, technical assistance, and training that addresses the nexus between domestic violence, sexual assault, and elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Bonnie, over to you.

- #5. Thank you, Risa. And thanks to Julie and Steve and to Meredith for your presentations, as well. It has really been wonderful to be part of this collaborative effort, spending this webinar today focusing on victims services and potential funding sources for victims services. So in my presentation I am going to talk about funding that comes from the Office on Violence Against Women that is funded through the Violence Against Women Act. So as Steve mentioned, VOCA funding covers all crime victims. The Violence Against Women Act covers four major crimes. Domestic violence. Sexual abuse. Stalking. And domestic violence. And you can see the link on this slide to the Office on Violence Against Women website. If you're not familiar with the variety of programs funded there I would strongly encourage you to go to their website and see the kind of programming that is funded both dollars going to the criminal justice system and dollars going for direct victims services in areas such as rural programming, transitional housing, funding going to tribes that are focusing on domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, money that goes out to encourage the criminal justice system response and coordinate a community response, working with people with disabilities and the topic that I'm going to focus on today, which is a small program that is funded by the Office on Violence Against Women that addresses abuse in later life.

So there is a program called Enhanced Training and Services to End Abuse in Later Life, known by its shorthand name of the OBW Abuse in Later Life Program. And this funding has been around in the current structure that the program operates under since 2006. The program funds state, local or tribes over a three-year period to address abuse in later life in a variety of ways that I will get into in a few minutes. Over the three years, the total of the cooperative agreement is generally \$400,000. This has been historically the maximum that you can ask for, although the communities can ask for a smaller amount, as well. And because of the small amount of funding that's available for this program, about three million dollars that goes out into the community, only 9-10 projects are funded every year. So based on what Meredith said in terms of the small amount of money that the federal government commits to elder abuse projects, as you can see, this commitment of

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three million dollars, while a small project coming out of the Office of Violence Against Women, is actually a pretty significant chunk of money addressing elder abuse on the federal level.

Here's a map showing the different—where the communities are that have been funded since 2006. I encourage you to take a look at this map and if you're in a state and interested in applying for funding and noticing that there have been other communities near you that have been funded, I would encourage you to contact those communities to learn a little bit more about what they've done and what they've been successful doing with the funds. If you're in a part of the country where there has not been any funding, we would really strongly encourage you to consider applying for these grants. It is a small program, as I said, and you can see, though, since 2006, we've done a nice job of being able to work with communities across the country of all sizes, small communities, very rural communities, very small tribes, big cities such as Brooklyn, L.A., and D.C. have also been funded.

So, this is a very cooperative program by its nature. It is pulling systems and individuals together to work cooperatively to address elder abuse because as we know, these cases are also very complicated. Many of the victims are involved with multiple systems and so the project itself by the statute is designed to encourage and enhance the work that communities are doing collaboratively and together. So for communities that are interested in applying, there are four required MOU partners. You need to have a law enforcement agency signed on board, a prosecutor's office, either Adult Protective Services, or an Aging Services Network Agency, and a community-based domestic violence or sexual assault program. Of these four MOU partners, typically one of them is the lead agency, meaning that that's the agency that gets the funding coming to them and then distributes to the funding to the project elsewhere. And I would encourage you to look at the requirements for proposals very carefully to determine which agencies are eligible to be lead agencies and be funded, following Steve's advice about reading the proposals very closely. That's one of the areas I think that people have struggled with in the past is, you want to make sure that you are an eligible lead agency, if you, in fact, are interested in applying.

And communities that get this funding are required and have the privilege of doing work in three major areas. The grant funds training. It funds coordinated community response and it funds victims services. And under the training aspect, there are two different components. There is direct training and there is cross training. So on direct training, that means that those that receive training are all from the same discipline. So training directly for law enforcement or prosecutors or judges. And with that training, there are a couple of different ways that the direct training takes place. With the law enforcement training, there is an eight-hour training that has been created by national experts that is given to each community to go out and train their own law enforcement officers locally. So, as part of the grant, a multidisciplinary team is invited to attend a training of trainers event where they learn about team teaching and facilitation skills and they get a chance to see the eight-hour training presented by national experts.

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And then they take the curriculum back into their communities and train whatever number of law enforcement officers they have agreed to train as they put their proposal together. So we've had communities that have trained 30-40 officers. We've had at least one community that has trained close to 900 of their law enforcement officers--their frontline officers on how to respond to elder abuse. There is also funding in the grant to bring national trainers in to work with detectives and to do advanced law enforcement training. There is a national institute for prosecutors and a national institute for judges on elder abuse and there is money in the grant to send prosecutors and judges to those national events. In starting of this year, it will also be permissible to use training funds to train providers in the healthcare community, faith leaders, and civil attorneys.

In addition to the direct training, we have found that it is extremely helpful to have funding for cross-training so there are a couple of cross-training events that are funded, as well. There is a coordinated community response event where national trainers come in to your community and do sort of a kickoff event where we raise awareness about the issue and the importance of working collaboratively and as part of that event also sit down and work with a coordinated community response team. There is also an eight-hour victims services training that is for domestic violence and sexual assault programs, Adult Protective Services, folks in the aging network, where those disciplines come together for an eight-hour training that is provided by VOCA experts using a national curriculum. So, similar to the model that I described with the law enforcement training, we have NCALL and the Office on Violence Against Women organize the training of trainers event. Multidisciplinary team comes and attends these three-day events learning about how to be effective trainers and facilitators, seeing the eight-hour training models, and then taking that event back to their communities. And the beauty of this model, I think, is that the folks, who receive this enhanced training and are able to go back and do training in their communities, not only become more experienced entities and trainers, but they become champions on this issue and they have an opportunity to work together collaboratively as a small team and they can bring that energy back into their community. The other reason that I think training is so important is it creates a common language and awareness and understanding within a number of disciplines within the community so that when local folks are figuring out their steps, they're organizing their coordinated community response, they've got a common understanding of the issue. They're starting to see more of the need and they're recognizing the gaps in what is going on currently and starting to figure out strategies to be able to enhance the response to victims safety and hold offenders accountable.

So as part of the grant, communities are asked to either create or enhance a coordinated community response team. And this team focuses on a macro or systemic level, taking a look at policies and practices that are in place and trying to figure out ways to improve the response within the community.

And this is really a great opportunity to think about how to sustain the work that happens beyond the life of the grant because, as you can imagine, with only 9-10 communities

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funded each year, there is no opportunity to go back for continuation funding. This is really seed money to get something started in the community. So to have an opportunity to have a team come together to identify the gaps in services, to try to figure out where some changes can be made to improve the response, to improve policies and practices, to institutionalize training, to improve the relationships between some organizations and individuals, is a great way to get some things in place so that when the funding ends, there is both an opportunity to get funding from other sources or to be able to just keep some things in place that have already been started. And finally, the third component of the grant is direct victims services. So a quarter of the funding that goes to each community must be used for direct victims services and as Steve was describing under VOCA, victims services are defined in a very specific way by the Violence Against Women Act and the Office on Violence Against Women. For this program, the victims service money must be used with victims who are age 50 and older. These are the kinds of victims services that can be funded. This list is not exclusive, but you can get an idea of the types of victims services that are funded and like with the VOCA money, investigations are not allowable under this particular program.

So, if you're thinking about applying for funding for this program, here is the process. Every year the request for proposals comes in some time in December, January, or February. There are a number of ways to find out when the request for proposals has come out. You can check on a regular basis on the Office on Violence Against Women website. You can check with NCALL. We send out an announcement as soon as we know about it. It generally goes out on the elder abuse Listserv, as well. And typically you have 3-4 weeks to pull a proposal together. As I said at the beginning, this is a bit more complicated than some proposals that you might submit as an individual agency because you will need to get your MOU partners on board and commit to participating in the training, the coordinated community response and the process for creating victims services within your community. As Steve said, I would strongly encourage looking very closely at all of the components that are required in the RFP to make sure that the lead agency that applies is actually eligible to be a lead agency, that you have all of the partners in place and all of the different requirements and documents that you need. There'll be a deadline in the request for proposals when proposals are due. Typically, the process then is a peer review process in the Spring, where a number of external experts take a look at all of the proposals and rank them. They submit the recommendations to the Office on Violence Against Women and funding typically starts for projects on October 1st.

If you're interested in this particular program, please feel free to go to either our website or the Office on Violence Against Women and you could always contact NCALL staff if you're interested in technical assistance, if you have any questions about how to put your proposal together, what kinds of things might be allowable or not allowable. We are more than happy to answer those questions. NCALL has been the lead technical assistance and training provider for this grant program since its inception in 2002, so I've had the privilege of working with grantees since 2002. I would just end this presentation before we move into questions to say that it has really been such a privilege to be able to work

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with communities with this project. I have been so impressed with the work, the project coordinators, and their local community partners have been able to do to really make a difference in the lives of victims in their communities. I had an opportunity to go out and do site visits and hear stories about how training has made a difference in law enforcement is now documenting cases differently and bringing cases to prosecutors who have been trained and know what to look for and to work closely with law enforcement, so some of these cases are moving forward in the criminal justice system.

I've heard stories about judges who have attended the judicial institute and gotten back to the bench on Monday and have seen their first elder abuse case ever after attending a training where they've been looking for the signs. And we've heard stories about victims service providers working more closely with Adult Protective Services and with law enforcement, understanding the need to collaborate. We've heard stories about policies and practices and being changed and raised awareness and the difference it has made in the lives of older adults to have a response that has been compassionate and caring and very collaborative along the way. So I think this project and this funding provides resources to communities to really be able to sit down for three years and work very closely together to make a difference in lives of victims. As I said, if you have any questions, here is our contact information and we would really look forward to hearing from you either this year if you're interested in applying or as some communities have done, taken a year to really look at the RFP and do a planning process to get ready and apply the following year and either of those models can work very well.

So, on that note, I will pass it back to Risa or Julie and we'll start hearing from you and answering your questions.

- #1. Thank you so much, Bonnie. This is Julie. I really want to take just a moment to thank Bonnie and Meredith and Steve and Risa for all the work they have put on this presentation. I was very surprised to see in the polling results that we received. The first question concerning VOCA—that 40% of you were somewhat aware of VOCA funding, but 42% knew nothing at all. And on VAWA 37% somewhat knew about the funding but 48% knew nothing at all. So, I think that tells us one thing—that is really a necessary and needed subject for us to pursue. So, I am so glad all of you are on the line today. Now, we do have time for questions, as we allocated additional time after the webinar for questions. One question that has come up is will these slides be available to you and yes, you will definitely be receiving the slides after the webinar is over. We would greatly appreciate if you would fill out the survey form that you will also receive because that will help us to improve and also help us to know maybe other areas that we should be pursuing for future webinars. Right. So with that, I do have a question from Cindy to Bonnie. It is “Last year’s RFP mentions OVW sponsored training, but I cannot find this curriculum anywhere. Where do we find out specifics about the OVW sponsored training?”.
- #5. I am going to answer what I think the question is, because I am interpreting it in two ways, so if I don't have this right, Cindy, follow up with me by e-mail and we can either

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chat by phone or e-mail. So the curricula that I mentioned, the eight-hour training for law enforcement and victims services, those curricula are not distributed to folks who are not part of the grant program. What we have found is that doing the training of trainers event is really crucial to help people understand how the different components of the curricula flow together and so just sort of sending out the document itself, we don't think would actually be helpful for the field. But if you're interested in seeing what are the topics that are covered, we could send out like the one-page agenda and a little bit of description of what is included in each one of those trainings.

#1. Good. Thank you, Bonnie. And Cindy, definitely follow up with Bonnie if that did not suffice. And our next question is from Jeremy and I believe it is going to refer to a couple of other questions that are appearing now. "Are these funds limited to states only? Can counties, etc. apply for and receive?" So we will hear from Steve and then Bonnie can answer.

#3. I'm sorry.

#1. Would you like to hear it again? They are asking if the funds are limited—can only states apply for the VOCA funding, or could a county or other entity apply for it?

#3. If we are talking about VOCA, states are the grantees and so only states receive the grants directly from OVC; however, the states pass that money through to a variety of either nonprofit or public agencies, so counties can apply to receive VOCA funding, but they apply through the state and then the state makes the decisions as to which agencies within the state receive that funding.

#5. And for the OVW funds, Office of Violence Against Women, you'll want to go look at the RFP very carefully because there is a list of agencies that would be eligible to apply, but states certainly can apply if it's a certain specific state agency. Local communities can apply. Tribes can apply, as well. What I would say about states applying in our experience over the years--this is Bonnie Brandl's opinion—not the Office on Violence Against Women's opinion, necessarily—is that the program seems to work best with local communities because when you think about that a quarter of the victims service dollars need to go within the community where the coordinated community response work has happened, it's difficult to figure that out in larger states.

So in a smaller state like a Rhode Island, a Connecticut, where it's geographically smaller, there are ways to make a statewide project work, but if you're a larger state and wanting to think about applying I would encourage you to read the RFP very carefully and possibly contact us to ask us some questions about the benefits and challenges of doing that.

#1. Thank you, Bonnie. Matthew has a clarifying question for Steve and it's "Steve, clarification sounds a like availability of funding is solely dependent on our state's priorities regardless of any federal mandates. Is that correct?"

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- #3. Not entirely. The statute does require each state to use at least 10% of each year's grant for services of victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse, and then the fourth category is previously underserved victims of violent crime. Now, each state can define that fourth category as it sees fit, so long as it's defined as a type of crime and it does not include one of the other enumerated priorities, so any population of victims of violent crime other than child abuse, sexual assault and domestic violence. So that accounts for 40% of each year's grant and the remaining 60% can be used as the state determines meets its priorities and needs.
- #1. Okay, thank you, Steve. We have about eight questions in queue, just so you'll know, and if we don't get to you, we will be assigning your question to one of our speakers to get back to you, so don't worry if we run out of time. John is asking for clarification on the term of local community. "So does community mean a local community, would statewide be expected or only city or county?"
- #3. Who is that for?
- #1. I think Steve or each of you, if you used the term community in your presentation.
- #3. Well, as far as VOCA goes, it certainly can be a statewide program. If I used the term community it was probably in the context of community-based organizations such as nonprofits, local community-based programs as opposed to system-based programs. Both would be eligible as long as it's a nonprofit or a public agency. But yes, there are statewide agencies that can receive VOCA assistance funding.
- #5. And, for the Office of Violence Against Women Program, again, looking at the RFP to be very clear about what language they use, but as I'm thinking over the years of the types of grantees that we have seen, we have seen cities, we have seen counties, we have seen multiple counties or regions coming together where that's tended to make the most sense. We have seen tribes come in. We have seen states come in. And all of those different models have been funded.
- #1. This one is for you Bonnie from Ben. "In a given year, what is the ratio of new project to renewal projects for VOWA grant awards?"
- #5. They are all new, so of the 9-10 projects, they are all newly funded. At the end of the three years or if you get a no-cost extension at the end of the four years, at this point in time communities who have been funded do not have the opportunity to come back in again for additional funding for this program.
- #1. Also for Bonnie from Hazel. "Does the training that you just mentioned include scams and ID theft against elders?"

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#5. Oh that is a great question. As you can imagine with the focus being from the Office on Violence Against Women, the content that we include generally fits a definition of where there's an ongoing relationship with an expectation of trust between the victim and the perpetrator, so there is a heavier emphasis on intimate partner violence, sexual assault, either by someone known or a stranger, and then other family members, caregivers, adult children, grandchildren, et cetera, where there is that ongoing expectation of trust. It has been our experience that there are a lot of other great groups that are working on scams and identity theft and those kind of stranger crimes and so the focus of this particular program has been on when there's that relationship between the victim and the perpetrator and has very little information at all except referring you to programs that we think do good work on stranger scams.

#1. Very good. And Hazel, if you go on the Consumer Federal Protection Bureau, they have some amazing materials and NCEA has some very nice materials you might want to look at also. And Bonnie, you really probably already mentioned this while Cindy was waiting in queue here but she just asked. We have an OVW Abuse in Later Life Grant. Are there other opportunities for funding beyond this?

#5. So, Julie, did you just say they already have one and they're looking...

#1. Yes, they have OVW Abuse in Later Life Grant right now and then they want to know when the funding expires, are there other opportunities for funding beyond this?

#5. So I think the two things to think about would really be as Steve encouraged, talking to your state VOCA administrators, particularly if you're interested in continuing funding for the direct victims services and then possibly looking at the website for the Office on Violence Against Women to see if there are other funding streams that would fund different portions of the work that you're doing. Also just knowing what other grantees are doing, some of them are going to private foundations and getting some funding to continue things as well. Some have gone to local governments and have been able to show the strength of the work that they've done.

For example, having their coordinated community response and getting that added as a budget line item in terms of the work that's happening within their local governments.

#1. Thank you very much, Bonnie. For Steve, we just need a clarification that you mentioned about the funding cut and so Art would like to know "Please clarify VOCA funds from crimes has gone up, the Congress of cutting funding to stay". He wanted to see about the proposed funding cuts.

#3. Yeah, we don't know what Congress is going to do for federal fiscal year 2016. There is concern because they actually removed a billion and a half dollars from the balance in the fund. If you go back over those slides, you'll see there was a growing balance that was probably somewhere between 12-13 billion dollars at the start of the fiscal year. How Congress makes that up is unknown because they still have spending limits and stuff like

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that, so it gets very sort of arcane federal budget issues, but we are concerned that Congress may very well cut the amount that's available for state assistance programs.

- #1. Thank you, Steve. And Patrick would like to know, I believe this is more for Bonnie, but perhaps it will apply to Steve. As prep for the RFP key coming out, would you direct us to last year's RFP so we can review that version? So they are looking for some samples of successful RFPs, I believe.
- #5. So that if you go to the Office on Violence Against Women website and click under grants I think it's clicking under grants—if you're having trouble e-mail me and I can get you the exact link, but if you go into the Office on Violence Against Women's website they will have the RFPs from previous years and that is a great suggestion in terms of how to start thinking about what you might want to do this year while waiting for the new one to come out. Typically, those RFPs do not change dramatically from year to year and you can probably see many of the components that would be required for the OVW program in last year's solicitation.
- #1. Good. And following up on that, Catherine would like to know how many communities apply for the VAWA Project?
- #5. You know what? I don't know the answer to that question.
- #1. Great. There we go. And we really need to wrap up. There are some really nice questions still left, so we will make sure that we get those, but first we will end with MT's question. She would like to know, is there any evidence about what types of victims services are most effective in meeting the needs and wishes of older victims?
- #5. Do you have an answer, Steve, to that question?
- #3. I do not. I don't know. In fact, when you talk about evidence, one of the real deficiencies in this field, although we talk a lot about evidence-based practices, is there is very little, if any, that really talk about the kinds of services that VOCA is able to support. And so, I would leave it up to the experts in the field to say what kinds of services are best practices and frankly, most needed, and desired by that population.
- #5. Yeah, Steve, I would agree with what you just said. I think at this point, it feels to me like the elder abuse field is so new and we're still, in many ways, trying on a variety of victims services and I think it's really important that we're continuing to go back to older victims and survivors and ask them what's working for them as well as really pushing our friends in the research community to help us with some program evaluation where we can begin to figure out what appears to be effective and then recognizing that there's such a range of experiences and different life stories and culture and generational values that what we're probably looking at is a variety of services to meet the needs of this very diverse population. But it's a great question, MT.

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- #1. Yes, very great. And Catherine sums it up very nicely with “It may be a good upcoming training opportunity to talk about ways to best support victims of elder abuse to victims services.” And I hope I have the opportunity to explore that with this group because they have just been a pleasure to work with. You can see everyone’s logo and their link information up on the slide. Again, the slides will be available to you all. We would welcome any of your comments and the surveys completed for us so we can evaluate how we did today. Again, it’s just been a pleasure working with this dynamic group. We had over 290 people in attendance today, so we really thank you for your time and attention to this very important topic. Thank you so much, everyone. Take care.