



What does the loss of Federal VOCA funding mean for Oregon's County District Attorney Victim Assistance Offices?

ABOUT Oregon's County District Attorney Victim Assistance Offices. Oregon's 36 County District Attorneys' offices have Victim Advocates who help crime victims navigate the criminal justice system, understand their rights, and get community resource referrals. These 150+ Victim Advocates help crime victims with safety planning, explanation and assistance in filling out Crime Victims Compensation applications, assistance with protective orders process, court accompaniment, assistance with victim impact statements and connecting victims with community resources for support services, housing, counseling and other assistance. DA Victim Advocacy is about more than just constitutionally required notice of court dates. Victims' willingness to participate in the criminal justice system *depends* upon their belief that the system is working *with* them to ensure a just outcome. Prosecutors cannot be successful in holding offenders accountable if victims do not trust the process. Advocates ensure that trust exists.

Loss of Federal VOCA funding. Oregon's victim service providers, including County District Attorney Victim Assistance Offices, were recently notified that they could anticipate as much as 80% reductions in pass-through funding starting immediately. The new federal application requirements for Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding in 2025 and 2026 include stipulations with which DOJ cannot comply with due to ORS 181A.826 (2021 Sanctuary Promise Act (H 3265, 2021)).

This funding reduction will have a devastating impact on Oregon's critical victim service providers – including County DA Victim Assistance Offices, Child Advocacy Centers and Domestic and Sexual Violence programs.

By the Numbers.

The following data was collected by the Oregon District Attorneys Association in August of 2025 and includes data provided by 34 of the 36 counties (not included: Curry and Wheeler). In 2023-25 Oregon County District Attorney Victim Assistance Offices received approximately \$6.990M per year in VOCA Grant Allocations.

- The overwhelming majority of County District Attorney Victim Assistance Offices are funded by VOCA Grants, County General Fund, criminal fines and one-time grants.
 - 100% VOCA Funded Victim Advocates:
 - Baker (2), Douglas (3), Columbia (1), Gilliam (1), Harney (1), Hood River (1), Lake (1), Malheur (3), Sherman (1), Morrow (1) and Wasco (2)

- 80% VOCA Funded Victim Advocates:
 - Clackamas (8), Jefferson (5) and Josephine (3)
- 50% - 79% VOCA Funded Victim Advocates:
 - Clatsop (1.3), Coos (2), Crook (2), Klamath (2), Lane (5), Lincoln (2), Tillamook (1), Umatilla (2), Union (1.25) and Wallowa (.5)
- > 50% VOCA Funded Victim Advocates:
 - Benton (1.4), Deschutes (2), Grant (1), Jackson (3), Linn (2), Marion (6), Multnomah (5), Polk (1.75), Washington (6.35), and Yamhill (2)
- Full time employees in a Victim Assistance Office vary by size and location:
 - Only 4 offices have more than 10 FTEs: Clackamas, Marion, Multnomah and Washington
 - 17 have between 3 – 7 Full time victim advocates including (largest to smallest): Deschutes, Lane, Jackson, Linn, Jefferson, Yamhill, Polk, Grant, Benton, Josephine, Umatilla, Malheur, Lincoln, Klamath, Douglas, Crook, and Coos
 - 13 counties employ less than 3 FTE victim advocates including (largest to smallest): Clatsop, Union, Tillamook, Baker, Wasco, Wallowa, Morrow, Lake, Hood River, Columbia, Harney, Gilliam and Sherman
- Layoffs and reduction of services are a very real outcome of reduced funding. This is especially true in smaller, rural counties where victim advocates are funding solely by VOCA.
 - 70% of all counties surveyed are projecting layoffs to VOCA Funded Victim Advocates – over 40 victim assistants across Oregon.
 - 10 Counties are projecting a reduction of 50% or more victim advocates in their County Office and 2 of those counties predict a complete elimination of their Victim Advocate Office

From the District Attorneys survey: What does the loss of VOCA funding mean for crime victims and victim services in your County?

“Victim services will be drastically cut such as emergency services (housing, transportation, language services, meals, fuel, toiletries, legal assistance).”

“We will likely need to stop assistance with restraining and protective orders and victim services on misdemeanors and property offenses.”

“Effectively we would likely pause our entire program.”

“If that amount of funding is lost there would not be enough in VOCA funding to keep our Victim Assistance Office open.”

“We will have to suspend efforts to establish a Domestic Violence Response Team, terminate bilingual services to victims, eliminate drop-in consultation for restraining orders and safety planning for victims of domestic violence, reduce in-person attendance at court appearances with victims and an overall reduction in victim advocacy program by 50%.”

“We anticipate pausing or reducing restitution for businesses and some property crime cases, court accompaniment for victims on all levels of cases, dedicated receptionist for victim calls, assignment of advocates for business victims and certain property crime cases and the potential elimination of volunteer and intern program.”