



Victims of Crime Act: Program Overview

History

The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant programs are the primary source of federal funding for thousands of victim service providers across the nation, including programs serving victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, trafficking, and drunk driving. VOCA grants also fund victim compensation, which helps survivors pay medical bills, makes up for missed wages, and, in the most severe cases, helps pay for funeral costs.

How it Works

VOCA grants are not taxpayer-funded. Instead, they are paid for out of the Crime Victims Fund ("CVF" or "the Fund"), which comprises federal criminal monetary penalties. Every year, appropriators decide how much to release from the CVF. Most of the disbursement is distributed by the Office for Victims of Crime ("OVC") via formula grant to victim service providers, with some of the disbursement also providing crucial additional funding to supplement state compensation programs.

Current Request

President Biden's Fiscal Year 2024 budget request allocated \$1.2 billion, compared to \$1.9 billion approved in Fiscal Year 2023 by Congress. The U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee approved \$1.2 billion dollars on July 13, 2023 for Fiscal Year 2024, and the House Appropriations Committee is proposing the same reduction.

NDAA opposes the proposed cuts to VOCA funding and asks Members to support the full \$1.9 billion level from FY23.

Funding Concerns

In Fiscal Year 2020, the VOCA disbursement - and thus the funding available for victim service providers - decreased by 25%, and victim service providers expected further cuts. Such cuts to programs meant victims would be unable to access lifesaving services every year, programs would be forced to close, and tens of thousands of advocates could lose their jobs.

Congress passed the bipartisan, bicameral VOCA Fix Act in 2021 to help grow the Fund which now directs all penalties/fines collected by DOJ in criminal prosecutions into the Fund. But even with these additional deposits, the CVF has not yet recovered to be able to fully fund critical and needed services.



The VOCA Fix was an important step, but because of the current VOCA landscape, VOCA cuts are still happening as a result of concerningly low deposits into the Fund (see chart).

NDAA supports a more comprehensive solution to the declining deposits in the Crime Victims Fund. Exploring additional mechanisms for funding the Crimes Victims Fund is critical to reverse declining deposits.

**FY 2007 - FY 2024 Crime Victims Fund Annual Receipts (\$ Millions)
(as of 11/30/2023)**

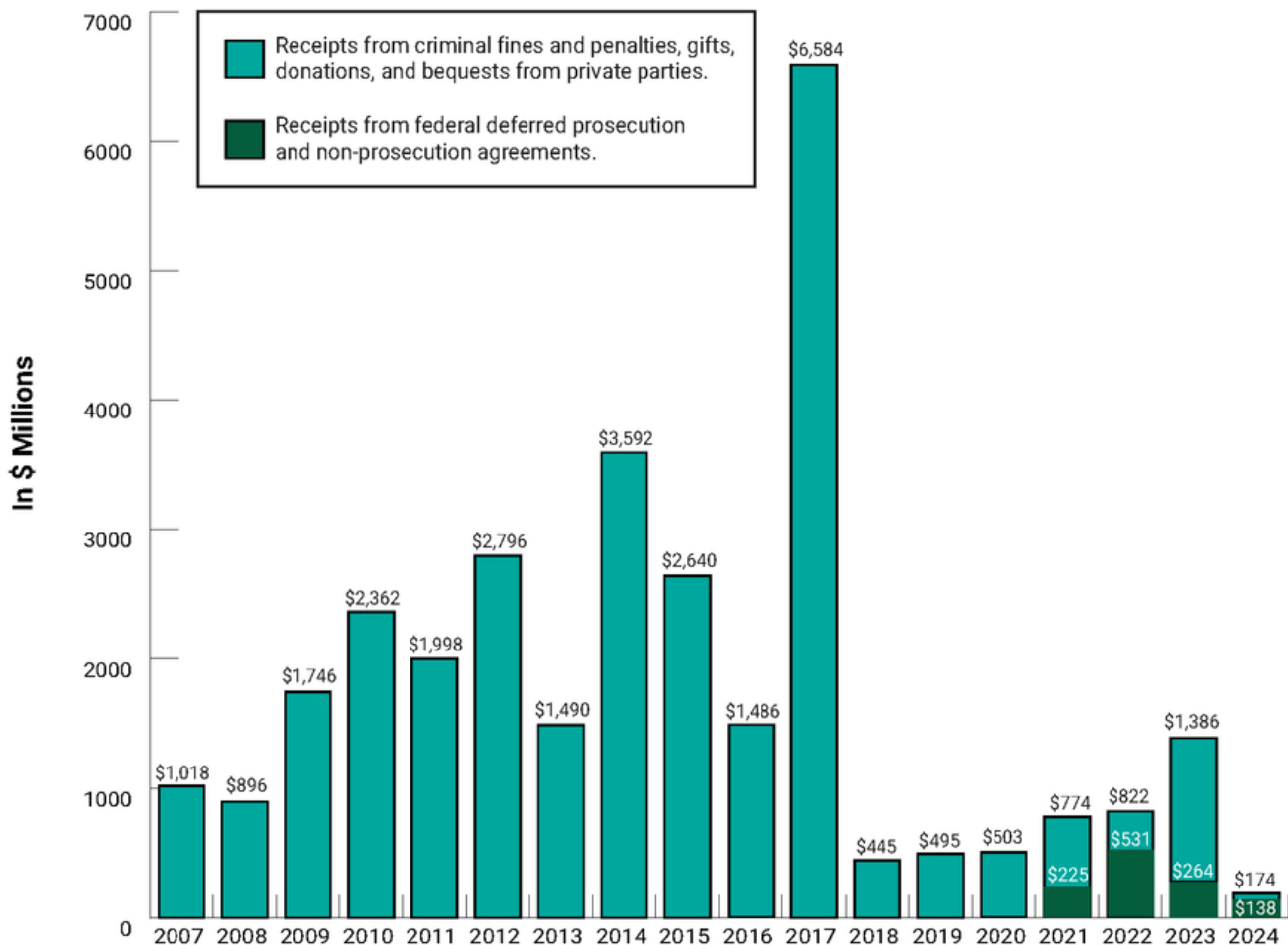


Chart courtesy of Office for Victims of Crime (<https://ovc.ojp.gov/about/crime-victims-fund/fy-2007-2024-cvf-annual-receipts.pdf>)

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