



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Department of Public Safety

James E. Cockrell, Commissioner

### COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT

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### **Updated Report on Funding Status of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault: Funding Needs to Provide Stable DVSA Services in FY2024**

This update follows two previous reports issued on August 19, 2021, to Chief of Staff Randy Ruaro, and one issued on September 15, 2021, to the CDVSA Board of Directors outlining funds needed to fully fund FY23 sub-grantee awards to 35 community-based agencies providing victims services, specialized services to adult and child victims, prevention programming, and programs to change behaviors of abusive partners

This report will summarize, current FY23 funding levels and sources of funding, and funding needs for FY24, to maintain stable funding for our community-based programs.

#### FY2023 CDVSA Grant Funding:

Each year CDVSA provides community-based grant funds in three specific grant programs—Prevention, Victim/Enhanced Services, and Perpetrator Rehabilitation.

The total amount of funding for all CDVSA grant award allocations for FY23 is \$21,477,665. The sources of funding for our current state fiscal year, FY23 are outlined in the chart below. In addition, this chart shows how funding and funding source has changed from FY2021 through FY2024 projected funding.

Available funding in SFY2021 was \$21,809,739; funding for FY2022 represents a 5% reduction in grant awards to Victim Service and Enhanced Services grant programs due to reduced federal VOCA grant dollars, plus a few funding adjustments. Please note that this 5% cut was restored to CDVSA sub-grantees through the efforts of OMB providing CARES Act Funding to the Alaska Community Foundation to make each CDVSA grantee “whole” for FY2022 and represents approximately \$1.0 million. Available grant funding in FY2023 is \$21,477,665.



Alaska's Council on  
Domestic Violence  
& Sexual Assault

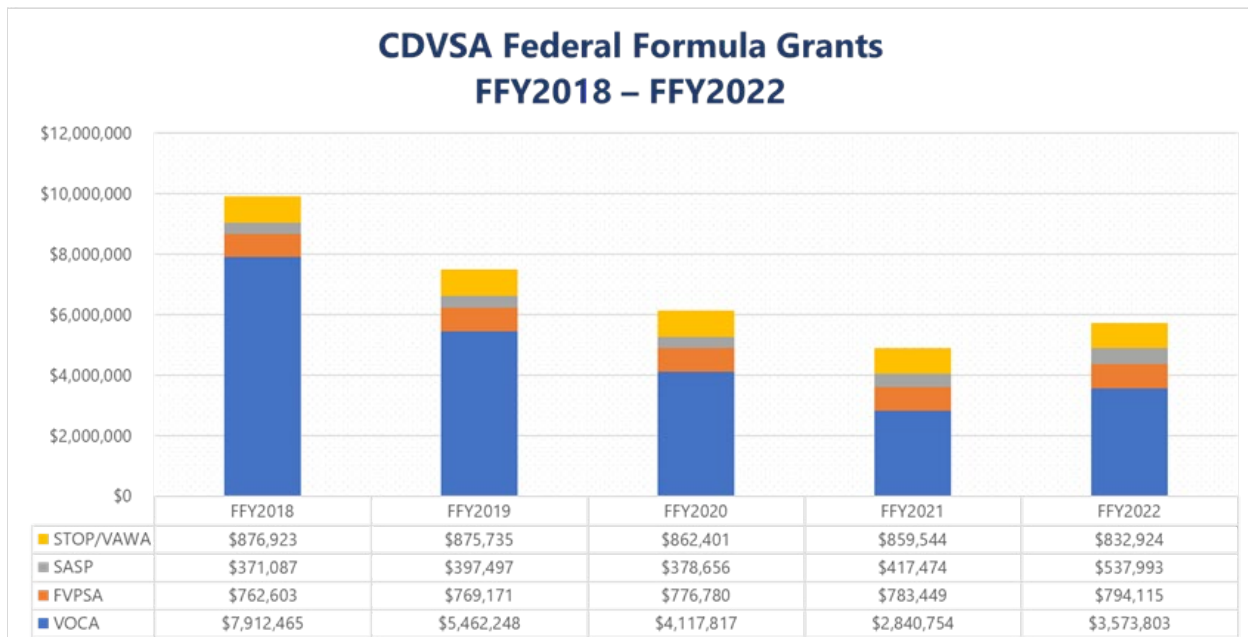
### CDVSA SFY21-24 Grant Funding – All Grant Types

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>SFY2021</b>	<b>SFY2022</b>	<b>SFY2023</b>	<b>SFY2024 (projected)</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	\$8,902,662	\$8,902,500	\$9,008,794	\$9,008,794
<b>Designated GF</b>	\$1,411,628	\$1,426,340	\$1,469,593	\$1,469,593
<b>1-time GF Allocation</b>	0	0	\$3,499,927**	0
<b>I/A Receipts</b>	\$ 173,583	\$ 173,583	\$ 173,583	\$ 173,583
<b>Federal VOCA</b>	\$9,944,303	\$3,628,183	\$ 929,476	\$3,000,000
<b>Federal FVPSA</b>	\$ 732,590	\$ 705,050	\$ 418,287	\$1,100,000**
<b>Federal SASP</b>	\$ 378,049	\$ 406,054	\$ 356,816	\$ 400,000
<b>Federal VAWA/STOP</b>	\$ 266,924	\$ 234,648	\$ 309,648	\$ 309,648
<b>Federal CSLFRF</b>	0	\$5,185,332**	\$2,771,434**	0
<b>Federal OVC Discretionary</b>	0	0	\$2,540,107**	\$2,459,893**
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$21,809,739</b>	<b>\$20,661,690*</b>	<b>\$21,477,665</b>	<b>\$17,921,511</b>

\*One-time \$1.0 mil. allocated to sub-grantees from the Alaska Community Foundation to fully fund FY22 subgrantees.

\*\*One-time GF or federal allocations.

The reduction in federal VOCA funding that began in FFY2019 created a shift in how CDVSA has allocated federal and state funding over the past three years and will continue to impact funding in SFY2024 and beyond. Additionally, the VOCA funding reduction is continuing to impact the overall available funds for CDVSA and its sub-grantees. While in FFY2018, CDVSA received a grant of \$7.9 million in VOCA funds, the funding amount decreased between FFY2019-FFY2021, increasing slightly in FY2022 (see chart below).



Because it is the intent of CDVSA to maintain minimum funding at SFY21 levels, the baseline amount of funding needed for services for victims, survivors, and families impacted by domestic and sexual violence, projections show that **CDVSA will have a funding gap in SFY2024 of approximately \$3.8 million.** Filling this gap with “other funding” will allow CDVSA to maintain its current funding levels for Victim/Enhanced Services, Prevention, and Perpetrator Rehabilitation Services, but with no increases to expand and enhance current DVSA programming.

#### FY2024 CDVSA Grant Funding Needs:

In 2021, the Senate introduced and passed the VOCA FIX legislation, with the intent to stabilize the VOCA Formula grants awarded to states each year. This legislation recalculated and changed funding percentages for VOCA formula grants (Alaska gets VOCA Compensation through VCCB and VOCA Assistance through CDVSA) intending to increase funds going into the Crime Victim Fund (CVF), the source of VOCA Formula grants.

With the change in how funds are deposited into the Crime Victim Fund (CVF), they expected to have more stable and sustainable funds over time; they did not expect the fund to grow exponentially over time. CDVSA anticipates future allocations to be consistent and comparable to our FFY17 or FFY20 VOCA award amounts, or around \$4.0 million. With a consistent VOCA

funding allocation of approximately \$4.0 million (we received \$3.5 in FFY2022), CDVSA will continue to have a funding shortfall in the future.

Beginning in SFY2022, CDVSA's budget has been cobbled together each year with one-time allocations of funding from the COVID State and Local Federal Relief Funding (CSLFRF), a 1-time GF allocation, a 1-time OVC Discretionary funding award, and a 1-time FVPSA increase from federal ARPA funding (see chart on page 2). While these one-time funding allocations have helped us maintain our annual grant awards at approximately \$21.5 million, it has not helped to create stable funding over time and each year CDVSA must decide to reduce DVSA community-based grant awards or to request additional General Funds from the legislature. Over the past three years, CDVSA has made the decision to request additional funds.

If we are unable to have a more consistent level of state general fund dollars to meet the current funding needs of our community programs, we will eventually need to reduce available grant funding for Victim and Enhanced Victim Services available to Alaska communities. Continuing to have an unstable level of grant funding does not support consistent and sustainable funding. If we continue to be short-funded each year, we need to begin living within the amount of stable funding that we have which is approximately \$18.0 million, not \$21.5 million.

#### The Need for a Comprehensive and Balanced Approach to DVSA Funding:

A significant reality is that while Victim Service and Enhanced Services grants have grown over the last 4-5 years, funding for the other two programs, that constitute our comprehensive services approach to ending domestic and sexual violence, has remained stagnant, with no increase for over 6-years. Funding for Prevention initiatives and for services to address the causes of violence perpetrated by abusive partners (Battering Intervention Programs) are critical, necessary components to reduce and eliminate domestic and sexual violence in Alaska.

Prevention services are essential to change the trajectory of abuse, working with communities and youth to stop abuse, change attitudes and behaviors, and no longer accept abusive actions, need more resources and prominence to make a difference. CDVSA receives a total of \$2.0 for statewide DVSA Prevention programming and initiatives. Of that approximately \$1.47 supports 13 community prevention grant programs (plus a small amount of GF). Last spring CDVSA released a new Request for Proposals to invite communities to apply for community primary prevention funding. A total of 14 communities applied, one did not meet the minimum qualifications, and 13 moved forward for review and funding. These 13 proposals requested a

total of \$2,220,758 in funding; available funds were \$1,550,000 leaving a deficit of \$670,758. With 13 communities receiving a portion of \$1,550,000, funding ranged from \$62,323 in Bethel to \$325,629 in Juneau based on scores, amount requested, and the amount available. Not only do we need to fully fund these 13 programs (\$670,758) but we need additional funds to expand services across the state, create a comprehensive media/education campaign to help change harmful attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors, and expand partnerships with schools, youth-servicing organizations, and other avenues to coordinate efforts with families and communities to stop domestic and sexual violence.

Programming for Battering Intervention Programs (BIP) and Prison-Based Programming (PBP) is funded at an even smaller amount of funding—a total of \$375,970 shared among 6 BIP programs and 3 PBP programs. Program funding for BIPs range between a high of \$70,000 in Fairbanks and \$20,298 in Homer. Funding for PBPs ranges between \$41,773 in Wasilla and \$34,105 in Juneau. To revitalize and reshape our perpetrator rehabilitation programs, CDVSA just concluded facilitating a Perpetrator Rehabilitation Workgroup, with 25 members representing the Alaska Courts, prosecutors, public advocacy, child protection, juvenile justice, tribal services, behavioral health, and services for victims. The final step of the Workgroup was the development of a concept paper with twelve considerations for action to improve, enhance and expand services to individuals who use violence in their relationships. During the last legislative session, CDVSA received a new full-time Program Coordinator position to focus on implementing the recommendations/considerations of the Workgroup, approving applications, expanding services, training, and monitoring community-based programs. Additionally, these services can only be expanded across the state with additional funding to support quality, evidence-informed programming that can change abusive behaviors.

Victim/Enhanced Services are critical emergency and safety programs that intervene in life and death-situations; these programs must receive a large portion of CDVSA funding. It is also important to have both a comprehensive and balanced approach to the other components of the DVSA continuum of services that include more robust prevention services and perpetrator rehabilitation programming. Currently, Victim/Enhanced Services receive 90% of available grant funding, Prevention receives 8% and BIP/PBP programs receive 2%. With this imbalanced approach to domestic and sexual violence, we can do no more than tread water.

#### Additional Factors Affecting FY24 Funding:

In addition to the information above, CDVSA's budget needs for FY24 may be impacted by the following mitigating/aggravating factors:

- Senator Murkowski has proposed a second OVC discretionary grant award of \$4.0 million to assist CDVSA to fill our funding gap and expand DVSA services in a comprehensive approach.
- One-time FVPSA funding increased received through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and allocated to all state agencies and coalitions currently receiving FVPSA formula grant funds (see chart on page 2).
- Increased VOCA and VAWA Tribal set-aside funding and its impact on statewide DVSA funding needs.
- CDVSA will issue a new competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) in Spring 2023. The new awards will cover the period SFY2024-SFY2027. It is possible that additional agencies will submit proposals, requesting new funding and current sub-grantees will most likely request additional funds to meet the ongoing needs. While our grant funding has been steady over the past 4 years, due to the increased cost of living, grant funds have significantly less buying power than 4-years ago. Potential requests for increased funding in FY24, from new sub-grantees and current sub-grantees are expected, but unknown at this time.

As we move forward, it is important that we identify both current and future DVSA funding needs from a broad statewide perspective. Issues that need to be considered and addressed are:

- CDVSA is the designated recipient of a significant amount of funding including four (4) federal DVSA formula grants from DOJ and DHHS, available to each state based on population.
- CDVSA receives a stable source of state general fund dollars that have remained unchanged for the past 6 years. Due to inflation, this funding level results in a funding decrease.
- Filling our FY24 funding gap with temporary state or federal emergency funds only, such as one-time GF or federal funds, will leave CDVSA with a continuing funding gap moving beyond FY2024.
- There are considerable OVC, OVW, and DHHS Tribal set-aside grant funds in Alaska, as well as federal discretionary grants that have been awarded to community agencies in Alaska that we are not always aware of (or informed of). We are often unclear about how these dollars contribute to the overall funding and service needs to address domestic and sexual violence in Alaska; therefore, having a complete picture of all DVSA funding received and providing services in Alaska is a critical first step.

- It is important to carefully assess Alaska's broad DVSA needs to determine the right amount of funding to provide a full continuum of services including prevention, victim services, and accountability/healing for abusive partners.
- This assessment should identify gaps in DVSA programming and areas of service needs that are not being adequately met such as transitional housing for victims, human/sex trafficking, services for children impacted by domestic violence, and missing and murdered indigenous women and girls as a few examples. ANDVSA, as a requirement of their FVPSA Coalition funding, will be conducting a comprehensive DVSA needs assessment in SFY23, that will help us better understand the ongoing service and funding needs.
- An assessment must look at funding and regional access to service as well as how and what funding can be leveraged and coordinated to better meet Alaska's needs.
- What role should other state agencies fill in terms of funding, programming, and services to help meet these needs (DOC, DOC, DEED, DHSS, DPS, AHFC, and others) as we strive to reduce and prevent domestic and sexual violence in Alaska.

We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with community agencies, federal partners, and state departments to better define and assess the need for a comprehensive statewide approach to ending domestic and sexual violence in Alaska. A long-term approach to funding will better serve Alaskans who are impacted by intimate and interpersonal violence in the past, present, and future.

Respectfully prepared by,



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