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OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

GARY A. SCHELLER
Director, UOVC

April 11, 2024

Dear VOCA Subrecipients,

I hope this email finds you well. The Utah Office for Victims of Crime (UOVC) has received the FY2024 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) formula grant allocation amounts from the department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC). The amount allocated to Utah for this year, (FY2024) is \$8,094,149, roughly 40% less than the FY2023 VOCA allocation of \$13,778,276. **Rest assured; this will not impact current awards. There will be no adjustments (decreases) for year 2 of this current grant cycle, (SFY25, July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025).**

For state fiscal years SFY24 and SFY25, UOVC awarded approximately \$25 million (\$12.5 million each year), the bulk of which was from prior year(s) VOCA grants to UOVC. This puts us in a position to significantly buffer the 40% drop in this year's VOCA award to UOVC. Looking ahead to SFY 26 and SFY27, UOVC anticipates that approximately \$20.8 million (\$10.4 million each year) will be made available through the competitive grant RFP process for those years.

As a result of our long standing-approach and allocation planning, UOVC is able to navigate this approximate 20% decrease rather than the roughly 40% in the 2024 VOCA allocation to UOVC. I want to further clarify this matter. **The approximate 20% decrease will be reflected in the total amount of funding UOVC publishes in the FY26-FY27 competitive grant RFP notice, as compared to the amount published in the last grant cycle's RFP. UOVC will adjust percentages across crime, service and other categories in order to meet funding mandates and agency initiatives.**

Accordingly, UOVC would discourage organizations interested in applying for funds in the upcoming cycle from attempting to forecast potential future VOCA funding awarded to your organizations based upon any current or past awards or individual program budgets you have established regarding VOCA grant awards. While UOVC takes every measure to sustain consistent and stable funding levels for subawards/grants from the federal awards we receive, what we have little to no control over are the balances in the federal funds, the amounts appropriated from those funds by Congress, and ultimately the amounts received by UOVC. I have had conversations with Utah's Congressional delegation and have committed to working with them in bringing a coalition of victim service providers, other states' administrators, and our

national associations together to address and drive solutions to the recovery of the VOCA fund. We are deeply committed to this; however, we do not provide any assurances regarding the success of these efforts.

Additionally, please remember that VOCA Assistance grants were and are intended primarily to help the start of and to provide supplementary support to, yet not timelessly fund significant portions of individual victim service programs in states and communities. It would be neglectful of us to not continue to encourage grant recipients to continue - if not enhance - their conversations about the services they provide and their funding needs, with the local governing boards and bodies of the communities they serve.

The greatest certainty I can express today is that UOVC is actively working on the funding plan for the FY 26-27 funding cycle, as well as those in the future. Most of you are aware that in the 2023 Legislative session, the Crime Victim Services Commission (VSC) was created. Victim services funding is one of several complex issues which will be addressed by the VSC, and will be prioritized as the processes, studies and assessments indicate. We look forward to these crucial interactions and would encourage your participation as well. The VSC facilitates open public meetings, and you can attend virtually or in person. You can find the information about those meetings here <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/sitemap/publicbody/8317.html>

The information and feedback UOVC intends to receive through the VSC will be invaluable as we move forward in managing the inherent nature of federal funding and other dynamics.

We appreciate your continued partnership and dedication to serving victims of crime in Utah and we will keep you updated as we progress. Should you have any questions or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out to Moriah Pease.

Respectfully,



Gary A. Scheller, Director

Utah Office for Victims of Crime