Request for Grant Application
FY 2016/2017
DPS-VOCA CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE GRANTS
Award period: October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017
Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Assistance Funds
CFDA 16.575

The Department of Public Safety's Administration of VOCA Funds
The mission of the Department of Public Safety's (DPS) VOCA Administration Unit is to support the provision of a full range of direct services to victims of crime in Arizona. This is accomplished by assisting, training, and monitoring crime victim service providers throughout the state. It is enabled by the Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) assistance grant.

What is the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)?
The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) was signed into law in 1984. The Act created a fund, administered by the Department of Justice, for victim assistance grants to the states. Federal funding received for victim service programs varies from year to year, depending on the amount of federal fines collected, using no tax dollars.

What Will This FY 2016/2017 Request for Grant Application Fund?
VOCA requires that priority shall be given to victims of sexual abuse, domestic abuse, child abuse, and previously underserved populations, with a minimum of 10% of each federal fiscal year's grant being allocated to each of these crime victim categories. A crime victim is defined as a person who has suffered physical, sexual, financial, or emotional harm resulting from the commission of a crime.

Eligible nonprofit and government programs providing **direct** dedicated services include, but are not limited to, sexual assault victims, survivors of homicide victims, victims of robbery, DUI accident victims, domestic violence victims, and physically and sexually abused children. Services are defined as those efforts that assist victims with emotional and physical needs to stabilize their lives, provide a measure of safety and security, and enhance victims' experiences within the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

The following **cannot** be funded with VOCA **or** matching funds: administrative/clerical positions, grant writing, protocol development, criminal justice investigative efforts, needs assessment, prevention or offender related programs, or mandated services.

What is the Award Period?
Award Agreements that are issued as a result of this Request for Grant Application will be for the term of October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017. These agreements may be renewed for an additional 12 month period at the awarded amount, contingent upon funding availability, satisfactory performance and demonstrated need. It is anticipated that approximately $20 million dollars will be available for the FY 2016/2017 award period.

How will the Applications Be Scored?
The point value of each evaluation criteria/factor of the application is as follows:

Forms Section - This section is worth a total of 35 points.

Screen Title	Points
Applicant Summary	5
Certification Information	5
Agency Service Information	5
Jurisdiction	5

Prorate VOCA Project Funds	5
Source of Funding	10

Narrative Section - This section is worth a total of 310 points.

Screen Title	Points
Victim Services Summary	20
Volunteer Detail	20
Problem Statement and Victim Needs	50
Project Summary	25
Interagency Coordination	30
Community Collaboration	15
Performance Measures	150

Budget Section - This section is worth a total of 140 points.

Screen Title	Points
Match	25
Budget Summary	75
Budget Prioritization and Justification	40

A total score of at least 70% (340 points) is required for funding.

What is the VOCA Victim Assistance Grant Funding Schedule?
June 24, 2016 - Request for Grant Application Announcement
July 12 & 13, 2016 - Pre-Application Conferences
August 5, 2016, 3 p.m. MST - Application Deadline
September 23, 2016 – Estimated Date to Finalize Funding Recommendations
October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017 - VOCA Agreement Fiscal Year

Applicants are urged to develop proposals that are concise, clearly written and contain eligible activities outlined in the Application Instruction Screens and DPS-VOCA Guidelines.

When are the pre-application conferences held?
Pre-application conferences will be held from 9:00 am – 3:30 pm on July 12th and 13th, 2016, at the Bureau of Land Management, National Training Center (NTC) (Washington A, B, C conference rooms) located at 9828 N. 31st Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85051. Due to the venue's security procedures, please arrive by 8:30 as the conference will begin promptly at 9 am. The following security procedures must be followed. All individuals must enter through the main entrance on the north side of the building. Government employees must bring their government identification badge (which must be visible at all times while in the facility). Non-government employees must bring a driver's license or state-issued identification card and will be issued an NTC visitor's badge.

The content will be the same for both days – all application requirements and guidelines will be discussed and a thorough review of the Web-based Automated Grants System (WAGS) will be provided. Attendees will be on their own for a one hour lunch break.

All applicants who wish to attend a pre-application conference must register on-line through WAGS after an application has been requested. Prior to the conference, attendees are

encouraged to review the guidelines and the instruction screens from WAGS and identify potential questions to be addressed during the conference. Attendees are asked to bring their own copy of the guidelines and instruction screens to the conference as copies will not be provided. The DPS-VOCA Guidelines (Effective 8/2015) can be located in the Public Forms and Information section of the WAGS system.

Civil Rights Compliance

All recipients of federal funds, regardless of the type of entity or the amount of money awarded, must provide assurance that they will not discriminate against any person on the grounds of race, color, national origin, disability, religion, sex or age, in any program or activity funded in whole or in part by federal financial assistance. The recipient must certify that it will comply with all applicable non-discrimination laws and regulations, and must submit this assurance prior to accepting a DPS-VOCA Assistance award.

Specifically, the statute that governs OJP funded programs or activities, the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. § 10604(e)) prohibits such discrimination, as follows:
No person shall on the ground of race, color, religion, national origin, handicap, or sex be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, subjected to discrimination under, or denied employment in connection with, any undertaking funded in whole or in part with sums made available under this chapter.

All recipients of OJP funding must also comply with the Department of Justice's regulations on the Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations, 28 C.F.R. pt. 38. These regulations prohibit organizations from using financial assistance from the Department of Justice to fund inherently religious activities. While organizations can engage in non-funded inherently religious activities, they must be held separately from the Department of Justice funded program, and customers or beneficiaries cannot be compelled to participate in them. The regulations also make clear that organizations participating in programs funded by the Department of Justice are not permitted to discriminate in the provision of services on the basis of a beneficiary's religion.

The Assistant Attorney General of OJP has delegated the enforcement of civil rights compliance of all OJP grantees to the Director, Office for Civil Rights (OCR). The Director has civil rights enforcement responsibilities and determines through established policies and procedures whether any person is being excluded from participating in, denied the benefits of, subjected to discrimination under, or denied employment in connection with the program or activity receiving OJP funds on these grounds. Where such discriminatory actions are found through compliance reviews or complaint processing the recipient agency may be determined to be in noncompliance for violation of the law and of its signed assurances. If attempts to secure voluntary compliance through negotiations are not successful, the sanction of suspension or termination of funding is required by statute. Some specific forms of discrimination that are prohibited are set out in the OJP program statute's implementing regulations 28 CFR 42.203. For more information consult the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ocr.

For further information, contact the VOCA Administration Unit Manager, Kate Henderson, via email at khenderson@azdps.gov or (602) 223-2661.

DPS is an Equal Employment Opportunity Agency.