

VOCA FUNDING IN THE STATE OF UTAH

Why It Matters

WHAT IS VOCA?

The Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA) is federal legislation aimed at helping victims of crime and established the Crime Victims Fund to compensate crime victims.

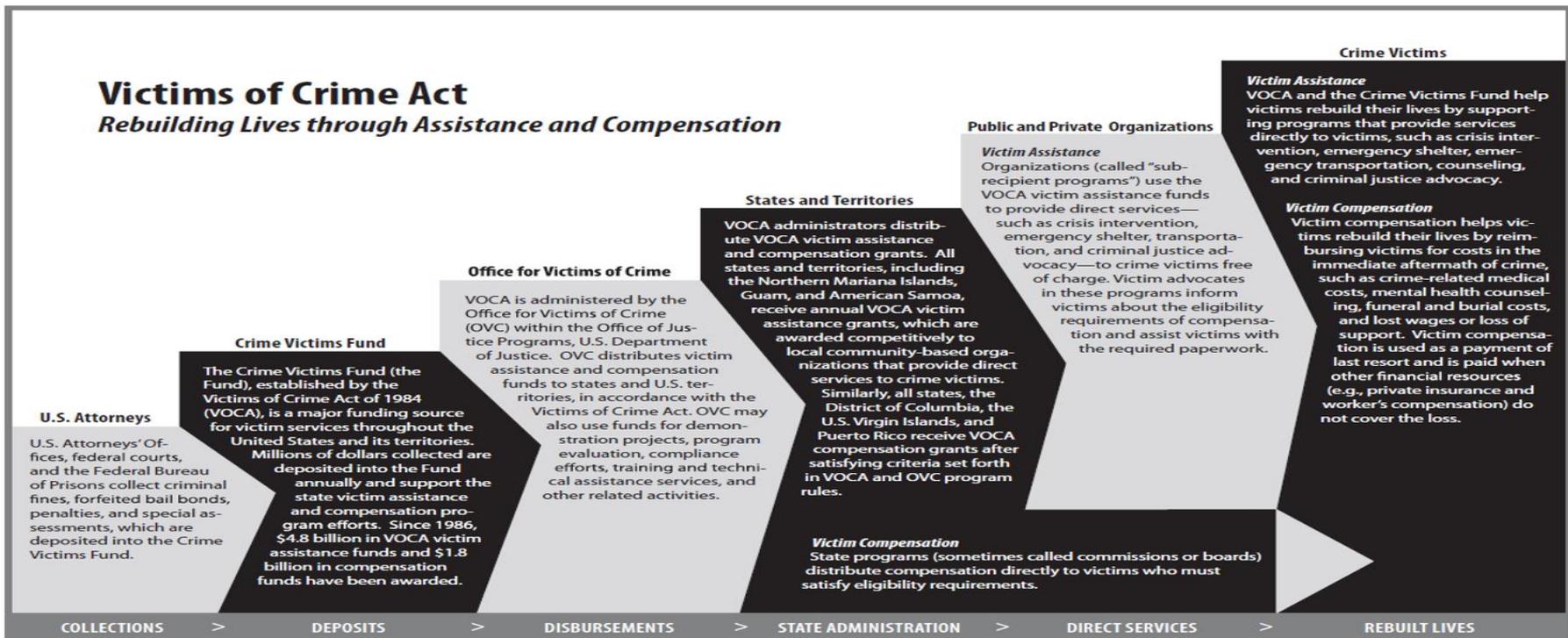
The fund is financed by fines and penalties by convicted federal offenders, not from tax dollars.



HOW ARE VOCA FUNDS DISTRIBUTED?

Victims of Crime Act

Rebuilding Lives through Assistance and Compensation



Office for Victims of Crime
OVC
"Putting Victims First"

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
Victims of Crime
www.ncvc.org-1-800-FYI-CALL

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF VOCA?

To assist public and private non-profit agencies in providing services to victims of crime. VOCA victim assistance funding is also utilized to develop new programs in underserved victim populations and geographic areas or to enhance successful programs.

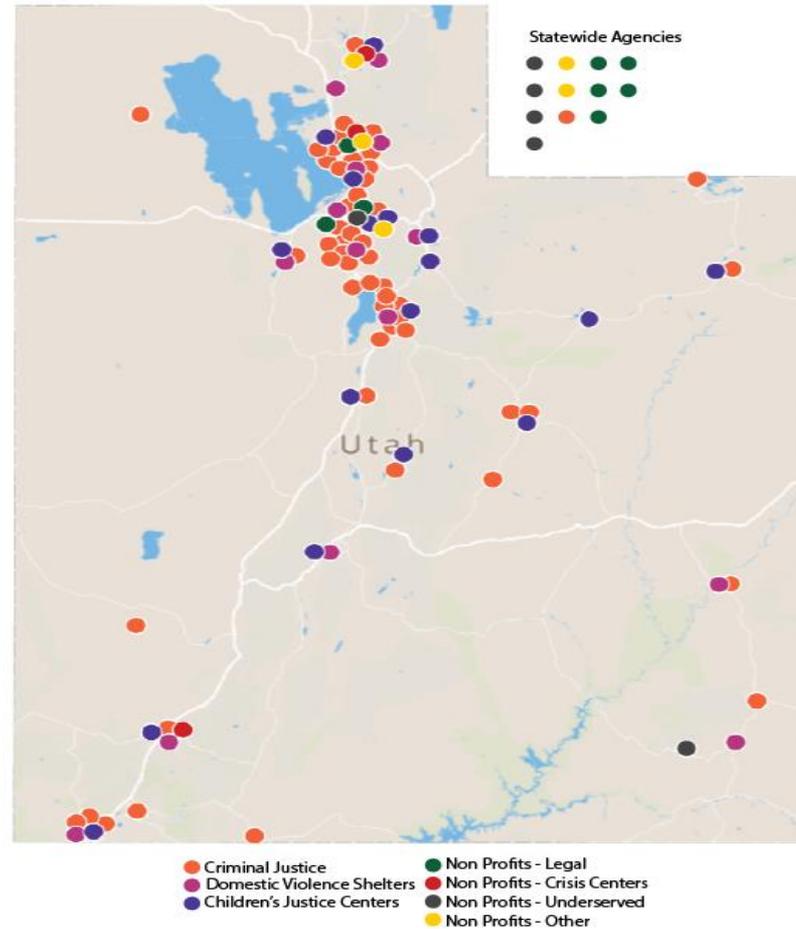
Examples of funded programs can include domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, children's justice centers, and criminal-justice system victim advocates in law enforcement and prosecution agencies.

Services include but are not limited to: crisis hotlines, criminal justice victim advocacy, housing, legal, information/referrals, therapeutic counseling, shelter, on-scene response, forensic interviews and exams, and culturally-specific victim services.

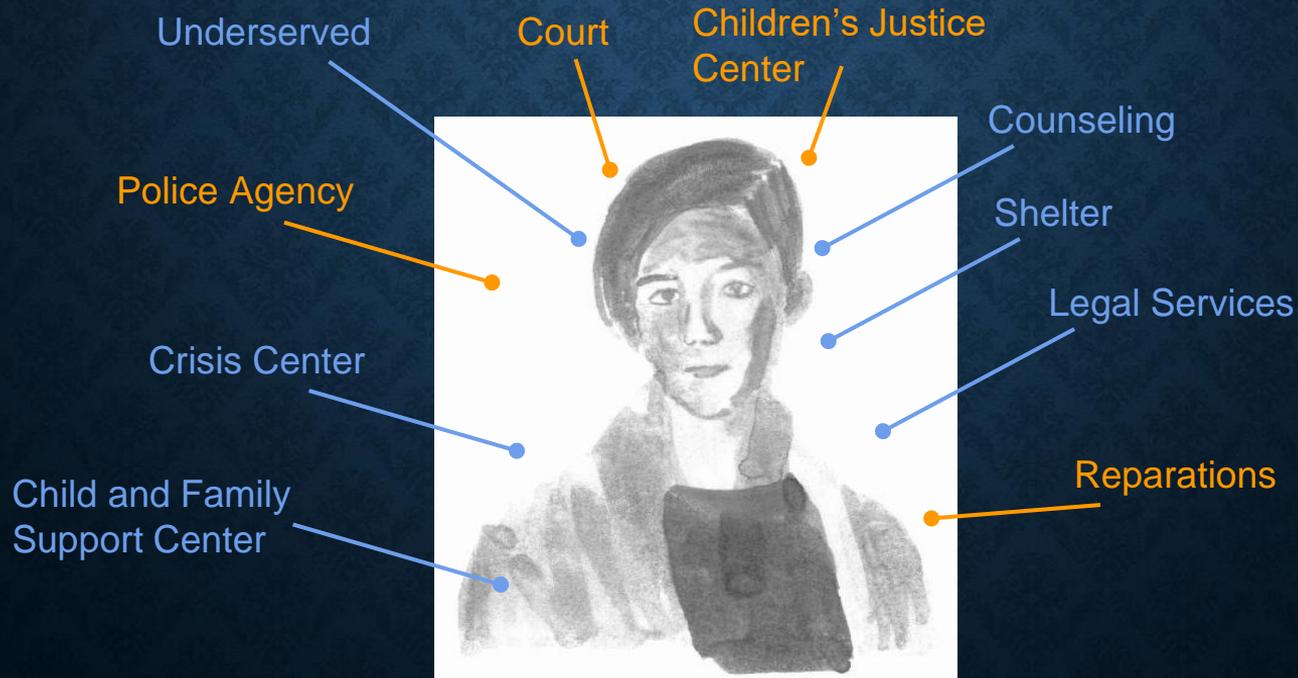
UTAH'S VOCA ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

In accordance with The "Victims of Crime Act of 1984" and updated August 8, 2016, the Utah Office for Victims of Crime (UOVC) has been authorized by the Department of Justice as the State Administering Agency (SAA) to dispense VOCA funds in the State of Utah in congruence with the VOCA Final Rule as stated in Federal Register/Vol 81, No 131; 28 CFR Part 94.

VICTIM SERVICES IN THE STATE OF UTAH



WHAT DOES THIS ALL MEAN FOR VICTIMS?



WHAT DOES THIS *REALLY* MEAN FOR VICTIMS?

*“Cherish Families helped me in some of my darkest days. **I was afraid for my life and the lives of my children.** He would constantly stalk me and make threats. He held a gun to my head and said if he couldn’t have me then nobody could. He belittled me and told me I was garbage. He broke me down daily. I couldn’t see a way out. I was so afraid. My daughters came forward and told me about the sexual abuse my ex had been doing to them. We were strangers in our own home. Afraid to make a move because we didn’t want to upset him. He was unpredictable. We didn’t deserve the financial and mental pressure this man put on my family. Cherish Families showed up. **They supported me with basic needs, housing, finding a job, transportation, mental health services and legal services. They helped me fill out paperwork and navigate the legal system.** Thank you, Cherish Families, for supporting me in starting over, keeping us safe and giving me the confidence I needed to be myself again.”*

-Stalking victim from polygamous community

WHAT DOES THIS *REALLY* MEAN FOR VICTIMS?

*“The Rape Recovery Center saved my life. I was to the point where I wanted to disappear and not wake up. **They were my crutch until I was able to come out of the fog of trauma and discover what it meant to be happy again.** Despite everything, I tried to resist seeing my world through the new eyes I was forced to see it through. Now, it doesn't feel as forced, it is coming more naturally. Thank you.”*

-Rape Victim from Salt Lake County

WHAT DOES THIS *REALLY* MEAN FOR VICTIMS?

“I felt really safe here. I like how kind you all are. I didn’t feel as nervous as I thought I would be. I didn’t feel judged or pushed to say anything. **I’m glad that I could have the opportunity to share my story with such understanding people.**”

-Child abuse victim in regards to her visit to the Utah County Children’s Justice Center.

WHAT DOES THIS *REALLY* MEAN FOR VICTIMS?

*“As we slowly got our puzzle pieces of life back together, the advocates tried to help me find ways to get my protection order papers going. They had me set goals and tasks for the things I needed and for the things I wanted to achieve in life. I was able to get all of our personal documents back, my kids were able to go to school. They helped me get my home back and gave us some personal items because everything we had in our homes were destroyed. They helped with funds to get my electric and water back on. I was guided to a counselor that helped me gain my self-esteem back up. Every step of the way I was always encouraged to continue the good things in life. **The program paid to get a traditional [healing] ceremony to clear our mind and gather our thoughts.** I was able to get help to enroll back into school to get my GED and attend college. **From the start of the program to this day every person that we had help us still checks to see if we are still doing okay.** I am very thankful for them in everything they did. Without everyone’s help I may have not accomplished so much on my own.”*

-Domestic Violence Victim on Navajo Reservation

WHAT DOES THIS *REALLY* MEAN FOR VICTIMS?

*“I feel like the advocate and Ms. Nestel (crime victims rights attorney) did an amazing job with my family and was the best support we could have. They were a joy to work with and were always concerned with the best interest of us. I cannot imagine having to do all of this without them. If they would not have been there I could have been in the courtroom alone with no voice. **Sitting alone in a big courtroom is like being in a foreign country with no one to translate. I would not have known about the programs that are available to the victims and their families. I would not have had a chance to meet these amazing people that help so many in my community. I believe there is a need for victim advocates and people like Ms. Nestel. Please take it from me that this is not a position you never want to be in. But if you find yourself in a similar situation, I hope you know you will not be in it alone if you have Victims’ Advocates.**”*

-Mother of a child abuse victim in Carbon County

WHAT DOES THIS *REALLY* MEAN FOR VICTIMS?

*“I responded to a homicide where a male had killed his mother's boyfriend with his car. When I got on scene the victim and secondary victim were in the road and the victim had a sheet over him with secondary victim holding his hand. **Officer had me walk towards the secondary victim and provide comfort. I was able to speak to the secondary and provide compassion and crisis intervention** and get her to let go of the victim's hand so that Detective's could start their crime scene investigation. I then transported the victim to my office where we contacted the primary victim's next of kin and worked out other issues while investigators were on scene. During the court process we attended court with the secondary victim and provided notifications to the primary victim's family who lived out of state while the case proceeded. ”*

-Victim Advocate from Washington County

WHAT DOES THIS *REALLY* MEAN FOR VICTIMS?

*“I came to the YCC program well over a year ago during a time of crisis. That first day, it felt like I had just jumped off a cliff into nothingness – as my past life was now gone and I faced something brand new and foreign. However, immediately after that, I discovered that I was actually heading furlong into an incredible new beginning and an amazing adventure into reclaiming myself as a person and having my life back – but renewed with astonishing strength, wisdom, determination, resilience, positive self-perception, ability to solve problems, and compassion for others. **Now, I can see that my future is my own and that I CAN make it something beautiful and be MORE than I thought I could ever be.** I also now see that the world is full of wonder and amazement that I did not know existed and that there are many faithful, affectionate, kind people in the world.”*

-Domestic Violence Victim from Weber County

CRIME VICTIM SERVICES IN UTAH BY THE NUMBERS

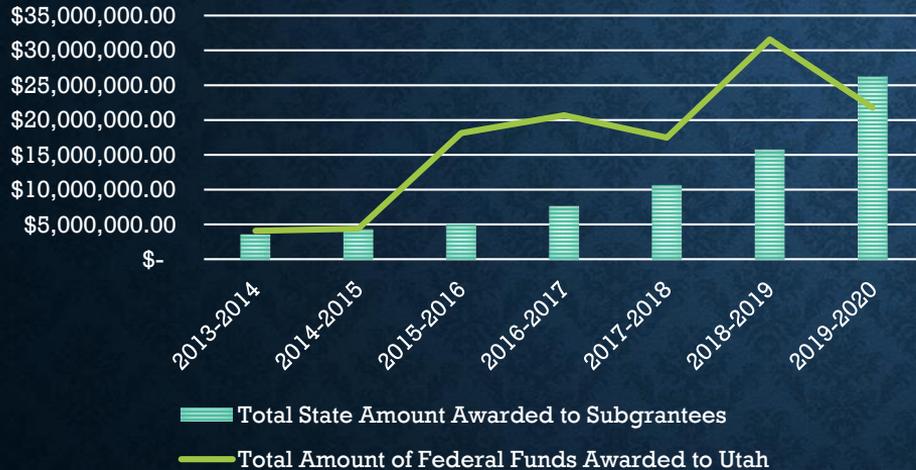
Between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019, the following services were provided with VOCA Funds:

Over 95,259 victims of crime in Utah received life-saving victim services which included

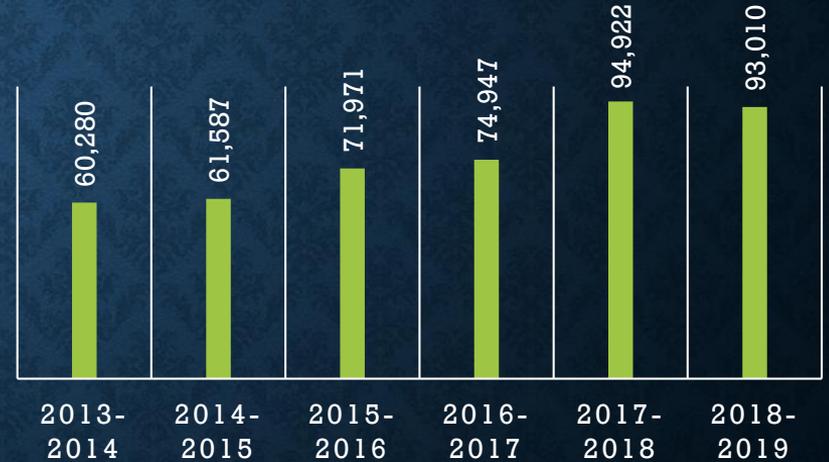
- 78,049 information/referral services
- 37,334 personal advocacy/accompaniment services
- 48,679 emotional support/safety services
- 5,492 shelter/housing services
- 58,887 criminal/civil justice system assistance

HISTORY OF VOCA FUNDING IN UTAH

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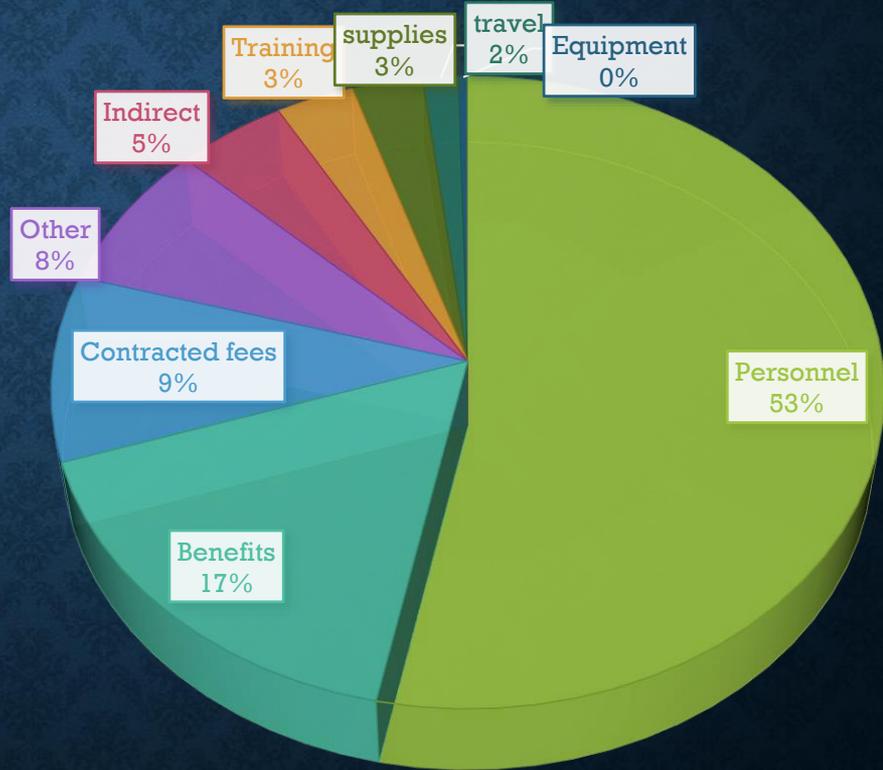


TOTAL NUMBER OF VICTIMS SERVED

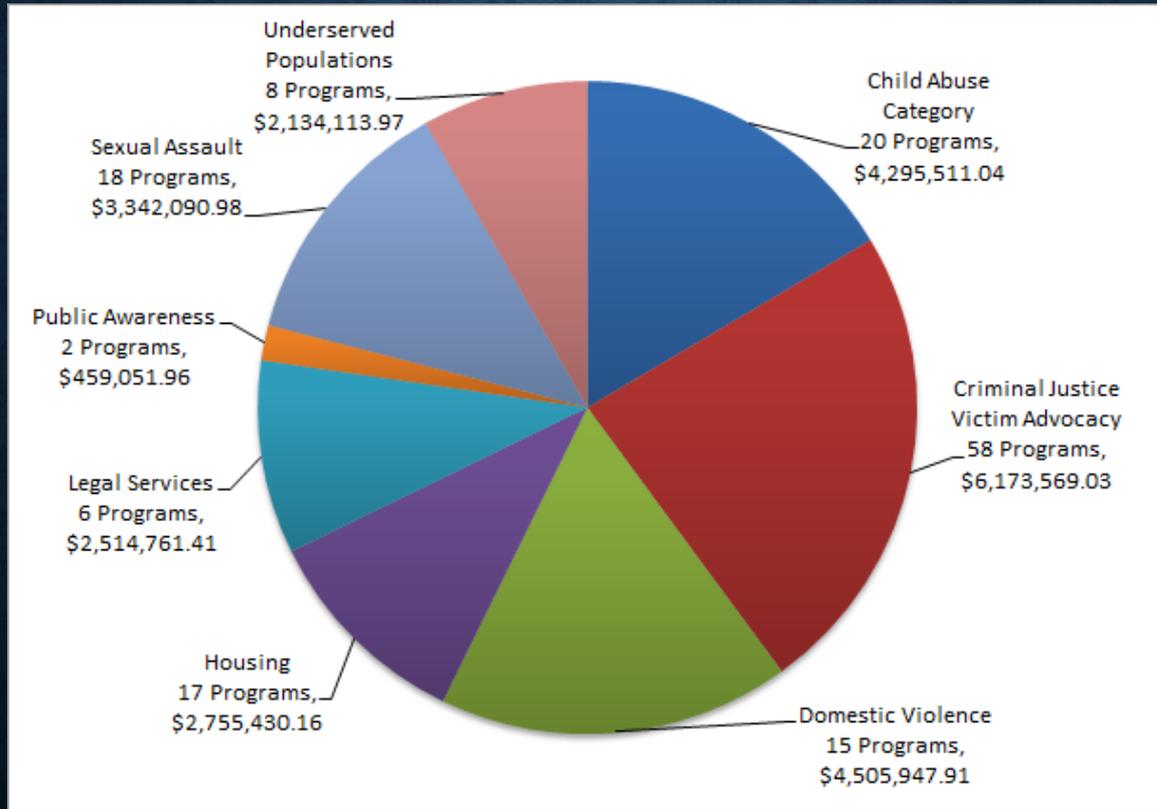


BREAKDOWN OF BUDGET CATEGORIES

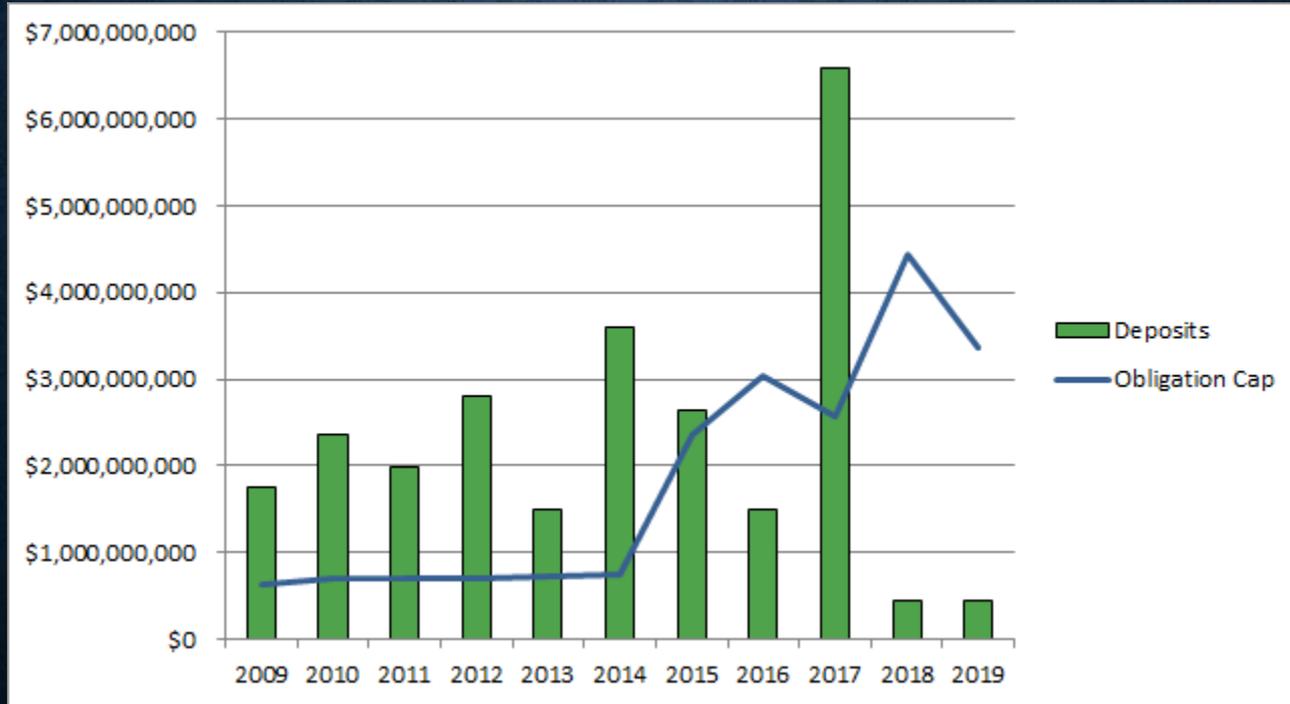
Personnel	\$13,977,559.52	53.20%
Benefits	\$4,391,584.73	16.72%
Contracted fees	\$2,500,703.39	9.52%
Other	\$2,007,847.01	7.64%
Indirect	\$1,225,177.33	4.66%
Training	\$874,324.54	3.33%
supplies	\$790,717.90	3.01%
travel	\$401,458.50	1.53%
Equipment	\$103,592.92	0.39%
	\$26,272,965.83	100%



CURRENT VOCA FUNDING BREAKDOWN IN UTAH 2019-2020

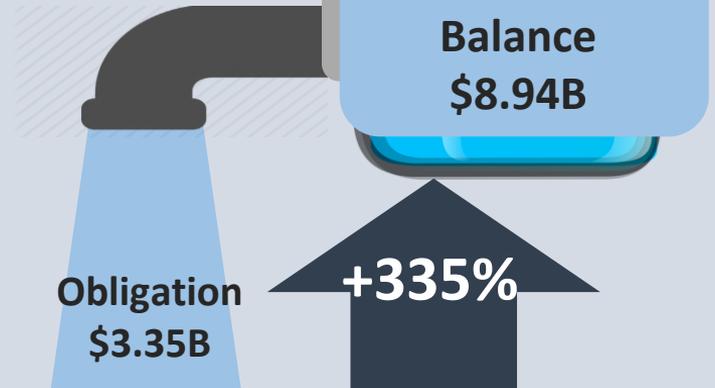
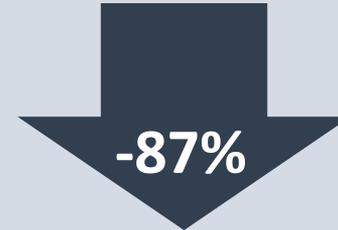
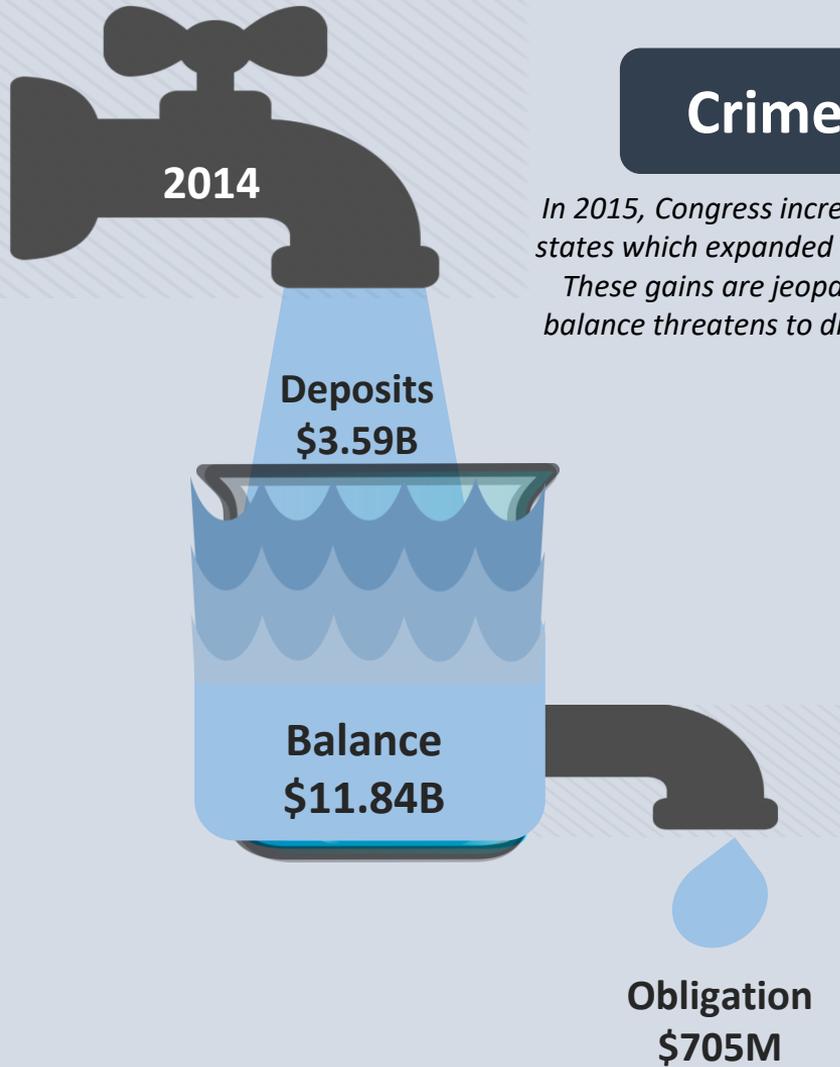


THE CRIME VICTIMS FUND-WHERE WE ARE AT NOW



Crime Victims Fund

In 2015, Congress increased the amount of money available to states which expanded the number of victims who receive help. These gains are jeopardized if action isn't taken as the fund balance threatens to drop below \$4 billion by the end of 2021.



PLANS TO REDUCE FUNDS

Protective factors already in place:

- Diversified funding sources as well as required match
- Funds are awarded as year of award plus three-create a buffer
- Presentations to governing boards
- Funding categories
- One-time funds
- Increased monitoring

Factors we are considering

- Gradual decreases by year
- Preserving personnel and cutting other categories
- Established priority areas and defining core victim services

STATEWIDE FUNDING PLAN FOR CRIME VICTIM SERVICES

- Stakeholder involvement
- Program evaluations for effectiveness
- Coordination with other funding sources for maximum efficiency (e.g. FVPSA, VAWA/SASP, AG's Office, State funding sources)
- Unified request for state funds