

Match Waiver Policy

Background

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) regulations require grantees to contribute to the total cost of their VOCA-funded project by providing not less than 20% match, either cash or in-kind, from non-federal sources. VOCA funds increased over several prior years and applicants were encouraged to consider expanding projects to fill unmet needs and gaps in services, including those that have regional or statewide application. These increases in awards to states have now been reversed, and substantial reductions are now in place, necessitating commensurate reductions in sub-award amounts.

Compounding the challenges brought about by state award reductions under the Victims of Crime Act program, the State of South Carolina and the entire nation are now confronted with the COVID-19 pandemic. This ongoing national emergency has necessitated broad economic restrictions which in turn have greatly reduced revenue coming to state, county and local units of government. Similarly, subrecipient non-profit agencies serving victims of crime have experienced increased costs, reductions in non-federal funding streams, and their agency volunteers have almost completely withdrawn, drastically reducing the amount of match available.

We recognize that few public or private agencies can now afford the in-kind or cash match that would ordinarily be required for their projects. Since 2016, federal VOCA regulations allowed for partial or full match waiver requests to be submitted to the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) by the state on behalf of subrecipients. OVC reviewed these requests from grantees and approved or denied grant match waivers for individual subrecipient projects.

On September 20, 2021, in accordance with provisions of the VOCA Fix Act, OVC issued guidance requiring that states issue waivers for all VOCA subrecipients during a pandemic national emergency, and for one year after it ends, including the national pandemic period beginning on March 1, 2020, which is ongoing.

Applicability

This updated Match Waiver Policy is effective immediately and supersedes prior Match Waiver guidance. This updated process applies to all match for all active VOCA subgrants as well as any match for subgrants running 10/1/2020 through 9/30/2021 that remains unmet at the time of the waiver. For our purposes, "Unmet match" means matching contributions where the contribution or activity has not already been accounted for and reported as match.

In a change from previous years, match waiver letters are no longer required to be submitted by agencies either with their applications or after award, as the new policy is universal and for

the total amount of all match. Subrecipients will only need to submit a budget revision request via AGO Grants to amend the match amounts in each VOCA subgrant to \$0 in all categories.

If you have any questions concerning this new policy, please contact the Department of Crime Victim Assistance Grants staff.

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