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*Executive Director*

OVS NewsLetter

January 6, 2016

In this Issue...

* [2016 Pathways Conference Postponed to 2017](#_Message_from_Lynn)
* [REMINDER: Reporting Demographic Data with the 2015-2016 VOCA Annual Reports](#_COMPENSATION_CORNER:__1)
* [Reminder to all VOJO and RASA Programs - Program Reports Due January 2016](#_Reminder_to_all)
* [VOCA Funding Process for the 2016-2019 Funding Cycle](#_VOCA_Funding_Process)
* [Victims Compensation Assistance Program Online Trainings](#_Victims_Compensation_Assistance)
* [PDAI Victim Services Training News](#_STOP_Grant_Annual)
* [Free Webinar on Economic Abuse: What You Need to Know in the Criminal Justice System](#_Congratulations_to_Andrea)
* [Identifying and Preventing Gender Bias in Law Enforcement Response to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence](#_Identifying_and_Preventing)
* [It's Time to Acknowledge Male Victims of Domestic Violence](#_It's_Time_to)

Upcoming Events

* + [WebEx Online Trainings Available](https://copa.webex.com/mw0306ld/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=copa&service=6)Compensation Related: Basic, Advanced-Counseling, Transportation Expenses, Restitution and much more!

Credits towards VOCA/RASA/VOJO training requirements are available for all sessions (unless indicated otherwise in the session description). To receive training credits: 1) you must be logged into the session and 2) the WebEx application must be on your computer for the entire duration of the session. As the OVS recognizes that emergencies may arise and you may not be able to attend the entire session, there is no prohibition against attending part of a session (although training credits will not be given in that instance).

* + [Training/Networking Opportunities](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/OVS-Training-Networking-Opportunities.aspx)
	+ [Additional RASA/VOJO/VOCA Approved Training](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/RASA-VOCA-VOJO-Trainings.aspx)
	+ [2016 Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute Victim Services Training](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/2016%20Victim%20Services%20Training%20Save%20The%20Date.pdf)

# 2016 Pathways Conference Postponed to 2017

Philadelphia is very fortunate to have been selected to host the 2016 National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC) Conference. The NCVC conference, scheduled for September 2016, provides victim advocates with a variety of opportunities to learn promising practices, current research, and effective programs and policies that are victim-centered, practice-based, and research-informed. OVS wants to encourage Pennsylvania victim service programs to take advantage of this outstanding training opportunity. As a result, OVS will be postponing the 2016 Pathways Conference until 2017. OVS will be offering scholarships for victim advocates to attend the NCVC Conference. Additional details on the scholarship program will be announced in early 2016.

SAVE THE DATES: The next Pathways Conference has already been rescheduled for 2017. The conference will be held at the Hershey Lodge, May 8, 9, 10, 2017.

PLEASE NOTE: OVS will still be seeking nominations for the 2016 Pathfinders Awards in January 2016.

[Return to top](#_top)

# REMINDER: Reporting Demographic Data with the 2015-2016 VOCA Annual Reports

In late 2014 the Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) notified all state VOCA administrators it would be changing the reporting/performance measures for federal VOCA funding.  The goal of these changes was to gather information from state VOCA administrators to tell a better story to Congress about how VOCA funds are being used across the United States and its territories to assist and serve victims of crime.

As a result of OVC’s notification to the states, OVS sent a memo to all VOCA funded programs on May 29, 2015 requiring programs to begin collecting and reporting demographic data effective July 1, 2015. For your reference a listing of these demographics have been attached to this message. This is a reminder that your agency will be required to report this data in your VOCA 2015-2016 annual reports for the current reporting period (7/1/2015-6/30/2016.)   Please keep in mind that the demographic information is the first of several changes to federal reporting requirements on the VOCA Assistance Grant Program. Additional changes to the VOCA reporting requirements will be occurring that will take effect July 1, 2016. OVS will provide the field with notice of those additional reporting requirements as early as January 2016.   If you have any questions about the new data reporting requirements, please feel free to contact Daisy Pagan at (717) 265-8516 or email at dpagan@pa.gov.

[Click here](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/Demographics%20VOCA%202015-2016.pdf) to view a list of the demographic information VOCA funded programs were responsible for collecting beginning July 1, 2015.

[Return to top](#_top)

# Reminder to all VOJO and RASA Programs - Program Reports Due January 2016

The following program reports will be due in Egrants by January 20, 2016:

VOJO Program Reports – periodic report for last six months (July 1 – December 31, 2015) of current VOJO grants

RASA Program Reports – periodic report for last six months (July 1 – December 31, 2015) of current RASA grants

Please Note: For VOJO Program Reports – there will be two new report sections in Egrants (Services and Demographics). The Clients Served Section in Egrants has been revised to add the additional crime types required.

Fiscal reports for VOJO and RASA grants will also be due in Egrants by January 20, 2016.

Please contact Vicki McCloskey at Vmccloskey@pa.gov or (717) 265-8746 if you have any questions or need assistance regarding your VOJO or RASA Program Reports. For fiscal-related questions, please contact the fiscal staff member listed on your grant.

If you need technical assistance with Egrants, please contact Earle Taylor, IT Dept., at (717) 265-8532 or the Egrants Support Line at (717) 787-5887.

[Return to top](#_top)

# VOCA Funding Process for the 2016-2019 Funding Cycle

As many of you are aware, President Obama signed into law the “Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015” which raised the cap on annual expenditures from the federal Crime Victim’s Fund from $745 Million to $2.361 Billion. This quadrupled Pennsylvania’s annual VOCA allocation, raising it from $17 Million to $77 Million. In addition, the 2016 federal budget increased the VOCA allocation to over $3 Billion. Such unprecedented increases in funding present unique opportunities to enhance the capacity of the commonwealth’s victim service providers to meet the critical needs of victims of all types of crimes.

The Commission’s Statewide Victims’ Services Advisory Committee (VSAC) was charged with advising PCCD on the most effective way to utilize the VOCA increase. In order to do this, VSAC has undertaken a comprehensive strategic planning process over the last year that has included the following:

Surveyed a wide variety of stakeholders in the victim service, criminal and juvenile justice, protective service, drug and alcohol, mental health, human service and other systems on the needs of victims, gaps in services for victims and underserved populations; and barriers to receiving services;

* Reviewed state and national research on victimization and demographic trends;
* Reviewed current approaches to funding victim services in Pennsylvania, including funding formulas;
* Examined processes used to identify agencies eligible to receive federal VOCA funding as well as current eligible services;
* Reviewed processes used by other states to award VOCA funding;
* Heard from subject matter experts on many victim issues; and
* Identified priority areas

As a result of the recommendations made through VSAC’s strategic planning process and approved by PCCD on December 9, 2015, the 2016-2019 VOCA funding will be awarded through a two-part process that suspends the use of VOCA Funding Committees. Additionally, the formula used to calculate each county’s allocation under VOCA has been revised to eliminate penalty collections as a factor. The VOCA formula now is 75% population and 25% UCR target crimes to include: Murder, Non-Negligent Manslaughter, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary and Arson.

The first part of the VOCA funding process will consist of a non-competitive solicitation that will be released by the end of January 2016. Under the non-competitive solicitation, every victim service agency that is currently receiving VOCA funding, and in good standing with PCCD, will receive its 2015 VOCA allocation, and be able to request an additional amount up to 25% of its allocation to use for organizational infrastructure improvements. The amount awarded above the 2015 allocation will be based on justification for the requested increase. In addition, all victim service agencies funded under the non-competitive solicitation will receive a two percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) in years two and three of the VOCA funding cycle. By making money available for infrastructure improvements on a non-competitive basis, to all currently funded VOCA grantees, PCCD will be assisting victim service agencies to provide the level of services required by their communities.

The second part of the VOCA funding process will be a competitive solicitation, scheduled to be released in March 2016, for enhanced service delivery. The funding formula will be used to determine the amount available to each county. The minimum amount of competitive funding available per county will be $25,000. The competitive solicitation will be open to both current and new grantees. VSAC has also identified several priority areas for applicants to address through VOCA funding as a way to encourage the development of services to meet the needs of underserved populations and address emerging forms of victimization. Applications received under the competitive VOCA solicitation will be reviewed and scored by independent regional teams consisting of PCCD staff and experts from the field.

Additional information will be included in the release of each Funding Announcement.

If you have any questions about the changes to the VOCA funding process for 2016-2019, please contact Daisy Pagan at (717) 265-8516.

[Return to top](#_top)

# ****Victims Compensation Assistance Program Online Trainings****

The following trainings will be held on January 27, 2016.

Counseling Expenses Clinic - 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec0701lsp13/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confViewID=4180340943&theAction=detail&confId=4180340943&internalProgramTicketUnList=null&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa) to register.

Basic Compensation – 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec0701lsp13/eventcenter/enroll/register.do?formId=0&formType=0&loadFlag=1&siteurl=copa&confId=4180341434&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following trainings will be held on February 3, 2016.

Loss of Support Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec0701lsp13/eventcenter/enroll/register.do?formId=0&formType=0&loadFlag=1&siteurl=copa&confId=844034259&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

Loss of Earnings Clinic – 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec0701lsp13/eventcenter/enroll/register.do?formId=0&formType=0&loadFlag=1&siteurl=copa&confId=4180341712&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following trainings will be held on February 17, 2016.

Relocation Expenses Clinic (with Recent Updates) – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec0701lsp13/eventcenter/enroll/register.do?formId=0&formType=0&loadFlag=1&siteurl=copa&confId=844034259&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

Stolen Benefit Cash Expenses Clinic – 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.  [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec0701lsp13/eventcenter/enroll/register.do?formId=0&formType=0&loadFlag=1&siteurl=copa&confId=4180341712&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following trainings will be held on March 2, 2016.

Motor Vehicle-Related Crime Expenses Clinic  – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec0701lsp13/eventcenter/enroll/register.do?formId=0&formType=0&loadFlag=1&siteurl=copa&confId=4180342214&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

Myths of Compensation -1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec0701lsp13/eventcenter/enroll/register.do?formId=0&formType=0&loadFlag=1&siteurl=copa&confId=4180342424&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

All trainings count towards 1 hour of the required RASA/VOCA/VOJO training hours, except Basic Compensation which counts towards 2 and DAVE training which counts towards 2.15.

[Return to top](#_top)

# PDAI Victim Services Training News

Register Now!

Filing a Victim's Right Complaint

Online Training

Wednesday, February 17, 2016 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Click [here](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/2016%20Victim%20Services%20Training%20Save%20The%20Date.pdf) to register.

If you have questions, please contact Donna Hull, Victim Services Training/ SAVIN Consultant at 484-947-4837 or donna@dhullconsulting.com.

[Return to top](#_top)

# Free Webinar on Economic Abuse: What You Need to Know in the Criminal Justice System

January 7, 2016

02:00 PM - 03:30 PM EDT

Webinar Description:

Abusers often use economic tactics to gain power and control over a survivor, ranging from destruction of property to interruption to work to fraud. This economic abuse undermines survivors' ability to recover from trauma or achieve independence from an abuser and can have severe and lasting consequences on their economic security. Despite being a prolific occurrence within abusive relationships, many professionals within the criminal justice system are unaware of the realities and impacts of economic abuse. For example, not only does economic abuse affect the safety and security of victims, but it also reduces their ability to participate in an investigation or prosecution. In addition, many economic abuse tactics are crimes in and of themselves and victims may be coerced into committing economic crimes by and on behalf of the abuser.

The Economic Security for Survivors Project is pleased to share important information with justice system professionals, including law enforcement, prosecutors and advocates, on economic abuse. Guest speakers Robin Hassler Thompson (ESS Faculty and President, Robin H Thompson & Associates) and Professor Judy Postmus (Associate Professor and Director, Center on Violence Against Women, Rutgers School of Social Work) will provide an overview of economic abuse and its impacts, how to measure economic abuse, and how economic abuse intersects with the criminal justice system. Attendees will also learn about available remedies for survivors through the criminal justice system as well as civil and community resources.

Click [here](https://ta2ta.org/wow-january-webinar) to register.

[Return to top](#_top)

# Identifying and Preventing Gender Bias in Law Enforcement Response to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

Through a series of detailed case examples, this recently released document from the Department of Justice provides both principles and policies for service providers to:
\*       Recognize and address biases, assumptions and stereotypes about victims.
\*       Treat all victims with respect and employ interviewing tactics that encourage a victim to participate and provide facts about the incident.
\*       Investigate sexual assault or domestic violence complaints thoroughly and effectively.
\*       Appropriately classify reports of sexual assault or domestic violence.
\*       Refer victims to appropriate services.
\*       Properly identify the assailant in domestic violence incidents.
\*       Hold officers who commit sexual assault or domestic violence accountable.
\*       Maintain, review and act upon data regarding sexual assault and domestic violence.

Click [here](http://www.justice.gov/opa/file/799476/download) for the document.

[Return to top](#_top)

# It's Time to Acknowledge Male Victims of Domestic Violence

According to the [CDC](http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/pdf/NISVS_Report2010-a.pdf), one in four adult men in the U.S. will become a victim of domestic violence during his lifetime. That's upwards of three million male domestic violence victims every year, or one man in America abused by an intimate or domestic partner every 37.8 seconds. Click [here](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bari-zell-weinberger-esq/its-time-to-acknowledge-m_b_8292976.html) to read more.

[Return to top](#_top)

# The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, January 20, 2016. If you would like any training events, fund raisers or notable news published in this newsletter, please submit them to Stacie Brendlinger at sbrendling@pa.gov by Wednesday, January 13, 2016.

You have signed up to receive the OVS Newsletter from the Office of Victims' Services. This newsletter will be sent to you on a biweekly basis via email. If your email address changes or you would like to be removed from the OVS Newsletter distribution list, please contact Stacie Brendlinger at (717) 265-8722 or via email at sbrendling@pa.gov.

Pennsylvania’s [Office of Victims’ Services](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/default.aspx)  | 3101 North Front Street | Harrisburg, PA 17110 | (717) 783-0551

[www.pccd.pa.gov](http://www.pccd.pa.gov)

**PA Crime Victims Website**

[www.pcv.pccd.pa.gov](http://www.pcv.pccd.pa.gov)

**Twitter:** [@PaCrimmCom](https://twitter.com/PaCrimeComm)