

VOCA Funding Cut Talking Points

What is VOCA and what funding cuts are being made?

- The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) uses non-taxpayer money from the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) for programs that serve victims of crime. Nationally, these funds support services for over 6 million victims of all types of crimes annually through 6,462 direct service organizations, including Resilience.
- Beginning July 1, 2023, the funding available to Illinois Rape Crisis Centers through VOCA will be cut by 49%.

How will this impact Resilience?

- Resilience could potentially see a decrease of 49% of the annual funds we receive from VOCA, which would mean a loss of \$550,000 to \$600,000 - 17% of our annual budget. This is only an estimate – the loss could be more severe.

How will this impact survivors?

- VOCA money supports direct services to survivors like 24-hour medical advocacy, legal advocacy, crisis intervention and ongoing counseling or trauma therapy. Significant cuts to this funding will mean *fewer advocates and therapists available to provide support, information and options in the aftermath of sexual violence.*

What can I do?

- Share information about the cuts to Resilience's VOCA funding on social media.
- Call on state and local legislators to meet with rape crisis centers in your community to discuss the impact of these funding cuts.
- Make an ask to your legislator to increase General Revenue funding to support services for sexual assault survivors across the state.
- Are you interested in sharing how rape crisis services made a difference in your healing? Contact us to meet with legislators about the impact cuts will have on survivors.
- [Donate](#) directly to Resilience today – any and every amount counts to help us help survivors in this time of need!
- Encourage others in your community and network to [donate](#) to Resilience today.

Please contact Sarah Layden at slayden@ourresilience.org and Amy O'Keeffe at aokeeffe@ourresilience.org for more information and ways you can support Resilience.