



Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)

FY 2014 Budget Request At A Glance

FY 2014 Enacted:	\$417 million (70 positions)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$0 million
Program Changes:	+\$5.5 million
FY 2015 Budget Request:	\$422.5 million (70 positions)
Change From FY 2014 Enacted:	+\$5.5 million (+1.3%)

Mission:

The mission of the OVW is to provide federal leadership to reduce violence against women, and to support the administration of justice for and strengthen services to all victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This is accomplished by developing and supporting the capacity of state, local, tribal, and non-profit entities involved in responding to violence against women.

Resources:

The FY 2015 budget request for OVW totals \$422.5 million, which is a 1.3% increase over the FY 2014 Enacted. The FY 2015 budget also proposes to rescind \$12.2 million in prior year balances.

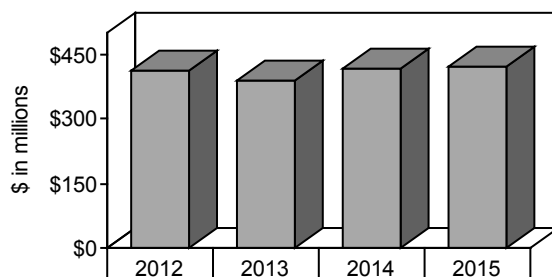
Organization:

OVW is headed by a Director, who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The Director oversees the Grant Development and Management; Policy Communication, and Evaluation; Budget and Financial Management; and Administration Divisions; Legal Counsel; and Tribal Affairs.

Personnel:

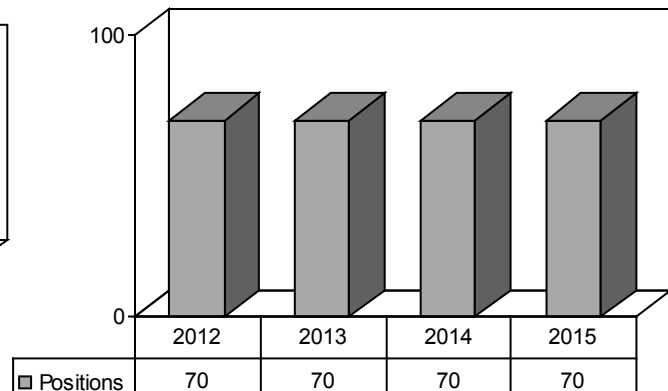
The OVW's direct positions for FY 2015 total 70 positions and is the same as FY 2014 Enacted. However, between January 2011 and September 2013, the number of OVW's onboard staff declined by 10 staff.

Funding (FY 2012 - 2015)



	2012	2013	2014	2015
Grants	\$413	\$388	\$417	\$423
Management & Admin	[\$18]	[\$17]	[\$19]	[\$19]

Personnel (FY 2012 - 2015)



	2012	2013	2014	2015
Positions	70	70	70	70

FY 2015 Strategy:

The OVW was created specifically to implement the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and subsequent legislation. OVW administers financial and technical assistance to communities around the country to facilitate the creation of programs, policies, and practices aimed at ending domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

In recognition of the severity of the crimes associated with domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA 1994) as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. VAWA is a comprehensive legislative package designed to end violence against women and was reauthorized in 2000, 2005, and was again reauthorized in March 2013. The legislative history of VAWA indicates that Congress seeks to remedy the legacy of laws and social norms that serve to justify violence against women. Since the passage of VAWA, there has been a paradigm shift in how the issue of violence against women is addressed.

VAWA was designed to improve criminal justice responses to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking and to increase the availability of services for victims of these crimes. VAWA requires a coordinated community response to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, encouraging jurisdictions to bring together players from diverse backgrounds to share information and to use their distinct roles to improve community responses to violence against women. These players include, but are not limited to: victim advocates, police officers, prosecutors, judges, probation and corrections officials, health care professionals, leaders within faith communities, and survivors of violence against women. The federal law takes a comprehensive approach to violence against women by combining tough new penalties to prosecute offenders while implementing programs to aid the victims of such violence. By working together, a system can be created to keep victims safe and hold offenders accountable. OVW has instituted this philosophy at all levels of its work.

Overall, the budget reflects a focus on areas core to the mission of OVW. Five priorities guide the FY 2015 budget request of the Office: 1) supporting essential services for victims in light of the economic strain on communities across the country; 2) reducing sexual assault; 3) increasing court responsiveness to children exposed to violence and their families; 4) reaching underserved communities; and 5) ensuring meaningful evaluation of programs and implementation of evidence-based practices.

The FY 2015 request includes an appropriation language change which adds the reauthorization of VAWA (VAWA 2013) to the preamble of statutes to ensure implementation. This is consistent with the FY 2014 President's Budget and House and Senate marks. There are several other technical changes further discussed in the OVW Congressional Justification.

The FY 2015 budget proposes substantive changes to the FY 2014 enacted appropriation language for OVW. Additional detail is provided about substantive and technical language changes in Section III and OVW's Congressional Justification.

FY 2015 Program Changes:

Legal Assistance to Victims Program: An additional \$5.5 million for a total of \$42.5 million to enhance safety for victims and their dependent children. Legal assistance is a proven strategy to reduce domestic violence and curb future assaults, particularly through access to civil orders of protection. FY 2015 current services are \$37 million.

Campus Violence Program: An additional \$2 million to for a total of \$11 million to reduce sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on campus. FY 2015 current services are \$9 million.

Grants to Support Families in the Justice System (Safe Havens/Court Training Consolidation): An additional \$1 million for a total of \$16 million to provide comprehensive support to victims of domestic violence and their families in the civil justice system, and address the problems faced by domestic violence victims and protective parents of child sexual abuse victims in a more comprehensive way. FY 2015 current services are \$15 million.

Transitional Housing: An additional \$250,000 for a total of \$25 million to help victims rebuild their lives and find safe housing. FY 2015 current services are \$24.750 million

Research: The FY 2015 request continues the proposal to set-aside up to 3 percent of funds for research, evaluation and statistical purposes.

Program Offsets: Several offsets included are: the Rural Program (-\$3 million for a total request of \$33 million) and Research and Evaluation of Violence Against Women (-\$250k for a total request of \$3 million).

Rescission: Additionally, the budget proposes to rescind \$12.2 million in prior year balances.

FY 2015 Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative: The FY 2015 base discretionary budget meets the cap levels set by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. In addition, the FY 2015 Budget's Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative includes targeted investments for State and local justice assistance grants, with additional investments for OVW.