



Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)

FY 2024 Budget Request At A Glance

FY 2023 Enacted:	\$700.0 million (133 positions, 6 Attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$0.0 million
Program Changes:	+\$300.0 million
FY 2024 Budget Request:	\$1.0 billion (165 positions, 8 Attorneys)
Change From FY 2023 Enacted:	\$ 300.0 million (42.9%, +32 positions, +2 attorneys)

Mission:

The mission of the Office on Violence Against Women (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.

Organization:

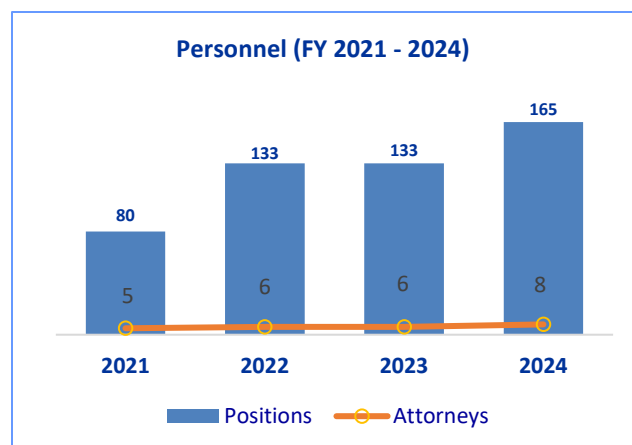
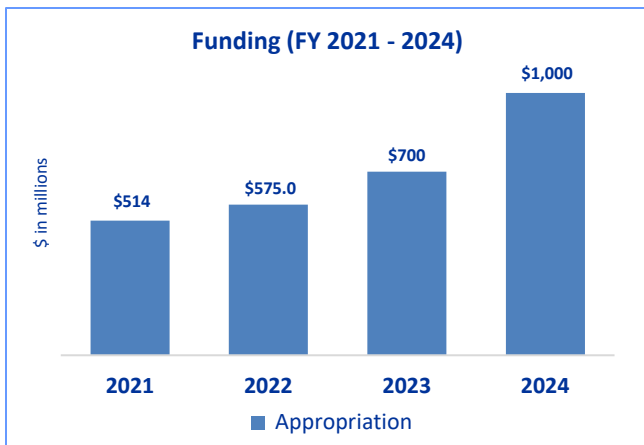
The OVW is headed by a Director, who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The Director oversees the Grant Development and Management, Policy Communication and Evaluation, Budget and Financial Management, and Administration Divisions; additionally, the Director oversees staffs addressing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

Resources:

The FY 2024 budget request for the OVW totals \$1.0 billion, which is 42.9 percent above the FY 2023 enacted.

Personnel:

The OVW's direct positions for FY 2024 total 165 positions which is 32 positions above the FY 2023 enacted.



FY 2024 Strategy:

The OVW was created specifically to implement the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA) and subsequent legislation. In 2002, the 21st Century Department of Justice Reauthorization Act established the OVW as a separate office within the Department of Justice. The 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 VAWA 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, 2013 and 2022. Its legislative history indicates that Congress seeks to remedy the legacy of laws and social norms that justified violence against women. Since the passage of VAWA, there have been significant improvements in how the issue of violence against women is addressed.

VAWA was designed to improve criminal justice responses to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, 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, dating violence, 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. 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.

VAWA has led to significant improvements in the criminal and civil justice systems. Findings from a nationwide assessment indicate that VAWA grants were associated with reductions in rape and assault. VAWA has been successful by funding effective interventions such as legal assistance, protection order enforcement, and access to medical forensic examinations.

The OVW is committed to supporting projects that meaningfully address the needs of underserved and marginalized survivors, improve access to justice,

enhance survivor safety, hold offenders accountable, and build a coordinated community response to violence against women.

The OVW's greatest challenges in FY 2024 will be to:

- Implement the many new provisions and requirements created by VAWA's 2022 reauthorization;
- Support communities in preventing and responding to crimes that present unique challenges, including the intersections of gender-based and community violence, non-intimate partner sexual assault, and stalking;
- Help survivors who may be poorly served by, or reticent to seek support from, the criminal justice system or mainstream victim service providers to access the supports, culturally-specific services, or other options that meet their needs;
- Assist Tribes with implementing expanded tribal criminal jurisdiction;
- Reach potential grantees who have not previously applied for OVW funding or are hesitant to apply for OVW funding;
- Support core victim services and justice solutions as communities compete for resources and recover from the damage wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- Build the internal infrastructure necessary to fulfill the OVW's statutorily envisioned role as the Federal government's leading voice on combatting violence against women, which includes implementing priorities under the National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence.

FY 2024 Program Changes:

The FY 2024 budget proposal includes \$302.5 million in program increases and \$2.5 million in program decreases.

Program Increases:

Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors (STOP) Program: \$45.0 million. STOP funding provides resources for States to combat domestic/dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking through victim services, law enforcement, prosecution, court response, and training for professionals. This significant increase in funding for the OVW's largest grant program will significantly enhance States' and territories' ability to finance coordinated community responses. Current services for this initiative are \$255.0 million for a total of \$300.0 million.

Transitional Housing Program: \$45.0 million. Demand from victims far outpaces available

resources. In addition to funding housing units, the Transitional Housing Program supports victims with security deposits, rental assistance, and utility payments. Grantees also provide supportive services, such as counseling, support groups, safety planning, and advocacy services, as well as childcare, employment services, and transportation assistance. Current services for this initiative are \$50.0 million for a total of \$95.0 million.

Legal Assistance for Victims Program: \$40.0 million. Civil legal assistance provided by attorneys funded through the OVW's Legal Assistance for Victims Program increases the quality, quantity, and efficacy of legal services for domestic violence and sexual assault victims. Research has shown that appropriately trained attorneys have a significant impact on safe outcomes for survivors. Victims who get help from attorneys and community-based advocates may be more likely than victims without that assistance to perceive themselves as having a voice in the justice process. Current services for this initiative are \$55.0 million for a total of \$95.0 million.

Culturally-Specific Services: \$24.0 million. These funds will support culturally-specific services for victims. Advocates report that survivors are more inclined to seek services from organizations that are familiar with their culture, language, and background. Culturally-specific community-based organizations are more likely to understand the complex challenges that victims from their communities face when attempting to access services. Current services for this initiative are \$11.0 million for a total of \$35.0 million.

Sexual Assault Services Program: \$21.5 million. To support rape crisis centers and other nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations or tribal programs that provide services, crisis intervention, and related assistance to victims of sexual assault. With additional funding, the OVW will be able to significantly increase the size of awards to states and territories, which are based on population, enabling rape crisis centers to serve tens of thousands more victims each year. Current services for this initiative are \$78.5 million for a total of \$100.0 million.

Access to Sexual Assault Nurse Exams (SANEs): \$20.0 million. This funding will help address nationwide gaps in the availability and quality of post-sexual assault medical forensic care. Emergency medical care is critical for treating a victim's healthcare needs and collecting forensic evidence after a sexual assault, and such care is best provided by specially trained SANEs and Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFEs). The availability of SANE and SAFE programs, however, is limited, especially in rural and tribal communities. An OVW Rural Program grantee recently reported that, without their OVW grant funding, they "would not have been able to maintain the SANE program or the competency of our

current SANEs, or be in a financial position to recruit more SANEs to replace/fill vacancies. Without the SANE program, victims would have to drive one to two hours to the next nearest hospital with forensic nursing services." There are no current services for this request.

Improving Criminal Justice Response/Arrest: \$19.5 million. This program supports coordinated community responses to domestic/dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, with an emphasis on the criminal justice system's role in holding offenders accountable for their crimes. Further, with set-asides of up to \$4.0 million for a homicide reduction initiative and \$8.0 million to address domestic violence lethality issues relating to firearms, the OVW will be able to invest in research, practice, and training and technical assistance designed to spot risk factors for domestic violence-related homicide and disarm abusers before they kill. Current services for this initiative are \$60.5 million for a total of \$80.0 million.

Campus Violence: \$15.0 million. Additional funding to strengthen colleges' and universities' responses to domestic and sexual violence and stalking. Of this amount, \$7.5 million is to increase the set-aside for grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving institutions, and tribal colleges. These institutions play a critical role in expanding educational opportunities for diverse student populations and frequently impact the broader communities in which they reside. Current services for this initiative are \$25.0 million for a total of \$40.0 million.

Consolidated Youth Oriented Program: \$11.0 million. This program provides services to children and youth exposed to domestic/dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, as well as youth victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Grantees also use these funds to provide services to non-abusing parents and caregivers. This funding includes \$10.0 million for Engaging Men and Youth in Prevention. Current services for this initiative are \$17.0 million for a total of \$28.0 million.

Local Law Enforcement Grants for Enforcement of Cybercrimes Against Individuals: \$10.0 million. This funding would advance the Administration's priority of addressing the serious issue of online harassment, stalking, and abuse. The White House's Gender Policy Council, Domestic Policy Council, and the National Security Council convened an Interagency Policy Committee (IPC) on Online Harassment, Stalking and Abuse that has focused on sexual exploitation and abuse of children online, "revenge porn," the use of online platforms and social media sites for trafficking individuals, cyberstalking, and the use of the internet for domestic terrorism or extremism. In the National Strategy for Gender Equity and Equality, the Administration committed to

convene a U.S. government task force to further these efforts. There are no current services for this request.

LGBT Specific Services Program: \$7.0 million. These funds will be used to support greater outreach to, and services for, transgender victims of domestic/dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Transgender individuals suffer high levels of violent victimization and are at a much greater risk of dying by suicide than are cisgender individuals. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) individuals, and in particular, lesbian, gay, and bisexual persons of color and transgender persons of all races, may be reluctant to report victimization and seek services for fear of discrimination, and because biases and lack of knowledge compromise the quality and utility of the system's response. Service providers may be unprepared to offer sensitive and appropriate services to LGBT victims of violence; in fact, only an estimated one in five LGBT victims of intimate partner violence or sexual assault seek help from a victim services organization. The funding requested for services for transgender survivors will broaden the OVW's reach to this population that is disproportionately affected by violence and faces greater barriers to safety and justice. Current services for this initiative are \$1.0 million for a total of \$8.0 million.

Grants to Support Families in the Justice System: \$6.0 million. This program supports approaches to improving civil and criminal justice systems' responses to violence against women. The program improves how the civil and criminal justice systems respond to families with a history of domestic or sexual violence and stalking, or in cases involving allegations of child sexual abuse. This request reflects the critical role of courts, court-related programs, and legal assistance in helping victims and their children escape violence and rebuild their lives. Current services for this initiative are \$22.0 million for a total of \$28.0 million.

Disabilities Program: \$5.5 million. To provide accessible, safe, and effective services to individuals with disabilities and deaf individuals who are victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Current services for this initiative are \$12.0 million for a total of \$17.5 million.

Community-Based Organizational Capacity Building Program: \$5.0 million. This funding would provide new capacity building support for community-based organizations (culturally-specific, underserved, and other programs serving marginalized populations) to receive training and technical assistance necessary to apply for and successfully implement Federal grant awards. Existing OVW programs provide training and technical assistance to support service provision capacity but do not address the, often confusing, world of Federal regulations and record-keeping requirements for organizations accustomed to receiving private donations and support from local

religious institutions. This will provide enhanced capacity to apply for grants, administer grant funds, avoid audit findings, and provide ongoing services to their communities. There are no current services for this request.

Underserved Populations Program: \$5.0 million. To support projects to develop and implement outreach strategies and enhanced services for adult and youth victims of domestic and sexual violence in underserved populations. Current services are \$5.0 million for a total of \$10.0 million.

Financial Assistance to Victims of Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Domestic Violence (Financial Assistance Program): \$4.0 million. These funds will support financial assistance for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, to offset costs incurred as a result of their victimization and assist them in pursuing safety and stability as they recover. Current services for this initiative are \$4.0 million for a total request of \$8.0 million.

Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction: \$4.0 million. Domestic violence and sexual assault are serious crimes. Yet, far too often, an inadequate law enforcement response has thwarted investigations, caused further harm to victims, and allowed perpetrators to evade accountability and continue to commit crimes. This new grant program will provide law enforcement officers and others who interface with victims with appropriate training to respond effectively to reports of sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, and stalking, ensuring that officers at all ranks have the requisite knowledge and skills to respond with competence and compassion when victims report what they have suffered. Current services for this initiative are \$11.0 million for a total of \$15.0 million.

National Deaf Services: \$4.0 million. Services specifically targeted for deaf victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking are limited. The result is that most deaf victims must rely on mainstream services providers for assistance, which may not be well-versed in deaf culture, do not provide appropriate accommodations, and have little experience accessing and working with American Sign Language interpreters. This request will enable the OVW to fund a five-year project to launch and maintain a national Deaf services line, which will provide virtual services to deaf victims of all four VAWA crimes, provide technical assistance to victim service providers working with deaf victims, and pilot strategies to expand "for Deaf, by Deaf" in-person services. Current services for this initiative are \$2.0 million for a total of \$6.0 million.

National Resource Center on Cybercrimes Against Individuals: \$4.0 million. Like the Local Law Enforcement Grants for Enforcement of Cybercrimes Against Individuals, this funding advances the

Administration's priority of addressing the serious issue of addressing online harassment, stalking, and abuse. The proposed appropriation also reflects recent Congressional interest in providing resources to address cyberstalking, online harm, and other cybercrimes against individuals as outlined in the recent reauthorization of VAWA, which authorized this national resource center. The proposed funding would provide much needed technical assistance and training resources on cybercrimes against individuals for Federal, State and local government agencies, community-based organizations, and other professionals and interested parties, resources including the collection, preparation, analysis, and dissemination of information and statistics on these crimes and research on the causes and effects of these crimes as well as model solutions to prevent and deter such crimes and enforce relevant criminal laws. The OVW will collaborate with the Office for Victims of Crime to implement this initiative. There are no current services for this request.

National Service Line for Incarcerated Survivors of Sexual Abuse: \$3.0 million. These funds will enable the OVW to fund a new five-year project to launch and maintain a national service line for incarcerated survivors of sexual abuse, to provide support services to survivors in local, State, tribal, and Federal confinement facilities, support coordination efforts with victim service providers, and offer technical assistance to victim service providers working with incarcerated victims. Sexual abuse is already one of the most underreported violent crimes in the United States, and confinement settings create additional barriers for victims to report or seek help. Many confinement agencies and facilities across the country, especially those in remote and rural areas (where services are limited), have struggled to maintain compliance with PREA standard 53. Additionally, sexual assault services are underfunded despite the high rate of sexual assault and the tremendous need for specialized services, including services for incarcerated survivors. As a result, many incarcerated survivors receive little to no sexual assault support services. There are no current services for this request.

Rural Domestic Violence & Child Abuse Enforcement Assistance: \$1.5 million. An estimated one in five people in the United States lives in a rural area. Rural victims of violence may have worse psychosocial and physical health outcomes than their urban counterparts, due to challenges related to geographic isolation, lack of material resources, and social and cultural pressures that make it difficult to seek and obtain help. Therefore, the Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program (Rural Program) supports projects uniquely designed to address and prevent domestic/dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and child sexual abuse in rural areas.

Strategies Rural Program grantees employ—including victim advocacy, medical forensic exams performed by Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs), transitional housing, and victim-centered prosecution—have been found through research to be effective. Furthermore, the Rural Program encourages collaboration among justice system professionals, victim services providers, and the healthcare sector, resulting every six months in over 13,000 victims receiving services, more than 1,000 incidents investigated, about 600 cases prosecuted, nearly 11,000 professionals trained, over 200 medical forensic exams performed, and over 200 offenders monitored by parole and probation officers. Current services for this initiative are \$50.0 million, for a total of \$51.5 million.

Abuse of Women in Later Life: \$1.0 million. This program supports strategies for responding to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The request reflects the critical roles that specialized training for criminal justice professionals, cross-training for professionals who work with older adults, and services for victims have in a coordinated community response to abuse in later life. This request also reflects the critical need anticipated by service providers in a post-pandemic environment. Current services for this initiative are \$9.0 million for a total of \$10.0 million.

Research and Evaluation Violence Against Women – National Institute of Justice (NIJ): \$1.0 million. To enhance the evidence base for VAWA-funded strategies, this provides a \$1.0 million increase that will enable the NIJ to invest further in rigorous research on approaches to serving victims and holding offenders accountable. Current services for this initiative are \$2.5 million for a total of \$3.5 million.

National Resource Center on Workplace Responses: \$500,000. VAWA 2022 clarified that Resource Center activities should address sexual harassment to list of topics to be covered by the Resource Center. This is an important nexus and the Resource Center has often received requests for training and materials on sexual harassment. The audience for this information is significant – even more so because VAWA 2022 added victim service providers and employers with fewer than 20 employees – to the list of organizations for whom resources should be developed. It also specified that live training materials should be available for employers with fewer than 20 employees. All types of employers can benefit from materials, tools, and training on domestic and sexual violence and sexual harassment, but victim service providers and small employers have their own structural challenges, such as maintaining confidentiality in a small organization or providing opportunities for safety despite a small budget. Current services for this initiative are \$1.0 million, for a total of \$1.5 million.

Management and Administration Division: \$2.3 million and 32 positions. The request includes a \$2.3 million increase in M&A to support 32 positions (16 FTE). This increase is needed to provide sufficient staffing to manage the large increase in grants to be made under this budget request, to stand up multiple new grant programs, and to continue responding to the many requirements created by VAWA 2022. Current services are 133 positions and \$36.3 million for a total of 165 positions and \$38.5 million.

Program Decreases:

Pilot Program to Improve Victims Services on College Campuses: -\$1.5 million. The FY 2024 request eliminates the funding provided in the FY 2023 Enacted for this program, as the funding was for a pilot program. Current services for this initiative are \$1.5 million for a total of \$0.

Rape Survivor Child Custody Act: -\$1.0 million
The FY 2024 request includes a \$1.0 million decrease for this program, which has historically been funded at \$1.5 million, returning the program to that level. Current services are \$2.5 million for a total of \$1.5 million.