



## Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)

### FY 2021 Budget Request At A Glance

FY 2020 Enacted:	\$502.5 million (70 positions)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$0.0 million
Program Changes:	-\$4.0 million
FY 2021 Budget Request:	\$498.5 (70 positions)
Change From FY 2020 Enacted:	-\$4.0 million (0.7%)

### 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:

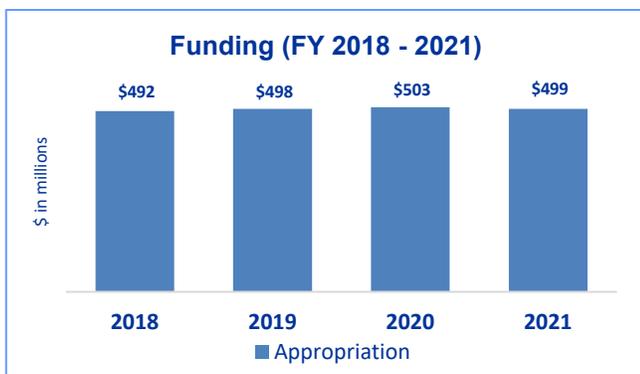
The OVW is headed by a Director, who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The Director oversees Grant Development and Management, Policy Communication and Evaluation, Budget and Financial Management and Administration Divisions; additionally the Director oversees Legal Counsel and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

### Resources:

The FY 2021 budget request for OVW totals \$498.5 million, which is a 0.7 percent decrease below the FY 2020 enacted.

### Personnel:

The OVW's direct positions for FY 2021 total 70 positions.



## FY 2021 Strategy:

The OVV was created specifically to implement the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and subsequent legislation. In 2002, the 21st Century Department of Justice Reauthorization Act established the OVV as a separate office within the Department of Justice. The OVV 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 2013. 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. 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.

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 interventions that research has shown to be effective—such as legal assistance, protection order enforcement, and access to medical forensic examinations—across grant programs.

Four priorities guided this FY 2021 Budget request:

- Reduce violent crime against women and promote victim safety through investing in law enforcement and increasing prosecution;
- Empower victims to become survivors by growing them past their vulnerabilities to a place of self-sufficiency;
- Increase efforts to combat stalking; and
- Address and combat the specific challenges rural communities face in responding to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking—the four crimes targeted by VAWA (hereafter referred to as “the four VAWA crimes”).

OVV's greatest challenges in the next year will be to:

- Make progress in addressing the high incidence of sexual assault in the United States;
- Support justice solutions and core victim services as communities compete for scarce resources; and
- Build the internal infrastructure necessary to fulfill OVV's statutorily envisioned role as the Nation's leading voice on ending violence against women.

## FY 2021 Program Changes:

**Abuse in Later Life/Elder Program:** \$1.0 million and 0 positions

An additional \$1.0 million is requested for a total of \$6.0 million to support strategies for responding to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. FY 2021 current services for this program are \$5.0 million.

**Rural Program:** \$1.5 million and 0 positions

An additional \$1.5 million is requested for a total of \$45 million to support responses to violence against women in rural areas. FY 2021 current services for this program are \$43.5 million.

**NIJ Research:** \$1 million and 0 positions

An additional \$1.0 million is requested for a total of \$3.5 for research on violence against women. FY 2021 current services for this program are \$2.5 million.

A total of \$7.5 million in discretionary program decreases for the following programs:

Transitional Housing (-\$1.5 million); Consolidated Youth Program (-\$500,000); Legal Assistance Program (-\$1.0 million); Grants to Support Families (-\$1.0 million); Sexual Assault Services (-\$3.0 million); and National Resource Center on Workplace Response (-\$500,000).

