



## Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)

### FY 2020 Budget Request At A Glance

FY 2019 Continuing Resolution:	\$492.0 million (66 positions; 5 attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$0
Program Changes:	+\$500,000
FY 2020 Budget Request:	\$492.5 million (66 positions; 5 attorneys)
Change From FY 2019 Continuing Resolution:	+\$500,000 (+0.1%)

### 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:

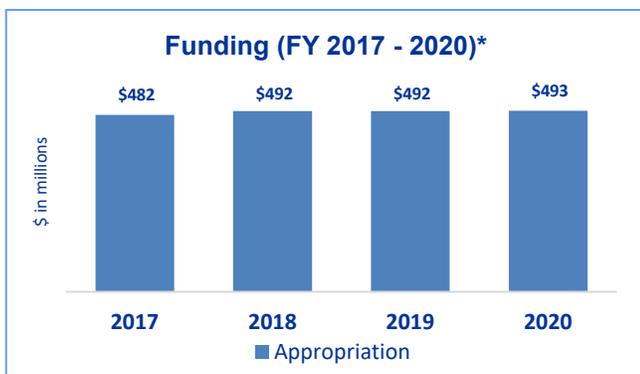
OVW is headed by a Director, who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The Director oversees the Grant Development and Management, Policy Communication and Evaluation, Budget and Financial Management, and Administration Divisions; additionally the Director oversees Legal Counsel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

### Resources:

The FY 2020 budget request for OVW totals \$492.5 million, which is a 0.1% increase over the FY 2019 Continuing Resolution.

### Personnel:

The OVW's direct positions for FY 2020 total 66 positions. OVW's FY 2020 request is the same as the FY 2019 CR level Budget.



\*FY 2019 Annualized CR

## **FY 2020 Strategy:**

OVW 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 OVW as a separate office within the Department of Justice. 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 2013. The legislative history of VAWA 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 partners from diverse backgrounds to share information and to use their distinct roles to improve community responses to violence against women. These partners 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 the FY 2020 Budget request of the Office: 1) reduce violent crime against women and promote victim safety; 2) increase the response to victims of human trafficking; 3) include substance abuse professionals in a coordinated community response to VAWA crimes and increase victim access to substance abuse services; and 4) increase efforts to combat stalking.

OVW's greatest challenges in the next two years will be: 1) to make progress in addressing the high levels of sexual assault in the United States; 2) to support services for victims across the country as programs compete for scarce resources; and 3) to continue OVW's statutorily envisioned role as the nation's leading voice on ending violence against women.

## **FY 2020 Program Changes:**

**Transitional Housing:** \$500,000 and 0 positions

An additional \$500,000 is requested for a total of \$35.5 million to support transitional housing and supportive services in helping a victim move to long-term self-sufficiency, safety and stability. Demand for these grants and services far outpaces available resources, a fact exacerbated by increasing rental costs for low-income families in communities across the country.

