

The Impact of VAWA Funding

Office on Violence Against Women, May 2026

VAWA DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAMS'
KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
JULY-DECEMBER 2025

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA) GRANTS SUPPORT EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, AND STALKING NATIONWIDE.

VAWA funding is administered by the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) and is distributed nationwide through discretionary and formula grant programs. VAWA grantees use this funding to serve victims and to improve the criminal justice response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking using evidence-based interventions.

Data presented here reflect VAWA-funded activities and accomplishments reported to OVW by a subset of discretionary program grantees from July to December 2025, but do not include STOP or SASP Formula subgrantee data.

VICTIM ADVOCACY HELPS TO IMPROVE VICTIMS' WELL BEING AND REDUCE THEIR FEAR.

Victims supported by **advocates** may suffer less fear, less psychological distress, and fewer physical health problems, and endure less self-blame, guilt, and depression.¹

In July-December 2025, discretionary program grants:



funded more than
600
VICTIM ADVOCATES

Victim services staff across discretionary grant programs:



served more than
81,000
VICTIMS

and



answered more than
56,000
HOTLINE CALLS

VICTIMS WHO USE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING ARE BETTER PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE.

Victims who use **transitional housing** report having a greater ability to plan for their safety, are aware of more resources in their community, have more hope for the future, and feel better able to achieve their goals.²

In July-December 2025, discretionary program grantees:



provided more than
686,000
HOUSING BED NIGHTS

VICTIM-CENTERED PROSECUTION IMPROVES VICTIMS' SATISFACTION WITH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM.

Victim-centered prosecution is associated with a lower incidence of re-abuse. Victims who feel empowered in the justice process suffer less depression and report better quality of life, and they are more satisfied with the system and more likely to seek its help, if needed, in the future.³

In July-December 2025, discretionary program grants:



funded more than
33
PROSECUTORS

VAWA FUNDING EMBEDS BEST PRACTICES INTO LAW ENFORCEMENT'S RESPONSE TO VAWA CRIMES.

Law enforcement officers who are trained in and use best practices can contribute to better outcomes in domestic violence and sexual assault cases. Taking an offender into custody and documenting evidence of injury increases the odds that a domestic violence case will be prosecuted. A swift police response to sexual assault and a thorough investigation may make it more likely that a case will be referred to a prosecutor, accepted for prosecution, and result in a conviction.⁴

In July-December 2025, discretionary program grants:



funded more than
48
LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICERS

PROTECTION ORDERS CAN HELP VICTIMS FEEL SAFER AND PREVENT FUTURE ABUSE.

Protection orders can deter further abuse and increase victims' perceptions of their own safety, reduce victims' post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms.⁵

In July-December 2025, discretionary program funded advocates, legal professionals, law enforcement officers, and prosecutors assisted victims with:



obtaining more than
18,500
PROTECTION ORDERS

Endnotes

- 1 Backes, B. L., Fedina, L., & Holmes, J. L. (2020). The criminal justice system response to intimate partner stalking: A systematic review of quantitative and qualitative research. *Journal of Family Violence*, 35, 665–678. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-020-00139-3>
- 2 Backes, B. L., O'Connor, J., Olomi, J. M., Schrag, R. V., & Wood, L. (2025). Understanding the landscape of domestic violence transitional housing: Services and housing for rural and non-rural clientele. *Housing Studies*, 40(8), 1781–1799. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2024.2373993>

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- 3 Campbell, R., Gregory, K., Engleton, J., Javorka, M., & Goodman-Williams, R. (2025). “This time it was different:” Creating a multidisciplinary, trauma-informed, victim-centered approach to sexual assault cold case investigations and prosecutions. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 40(15–16), 3639–3662. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605241284068>

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- 4 Backes, B. L., Fedina, L., & Holmes, J. L. (2020). The criminal justice system response to intimate partner stalking: A systematic review of quantitative and qualitative research. *Journal of Family Violence*, 35, 665–678. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-020-00139-3>

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- 5 Cordier, R., Chung, D., Wilkes-Gillan, S., & Speyer, R. (2021). The effectiveness of protection orders in reducing recidivism in domestic violence: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 22(4), 804–828. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838019882361>

Legal Services Corporation. (2025). *The Economic Case for Civil Legal Aid*. <https://www.lsc.gov/our-impact/economic-impact>

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