 <b>Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia</b>		
<b>Policies &amp; Procedures</b>		Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.
<b>11.2</b>	<b>Victim Services</b>	<b>Victims of Crimes Act - Funding Conditions</b>

**1. Purpose.**

This Policy establishes policies, procedures and conditions that apply to all prosecution-based victim services programs that receive funding through the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council (PACGA or "the Council") as specified in Section 3.

**2. Authority.**


- (a) Victim of Crimes Act (VOCA), 42 U.S.C. Chapter 112. (b) O.C.G.A. §§ 15-18-14.2; 15-18-40(c); 15-18-73(b).

**3. Scope.**

- (a) This policy applies to all district attorneys and solicitors-general offices that receive federal funding under the Victim of Crimes Act (VOCA), 42 U.S.C. Chapter 112, as amended, (hereinafter referred to as "funded offices") that are administered by PACGA pursuant to one or more grants from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.
- (b) The provisions of this policy constitute binding special conditions that must be adhered to as a condition of the receipt of grant funds and are in addition to any other special conditions that may apply to the federal grant program.

**4. Definitions.**

- (a) "CJCC" means the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.
- (b) "Funded office" means a district attorney's office or a solicitor-general's office that is receiving VOCA funds through the Council.
- (c) "OJP" means the Office of Justice Programs of the United States Department of Justice.
- (d) "VOCA" means the Victims of Crime Act, 42 U.S.C. Chapter 112.
- (e) "VWAP" means a prosecution-based victim-witness assistance program operated by a funded office.

 <b>Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia</b>		
<b>Policies &amp; Procedures</b>		Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.
<b>11.2</b>	<b>Victim Services</b>	<b>Victims of Crimes Act - Funding Conditions</b>

**5. Role of the Council.**

- (a) The Council is the fiscal officer for the prosecuting attorneys and the recipient of federal funds under VOCA. The Council is responsible to the CJCC, and through them to the federal grantor agency, for providing administrative oversight and insuring that all prosecuting attorneys' offices receiving VOCA funds comply with all state and federal statutes, rules, regulations applicable to such grant as well as any special conditions that apply to the grant.
- (b) The Executive Director is responsible to the Council for the proper administration of the grant and timely making any reports required by the grant. The Executive Director may designate one or more employees to perform any function necessary to administer the grant or which necessarily appertain thereto.

**6. Responsibilities of District Attorney's Offices or Solicitor-General's Offices.**

- (a) The district attorney or solicitor-general of a funded office is responsible for the proper administration of the funds received by their office and compliance with this Policy.
- (b) The district attorney or solicitor-general of a funded office may designate, in writing, an employee to be responsible for the administration of the grant fund and making any reports required by this policy or the grant. A copy of such designation shall be submitted to the Executive Director or his or her designee.
- (c) Each funded office agrees to adhere to the Program Guidelines for the Victims of Crime Act Victim Assistance Grant Program set forth in 28 CFR 94 Subpart B and available at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/voca/vaguide.htm>
- (d) Each funded office agrees to fully cooperate with any monitoring or evaluation activities, and any related training activities initiated and/or conducted by the Council or CJCC during and subsequent to the grant award period.
- (e) Each funded office agrees to obtain and maintain a Data Universal Numbering System



# Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

## Policies & Procedures

Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.

**11.2**

**Victim Services**

**Victims of Crimes Act - Funding Conditions**

(DUNS) number and to provide that number to the Council.

- (f) Each funded office agrees to comply with applicable requirements regarding registration with the System for Award Management (SAM).
- (g) Each funded office agrees to adhere to the provisions set forth in all executed Memoranda of Agreement and in the Special Conditions issued by CJCC or PAC.

### 7. Delivery of Services to Victims.

- (a) No cost for Services. Funded offices must provide services to crime victims at no charge.
- (b) Core Services. Funded offices must, at a minimum, abide by the provisions of the "Crime Victims' Bill of Rights," O.C.G.A. § 17-17-1, et seq., including, but not limited to, providing the following core services:
  - (1) Educating victims about their role in the criminal justice process.
  - (2) Stabilizing Lives:
    - (A) Funded offices shall:
      - (i) Coordinate crime scene clean-up services;
      - (ii) Provide information and assistance with the return of stolen/damaged property;
      - (iii) Provide referrals to and coordinate services with agencies that provide food, shelter, support groups, medical care, and crisis/emergency intervention and long-term therapy/counseling;
      - (iv) Provide assistance with information, application, and document



# Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

## Policies & Procedures

Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.

**11.2**

**Victim Services**

**Victims of Crimes Act - Funding Conditions**

collection for Crime Victim Compensation, ensuring that all victims understand their rights to receive compensation, all applicable eligibility requirements, and all application procedures;

- (v) Provide assistance with information, application, and document collection for restitution in order to ensure that restitution is made a part of every applicable criminal sentence; and
- (vi) Provide assistance with other applications (TANF, Immigration, leases, etc.) and/or other paperwork relating to acquiring services as a direct result of the crime.

(B) Funded offices may:

- (i) Assist victims requesting assistance in working with bill collectors/creditors, where expenses directly resulted from the crime or loss of wages due to the crime; and
- (ii) Assist victims with employers and/or school administrators when victims lose wages, employment, or time as a direct result of the crime or cooperation with the prosecution.

(3) Meeting Emotional/Physical Needs. Funded offices shall:

- (i) Ensure advocates' availability to victims and law enforcement around the clock, ensuring provision of both information about victim options immediately following the crime and first-response emotional support & crisis intervention (homicide, aggravated assault and domestic/family violence cases, and crisis response);
- (ii) Assist with death and serious injury notifications for families of victims;
- (iii) Provide assistance with preparation of Victim Impact Statements and presentation of the Statements in court;



# Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

## Policies & Procedures

Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.

**11.2**

**Victim Services**

**Victims of Crimes Act - Funding Conditions**

- (iv) Provide assistance with letters, victim impact statements, registration for Georgia Victim Impact Panel, facilitation of/accompaniment to Visitor's Day, clemency hearings and executions, etc.;
- (v) Provide follow-up services to victims at hospital facilities, coroner's offices, and/or funeral homes;
- (vi) Provide personnel availability during interviews to help victims feel more comfortable;
- (vii) Provide emotional support to victims and their families throughout the judicial process;
- (viii) Provide practical assistance to ensure necessary court appearances of victims (e.g., services for disabled victims and translators); and
- (ix) Provide appropriate post-sentence referrals and intervention if needed.

#### (4) Meeting Safety & Security Needs. Funded offices shall:

- (i) Assist victims with safety planning;
- (ii) Coordinate communication with necessary professionals with on-going activities of the defendant that is putting the victim in fear and/or physical jeopardy;
- (iii) Prompt necessary actions to expedite a stage of the case for victim protection (i.e., alert prosecutors if a case is dismissed in Magistrate Court to initiate the indictment/bond process for victim protection);
- (iv) Prompt necessary actions to initiate the process for probation revocation if defendant violates the sentence terms and jeopardizes victim safety,



# Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

## Policies & Procedures

Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.

**11.2**

**Victim Services**

**Victims of Crimes Act - Funding Conditions**

etc.);

- (v) Provide information and advocacy regarding Temporary Protective Orders;
- (vi) Assist victims with notification requests to the county jail/Department of Corrections and Parole regarding the defendant's release from incarceration; and
- (vii) Provide a comfortable waiting area apart from defendant's family and acquaintances;

(5) Assisting with the Criminal Justice System. Funded offices shall:

- (i) Assist the victim and family members with understanding the criminal justice system and what to expect at each stage of the process;
- (ii) Assist the victim and family members with understanding all legal terminology and strategy during processing of the case;
- (iii) Advocate for restitution at time of sentencing (this can become part of the sentence and if payment is not rendered, it may be a probation violation);
- (iv) Coordinate victim needs for transportation and travel that may include; air, train, bus, auto, accommodations, and meals;
- (v) Assist victims with warrant application processes and attend pre-warrant court hearings;
- (vi) Serve as liaison between victims, investigators, prosecutors and court personnel;
- (vii) Provide assistance to investigators and prosecutors for initial and ongoing



# Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

## Policies & Procedures

Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.

**11.2**

**Victim Services**

**Victims of Crimes Act - Funding Conditions**

contact with victims (e.g., interviews and scheduling of interviews);

- (viii) Ensuring that contact information and the physical location of the victim is maintained and accurate for continuation of services;
- (ix) Provide courtroom orientation and pre-trial preparation to testifying victims;
- (x) Escort victims to court and related hearings;
- (xi) Provide ongoing communication and information regarding status of the case, bond hearings, grand jury decisions, disposition options, appellate decisions, etc.;
- (xii) Attend hearings with victims or on behalf of victims when their presence is not required;
- (xiii) Assist victims with making contact with the Board of Pardons and Paroles and the Department of Corrections to request notification regarding a defendant's entry into the prison system and offering avenues for opinions on early parole release;

### (6) Education/Collaboration:

#### (A) Funded offices shall have personnel:

- (i) Serve on community victim advocacy committees, boards of directors, and task forces, acting as liaison for prosecutor's offices and judicial system (i.e., shelters, rape-crisis centers, etc.);
- (ii) Represent the office on various victims' service bodies including; child fatality review, domestic violence fatality review, elder abuse task force,



# Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

## Policies & Procedures

Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.

**11.2**

**Victim Services**

**Victims of Crimes Act - Funding Conditions**

domestic violence task force, various multi-disciplinary teams, etc.;

- (iii) Provide training to community, law enforcement, educational facilities and other professionals on victim assistance and victim related issues including, but not limited to, family violence, identity theft, sexual assault, child abuse, teen dating violence, elder abuse, the criminal and civil justice process, stalking, and crime prevention; and
- (iv) Provide ongoing information and literature to educate victims about the Victim Assistance Program, crime, and other relevant issues through pamphlets, handouts, presentations, referrals, internet, etc.

(B) Funded offices may have personnel serve on a Victim Impact Panel as member or coordinator, and hold monthly meetings, and assist in recruiting, training and maintaining victim panel members and speakers.

(7) Prosecutorial Assistance: Funded offices shall:

- (i) As needed, assist investigators and prosecutors with obtaining reports from DFACS, child advocacy and assessment centers, and other agencies;
- (ii) As needed, assist investigators and prosecutors with completing referral forms and setting up forensic interview at child advocacy and assessment centers;
- (iii) Upon request from investigators, prosecutors, or child advocacy and assessment center personnel, will attend forensic interviews and multidisciplinary team meetings (MDT);
- (iv) As needed, assist investigators and prosecutors with documentation in domestic and family violence cases (pictures of victim's injuries, statements, etc.).





## Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

### Policies & Procedures


Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.

**11.2**

**Victim Services**

**Victims of Crimes Act - Funding  
Conditions**

- (8) Post conviction. If the accused is found guilty and sentenced to incarceration in the custody of the Georgia Dept. of Corrections (GDOC), funded offices will connect the victim with the GDOC victim services division and assist the victim with registering for offender status notifications.

 <b>Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia</b>		
<b>Policies &amp; Procedures</b>		Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.
<b>11.2</b>	<b>Victim Services</b>	<b>Victims of Crimes Act - Funding Conditions</b>

(c) Limited English Proficient Victims.


- (1) Funded offices will provide services and literature in Spanish and other languages.
- (2) Each funded office must have a written plan that insures that victims who are not proficient in the English language are afforded access to services as required by Executive Order 13166. At a minimum, the plan must meet the requirements set forth in U.S. Dept. Of Justice, Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons. 67 Fed. Reg. 41455-41472 (June 18, 2002).
- (3) In addition, funded offices that provide hotline services will provide PACGA documentation of a contract for 24-hour language interpretation services for callers who do not speak English. Subgrantees that provide hotline services will ensure that its

TTY machine is operable at all times and that all staff, volunteers and interns who answer the hotline receive training and ongoing review of TTY answering procedures.

- (4) For information and resources for providing services to LEP or disabled individuals, visit LEP.gov or Georgia's Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator's Office, <http://ada.georgia.gov>. You may also contact CJCC for technical assistance with questions or concerns.

(d) Equal Opportunity.

- (1) Funded offices shall provide services to all victims without regard to the victim's race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, and sexual orientation), national origin, age (40 or older), disability or genetic information. Any person who believes that they have been discriminated against based on his or race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, and sexual orientation), national origin, age (40 or older), disability or genetic information has the right to file a civil rights complaint with the Office of Justice Programs.

 <b>Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia</b>		
<b>Policies &amp; Procedures</b>		Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.
<b>11.2</b>	<b>Victim Services</b>	<b>Victims of Crimes Act - Funding Conditions</b>

- (2) Each funded office shall display the following statement in a prominent location where it will be visible to staff and visitors to the office and include it in any publications provided to members of the public:


The Victim Witness Assistance Program does not discriminate against individuals or groups on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, and sexual orientation), national origin, age (40 or older), disability or genetic information. If you believe you have been the target of discrimination, you have the right to file a civil rights complaint. Information on how to file a civil rights complaint can be found on the Office of Justice Programs website. <http://www.ojp.gov/about/ocr/complaint.htm>

- (e) Immigration status.

Funded offices that rely on in-kind (non-cash) services necessary to protect life or safety without charge based on the recipients' income shall not deny these services to any crime victim who seeks their protection based on the victim's immigration or legal status, nor shall the agency require any victim who contacts them in good faith to verify their immigration status prior to delivering services. See Department of Justice (2001), Final Specification of Community Programs Necessary for Protection of Life or Safety Under Welfare Reform Legislation, (A.G. Order No. 2353-2001) 66 FR 3613.

- (f) Victims of Federal Crimes.

Funded offices must provide services to victims of federal crimes on the same basis as victims of state and/or local crimes. A victim of federal crime is a victim of an offense that violates a federal criminal statute or regulation. Federal crimes also include crimes that occur in an area where the federal government has jurisdiction, such as Indian reservations, some national parks, some federal buildings, and military installations.

 <b>Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia</b>		
<b>Policies &amp; Procedures</b>		Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.
<b>11.2</b>	<b>Victim Services</b>	<b>Victims of Crimes Act - Funding Conditions</b>

(g) Victims of Crimes Committed by Juveniles.

Beginning January 1, 2014, funded offices must provide services to a victim of a delinquent act committed by a child which would constitute a crime if committed by an adult as required by O.C.G.A. § 15-11-481. If the funded office opts out of prosecuting delinquency cases in one or more counties in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 15-18-6.1, the funded office must provide the Council with documentation showing how victims of delinquent acts in those counties will receive services required by O.C.G.A. § 15-11-481 and this Policy.

**8. Use of Volunteers.**

- (a) Funded offices must use volunteers unless CJCC determines there is a compelling reason to waive this requirement. A “compelling reason” may be a statutory or contractual provision concerning liability or confidentiality of counselor/victim information, which bars using volunteers for certain positions, or the inability to recruit and maintain volunteers after a sustained and aggressive effort.
- (b) 25% of the 20% VOCA-required matching funds must be in the form of volunteer in-kind match for each funded office unless the requirement is waived, in writing by CJCC.
- (c) Funded offices seeking a waiver from this requirement because they are unable to recruit or maintain volunteers will have to document and demonstrate the efforts they undertook to find volunteers.
- (d) Funded offices shall furnish a listing of all project volunteers that provide direct services, a copy of the contract or agreement between each volunteer and the funded office identifying responsibilities for both parties, and a written job description indicating what types of direct services the volunteer will provide.



# Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

## Policies & Procedures

Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.

**11.2**

**Victim Services**

**Victims of Crimes Act - Funding Conditions**


(e) Funded offices will satisfy 25% of the required match (20%) through the in-kind donation of volunteer hours. The standard rate for the provision of direct services by a volunteer is \$12.00 per hour. Higher rates must be pre-approved by CJCC. Any request for deviation from this requirement must be submitted in writing to CJCC utilizing the volunteer requirement waiver request form. A copy of the request must be provided to PACGA.

### 9. Non-Discrimination in Service Provision.

(a) As recipients of federal funds from the Department of Justice, all funded offices are subject to the following federal non-discrimination laws:

- (1) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 - 42 U.S.C. § 2000d;
- (2) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - 29 U.S.C. §794;
- (3) The Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 - 42 U.S.C. § 3789d(c)(1);
- (4) Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act - 42 U.S.C. § 12132;
- (5) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 - 20 U.S.C. § 1681 (applicable to all funded offices that conduct training);
- (6) The Age Discrimination Act of 1975 - 42 U.S.C. § 6101; and,
- (7) Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations - 28 C.F.R. Part 38 (prohibits discrimination based on religious affiliation during service delivery).

(b) In the event that a federal or state court or federal or state administrative agency makes an adverse finding of discrimination against a funded office, after a due process hearing, on the ground of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, and sexual orientation), national origin, age (40 or older), disability or genetic information, the funded office must submit a copy of the finding to the Council, the CJCC and the OJP Office of Civil Rights.


 <b>Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia</b>		
<b>Policies &amp; Procedures</b>		Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.
<b>11.2</b>	<b>Victim Services</b>	<b>Victims of Crimes Act - Funding Conditions</b>

**10. Local Victim Assistance Program Funding, a/k/a Five Percent (5%) Funding, Certification & Reporting.**

- (a) Funded offices must be certified and eligible to receive 5% funds by CJCC. Funded offices that are not certified as of the date that the funded office enters into the memorandum of agreement with Council, the county and the prosecuting attorney, must complete certification requirements prior to drawing down funds.
- (b) Funded offices are required by O.C.G.A. § 15-21-132 to submit an annual report to CJCC detailing the receipt and expenditure of 5% funds by January 15 or other deadline established by CJCC of each year. This report must include the total amount of funds received pursuant to this Code section, the purposes for which the funds were expended, and the total number of victims served in each county for which the funds were received. A copy of the annual report shall also be submitted to each county governing authority from which funds were received pursuant to this Code section.

**11. Other Required Certifications.**

- (a) As recipients of federal funds, funded offices are required to verify certain conditions and behaviors by completing certification requirements provided in the common rules for lobbying, drug-free workplaces, and suspension and debarment of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP).
- (b) Funded offices must complete and submit OJP Form 4061/6 entitled “Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements” to the Council with the memorandum of agreement.

 <b>Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia</b>		
<b>Policies &amp; Procedures</b>		Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.
<b>11.2</b>	<b>Victim Services</b>	<b>Victims of Crimes Act - Funding Conditions</b>

**12. Political Activity.**

- (a) The restrictions of the Hatch Act, Pub. L. 93-433, 5 U.S.C. Chapter III, (as amended), concerning the political activity of government employees are applicable to funded office staff members and other state and local government employees whose principal employment is in connection with activities financed, in whole or in part, by federal grants. Under a 1975 amendment to the Hatch Act, such state and local government employees may take an active part in political management and campaigns except they may not be candidates for office.
- (b) If any changes occur in the funded office's lobbying status or activities, a revised Disclosure of Lobbying Activities Form must be submitted. Federal funds cannot be used, directly or indirectly, in support of the enactment, repeal, modification, or adoption of any law, regulation or policy, at any level of government, without the express prior approval of OJP.

**13. Equal Employment Opportunity Plan.**

Funded offices must meet the requirements of 28 C.F.R. § 42.301 et seq., Equal Employment Opportunity Plans (EEO). The plan must cover the grant period specified in the grant application submitted by PACGA, and an EEO certification form be submitted directly to the Federal Government. If your office needs technical assistance in preparing an Equal Employment Opportunity Plan, please contact the Office of Civil Rights Compliance Specialist, Office of Justice Programs, Washington, D.C., (202) 307-0690.

**14. Training of Personnel.**

- (a) All victim advocate staff must have completed 40 hours of training specific to providing direct victim services either through the Office for Victims of Crime, Victim's Assistance Training Online, the National Organization for Victim's Assistance (NOVA), CJCC, PACGA or any other organization approved by CJCC that provides training specific to serving crime victims. New staff must complete this training within 12 months of the start of employment as a victim advocate.



# Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

## Policies & Procedures

Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.

**11.2**

**Victim Services**

**Victims of Crimes Act - Funding Conditions**

(b) Each employee providing victim services in a funded office must attend and successfully complete at least eight (8) hours of training in victim assistance annually. As part of this requirement, victim services supervisors and all fully or partially grant-funded staff in a funded office must attend a victims' compensation training approved by CJCC during the grant year. New staff (whether funded by this grant program or not) must complete this training within six (6) months of the start of employment as a victim advocate.

(c) Funded offices understand and agree that any training or training materials developed or delivered with funding provided under this award must adhere to the OJP Training Guiding Principles for Grantees and Subgrantees, available at <http://www.ojp.gov/funding/ojptrainingguidingprinciples.htm>

(d) The Executive Director may for good cause waive or defer the training requirements provided for in this section unless otherwise prohibited by CJCC or OJP.

### 15. Allowable Costs and Services.

The following costs and services may be supported by VOCA funds provided that they are included in the approved budget for the funded office:

- (a) Immediate Health and Safety. Those services which respond to the immediate emotional and physical needs (excluding medical care) of crime victims such as:
  - (1) Crisis intervention;
  - (2) Accompaniment to hospitals for medical examinations;
  - (3) Hotline counseling;
  - (4) Emergency food, clothing, transportation, and shelter (including emergency, short term nursing home shelter for elder abuse victims for whom no other safe, short-term residence is available); and





## Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

### Policies & Procedures

Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.

**11.2**

**Victim Services**

**Victims of Crimes Act - Funding  
Conditions**



# Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

## Policies & Procedures

Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.

**11.2**

**Victim Services**

**Victims of Crimes Act - Funding Conditions**

(5) Other emergency services that are intended to restore the victim’s sense of security. This includes services which offer an immediate measure of safety to crime victims such as boarding-up broken windows, and replacing or repairing locks. Also allowable is emergency legal assistance such as filing restraining orders and obtaining emergency custody/visitation rights when such actions are directly connected to family violence cases and are taken to ensure the health and safety of the victim.

(b) Mental Health Assistance - Those services and activities that assist the primary and secondary victims of crime in understanding the dynamics of victimization and in stabilizing their lives after a victimization such as counseling, group treatment, and therapy. “Therapy” refers to intensive professional psychological/psychiatric treatment for individuals, couples, and family members related to counseling to provide emotional support in crises arising from the occurrence of crime. This includes the evaluation of mental health needs, as well as the actual delivery of psychotherapy.

(c) Assistance with Participation in Criminal Justice and Juvenile Proceedings.

(1) In addition to the cost of emergency legal services noted above, other costs associated with helping victims participate in the criminal justice system also are allowable. These services may include advocacy on behalf of crime victims; accompaniment to criminal justice offices and court; transportation to court; child care or respite care to enable a victim to attend court; notification of victims regarding trial dates, case disposition information, and parole consideration procedures; and assistance with victim impact statements. Projects devoted to restitution advocacy on behalf of specific crime victims must be specifically approved by CJCC.

(2) VOCA funds cannot be used to pay for non-emergency legal representation such as divorces or civil restitution recovery efforts.

(d) Costs Necessary and Essential to Providing Direct Services - This includes prorated costs of rent, utilities (in certain situations, i.e. a shelter), transportation costs for victims to receive services, emergency transportation costs that enable a victim to participate



# Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

## Policies & Procedures

Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.

**11.2**

**Victim Services**

**Victims of Crimes Act - Funding Conditions**

in the criminal justice system and local travel expenses for service providers.

- (e) Special Services - Services to assist crime victims with managing practical problems created by the victimization, such as acting on behalf of the victim with other service providers, creditors, or employers; assisting the victim to recover property that is retained as evidence; assisting in filing for compensation benefits; and, helping to apply for public assistance.
- (f) Personnel Costs - Costs that are directly related to providing direct services, such as staff salaries and fringe benefits, including malpractice insurance; the cost of advertising to recruit VOCA-funded personnel; and the cost of training paid and volunteer staff.

### 16. Other Allowable Costs and Services.

- (a) The following other allowable costs and services may be supported by VOCA funds provided that they are included in the approved budget for the funded office:
- (b) The services, activities, and costs listed below are not generally considered direct crime victim services but often are necessary and essential activities to ensure that quality direct services are provided.
- (c) Before these costs can be supported with VOCA funds, the funded office must certify to PACGA that they have no other source of support for them; and that only limited amounts of VOCA funds will be used for these purposes.
- (d) Items not used exclusively for direct victim services should be pro-rated to include only the portion of the item used for direct service to victims.



# Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

## Policies & Procedures

Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.

**11.2**

**Victim Services**

**Victims of Crimes Act - Funding Conditions**

(e) The following list provides examples of such items:

(1) Skills training for staff -

(A) VOCA funds designated for training are to be used exclusively for developing the skills of direct service providers including paid staff and volunteers, so that they are better able to offer quality services to crime victims. An example of skills development is training focused on how to respond to a victim in crisis, and the travel expenses associated with this training,

(B) Reimbursement of expenses for training must meet the Statewide Travel Policy promulgated by the State Accounting Office (SAO) and the Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-5B-5 and Chapter 6 of the PAC Rules. Reimbursement rates must follow local or State rates, whichever is lowest.

(C) Reimbursement of expenses for training will only be provided for staff approved in the budget and for volunteers.

(f) Training Materials - VOCA funds can be used to purchase materials such as books, training manuals, and videos for direct service providers within the VOCA-funded organization and can support the costs of a trainer for in-service staff development when the amounts do not exceed federal standards. Staff from other organizations can attend in service training activities that are held for the funded office.

(g) Supplies and Furniture.

(1) VOCA funds may be used to purchase furniture and supplies that provide or enhance direct services to crime victims, as demonstrated by the funded office. VOCA funds cannot support the entire cost of an item that is not used exclusively for victim-related activities. However, VOCA funds can support a pro-rated share of such an item.

(2) Funded offices cannot use VOCA funds to purchase supplies for another organization or individual to perform a victim-related service.



# Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

## Policies & Procedures

Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.

**11.2**

**Victim Services**

**Victims of Crimes Act - Funding Conditions**

(3) Examples of allowable costs may include computers, video-tape cameras and players for interviewing children, two-way mirrors, supplies and furniture for shelters, work spaces, victim waiting rooms, and children’s play areas. The cost of furniture, supplies such as Braille equipment or TTY/TTD machines for the deaf, or minor building alterations/improvements that make victim services more accessible to persons with disabilities are allowable.

(4) Title to all equipment and/or supplies purchased with federal funds shall vest in the Council and will be assigned for use by the funded office. An inventory of such property must be maintained in accordance with Council Policy 4.8. Such equipment and supplies will be maintained in accordance with Council Policy 4.8 long as the equipment and/or supplies are used for program related purposes. If the funded office ceases to provide victim services, the Council has the right to determine the future use of such property and to reallocate it to another funded office.

(h) Advanced Technologies.

(1) At times, computers may increase an applicant’s ability to reach and serve crime victims. For example, automated victim notification systems have dramatically improved the efficiency of victim notification and enhanced victim security.

(2) In making such expenditures, the funded office must describe in the project budget how the computer equipment will enhance services to crime victims; how it will be integrated into and/or enhance the funded office’s current system; the cost of installation; the cost of training staff to use the computer equipment; the on-going operational costs, such as maintenance agreements and supplies; and how these additional costs will be supported, as maintenance costs cannot be supported with VOCA funds.

(3) Funding will not be approved for any computer system or software that is not capable of interfacing with the TRACKER case management system operated by PACGA.



# Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

## Policies & Procedures

Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.

**11.2**

**Victim Services**

**Victims of Crimes Act - Funding Conditions**

(i) Contracts for Professional Services.

(1) VOCA funds will not be used to support contract services except when it is necessary to contract for specialized services. Examples of these services include:

(A) Assistance in filing restraining orders or establishing emergency custody/visitation rights if the funded office can document to PACGA that the office has a demonstrated history of advocacy on behalf of domestic violence victims;

(B) Emergency psychological or psychiatric services; or

(C) Sign and/or interpretation for the hearing impaired or for crime victims whose primary language is not English.

(2) Applicants are prohibited from using VOCA funds for contracted services which contain administrative, overhead, or other indirect costs included in the hourly or daily rate.

(j) Operating Costs - Examples of allowable operating costs include: supplies; equipment use fees, when supported by usage logs; printing; photocopying, and postage; brochures which describe available services; and books and other victim-related materials. VOCA funds may support administrative time to complete VOCA-required time and attendance sheets and programmatic documentation, reports, and statistics; administrative time to maintain crime victims' records; and the pro-rated share of audit costs.

(k) Supervision of Direct Service Providers - CJCC may provide VOCA funds for supervision of direct service providers when they determine that such supervision is necessary and essential to providing direct services to crime victims. For example, CJCC may determine that using VOCA funds to support a coordinator of volunteers or interns is a cost-effective way of serving more crime victims.



# Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

## Policies & Procedures

Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.

**11.2**


**Victim Services**

**Victims of Crimes Act - Funding Conditions**

- (l) Repair and/or Replacement of Essential Items - VOCA funds may be used for repair or replacement of items that contribute to maintaining a healthy and/or safe environment for crime victims, such as a furnace in a shelter. Funded offices wishing to use VOCA funds for these purposes must demonstrate the following:
  - (1) That the building is owned by a state or local government and not rented or leased;
  - (2) All other sources of funding have been exhausted;
  - (3) There is no available option for providing the service in another location;
  - (4) That the cost of the repair or replacement is reasonable considering the value of the building; and
  - (5) The cost of the repair or replacement is pro-rated among all sources of income.
  
- (m) Public Presentations - VOCA funds may be used to support presentations that are made in schools, community centers, or other public forums and designed to identify crime victims and provide or refer them to needed services. Specifically, activities and costs related to such programs including presentation materials, brochures, and newspaper notices can be supported by VOCA funds.

### **17. Motor Vehicle Operations.**

- (a) Seat Belt Use. Pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 402 and 403, and 29 U.S.C. 668, funded offices, as a recipient of Federal contracts, subcontracts, and grants, shall encourage adoption and enforcement of on-the-job seat belt policies and programs for its employees, contractors, and sub-recipients when operating government-owned, rented, or personally owned vehicles.
  
- (b) Text Messaging While Driving. Text messaging while driving is prohibited for all personnel funded by grants administered by the Council pursuant to grants from CJCC. See Council Policy 12.2(6)(f). All funded offices must have a written text messaging while driving policy.

 <b>Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia</b>		
<b>Policies &amp; Procedures</b>		Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.
<b>11.2</b>	<b>Victim Services</b>	<b>Victims of Crimes Act - Funding Conditions</b>

**18. Reporting Fraud or Criminal Activity Involving Grant Funds.**

- (a) Funded offices agree to promptly refer to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Inspector General (OIG) any credible evidence that a principal, employee, agent, contractor, subcontractor, or other person has either 1) submitted a false claim for grant funds under the False Claims Act; or 2) committed a criminal or civil violation of laws pertaining to fraud, conflict of interest, bribery, gratuity, or similar misconduct involving grant funds.
- (b) Potential fraud, waste, abuse, or misconduct should be reported to the OIG by mail:

Office of the Inspector General U.S. Department of Justice Investigations Division 950  
 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
 Room 4706  
 Washington, DC 20530  
 e-mail: oig.hotline@usdoj.gov  
 hotline: (contact information in English and Spanish) (800) 869-4499 hotline fax:  
 (202) 616-9881


- (c) Additional information is available from the DOJ OIG website at:

<http://www.justice.gov/oig/hotline/>

**19. Use of psychologists, professional counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists.**

- (a) Funded offices agree to abide by Georgia law regarding the utilization of professional counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists. (O.C.G.A. § 43-10A-1, et. seq).
- (b) Funded offices agree to abide by Georgia law regarding the utilization of psychologists. (O.C.G.A. § 43-39-1, et. seq).



 <b>Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia</b>		
<b>Policies &amp; Procedures</b>		Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.
<b>11.2</b>	<b>Victim Services</b>	<b>Victims of Crimes Act - Funding Conditions</b>

**20. Compliance with Federal Uniform Guidance and Audit Requirements.**

- (a) Funded offices must comply with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements in 2 C.F.R. Part 200, as adopted and supplemented by the Department of Justice (DOJ) in 2 C.F.R. Part 2800. Funded offices further understand and agree that funds may be withheld, or other requirements may be imposed, if outstanding audit issues (if any) from C.F.R. Part 200 (and any other audits of OJP grant funds) are not satisfactory and promptly addressed, as further described in the current edition of the OJP Financial Guide.
- (b) The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for this grant program is 16.575

**21. Access to Records.**

Funded offices will provide the Council, the Office for Victims of Crime, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO), CJCC and their representatives, access to and the right to examine all records, books, paper, or documents related to the VOCA grant.

**22. Records & Reports; Use of TRACKER.**

- (a) As used in this section:
  - (1) “TRACKER” means the Tracker Prosecutor Case Management System, a secure, on- line computer case management system operated by the Council;
  - (2) “VSSR Data” means data that documents the number of new and existing victims served, the demographics of victims, the type of crimes involved and the number and types of services provided to victims by funded offices.
- (b) Funded offices shall utilize TRACKER to document the number of new and existing



# Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

## Policies & Procedures

Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.

**11.2**

**Victim Services**

**Victims of Crimes Act - Funding Conditions**

victims served, the demographics of new victims, and the number and types of services provided victims of crime. Data shall be entered into TRACKER at or near the time services are provided.

- (1) Any funded office not on TRACKER on October 1, 2013 shall, as a condition of receiving funds, take all necessary steps to begin using TRACKER by the end of the first quarter.
- (2) Funded offices not on TRACKER as of October 1, 2013, must maintain and submit VSSR data to the Council in such form as the Director of the Information Technology Division shall prescribe until such time as TRACKER becomes available for use by that office.
- (3) When the Executive Director determines that TRACKER is available for use within a circuit or county, failure to utilize TRACKER may result in withholding of reimbursement of expenditures or void the memorandum of agreement.
- (c) Each funded office is responsible for the accuracy of data entered into TRACKER and reported to CJCC.
  - (1) The victim assistance coordinator in each funded office shall review VSSR data for completeness and accuracy at least monthly.
  - (2) For offices utilizing TRACKER to manage the preparation and disposition of criminal and civil cases, the victim assistance coordinator is only responsible for the completeness and accuracy of VSSR data related to those cases.
- (d) Any unauthorized use of TRACKER may result in the loss of access to the system, termination of employment, or criminal or civil prosecution.

### **23. Prior Approval Required for Certain Contracts or Subcontracts.**

Funded offices cannot use any federal funds, either directly or indirectly, in support of any



## Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

### Policies & Procedures


Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.

**11.2**

**Victim Services**

**Victims of Crimes Act - Funding  
Conditions**

contract or subcontract to either the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) or its subsidiaries without the express prior written approval of CJCC and OJP.

 <b>Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia</b>		
<b>Policies &amp; Procedures</b>		Approved October 2, 2013, amended April 15, 2015, amended August 24, 2016, amended July 21, 2018, amended October 9, 2019.
<b>11.2</b>	<b>Victim Services</b>	<b>Victims of Crimes Act - Funding Conditions</b>

**24. National Environmental Policy Act.**

Funded offices must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, 83 Stat. 852, 42 U.S.C. § 4321, et seq., and other related federal environmental impact analysis requirements of the funded office engages in one or more of the following activities and the activity needs to be undertaken in order to use grant funds:

- (a) New construction
- (b) Minor renovation or remodeling of a property that is either:
  - (1) Listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; or
  - (2) Located within a 100-year flood plain.
- (c) A renovation, lease, or other proposed use of a building or facility that will either:
  - (1) Result in a change in its basic prior use; or
  - (2) Significantly change its size.
- (d) Implementation of a new program involving the use of chemicals other than those:
  - (1) Purchased as an incidental component of a funded office; or
  - (2) Traditionally used, for example, in office, household, recreational or educational environments.