

G. SPECIFICALLY DISCUSS HOW YOUR STATE HAS USED VOCA ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS AND THE IMPACT OF THESE FUNDS ON THE STATE'S ABILITY TO IMPROVE VICTIMS SERVICES.

CVSD uses 4% of its federal VOCA funds for administration. In previous years, the Division has used 5% for administration. As a result the OVC decision to interpret a change in law to the detriment of the states, CVSD has preserved 1% for training and dedicated 4% to administration. In these tough economic times, the impact of this decision by OVC continues to be felt. It is the hope of CVSD that OVC will advocate for a fix to this “math problem” with the new Congress and Presidential Administration.

The 4% VOCA Administrative funds continue to support:

- The work of 1.75 FTE staff to provide technical assistance, grant monitoring and training for VOCA grantees statewide. Prorated rent, telecommunications and other costs associated with these staff are also supported by these administrative funds;
- Training for grant staff to enhance their professional skills through technology and cultural diversity workshops;
- VOCA Advisory Committee meetings. The VOCA Grant monitors have worked to increase the depth and knowledge of the Advisory Committee this reporting period. Administrative funds allow CVSD to pay for working lunches, phone conferencing, meeting supplies and travel expenses that enable Advisory Committee involvement by non-profits, survivors and criminal justice partners;
- National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators membership and conference. The administrative funds support the NAVAA dues and costs related to attending the national NAVAA conference. Involvement with NAVAA activities greatly enhances Oregon’s ability to serve victims and provide funding victim service providers in the most effective, supportive and efficient ways possible. As in the past, staff attendance at this invaluable conference was only approved by our DOJ State Administration because of the availability of these federal admin funds;
- Technology upgrades. In order for the VOCA staff to access the new document management system implemented by DOJ in September of 2008, new desktops were partially purchased with VOCA administrative funds; and
- Survey Monkey membership. The VOCA administrative funds paid for a yearly Survey Monkey membership allowing VOCA grant monitors to survey grantees regarding funding needs, training requests and policy perspectives. This tool has proven to be invaluable in soliciting meaningful feedback from grantees in a quick and user friendly way that is also easy for CVSD staff to analyze and interpret.