

Sexual Assault Services Funding in Michigan

SA COMP & VOCA

Sexual Assault Comprehensive Services grants (SA COMP) are administered by the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board (MDSVPTB) and awarded through a competitive bid process. Funds are comprised of a combination of some TANF dollars, a portion of SANE fund dollars, and a small portion of a community block grant. There are NO General Fund (GF) appropriated for sexual assault services in our state. The current total amount available to be distributed for SA COMP grants is \$1,731,597. This limited funding only allows for 18 programs (serving 34 /83 counties), to receive SA COMP grants (ranging from \$45,000 – \$125, 000 -- based on several factors, including population, geographic area, and program request).

The total cost to provide a comprehensive sexual assault program far exceeds this funding, as any agency receiving a SA COMP grant must provide at minimum: 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency response services, individual and group supportive counseling, advocacy and supportive services to sexual assault survivors and their significant others, public awareness programs, and systems change work. **Although SA COMP grants cover only a portion of the sexual assault services these programs provide, the allowable scope and flexibility of this funding is critical in funding essential core program components necessary to operate a comprehensive sexual assault program.** Therefore, in addition to federal and state funding awards, programs providing Sexual Assault Comprehensive Services rely on local community, foundation and private donor support.



Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) dollars are granted to each state annually through a formula grant. [VOCA has a separate appropriation in the MI DHHS budget --appropriation number 50350]. Federal regulations strictly govern the allowable uses and distribution processes for VOCA funds (including designation of specific purpose areas, allowable expenses, and percentages for fund distribution by states/territories).

VOCA dollars in our state are administered by the Michigan Crime Victims' Services Commission (MCVSC). Crime victims' service agencies, including **sexual assault service providers, are eligible to apply for VOCA funds through a separate competitive bid process.** VOCA dollars can provide significant, essential resources for some components of a comprehensive victims' services program, **but not all expenses necessary to establish and maintain such a program can be funded through a VOCA grant.** Therefore, comprehensive sexual assault service provider programs (as is the case with other victim services programs) need additional/alternative funding to operate and meet the needs of the victims and communities they serve and to leverage additional VOCA funds.

Further, VOCA requires a demonstrated 20% non-federal source fund / in-kind project match (except in "extraordinary circumstances"). Local sexual assault programs have historically had to limit the amount of VOCA funding they request because they do not have sufficient non-federal funding from other sources to meet this requirement.

A \$ 2,000,000 GF appropriation in the DHHS budget for SA COMP grant funding would:

- 1) Immediately more than double the amount of money available for Comprehensive Sexual Assault Services grants in our state, resulting in a dramatic increase in the number of survivors and communities receiving these essential services; and
- 2) Allow local programs to access additional VOCA grant funding, through a separate competitive grant process, by increasing the resources they would have available to demonstrate match when required.



It is important to note that SA COMP and VOCA funding does not cross-over and cannot be co-mingled at the state level. SA COMP dollars awarded do not result in an automatic VOCA match. However SA Comp dollars awarded to a local program can be used by that program to apply for and be granted additional VOCA funds that otherwise would not be accessible.

Requested Line Item:

Sexual assault comprehensive services grant..... \$ 2,000,000

Requested Boilerplate language:

From the funds appropriated for sexual assault comprehensive services grant, \$2,000,000.00 shall be allocated to the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board (MDSVPTB) for sexual assault comprehensive victim services funding, as defined by MDSVPTB, to be distributed through a competitive grant process to entities determined by MDSVPTB to have demonstrated capacity to provide such services.

*For additional information, please contact Kathy Hagenian, MCEDSV Executive Policy Director
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