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Sent: Monday, June 07, 2010 1:45 PM
To: voca@lists.ojp.usdoj.gov; OVC Services
Subject: Listserv(VOCA) >>> VOCA Victim Assistance Formula Funding For Legal Clinics

To: All VOCA Administrators

From: Joye E. Frost
Acting Director
Office for Victims of Crime
Office of Justice Programs
U.S. Department of Justice

Dear VOCA Administrator:

As you may know, the current Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Final Program Guidelines specify that an organization must provide services to crime victims and be operated by a public agency or nonprofit organization, or a combination of such agencies or organizations, in order to be eligible to receive VOCA funding. Eligible organizations include victim services organizations with the sole mission of providing services to crime victims. These organizations include, but are not limited to, sexual assault and rape treatment centers, domestic violence programs and shelters, child abuse programs, centers for missing children, mental health services, and other community-based victim coalitions and support organizations, including those that serve survivors of homicide victims. In addition to victim services organizations that only serve crime victims, many other public and nonprofit organizations have components that offer services to crime victims. These organizations are eligible to receive VOCA funds, if the funds are used to expand or enhance the delivery of services to crime victims.

In recent years, OVC has supported legal services for crime victims through its discretionary grant funding. Under these grants, funds support direct representation of victims in the enforcement of their legal rights in criminal court proceedings through legal clinics. More recently, through discussions with state administrators and stakeholders, OVC has reviewed the current Program Guidelines and determined that VOCA victim assistance formula funds *can* support legal clinics, as long as the clinics have a victim focus and the services offered relate to the victimization (and do not include civil restitution efforts or divorces).

If you have any questions, please contact your OVC program specialist.