

## **Colorado Division of Criminal Justice – Office for Victim Programs New Grant Consolidation Process Taking Effect in 2010**

### ***What is the grant consolidation process?***

The Office for Victims Programs will be consolidating the funding cycles and allocation processes of three grant programs: Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and the State Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement (State VALE).

### ***What are the reasons for consolidating the grant processes?***

- Improve services to subgrantees
- Maximize use of DCJ's available grant dollars while implementing the Boards' funding philosophy
- Streamline the conflicting funding processes
- Stabilize funding levels and alleviate fluctuations by pooling resources and allocating them more collaboratively
- Establish an improved "user-friendly" administrative process that allows subgrantees to focus more of their time on serving victims, rather than applying for multiple grants
- Coordinate with other funding sources in the state, particularly local VALE boards, to strategize and maximize impact of available funds statewide
- Plan for the future - Benefit from other states' precedents in establishing coordinated funding processes that are suitable for web-based administration

### ***How are we planning on doing the consolidation process?***

- **Restructure funding allocation processes**
  - Create a single, consolidated application form for access to all 3 funding sources
  - Adjust and align all funding cycles to 2-year calendar-year cycles
  - Consolidate funds allocation processes across programs
- **Restructure and consolidate board composition and function**
  - Consolidate the three current boards into one board and assess the optimum size and composition, retaining statutorily designated positions, representation, and expertise from all 3 grant programs
- **Restructure grant program administration**
  - Establish regional grant managers
  - Develop tailored, streamlined grant reporting forms and processes

***When will this change occur?***

- **2008** - There will be a VAWA grant process for the time period of April 1, 2009 - December 31, 2010.
- **2009** - This will be the second year of the current VOCA grants as well as the State VALE grants. During 2009, DCJ will realign the funding sources for all 2010 grant awards, which will go into effect January 2010. This will reduce the number of funding sources for a certain number of grant recipients.
- **2010** - All agencies that have grant awards from VOCA, VAWA, or State VALE funds during 2009 will have their awards extended for calendar year 2010. As mentioned above, funding sources for those grants will be realigned. There will not be an application process for funds awarded for 2010; however, during 2010, agencies can apply for funds under the new consolidation process, which will go into effect on January 1, 2011.
- **2011** - First consolidated grants will go into effect for grant award period January 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012.

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## **Information for the Coordinating Committee, VAWA Board and State VALE Board Members**

### What Will the Consolidation Process Mean for the Current Boards?

- Each board member will need to decide if they would like to apply to be on the Crime Victim Services Advisory (CVSA) Board.
- The final meeting dates for the currently existing boards are as follows: VAWA Board will meet January 9, 2009, the Coordinating Committee will meet February 6, 2009, and the State VALE Board on March 10, 2009.
- The new CVSA Board will be in place by August 1, 2009 and will be appointed by the Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety, Peter Weir.

### What will the New Board Look Like?

- The new Board will have 17 members/positions listed in statute and others that will be listed in an executive order.
- We anticipate that the Board will be large at first but in a few years, through attrition, the Board will consist of approximately 25 people.
- There will be 2 statutory subcommittees: the Standards Subcommittee and the Victim Rights Act Subcommittee. There may be other subcommittees as determined by the Board.
- The grant applications will be reviewed by subcommittees the same way it is currently done by the Coordinating Committee and the VAWA Board.

### What will the Responsibilities of the New Board Be?

- Making recommendations on funding decisions for the Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) funding, the S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funding, and the State Victims Assistance and Law Enforcement (State VALE) fund. It is anticipated that each board member will be responsible for reviewing a maximum of 25 grant applications, with staff support;
- Developing and revising the state standards and the sanctions for violating the standards (as needed) that are used for the crime victim compensation programs and the local victim assistance and law enforcement programs in the 22 judicial districts;
- Reviewing reports of non-compliance with the Victim Rights Act;
- Distributing profits from the Compensation from Benefits of Crime statute;
- Overseeing the VAWA Implementation Plan;
- Possibility making recommendations on funding decisions for the Sexual Assault Services Program. This is a program administered by the federal Office on Violence Against Women and funds will be provided to the states. We do not have much information on this program at this time but anticipate that Colorado will receive funds to distribute to sexual assault programs and this board may oversee this process.

## How Much Time will I Need to Commit to the New Board?

### Grant Process

#### 2009

- The new board will meet in August 2009 for an orientation on the different types of grant funds, responsibilities of the new board, discussion on board processes, setting the meeting dates for 2010, etc.

#### 2010

- The grant subcommittees will be meeting in July 2010 to review grant applications.
- The full Board will meet for a 2-day meeting in late August to make funding recommendations.
- The Board will meet for a ½ day in mid-September to consider reconsideration of grants that were denied.

#### 2011

- In February, the full board will meet for its annual meeting
- Summer – possibly meeting with grantees (TBD)

### How will the Grant Process Work?

- Each board member will be assigned to a subcommittee that will be responsible for reading approximately 25 grant applications in July 2010.
- Each subcommittee will meet for one day to discuss the grant applications and to develop its recommendations for funding/denial that will be provided to the full Board in August 2010.
- Each subcommittee will report to the full Board on its recommendations and the Board will decide, as a whole, on which grants will be recommended for funding.
- DCJ staff will make recommendations to the Board as to which of the 3 funds could be utilized for a specific grant.
- The Board as a whole will meet to reconsider any grant application that has been denied funding and where the applicant is requesting the Board to reconsider its decision.

### Summary of the Grant Process

- It is anticipated that during funding years (every other year), board members will need to meet 5.5 days per year (annual meeting – one day, subcommittee meeting – one day, 2-day funding meeting, reconsideration meeting – ½ day).
- The time commitment listed above does not include the time needed for Board members to review grant applications prior to the Subcommittee meetings.
- During non-funding years, it is anticipated that the Board as a whole will meet 3 days (annual meeting – 1 day, 2 days possibly to meet with agencies throughout the state)

### What About Subcommittees of the Board?

- There will be 2 statutory subcommittees, which are already currently in place. Both of these subcommittees have designated members based upon specific representation of various groups. Please see the summary on page 3 for additional information.
- The Standards Subcommittee meets on an as-needed basis to review any violations of the Standards. Approximately every 5-7 years this Subcommittee reviews the current Standards to determine if any changes need to be made. All changes to the Standards must go through the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) process. The Standards were last revised in 2004.
- The Victim Rights Act Subcommittee meets one time per month for a ½ day.

### What Other Board Meetings May Occur? (At times held by conference call or in the future by video conferencing)

- The Board may need to meet to hear an appeal of a VRA Subcommittee's finding. This does not happen very frequently.
- The Board may have to meet if there is an offender who is profiting off his/her crime and a fund needs to be set up for the victims. (Has not yet occurred.)

### What Type of Training will I be Provided as a Board Member?

- At the August, 2009 meeting, DCJ staff will provide training on all 3 of the grant funds, as well as the other responsibilities of the board.
- The members of the Standards Subcommittee and the Victim Rights Act Subcommittee will receive specific training as to its responsibilities.
- Other subcommittees, as determined by the board, may be established.

### Summary

- The time commitment will not be any different than it is for the current Coordinating Committee members.
- The time commitment may be less than it is currently for the VAWA Board members since the grant process will be every two years instead of every year.
- The State VALE Board members currently meet for 3 days a year so the time commitment will increase.
- For those members on the Standards Subcommittee and the VRA Subcommittee, there will be an additional time commitment. Currently, these subcommittees are in place and include members from the Coordinating Committee. There are specific people/positions that are required to be on these subcommittees. For example, on the Standards Subcommittee, there must be a victim compensation administrator, local VALE administrator, local victim compensation board member, local VALE board member, judicial district administrator, and a judge. For the VRA Subcommittee, there must be a deputy district attorney, judge, law enforcement representative, and victim advocates/crime victims.

