



Office on Violence Against Women

FY 2019 Budget Request At A Glance

FY 2018 Continuing Resolution:	\$475.3 million (66 positions; 4 attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$4.7 million
Program Changes:	+\$5.5 million
FY 2019 Budget Request:	\$485.5 million (63 positions; 4 attorneys)
Change From FY 2018 Continuing Resolution:	+\$10.2 million (+2.1%)

Mission:

The mission of the OVW is to provide federal leadership to reduce violence against women, and to support the administration of justice for, and strengthen services to, all victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This is accomplished by developing and supporting the capacity of state, local, tribal, and non-profit entities involved in responding to violence against women.

Organization:

OVW is headed by a Director, who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

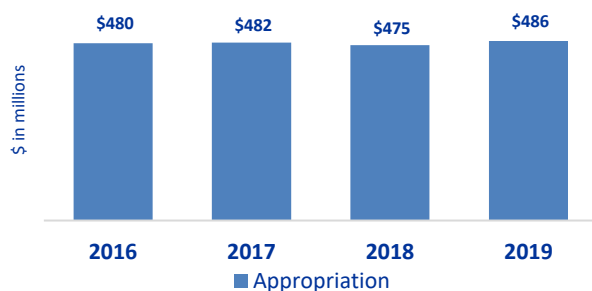
Resources:

The FY 2019 budget request for OVW totals \$485.5 million, which is a 2.1% increase over the FY 2018 Continuing Resolution. The full request is funded as a mandatory appropriation under the Crime Victims Fund.

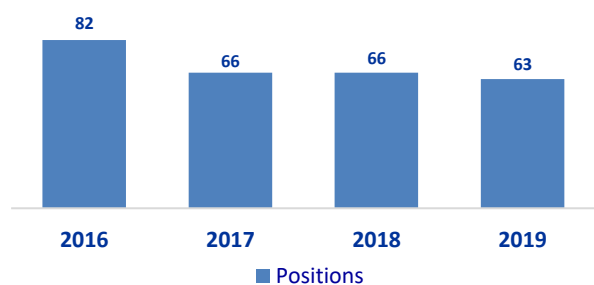
Personnel:

The OVW's direct positions for FY 2019 total 63 positions. OVW's FY 2019 request includes a decrease of three positions from the FY 2018 President's Budget of 66 positions.

Funding (FY 2016 - 2019)



Personnel (FY 2016 - 2019)



*FY 2018 Continuing Resolution

FY 2019 Strategy:

OVW was created specifically to implement the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and subsequent legislation. In 2002, the 21st Century Department of Justice Reauthorization Act established OVW as a separate office within the Department of Justice. OVW administers financial and technical assistance to communities around the country to facilitate the creation of programs, policies, and practices aimed at ending domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

In recognition of the severity of the crimes associated with domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA 1994) as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. VAWA is a comprehensive legislative package designed to end violence against women and was reauthorized in 2000, 2005, and 2013. The legislative history of VAWA indicates that Congress seeks to remedy the legacy of laws and social norms that justified violence against women. Since the passage of VAWA, there have been significant improvements in how the issue of violence against women is addressed.

VAWA was designed to improve criminal justice responses to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking and to increase the availability of services for victims of these crimes. VAWA requires a coordinated community response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, encouraging jurisdictions to bring together players from diverse backgrounds to share information and to use their distinct roles to improve community responses to violence against women. These players include, but are not limited to: victim advocates, police officers, prosecutors, judges, probation and corrections officials, health care professionals, leaders within faith communities, and survivors of violence against women. The federal law takes a comprehensive approach to violence against women by combining tough new penalties to prosecute offenders while implementing programs to aid the victims of such violence. By working together, a system can be created to keep victims safe and hold offenders accountable.

VAWA has led to significant improvements in the criminal and civil justice systems. Findings from a nationwide assessment indicate that VAWA grants were associated with reductions in rape and assault. VAWA has been successful by funding interventions that research has shown to be effective—such as legal assistance, protection order enforcement, and access to medical forensic examinations—across grant programs.

Four priorities guide the FY 2019 Budget request of the Office: 1) reducing the violent crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking; 2) supporting essential services for victims; 3) reaching underserved communities; and 4) ensuring meaningful evaluation of programs and implementation of evidence-based practices.

OVW's greatest challenges in the next two years will be: 1) to make progress in addressing the high levels of sexual assault in the United States; 2) to support services for victims across the country as programs compete for scarce resources; and 3) to continue OVW's statutorily envisioned role as the nation's leading voice on ending violence against women.

FY 2019 Program Changes:

Rural Dom. Violence and Child Abuse Enforcement: \$1.0 million and 0 positions

An additional \$1 million is requested for a total of \$35 million to address a significant need for victim services and a robust criminal justice response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in rural communities.

Transitional Housing: \$3.0 million and 0 positions

An additional \$3 million is requested for a total of \$33 million to support the essential role of transitional housing and supportive services in helping domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking victims to secure permanent housing, employment, and financial independence.

Tribal Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction: \$1.5 million and 0 positions

An additional \$1.5 million is requested to provide grants to tribal governments to support tribal efforts to exercise "special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction" over non-Indian offenders who commit violence against Indian spouses, intimate partners or dating partners, or who violate certain protection orders, in Indian country.

The FY 2019 President's Budget also seeks to streamline grant administration, management, and oversight functions. Currently, DOJ has three separate administrative offices that support its grant programs. In order to streamline services, save taxpayer dollars, and eliminate duplication among DOJ's grant components, the Department has begun efforts by which OJP will serve as a shared management service provider to support all DOJ grant components, resulting in reduced staffing across the grant components.

