



Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)

FY 2022 Budget Request At A Glance

FY 2021 Enacted:	\$513.5 million (80 positions, 5 Attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$0.0 million
Program Changes:	+\$486.5 million
FY 2022 Budget Request:	\$1.0 billion (133 positions, 6 Attorneys)
Change From FY 2021 Enacted:	\$486.5 million (94.7%) (+53 positions; +1 attorney)

Mission:

The mission of the Office on Violence Against Women (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:

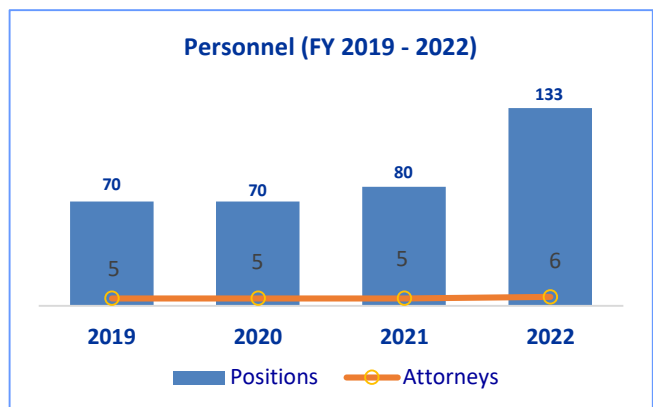
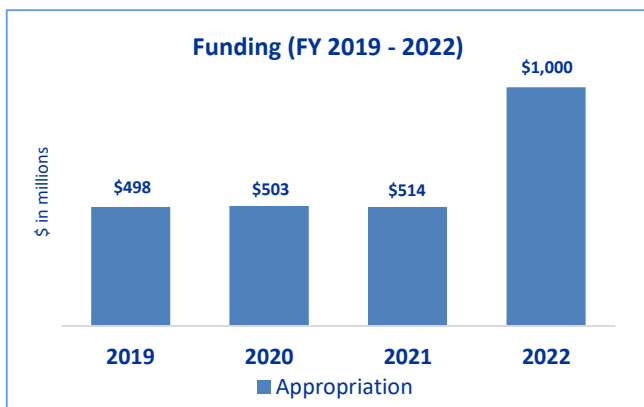
The OVW is headed by a Director, who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The Director oversees the Grant Development and Management, Policy Communication and Evaluation, Budget and Financial Management, and Administration Divisions; additionally, the Director oversees Legal Counsel and Tribal Affairs.

Resources:

The FY 2022 budget request for the OVW totals \$1.0 billion, which is a 94.7 percent increase over FY 2021 enacted.

Personnel:

The OVW's direct positions for FY 2022 total 133 positions which is an increase of 53 positions over the FY 2021 enacted level of 80 positions.



FY 2022 Strategy:

The OVW was created specifically to implement the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA) and subsequent legislation. In 2002, the 21st Century Department of Justice Reauthorization Act established the OVW as a separate office within the Department of Justice. The 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 VAWA 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. Its legislative history 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 effective interventions such as legal assistance, protection order enforcement, and access to medical forensic examinations.

The OVW is committed to supporting projects that meaningfully address the needs of underserved and marginalized survivors, improve access to justice, enhance survivor safety, hold offenders accountable, and build a coordinated community response to violence against women.

The OVW's greatest challenges in the next year will be to:

- Support justice solutions and core victim services as communities compete for finite resources;
- Support communities in preventing and responding to crimes that present unique challenges for law enforcement and victim services, including domestic violence homicide and stalking; and
- Build the internal infrastructure necessary to fulfill the OVW's statutorily envisioned role as the Nation's leading voice on ending violence against women.

FY 2022 Program Changes:

The FY 2022 budget proposal includes \$486.5 million in program increases.

Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors (STOP) Program: \$185.0 million and 0 positions.

STOP funding provides resources for States to combat domestic/dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking through victim services, law enforcement, prosecution, court response, and training for professionals. This significant increase in funding for the OVW's largest grant program will significantly enhance States' and territories' ability to finance coordinated community responses. Current services for this initiative are \$215.0 million.

Research and Evaluation Violence Against Women – National Institute of Justice (NIJ): \$1.0 million and 0 positions.

To enhance the evidence base for VAWA-funded strategies, this provides a \$1.0 million increase that will enable the NIJ to invest further in rigorous research on approaches to serving victims and holding offenders accountable. Current services for this initiative are \$2.5 million.

Transitional Housing Program: \$40.0 million and 0 positions.

Demand from victims far outpaces available resources, a fact exacerbated by ever increasing housing costs and the enduring impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to funding housing units, the Transitional Housing Program supports victims with security deposits, rental assistance, and utility payments. Grantees also provide supportive services, such as counseling, support groups, safety planning, and advocacy services, as well as childcare, employment services, and transportation assistance. Current services for this initiative are \$40.0 million.

Consolidated Youth Oriented Program: \$6.0 million and 0 positions.

This program provides services to children and youth exposed to domestic/dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, as well as youth victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Grantees also use these funds to provide services to non-abusing parents and caregivers. Current services for this initiative are \$12.0 million. While the Consolidated Youth Oriented Program and the Engaging Men and Youth in Prevention program previously shared a single appropriation line, in FY 2022, these programs are being requested as two separate line items.

Engaging Men and Youth in Prevention: \$10.0 million and 0 positions.

This request will promote strategies for engaging boys and men in combating violence against women and girls. Emerging evidence shows that programming designed to

change norms, beliefs, and attitudes around gender roles and violence may help prevent partner violence and sexual assault. These include mentorship, peer-led, and bystander intervention models that the OVW grantees currently employ to combat domestic and sexual violence early in young people's lives. This request provides a program to specifically combat this issue. There are no current services. While the Engaging Men and Youth in Prevention program and the Consolidated Youth Oriented Program previously shared a single appropriation line, in FY 2022, these programs are being requested as two separate line items

Improving Criminal Justice Response/Arrest: \$27.0 million and 0 positions.

This program supports coordinated community responses to domestic/dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, with an emphasis on the criminal justice system's role in holding offenders accountable for their crimes. Further, with the FY 2022 request set asides of up to \$4.0 million for a homicide reduction initiative and \$8.0 million to address domestic violence lethality issues relating to firearms, the OVW will be able to invest in research, practice, and training and technical assistance designed to spot risk factors for domestic violence-related homicide and disarm abusers before they kill. Current services for this initiative are \$53.0 million.

Rural Domestic Violence & Child Abuse Enforcement Assistance: \$2.5 million and 0 positions.

This program supports responses to violence against women in rural areas. This request reflects the need for justice solutions and victim services in communities where both may be out of reach due to resource shortages and infrastructure challenges. Current services for this initiative are \$45.0 million for a total of \$47.5 million.

Legal Assistance for Victims Program: \$33.0 million and 0 positions.

Civil legal assistance provided by attorneys funded through the OVW's Legal Assistance for Victims Program increases the quality, quantity, and efficacy of legal services for domestic violence and sexual assault victims. Research has shown that appropriately trained attorneys have a significant impact on safe outcomes for survivors. Victims who get help from attorneys and community-based advocates may be more likely than victims without that assistance to perceive themselves as having a voice in the justice process. Current services for this initiative are \$47.0 million for a total of \$80.0 million.

Grants to Support Families in the Justice System: \$10.0 million and 0 positions.

This program supports approaches to improving civil and criminal justice systems' responses to violence against women. The program improves how the civil and criminal justice systems respond to families with a history of domestic or sexual violence and stalking, or in cases involving allegations of child sexual abuse. This request reflects the critical role of courts, court-related programs, and legal assistance in helping victims and their children escape violence and rebuild their lives. Current services for this initiative are \$18.0 million.

Campus Violence: \$20.0 million and 0 positions.

Additional funding doubles resources to strengthen colleges' and universities' responses to domestic and sexual violence and stalking. While Campus Violence is not a new

program, the set-aside requested is new, which requests \$20.0 million for grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving institutions, and tribal colleges. These institutions play a critical role in expanding educational opportunities for diverse student populations and frequently impact the broader communities in which they reside. Current services for this initiative are \$20.0 million.

Disabilities Program: \$11.0 million and 0 positions.

To provide accessible, safe, and effective services to individuals with disabilities and deaf individuals who are victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Current services for this initiative are \$6.5 million.

National Deaf Services Line: \$10.0 million and 0 positions.

Services specifically targeted for deaf victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking are limited; only 21 "for Deaf, by Deaf" victims service programs exist nationwide. The result is that most deaf victims must rely on mainstream services providers for assistance, which may not be well-versed in deaf culture, do not provide appropriate accommodations, and have little experience accessing and working with American Sign Language interpreters. In 2019, the OVW commissioned a report on the state of services for deaf victims and recommendations for ways in which to meet the gaps identified. This request will enable the OVW to fund a five-year project to launch and maintain a national Deaf services line, which will provide virtual services to deaf victims of all four VAWA crimes, provide technical assistance to victim service providers working with deaf victims, and pilot strategies to expand "for Deaf, by Deaf" in-person services. There are no current services for this request.

Abuse of Women in Later Life: \$4.5 million and 0 positions.

This program supports strategies for responding to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The request reflects the critical roles that specialized training for criminal justice professionals, cross-training for professionals who work with older adults, and services for victims have in a coordinated community response to abuse in later life. This request also reflects the critical need anticipated by service providers in a post-pandemic environment. Current services for this initiative are \$5.5 million.

Sexual Assault Services Program: \$59.0 million and 0 positions.

To support rape crisis centers and other nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations or tribal programs that provide services, crisis intervention, and related assistance to victims of sexual assault. By more than doubling funding, the OVW will be able to significantly increase the size of awards to states and territories, which are based on population, enabling rape crisis centers to serve tens of thousands more victims each year. Current services for this initiative are \$41.0 million.

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

To assist Tribes in planning, implementing, and exercising special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction to hold accountable non-Indians who commit crimes of domestic violence or dating violence or violate certain protection orders in Indian Country. Current services for this initiative are \$4.0 million.

Restorative Justice: \$25.0 million and 0 positions.

These funds will be used to support promising strategies focused on addressing the harm of domestic and sexual violence, either outside or alongside criminal justice processes. Pilot sites will receive direct support through a competitive solicitation to test and assess existing and proposed models. Training and technical assistance will also be developed and offered to communities and campuses interested in piloting restorative practices. In addition, the OVW will conduct a review of the research on restorative justice and current practices in the field to inform its approach. There are no current services for this request.

Supporting Transgender Victims: \$2.0 million and 0 positions.

These funds will be used to support greater outreach to, and services for, transgender victims of domestic/dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Transgender individuals suffer high levels of violent victimization and are at a much greater risk of dying by suicide than are cisgender individuals. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) individuals, and in particular, lesbian, gay, and bisexual persons of color and transgender persons of all races, may be reluctant to report victimization and seek services for fear of discrimination, and because biases and lack of knowledge compromise the quality and utility of the system's response. Service providers may be unprepared to offer sensitive and appropriate services to LGBT victims of violence; in fact, only an estimated one in five LGBT victims of intimate partner violence or sexual assault seek help from a victim services organization. The funding requested for services for transgender survivors will broaden the OVW's reach to this population that is disproportionately affected by violence and faces greater barriers to safety and justice. There are no current services for this request.

Culturally-Specific Services: \$20.0 million and 0 positions.

These funds will support culturally-specific services for victims. Advocates report that survivors are more inclined to seek services from organizations that are familiar with their culture, language, and background. Culturally-specific community-based organizations are more likely to understand the complex challenges that victims from their communities face when attempting to access services. Funding has previously only been through statutory set-asides totaling \$6.2 million; the funding requested as its own line item will significantly expand the reach of the program. There are no current services as a standalone line item. In FY 2022, \$11.75 million will come from set asides and \$20 million in the new line item.

Community-Based Organizational Capacity Building Program: \$5.0 million and 0 positions.

This funding would provide capacity building support for community-based organizations (culturally-specific, underserved, and other programs serving marginalized populations) to receive training and technical assistance necessary to apply for and successfully implement Federal grant awards. Existing OVW programs provide training and technical assistance to support service provision capacity but do not address the, often confusing, world of Federal regulations and record-keeping requirements for organizations accustomed to receiving private donations and support from local religious institutions. This will provide enhanced capacity to apply for grants, administer grant funds,

avoid audit findings, and provide ongoing services to their communities. There are no current services for this request.

Underserved Populations Program: \$6.0 million and 0 positions.

To support projects to develop and implement outreach strategies and enhanced services for adult and youth victims of domestic and sexual violence in underserved populations. Funding has previously only been through statutory set-asides totaling \$4.5 million; the funding requested as its own line item will significantly expand the reach of the program. There are no current services as its own line item. In FY 2022, \$9.6 million will come from set asides and \$6.0 million in the new line item.

Emerging Issues in Violence Against Women: \$5.0 million and 0 positions.

These funds will be used to design and implement demonstration initiatives and other special projects that address emerging trends and unmet needs relating to gender-based violence. The OVW's current funding structure limits its flexibility to fund pilot projects, address unique or emerging issues, or explore promising practices, as VAWA-authorized grant programs are highly directive in terms of eligible entities, statutory purpose areas, target populations, and other requirements. There are no current services for this request.

Tribal Special Assistant United States Attorneys: \$3.0 million and 0 positions.

To fund an initiative to support tribal prosecutors to be cross-designated as Tribal Special Assistant United States Attorneys (SAUSAs) to address violence against women in Indian Country. These cross-designated prosecutors maintain active violence against women crimes caseloads in tribal court, Federal court, or both, while also helping to promote higher-quality investigations and better inter-governmental communication. The OVW has not had consistent funding to support Tribal SAUSAs. This impedes the hiring and stability of the initiative. There are no current services for this request.

Management and Administration: \$3.6 million and 53 positions

The FY 2022 budget proposal includes a \$3.6 million increase in M&A to support 53 positions (27 FTE). This large increase in positions is needed to right size the staffing level due to a 94.7 percent increase in budget. Current services are 80 positions and \$27.3 million.