



Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)

FY 2023 Budget Request At A Glance

FY 2022 Budget Request:	\$1.0 billion (133 positions, 6 Attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$0.0 million
Program Changes:	+\$0.0 million
FY 2023 Budget Request:	\$1.0 billion (133 positions, 6 Attorneys)
Change From FY 2022 Budget Request:	\$ 0.0 million (0%)

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:

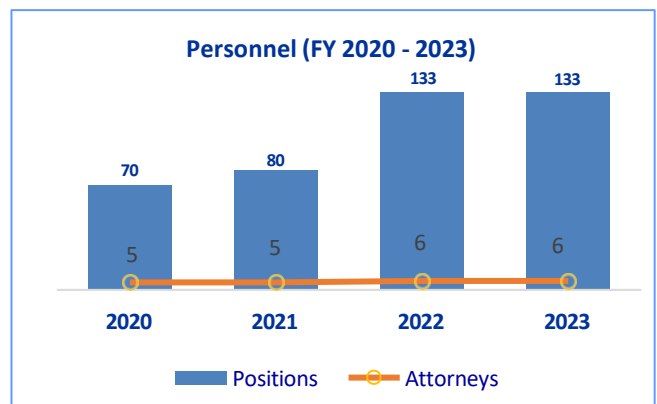
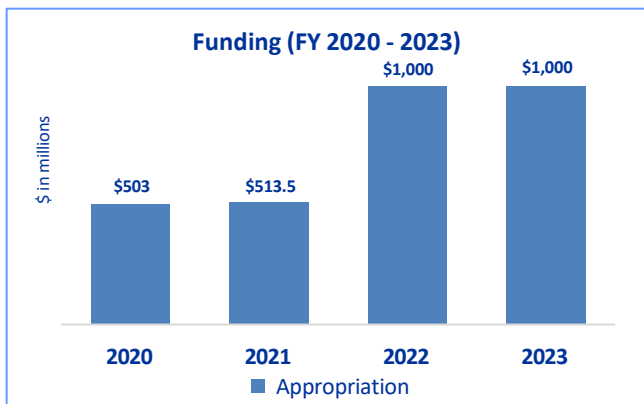
The OVW is headed by a Director, who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The Director oversees the Grant Development and Management, Policy Communication and Evaluation, Budget and Financial Management, and Administration Divisions; additionally, the Director oversees staffs addressing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

Resources:

The FY 2023 budget request for the OVW totals \$1.0 billion, which is equal to the FY 2022 budget request and a 73.9 percent increase over the FY 2022 Enacted.

Personnel:

The OVW's direct positions for FY 2023 total 133 positions which is the same as the FY 2022 budget request.



FY 2023 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 2023 Program Changes:

The FY 2023 budget proposal includes \$80.0 million in program increases and \$80.0 million in program decreases.

Program Increases:

Transitional Housing Program: \$20.0 million
Demand from victim 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 \$80.0 million for a total of \$100 million.

Improving Criminal Justice Response (ICJR) Services: \$3.0 million

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 2023 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 \$80.0 million for a total of \$83.0 million.

Policing and Prosecution Initiative (ICJR set-aside): \$25.0 million

These funds will support law enforcement agencies and prosecutors' offices to ensure the justice system provides viable avenues to safety and justice for victims. These funds will support evidence-based and evidence building practices implemented alongside broader criminal justice reform efforts. This is a non-add within the Improving Criminal Justice Response Program. There are no current services for a total of \$25.0 million.

Prosecution and Investigation of Online Harassment and Abuse (ICJR set-aside): \$3.0 million

These funds will be used to advance the Administration's priority of the serious issue of addressing online harassment, stalking, and abuse. This proposed set aside reflects recent Congressional interest in providing resources to address cyberstalking and online harm. This is a non-add within the Improving Criminal Justice Response Program. There are no current services for a total request of \$3.0 million.

Legal Assistance for Victims Program: \$20.0 million

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 \$80.0 million for a total of \$100.0 million.

Supporting Transgender Victims: \$5.0 million

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. Current services for this initiative are \$2.0 million for a total of \$7.0 million.

Community-Based Organizational Capacity Building Program: \$5.0 million

These funds will provide capacity building support for community-based organizations 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. Current services for this initiative are \$5.0 million for a total of \$10.0 million.

Culturally-Specific Services: \$15.0 million

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. Current services for this initiative are \$20.0 million for a total of \$35.0 million.

Underserved Populations Program: \$4.0 million

These funds will support projects to develop and implement outreach strategies and enhanced services for adult and youth victims of domestic and sexual violence in underserved populations. FY 2022 was the first year that the program requested appropriated funding along with set-aside funding. The appropriated line item will significantly expand the reach of the program. Current services for this initiative are \$15.6 million (\$9.6 million from set-asides and \$6 million appropriated). In FY 2023, \$8.2 million will come from set-asides and \$10.0 million in appropriations for a total of \$18.2 million.

Financial Assistance to Victims of Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Domestic Violence (Financial Assistance Program): \$8.0 million

These funds will support financial assistance for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, to offset costs incurred as a result of their victimization and assist them in pursuing safety and stability as they recover. There are no current services for this request for a total request of \$8.0 million.

Program Decreases:

Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors (STOP) Program: -\$74.0 million

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. Funds the OVW requests to offset from the STOP Formula will be used to strengthen approaches supported through the Legal Assistance for Victims Program, Culturally Specific Services Program, capacity-building technical assistance for community-based service providers, and services for transgender survivors. Current services for this initiative are \$400.0 million and will be reduced to \$326.0 million.

National Deaf Services Line: - \$6.0 million

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. The FY 2022 request of \$10.0 million was intended as a one-time investment to launch the National Deaf Services Line. For FY 2023, OVW is requesting an appropriation of \$4.0 million to support the Services Line. 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. Current services for this initiative are \$10.0 million and will be reduced to \$4.0 million.