

# FEDERAL FUNDER FACTS - MEDICAL FORENSIC EXAMS

U.S. Department of Justice



Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General,  
Associate Attorney General

Office of Justice Programs

Office for Victims of Crime

State Compensation & Assistance &  
Operations Division

Crime Victims Fund (est. by Victims of  
Crime Act (VOCA))

Not financed by taxpayers, but by fines, forfeitures, and other penalties paid by federal criminal offenders. The Fund is dedicated solely to supporting victim services.

VOCA, by statute, is the payer of last resort. All federal programs and provisions supersede VOCA.

Crime Victims  
Compensation

Grants supplemental state funds for reimbursing victims for out-of-pocket expenses resulting from a crime.

Crime Victim  
Assistance

Mandated base amount plus additional funds based on population.

Additional information:

[www.justice.gov/ovw](http://www.justice.gov/ovw) and [www.ojp.gov](http://www.ojp.gov)

Forensic medical examinations for victims to the extent that other funding sources such as state appropriations are insufficient, clinicians are encouraged to follow relevant guidelines or protocols issued by the state or local jurisdiction.

Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)

OVW administers 19 grant programs authorized by the Violence Against Women Act 1994 and subsequent legislation. These programs are designed to develop the nation's capacity to reduce domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking by strengthening services to victims and holding offenders accountable.

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

Defines a Medical Forensic Exam as an exam provided to a sexual assault patient by medical personnel trained to gather evidence of a sexual assault in a manner suitable for use in the court of law. Minimum requirements include exam of physical trauma, determination of penetration or force, patient history or interview, collection and evaluation of evidence.

Formula Grant Programs

The enacting legislation specifies how the funds are to be distributed.

Tribal DV and SA Coalition Programs

SASP – Sexual Assault Services Program

State & Territorial SA and DV Coalition Programs

STOP – Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors

VAWA 2013 - Forensic Medical Examination Payment Requirement: A state/territory/District of Columbia is entitled to funds under the STOP Formula Grant Program only if it, or another governmental entity, incurs the full out-of-pocket cost of medical forensic exams for victims of sexual assault. "Full out-of-pocket costs" means any expense that may be charged to a victim in connection with the exam for the purpose of gathering evidence of a sexual assault. In addition, states may not require victims to participate in the criminal justice system or cooperate with law enforcement in order to receive an exam.

Discretionary Grant Programs

OVW administers these 15 competitive grant programs in accordance with authorizing statutes and federal regulations.

[www.justice.gov/ovw/page/file/914131/](http://www.justice.gov/ovw/page/file/914131/)

[safeta.org/payment](http://safeta.org/payment)