



## Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)

### FY 2017 Budget Request At A Glance

FY 2016 Enacted:	\$480.0 million (82 positions)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$0
Program Changes:	+\$9 million
FY 2017 Budget Request:	\$489.0 million (95 positions)
Change From FY 2016 Enacted:	+\$9 million (+1.9%)

Note: In FY 2016, Congress provided OVW \$480 million. Of this amount, \$101 million is discretionary appropriations and \$379 million is derived from the Crime Victims Fund. The FY 2017 President's Budget requests \$489 million for OVW. Of this amount, \$163 million is discretionary appropriations and \$326 million is funded under the Crime Victims Fund.

#### 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. The Director oversees Grant Development and Management, Policy Communication and Evaluation, Budget and Financial Management and Administration Divisions; additionally the Director oversees Legal Counsel and Tribal Affairs.

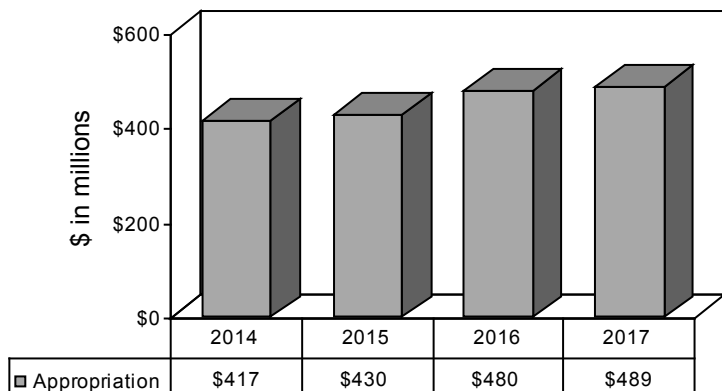
#### Resources:

The FY 2017 budget request for OVW totals \$489.0 million, which is a 1.9% increase from the FY 2016 Enacted.

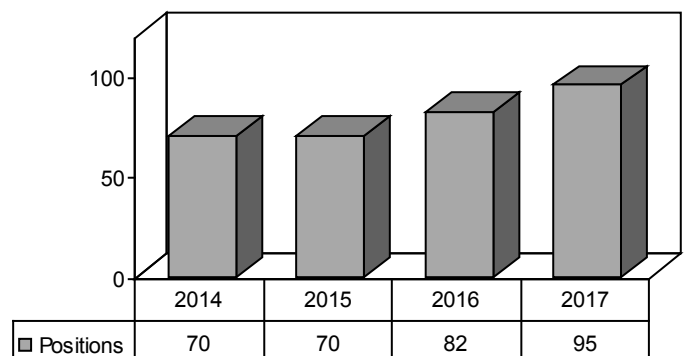
#### Personnel:

The OVW's direct positions for FY 2017 total 95 positions. OVW's FY 2017 request includes an increase of 13 positions over the FY 2016 enacted of 82 positions.

**Funding (FY 2014 - 2017)**



**Personnel (FY 2014 - 2017)**



## **FY 2017 Strategy:**

The OVV was created specifically to implement the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and subsequent legislation. OVV 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.

Four priorities guide the FY 2017 budget request of the Office: 1) supporting essential services for victims; 2) reducing sexual assault; 3) reaching underserved communities; and 4) ensuring meaningful evaluation of programs and implementation of evidence-based practices.

OVV'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 core services for victims across the country as programs compete for scarce resources; and 3) to build the infrastructure necessary to fulfill OVV's statutorily envisioned role as the nation's leading voice on ending violence against women.

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 in March 2013. The legislative history of VAWA indicates that Congress seeks to remedy the legacy of laws and social norms that serve to justify violence against women. Since the passage of VAWA, there has been a paradigm shift 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. OVV has instituted this philosophy at all levels of its work.

VAWA has led to significant improvements in the criminal and civil justice systems, and has been successful by funding proven-effective interventions. Findings from a nationwide assessment indicate that VAWA grants were associated with reductions in rape and assault. In fact, between 1993 and 2012, the number of individuals killed by an intimate partner declined by 37% for women and 63% for men. The annual incidence of domestic violence dropped by 64% from 1993 to 2010.

## **FY 2017 Program Changes:**

**Management and Administration:** \$2.8 million and 13 positions

The request includes 13 positions and \$616,000 to allow for additional monitoring and oversight of OVV grants, provide financial management, and reduce workload per grant analyst. Additionally, the request includes \$2.2 million to implement the Justice Grants Services Network (GrantsNet) program as a shared solution for the DOJ grants management community, to support both internal and external users. Current services are \$20.8 million.

**Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking Program (Arrest):** \$11.3 million and 0 positions

An additional \$11.3 million is requested for a total of \$62.3 million to enable communities to develop specialized law enforcement and prosecution units and dedicated domestic violence courts. Funding will also expand protection order enforcement, sexual assault investigation training, and specialized prosecution. Of the request, \$4 million will be for a new Domestic Violence Firearms Lethality Reduction Program. This initiative will identify and implement promising practices to improve the response of law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and victim service providers in addressing the safety of victims in cases involving firearms. Demonstration projects will be funded in approximately 5 jurisdictions. The FY 2016 enacted level for this program is \$51 million.

**Legal Assistance Program:** \$7.5 million and 0 positions

An additional \$7.5 million is requested for a total of \$52.5 million to provide funding to allow the Legal Assistance to Victims Program to increase the number of projects supported to address the critical shortage of legal services for victims. The FY 2016 enacted level for this program is \$45.0 million.

**Campus Violence:** \$6.0 million and 0 positions

An additional \$6 million is requested for a total of \$26 million. The additional funding will be used to expand victim safety and offender accountability on college campuses and to support implementation of recommendations made by the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault. The FY 2016 enacted level for this program is \$20 million.

**Elder Program:** \$1.2 million and 0 positions

An additional \$1.25 million is requested for a total of \$6.25 million to respond to the increasing need for more widespread training and enhanced services to address elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. The FY 2016 enacted level for this program is \$5.0 million.

**Tribal Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction:** \$2.5 million and 0 positions

An additional \$2.5 million is requested for a total of \$5.0 million for a Tribal Jurisdiction program authorized by Congress in the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013. This program would provide grants to tribal governments and their designees 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 protection orders, in Indian Country. Additional funding is needed for a range of criminal justice improvements, including updating criminal codes, providing counsel to indigent defendants and supporting victims. The FY 2016 enacted level for this program is \$2.5 million.

**Program Offset - Grants to Combat Violence Against Women (STOP):** -\$15.0 million and 0 positions

A decrease of \$15 million to the STOP Program is included in the request.

**Program Offset - Rape Survivor Child Custody Act Program:** -\$2.5 million and 0 positions

Rape Survivor Child Custody Act Program: A decrease of \$2.5 million to the Rape Survivor Child Custody Act Program is included in the request.

**Program Offset - Research & Eval. Violence Against Women:** -\$2.0 million and 0 positions

A decrease of \$2 million to the Research and Evaluation of Violence Against Women is included in the request.

**Rescission - OVW:** -\$5.0 million and 0 positions

The budget proposes to cancel \$5.0 million in unobligated balances.