VADGT Intro Text

Victim Assistance Discretionary Grant Training (VADGT) Program

Under this award, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) made $25 million available to eligible state victim assistance programs to apply for noncompetitive funding to support training and technical assistance for victim assistance service providers and others who work with crime victims. Illinois was awarded $946,913 for federal fiscal year 2015.

The purpose of this program is to provide each state and territory with funding to support training and technical assistance for victim assistance grantees and others who work with crime victims. States are encouraged the use of the funds to enhance existing State Victim Assistance Academies (SVAAs) or to establish new ones. These funds can also support statewide training initiatives, crime victim related conferences, basic training for new programs for underserved victims, and scholarships to service providers and others who work with crime victims. As with all VOCA awards, states would have the year of the award plus three years to spend these funds.

Illinois has an extensive network of coalitions and statewide issue groups that are supported by strong legislation dedicated to victim rights and services. Yet, Illinois is a large, diverse state that still has many unmet needs in the victim services field. Local agencies throughout the state struggle to meet the training and staffing needs for their services. Issue specific training is available in some areas and increasingly required for some positions, but the availability of training that is affordable and the opportunity to hear state and national experts in many fields is often beyond the reach of local agencies.

Funding from this program will be used to expand training opportunities for victim service advocates throughout the state of Illinois.