

VOCA State Plan

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What is the VOCA State Plan?

- The 1984 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) established a federal Crime Victims Fund (CVF). This resources the federal Victim Compensation and the Victim Assistance formula awards.
- The amount of VOCA funding Washington receives fluctuates, because the CVF comprises federal criminal fines, forfeitures and fees (not taxes).
- We have historically managed these fluctuations in the Victim Assistance award with a three year averaging process.

What is the VOCA State Plan?

- OCVA distributes the Victim Assistance funds per the [VOCA State Plan](#). The plan is updated every four years, most recently in March 2024.
 - The VOCA State Plan supports a wide range of victim services through a comprehensive network of providers.
 - The VOCA State Plan is one of the most significant resources for victims in our state, accounting for about 70% of OCVA's total victim services pass through dollars.
 - The federal Victim Assistance Grants have decreased in the last four years; the state budget has supplemented the VOCA State Plan with additional funds to keep funding stable.

The VOCA State Plan supports many victims:

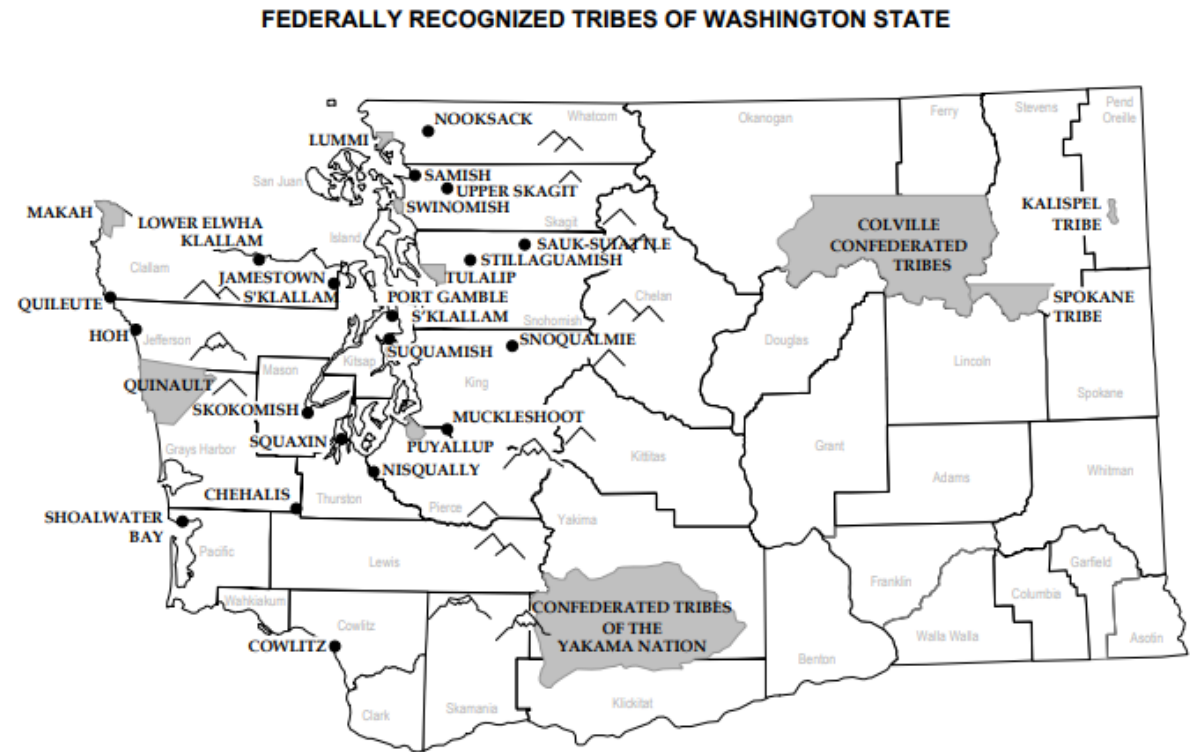
- Arson
- Fraud
- Robbery
- Assault
- Harassment
- Sex trafficking
- Burglary
- Hate crimes
- Sexual assault
- Child abuse and neglect
- Identity theft
- Stalking
- Domestic violence
- Kidnapping/Missing persons
- Survivors of homicide victims
- DUI/DWI/Impaired driving
- Labor trafficking
- Vehicular assault
- Elder abuse
- Protection order violation
- Mass violence and terrorism

And many services:

- Advocacy
- Crisis intervention
- Emergency shelter
- Housing assistance
- Support groups
- Culturally specific healing practices
- Therapy
- Civil legal aid
- Victim witness assistance
- Forensic exams
- Emergency financial assistance
- And much more

The VOCA plan funds services across the state

In all **39 counties** and for **17 tribes**



Impact of the VOCA State Plan

- Across Washington, it funds **140 organizations** (nonprofits, local governments, and tribal programs)
- Funds services for **52,000+ crime victims** each year on average
- Over **378,000 hours of direct services** to crime victims per year
- *As one example*, in SFY 2023, it funded over **60,000 hours of legal advocacy** for crime victims

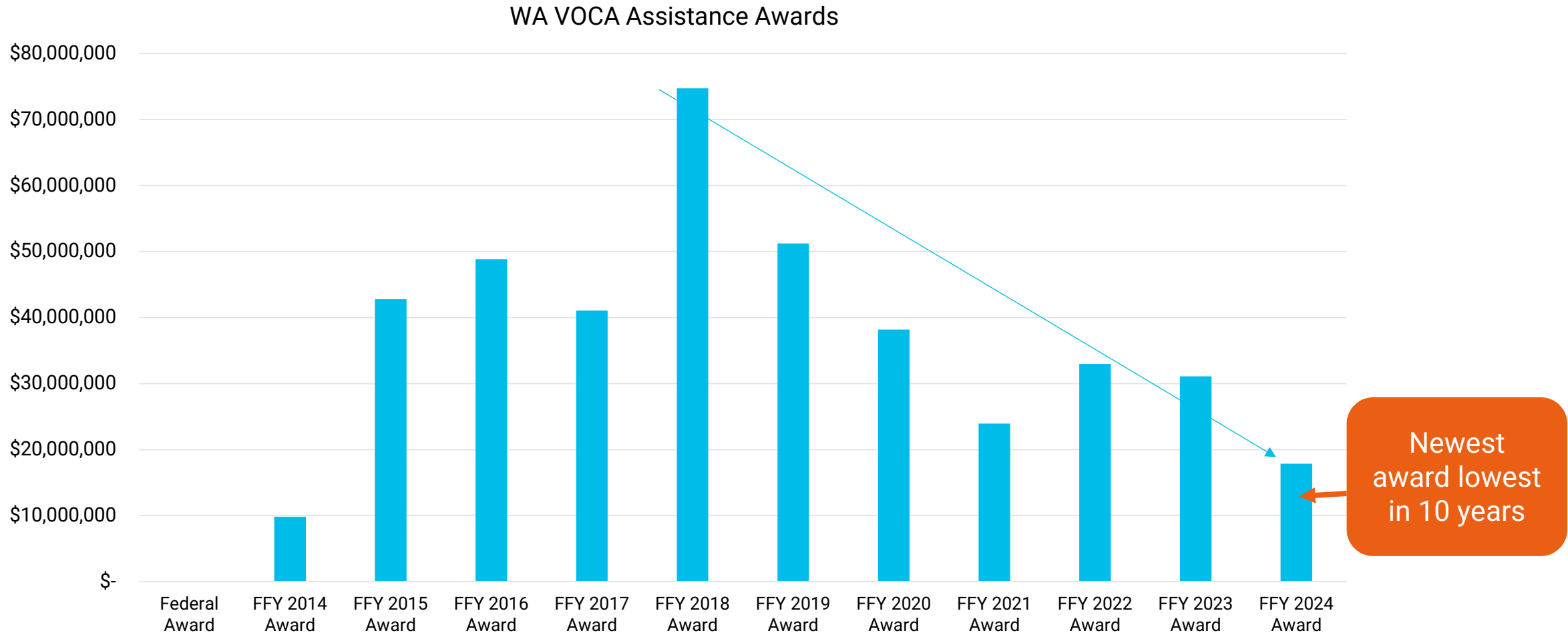
Projected Funding Cliff



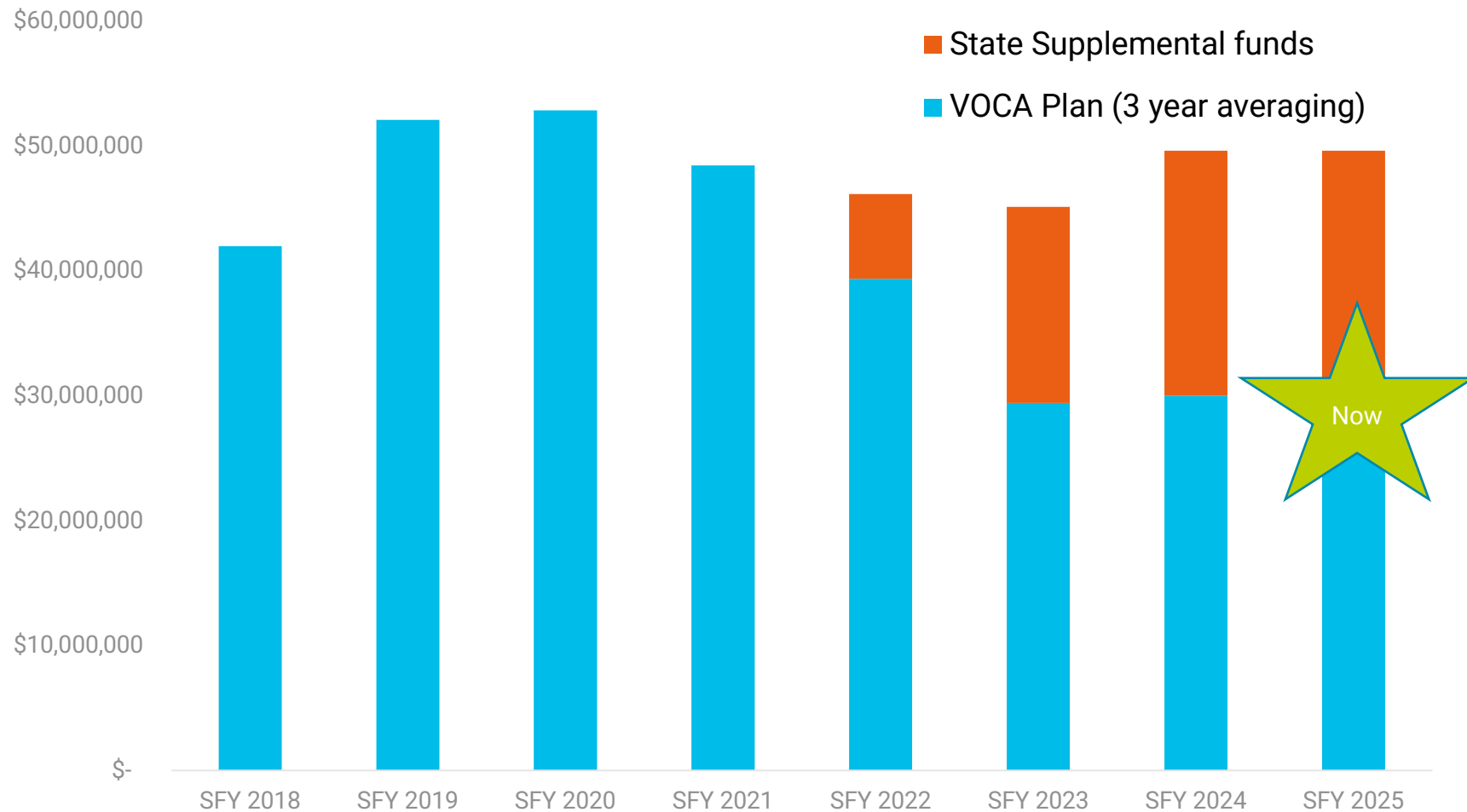
The issue

- Federal funding has steadily declined.
- The State Legislature has provided supplemental funds in the state budget for the past four years.
 - This much-needed help has stabilized funding for the VOCA State Plan.
 - However, the year-to-year supplemental approach does not provide predictable, sustained support for crime victim services programs.
 - Current state supplemental funds set to end June 30, 2025.

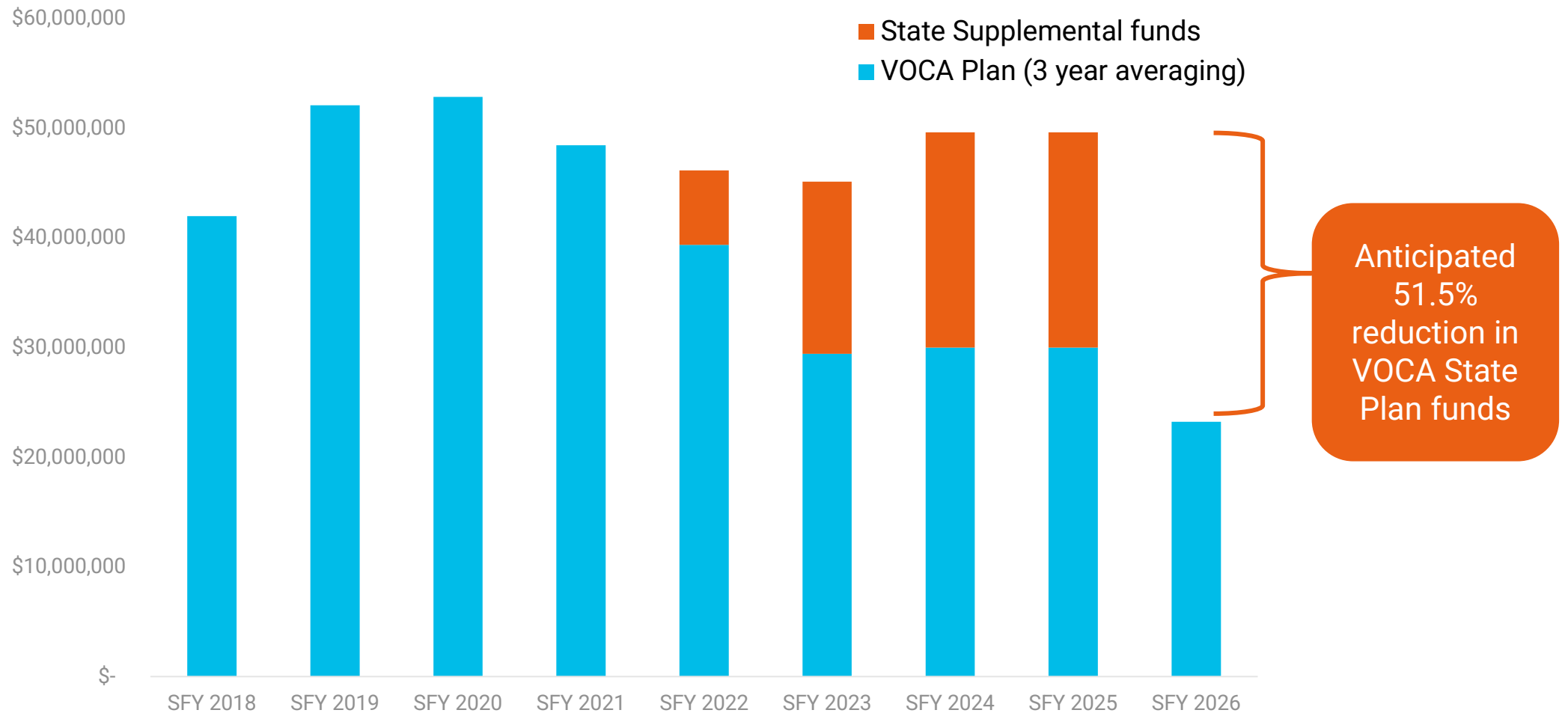
Federal funds are declining since the 2018 high



VOCA funding and supplemental funds



Severe cliff anticipated for SFY 2026 projects



Solutions Explored



Feedback from providers and partners

- OCVA has facilitated conversations with a diverse group of statewide partners (coalitions, associations, etc.).
- They express strong support for a longer-term, sustainable solution to the VOCA funding issues.
- Partners have also called on OCVA and Commerce to demonstrate leadership in addressing this issue.

Partner poll:

What solution do you prefer?

A: OCVA takes no action, and stakeholders advocate directly for funding

B: OCVA submits a budget request for supplemental funds for FY 2025 - 2027

C: Explore longer-term, sustainable solutions – following Maryland's example

100% of participants chose C.

Maryland: Victims Services Stabilization Act

(2) IN EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION THAT, TOGETHER WITH THE AMOUNT RECEIVED UNDER THE FEDERAL VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT IN THE PRIOR YEAR, TOTALS AN AGGREGATE \$60,000,000 FOR THE VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAMS FUNDED UNDER THIS SECTION.

[2023 Regular Session - House Bill 186 Chapter \(maryland.gov\)](https://mga.maryland.gov/bills/2023/regular-session/house-bills/186-chapter)

Commerce 2025 Agency Requests

- In response to these conversations and recommendations, Commerce submitted both Agency Request Legislation and a Decision Package to OFM and the Governor's Office.
 - In our DP, we are requesting approximately \$51M from the state in the 2026-27 biennium.
- We continue to receive a tremendous amount of support from providers and partners across the state.

Closing



Key messages

- Reductions at this level would have *detrimental impacts on communities and survivors*.
 - Multiple entities in each region will be impacted, resulting in a multi-faceted impact on survivors
 - For many providers, many of grants and contracts will be impacted (not just a single grant)
- Long-term, sustainable funding is top priority for providers and partners. Without this, the quality and availability of services to those experiencing harm, crime, and trauma suffer.

**Thank you for your time and
this opportunity.**

