

Response to Questions regarding VOCA NOFO

Question 1:

A participant asked what the VOCA funding amount will be for the next fiscal year and how it compares to the current fiscal year's funding.

The VOCA award amount for SFY 26 is \$12,900,983, but GMU will only be awarding \$10.5 million to help mitigate potential funding reductions in future years.

The current fiscal year's awarded amount was \$13 million.

Question 2:

A participant asked whether the funding strategy will involve cutting everyone's awards proportionally or consolidating funding to fewer agencies.

The current strategy is to maintain the same level of funding across agencies. GMU is not prioritizing funding for new agencies or major program changes due to the decreasing availability of funds.

Question 3:

A participant asked if there could be a larger conversation about efficiency in funding between VOCA and Marriage License funds, particularly regarding requirements such as 24-hour hotlines.

GMU is open to having a discussion in the fall about potential efficiency strategies. A statewide meeting with agency leaders will be planned to discuss service delivery strategies and funding sustainability.

Question 4:

A participant asked whether agencies should expect further reductions in funding and how they should budget accordingly.

The future of victim services funding remains uncertain, and GMU cannot predict exact changes. The current strategy is to hold back a portion of funds to help offset anticipated reductions in upcoming years.

Question 5:

A participant asked about the importance of having ongoing discussions among service providers about program effectiveness, training, and service delivery beyond funding-related conversations.

GMU supports the idea of creating more opportunities for agencies to collaborate on service delivery improvements. Future meetings will be planned to facilitate these discussions.

Question 6:

A participant asked whether culturally specific programs would continue receiving support given the current reductions and the impact on DEI initiatives under the administration.

There is currently no federal guidance on this issue, and technical assistance providers also do not have an answer. Some states are recognizing diversity-related services under the category of "underserved populations," but there is no official directive on this. The current funding is issued under an existing program instruction, and GMU will continue operations as usual unless new guidance is provided. GMU does not have information on future cultural sensitivity requirements or how executive orders may impact VOCA funding in this area.

Question 7:

A participant asked when the VOCA NOFO will be posted and what the turnaround time for agencies to submit applications will be.

The VOCA NOFO has been posted on March 14, 2025. GMU aims to provide a 30-day turnaround time for VOCA applications. VOCA Applications are due Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 5 PM PST.

Question 8:

A participant asked whether there will be funding for FVPSA next year.

No ARPA funding will be available. FVPSA funding has not been cut, and GMU has not received any indication that it will be. While all grant programs face potential funding risks, current funding for FVPSA is still available. If there are any changes, GMU will notify agencies as soon as possible.

Question 9:

A participant asked whether there are drastic changes to eligibility or funding requirements in the updated VOCA NOFO.

There are no major changes to eligibility or funding requirements. The primary changes involve the removal of any elements not explicitly supported by NRS or CFR. GMU leadership has undergone extensive training and review of NRS and CFR requirements to ensure that policies align with legal mandates. Some programming items have been removed, and unnecessary elements have been cut to streamline the application process.

Question 10:

A participant asked about the sequencing of funding announcements for Marriage License, VOCA, and FVPSA awards, stating that it is difficult for agencies to accurately complete their applications without knowing their award amounts from other funding sources. They asked whether GMU would ensure that one funding source is announced before the other to aid in application planning.

GMU understands the challenge of submitting an application without knowing what the other funding sources award amounts will be. Historically, VOCA has been announced before Marriage License or FVPSA, but this year's timeline is slightly different. GMU aims to provide Marriage License award amounts as soon as possible to help agencies prepare accurate applications. While the timeline may shift, agencies should expect Marriage License awards before the VOCA deadline so they can better align their applications. GMU has simplified processes to expedite funding announcements, and updates will be provided to agencies as soon as award amounts are determined.

Question 11:

Some agencies asked for clarification on the VOCA NOFO posting date and whether there will be a 30-day period between the announcement and the submission deadline.

VOCA will have a 30-day submission window from the date it is posted, applications are due by April 15. Marriage License applications are due by April 1, as required by statute, and do not follow the same 30-day application submission rule. GMU has released the VOCA NOFO as of March 14, 2025, to allow sufficient time for agencies to prepare their applications. GMU acknowledges that funding amounts for VOCA

are decreasing and is committed to maintaining clear communication with agencies throughout the process. GMU shared federal legislative updates in the chat regarding potential funding opportunities that agencies may wish to monitor.

Question 12:

Should we answer our questions in the text boxes provided in the application?

Yes. Please complete your application using the text boxes provided.

Question 13:

We noticed two different due dates listed for the VOCA grant. Can you confirm the correct deadline?

We understand where the confusion is coming from. GMU issued two NOFOs at the same time, the Marriage License application is due April 1 and the VOCA application is due April 15.

Question 14:

What is the page limit for Section B of the VOCA proposal narrative?

Please keep your responses concise. As a guideline, three pages per part should be sufficient.

Question 15:

We submitted an agency self-assessment in February with the CJA grant. Do we need to submit another one on the updated form?

Yes. Please complete a new assessment, as we require one for the new state fiscal year (July – June).

Question 16:

The Application Checklist states that page limits, Arial 11-point font, and one-inch margins must be maintained. The only page limit mentioned in the NOFO is for Section C (three pages). Are there additional page limits?

If no page limit is stated in the NOFO, you are free to write more than three pages. However, we encourage applicants to keep responses to approximately three pages, as we need to review many applications.

Question 17:

Our organization had a cost-reimbursable contract before October 2020. Since then, we've had a fee-for-service (hourly rate) agreement. For SFY26, can we propose an hourly rate, or will it revert to cost-reimbursable?

That is up to you. We will generally approve reimbursements for allowable costs under the VOCA program.

Question 18:

Will my Underserved Populations percentage cover Elderly, Persons with Disabilities, Indigenous Populations, and Other Underserved Populations?

Yes. Please distribute the remaining percentage across these groups as accurately as possible.

Question 19:

If I do not include "All Other Victims of Crime" in my total percentage, can we still serve individuals in that category?

Yes. The percentage is an estimate. Since victim demographics are unpredictable, it's understood that you may serve individuals outside of the specified categories.

Question 20:

Section C includes 11 detailed questions but has a three-page limit. How can we provide enough detail?

Please keep responses for Section C within three pages focusing on the most important parts that will help answer the application section, thank you for bringing this to our attention we will be mindful of the page limits and adjust as necessary for future NOFOs.

Question 21:

There is overlap between the Direct Service Quality Narrative and the Shelter Quality Narrative. Should we provide distinct responses or reference information between the sections?

We ask that you define how complaints are handled and how client/resident satisfaction is ensured for both direct services and shelter services. If your responses overlap, please indicate that.

Question 22:

Question 6 in the Shelter Quality Narrative requests that shelter standards be attached, but this is not listed in the checklist. We don't have formal "standards," only policies and procedures. Should we include those instead?

Yes. Please attach your policies and procedures.

Question 23:

If we are not requesting funding for shelter expenses, do we still need to complete the Shelter Quality Narrative section?

Yes. Since your organization provides shelter, we still ask that you complete the section.

Question 24:

We are writing the VOCA grant and have some questions. We will be asking for funding in all the categories listed below:

-Child Abuse

-Sexual Assault

-Domestic Violence

-Underserved Priority Areas-Underserved Victim Populations

In the instructions it states on page 51, number 3, "Please list the projected number of services for each category separately, that will be provided, in clients served and services provided with these grant funds". To list all the goals for each category listed above, we are going to have 4 "Scope of Work" tables with this grant. Is this right?

Yes, that is correct. We need unduplicated data for each service category.

Question 25:

What does unduplicated data mean?

When we ask for unduplicated data, we are looking for the total number of unique individuals. For example, if you serve ten people, we need to know how many are new and how many are continuing. This data helps us conduct programmatic checks to ensure your agency is providing the services it committed to.

Question 26:

Am I allowed to apply if I am not providing services to all priority areas?

Yes, you are allowed to apply even if you are not providing services to all priority areas. We just ask that you specify the expected percentage of priority areas to be served in the application.