



Questions and Answers FY2026 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)

Responses to questions will be posted to this document within 7 calendar days of receipt.

The deadline for receipt of written questions is **February 12, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.**

Please submit your questions to mbcc@mt.gov.

Q1: In the current RFP, it says that "Funding is for a two-year grant period; applicants under this funding opportunity will not be eligible to apply until 2026 if applying for the same project."

Does this mean if an organization is currently working under a VOCA grant that began last fiscal year, we could apply for a second VOCA grant this fiscal year if it is for a different project?

A1: No, only those whose VOCA projects are ending June 30, 2026, are eligible to apply. Also, new applicants to VOCA are eligible to apply.

Q2: The Information in the Description, and on pages 5 & 6 of the application, states: "Match has been waived for this opportunity, grant cycle July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027. There will be no match requirements for this application". However, the project period begins July 1, 2026 and concludes June 30, 2028. Our agency is not a first-time applicant. Would you please clarify the match requirement for agencies that are not first-time applicants and also clarify the waiver of the match related to the discrepancy between the match waiver timeline and the project period timeline?

A2: Match has been waived for this opportunity, grant cycle July 1, 2026-June 30, 2028, for those subrecipients that have had a grant with MBCC. Page 6 – should read July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028.

Q3: The "current mileage and per diem reimbursement rates" on the MBCC site expired 9/30/25. Should we still reference it in our application?

A3: No, the current per diem is attached to this email. Also, we will ensure the MBCC website is updated with the correct information. This is the updated per diem reimbursement rate document: [State Per Diem Rates](#)

Q4: The NOFO states that * "The match has been waived for the grant cycle July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2027. There will be no match requirements for this application. However, you will be required to sign a Match Waiver at the time of accepting the award." The dates stated above are not consistent with the FY2026 application. Please state if the match has been waived or if the match is required.

A4: Match has been waived for this opportunity, grant cycle July 1, 2026-June 30, 2028, for those subrecipients that have had a grant with MBCC. Page 6 – should read July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028.

Q5: The strategy states "VOCA Strategy: To provide direct victim comprehensive services to those affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and under-served populations."



As domestic violence/sexual assault program, we are not supposed to handle child abuse, we are supposed to refer and child abuse to the appropriate agency such as family services. So how do we fulfill providing direct victim comprehensive services to child abuse victims? Does referring to the appropriate child abuse agency fulfill those direct victim services?

A5: Your program fulfills the VOCA Strategy by providing direct services to domestic violence and sexual assault victims. Under VOCA, referral, information, and coordination activities are recognized as allowable direct services.

Q6: We are a first-time applying organization for the VOCA grant opportunity. I simply want to clarify that the match has been waived.

A6: No, the match is not waived for First-Time applicants.

First-Time VOCA applications must:

* Match requirements for first time applicants will be required for this application and match has not been waived as stated in "Cash or In-kind Match" section.

1. Demonstrate a record of providing direct services to crime victims and survivors; and
2. Show that 25% of the project budget contains funds from non-federal sources; description should be included in the Budget Narrative.

This requirement should not be confused with the VOCA required 20% match of the federal (MBCC share). When first-time VOCA applicants demonstrate the 25% nonfederal source in the budget narrative, it can include all or a portion of the 20% match of nonfederal sources.

Q7: We use volunteer hours as in-kind match. Can volunteer hours be utilized on the financial resource disclosure form and would this be categorized as "Other" (Volunteer Hour)?

A7: Yes, you can enter the information on the "other" section of the financial disclosure form.

Q8: Reimbursable expenses - We maintain a reasonable monthly allocation to address emergency needs for youth and families, recognizing that effective victim services often require supporting individuals based on immediate circumstances (for example, short-term lodging following a sudden move, or additional mentor mileage to maintain continuity of services in reservation communities). What is the best way to budget and describe these variable costs, so they remain sufficiently specific, allowable, and reimbursable under VOCA requirements?

A8: When utilizing VOCA funds, remember that they must always be tied to direct services of Victims of Crime. You would use the "other" category with a line item, for example, "emergency victim services."



Q9: Additionally, once these costs are approved within defined budget categories, how does MBCC determine reimbursement eligibility when an emergent expense aligns with the intent and scope of an approved category but is not an exact example listed in the budget narrative? Would such expenses be reimbursable if they are reasonable, well-documented, and directly tied to VOCA-eligible services?

A9: Yes. Reference: 28 CFR Part 94 Subpart B – Sub-Recipient Allowable/Unallowable Costs. Also, Documentation for VOCA-eligible services is mandatory for reimbursement.

Q10: For existing staff positions, can VOCA funds be used to support partial allocations of time that represent expanded or newly dedicated VOCA-specific activities, provided those hours are tracked separately?

A10: VOCA funds can be used for a percentage of a staff member's time. However, federal regulations strictly prohibit supplanting. These hours must be tracked using actual time.

Q11: In the Proposed Budget, should we list only the VOCA-funded portion of each position, or should we show the non-VOCA covered portion for context? If so, how do we list this in the budget?

A11: It is best practice to show the full FTE and salary of the position. Showing the non-VOCA portion helps MBCC see the position's sustainability and ensures there is no supplanting. Example: "Victim Advocate (1.0 FTE) - Total Salary \$45,000. VOCA Request: 50% (\$22,500)."

Q12: If our grant is under consideration, will we be notified in regard to any budget concerns that were found before making a decision?

A12: No, because the VOCA grant is competitive, the application review team will not reach out during the scoring process. Applicants should ensure their initial submission is as transparent as possible to avoid being scored down for "unallowable costs."

Q13: For the match:

- a. There are two different matches required. 25% is required of all new applicants.
- b. There is also a general 20% required of all applicants in general regardless of previous funding.
- c. Since we are a new applicant, we don't have to show a 45% match. If we show a 25% non-federal match, does that covers us for both requirements?
- d. If we document non-federal cash and/or in-kind contributions equal to at least 25% of the total project budget, does that satisfy both the first-time applicant requirement and the VOCA match requirement, or does MBCC require these two match components to be tracked or reported separately, even if derived from the same non-federal sources?

A13a: MBCC requires first-time applicants to demonstrate they have at least 25% of their funding from non-federal sources to prove stability.

A13b: The 20% Match is waived for subgrantees with previous VOCA awards through MBCC.



A13c: MBCC requires first-time applicants to demonstrate they have at least 25% of their funding from non-federal sources to prove stability.

A13d: You do not need to track these as two separate Match's." As long as the total non-federal contribution is at least 25% of the total project cost.

Q14: I seem to remember that not all parts of our business insurance is reimbursable under VOCA. Can you remind me what parts are?

A14: The portion of Business Insurance that we can reimburse is the Professional Liability portion that insures entity workers. Any that covers Board or Executive Officers is not allowed. Submit as backup the Insurance billing that lists professional liability as a line item and that says for employees only. If your billing invoice does not have that, most insurance companies will provide the breakout of the costs.