
UTAH VICTIM SERVICES COMMISSION STUDY

Administering Services for Crime Victims: A 7-State Comparison

Final Report
July 2026

Christian Sarver, PhD

Megan Foster, MSW

Mariah Cowell Mercier, MSW, PhD



THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Utah Criminal Justice Center

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
UTAH COMMISSION ON CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE JUSTICE
S.J. QUINNEY COLLEGE OF LAW

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	4
ALABAMA.....	6
DEMOGRAPHIC AND CRIME DATA	6
CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS	6
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE	6
DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING	7
CRIME VICTIM COALITIONS.....	10
ALABAMA ACRONYMS.....	11
CALIFORNIA.....	12
DEMOGRAPHIC AND CRIME DATA	12
CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS	12
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE	12
DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING	16
CRIME VICTIM COALITIONS.....	22
CALIFORNIA ACRONYMS	22
COLORADO.....	24
DEMOGRAPHIC AND CRIME DATA	24
CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS	24
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE	24
DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING	26
CRIME VICTIM COALITIONS.....	29
COLORADO ACRONYMS	29
GEORGIA.....	31
DEMOGRAPHIC AND CRIME DATA	31
CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS	31
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE	31
DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING	34
CRIME VICTIM COALITIONS.....	37
GEORGIA ACRONYMS	38
MASSACHUSETTS	39
DEMOGRAPHIC AND CRIME DATA	39
CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS	39
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE	39
DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING	41
CRIME VICTIM COALITIONS.....	43
MASSACHUSETTS ACRONYMS	43
MICHIGAN.....	44
DEMOGRAPHIC AND CRIME DATA	44

CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS	44
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE	44
DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING	46
CRIME VICTIM COALITIONS	48
MICHIGAN ACRONYMS	48
WASHINGTON	49
DEMOGRAPHIC AND CRIME DATA	49
CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS	49
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE	49
DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING	51
CRIME VICTIM COALITIONS	56
WASHINGTON ACRONYMS	56
UTAH	57
DEMOGRAPHIC AND CRIME DATA	57
CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS	57
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE	58
DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING	59
CRIME VICTIM COALITIONS	60
FEDERAL ACRONYMS	61
CONCLUSION	62
APPENDICES: STATE STRUCTURE DIAGRAMS	65
ALABAMA	66
CALIFORNIA	67
COLORADO	69
GEORGIA	71
MASSACHUSETTS	72
MICHIGAN	73
WASHINGTON	74
UTAH	76
LEGEND	78

INTRODUCTION

This section profiles seven states with respect to processes and institutions for establishing and upholding crime victim rights and ensuring adequacy of criminal justice and community responses and services for victims. The seven states are: Alabama, California, Colorado, Georgia, Massachusetts, Michigan, and Washington. They were chosen either because of their similarity to Utah or because they were identified by the Utah Victim Services Commission as being of interest. Information for each state was gathered from publicly available sources as well as interviews and other communications with victim service agencies and partners. Information from the following domains was collected for each state.

Demographics

Each state profile presents population and demographics¹, rates of person crimes, and monies awarded through victim compensation programs by funding sources, crime rate, and number of claims. This information provides a metric for evaluating how Utah compares with other states in terms of funds allocated to crime victims and services.

Crime Victim Rights

All states consulted for this report have legislation that codifies the rights of crime victims; in most states, that legislation mirrors the federal **Crime Victim Rights Act**, which was adopted in 2004². Broadly, that legislation is designed to ensure rights attendant to criminal justice processes, including due process, the right to confer with decision-makers, and notification and participation in criminal justice proceedings. The **National Crime Victim Law Institute** identifies ten core victim rights, defined below, and all fifty U.S states include some iteration of the following rights:

- The right to be treated with dignity and respect
- The right to notification
- The right to be present at/attend proceedings
- The right to be heard
- The right to reasonable protection from intimidation and harm
- The right to restitution
- The right to information and referral
- The right to apply for victim compensation
- The right to speedy proceedings
- The right to enforcement

In addition, all states reviewed here had codified some iteration of the following rights:

- The right to employer intercession to participate in criminal justice proceedings
- The right to have property taken as part of an investigation returned
- The right to have information that might compromise victim safety protected in testimony and court records

¹ Statistical and demographic information for each state represents FY2024 unless otherwise indicated.

² Cassell, P. & Morris, M. R. (2024). Defining 'victim' through harm: Crime victim status in the Crime Victims' Rights Act and other victims' rights enactments. *American Criminal Law Review*, 61, 329-388.

Most states have a separate bill of rights that applies specifically to **victims of sexual assault**. Broadly, those statutes include: the right to a no-cost forensic exam and the right to be notified of the results and status of that exam.

All states have additional rights for **child victims**, typically including plain language requirements for describing rights and processes and the presence of advocates to support and protect the child victims' needs.

States vary in terms of who qualifies as a "victim," with regard to rights, which entities are responsible for notifying rights holders and for which crimes, and the specificity of the statutory language describing the right. For example, under the "right to be heard," some states include language allowing victims to review and submit information in pre-sentence reports. Variations across states are presented in individual state profiles. This information allows partners to compare the breadth of victim rights legislation in Utah to other states.

Administrative Structure

This section describes the degree of coordination and integration of state-level processes for allocating victim services funding, ensuring victims' rights, and making policy and planning recommendations for responding to crime victimization. In addition, an organizational chart was created for each state that identifies the entities responsible for portions of the response to victimization. This information facilitates a comparison between Utah and other states with respect to balancing coordination regarding the allocation of resources and decision-making related to crime victimization while incorporating the perspectives of victims, service providers, and communities.

Distribution of Funding

This section provides an overview of the state-level entities responsible for distributing state and federal funds for the provision of victim services and crime victim compensation. This includes the amount of state and federal monies allocated by year, the processes through which decisions are made about allocation, funding formulas, measures to stabilize funding in the context of reduced federal funds, and the collection and use of performance measures. This information demonstrates how states have implemented processes and systems for maintaining adequate victim services.

Crime Victim Coalitions

This section describes the number and types of state-level coalitions related to crime victimization, and their roles in state-level advocacy and decision-making. This information provides examples of novel ways that states have worked with coalitions to ensure the voices of crime victims and victim service agencies are represented in state-level decision-making.

ALABAMA

Demographic and Crime Data

U.S. CENSUS DATA 2026	ALABAMA	UTAH	U.S. NATIONAL
State Population	5,157,699	3,503,613	340,11,988
Population per sq. mile	99.2	39.7	93.8
Median Household Income	\$62,027	\$91,750	\$78,538
Persons in Poverty	13.4%	8.3%	10.6%
Uniform Crime Report Data FY24			
Crimes Against Persons	95,013	46,865	10,274,553
VICTIMS COMPENSATION³			
Federal Allocation	State Allocation	State Fines/Fees/Restitution	
\$385,000	\$1,500,000	\$2,649,682	
Total Spent	Costs per Claim	Costs per State Population	
\$3,365,843	\$1,610.45	\$0.65	

Crime Victim Rights

The [Alabama Crime Victim Rights Act \(ACVRA\)](#) recognizes that victims need “dignity, respect, information, and a meaningful voice in the criminal justice process.” By statute, these rights apply to anyone who has had a criminal offense committed against them or is the survivor of someone who was killed as the result of a criminal offense. In addition to the broad array of rights, victims in Alabama have the right to refuse to confer with the defendant or representatives. In Alabama, these rights are not automatic and must be affirmatively requested in writing (law enforcement agencies are required to provide a form to victims to request their rights during the initial contact). Victims of [sexual assault](#) have additional rights under the legislation, including the right to a forensic exam at no cost, preservation of the rape kit, and receipt of the results of the rape kit. The law assigns specific and unique duties regarding notification and the provision of rights to law enforcement and prosecutors.

Administrative Structure

Victim service funding in Alabama is administered through three executive agencies. Most victim services grant funding is administered through the **Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA)**. Additional domestic violence-related grants are administered through the **Department of Human Resources (DHR)**. A separate agency, the **Children’s Trust Fund**, administers funding and technical assistance for all child abuse prevention efforts.

³ Figures from publicly available data for 2024. Additional revenue came from interest and miscellaneous sources: \$1,050,731

Victim compensation is overseen by an independent **Crime Victim Compensation Commission (CVCC)**.

Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA)

ADECA administers a blended portfolio of state and federal victim-services funding through the **Human Services Unit** within the **Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division (LETS)**. This Unit administers federal and state victim services grants focused on emergency shelter, advocacy, forensic exams, and coordinated justice system navigation.

Department of Human Resources

DHR was created to serve at-risk children and families. The agency administers child and adult welfare programs, family support services, and financial assistance. The **Children's Justice Task Force** is housed within DHR.

Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention/ Children's Trust Fund

The Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention/ The Children's Trust Fund, created in 1983, is a state-level agency that focuses entirely on child maltreatment prevention. CTF is the state chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America.

Children's Services Facilitation Team (CSFT)

Interagency teams formed to meet the requirements of children with multiple needs.

Crime Victim Compensation Commission (CVCC)

CVCC was founded in 1984 via the **Alabama Crime Victims Compensation Act**⁴ to ensure that victims of violent crimes and their dependents are assisted financially and socially. The commission is empowered to provide compensation for actual expenses incurred as a result of experiencing a violent crime.

CVCC is an independent agency governed by three gubernatorial appointees, confirmed by the Senate, serving staggered four-year terms. Statutory membership requires representation from law enforcement with at least 10 years of violent-crime investigation experience and an individual with direct or indirect victimization experience.

CVCC is the payor of last resort for compensation to victims of violent crime and has strict requirements for eligibility. The victim: 1) must report to law enforcement within 72 hours of the incident and must apply within 1 year of the incident, except in extenuating circumstances, 2) must cooperate with law enforcement through prosecution, 3) cannot contribute to own victimization, 4) cannot commit a crime during the application period, and 5) must be legally in the U.S. Funds can be used to pay for some security upgrades, but no property expenses.

Distribution of Funding

⁴ <https://acvcc.alabama.gov/about/acvcc-law/>

AGENCY	FEDERAL GRANT	FY24	STATE ADMINISTRATOR ⁵
BJA	VOCA	\$11,850,932	Department of Economic and Community Affairs
	VOCA CVC	\$385,000	Alabama Crime Victims' Compensation Commission
	Coverdell	\$309,524	Department of Economic and Community Affairs
OVW	SASP	\$916,732	Department of Economic and Community Affairs ⁶
	STOP	\$2,643,687	Department of Economic and Community Affairs
ACF	CJA	\$266,044	Department of Human Resources
	CAPTA	\$1,581,800	Department of Human Resources
	FVPSA	\$2,193,842	Department of Economic and Community Affairs
ARPA		\$55,000,000	Department of Finance

Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA)

Federal Funding

ADECA received over \$300M in federal funding in FY24.

ADECA's Human Services Unit administers several federal grants, including VOCA, FVPSA, SASP, and STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program. In FY2024, the Human Services Unit awarded 172 federal grants totaling \$26.8 million. An additional \$1.5 million from the state general fund is projected for FY2025.

Domestic Violence Trust Fund

State grant funding is provided to domestic violence shelters, certified by the **Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence**, across the state. The grants are funded by fees from Marriage Licenses. ADECA received \$3M from the Trust Fund in FY24. In 2024, 16 grants totaling \$1.5M were awarded to programs. Funded programs must provide a 10% local match and demonstrate collaboration through three letters of support. As defined by statute, allocation formulas (based on population, rurality, geography, and domestic-violence rates) are reviewed annually and updated with new census data every five years.

Outcomes

ADECA has a monitoring process for funded programs, but not outcome measures. There is a decentralized process for identifying gaps and needs, which is left to grantees in collaboration with local partners.

Department of Human Resources (DHR)

DHR administers three domestic violence-related federal grants: TANF, Children's Justice Act (CJA) funds, and Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) funds.

In FY24, DHR had a total budget of nearly \$3B. Relevant funding sources include:

- Federal Child Abuse Grant \$1,236,553
- TANF \$125,443,163
- Federal Title IV-B (Child Welfare) \$13,000,000
- Federal Title IV-E (Children programs, matching) \$75,000,000
- State General Fund \$121,405,400
- Children's First Trust Fund \$9,871,073

⁵ Official administrator listed with federal agencies

⁶ Nonprofit grant applications are submitted directly to the Alabama Coalition Against Rape, but ADECA is the federal administrative body.

Children's Justice Task Force

The Children's Justice Task Force within DHR oversees funding for Children's Justice Centers and provides mini-grants for training and professional development of local multi-disciplinary teams.

Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention/ Children's Trust Fund

In 1983, the state created an agency dedicated solely to the prevention of child maltreatment called the Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention, The Children's Trust Fund. Legislation included regulations for a funding stream, a board, staff, etc. This entity uses state (General Fund and Education Trust Fund) and federal (TANF, ARPA, CAPCA) dollars to fund prevention programs across the state.

CTA receives additional funds from DHR for TANF and Expanded Learning Possibilities (ELP) programs, \$9,095,387 in FY24.

ADCANP had a total budget of \$23,112,451 in FY24⁷. They receive federal funds from the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Grant Program (CBCAP), \$1,200,000 in FY2024.

State General Fund	\$462,254
Education Trust Fund	\$8,924,522
Child Abuse Prevention Operating Fund	\$11,310,387
Children First Trust Fund	\$2,415,288

Children's Services Facilitation Team (CSFT)

CSFTs are funded from the **Children's First Trust Fund** and transfers from participating agencies. In FY24, they received \$4,358,550 from the Children's First Trust Fund and \$547,800 from transfers.

Crime Victim Compensation Commission

The maximum award for victims from CVCC is \$15,000, with limitations on certain expenses. Compensation can cover medical and psychiatric care, lost wages due to crime, funeral expenses, and the victim's rehabilitation.

The Commission pays only expenses not covered by another source, such as insurance or workers' compensation. The victim or claimant must not receive compensation from two sources.

Department of Finance

DOF received \$55 million in **ARPA** funds for distribution to state agencies providing programs and services related to food security, child welfare, victims of domestic violence, mental health treatment, housing security, and summer learning opportunities for children.

Funding Sources

The CVCC is funded primarily by revenue from court cases:

⁷ From the [FY2024 Alabama State Budget](#)

TYPE	AMOUNT
FINES	\$2.00 traffic citation \$10.00 misdemeanor \$15.00 for felony
FELONY VICTIM ASSESSMENT FEE⁸	\$50-\$10,000 possible
MISDEMEANOR VICTIM ASSESSMENT FEE⁹	\$25- \$1,000 possible

In 2023, the legislature appropriated \$2M to cover rising costs. Continued state support is not certain.

In FY24, CVCC had a total budget of \$2,870,000.

STATE COURT FINES AND FEES	\$2,400,000
RESTITUTION RECOVERY	\$185,000
VOCA	\$180,000 ¹⁰
STATE GENERAL FUND	\$100,000
CIVIL SUITS	\$5,000

The CVCC tracks outcomes using a claims management system.¹¹ Through this system, they monitor the number of claims received, the number of claims paid, and the time it takes to process them. They also track the number of SAFE exams paid for. The CVCC aims for a 90-day turnaround on all claims.¹²

Crime Victim Coalitions

Alabama has three major coalitions that serve as umbrella organizations for their respective populations. Each is responsible for training, technical assistance, community education/prevention efforts, and advocacy around state policy. Coalitions certify service organizations and advise on funding decisions.

Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence ([ACADV](#))

DHR administers TANF funds to eligible domestic violence victims through ACADV's [SAIL Project](#).

Alabama Coalition Against Rape ([ACAR](#))

ACAR receives and approves SASP applications.

Alabama Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, Inc. ([ANCAC](#))

A fourth coalition, **Victims of Crime and Leniency ([VOCAL](#))**, is an advocacy, community education, and direct service organization. Services include a 24-hour crisis hotline, court advocacy program, an online victim assistance resource portal, and peer support groups.

⁸ CVCC receives the first \$25 of the assessment and any portion above the minimum. The Office of Prosecution Services (OPS) receives the second \$25 of the assessment.

⁹ CVCC receives the first \$12.50 of the assessment, plus any portion above the minimum. OPS receives the second \$12.50 of the assessment.

¹⁰ Federal allocations and state budgets differ by fiscal years and when states choose to draw down grant funds.

¹¹ Staff indicate that this system is old and in need of updating.

¹² The CVCC had a backlog of 1900 cases in 2023 but are now current on claims.

While VOCAL is primarily a service provider, they also serve to organize victims around advocacy efforts.

Alabama Acronyms

ACRONYM	NAME	DESCRIPTION
ACADV	Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence	State Coalition
ACVRA	Alabama Crime Victim Rights Act	State Legislation
ACAR	Alabama Coalition Against Rape	State Coalition
ADECA	AL Department of Economic & Community Affairs	Executive Department
ANCAC	AL Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, Inc	State Coalition
CSFT	Alabama Children's Services Facilitation Team	State Program
CVCC	Crime Victims Compensation Commission	Independent Commission
DHR	Department of Human Resources	Executive Department
LETS	Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division	ADECA Division
OPS	Office of Prosecution Services	Judicial Department
VOCAL	Victims of Crime and Leniency	State Coalition

CALIFORNIA

Demographic and Crime Data

U.S. Census Data 2026	California	Utah	U.S. National
State Population	39,431,263	3,503,613	340,11,988
Population per sq. mile	253.7	39.7	93.8
Median Household Income	\$99,122	\$91,750	\$78,538
Persons in Poverty	11.80%	8.3%	10.6%
Uniform Crime Report Data FY24			
Crimes Against Persons ¹³	475,878	46,865	10,274,553
VICTIMS COMPENSATION			
Federal Allocation	State Allocation	State Fines/Fees/Restitution ¹⁴	
\$23,206,000	\$17,271,000	\$107,905,000	
Total Spent	Costs per Claim	Costs per State Population	
\$47,801,526	\$1,427.47	\$1.21	

Crime Victim Rights

The California Constitution, Article I, § 28, defines a victim as "a person who suffers direct or threatened physical, psychological, or financial harm as a result of the commission or attempted commission of a crime or delinquent act." The term 'victim' also includes the person's spouse, parents, children, siblings, or guardian, and includes a lawful representative of a crime victim who is deceased, a minor, or physically or psychologically incapacitated. In addition to the broad array of rights, known as [Marsy's Law](#), victims in California have the right to refuse an interview, deposition, or discovery request from the defendant or a representative, and the court is mandated to order restitution in any incident where a victim has experienced harm (regardless of sentence or disposition). Victims have the right to see the pre-sentence report at the same time as the defendant. California has a separate [Sexual Assault Survivor's Bill of Rights](#), which provides the right to accompaniment during a forensic exam, the right to apply for a temporary protective order, a free copy of the crime report, and states that collected DNA cannot be used against the victim.

Administrative Structure

Office of Emergency Services, Victim Services Branch

The California Office of Emergency Services' Victim Services Branch ([VSB](#)) was founded in 2004. VSB falls under the Grants Management Division and primarily provides funding to victim service providers. Victim Compensation is overseen by a separate board.

¹³ Includes Assault Offenses, Homicide Offenses, Human Trafficking Offenses, Kidnapping/ Abduction, Sex Offenses, and Violations of No Contact/Protection Order

¹⁴ From state restitution fund

VSB was placed in OES following a major restructuring, but the breadth of OES priorities overwhelms VSB. Interest in California is for Victim Services to have its own office and include compensation.

Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force

The mission of the [Children's Justice Act Task Force](#) is to promote activities that improve:

- the handling of child abuse and neglect cases, particularly cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation, in a manner that limits additional trauma to the child victim;
- the handling of cases of suspected child abuse or neglect-related fatalities; the investigation and prosecution of cases of child abuse and neglect, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation; and
- the handling of cases involving children with disabilities or serious health-related problems who are the victims of abuse or neglect.

The Task Force is composed of 17 members with knowledge and experience of the justice system and child welfare. The Task Force is responsible for assessing state child abuse and neglect systems every three years.

The CJA Grants to State Program is administered by VSB, but some child welfare programming and grants are administered by the Office of Child Abuse and Prevention. CJA grant funds should be used to implement State Task Force recommendations. Currently, 4 programs are funded by CJA funds:

- Child Abduction Training (AC) Program
- California Children's Justice Act Evaluator (CJ) Program
- Minor's Counsel (MC) Program
- School Resource Officer Training (SO) Program

State Advisory Committee on Sexual Assault Victim Services (SAC)

The SAC provides oversight to the child and adult sexual abuse crisis and intervention programs. Members are nominated by the community, based on position, and approved by the SAC Executive Committee.

Sexual Assault Service Providers ([SASPS](#))

SASPS are funded through a mix of federal and state funds. State funds are 40%. OES provides training and technical assistance. SASPS must meet 8 service areas to receive funding:

- Crisis intervention, 24 hours per day, seven days per week.
- Follow-up counseling services.
- In-person counseling, including group counseling.
- Accompaniment services.
- Advocacy services.
- Information and referrals to victims and the general public.
- Community education presentations.
- Rape prevention presentations and self-defense programs.

Previously funded agencies will receive renewed funding unless it has been shown to not meet standards¹⁵

Sexual Assault Healthcare Services

- OES must create a [training course](#) for sexual assault healthcare
- Tasks agencies with the [creation](#) of standardized sexual assault forensic medical evidence
- Victims cannot be charged for [SANE exams](#). Costs are covered by law enforcement and reimbursed by OES through STOP funds.

Child Sexual Abuse Treatment (CS)

OES provides grants to CSA counseling and prevention programs

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Steering Committee

The VOCA Steering Committee is tasked with identifying victim service needs, including training needs, and developing a strategic plan for victim assistance in California.

Local Assistance Center for Victims and Witnesses

Funded through **Victim-Witness Assistance Fund**. OES sets training standards and certifies agencies.

Victim Witness Advocate Training (TP): OES establishes a training program and provides funding for providers to attain training

STOP VAW Implementation Plan Committee

Tasked with planning and development of California's STOP funding and implementation. ***Domestic Violence Advisory Council (DVAC)***

DVAC ensures the safety and security of all Domestic Violence victims through the development of policies, procedures, and priorities that promote effective and accessible services for victims.

DVAC has up to 13 voting members. At least half of the council membership must be domestic violence victims' advocates or service providers. Membership should reflect the ethnic, racial, cultural, disability status, and geographic diversity of the state. Seven members are appointed by the Governor, three are appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, and three are appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.

There are also two non-voting members: one is appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, and the other is appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.

California Victims Resource Center ([CVRC](#))

CVRC is a [statutory](#) entity funded through OES. It administers the state victim helpline, provides technical assistance to victim service providers, and is a repository of victim service information across California.

¹⁵ OES conducts site visits every 3 years.

CA Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation (CDCR), Office of Victim & Survivor Rights & Services (OVSRS)

DCR oversees the incarceration of individuals convicted of felony offenses and supervises those on parole. The Legislature established the **Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Working Group** during the 2023-2024 biennium to explore issues of sexual violence experienced by women in custody. A report was submitted in [March 2024](#).

CDCR also maintains the [Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services \(OVSRS\)](#). OVSRS facilitates restorative justice programs, administers victim notifications, provides support for victims during parole hearings, and collects restitution.

CA Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Department of Social Services (DSS)

DSS provides services for needy and vulnerable children and adults. It operates programs that provide cash assistance, social services, disability evaluation, community care licensing, and other services.

The **Trafficking and Crime Victims Assistance Program** provides cash aid and social services to noncitizen victims of human trafficking, domestic violence, and other serious crimes who meet the income and eligibility requirements. Benefits are available for up to 8 months for adults without children and up to 48 months for families (under CalWORKs).

Children and Adult Services and Licensing: This division consists of three major areas: Child Welfare Services, Child Abuse Prevention, and Adult Protective Services.

Government Affairs Agency, Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB)

The California Victim Compensation Board was formed in 1967. It is currently housed in the Government Operations Agency within the Executive Branch.

[CalVCB](#) is a three-member Board which includes: the Secretary of the Government Operations Agency (Chair), the State Controller, and a public member appointed by the Governor.

Board members set policy for the organization and make decisions on matters, including appeals for **victim compensation** and claims of **persons erroneously convicted of felonies**.

Trauma Recovery Centers

CalVCB funds Trauma Recovery Centers (TRCs) statewide and satellite offices created to assist rural and underserved communities. TRCs provide trauma-informed mental health treatment to crime victims who may not be eligible for CalVCB services

Mass Violence Event Support

CalVCB coordinates with local communities to assist with the response to mass violence events. Victims and their families have seven years from the date of a mass shooting to apply.

Erroneous Conviction Claims

CalVCB compensates those who are erroneously convicted of a felony. Compensation

for approved claims is calculated at the statutory rate of \$140 per day of wrongful incarceration.

California's Forced or Involuntary Sterilization Compensation Program (FISCP)

This program compensates survivors of state-sponsored forced or involuntary sterilization. CalVCB completed the administration of the Forced or Involuntary Sterilization Program in early 2025. The final annual report can be found [here](#).

Department of Justice/ Office of the Attorney General

The Office of the Attorney General has several units and initiatives focused on victim services.

Victim Services Unit (VSU)

VSU provides information and services to victims throughout the criminal justice process, including victim notification. VSU is housed within the **Office of Community Awareness, Response, & Engagement (CARE)**.

California Justice Information Services (CJIS)

CJIS has multiple bureaus. The **Bureau of Criminal Information & Analysis (BCIA)** maintains many repositories, including criminal history and child abuse. The **Justice Data & Investigative Services Bureau (JDIS)** maintains data on criminal justice statistics, missing and unidentified persons, the sex offender registry, and support for violent crime investigations.

Division of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse (DMFEA)

This division works to protect residents in nursing homes and long-term care facilities.

Bureau of Forensic Science, Division of Law Enforcement

The Bureau administers two state-funded grant programs: the Sexual Assault Evidence Submission Program and the Untested Sexual Assault Evidence Program. The Bureau also administers the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Tracking (SAFE-T) Database.

AGENCY	FEDERAL GRANT	FY24	STATE ADMINISTRATOR
BJA	VOCA	\$87,080,017	Office of Emergency Services
	VOCA CVC	\$23,206,000	California Victim Compensation Board
	Coverdell	\$2,360,916	Office of Emergency Services
OVW	SASP	\$ 2,021,318	Office of Emergency Services
	STOP	\$16,188,360	Office of Emergency Services
ACF	CJA	\$1,703,246	Office of Emergency Services
	CAPTA	\$11,771,863	Department of Social Services
	FVPSA	\$12,839,676	Office of Emergency Services

Office of Emergency Services, Victim Services Branch (VSB)

Between federal and state sources, VSB had \$424,590,000 in expenditures over the [23-24 biennium](#).

Funding Distribution

VSB administers 20 state appropriations that are governed by the penal code. VSB cannot contradict legislated priorities but can add additional areas. VSB has 4 primary funding categories: child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, and underserved populations.

VOCA funds are restricted to agencies that currently have or have a history of significant non-VOCA financial support. VOCA funds must also be matched by the agency. VSB received a one-time allocation of \$100M to supplement the loss of VOCA funds. The VOCA Steering Committee is tasked with identifying victim service needs and service gaps. This information is used to determine current and future funding priorities.

PROGRAM AREA		GENERAL FUND	PENALTY FUND	FEDERAL FUND ¹⁶
CHILD ABUSE	Sexual Abuse		\$115,000	
	Sexual Abuse Prev/Training	\$272,000		
	CJA			\$1,800,000
DOMESTIC, FAMILY, & SEXUAL VIOLENCE	Internet Crimes	\$4,832,000		
	Domestic Violence Shelter	\$20,602,000		\$8,510,000
	Family Violence Prevention	\$45,000		\$35,206,000
	Family Justice Center	\$8,101,000		
	DV/SA Prevention	\$2,185,000		
	VAWA			\$13,650,000
	SA Services			\$650,000
	Rape Crisis	\$45,000	\$1,710,000	
HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE		\$27,000,000		
YOUTH	Homeless Youth	\$356,000	\$344,000	
	Youth Emergency Telephone Referral	\$314,000		
GENERAL	Survivors of Violence Assistance	\$66,000		
	VINE		\$739,000	
	VOCA Supplement	\$103,000,000		
	VOCA			\$280,946,000
LEGAL	Public Prosecutors & Defenders Training		\$450,000	
	CVRC	\$37,000		
	Victim-Witness Assistance		\$5,155,000	
FORENSICS	Medical Training	\$125,000		
	Forensic Science Improvement			\$2,090,000
TOTAL		\$166,980,000	\$8,513,000	\$342,852,000

Represents funds for 2023-2024. VOCA Supplement was issued the following year. Non-victim service-specific grants administered by VSB are not included.

State Penalty Fund

The **State Penalty Fund** was created as a depository for assessments on specified fines, penalties, and forfeitures imposed and collected by the courts for criminal offenses. The money in this fund is distributed monthly to other funds. Penalty fund fines are assessed based

¹⁶ Refers to all federal funding sources

on the base fine for each criminal charge: \$10 for every \$10 of the base fine, rounded up to the nearest \$10.

- Restitution Fund
- Traumatic Brain Injury Fund
- Peace Officers' Training Fund
- Corrections Training Fund
- Local Public Prosecutors and Public Defenders Training Fund
- Driver Training Penalty Assessment Fund
- Victim-Witness Assistance Fund
- Fish and Game Preservation Fund

Generally, OES receives about \$45k annually. An additional \$100M was allocated to offset the reduction in VOCA funds.

Funding Formulae

Domestic Violence (DV) Funding

DV programming is funded by criminal fees. Individuals charged with domestic violence pay a minimum fee of \$500.

- Two-thirds are retained by counties and deposited in the domestic violence programs special fund.
 - No more than 8% may be used for administrative costs.
- One-third goes to the State Controller for deposit in equal amounts¹⁷ to:

Domestic Violence Restraining Order Reimbursement Fund: distributed to local law enforcement or other criminal justice agencies for state-mandated local costs resulting from the notification requirements

Domestic Violence Training and Education Fund: Supports a statewide training and education program. Grants to support this program shall be awarded on a competitive basis and be administered by the State Department of Public Health, in consultation with the statewide domestic violence coalition, which is eligible to receive funding under this section.

In lieu of a fine, but not in lieu of the fund payment, a person on probation can make payments to a domestic violence shelter-based program, up to a maximum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or reimburse the victim for reasonable expenses that the court finds are the direct result of the defendant's offense.

Priority for funding is given to shelter programs.

Rape Crisis Center (RCC) Program Funding

Baseline Funding: Distributed across all RCC grantees

- 75% of the total RCC program budget

Population percentage: Service areas are broken down by county.¹⁸

¹⁷ in an amount equal to one-third of funds collected during the preceding month

¹⁸ If a county is served by multiple grants, the population is divided among the grants

- 23% of the total rape crisis programming budget
- Divided based on the percentage¹⁹ of the state population served by the grant.

Multilingual/multicultural agencies

- 2% of the total rape crisis programming budget
- Funds capped at \$100,000 per agency
- Any leftover funds are redistributed for baseline funding

Cal OES will calculate the RCC grant percentages every 5 years.

Victim-Witness Assistance Fund

Baseline Funding

- Los Angeles County: 17.2% of the total budget
- Remaining Counties: 82.8% of the total budget

FUNDING LEVELS FOR REMAINING COUNTIES

Level 1	\$104,000
Level 2	\$170,000
Level 3	\$200,000
Level 4	\$300,000
Level 5	\$400,000
Level 6	\$500,000

Crime & Population Funds = Remaining funds- baseline funding

- 50% allocated based on % of crime statistics (-LA County)
- 50% allocated based on % of population (-LA County)

Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation (CDCR)

The [Budget](#) includes total funding for CDCR of \$14.4 billion (\$14 billion from the General Fund and \$365.5 million from other funds) in 2023-24.

Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Working Group—\$1 million one-time General Fund to establish a sexual assault response and prevention working group and ambassador program. *Office of Victim & Survivor Rights & Services*

Victim services in CDCR had a total budget of nearly \$8M in 2023-2024.

General Fund	\$3,399,000
Reimbursements²⁰	\$2,100,000
Special Deposit Fund	\$1,419,000
Inmate Welfare Fund	\$1,000,000

Funding Sources

Special Deposit Fund

The [fund](#) is a depository for money collected by the state for specific purposes when no other fund exists to which the money received can be credited.

¹⁹ Service areas are broken down on county level. Defined by the most recent American Community Survey.

²⁰ Repayments for past work or services provided.

For the 23-24 biennium, \$1,825,000 was allocated to CDCR.

Inmate Welfare Fund

This fund is made up of fees from commissary purchases and communications. It is used to fund innovative programming by nonprofit organizations focused on offender responsibility and restorative justice principles.

For the 23-24 biennium, \$115,211,000 was allocated from this fund to CDCR.

CA Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Department of Social Services (DSS)

In the 23-24 biennium, DSS had nearly \$48B in total expenditures.

FUND	STATE EXPENDITURES	LOCAL ASSISTANCE
General Fund	\$222,857,000	\$1,102,665,000
Foster Family Home & Small Family Home Insurance Fund	-\$51,000	
Continuing Care Provider Fee Fund	\$1,564,000	
Technical Assistance Fund	\$23,779,000	
Certification Fund	\$2,066,000	
Child Health & Safety Fund	\$2,783,000	\$680,000
State Children's Trust Fund	\$351,000	\$355,000
Federal Trust Fund ²¹	\$101,771,000	\$1,670,141,000
Reimbursements ²²	\$12,429,000	\$386,189,000
Home Care Fund	\$7,322,000	
Child Welfare Services Program Improvement Fund		\$4,000,000
Total	\$374,871,000	\$3,164,030,000

Government Affairs Agency, Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB)

In FY24-25, CalVCB had a total budget of \$172,653,000. They spent \$44,909,499 on 25,098 **approved applications for victims' compensation**. 24 TRCs and 5 satellite offices were funded. They also paid more than \$6.4M in compensation for **Mass Violence Events** and \$10.6M for **erroneous conviction claims**.

FUNDING SOURCES²³

General Fund *includes \$8,000,000 for PC 4900 payments	\$17,271,000
Restitution Fund *includes \$14,500,000 transfer from the General Fund	\$107,905,000
Federal Trust Fund	\$36,027,000
Safe Neighborhood and Schools Fund	\$9,439,000
Forced or Involuntary Sterilization Compensation Account	\$2,011,000
Total	\$172,653,000

²¹ Designates all funds allocated from the federal government

²² Repayments for past work or services provided.

²³ From CalVCB Annual Report 2024-2025 found [here](#).

State Restitution Fund

The state restitution fund received funds from multiple sources: fines/fees, restitution orders, and penalty assessments.

Fines/Fees

Every adult convicted of a felony or misdemeanor in California must pay a restitution fine.

- Misdemeanor \$150-1,000
- Felony \$300-10,000

Parole Revocation Fine: An additional fine equal to the original fine if parole is revoked.

Probation Revocation Restitution Fine: An additional fine equal to the original fine if probation is revoked.

Diversion Restitution Fee: A fee of \$100-1000 for adults who are diverted rather than convicted.

Juvenile restitution fines are also assessed, up to \$100 for misdemeanors and \$100-\$1000 for felonies.

Restitution Orders are assessed based upon the economic assessment of the victim's loss.

Penalty Assessments are levied by the state and local jurisdictions for every fine other than restitution imposed by the court. The penalty is 100% of the fine imposed. A portion of the assessment is given to the Restitution Fund.

Safe Neighborhood and Schools Fund

Funds are calculated from savings generated by the implementation of the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act. 10% of these funds annually are allocated to CalVCB for victims' compensation.

California's Forced or Involuntary Sterilization Compensation Program (FISCP)

FISCP²⁴ paid \$4,655,000 in compensation over 133 approved applications during the program tenure. Each survivor received \$35,000. Program funds were appropriated by the legislature when the program was formed in 2021. The total program cost was about \$7.5M.

Department of Justice/ Office of the Attorney General

DOJ is funded on a biennial budget, which was \$1.3B in 2023 & 2024.²⁵

DIVISION	AUTHORIZED POSITIONS	BUDGET
LEGAL SERVICES DIVISION	2123	\$694,625,000
DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT	1369	\$359,071,000
CJIS	1276	\$276,840,000
DIRECTORATE & ADMINISTRATION	1169	(\$180,334,000)
TOTAL	5938	\$1,33,536,000

Domestic Violence: Death Review Teams (SB 863)—\$1.5 million was allocated from the General Fund in 2023-24, and \$1.1 million is ongoing, to collect data on near-death domestic violence cases and prepare an annual report.

²⁴ Final program [report](#) for FY24.

²⁵ [DOJ Biennial Report 2023-2024](#)

Division of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse (DMFEA)

DMFEA STATISTICS	2023-2024 BIENNIAL VOLUME
COMPLAINTS RECEIVED (CRIMINAL & CIVIL)	10,554
CASES OPENED	503
CASES CLOSED	8718
CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS	96
CIVIL SETTLEMENT DOLLARS	\$341,218,741.87
CRIMINAL RESTITUTION DOLLARS	\$ 8,090,289.60

Bureau of Forensic Science, Division of Law Enforcement

The Bureau administers two state-funded grant programs: the **Sexual Assault Evidence Submission Program** and the **Untested Sexual Assault Evidence Program**. They also administered 3 federal grants to support testing of DNA evidence for sexual assault cases that totaled \$7.8M during the 2023-2024 biennium.

Crime Victim Coalitions

California has five major coalitions that serve as umbrella organizations for their respective populations as well as an official OVW Tribal Coalition. Each is responsible for training, technical assistance, community education/prevention efforts, and advocacy around state policy. Coalitions certify service organizations and advise on funding decisions. Coalitions do not administer funds but have been integral to developing funding formulas for grant programs.

COALITION	POPULATION
California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (CPEDV)	Domestic Violence
ValorUS	Sexual Assault
California Elder Justice Coalition (CEJC)	Elder Justice
California Family Justice Network (CFJN)	Family Justice Centers
Children's Advocacy Centers of California	Children's Advocacy Centers
Strong Hearted Women's Coalition, Inc.	Tribal Domestic & Sexual Violence
Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition	Incarcerated Women & Sexual Violence

California Acronyms

ACRONYM	NAME	DESCRIPTION
BCIA	Bureau of Criminal Information & Analysis	DOJ Subdivision
CALVCB	California Victims Compensation Board	GAA Division
CDCR	Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation	Executive Department
CEJC	California Elder Justice Coalition	State Coalition
CFJN	California Family Justice Network	State Coalition
CJIS	California Justice Information Services Division	DOJ Division
CPEDV	California Partnership to End Domestic Violence	State Coalition
CVRC	California Victims Resource Center	State Resource
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services	Executive Department
DMFEA	Division of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse	DOJ Division
DOJ	Department of Justice/ Office of the Attorney General	Executive Department
DSS	Department of Social Services	DHHS Division
DV	Domestic Violence	Crime Category
DVAC	Domestic Violence Advisory Council	State Entity

FISCP	Forced or Involuntary Sterilization Compensation Program	CalVCB Program
GAA	Government Affairs Agency	Executive Department
JDIS	Justice Data & Investigative Services Bureau	DOJ Subdivision
OES	Office of Emergency Services	Executive Department
OVSRS	Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services	CDCR Division
TRC	Trauma Recovery Center	CalVCB Program
VSF	Victim Services Branch	OES Division
VSU	Victim Services Unit	DOJ Division

COLORADO

Demographic and Crime Data

U.S. Census Data 2026	Colorado	Utah	U.S. National
State Population	5,957,493	3,503,613	340,11,988
Population per sq. mile	55.7	39.7	93.8
Median Household Income	\$92,470	\$91,750	\$78,538
Persons in Poverty	9.60%	8.3%	10.6%
Uniform Crime Report Data FY24			
Crimes Against Persons	86,162	46,865	10,274,553
Missing & Murdered Indigenous Relatives ²⁶	191		
VICTIMS COMPENSATION ²⁷			
Federal Allocation	State Allocation	Fines & Restitution	
\$7,510,000	\$0	\$8,818,182	
Total Spent	Costs per Claim	Costs per State Population	
\$14,930,672	\$1,716.56	\$2.51	

Crime Victim Rights

In Colorado, crime victim rights only apply to certain statutorily defined offenses. The [Victim Rights Act \(VRA\)](#) broadly gives victims of those crimes the right to be present and heard at all “critical stages of the criminal justice process.” The law allows victims to request that technological arrangements be made if they cannot attend a proceeding in person. In addition to broad victim rights, the law assigns specific and unique duties to the following entities: law enforcement, the district attorney, the court, probation, corrections, community corrections, youth corrections, the juvenile parole board, and the state hospital. Doing so ensures that there is no ‘gap’ in information as victims move through the criminal justice process. Victims of sexual assault are accorded specific rights within the VRA, including the right to a forensic exam at no cost, rape kit tracking at no cost, and sexual assault counselor-victim privilege.

Administrative Structure

The primary administrator of victim services funding in Colorado is the **Office for Victims Programs (OVP)** within the **Department of Public Safety**. Additional domestic violence and child abuse funds are administered by the **Office of Children, Youth, and Families** in the **Department of Human Services (DHS)**.

CO Department of Public Safety (DPS), Office for Victims Programs (OVP)

The [Colorado Office for Victims Programs \(OVP\)](#) is an executive agency within the Department of Public Safety’s (DPS) Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ). The OVP administers grant programs, coordinates several boards and task forces, administers crime victim compensation, and advocates for victims’ rights issues.

²⁶ As of 2023

²⁷ 2024 CO CVC Report can be found [here](#). Additional state revenue of \$1.1M came from Department of Revenue deposits, HB21-1315 annual deposits, interest earned on the state dollars collected, and donations.

Boards and Task Forces

Crime Victim Services Advisory Board

The Board is a 28-member, statutorily mandated board appointed by the Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety and serving in an advisory capacity to the Division of Criminal Justice. The Board reviews reports of non-compliance with the Victim Rights Act, develops and revises standards for crime victim compensation, and provides recommendations for OVP grant funding. The large board allows for representation and expertise across diverse groups. For grant reviews, the board is split into groups of 3-5 members to review portions of applications, taking into account conflicts of interest and expertise. The Board has two subcommittees: the **Victim Rights Act Subcommittee** and the **Standards Subcommittee**.

Human Trafficking Council

Legislatively established 35-person council composed of state agencies, law enforcement, prosecutors, NGOs, regional coalitions and task forces, legal services, victim service providers, academia, faith-based organizations, etc. The Council facilitates collaboration between state actors and service agencies, establishes formal services, and assists in prosecuting traffickers.

Victim & Survivor Training for Judicial Personnel Task Force

This task force established best practice materials for training judicial personnel and provided recommendations to the legislature regarding DV/SA and violent crime victimization.

Victims of a Violent Crime Brain Injury Task Force

The purpose of the task force is to develop a plan for the creation and implementation of a pilot program that would identify and screen for the identification, screening, support, and services of victims of violent crimes for symptoms of possible brain injury and provide those who screen positive with the appropriate support and services. It includes 17 members appointed by the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety.

Programs

Victim Compensation

Colorado's Crime Victim Compensation law created 23 different programs in each state judicial district. Colorado is one of only two states, the other being Arizona, with decentralized CVC. CVC programs are housed in the district attorney's offices. Decisions are made by an administrator and three local community board members appointed by the DA. Claims are processed and paid out monthly. Local placement is perceived as nimble and is helped by local expertise in the communities.

Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement (VALE)

VALE is established by state statute. **Local VALE** provides grant funding to agencies that serve crime victims in each of the 23 Judicial Districts. Grants are made to agencies from funds collected from their local district. Each jurisdiction has a 5-person board appointed by its Chief Judge that reviews grant applications. Local VALE has two priority areas:

- To establish funding programs that implement the Victim Rights Act.
- To be used for victim and witness services.

State VALE provides funds to programs that implement statutory rights for crime victims and/or provide services to crime victims across the state or multiple jurisdictions. Funding decisions are made by the **Crime Victim Services Advisory Board**. Funds are distributed to programs that lead to the coordination, planning, and implementation efforts for:

- Victim service training series initiatives
- Statewide Victim Services-related conferences

Sexual Assault Victim Emergency Payment Program (SAVE)

The OVP provides resources to assist hospitals, communities, and sexual assault victims. Current efforts include the **Sexual Assault Victim Emergency Fund Program (SAVE)**; the **Forensic Compliance Team (FCT)**; and the **Colorado Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner/Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Project**.

Sexual Assault Kit Tracking System (COSAK)

A legislatively mandated statewide system for victims of sexual assault to monitor the status and location of their sexual assault evidence collection kit.

Outcome Measures

OVP does not ask for standardized outcomes from grantees. Grantees propose program-specific outcomes and are asked to report how they use data to impact programming. OVP regularly pulls performance measurement data for local entities and provides technical assistance to demonstrate how to use that information to show its impact on local communities and legislators.

Department of Human Services (DHS)

DHS is tasked with providing financial assistance, social services, and public health resources to individuals in need. It has multiple offices that receive federal assistance grants, including **TANF** and **ARPA**.

Office of Children, Youth, and Families (OCYF)

OCYF houses the **Division of Child Welfare**, which contains the **Children's Justice Act Taskforce** and receives **CAPTA** and **CJA** funds. The **Domestic Violence Program** is within the **Division of Community Programs**. DVP provides **flexible financial assistance** for DV and SA victims. It receives funding through **FVPSA**, **TANF**, and the **CO Domestic Abuse Fund**.

OVP sits on an informal committee with CDHS staff and state coalitions to coordinate funding and programmatic issues.

Outcome Measures

DHS grantees are asked to complete the Measure of Victim Empowerment Related to Safety (MOVERS) assessment with clients. This 13-item tool assesses the extent to which a victim has developed a safety plan and believes they can implement it. It is not clear how this information informs funding decisions.

Distribution of Funding

AGENCY	FEDERAL GRANT	FY24	STATE ADMINISTRATOR ²⁸
BJA	VOCA	\$13,559,953	Department of Public Safety
	VOCA CVC	\$7,510,000	Department of Public Safety
	SAKI	\$ 500,000	Department of Public Safety
	Coverdell	\$356,127	Department of Public Safety
OVW	SASP	\$941,826	Department of Public Safety
	STOP	\$3,221,887	Department of Public Safety
ACF	CJA	\$286,287	Department of Human Services
	CAPTA	\$1,725,180	Department of Human Services
	FVPSA	\$2,426,750	Department of Human Services
ARPA		\$6,000,000	Victims and Witness Assistance and Law Enforcement Fund-Judicial Department
		\$32,000,000	Colorado Crime Victim Services Fund
		\$6,000,000	Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services Fund
		\$1,500,000	Department of Public Safety - VALE

Department of Public Safety (DPS), Office for Victims Programs

All budget initiatives and requests are included within the larger DPS budget request. They must go through internal departmental approval processes before being formally proposed.

The OVP administers several state and federal grant programs that support services for crime victims. Grant funds are distributed to victim services agencies through a competitive application process. Grant application and reporting processes use the same systems for all programs. The **Crime Victim Services (CVS) Advisory Board** reviews applications and provides recommendations to the Department of Public Safety's Executive Director for review and approval.

Grants were administered on a two-year funding cycle. Cuts to VOCA funds required OVP to adopt a one-year cycle, but OVP uses a funding extension process to reduce the burden of reapplication for grantees. They aim to return to a two-year cycle for the next FY, starting in July 2026.

Office for Victim Programs (OVP) State Funding

Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement (VALE)

Funds are collected from [surcharges on certain crimes](#). Local Judicial Districts collect VALE funds and retain 87% of everything collected. The remaining 13% is paid to OVP.

Local VALE provides grant funding to agencies that serve crime victims in each of the 23 Local Judicial Districts. Grants are made to agencies from funds collected from their local district. In FY24, \$12,164,163.00 in VALE funds were distributed to victim service programs.

State VALE provided \$1m in funding for programs [in 2025](#).

Crime Victim Compensation (CVC)

The fund covers out-of-pocket expenses directly related to a crime that are not covered by a victim's insurance or other collateral sources. CVC can pay up to \$30,000 per victim.

²⁸ Official administrator listed with federal agencies

The program covers replacement loss services, funeral and expenses, reasonable travel expenses for a victim, dependent care services, relocation expenses, medical/ dental expenses, mental health expenses, economic support, repair or replacement of residential property, motor vehicle expenses necessary to ensure victim safety, and repair or replacement of medically necessary devices.

State funds for victim compensation programs come from fines imposed for convictions of felonies, misdemeanors, and some traffic offenses. OVP provides technical assistance and training to local programs and supplemental federal funds. The state does not allocate these funds but has enacted legislation to generate and allocate them locally.

In 2024, fines collected accounted for 47% of available CVC funds. State CVC funds are collected from offenders and disbursed at the judicial district level.

Felony	\$ 163.00
Misdemeanor	\$ 78.00
Class 1 Misdemeanor Traffic Offenses	\$ 46.00
Class 2 Misdemeanor Traffic Offenses	\$ 33.00
Class A or Class B traffic infraction	Varies

Restitution paid back to CVC programs accounts for an additional 35% of the funds available.

The [CVC program](#) paid out over \$15m in 2024 and collected over \$4m from court collections and restitution.

Prop KK/ Firearms and Ammunition Tax was created in 2025 as a new state tax on firearms sellers equal to 6.5 percent of their sales of firearms, firearm parts, and ammunition to fund crime victim support services, mental health services for veterans and youth, and school safety programs. It is expected to generate around \$39M annually. The intent behind Prop KK was to serve as an ongoing source of funding for victim services, but amounts have been lower than expected as individuals have been crossing state lines to avoid paying the tax.

Collected monies are deposited into the [Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax Cash Fund](#) within the state general fund. Monies are then transferred to specific funds.

- The first \$30 million in the first fiscal year and that amount, as adjusted for inflation or deflation in each fiscal year thereafter, to the **Colorado Crime Victim Services Fund** in OVP for grants for services for crime victims or to support crime prevention;
- The next \$8 million in each fiscal year to the **Behavioral and Mental Health Cash Fund**,
 - \$5 million must be used by the **Behavioral Health Administration (BHA)**, in coordination with the **Division of Veterans Affairs**, to continue and expand the veterans' mental health services program
 - \$3 million must be used by the BHA to continue and expand access to behavioral health crisis response system services for children and youth; and
- The next \$1 million in each fiscal year to the school security disbursement program cash fund to fund the [School Security Disbursement Program](#).

General Funds

Funding to governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations that provide services for crime victims. A grant award may be used to enhance or provide services for crime victims. Colorado appropriated State General funds three separate times to address the decline in federal VOCA funds. Those one-time appropriations have totaled \$13 million and are split between multiple agencies, including OVP and DHS. A grant award may be used to enhance or provide services for crime victims (e.g., Crisis intervention, Emergency services, Relocation, Mass tragedy response, etc.). The State General Fund provided nearly \$6m in 2025 and \$1.8m in [CY26](#).

Department of Human Services (DHS), Office of Children, Youth, and Families (OCYF)

Domestic Violence Program (DVP)

DVP administers **FVPSA** funds and state DV dollars. State funds are generated through the **CO Domestic Abuse Fund (CDAF)** tax refund donation and the Marriage and Civil Union Licenses and Divorce Filing fees, totaling in \$1.3 million, with \$20 for each marriage/civil union license and \$5 for each divorce filing.

Flex Funds Project

Since 2025, DVP has also partnered with CDHS's Division of Economic & Workforce Support to deploy **TANF Flex Funds** for survivors (multi-year, flexible financial assistance) and has stewarded time-limited **ARPA**-based supports. The legislature will allocate \$2M annually to this project through 2029. The fund is meant to help survivors with immediate financial needs, such as rent. In the first month of the project, 41 applications were approved, averaging \$728.45 per application. The funds are distributed locally by crisis intervention organizations.

Animal Companion Support Project

Another project funded through flexible state and ARPA funds, this project focuses on ensuring the safety of domestic violence survivors' pets.

Office of Child Welfare (OCW) administers **CAPTA** and **CJA** funds, overseen by the **Children's Justice Act Task Force**.

Department of Early Childhood

Administers Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (**CBCAP**) American Rescue Plan Funds (**ARPA**).

Crime Victim Coalitions

Colorado has three major coalitions that collaborate with the **Office for Victim Programs**. Each serves as an umbrella organization for its respective population. Each is responsible for training, technical assistance, community education/prevention efforts, and advocacy around state policy. Colleges take the lead on legislative priorities and work closely with state agencies to determine priorities. Coalitions certify service organizations and advise on funding decisions, but do not administer grant funds. COVA also provides direct services through its Human Trafficking Program and administers a Crime Victim Emergency Fund.

- [Violence Free Colorado](#)²⁹
- **Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CCASA)**
- **Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance (COVA)**

Colorado Acronyms

ACRONYM	NAME	DESCRIPTION
BHA	Behavioral Health Administration	Executive Department
CCASA	Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault	State Coalition
CDAF	Colorado Domestic Abuse Fund	DHS Fund
COSAK	Colorado Sexual Assault Kit Tracking System	OVP Program
COVA	Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance	State Coalition
DHS	Department of Human Resources	Executive Department
DPS	Department of Public Safety	Executive Department
DVP	Domestic Violence Program	DHS Program
FCT	Forensic Compliance Team	OVP Program
MOVERS	Measure of Victim Empowerment Related to Safety	DHS Assessment Tool
OCW	Office of Child Welfare	DHS Office
OCYF	Office of Children, Youth, and Families	DHS Office
OVP	Colorado Office for Victims Programs	DPS Entity
SAVE	Sexual Assault Victim Emergency Payment Program	OVP Grant Program
VALE	Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement	OVP Grant Program

²⁹ State domestic violence coalition

GEORGIA

Demographic and Crime Data

U.S. Census Data 2026	Georgia	Utah	U.S. National
State Population	11,180,878	3,503,613	340,11,988
Population per sq. mile	185.6	39.7	93.8
Median Household Income	\$74,664	\$91,750	\$78,538
Persons in Poverty	12.60%	8.3%	10.6%
Uniform Crime Report Data FY24			
Crimes Against Persons	162,217	46,865	10,274,553
VICTIMS COMPENSATION ³⁰			
Federal Allocation	State Allocation	State Fines	
\$5,717,000	\$8,000,000	UNK ³¹	
Total Spent	Costs per Claim	Costs per State Population	
\$13,482,929	\$700.38	\$1.21	

Crime Victim Rights

In Georgia, the [Crime Victim Bill of Rights](#) applies to certain statutorily defined offenses and to any person against whom one of those crimes has been committed or is alleged to have been committed. The rights also apply to the survivor of someone who was killed as the result of a criminal offense. In addition to the general array of rights, the law allows for: privileged communication between a victim and an advocate provided by a prosecutor; block communication from inmate and inmate's family; and the right to file a motion in the criminal case within 20 days of a court proceeding requesting to be heard if the victim has properly requested notification and is not given notice of said court proceeding. Victims have the right to refuse contact with the defendant, such as an interview, and to set the terms of contact, if agreed. Victims of sexual assault have the right to a free forensic medical exam, whether or not they report to law enforcement. The law requires that any criminal justice agency, upon initial contact with a victim (including law enforcement, the prosecuting attorney, and the State Board of Pardons and Parole), inform the victim of their rights and of contact information for agencies that provide assistance, notification, and compensation.

The Georgia Crime Victim Rights Notification card is available as a fillable form that provides victims with information about specific agencies and services available to them. To receive victim rights-related notifications, victims must "opt in" to the notification process and keep all criminal justice agencies informed of their current contact information.

Administrative Structure

While many agencies are involved with working with victims of crime, Georgia is a coordinated system led by the **Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)**, which either administers or advises on victim service funding and provision across the state.

³⁰ Figures from publicly available data for 2024.

³¹ Fines are used to supplement victim compensation funds. Annual collections amounts could not be located.

Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI)

GBI is the primary state-level investigative and enforcement agency in Georgia.

Child Fatality Review Panel

The panel evaluates cases of child abuse and fatality within Georgia.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)

The [Criminal Justice Coordinating Council \(CJCC\)](#) is an Executive agency founded in 1981 to unify criminal justice efforts between agencies across Georgia. The CJCC serves as a statewide clearinghouse of criminal justice research and develops legislative and policy recommendations. The CJCC administers and oversees federal and state grants for criminal justice and victim services. CJCC's victim services scope includes: DV Programs, SA Centers, a Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force, Child Abuse Prevention Grants, Elder Abuse, Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART), Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), and Child Advocacy Centers.

The Council also administers the Georgia **Crime Victims Compensation Program (CVCP)**. The mission of the CJCC is to provide financial and programmatic support for innovative programs and services that improve the criminal justice system and empower victims in Georgia.

The [Criminal Justice Coordinating Council \(CJCC\)](#) oversees all federal and state victim-services funding in Georgia through three primary structures:

1. **Victim Assistance Grants Committee** – administers federal victim-services funding (VOCA, VAWA, FVPSA, SASP) and implements the Core Services framework to guide funding decisions and ensure consistent basic services statewide.
2. **Crime Victims Compensation (CVC) Board** – adjudicates compensation claims and oversees payments for forensic medical exams, forensic interviews, and victim compensation.
3. **Victim Assistance Program Certification** – CJCC certifies local victim assistance programs, enabling them to access **Local Victim Assistance Program (LVAP)** funds generated through a 5% fee on criminal and ordinance fines. CJCC does not award these funds but ensures programs meet statewide standards. They are administered by County Boards of Commissioners, from whom agencies request funds.

Council Membership

The CJCC is composed of 27 members. Ten members are appointed by the governor, and 17 members are ex officio or designated by that office. The CJCC has three officers: the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson, and the immediate past Chair. Members of the Victim Assistance Grants Committee and the CVC Board are appointed by the CJCC Chair and Executive Director. CJCC also manages broader criminal-justice grants through the Criminal Justice Grants Committee. These grants do not fund victim services; their inclusion demonstrates Georgia's unified grant administration under a single council.

Georgia Sexual Assault Response Team ([SART](#)) Project

CJCC received funding from OVW's **ICJR** program to support SART teams and provide ongoing training and technical assistance. The project includes charging the **State Expert Committee** to develop a protocol for SART teams in local jurisdictions.

Sexual Assault Kits

The funds also helped develop the **Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Victim Notification Portal**, which allows victims to track the status of their kits. The **Sexual Assault Workgroup** was formed to provide recommendations to local jurisdictions to reduce their backlog of kits, recommendations for cold cases, and victim notification protocols.

Family Justice Center [Initiative](#)

A VOCA-funded initiative launched in 2020 to provide co-located services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. Centers may also serve victims of elder abuse, dependent adult abuse, or human trafficking. Three centers have been launched so far. They have local coordinators that report to a statewide program coordinator. GA is the third state to initiate these programs.

Crime Victim Compensation Program ([CVCP](#))

The **Crime Victims Compensation Board** hears and determines appeals on denied claims filed with the Council's Georgia Crime Victims Compensation Program.

Outcome Measurement

Core Services Framework

CJCC developed a statewide Core Services model to ensure federal funds prioritize essential, direct services for victims. Core Services guide allocation of VOCA, VAWA, SASP, and FVPSA dollars and establish minimum service expectations, especially in rural and underserved areas. The framework standardizes funding priorities and promotes equitable access.

The CJCC includes a **Statistical Analysis Center (SAC)**, which supports all data collection and analysis for the Council and conducts independent research and evaluation. CJCC provides formal guidance to grantees on outcome [performance management](#), which requires three types of performance measures: the **Knowledge, Skills, Attitudes, Behaviors, or Conditions (KSABCs) framework**. These measures include Outputs (services delivered), Satisfaction (victim experience), and Outcomes (changes in victim safety, stability, or well-being). Grantees that provide direct services are required to track monthly data to CJCC and to submit 6- and 12-month totals through the online data portal. CJCC provides an **Excel-based Outcome Data Aggregation Spreadsheet** that can be individualized to the agency and program.

Landscape Analysis

As part of its 5-year strategic planning process, CJCC conducted a statewide **Landscape Opportunity Assessment** examining victim-service availability, provider capacity, service effectiveness, and unmet needs. Key findings highlighted significant variation in service availability across the state, a statewide gap in access to mental-health services, and capacity constraints among rural providers. These findings were used to prioritize targeted mental-health training and expand partnerships to increase service reach and quality.

Office of the Child Advocate (OCA)

OCA is an independent agency within the Office of the Governor that provides oversight of people, organizations, and agencies responsible for providing services to and/or caring for children who are victims of child abuse and neglect.

Department of Human Services

Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund Commission

The [Commission](#) funds care provision, rehabilitative services, residential housing, health services, and social services, including establishing safe houses, for sexually exploited children. They also fund awareness and prevention programs.

The Commission has 7 members, including the Director of CJCC.

The **Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund** was enacted pursuant to Article III, Section IX, Paragraph VI(o) of the Georgia Constitution, which provision authorizes additional penalty assessments for violations relating to certain sexual crimes, authorizes assessments on certain businesses, and provides that the proceeds derived therefrom may be used for the purpose of meeting the costs of care and rehabilitative and social services for certain citizens of this state who have been sexually exploited.

Department of Community Supervision (DCS)

DCS is responsible for felony-level community supervision, i.e. probation and parole, across Georgia.

Georgia Commission on Family Violence (GCFV)

GCFV is a statutory entity that works with communities to reduce family violence across the state using **coordinated community response models**.

The Commission has [37 members](#):

- 3 ex officio members: the directors of the **Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS)** in DHS and the **Women's Health Services** in DPH, and the **Attorney General**
- 6 legislators: 3 from the House of Representatives and 3 from the Senate
- 28 Governor appointees

GCFV has 7 project areas:

- Public Awareness & Education
- Statewide Annual Conference
- **Family Violence Intervention Programs (FVIPs)**
- Community Task Forces: create and maintain family violence task forces within each of the 49 judicial circuits
- **Family Violence Fatality Review Project**: a clearinghouse for statewide data
- Support for Survivors of Murder-Suicide
- Legislative Advocacy
- Research

State Board of Pardons & Paroles (SBPP)

The **Office of Victim Services (OVS)** works with victims to communicate the impact of offender actions throughout the criminal justice process.

Distribution of Funding

AGENCY	FEDERAL GRANT	FY24	STATE ADMINISTRATOR
BJA	VOCA	\$25,006,761	Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

OVW	VOCA CVC	\$5,717,000	Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
	SAKI	\$9,500,000	Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
	Coverdell	\$668,265	Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
	SASP	\$1,109,899	Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
	STOP	\$5,012,337	Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
	ICJR	\$1,000,000	Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
ACF	CJA	\$537,819	Department of Human Services
	CAPTA	\$3,508,742	Department of Human Services
	FVPSA	\$4,016,792	Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
ARPA		\$50,000,000	Victim Service Provider Grant

Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI)

GBI has a total FY24 budget of \$322,240,867 with \$199,307,810 from the state general fund.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)

CJCC is an agency attached to the GBI. administers funds for several state and federal grant programs, including VOCA, STOP VAWA, and ARPA.

CJCC had a total budget of \$122,896,612 in FY24. This funding came from multiple sources.

TANF	\$902,544
Other Federal Funds	\$83,231,186
State General Fund	\$17,959,297
Other Funds	\$20,803,585

Family Violence initiatives within CJCC are budgeted separately. For FY24, this section received \$14,661,948 from the state general fund.

Victim Assistance Division

The **Victim Assistance Division** of CJCC has 4 funding areas overseen by a **Victim Assistance Grant Committee**:

- [Child Abuse](#)
- [Community Programs](#)
- [Domestic Violence](#)
 - FVPSA: CJCC releases requests for proposals in early Spring for regular mini grants from July 1 through June 30. CJCC awards FVPSA Mini-Grant funding in 2–3-year cycles. Solicitations for competitive applications, which are open to both current and unfunded agencies, are released every 2 years.
- [Sexual assault/ Human Trafficking](#)
 - SASP: Used to maximize the provision of core services for sexual assault victims throughout the state. Currently, CJCC funds five organizations to provide direct victim services to victims and co-victims of sexual assault.
 - Sexual Assault Forensic Services
 - Sexual Assault Kit Initiative ([SAKI](#))
 - SAFE-Inventory Tracking and Reporting
 - District Attorney of New York-Manhattan Grant ([DANY](#))

CJCC awarded almost 1300 grants in 2023, totaling over \$193 million. An additional \$15.8m was paid in victims' compensation.

Family Justice Center Initiative

The initiative awards \$100,000 annually for 4 years to grantees to develop local programs. *Crime Victim Compensation Program (CVCP)*

CVCP houses multiple programs that provide funding to victims of various crimes. There are 4 categories of funding available directly to victims:

- Victims Compensation: CVCP is a payer of last resort. Eligible applicants may receive up to \$25,000 in compensation when costs are not covered by a third-party payer.
 - Medical Expenses: up to \$15,000
 - Funeral Expenses: up to \$6,000
 - Counseling Expenses: up to \$3,000
 - Economic Support Expenses: up to \$10,000
 - Crime Scene Sanitization: up to \$1,500
- Officers' Initiative
- DUI Memorial Sign
- Unclaimed Restitution Programs

Additionally, Service providers may apply on behalf of victims to the **Forensic Interview Program** and the **Forensic Medical Examination Program**.

Crime Victims Emergency Fund

A statutorily created fund used to provide victim compensation and funding for compensation programs that is under the purview of the **Crime Victim Compensation Board**. The board is comprised of funds from:

- DUI Fines: A fine covering the cost of the violation and up to \$26 or 11% of the base fine.
- Federal VOCA Funds
- State Allocations
- Possible other funds from fines, fees, restitution, or taxes.
 - Repayment of compensation costs by the person on supervision
 - \$9.00/month for persons on probation and paying a probation fee.

\$8,000,000 was budgeted for the Georgia Crime Victims Emergency Fund in FY24.³²

Office of the Child Advocate (OCA)

OCA had a budget of \$1,430,137 allocated from the state general fund in FY24.

Department of Human Services (DHS)³³

In FY24, DHS received funding from three state funds:

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| • State General Fund | \$946,336,888 |
| • Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund | \$200,199 |

³² <https://opb.georgia.gov/document/budget-briefs/fy-2024-afy-2023/download>

³³ FY2024 <https://opb.georgia.gov/document/budget-briefs/fy-2024-afy-2023/download>

- State Children's Trust Funds: \$1,285,459

Individual DHS programs serving victim populations received funding from multiple sources in FY24.

DHS Program	General	Children's Trust	TANF ³⁴	Federal, Other	Other	Total
Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention	\$1,557,202	\$1,285,459	\$2,966,090	\$4,145,912		\$9,954,663
Child Welfare Services	\$228,842,926		\$153,194,673	\$75,875,810	\$171,724	\$458,085,133
Elder Abuse Investigations & Prevention	\$27,817,238			\$3,868,926		\$31,686,164
Refugee Assistance				\$5,035,754		\$5,035,754
Support for Needy Families	\$70,000		\$36,453,008			\$36,523,008

DHS has two attached entities relevant to victim services. Below is their funding for FY24.

- Council on Aging \$356,529³⁵
- Safe Harbor Commission \$3,575,199
 - State General Fund: \$3,375,000
 - Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Trust Fund: \$200,199

Department of Community Supervision (DCS)

Georgia Commission on Family Violence (GCFV)

GCFV had a total budget of \$1,021,165 in FY24.

- State General Fund \$671,812
- Federal Funds \$188,124
- Other \$161,229

State Board of Pardons & Paroles (SBPP)

The **Office of Victim Services (OVS)** in SBPP received \$578,329 in FY24 from the state general fund.

Crime Victim Coalitions

Georgia has three major coalitions that serve as umbrella organizations for their respective populations. Each is responsible for training, technical assistance, community education/prevention efforts, and advocacy around state policy. Coalitions certify service organizations and advise on funding decisions, but do not administer grant funds.

- **Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (GCADV)**
- **Georgia Network to End Sexual Assault (GNESA)**
- **Child Advocacy Centers of Georgia (CACGA)**

³⁴ Combined TANF Block Grant and TANF Transfers to Social Services

³⁵ Total budget is from the State General Fund

Georgia Acronyms

ACRONYM	NAME	DESCRIPTION
CACGA	Child Advocacy Centers of Georgia	State Coalition
CJCC	Criminal Justice Coordinating Council	Executive Department
CVCP	Crime Victim Compensation Program	State Program
DCS	Department of Community Supervision	Executive Department
DFCS	Department of Family & Children Services	Executive Department
DHS	Department of Human Services	Executive Department
DPH	Department of Public Health	Executive Department
FVIP	Family Violence Intervention Programs	State Program
GBI	Georgia Bureau of Investigation	Executive Department
GCADV	Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence	State Coalition
GCFV	Georgia Commission on Family Violence	DCS Division
GNESA	Georgia Network to End Sexual Assault	State Coalition
LVAP	Local Victim Assistance Program	State Program
OCA	Office of the Child Advocate	Executive Department
OVS	Office of Victim Services	CJCC Division
SAC	Statistical Analysis Center	State Entity
SAFE	Sexual Assault Forensic Exam	Program
SART	Sexual Assault Response Team	Program
SBPP	State Board of Pardons & Paroles	Executive Department

MASSACHUSETTS

Demographic and Crime Data

U.S. Census Data 2026	Massachusetts	Utah	U.S. National
State Population	7,136,171	3,503,613	340,11,988
Population per sq. mile	901.2	39.7	93.8
Median Household Income	\$101,341	\$91,750	\$78,538
Persons in Poverty	9.7%	8.3%	10.6%
Uniform Crime Report Data FY24			
Crimes Against Persons	90,001	46,865	10,274,553
VICTIMS COMPENSATION ³⁶			
Federal Allocation	State Allocation	State Fines and Fees	
\$1,452,000	\$3,426,323	\$0	
Total Spent	Costs per Claim	Costs per State Population	
\$3,925,811	\$3,696.62	\$0.55	

Crime Victim Rights

In Massachusetts, [crime victim rights](#) apply to all victims of crime, with priority for services to be provided to victims of crimes against people and crimes where physical injury to a person results. Many of the rights also apply to witnesses of a crime. In addition to the broad array of rights, victims have the right to be updated on specific developments in the case, the right to notification from a range of agencies regarding the case or the status of the accused, and homicide survivors have the right to have a picture of the deceased in the courtroom during proceedings. Massachusetts has a separate [Bill of Rights for Survivors of Sexual Assault](#), which affords survivors the right to have an advocate present during the right to privileged communications with that individual, and the right not to have any results of the forensic exam used to prosecute the victim. This bill also creates a [Rights of Victims of Sexual Assault Task Force](#), which is operated by the **Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance (MOVA)**.

Administrative Structure

Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA)

MOVA is an independent state agency governed by the [Victim and Witness Assistance Board](#). MOVA was created as an independent agency to centralize victim services statewide, with a mission to empower all victims and survivors of crime throughout the Commonwealth. While victim services are administered by a variety of executive agencies across the state, MOVA maintains both informal and formal relationships with these agencies to influence service provision and priorities. MOVA's independent status allows it to advocate openly for legislation and maintain an independent stance on policy issues. Independence also streamlines funding decisions as staff can work directly with the Board on decision-making. MOVA houses grant programs, training and technical assistance, and victim resources, including **crime victim compensation**.

³⁶ Figures are from publicly available data for 2024

MOVA provides a variety of ongoing in-person and virtual [training opportunities](#) and resources for direct service providers across the state.

Victim Witness Assistance Board (VWAB)

The Board is chaired by the state Attorney General and includes 6 additional members appointed by the Governor.

- District Attorney (2)
- Survivors (3)
- Representative of a community disproportionately impacted by high rates of violence and crime or a previously underserved community of color (1)

The current makeup of the board is the result of legislation MOVA filed in 2022. The previous board of 5, which was majority-attorney, did not accurately represent the community. Public members cannot be elected officials and are chosen from recommendations of the MOVA Executive Director.

Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance Training Academy (MTA)

MTA was developed to provide needed training opportunities for victim service providers. Providers apply to attend the academy, where they will gain knowledge regarding trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and equitable services that reflect the diverse communities.

MTA has two tracks: continuing education and new professionals (0-2 yrs). MTA also hosts separate new advocate training twice per year. MTA is an in-person academy where trainees live together in dormitories for a week.

Outcome Measurement

MOVA uses an Outcomes Measurement Tool designed to document program activities while remaining flexible to individual program goals. Recipients of MOVA funds must complete the OMT quarterly. The tool captures populations served (e.g., new individuals served), population demographics (e.g., geographic region), victimization types (e.g., list of victimization types, special classifications of individuals, etc.), and direct services (e.g., Personal Advocacy/Accompaniment, Emotional Support/Safety Services, etc.).

The tool is not currently used to guide funding decisions due to concerns that it could disadvantage already under-resourced programs. Instead, MOVA relies on values outlined in its strategic planning process to align state funding with Massachusetts taxpayers' priorities, especially given the influence of federal priorities on victim services. Most years, MOVA does not open competitive bids, limiting eligibility for new programs. Its strategic goals focus on centering survivor voices in systems that affect them, supporting accessible and culturally reflective services, and strengthening long-term sustainability in the victim services field through collaboration with policymakers and increasing diversity and inclusion within MOVA's staff, leadership, and the VWA Board.

Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS)

The EOHHS is comprised of 11 agencies and the MassHealth program. Four of these agencies house programs and receive grant funding for protective services, financial assistance, domestic violence, and sexual assault: the **Executive Office on Aging and**

Independence, the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Transitional Assistance, and the Department of Public Health. EOHHS also oversees juvenile justice programs and refugee and immigrant programs.

Governor’s Council to Address Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, & Stalking (GCASDVS)

Additionally, the **Governor’s Council to Address Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Stalking (GCASDVS)** was created via Executive Order No. 611 in 2023 to advise the Governor and provide recommendations on how to help individuals live free of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. This council has multiple subcommittees that review existing laws and programs and provide recommendations for improvement. Subcommittees include Assessment and Response, Early Interventions, Economic Mobility, Housing Stability, Human Trafficking, and Veterans, Military and Families. The GCASDVS leads initiatives such as the Human Trafficking prevention and response plan, updating the law enforcement guidelines for DV response, and a youth DV prevention campaign. Additionally, the development and recommended legislation related to the criminal legal system, victim wellbeing, and service provision, such as funds to bridge VOCA, modernizing funding laws, and criminalizing sexual assault of medical professionals.

Distribution of Funding

AGENCY	FEDERAL GRANT	FY24	STATE ADMINISTRATOR
BJA	VOCA	\$16,056,993	Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance
	VOCA CVC	\$1,452,000	Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance
	SAKI	\$3,500,000	MA State Police/ Office of Grants & Research
	Coverdell	\$424,217	Massachusetts State Police
OVW	SASP	\$978,490	Department of Public Health
	STOP	\$3,400,970	Department of Public Safety
ACF	CJA	\$309,953	Department of Children and Families
	CAPTA	\$1,893,122	Department of Children and Families
	FVPSA	\$2,796,558	Department of Public Health

Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA)

MOVA’s operational costs, SAFEPLAN program, and VSS are all line items in the state budget. Any additional funding or increases in those funds require additional advocacy. MOVA received \$20M annually for three years (FY21-24) from the state general fund to offset the VOCA funding shortfall. They did not receive additional funding for FY25.

All funding goes through a procurement process; applications are rated by external reviewers, and recommendations are made to the board. MOVA has approximately \$30M in available funding for all FY27 grant programs. [In FY26](#), VWAB was allocated around \$8M from the state general fund, as indicated below.

- Crime Victim Compensation \$3.4M
- Victim and Witness Assistance Board \$2.2M
- Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program \$2.4M

Funding for grants comes from [4 major sources](#):

VOCA

Drunk Driving Trust Fund (DDTF): This [state fund](#) pays for counseling and support for victims, witnesses, and family members of those injured by drivers operating under the influence of alcohol or drugs (OUI). It is funded through assessment fees ([\\$50](#)) on individuals convicted of driving under the influence. This fee, however, may be waived by the court. DDTF received \$315,319.29 in deposits during [FY23](#), resulting in a year-end balance of \$1,230,776.20. Deposits have fluctuated in recent years. MOVA is advocating for sustainable funding. DDTF funds have been used to mitigate VOCA reductions, meaning that separate DDTF grants were not administered in 2023.

Human Trafficking Trust Fund (HTTF): This [state fund](#) pays for emergency intervention and other support for victims of sexual and labor-related trafficking of any age. The fund is financed through proceeds from seized and forfeited assets, fines (up to \$25,000 for individuals or \$1M for businesses), and assessments collected. There were no deposits into HTTF between [FY21-24](#). The last reported deposit was \$40,667.79 in FY20. Awards have not been allocated from the fund since \$132,849 in FY21, the only year grants were awarded. The current balance is \$66,890.89.

Other state investments

Grant Programs

MOVA administers multiple [federal and state grants](#) funded by a combination of sources. Grant requests vary depending on the VWAB's priorities.

Victim and Survivor Services (VSS) Funding

This grant supports programs that offer free counseling, advocacy, and intervention services to victims and survivors of crime. MOVA anticipates making a range of \$24-27M in total [Victim and Survivor Services \(VSS\) grants for FY27](#).

SAFEPLAN

SAFEPLAN grants support agencies and civil court-based advocates for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking who seek protection via a restraining or harassment prevention order. The program is a collaboration between MOVA and community-based sexual assault and domestic violence programs. SAFEPLAN advocates are housed in probate and district courts. The program is funded through VOCA grants.

Massachusetts Victims of Violent Crime Compensation

Massachusetts Victims of Violent Crime Compensation is dictated by [statute](#). Compensation has been allocated about [\\$3.4M in FY26](#) to cover a range of services, including medical and dental expenses, counseling, lost wages, forensic exams, funeral expenses, crime scene cleanup and item replacement, and security measures.

Applicants must 1) report to police within five days unless there is good cause for delay, 2) cooperate with law enforcement officials in the investigation and prosecution of the crime unless there is a reasonable excuse not to cooperate, and 3) apply for compensation within three years of the crime. Victims under 18 at the time of the crime may apply until age 21, or later in certain limited circumstances.

These funds are primarily obtained from perpetrators and can cover expenses up to \$25,000 per crime.

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

The **Office of Children and Families** receives federal funding via **CJA**, **CAPTA**, and **FVPSA** to allocate to domestic violence and sexual assault services and provides guidance on violence prevention policy and practice. Additionally, the **Massachusetts Departments of Children and Family and Transitional Assistance** employ statewide Domestic Violence units.

The **Department of Public Health** includes the **Division of Domestic Violence Prevention and Services (DSDVPS)**, which receives funding through **SASP** and **FVPSA**. **TANF** is distributed through the **Department of Transitional Services**.

Crime Victim Coalitions

Massachusetts has a combined sexual assault and domestic violence coalition serving as an umbrella organization for both issues. The combined coalition allows for requests and service planning to be coordinated rather than competitive. There is a second coalition of children's advocacy centers across the state. Both are responsible for training, technical assistance, community education/prevention efforts, and advocacy around state policy. Coalitions certify service organizations and advise on funding decisions, but do not administer grant funds.

- [Jane Doe Inc.](#): **Mass Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence**
- **Massachusetts Children's Alliance** ([MACA](#))

Massachusetts Acronyms

ACRONYM	NAME	DESCRIPTION
DDTF	Drunk Driving Trust Fund	State Funding Source
DSDVPS	Division of Domestic Violence Prevention and Services	EOHHS Division
EOHHS	Executive Office of Health and Human Services	Executive Department
GCASDVS	Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, & Stalking	Executive Council
HTTF	Human Trafficking Trust Fund	State Funding Source
MACA	Massachusetts Children's Alliance	State Coalition
MOVA	Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance	Independent Agency
MTA	Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance Training Academy	MOVA Program
VSS	Victim and Survivor Services Funding	MOVA Grant Program
VWAB	Victim Witness Assistance Board	Executive Council

MICHIGAN

Demographic and Crime Data

U.S. Census Data 2026	Michigan	Utah	U.S. National
State Population	10,140,459	3,503,613	340,11,988
Population per sq. mile	178	39.7	93.8
Median Household Income	\$71,149	\$91,750	\$78,538
Persons in Poverty	13.40%	8.3%	10.6%
Uniform Crime Report Data FY24			
Crimes Against Persons	186,041	46,865	10,274,553
VICTIMS COMPENSATION ³⁷			
Federal Allocation	State Allocation	State Fines/Fees	
\$2,680,000	\$0	\$3,573,493	
Total Spent	Costs per Claim	Costs per State Population	
\$8,883,445	\$2,516.56	\$0.88	

Crime Victim Rights

Michigan defines crime victims as “an individual who suffers direct or threatened physical, financial, or emotional harm as a result of the commission of a crime.” This broad definition means that crime victims’ rights are guaranteed regardless of the severity or type of crime. Other persons, such as the spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandparent, or guardian, may also qualify as a victim if the victim is deceased or is physically unable to exercise the privileges and rights of the victim under the [Crime Victim's Rights Act](#). Four pieces of legislation provide these rights: the [Michigan Constitution](#), the **Crime Victim Rights Act**, the [Sexual Assault Victims Access to Justice](#), and the [Sexual Assault Kit Submission Act](#). In Michigan, the law imposes sanctions on employers who discipline or discharge an individual for attending a criminal justice proceeding. Law enforcement, the courts, and the Department of Corrections or local sheriff’s office have duties to notify victims of specific information at certain points during the proceedings. In Michigan, law enforcement is required to provide sexual assault victims with a victim notice card, in addition to the victim rights card, and a handout explaining the results of the forensic medical exam. Victims have the right to a free forensic exam, whether or not they report to law enforcement, and are also informed of their right to file for a protective order.

Administrative Structure

Victim services in Michigan are largely consolidated in the **Department of Health and Human Services** (MDHHS). In 2020, MDHHS enacted a formal [tribal consultation policy](#) dictating how executive agencies in Michigan will consult with federally recognized tribal governments. All state and federal funding is distributed through the **Division of Victim Services (DVS)**, which is comprised of 4 working groups and commissions created to address identified needs.

³⁷ Figures are from publicly available data for 2024

Division of Victim Services (DVS)

DVS houses and collaborates with four governor-appointed boards and commissions: the **Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board**, the **Crime Victim Services Commission**, the **Human Trafficking Health Advisory Board**, and the **Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Tracking and Reporting Commission**. Each board's responsibilities extend beyond the VSC, as they administer state and federal funds, set standards and evaluate effectiveness, develop and recommend policy, and provide technical assistance and training.

Michigan Crime Victim Services Commission (CVSC)

CVSC is a state agency created in 1996 by [statute](#) that 'provided unprecedented authority to coordinate state services and funding for victims of crime'.³⁸ CVSC monitors, evaluates, and coordinates state and local victim assistance programs. It also determines and administers revenue and assessments required in support of services under the Crime Victim's Rights Act. The board provides an advisory role in policy development and determining criminal assessment amounts, an appeals forum for compensation claims, training and technical assistance for advocates, and VINE administration. Annual reports for CVSC are available [here](#).

The 5 members of the board are appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate for staggered 3-year terms. No more than 3 members may be from the same political party.

Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board (MDSVPTB)

[MDSVPTB](#) was [originally established through legislation](#) in 1978. It is responsible for developing policy recommendations, providing relevant technical assistance and training, and administering state and federal grants.

The 7 members of the board are appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate for staggered 3-year terms. MDHHS assists the board in its mission. Members must have experience in an area related to domestic or sexual violence.

Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Tracking and Reporting Commission

The [Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Tracking and Reporting Commission](#), established in 2015 under the [Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Tracking and Reporting Act](#) and housed within the Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board, is responsible for developing plans and guidelines for a uniform statewide system to track the submission and status of sexual assault evidence kits, including secure electronic access for victims. The Commission also oversees the creation of a standardized system to audit untested kits released to law enforcement and to monitor ongoing kit submissions. Additionally, it is tasked with recommending legislation and funding needed to implement these systems. The Commission consists of 15 ex officio members or their designees from within their offices.

Human Trafficking Health Advisory Board

The [Human Trafficking Health Advisory Board](#) is responsible for collecting and analyzing information on medical and mental health services available to survivors, identifying and coordinating with relevant agencies to share service information, and meeting annually with local health agencies to review available resources and support awareness efforts. The [Board consists of 9 members](#): 2 ex officio and 7 appointed by the governor,

³⁸ From the [2021 CVSC Annual Report](#), p16.

serving staggered 4-year terms. Additionally, it develops public awareness programs about survivor services, reviews state laws and administrative rules related to health policies to make recommendations for improvement and submits an annual report.

Outcome Measurement and Planning

Both the MDHHS and DVS have quality assurance standards that MDSVPTB uses to monitor funded programs; this is a peer-driven process (in collaboration with Coalitions). Broadly, these are organized by ethics, infrastructure, and practice (but not outcomes). Programs submit data prior to the site visit.

Adult and Children Services Administration

The Adult and Children Services Administration within MDHHS administers programs related to child welfare and vulnerable adults. The former is funded in part through federal CJA and CAPTA grants.

Distribution of Funding

AGENCY	FEDERAL GRANT	FY24	STATE ADMINISTRATOR
BJA	VOCA	\$22,802,629	DHHS- Division of Victim Services
	VOCA CVC	\$2,680,000	DHHS- Division of Victim Services
	SAKI	\$5,518,886	Department of Public Safety
	Coverdell	\$608,161	Michigan State Police
OVW	SASP	\$1,077,536	DHHS- Division of Victim Services
	STOP	\$ 4,615,493	DHHS- Division of Victim Services
	EIP	\$5000,000	Department of the Attorney General
ACF	CJA	\$460,055	DHHS- Adult & Children Services Administration
	CAPTA	\$2,957,378	DHHS- Adult & Children Services Administration
	FVPSA	\$3,757,630	DHHS- DV Prevention & Treatment Board

Division of Victim Services (DVS)

According to the [FY26 MDHHS Director's Report](#), DVS provides services to nearly 150,000 victims annually through support for 120 separate organizations. Budget recommendations have focused on using state funds to offset federal funding reductions over the last decade. Federal funding in FY26 is expected to be \$31.9M, down from \$54.5M in FY24. MDHHS proposes increasing the general fund investment from \$30M in FY24 to \$50M in FY26.

The grant application process is centralized through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Additionally, the creation of dedicated state revenue funds relies on fees assessed on convicted defendants (Crime Victim Rights Fund), among others (also for Human Trafficking and Child Advocacy; Sustaining Funds). This combines state funds and VOCA federal funds to increase funding for victim service providers through the Victim Assistance Grants Program, which was designed to model the federal VOCA mechanism.

Crime Victim Services Commission (CVSC)

All program efforts are fully supported by criminal assessments or fines paid by convicted defendants in state and federal courts. CVSC provides an advisory function in policy development, determines criminal assessment amounts, and serves as the appeals forum for compensation claims. Funding comes from 3 sources:

The State of Michigan Crime Victim Rights Fund (CVRF)

A state-restricted fund established by [legislation](#) in 1989 to support crime victims' rights. Funds are generated through revenue from state appropriations and post-conviction assessments: 1) Felony offenses: \$130, 2) Misdemeanors or Ordinance Violations: \$75, and 3) Juvenile Offenses: \$25. Defendants are only required to pay one fine per criminal case. Revenue for the fund has declined considerably since 2018, from nearly \$20M to \$12.8M [in 2024](#).

Crime Victim Rights Sustainability Grant

Starting in 2024, the state legislature began allocating funds to offset revenue shortfalls.

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)

Michigan also receives matching federal funds to supplement crime victim compensation. The state was allocated \$2.6M [in FY24](#).

Michigan has received significantly less federal assistance in recent years. In 2018, the state received over \$100M in VOCA funds compared to \$22.8M [in 2024](#).

The funding administered by this group focused on **Crime Victim Rights Services** and **Crime Victim Compensation**. Through the **Crime Victim Rights Grant Program**, funds are available through local prosecutors' offices for entities that provide comprehensive notification, information, and assistance to victims during the criminal process.

Crime Victim Compensation covers medical/dental treatment, counseling, funeral expenses, crime scene cleanup, relocation expenses, security, loss of earnings, and manages the SAFE Response program, which provides direct reimbursement to health care providers for the provision of a Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examination.

[Crime Victims Compensation Navigators](#) collaborate with local stakeholders to help victims navigate the application process and use program funds.

MI Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board (MDSVPTB)

MDSVPTB administers 3 federal grant programs: FVPSA, STOP, and SASP. MDSVPTB also administers 2 state grant programs:

Children's Advocacy Center Fund

A fund established by [legislation](#) in 2008 that provides funding for the Children's Advocacy Center across the state. Funds are collected from criminal fines.

Sexual Assault Victims' Medical Forensic Intervention and Treatment Act

A fund established by [legislation](#) in 2008 that provides funding for forensic medical exams and treatment for sexual assault victims. Funds are collected from criminal fines.

FY 2024 CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS GRANT PROGRAM

CRVP Funding Allocation	\$12,436,906.00
Number of CVRP Grantees	83
Victims Served	85,319

FY 2024 Victim Assistance

Victim assistance funds awarded (combined VOCA and Sustaining Funds)	\$ 68,345,163
--	---------------

Organizations funded	115
Victims served	147,527
Victims receiving services for the first time in 2024	112,430 (76.21%)
Victims presenting more than one victimization	29,062 (19.70%)
Number of individuals assisted with compensation applications	1,2332
FY 2024 Compensation/SAFE Response	
Compensation/SAFE funds awarded	\$ 8,883,445
Compensation applications approved	1,308
Applications denied	110
SAFE Response applications approved	2,324

Adult and Children Services Administration

The Adult and Children Services Administration within MDHHS administers programs related to child welfare and vulnerable adults. The former is funded in part through federal **CJA** and **CAPTA** grants.

Crime Victim Coalitions

Michigan has one major state coalition, the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence ([MCEDSV](#)), and an OVW Tribal Coalition, [Uniting Three Fires Against Violence](#). They are umbrella organizations overseeing domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. They are responsible for training, technical assistance, community education/prevention efforts, and advocacy around state policy. MCEDSV collaborates with MDSVPT to monitor funded programs and provide [quality assurance](#). This is a peer-based review process grounded in ethics, infrastructure, and practice rather than outcomes.

Michigan Acronyms

ACRONYM	NAME	DESCRIPTION
CVRF	The State of Michigan Crime Victim Rights Fund	DVS Funding Program
CVSC	Michigan Crime Victim Services Commission	DVS Commission
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services	Executive Department
DVS	Division of Victim Services	DHHS Division
MCEDSV	Michigan Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence	State Coalition
MDSVPTB	Michigan Domestic & Sexual Violence Prevention & Treatment Board	DVS Commission
SAFE	Sexual Assault Forensic Exam	Program

WASHINGTON

Demographic and Crime Data

U.S. Census Data 2026	Washington	Utah	U.S. National
State Population	7,958,180	3,503,613	340,11,988
Population per sq. mile	115.9	39.7	93.8
Median Household Income	\$94,952	\$91,750	\$78,538
Persons in Poverty	9.9%	8.3%	10.6%
Uniform Crime Report Data FY24			
Crimes Against Persons	104,611	46,865	10,274,553
VICTIMS COMPENSATION IN FY24 ³⁹			
Federal Allocation	State Allocation	State Fines and Fees	
\$4,354,000	\$3,766,000	\$0	
Total Spent	Costs per Claim	Costs per State Population	
\$20,236,203	\$2,443.99	\$2.54	

Crime Victim Rights

In Washington, crime victim rights provisions exist in the state constitution and in specific statutes (the [Crime Victim Rights Act](#)). Most rights apply to victims, survivors, and witnesses in any adult, juvenile, or civil commitment proceeding. Some rights are specific to victims of felonies, violent crimes, domestic violence, sexual violence, and/or hate crimes. Like some other states, Washington provides specific rights regarding participation in proceedings, such as the option to attend remotely; the right to be present in court after testifying; and the right to have the court schedule adjusted to prioritize the victim's early testimony. The law also provides for prioritization of immediate medical treatment for victims who have been injured over the law enforcement investigation. In Washington, victims of violent or sexual crimes have the right to have an advocate present for any interview or proceeding.

Administrative Structure

Department of Commerce, Office of Crime Victims Advocacy (OVCA)

The OVCA is an office within the **Washington State Department of Commerce's Community Services Division**, which houses other offices that administer community-based grants. The Mission of the Office of Crime Victims Advocacy to identify the opportunities and resources needed for prevention and intervention, and to facilitate the availability of those opportunities and resources in communities statewide.

The office administers grant programs for services to victims of crime and prevention activities authorized by state or federal legislation, budget, or executive order. The office is composed of 4 teams: 1) Operations; 2) Sexual Assault; 3) Victims of Crime; and 4) Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Each team has a section lead who reports to the Director.

³⁹ Figures are from [VOCA Victim Compensation Dashboard](#)

The OVCA actively collaborates with government agencies across overlapping mission areas, such as domestic violence, and has an initiative to promote communication and collaboration with tribal governments. The OVCA receives regular feedback through grant reports and communication with service providers to ensure funding initiatives and programs are responsive to community needs. The internal report system for grantees is shared with the Department of Social and Health Services.

The OVCA is [legislatively](#) charged with advocating on behalf of victims to obtain needed services and resources; administering grant funds for community programs serving crime victims; assisting communities in planning and implementing services for crime victims; and advising local and state government agencies on practices, policies, and priorities that impact crime victims.

The OVCA measures success through descriptive statistics on service provision and focuses on programs that demonstrate sustainability. Outcomes and other agency data are consolidated in a web-based data collection system, InfoNet, and overseen by the Operations Team.

WA Department of Labor and Industries (WSDLI)

Crime Victim Compensation Program (CVCP)

Crime victim compensation is a program within the Department of Labor and Industry's claims department, which is also responsible for workplace injuries. Compensation is available to cover some costs of violent crimes and does not cover costs that can be paid using insurance.

Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)

DSHS houses departments and programs related to child welfare, the welfare of vulnerable adults, and domestic violence.

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Statewide Coordinating Committee

Established statutorily within the **Washington Office of the Attorney General** to address issues of exploited youth. This Committee oversees the implementation of best-practice models for exploited youth (Safe Harbor) and is the primary way that Regional Task Forces communicate their needs and concerns to the legislature.

Judicial Branch

Office of Civil Legal Aid (OCLA)

OCLA is an independent judicial branch agency responsible for administering and overseeing state funds appropriated by the legislature to provide civil legal aid services to low-income individuals in WA. OCLA administers two legal aid programs that are specifically dedicated to survivors of crime/violence: the **Crime Victim Legal Aid Program** and the **Legal Aid Program for Survivors of Domestic Violence**.

Washington State Supreme Court Gender and Justice Commission ([WSSCGJC](#))

WSSCGJ is a permanent committee of the Judicial Branch tasked with identifying and preventing gender bias in the Washington Courts. It has 24 members appointed by the Chief Justice of the WA Supreme Court for 3-year terms. The Chief appoints a Chair, who serves at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. The Chair appoints standing committees as the work of the

Commission requires (comprised of members). The chair can also approve ad hoc committees for time-limited projects (may include members and non-members). Those committees include:

- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Committee
- Education Committee
- Family Law: Develops products that include the Trauma-Informed Bench Card, which is used for civil protection orders and family law
- Incarceration, Gender, and Justice: Works on issues including reentry, parenting, and the overlap between women’s victimization and incarceration.
- Legislative Committee: The legislature uses this commission as a primary way to develop recommendations and expertise regarding gender-based violence, including sexual and domestic violence. Work includes:
 - Crime Victim Services Workgroup
 - Convened Stakeholders to Make Recommendations Related to Protective Orders
 - Convening Stakeholders to Address Two Topics Related to Domestic Violence (Risk Assessment and Perpetrator Treatment)
 - Development of Model Policy for Modification of No Contact Orders

If a member misses 3 consecutive meetings, they have effectively resigned from WSSCGJC.

Washington State Minority and Justice Commission (WSMJC)

WMJC is a permanent committee of the Judicial Branch tasked with identifying and preventing racial, ethnic, and national origin bias in the Washington Courts. The Commission consists of 35 active members appointed by the Washington State Supreme Court. This active membership includes judicial officers and other stakeholders in the judicial system. The Commission is supported by emeritus members and law student liaisons. The chair can also approve ad hoc committees for time-limited projects (may include members and non-members). Those committees include:

- Education Committee
- Outreach Committee
- QT+ Committee: Focuses on inquiry and action on addressing racial and ethnic bias at the intersectional experience of Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Asexual, and other (2SLGBTQIA+)

Tribal State Court Consortium (TSCC)

A collaboration between WSSCGJC, WSMJC, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and tribal courts. It focuses on improved collaboration between state and tribal court judicial officers; members of this Consortium have created their own work groups.

Distribution of Funding

AGENCY	FEDERAL GRANT	FY24	STATE ADMINISTRATOR
BJA	VOCA	\$17,860,091	Department of Commerce
	VOCA CVC	\$4,354,000	Department of Labor & Industries
	SAKI	\$7,074,874	Attorney General’s Office
	Coverdell	\$473,385	Washington State Patrol

OVW	SASP	\$1,004,965	Department of Commerce
	STOP	\$3,725,610	Department of Commerce
ACF	CJA	\$370,037	Department of Children, Youth, and Families
	CAPTA	\$2,319,131	Department of Children, Youth, and Families
	FVPSA	\$3,034,880	Department of Social and Health Services

Office of Crime Victims Advocacy (OVCA)

OCVA is funded through a combination of state-allocated funds and federal grants. Program funding administered by OVCA is allocated either on an emergency/one-time basis, through competitive RFPs, or using formulas that consider area population (general and specific), crime rates, and whether the agency/area is a service hub for surrounding areas.

OVCA also targets cultural and community-specific resources, including collaborations with tribal governments. Federal grants include the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), the STOP (Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors) Program, and the Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program (SASP) within the Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program. The OVCA oversees approximately 26 active grant programs and \$66 million in annual funding.

WA's FY2024 VOCA allocation represented a 42% reduction from the previous year.

In collaboration with the state **DSHS** and the state sexual violence coalition, OCVA administers **CDC Rape Prevention Education (CDC RPE)** funds to community programs. DOH participates in the development of the RFP so that entities receiving funding employ a social-ecological model that targets norms, beliefs, policies, and practices that promote sexual violence. In FY24, DOH received \$930,576 from this program for distribution to communities.

State Funding

One-time funding

Amount	FY	Type
\$200,000	2025	Study and research related to sex trafficking
\$20,660,000	2024	Address VOCA reductions
\$3,850,000 ⁴⁰	2024 and 2025	Rental assistance to human trafficking survivors

Annual Funding

Amount	Type
\$950,000	Direct victim services to address harms other than DV/SA
\$1,350,000	Legal advocacy to address domestic violence
\$1,600,000	Direct victim services and awareness campaigns for indigenous survivors of human trafficking
\$7,230,000	Direct victim services, prevention, and coordination for survivors of sexual assault
\$13,000	Direct services for survivors of sex trafficking (distributed through competitive grant process once total amount available is sufficiently built up; statute)
\$164,000	Promote consistent and equal treatment to immigrant victims statewide
\$1,370,000	Local governments for Victim Witness Services
\$260,000	Provide services to sexual assault victims in prison facilities and re-entry sites
\$54,000	Support Trafficking Task Force
\$49,000	Trafficking Task Force Training (statute)

⁴⁰ Reflects total amount over 2 one-time allocations

Department of Labor and Industries (WSDLI)

Crime Victim Compensation Program (CVCP)

CVCP is funded in part through VOCA and receives almost \$800,000 annually from state appropriations. It covers:

- Medical/Mental Health treatment: \$150,000 maximum
- Wages (payments are based on 60% of the victim's wages)
- Family benefits of homicide victims: \$40,000 maximum, includes burial expenses
- Benefits to the crime victim:
 - Temporary wage loss benefit (returning to work): up to \$15,000
 - Permanent total disability wage loss benefit: up to \$40,000
- Burial expenses: up to \$7,990
- Maximum per claim: \$190,000

The **State General Fund** and the **01-F Fund**, a dedicated fund from inmate phone fees, support CVCP. In FY24, WSDLI received \$12.8 million in CVC funding. Total expenditures were \$18,276,977 in FY24.

Department of Social & Health Services (DSHS)

Federal Funding

DSHS distributes 95% of the **FVPSA** formula award to programs that provide DV shelter and supportive services for victims of DV and dependents. The award for FY24 was \$3,030,051. Separately, 5-10 tribes and the **WSCADV** receive grant funding from OFPVS.

State Funding

The **State General Fund** and the **Domestic Violence Prevention Account** provide advocacy services and DV prevention. The amount fluctuates depending on state budget and appropriations; it was \$9,754,428 in FY24.

Statutory funds in the amount of \$2,400,000 per biennium to address DV, to fund primary prevention, culturally specific services, and services for children and youth. These are distributed by a combination of funding formula, direct allocations, and a competitive application process.

\$630,000 in FY24 to provide support services for TANF/Work First Families experiencing family violence.

Domestic Violence Service Funding

The current funding formula was developed in 1994 and 1995 through a collaborative process involving **DSHS**, DV shelter providers, and **WSCADV**. It was intended to stabilize funding for DSHS-funded DV shelter programs and eliminate arbitrary or discretionary state-level funding decisions. The state, at that time, also determined that contracts would be awarded on a noncompetitive basis to DV shelter programs that contracted with DSHS, provided the programs complied with the governing state statute and administrative rule provisions.

Formula funding increased for the 2023–2025 biennium when the legislature increased the DSHS appropriations for DV victim services.

Funding Formula

The formula is based on population-to-geographic area calculation using a 2:1 ratio. Contracts are allocated by county (some multicounty) to ensure coverage in every county. Per **WAC 388-61A-1020 (3)**, if an organization applies for funding, DSHS will consider such things as: (a) Geographic location; (b) Population density; (c) Specific population needs, including urban and rural areas, and the need for culturally and linguistically appropriate services and prevention efforts; (d) Availability and existence of domestic violence outreach and prevention efforts; (e) An applicant's demonstrated history and experience in providing domestic violence services and its ability to provide services that comply with the minimum standards of this chapter; (f) The availability of other domestic violence programs in a community and the level of collaboration between and among existing programs; and (g) The amount of funding available to maintain stability and support for domestic violence programs currently funded by DSHS.

Minimum allocation per program

The minimum program allocation is computed annually by dividing 71% of the total state and federal funds available for the formula by the number of programs DSHS will contract with in the upcoming state fiscal year.

Minimum allocations available through the funding formula have remained relatively stable, with moderate increases over time. In SFY15, the minimum allocation awarded under the formula was \$173,639; by SFY25, it had grown to \$323,185.

County Size and Population

The amount of funding per program increases above the minimum allocation for counties serving large geographic areas and/or with a larger population base. The formula also includes guardrails to mitigate dramatic funding swings for individual programs resulting from significant changes to county population data and/or available funds.

Culturally and Community Specific Providers

Programs that enter the funding formula as a **Cultural Needs Emergency DV Shelter** receive the minimum allocation. Contracts are supported by state general funds and funds from the domestic violence prevention account. DSHS awarded \$968,951 for these services through June 2025.

For domestic violence primary prevention, DSHS committed \$1.8M for the initial 18-month period of the current group of multiyear prevention projects (January 2024 – June 2025) and plans to award additional funding and extend the project period for these contractors through June 2027 upon successful performance during the initial period.

DSHS awarded \$19,717,4254 across 39 contracts for **emergency DV shelter** and supportive services in SFY 2025.

Nineteen out of 39 formula-funded programs receive only the **minimum allocation**. Programs contracted to serve counties with large populations receive significantly more than the minimum allocation

DSHS currently contracts with 58 DV programs across Washington state; of those, 39 receive formula funding and may also have other contracts with DSHS through the department's other funding initiatives.

Updates to the Formula

DSHS has made minor changes to the funding formula since it was first established. For example, in 2015, DSHS implemented a policy change to add half of the minimum program allocation for the fiscal year to any DSHS-contracted formula-funded program serving an additional county or counties. In SFY 2019, the formula changed to calculate the minimum allocation on 71% of available funding rather than 73%.

Survey respondents and workgroup members from formula-funded programs expressed that having access to non-competitive, annually renewable funding at a predictable amount is critical to their efficacy and sustainability. DSHS formula funds are stable, and despite some programs experiencing challenges meeting certain service requirements, programs understand what to expect from formula funding. DSHS will continue to partner with statewide advocacy coalitions **WSCADV** and **WomenSpirit Coalition**, and community-based DV programs (those who currently receive funding through the formula and those who do not) to explore making smaller changes to the way funding allocations are computed and explore adjustments to the service requirements attached to receipt of formula funding.

Office of Civil Legal Aid (OCLA)

OCLA administers two legal aid programs that are specifically dedicated to survivors of crime/violence: the **Crime Victim Legal Aid Program** and **Legal Aid Program for Survivors of Domestic Violence**. These are funded through OCVA pursuant to an interagency agreement⁴¹. OCLA receives 8.7% of the total VOCA amount annually. In FY24, OCLA received \$4,906,268 of which \$4,672,637 was authorized for subcontracting.

OCLA also receives **State General Funds** to support direct legal services for survivors of domestic violence, \$2,000,000 annually beginning in FY23. Also created a 20% set aside to fund specialized services for DV survivors living on/near rural reservations.

OCLA also provides state funds directly to the **Northwest Justice Project** to support operational costs for 21 offices statewide and other initiatives to increase access to legal services. The FY24/25 biennium budget was \$52 million.

OCLA also uses those funds to subcontract with **Legal Fund of Washington (LFW)** to enhance the capacity of local volunteer attorneys and specialty legal aid providers to serve low-income individuals (amount, part of \$52 million, above, was \$7,886,000 in the same biennium).

Legal Services Corporation (LSC)

Publicly funded non-profit that administers funds to level services providers. It administers money to provide civil legal services to low-income Americans. In WA, that goes to the **Northwest Justice Project**⁴² to provide services, including for DV victims. Washington received \$9,324,138 in FY23.

⁴¹ Previously funded by VOCA, but is now supplemented by state funds

⁴² In Utah, these funds are distributed to Utah Legal Services, which provides services across the state. In FY24 the award was \$3,550,152 and in FY25 the amount was \$3,732,006. In FY24, ULS worked on 2,269 cases that involved domestic violence (7,7892 cases were closed by ULS that year).

Legal Foundation of WA

A non-profit that distributes **Interest on Lawyer's Trust Accounts (IOLTA)** funds to legal aid organizations across the state. They also administer private grant funds from IOLTA, Legal Endowment, and fundraising. The amount varies over time.

Crime Victim Coalitions

Washington has a single dual domestic violence and sexual assault coalition as well as an official OVC Tribal Coalition. responsible for training, technical assistance, community education/prevention efforts, and advocacy around state policy. Coalitions certify service organizations and advise on funding decisions, but do not administer grant funds.

- **Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence ([WSCADV](#))**: Coalitions combined in 2026.
- **[WomenSpirit](#) Coalition**

Washington Acronyms

ACRONYM	NAME	DESCRIPTION
CSEC	Commercially & Sexually Exploited Children Statewide Coordinating Council	Attorney General Commission
CVCP	Crime Victim Compensation Program	DLI Program
DOC	Department of Commerce	Executive Department
DSHS	Department of Social and Health Services	Executive Department
IOLTA	Interest on Lawyer's Trust Accounts	State Fund
LFW	Legal Fund of Washington	Private Entity
LSC	Legal Services Corporation	Private Entity
OCLA	Office of Civil Legal Aid	Judicial Office
OVCA	Office of Crime Victims Advocacy	DOC Division
TSCC	Tribal State Court Consortium	Judicial Commission
WSCADV	Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence	State Coalition
WSDLI	WA State Department of Labor and Industries	Executive Department
WSMJC	Washington State Minority and Justice Commission	Judicial Commission
WSSCGJC	Washington State Supreme Court Gender and Justice Commission	Judicial Commission

UTAH

Demographic and Crime Data

U.S. Census Data 2024	Utah	U.S. National
State Population	3,503,613	340,11,988
Population per sq. mile	39.7	93.8
Median Household Income	\$91,750	\$78,538
Persons in Poverty	8.3%	10.6%
Uniform Crime Report Data FY24		
Violent Crimes	8,682	6,671,640
Crimes Against Persons	46,865	10,274,553
VICTIMS COMPENSATION IN FY24 ⁴³		
Federal Allocation	State Allocation ⁴⁴	Fines and Fees
\$3,990,000	\$6,811,746	\$0
Total Spent	Costs per Claim	Costs per State Population
\$7,458,744	\$470.05	\$2.13

Crime Victim Rights

The following section highlights novel initiatives that other states use to fund and administer responses to crime victimization. Full details of each highlight are provided within individual state profiles, above.

In Utah, crime victim rights are afforded by the state constitution and the Utah State Code (Title 77, Chapter 38). When compared to the other states reviewed here, Utah’s crime victim rights apply to a relatively narrower subset of victims. The rights that apply to all victims are: **1)** “to be treated with fairness, respect, and dignity and to be free from harassment throughout the criminal justice process”; and **2)** to provide information for a judge to consider regarding sentencing of a person convicted of an offense. Only victims in felony cases have broad rights to be present and heard at a “range of important criminal justice hearings related to the victim.” Victims of felonies, class A and B misdemeanors, and juvenile offenses have the remaining rights outlined in the introduction. Victims of justice court cases do not have those rights but do have rights related to restitution. There are additional rights for victims of sexual assault and child victims; the latter has the right to be treated in “the most effective, least traumatic, intrusive, or intimidating manner.”

Utah resembles the other states in the broad array of rights afforded to victims and witnesses. The most notable rights afforded in some other states, but not Utah, are:

- The right to have an advocate present for any contact, interview, or proceeding
- The right to refuse an interview or other communication with the defendant, their attorney, or anyone acting on their behalf.

⁴³ Figures are from [VOCA Victim Compensation Dashboard](#)

⁴⁴ Revenue for the Crime Victim Reparations Fund in 2024: <https://cobi.utah.gov/fund/2315>

- The right to be present in court after testifying and the right to have the court schedule adjusted to prioritize early testimony for the victim.
- The right to see and contribute to the pre-sentence report
- Provisions within the statute prevent employers from taking action against an employee for missing work to participate in court proceedings
- Provisions that specify specific timelines within certain rights must be afforded; for example, the number of days within which property related to the investigation must be returned.

Administrative Structure

With the establishment of the **Victim Services Commission**, located within the **Department of Criminal Justice**, Utah has a relatively centralized structure for administering resources and policies attendant to crime victimization. In its structure, Utah most closely resembles Georgia and Michigan. Notably, however, the **Division of Child and Family Services**, which administers state and federal funds for domestic violence, is located within a separate state agency (The **Division of Health and Human Services**) and does not currently have a seat on the Utah Victim Services Commission. The highlights below describe structures the reviewed states have created for partnering with and empowering local entities; the section also highlights how states have used state-level entities to ensure adequate responses to victimization.

Colorado is one of the most decentralized states for distributing crime victim compensation; funds are allocated through local judicial districts. The state distributes federal VOCA monies to the district attorneys; decisions regarding claims are made by a three-member local board appointed by the district attorney. The state also enacted legislation creating an entity in each judicial district that distributes funds generated by fees on certain crimes. Those funds are then distributed via competitive grant applications, which are reviewed by a five-member board appointed by the Chief Justice. Both of these processes are viewed by partners as creating nimble and community-specific compensation and services. Furthermore, these mechanisms have resulted in local partnerships that are engaged in developing and administering funds for responding to crime victims.

Georgia is most similar to Utah in how it structures agencies that administer and fund victim response systems, most of which report to the **Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC)**. CJCC developed a statewide **Core Services Model** to ensure federal funds prioritize essential, direct services for victims. To track the outcomes of victim services, CJCC collects and analyzes data submitted by service providers⁴⁵. In that process, CJCC has largely assumed the burden of helping programs collect and analyze data to demonstrate their impact. Participation is required only of agencies that receive funding allocated by the state, but all service providers may use the system if desired. At the state level, this is one mechanism CJCC uses to assess the adequacy, accessibility, and quality of services provided. By leveraging federal funding (one-time grant monies), CJCC has created state-level mechanisms that support the development of coordinated responses, in the form of a **Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Project** and the **Family Justice Initiative**. Those have resulted in the creation of local multidisciplinary response teams that continue to operate even after grant funds expire. To improve safety for

⁴⁵ This data is submitted in aggregate and contains no identifying information on individuals receiving services.

domestic violence victims, Georgia created the **Georgia Commission on Family Violence**, located within the Georgia Department of Community Supervision. The primary of this entity is to operate coordinated community response models for domestic violence.

The **Washington** legislature relies on a state commission located within the judiciary to examine problems and identify solutions within the state's response to gender-based violence. The state legislature tasks this commission with conducting research that will identify strategies to resolve issues with protective orders and funding and accessibility of victim services. The commission is comprised of standing committees, which work on topics that require ongoing attention, and working groups that are pulled together based on legislative requests. **Alabama's** structure for victim services is unique in that state and federal funding, including education funds, were combined to create an agency administers funds specifically for evidence-based prevention programming.

Distribution of Funding

In terms of allocating funding for victim services, Utah has a relatively uncoordinated system. There are multiple state agencies that administer state and federal funds for victim services and compensation; coordinated decision-making is typically informal. Like many states, Utah has allocated one-time and ongoing funds to offset reductions in federal funding; that money has come out of the state general fund.

Other states have taken measures to coordinate funding decisions, reduce the burden on providers when applying for funding, and create ongoing state funding sources to mitigate the impact of federal instability. Those measures include:

- The creation of **state-level entities** that ensure certain core services are available throughout the state (e.g., domestic violence services, sexual assault services). Providers are identified in every region of the state and must provide a statutorily defined set of services in order to be eligible for funding. The state administrator combines all available sources of funding (state and federal) and makes a non-competitive allocation, determined by a formula, that is predictable year to year. Administrators make decisions on how to combine funding, rather than have programs apply for multiple funding opportunities. This means that the same service providers receive that dedicated funding from year to year; however, a portion of available funding is set aside and allocated competitively for new services and providers.
- The creation of **funding formulas** to guide decision-making that rely on some combination of factors, including population, crime rate, domestic violence crime rate, percentage of the population that is adult women, and geographic characteristics.
- The creation of **statutory requirements** and processes to ensure that funding formulas are reviewed and updated regularly.
- The establishment of **minimum allocations** for the providers who are responsible for providing core services.
- The establishment of **protections** so programs do not experience wide fluctuations in funding related to changes in federal funds or components of the formula (e.g., VOCA cliff, population decline).

- The state commits to a specific amount of **long-term funding** for victim services that comes from the state general fund. Most states reviewed here have provided one-time allocations to offset VOCA reductions. Some states have dedicated funds for victim services, which combine state general funds with other sources such as fines and fees.
- The state develops **new and ongoing sources of funding** dedicated to victim services. Those include new taxes, court fines and fees, and a portion of other fees, such as marriage licenses and divorce filings. In the reviewed states, revenue from fines and fees contributed more than \$12 million in ongoing funds; however, this amount fluctuates year by year. **Colorado** recently created a new tax expected to generate up to \$39 million annually.
- Creating a **process to collect and analyze victim service provider data** relating to outcomes. This shifts the burden off individual programs and provides the state with ongoing information about the impact and accessibility of victim services. This information can be used to identify the need for additional services or funding.

Crime Victim Coalitions

Utah has 3 state coalitions as well as an official OVW Tribal Coalition. They are responsible for training, technical assistance, community education/prevention efforts, and advocacy around state policy. Coalitions certify service organizations and advise on funding decisions, but do not administer grant funds.

- Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault ([UCASA](#))
- Utah Domestic Violence Coalition ([UDVC](#))
- [Asian Association of Utah](#)
- [Restoring Ancestral Winds](#)

Other coalition types that do not exist in Utah include:

- Coalition for system-based advocates
- Coalition for victims around leniency in sentencing
- Combined domestic violence and sexual assault coalition
- Sexual assault coalition for incarcerated women
- Coalition for family justice centers
- Coalition for elder justice

While there is no state coalition in Utah related to child abuse, the state

administrator of the Children's Justice Centers functions in that capacity, among other duties. All states reviewed here collaborate with coalitions to provide training and technical assistance, community prevention, and policy advocacy. Other states work with their respective coalitions to:

- Develop policies and practices, including funding formulas
- Distribute federal funds to providers
- Distribute emergency funding to victims

FEDERAL ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	NAME	DESCRIPTION
ACF	Office of the Administration for Children & Families	Federal Entity
ARPA	American Rescue Plan Act	Federal legislation/ Grant Program
BJA	Bureau of Justice Assistance	Federal Entity
CAPTA	Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act	Federal legislation/ Grant Program
CJA	Children's Justice Act	Federal legislation/ Grant Program
COVERDELL	Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants	Federal Grant Program
DV	Domestic Violence	Crime Category
FVPSA	Family Violence and Prevention Services Act	Federal legislation/ Grant Program
OVW	Office of Violence Against Women	Federal Entity
SA	Sexual Assault	Crime Category
SAFE	Sexual Assault Forensic Exam	Program
SAKI	Sexual Assault Kit Initiative	Federal Grant Program
SASP	Sexual Assault Services Program	Federal legislation/ Grant Program
STOP	Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors Program	Federal Grant Program
TANF	Temporary Assistance to Needy Families	Federal Grant Program
VAWA	Violence Against Women Act	Federal Legislation
VINE	Victim Information and Notification Everyday	Program

CONCLUSION

The states reviewed here differ from Utah and from each other in the administrative and financial structures through which responses to criminal victimization are established and maintained. When considering priority areas for Utah, as described elsewhere in this report, the analysis offers possible solutions.

1. Understanding need when making decisions about resource allocation

The amount of funds allocated to establish and maintain victim services systems throughout the state should take into consideration current data regarding the **prevalence** of victimization, crime victims' **needs**, and **gaps** in existing services. Currently, there is no data source that characterizes crime victimization among all Utahns. Instead, that information is based on data collected amongst victims who report to law enforcement or reach out to victim service providers, both of which have been identified as undercounting actual rates of victimization. Similarly, systematic data on the services provided to victims is primarily captured in grant-related reporting. As a result, there is limited information characterizing victims' needs with respect to:

- Types of services not funded by grants;
- Services provided by unfunded programs; and
- The needs of individuals who are unable to access services.

This data collection should include developing a system to assess the impact of victim services on individuals' outcomes. Data collection should integrate varied funding streams and include provisions to protect victims' confidential information. Refer to the state of **Georgia**, in this document, as an example of methods for:

1. Identifying relevant outcome measures and assessments for evaluating the impact of services. Gathering the same data from all providers would facilitate a system-wide analysis of the impact of services.
2. Developing processes that protect victims' privacy, including: 1) only submitting aggregate data, and 2) not including any personally identifying information.
3. Provide resources for a state agency (such as the Research Team in the Department of Criminal Justice) to collect and analyze data and distribute findings to programs and other interested parties.
4. Use the results to inform discussions around policy and funding.

Both funded and unfunded providers should be supported and encouraged to enter data into this system.

Finally, the **needs of service providers** regarding **fiscal stability** are not collected systematically. Because all programs rely on a combination of funds (including federal, state, local, and private sources), there is no single entity tasked with ensuring that services, in the form of programs, continue to exist even when funding is reduced. The state should collect regular data on prevalence, victim needs, and service provider needs. That data should be used to inform decisions regarding resource allocation.

2. Enhancing collaboration with local partners.

Create mechanisms to strengthen partnerships and increase buy-in from local municipalities. This could include decentralizing the distribution of some state and federal funds to local entities. This could also include legislation to generate local funding sources for victim services, which would be collected and distributed locally. The administration of the Children's Justice Centers in Utah also provides a model for state and local collaboration, as all of the centers have a supervisory relationship with the county they are in and a state contract for funding.

3. Make use of the VSC to ensure there is a single entity with insight into all aspects of the response to crime victimization.

Because all victim service programs rely on a combination of funds (including federal, state, local, and private sources), there is no single entity tasked with ensuring that services, in the form of programs, continue to exist even when there are reductions in available funding. A single state entity should have access to data on the funding sources and percentages of all providers receiving state or federal funding. This data should be used to ensure that threats to agencies' economic stability are systematically identified and addressed.

4. As a state, commit to funding a specific amount of ongoing money for victim services that is predictable and allocated non-competitively.

This should be provided to ensure that certain core services are available in every region of the state. The amount should be robust enough to protect programs from fluctuations in federal funding. The state should consider developing new and ongoing funding sources for victim services, such as licensure fees, criminal justice fines and fees, or new taxes. Of note, to the degree that those sources come from fines and fees assessed on perpetrators, they will continue to put the needs of victims at odds with the rights of defendants' rights and efforts to support rehabilitation.

The state should develop funding formulas as part of efforts to create stability in funding for victim services, which would be used in determining the allocation of a portion of available funds. Formulas should take into consideration local crime rates, population, geographic characteristics, and available resources; specific formulas should be developed in conjunction with programs and funders. In addition, the state should create structures—such as a minimum allocation and protections against funding fluctuation—to protect providers from shifting funding amounts. Such changes should continue to preserve processes for responding to issues like deobligation or mismanagement of funds (see, for example, California, in the State Administration and Funding of the Response to Crime Victimization Report).

5. Use the VSC and its subcommittees to identify problems and develop solutions related to crime victimization.

This should include establishing processes that encourage legislators to interact with the VSC in this way and bring questions to the VSC prior to the development of legislation.

6. Expand the scope of victim rights legislation to apply to all victims, regardless of the court that hears the case.

Because crime victim rights in Utah are applied depending on the court in which a case is being heard, there are some victims who do not have the right to be present and heard at all proceedings. This can be problematic for victims of interpersonal violence, including domestic violence, whose cases are often heard in justice court. The absence of the victim's input into, and knowledge of, court proceedings may pose a risk to victim safety. Child victims in Utah have an additional right to be treated in a manner that minimizes harm and maximizes well-being. Inclusion of this provision for adults could improve outcomes for victims who, research suggests, often feel harmed by the criminal justice system.

APPENDICES:
STATE VICTIM SERVICES STRUCTURE DIAGRAMS

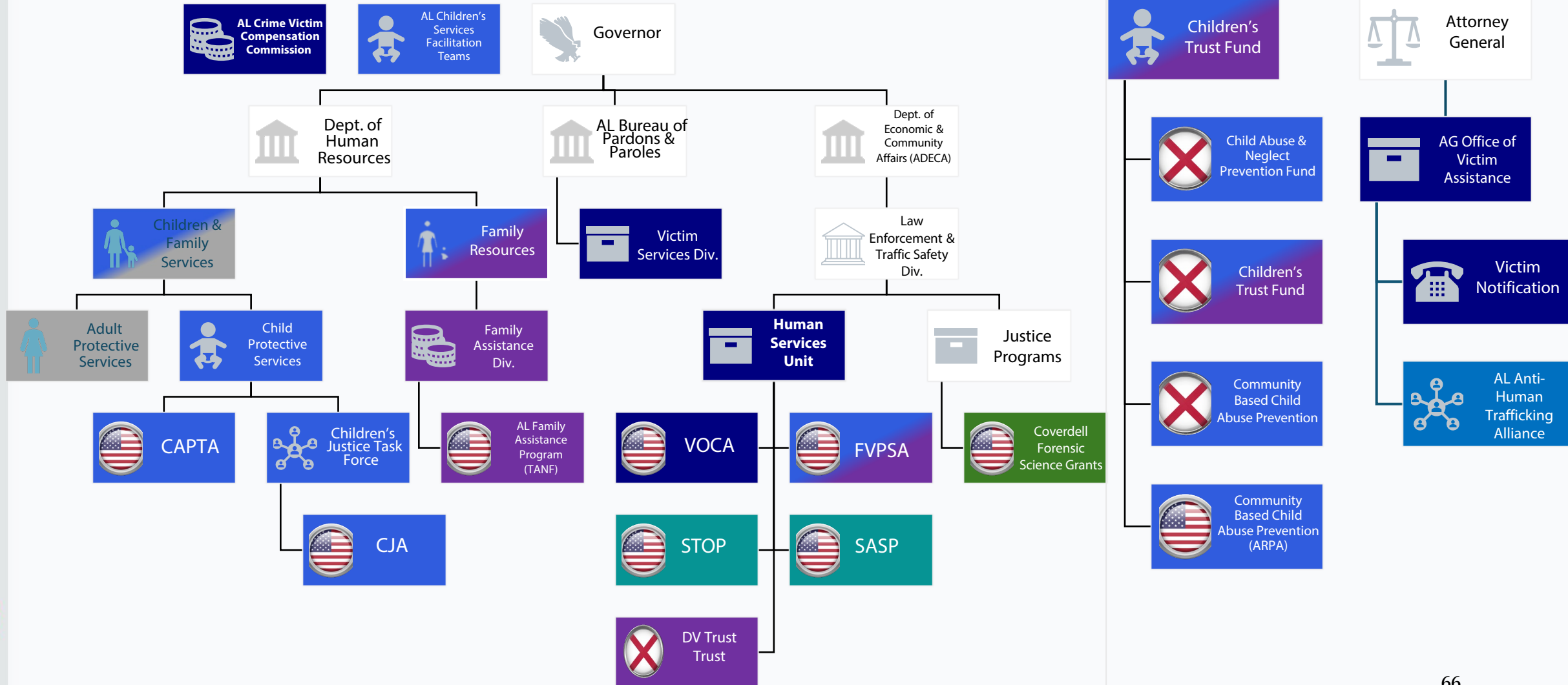
ALABAMA

AL Coalition
Against Domestic
Violence

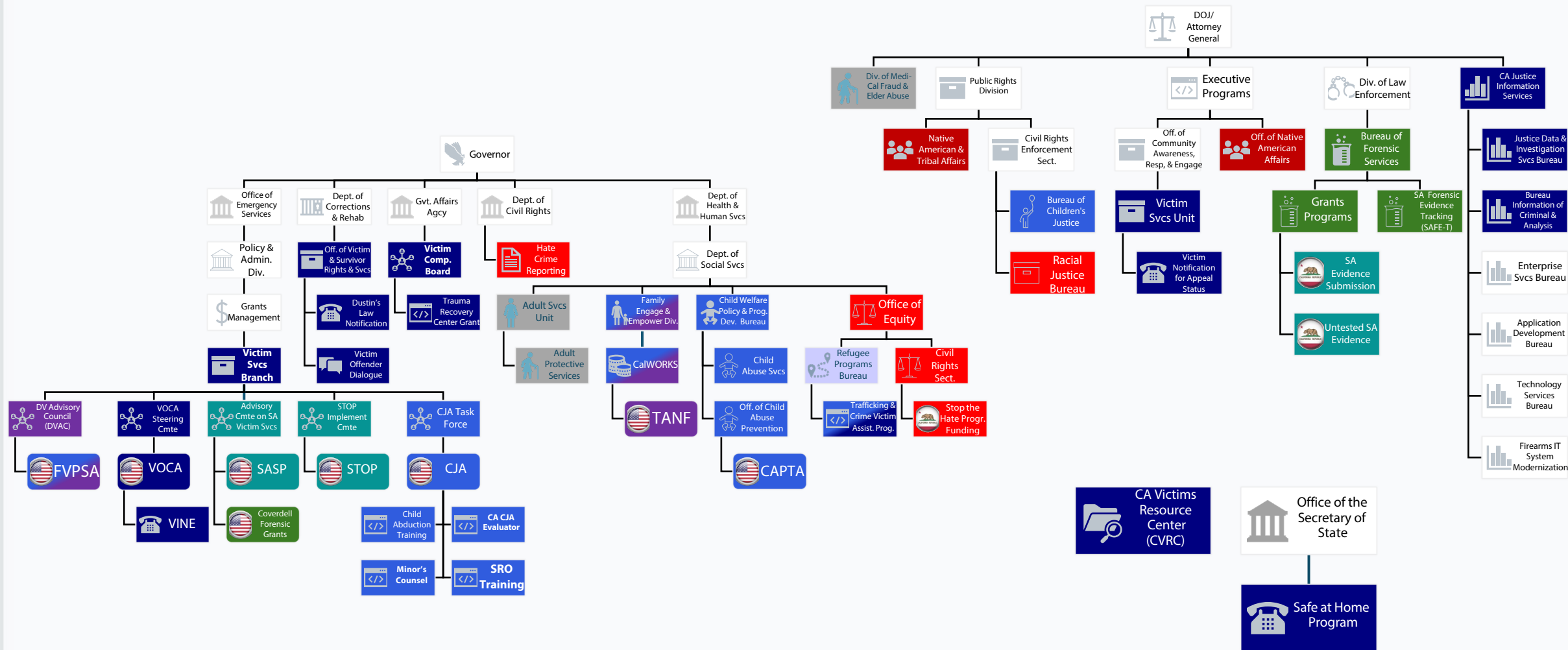
AL Coalition
Against Rape

Victims of Crime
and Leniency
(VOCAL)

AL Network of
Children's
Advocacy Centers,
Inc.

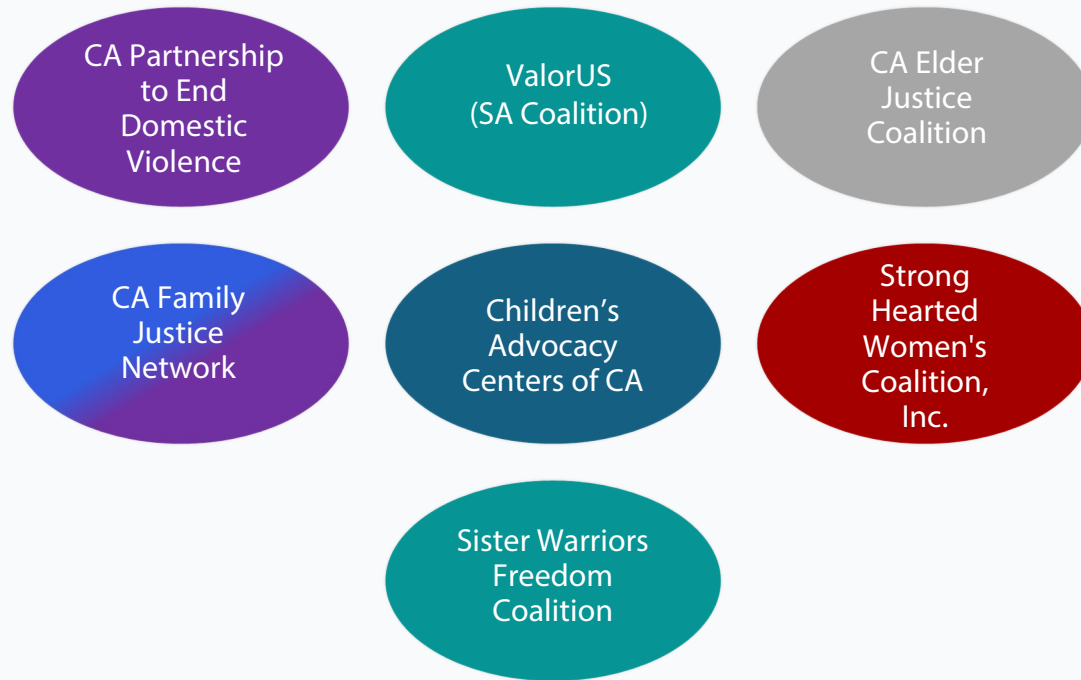


CALIFORNIA EXECUTIVE ENTITIES

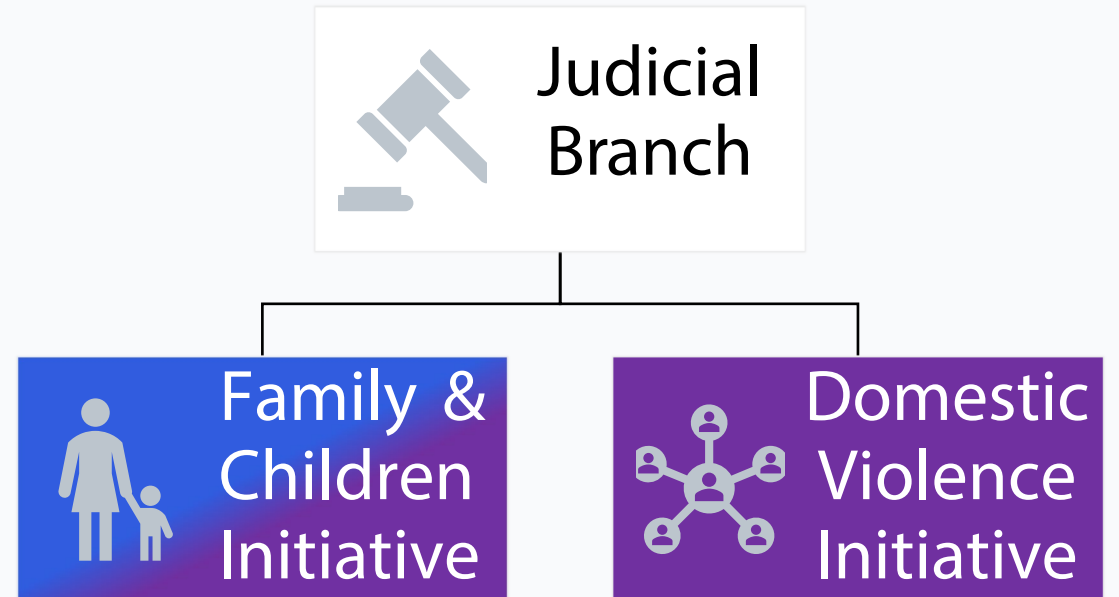


CALIFORNIA

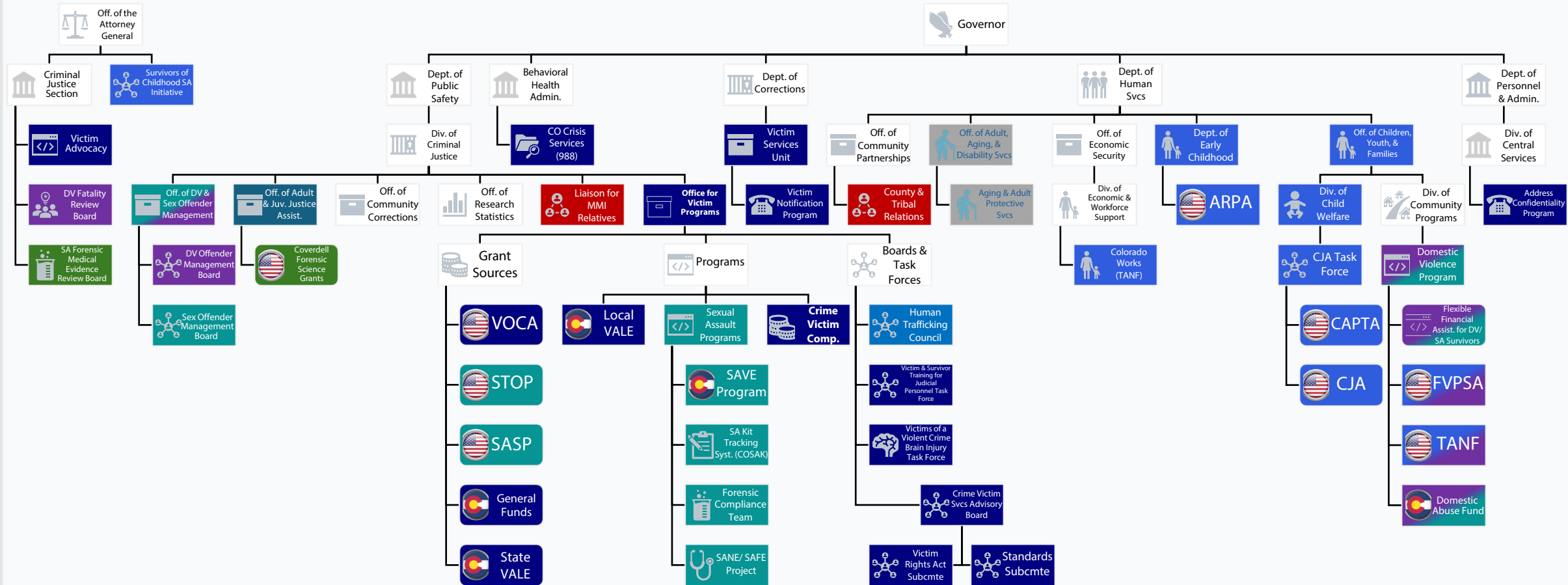
COALITIONS



JUDICIARY

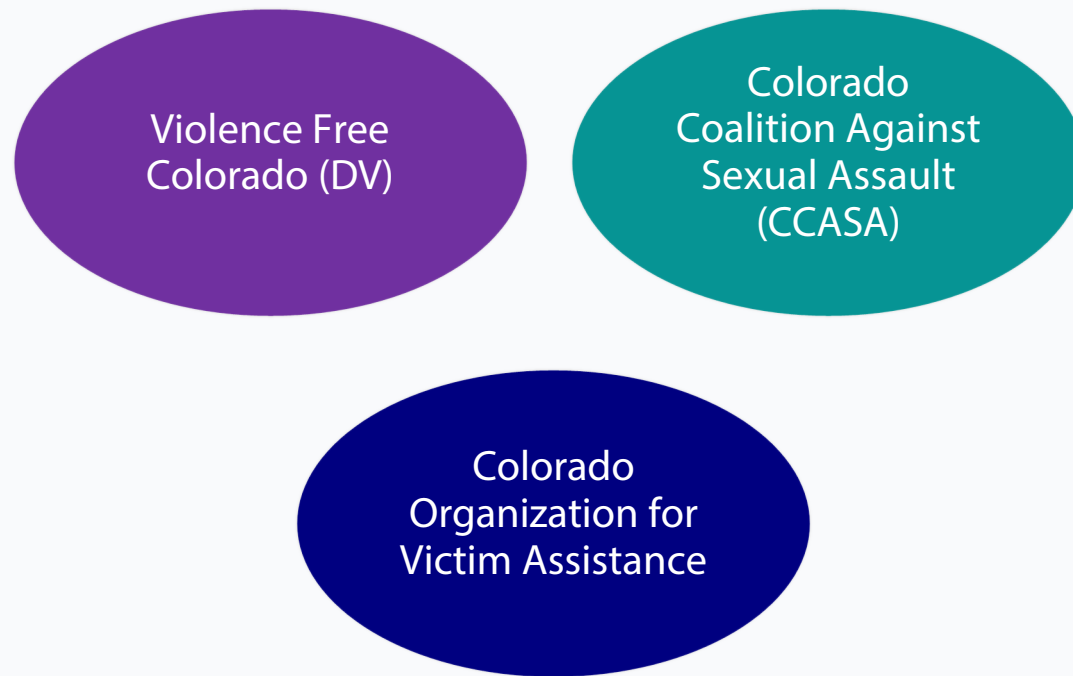


COLORADO EXECUTIVE ENTITIES

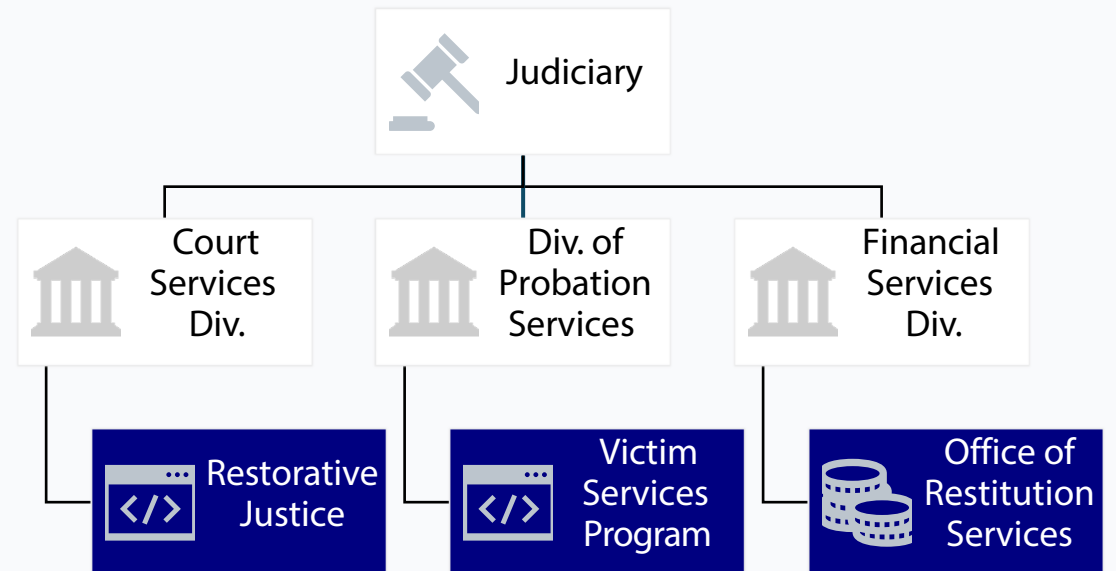


COLORADO

COALITIONS



JUDICIARY

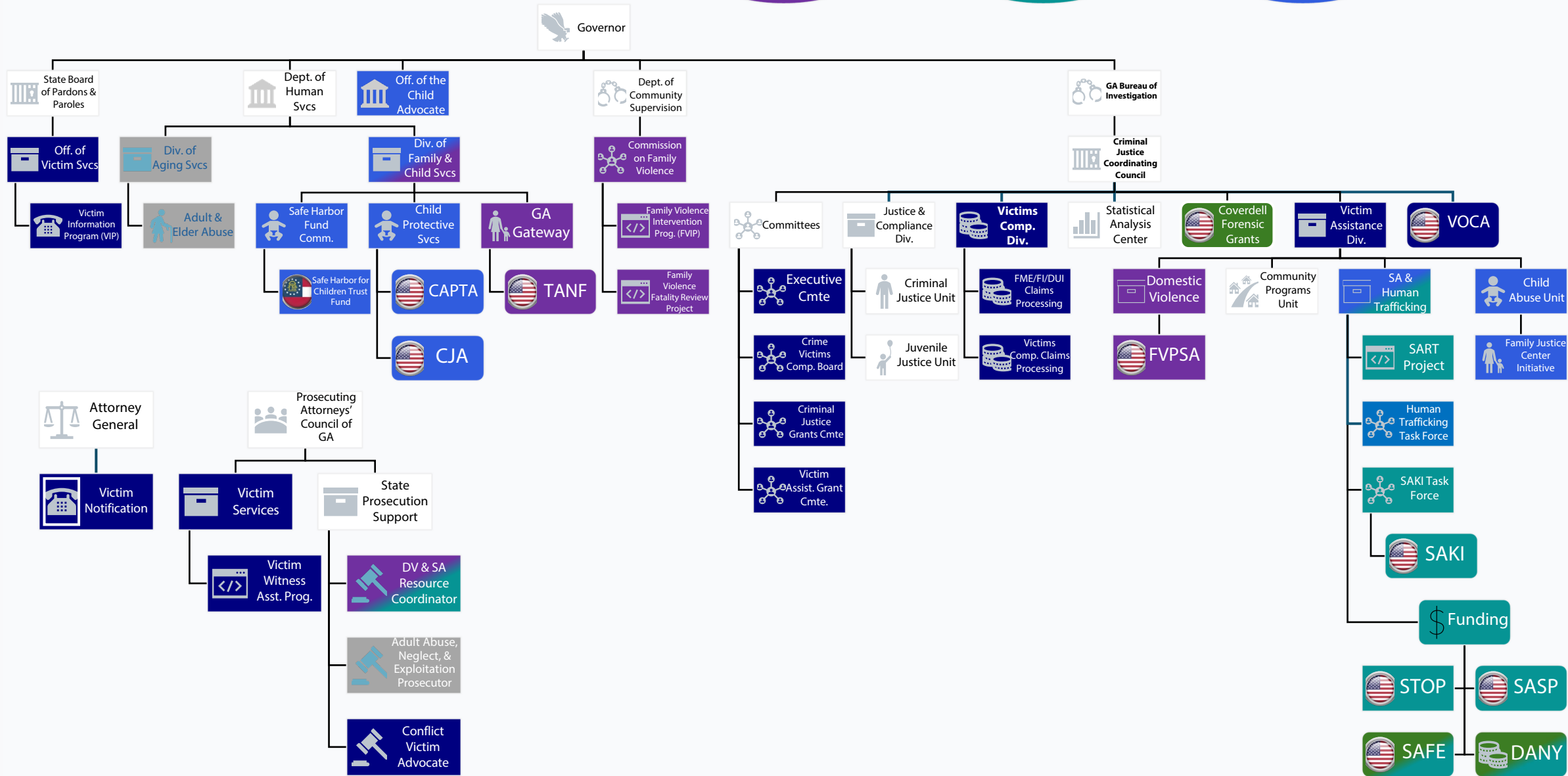


GEORGIA

GA Coalition
Against
Domestic
Violence

GA Network
to End Sexual
Assault

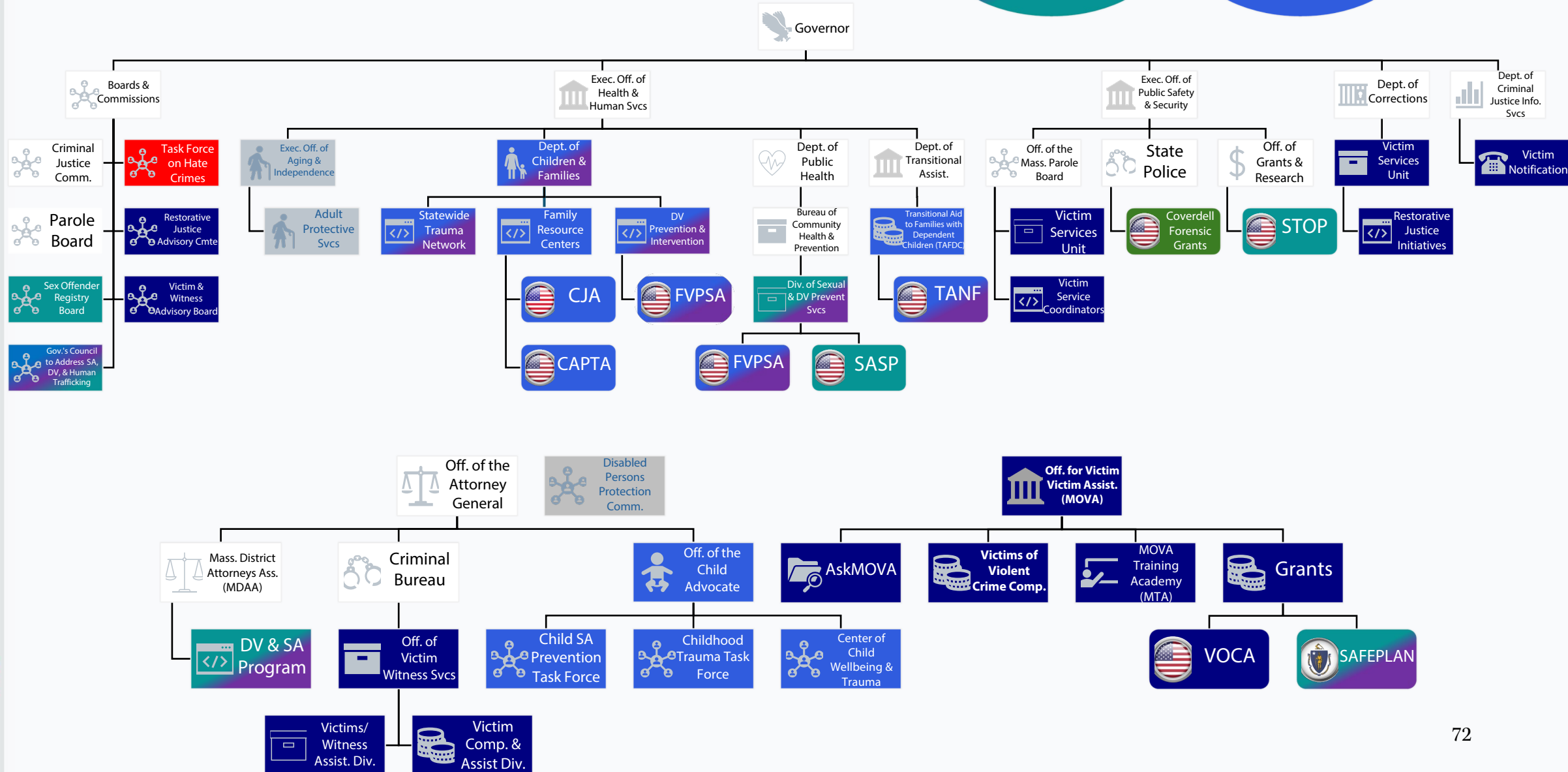
Child
Advocacy
Centers of GA



MASSACHUSETTS

Jane Doe Inc.
Mass Coalition
Against SA & DV

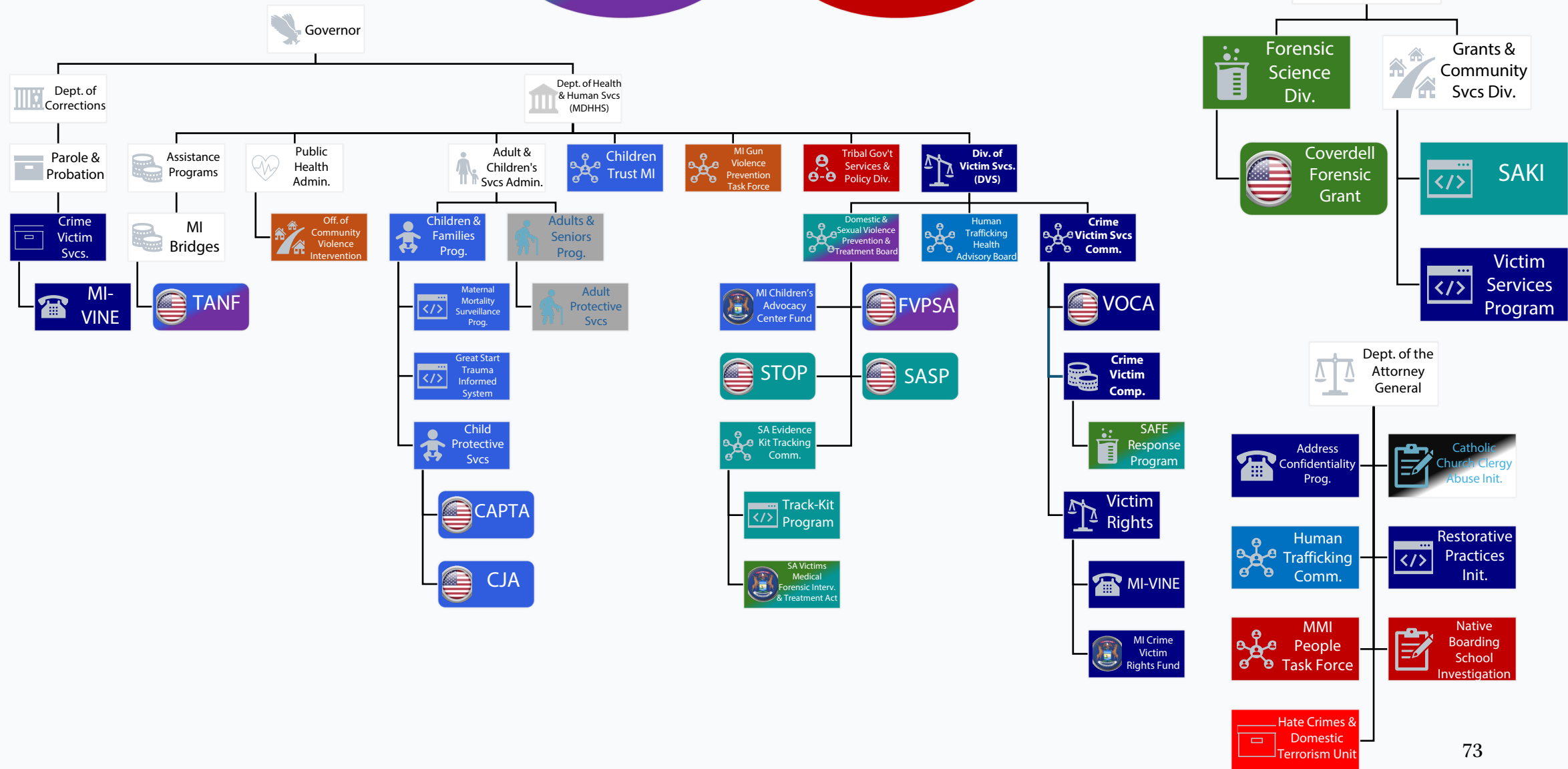
Massachusetts
Children's Alliance
(MACA)



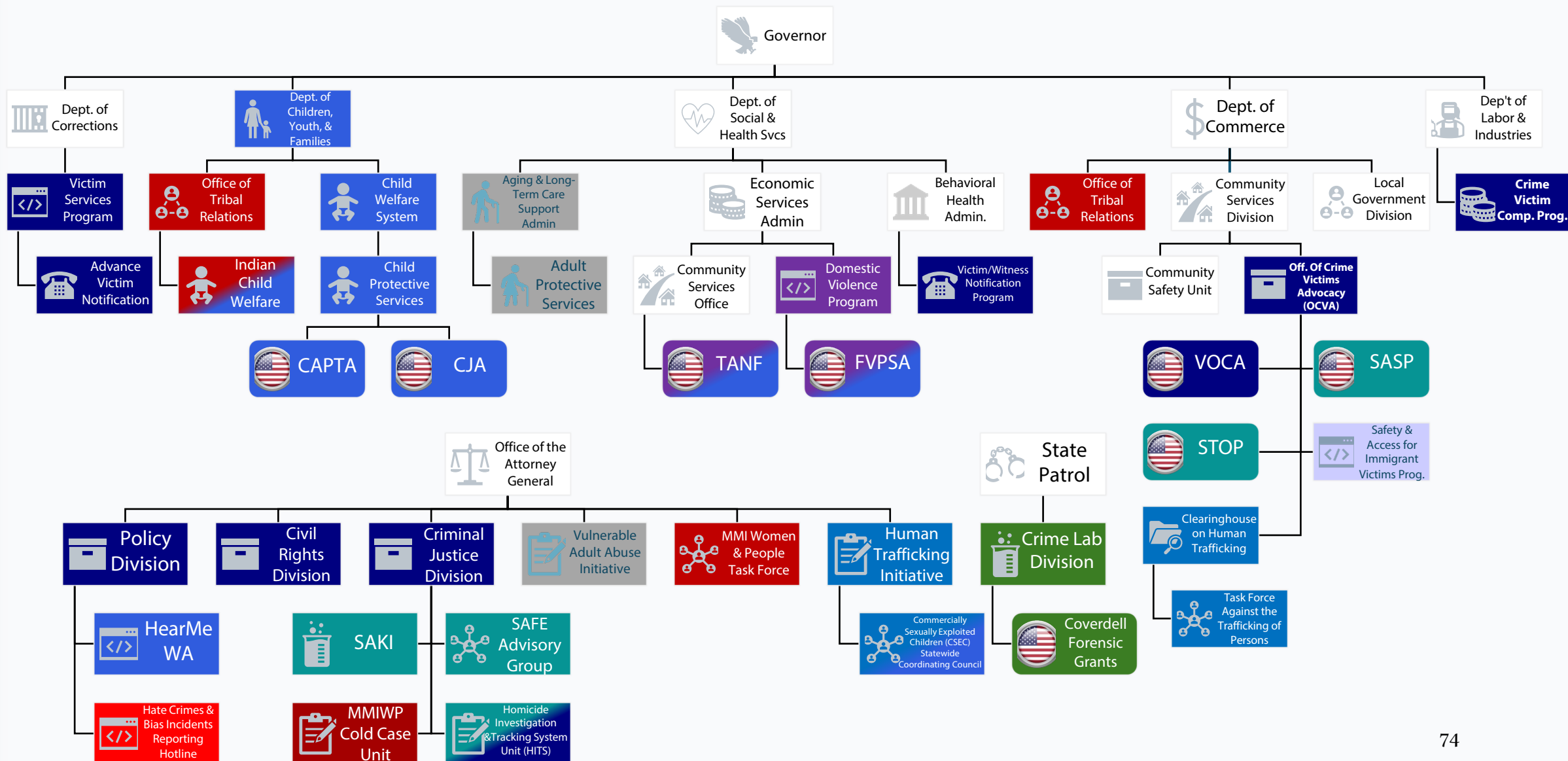
MICHIGAN

MI Coalition to
End Domestic
& Sexual
Violence

Uniting
Three Fires
Against
Violence



WASHINGTON EXECUTIVE ENTITIES

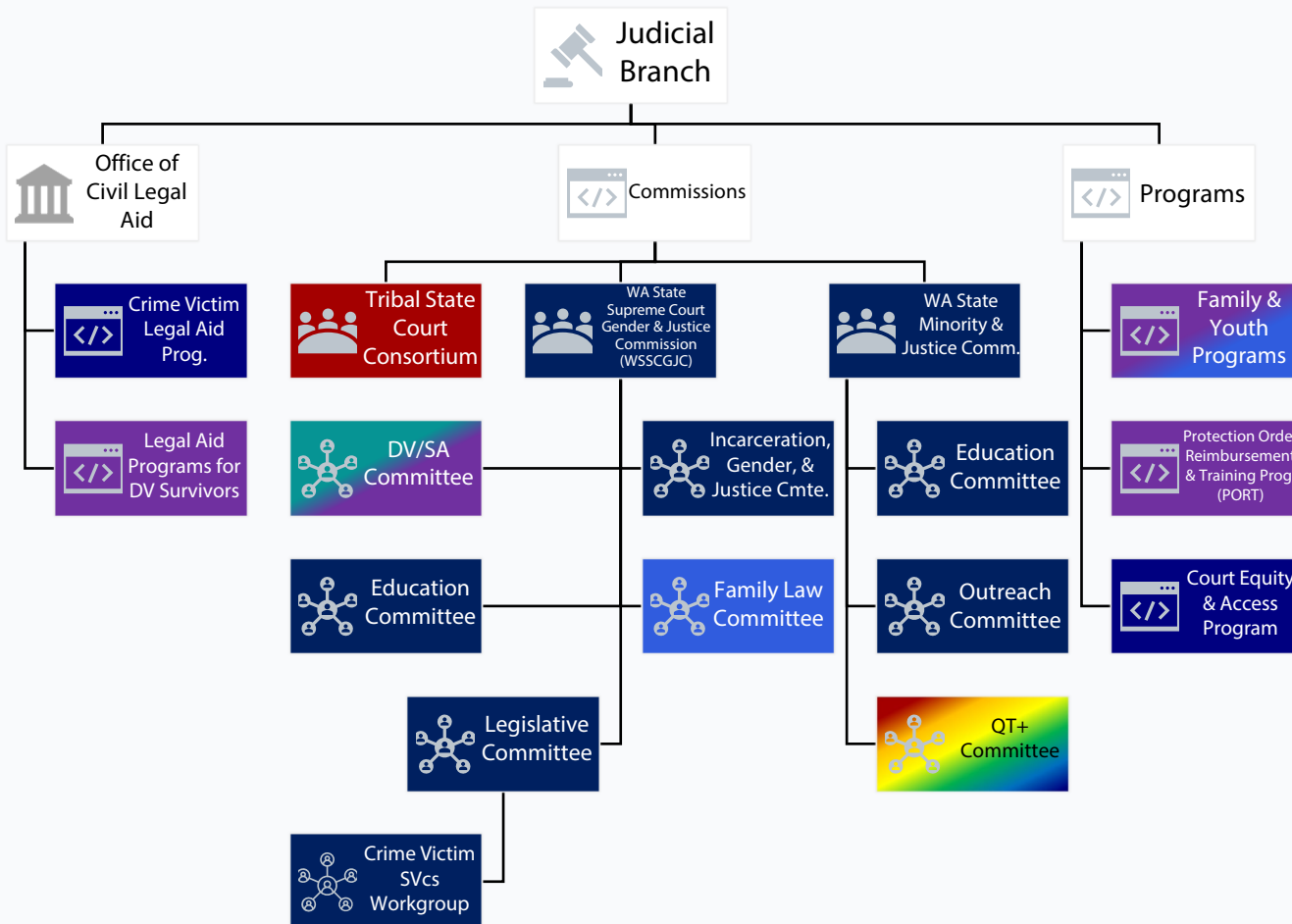


WASHINGTON

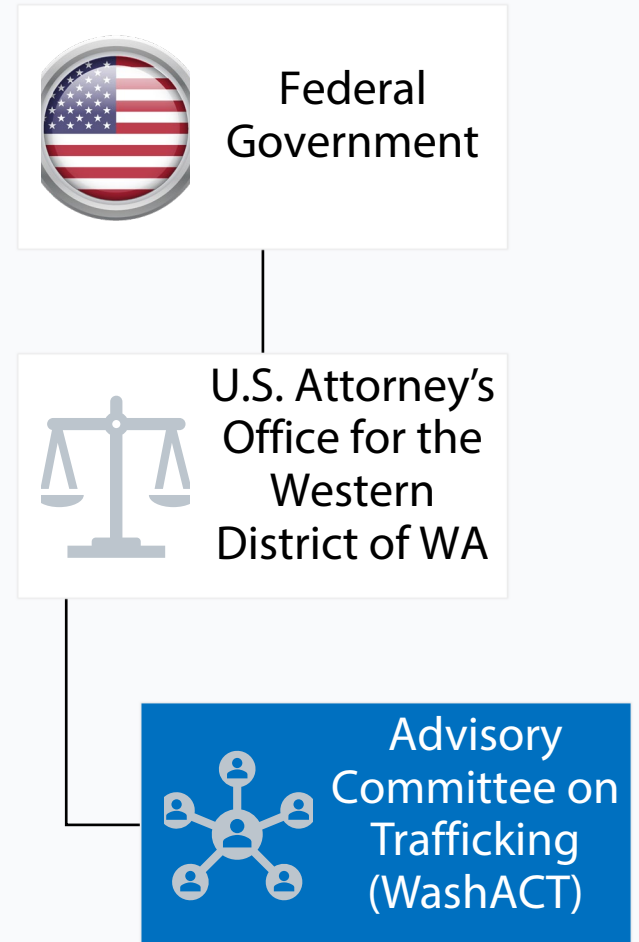
WA State Coalition
Against Domestic
Violence (DV/SA)

WomenSpirit
Coalition/ ICVSRRC

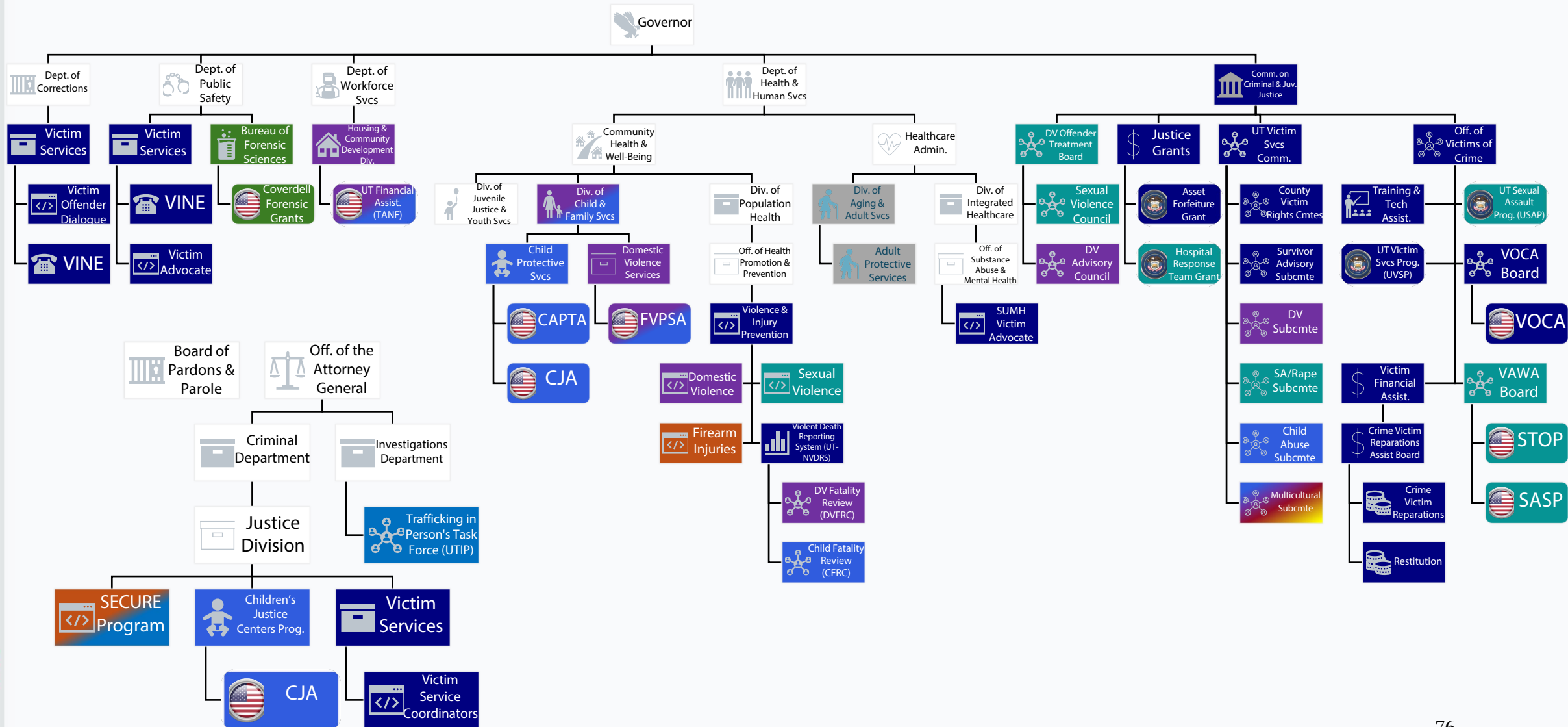
JUDICIARY



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

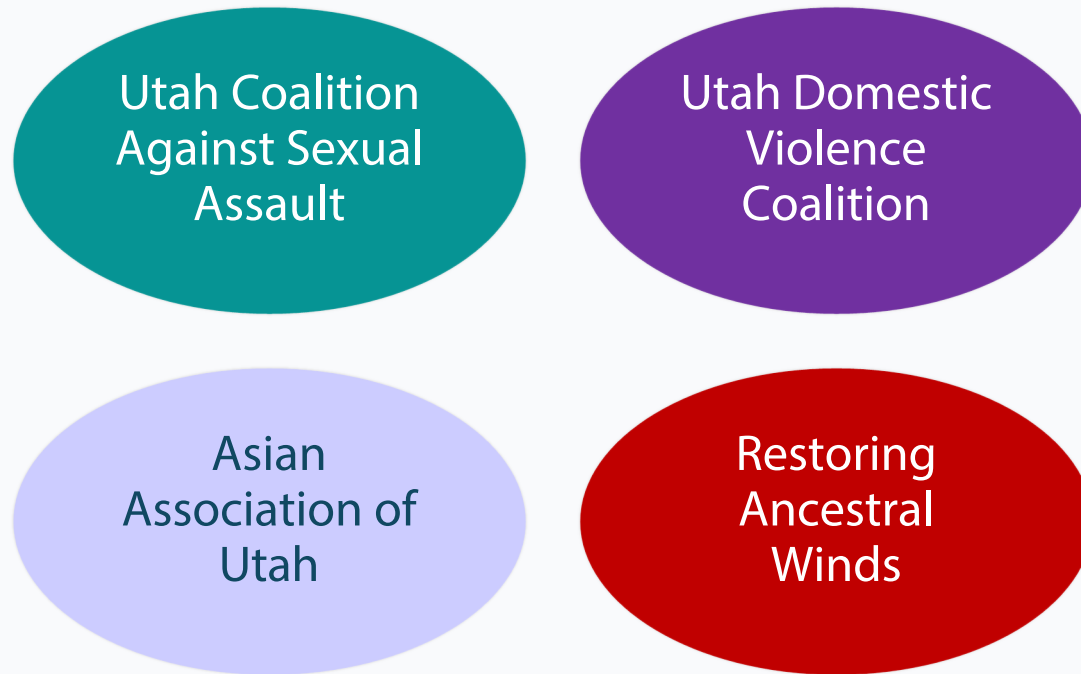


UTAH EXECUTIVE ENTITIES

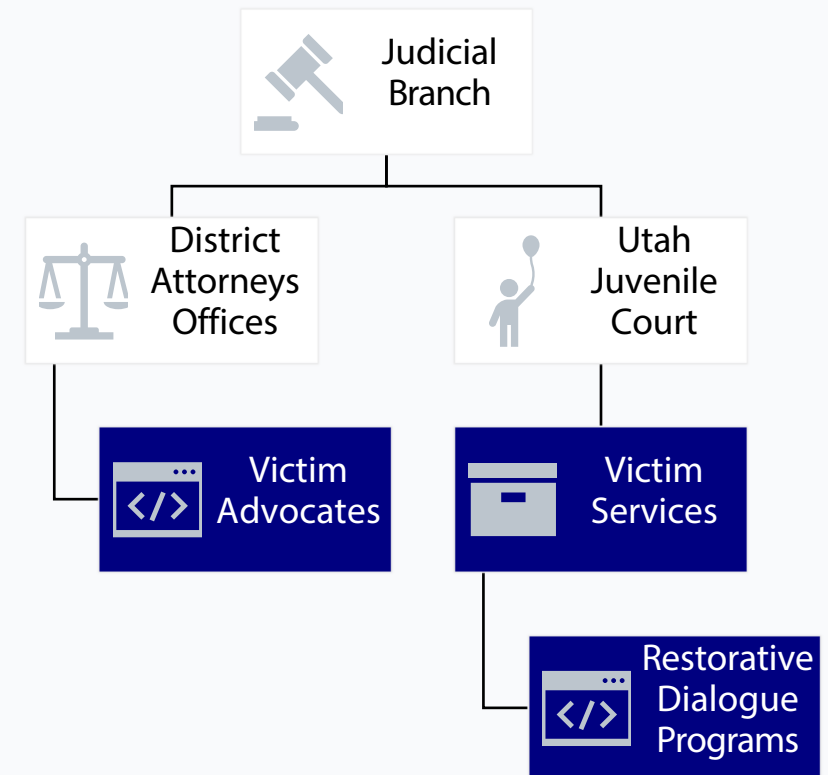


UTAH

COALITIONS



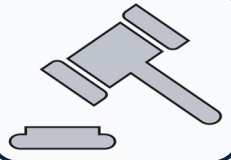
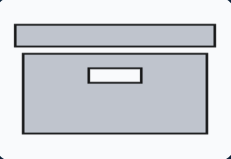
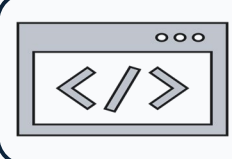
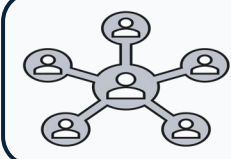
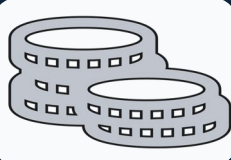
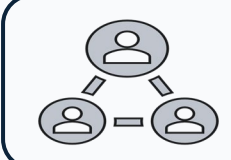
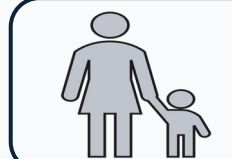
JUDICIARY



LEGEND

Victim's Rights	Child Abuse	Trafficking
Sexual Assault	Forensic	Gun/Community Violence
Tribal/MMIW	Hate Crimes	Domestic Violence
Clergy Abuse	Elder Abuse	Refugee/Immigrant Issues

 Federal
 Alabama
 California
 Colorado
 Georgia
 Florida
 Massachusetts
 Michigan
 Washington
 Utah

 Judiciary	 Executive/ Governor	 Attorney General	 Department
 Office/ Unit	 Program	 Coalition/ Group/ Task Force/ Alliance/ Committee	 Review Board
 Financial Resources	 Information Resources	 Tribal Relations	 Forensics
 Victim's Information/ Notification	 Adult/ Elderly Services	 Children's Services	 Family Services