

January 19, 2021

Ms. Maureen Henneberg,
Acting Assistant Attorney General,
Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice
810 7th St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20531

Dear Acting Assistant Attorney General Henneberg:

We are writing to encourage your consideration of an extension of the 2017 grant liquidation period. As states navigate the recent transition to the JUSTGrants and ASAP systems, VOCA Assistance, VOCA Compensation, and VAWA State Administering Agencies (SAA's) are finding it more difficult to meet the liquidation deadline.

SAA's recent challenges with the transition to JUSTGrants and the ASAP systems have impacted their ability to access state federal awards. We are aware of common issues including, gaining access to the systems, completing, and submitting reports, submitting grant award modifications, accepting new awards, and funding frozen due to challenges with reporting. For some victim compensation programs, the situation has become critical as they are exhausting available state resources, and some programs are reporting that they cannot access awarded federal grant funds. The direct result is that vital financial assistance to victims will be delayed. To address these concerns, SAA's report reaching out to the help desk, experiencing long wait times, and finding difficulty in identifying the problem and achieving a solution. They appreciate and have relied heavily upon their grant managers to assist them in navigating the help desk for assistance. These challenges will limit the ability to process and meet the time constraints set by the current January 28th liquidation deadline.

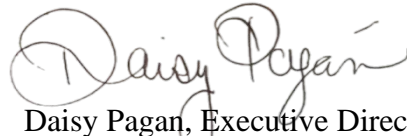
We appreciate the future benefits these systems will bring and understand new technologies often create challenges for everyone involved. In order to ensure states can accurately and confidently fulfill their responsibilities, the Association of VAWA Administrators, National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards, and National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators is respectfully requesting your consideration for granting an additional extension of the 2017 grant liquidation period to all VOCA assistance, compensation and VAWA SAA's for enough time to allow for these technical challenges to be rectified. In addition, we request that states access to their funding not be frozen until the JUSTGrants technology issues have been resolved.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

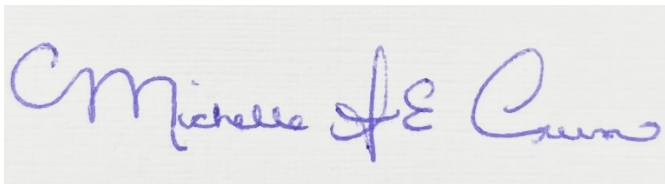
Sincerely,



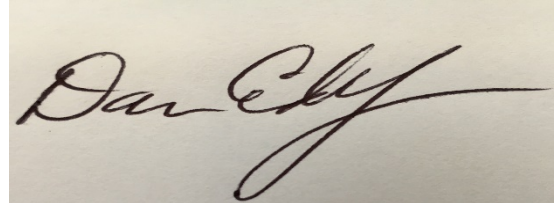
Liam Lowney, President
National Association of VOCA
Assistance Administrators



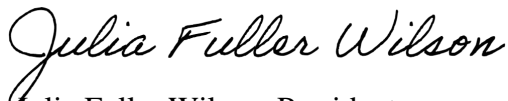
Daisy Pagan, Executive Director
National Association of VOCA
Assistance Administrators



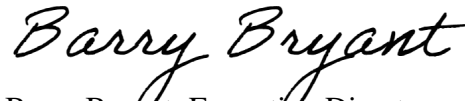
Michelle Crum, President
National Association of Crime Victim
Compensation Boards



Dan Eddy, Executive Director
National Association of Crime Victim
Compensation Boards



Julia Fuller Wilson, President
Association of VAWA Administrators



Barry Bryant, Executive Director
Association of VAWA Administrators

Cc: Laura L. Rogers, Principal Deputy Director, Office on Violence Against Women
Kathrine Darke Schmidt, Acting Director, Office for Victims of Crime
Nadine M. Neufville, Deputy Director, Grant Development and Management,
Office on Violence Against Women
Kathrina Peterson, Deputy Director, State Victim Resource Division,
Office for Victims of Crime