



## Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)

FY 2016 Budget Request At A Glance	
FY 2015 Enacted:	\$430.0 million (70 positions)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$0
Program Changes:	+\$43.5 million
FY 2016 Budget Request:	\$473.5 million (82 positions)
Change From FY 2015 Enacted:	+\$43.5 million (+10.1%) (+12 positions)

### Mission:

The mission of OVW is to provide federal leadership to reduce violence against women, and to support the administration of justice for and strengthen services to all victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This is accomplished by developing and supporting the capacity of state, local, tribal, and non-profit entities involved in responding to violence against women.

### Organization:

OVW is headed by a Director, who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The Director oversees Grant Development and Management, Policy Communication and Evaluation, Budget and Financial Management and Administration Divisions; additionally the Director oversees Legal Counsel and Tribal Affairs.

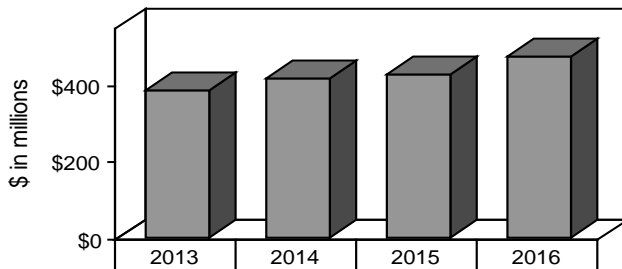
### Resources:

The FY 2016 Budget request for OVW totals \$473.5 million, which is a 10.1% increase over the FY 2015 Enacted.

### Personnel:

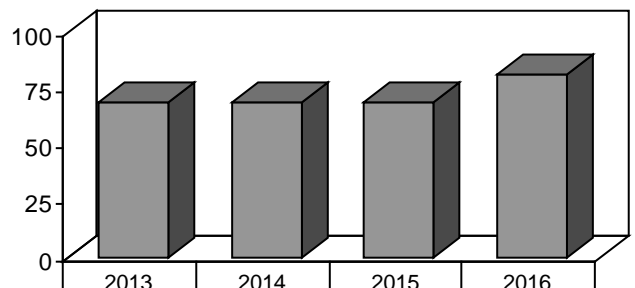
The OVW's direct positions for FY 2016 total 82 positions. OVW's FY 2016 request includes an increase of 12 positions over the FY 2015 President's Budget of 70 positions.

**Funding (FY 2013 - 2016)**



	2013	2014	2015	2016
■ Appropriation	\$388	\$417	\$430	\$474
□ Management & Admin	[\$17]	[\$19]	[\$19]	[\$20]

**Personnel (FY 2013 - 2016)**



	2013	2014	2015	2016
■ Positions	70	70	70	82

## FY 2016 Strategy:

OVW was created specifically to implement the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and subsequent legislation. OVW administers financial and technical assistance to communities around the country to facilitate the creation of programs, policies, and practices aimed at ending domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

In recognition of the severity of the crimes associated with domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA 1994) as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. VAWA is a comprehensive legislative package designed to end violence against women and was reauthorized in 2000, 2005, and again in March 2013. The legislative history of VAWA indicates that Congress seeks to remedy the legacy of laws and social norms that serve to justify violence against women. Since the passage of VAWA, there has been a paradigm shift in how the issue of violence against women is addressed.

VAWA was designed to improve criminal justice responses to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking and to increase the availability of services for victims of these crimes. VAWA requires a coordinated community response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, encouraging jurisdictions to bring together players from diverse backgrounds to share information and to use their distinct roles to improve community responses to violence against women. These players include, but are not limited to: victim advocates, police officers, prosecutors, judges, probation and corrections officials, health care professionals, leaders within faith communities, and survivors of violence against women. The federal law takes a comprehensive approach to violence against women by combining tough new penalties to prosecute offenders while implementing programs to aid the victims of such violence. By working together, a system can be created to keep victims safe and hold offenders accountable. OVW has instituted this philosophy at all levels of its work.

Four priorities guided the FY 2016 Budget request:

- 1) supporting essential services for victims;
- 2) reducing sexual assault;
- 3) reaching underserved communities; and
- 4) ensuring meaningful evaluation of programs and implementation of evidence-based practices.

The FY 2016 request includes appropriation language changes to (1) include a research and evaluation set-aside of up to three percent of OVW discretionary funding; (2) to include language that would exclude OVW's STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program from a five-percent mandatory reallocation or reduction of funds that may be imposed on states under the Prison Rape Elimination Act; (3) include language that would authorize the Attorney General to transfer unobligated funds appropriated for tribal registries to be used to improve tribal access to federal criminal history databases; and (4) includes language that would authorize Tribal Coalitions Program funding to be used to support a broader range of services for victims.

## FY 2016 Program Changes:

**Legal Assistance Program:** \$10.0 million and 0 positions  
An additional \$10 million is requested for a total of \$52.5 million to enhance safety for victims and their dependent children. Legal assistance is a proven strategy to reduce domestic violence and curb future assaults, particularly through access to civil orders of protection. The 2015 enacted level for this initiative is \$42.5 million.

**Campus Violence:** \$14.0 million and 0 positions  
An additional \$14 million is requested for a total of \$26 million. The additional funding will be used to expand victim safety and offender accountability on college campuses and to support implementation of recommendations made by the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault. The FY 2015 enacted level for this initiative is \$12 million.

**VAWA 20/20 Program:** \$21.0 million and 0 positions  
This funding request is for the new VAWA 20/20 Initiative. The initiative will focus on using evidence-based interventions and documenting and evaluating results. Of this amount, \$15 million will be used to improve law enforcement and prosecutorial response to sexual assault and \$6 million will be used to implement a domestic violence firearms lethality initiative. This is a new program for FY 2016.

**Tribal Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction:** \$5.0 million and 0 positions  
This request is for a new Tribal Jurisdiction program authorized by Congress in the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013. This program would provide grants to tribal governments and their designees to support tribal efforts to exercise "special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction" over non-Indian offenders who commit violence against Indian spouses, intimate partners or dating partners, or who violate protection orders, in Indian Country. Additional funding is needed for a range of criminal justice improvements, including updating criminal codes, providing counsel to indigent defendants and supporting victims. This is a new program for FY 2016.

**Management and Administration:** \$666,000 and 12 positions  
The FY 2016 request includes 12 positions and \$666,000 to increase existing grantee oversight and provide additional grant monitoring and assistance to all of its grantees. The current services for this initiative are \$19.2 million.

**Program Decrease - Grants to Combat Violence Against Women (STOP):** -\$2.0 million and 0 positions  
A decrease of \$2 million to the STOP Program is included in the request.

**Program Decrease - Transitional Housing:** -\$1.0 million and 0 positions  
A decrease of \$1 million to the Transitional Housing Program is included in the request.

**Program Decrease - Disabilities Program:** -\$250,000 and 0 positions  
A decrease of \$250,000 to the Disabilities Program is included in the request.

**Program Decrease - Elder Program:** -\$250,000 and 0 positions

A decrease of \$250,000 to the Elder Program is included in the request.

**Program Decrease - Sexual Assault Services:** -\$3.0 million and 0 positions

A decrease of \$3 million to the Sexual Assault Services Program is included in the request.

**Cancellation - OVW:** -\$5.0 million and 0 positions

Additionally, the budget proposes to cancel \$5.020 million in unobligated balances.