



Montana Victim Services

how victims and survivors are supported in Montana

A victim, as defined by MCA 46-18-243, is "a person who suffers loss of property, bodily injury, or death as a result of: the commission of an offense; the good faith effort to prevent the commission of an offense; or the good faith effort to apprehend a person reasonably suspected of committing an offense."

Montana has a variety of services available to victims of crime and survivors, offered by both local advocacy agencies and systems based criminal justice programs. Services are provided by non-profit organizations, law enforcement agencies, prosecution offices, shelter programs, and many more. Victim assistance programs provide services at no charge. Below is a list of some of the services offered by victim service providers in Montana, but does not cover everything available!



Counseling/Emotional Support

Crisis intervention, safety planning, and follow-up support and guidance for emotional, personal, financial, and employment problems resulting from the crime.



Criminal Justice Support

Explanation of the criminal justice system, court support, support throughout the process, information regarding the progress and disposition of the criminal case, and assistance obtaining restitution.



Emergency Legal Advocacy

Assistance with filing orders of protection, referrals to low-income legal services for help with dissolutions and/or child custody issues, and explanation of victim's rights and remedies.



Shelter/Safe Housing

Shelter may include a domestic violence shelter, private residence, or a motel for a short-term emergency shelter.



Assistance Filing Crime Victim Compensation Claims

Information about the CVC program, assistance with required forms, help gathering necessary documentation, and assistance with follow-up contact with CVC on behalf of the victim.



Crisis Hotline

24-hour domestic violence and rape hotlines for crisis counseling, advocacy service for crime-related medical exams, information, and referral.



Information and Referral

Identification of services and support available from the victim assistance program and community agencies.



Support Groups

Facilitated support groups for adults and children that focus on healing from the emotional impact of domestic violence, sexual abuse/assault, and other violent crimes.



Emergency Financial Assistance

Assistance in filing for losses covered by public and private insurance including worker's compensation, unemployment, public assistance and Medicare/Medicaid, and financial assistance for public transportation, food, emergency shelter, and clothing.



Personal Advocacy

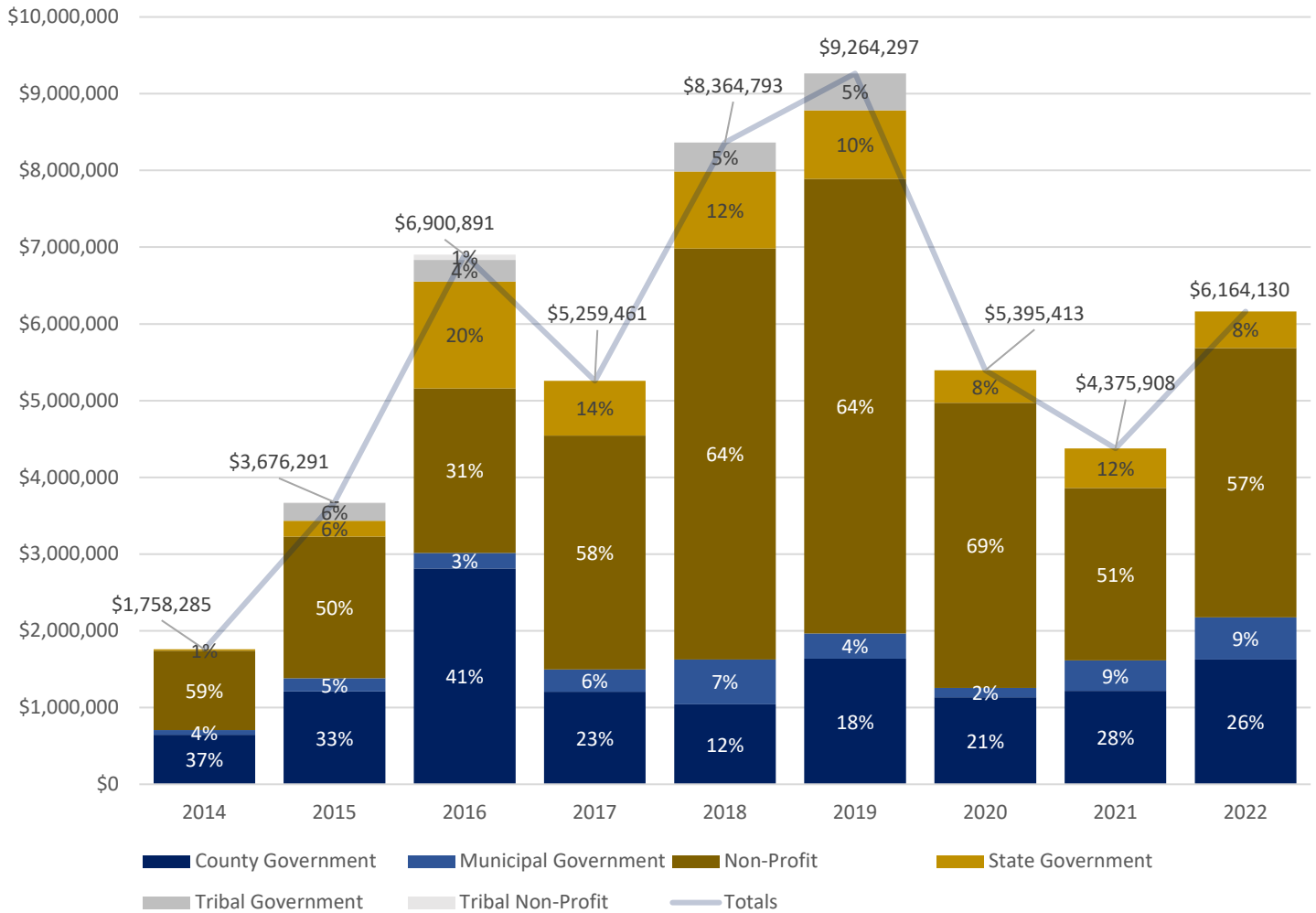
Assistance in securing services from other agencies, communicating with employers, creditors, landlords, and others on behalf of the victim.

There are many other services provided by victim service providers across the state of Montana. Many service providers will fill in any gaps that they see in order to serve the victims and survivors they are supporting and assisting.

THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LOCAL ADVOCACY AGENCIES AND SYSTEMS-BASED PROGRAMS

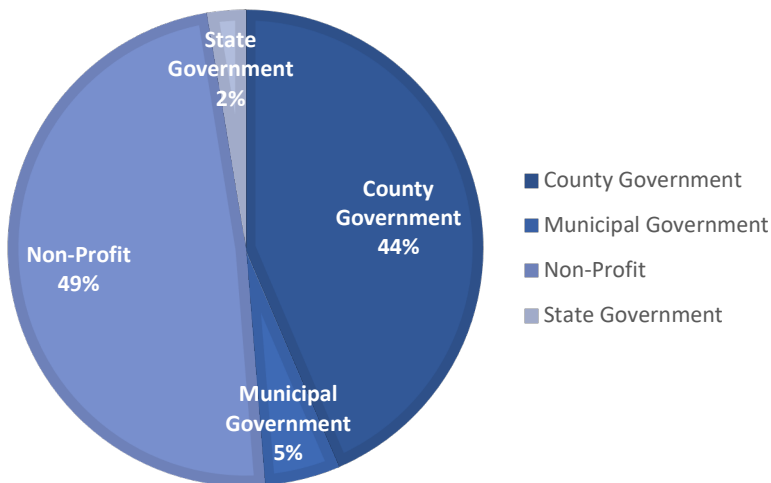
| Local Advocacy Agencies | Systems-Based Programs |
|---|--|
| <p>What's considered a Local Advocacy Agency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) - Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) - Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Shelters and Services | <p>What's considered a Systems-Based Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - County Attorney Offices - Department of Justice Victim Services - Department of Corrections Victim Services |
| <p>Can provide comprehensive advocacy, crisis intervention services, 24hr access, emotional support, financial assistance, emergency shelter, transitional assistance, etc.</p> | <p>Can provide information and notification on criminal justice processes, emotional support, referrals, advocacy and accompaniment services, etc.</p> |
|  <p>Specialize and/or are limited to specific crimes</p> |  <p>Provide victim services and assistance to all crime victims, are not restricted by type of crime committed</p> |
| <p>Provide services to victims who report crime, but will also provide services to those who don't</p> | <p>Cannot offer complete confidentiality the way local advocacy agencies can</p> |
| <p>No limitations on services or when services end</p> | <p>Services are provided at specific junctures of the criminal justice process</p> |
|  |  |
| <p>Local advocacy agencies can be funded through grant funding or community support, such as donations and fundraising</p> | <p>Funding in systems-based programs ranges from grant funding to full time state and county funded positions.</p> |

VOCA Funding Per Type of Organization from 2014 to Present



The above graph represents the types of organizations funded through the Montana Board of Crime Control's (MBCC) federal VOCA award. The legend outlines the types of organizations while the chart breaks down the percentage of money that was awarded to each group per year beginning in 2014.

LEGACY PROGRAMS: TYPES OF ORGANIZATIONS 2014

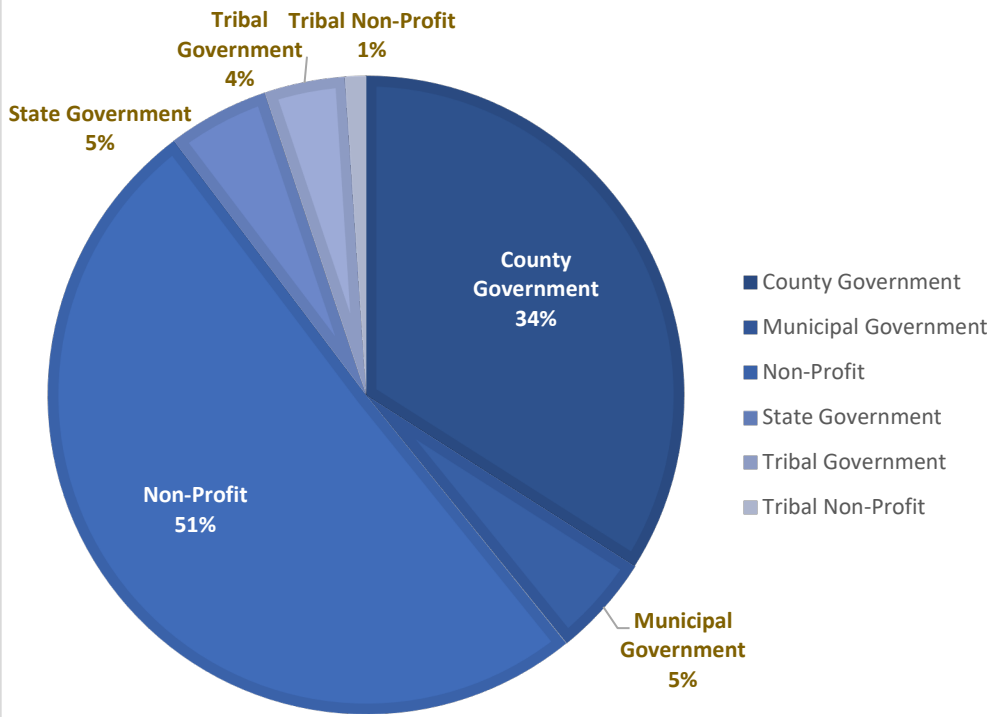


The graph to the left shows the breakdown of the types of organizations that were originally funded by VOCA through the Montana Board of Crime Control.

Scan this QR Code to access additional funding data dashboards available on the MBCC Website.

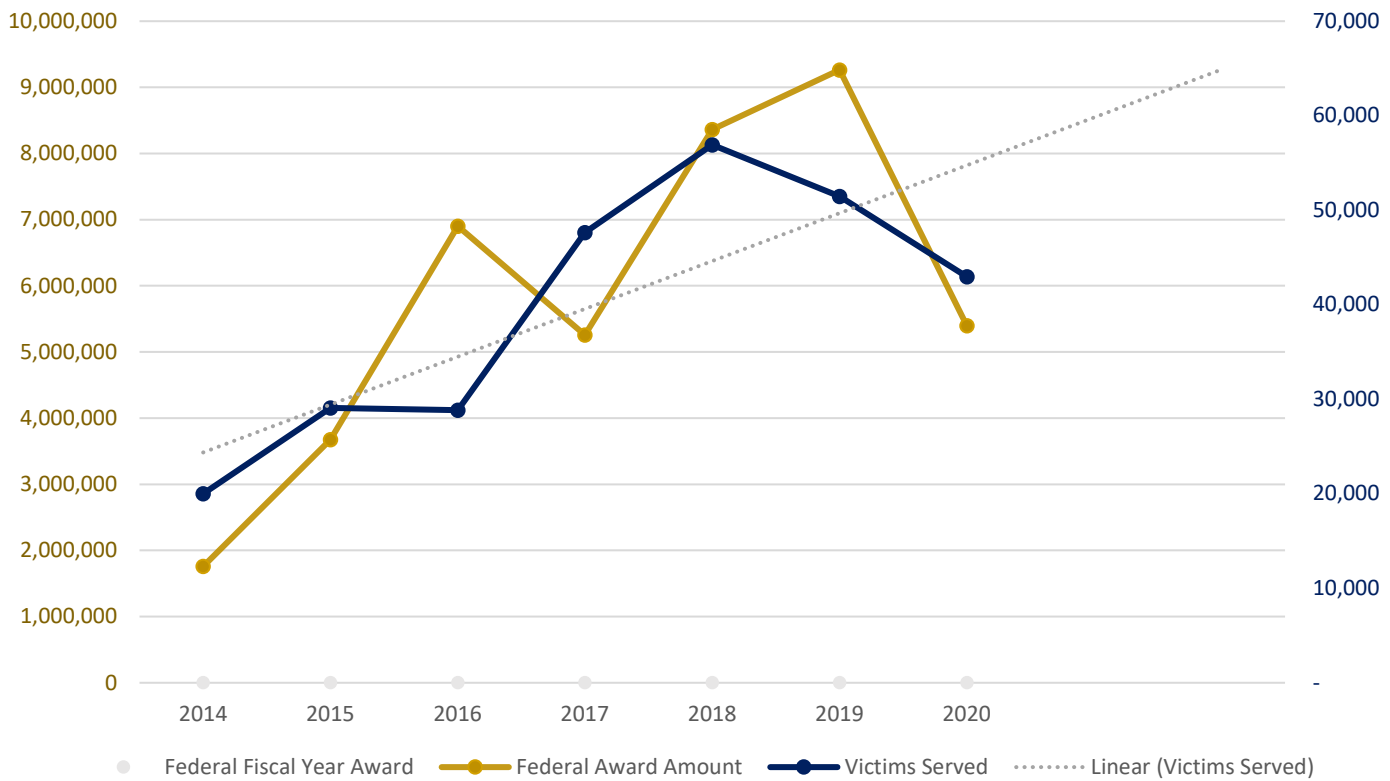


TYPES OF ORGANIZATIONS FUNDED SINCE 2014



The graph to the right represents the percentage breakdown of all the types of organizations that have been funded by the Montana Board of Crime Control since 2014.

Funding Allocated and Victims Served in Montana



The above graph illustrates how Montana crime victims being served increased as VOCA funding allocated to Montana service providers also increased.