Spring 2019

Two Days in May is Fast Approaching

The Two Days In May Conference on Victim Assistance 2019 is fast approaching. We have once again reached capacity with registration, and there will be no onsite registration opportunities available. We are looking forward to a full and fruitful conference.

VOCA Grant Staff will be presenting a two-part workshop during Two Days In May titled, "Victims of Crime Act: Program Challenges and Development." This workshop will provide solutions and assistance to commonly seen issues and challenges amongst organizations receiving VOCA grants. During this presentation, staff will discuss topics such as correct ways to use indirect costs, issues with financial and programmatic reporting, and future policy changes for VOCA recipients. This workshop is recommended for individuals involved in the application, reporting and overall management of VOCA grants.

In addition to the workshop, the grant staff will be available throughout the conference to speak with you and answer any questions you have at the VOCA display table. We look forward to seeing you there!

Top 10 Things People Ask About VOCA Applications

When will the 2020 VOCA grant applications be open?
The 2020 VOCA grant applications will be opened during the Two Days in May Conference on Victim Assistance May 20-21, 2019.

Why am I getting a system error?
Most system errors can be corrected by using Google Chrome as your web browser.

What do I do if I get a system error? What if it prevents me from submitting my application on time?
If you experience any system issues, please contact your Grant Specialist as soon as possible. The best way to ensure you do not encounter any issues that prevent you from submitting an application is by submitting it prior to the due date.

I submitted my application, but it is still showing as being "created."
When you are submitting your application, there are four pages of assurances and certifications for you to sign. Please ensure you have completed all of these signatures. When you have

successfully submitted your application, you should be brought back to the application preview page. If you believe you have signed off on the assurances and certifications, but the application is still showing as "created," please contact your Grant Specialist.

Are there word/character limits on essays?
No.

What do I do if I don't have a relationship with a judge/prosecutor/law enforcement/other victim service provider to list in the coordinated services information section?
Enter all of the information for the contacts that you currently have, and we recommend working to build relationships with any of the organizations you do not have.

Help! All of my essays got deleted when I copied and pasted them from Microsoft Word.
We recommend typing directly into the box in the grant system. If you want to copy and paste, use something basic like notepad. Microsoft Word uses images to create things like bullet points, hyphens, etc. The grant system will reject the image and will delete the whole essay.

Can I save and come back later?
Yes, hit save and continue at the bottom of every page, and you can continue at a later time.

Everything I just typed got deleted when I clicked Save and Continue. Why?
The system will time out after about 10 minutes. We recommend you saving after every few answers to ensure the system does not time out and delete your responses.

Why won't the system save one of my responses?
Many times, items aren't saved correctly because the format entered is incorrect. If there is an example format below the text box, make sure your response follows that format exactly. For example, you must enter phone numbers as (XXX)XXX-XXXX. Any deviation from that will cause issues.

Last Call for Budget Adjustments

All budget adjustments for the 2019 grant year need to be completed by the end of business on July 1, 2019. Please keep in mind that submitting the budget adjustments before the due date will ensure a more timely approval. If you have any questions, contact your Grant Specialist as soon as possible.

How to Avoid VOCA Application Anxiety

Applying for a VOCA grant can be stressful, but your VOCA grant team is here to help! We will be hosting an informative webinar on June 4 and June 6 to provide helpful information and answer all those burning questions you have about the application process for the 2020 grant year. Everything from application changes to funding amounts will be covered.

More details and registration information will be coming soon. Please make plans to attend on one of those dates and get the resources you need to avoid application anxiety.

[National Crime Victims' Rights Week](#)

Members of the grant unit often attend community events to support VOCA funded programs, and the National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) events are always a favorite. Here are just a few highlights from the week.

Expert panelists participating in the U Can Speak for Me Bookmarkers Inc. 1 Day Summit.

Grant Specialist Elizabeth Brumleve with Hope Dudley of U Can Speak for Me Bookmarkers Inc.

During NCVRW, the May Dugan Center sponsored the lighting of Terminal Tower in downtown Cleveland. The tower was lit in orange and blue, the colors for NCVRW theme "Honoring Our Past, Creating Hope for the Future."