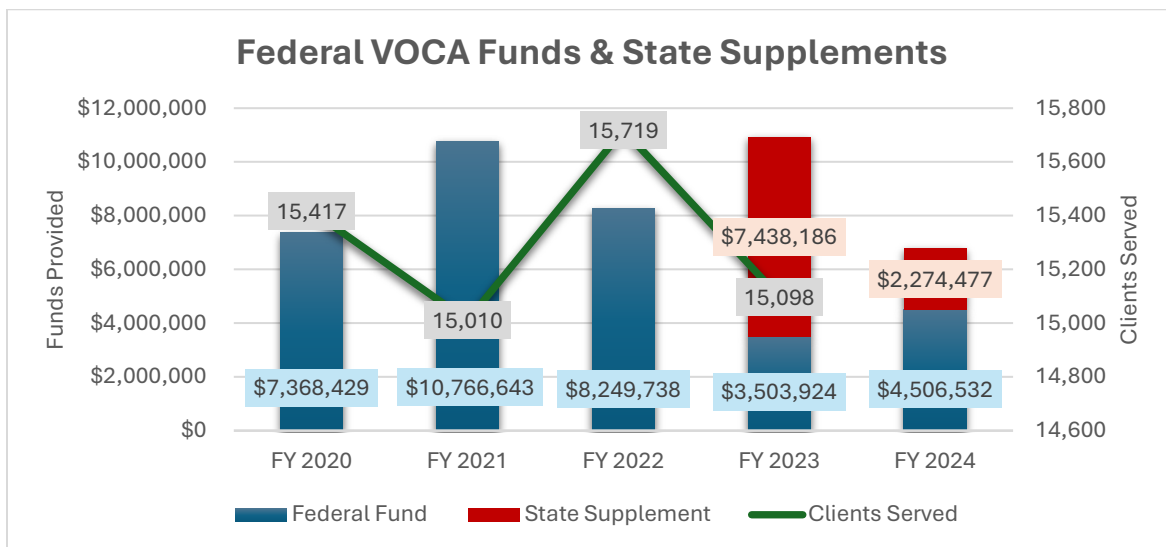


# VOCA Funding Cuts on Victim Services: Short Paper

Compiled by Bridget Diamond-Welch, PhD<sup>1</sup>, Director of Research & Innovation  
School of Health Sciences, University of South Dakota

Current VOCA funding is illustrated in three figures drawing on different available data. Figure 1 (and related table 1) shows the disbursement to the victim service provider subawards (~51 agencies) that receive funds either through federal block grants or DASA (in blue) and the additional state supplement dollars<sup>2</sup> provided in FY23 and FY24 (red). These subaward agencies serve victims interpersonal violence including domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, stalking, and children who are impacted by domestic violence.

**Figure 1. Federal Block Grant Funds & State Supplements**



As illustrated in this figure, there was a precipitous drop in VOCA funds in 2022 and again in 2023. In 2023, the state supplemented funds to remain at approximately the 2021 level. In 2024, the state reduces<sup>3</sup> its supplemental dollars by over 5 million dollars (see Table 1).

**Table 1. Average Funding Received by Subaward 2021-2024**

	Subawards	Total Funds (State & Federal)	Average Award	Percent Change
<b>2021</b>	53	\$10,766,643	\$203,144.21	--
<b>2022</b>	51	\$ 8,249,738	\$161,759.56	-20.31
<b>2023</b>	51	\$10,942,110	\$214,551.18	32.64
<b>2024</b>	51	\$ 6,781,009	\$132,960.95	-61.36

Source: Data provided from the SD Department of Public Safety Victim Services

In 2022, subawards received an average of \$203,144 in VOCA fundings (51 subawards). In 2023, with the state offsetting the heavy drops in VOCA funding, 51 subawards received an average of

<sup>1</sup> Analysis herein is the work of the author and not necessarily the views of the University of South Dakota.

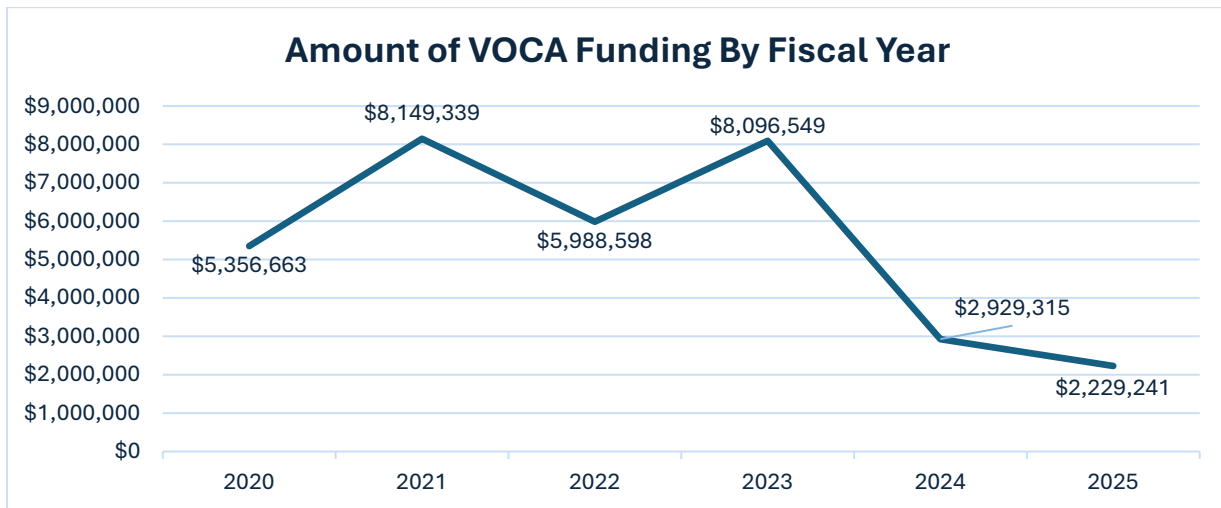
<sup>2</sup> South Dakota called this funding “State VOCA funds” but these should not be confused with the federal VOCA dollars. The “State VOCA funds” are the red “State Supplement” in Figure 1.

<sup>3</sup> Given the way the data was provided, this table cannot be updated for 2025 at this juncture. The figure is included because it provides a unique look at people served based on state investment.

\$214,551.18. However, with the state drop in supplemental funding by over \$5 million, agencies suffered a 61.36% drop to their supplemented budget. At the same time, the number of victims served by supported agencies remained stable (green line in Figure 1).

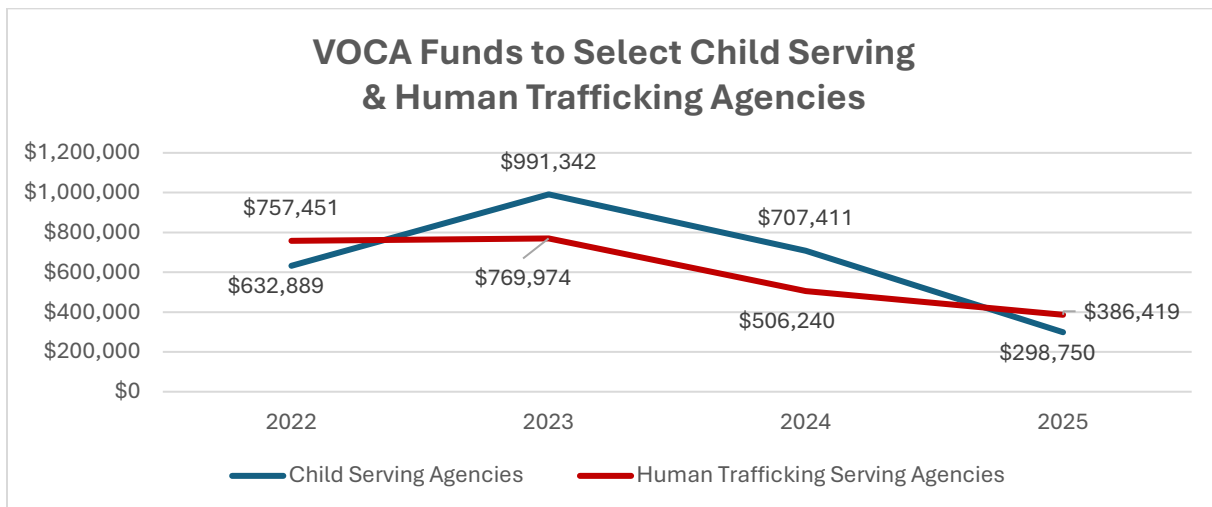
Figure 2 shows VOCA funds being dispersed to agencies across the state that serve child and adult victims of interpersonal violence. This would include agencies captured in Figure 1 but expands to also include human trafficking programs and programs, such as CASA, that serve child victims.

**Figure 2. Overall VOCA Spending for Child, Trafficking, SA, DV Victims<sup>4</sup>**



As the graph clearly indicates, VOCA dollars have dropped significantly from 2023.

It is also useful to specifically examine funds to child and trafficking agencies. Figure 3 shows VOCA funds to trafficking (red) and child agencies (blue). This analysis is based on available data from DPS for seven agencies. Again, we see a steady decline in funding.



<sup>4</sup> Data is based on figures from the Department of Public Safety. Analysis is restricted to organizations (n=35) where data was available for all years.