

# How Congress Supports CACs

(and What We Still Need)



NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE®



## VOCAA Funding Breakdown, FY 2017



Through the Victims of Child Abuse Act (VOCAA), Congress currently provides \$21 million in funding annually to support the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) movement that provides healing, justice, and trust to child victims of abuse and their families. Administered by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs (OJJDP), this crucial funding goes to help develop Children's Advocacy Centers nationwide, and for training and technical assistance for CACs, law enforcement, prosecutors, and child abuse professionals. As the only source of direct federal funding to support the whole movement, VOCAA is the foundation for accessing many additional sources of public and private funding.

## Where does all that money go?

The \$21 million in VOCAA funds support the CAC movement in a variety of ways. National Children's Alliance (NCA) receives \$10.37 million to develop CACs and improve CAC services through grants, and another \$700,000 in funds to accredit CACs and meet their membership needs to assure quality services.

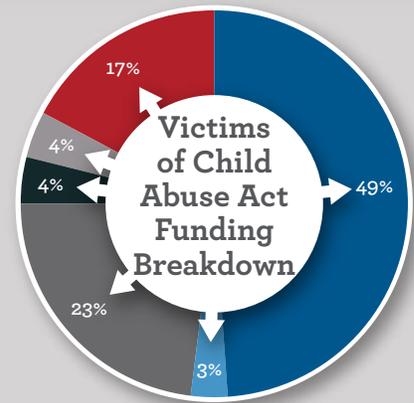
The four Regional CACs (RCACs) split \$4.8 million for training and technical assistance. National Children's Advocacy Center receives \$900,000 for training and technical assistance to child abuse professionals; and \$750,000 goes to the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys to train prosecutors on successfully prosecuting child abuse cases. Finally and significantly, the Department of Justice (DOJ) takes a cut off the top to administer the programs—in FY 2017, that was 17% of total funding, or \$3.48 million. This growing administrative cost takes funding directly from the organizations that serve children and is a cause for concern within the CAC movement.

While a large portion of VOCAA funding flows through NCA, \$8.46 million of this money goes right back to CACs and Chapters as VOCAA sub-grants from NCA, with the rest going to projects and programs that benefit CACs.

## How far does the money go?

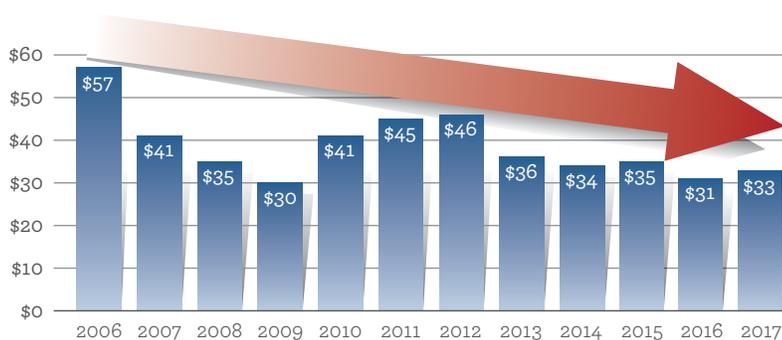
While VOCAA is an important source of funding for CACs, it doesn't come close to meeting the overwhelming need for CAC services, which exceed \$450 million annually.

- **\$1,490:** The average national spending/funding per child by CACs. This doesn't factor in the costs for services provided by outside partner organizations that help CACs, including mental health and medical services, law enforcement, or prosecutorial services.
- **\$30-50:** VOCAA direct services funding available to CACs per child in a given year.



- NCA National Subgrants Program - \$10,372,636
- NCA Membership & Accreditation Grant - \$700,000
  - Regional CACs Grant - \$4,800,000
  - NCAC TTA Grant - \$900,000
- Assn. of Prosecuting Attorneys Grant - \$750,000
- DOJ Admin & Other Costs - \$3,477,364

## Federal VOCAA Dollars Received per Child Served 2006-2017



At this rate, direct services funding per child through VOCAA provides only **2-3%** of the overall resource needs, leaving **97%-98%** that must be filled by other federal, state, local, and private sources. This graph charts the slow dwindling of federal funding per child from this critical source as the number of CACs and children served has grown.

## What can advocates and lawmakers do to help?

As advocates for the CACs that provide children and families with healing, justice, and trust after abuse, we can protect this crucial funding source as we continue to advocate for a minimum of full funding of VOCAA. Even more, as the movement grows and serves more children in need of the services CACs provide, we have the opportunity to grow the resources that support them with concerted efforts in seeking increases of overall funding for the Victims of Child Abuse Act.

Whether you serve children directly or in the highest levels of government, keep these messages in mind:

- **CACs are effective in helping victims heal, and in holding offenders accountable.**
- **VOCAA is the bedrock of the public-private partnerships we have worked together to build.**
- **Congress and DOJ should increase their overall contribution to CACs by increasing VOCAA funding.**