



# Celebrating 40 Years of the Victims of Crime Act 1984–2024

The first crime victim compensation program is established in California.

In April, President Reagan issued an executive order creating a task force to determine what the Federal Government could do to improve the treatment of crime victims.

In December, President Ronald Reagan's Task Force on Victims of Crime released its final report.

On October 12, the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) was signed into law by President Reagan. VOCA establishes the Crime Victims Fund (CVF), composed primarily of fines, penalties, special assessments, and bond forfeitures from federal convictions, not tax dollars.

Following the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in 1995, Congress amended VOCA to establish the Antiterrorism Emergency Reserve.

An amendment to VOCA through the USA PATRIOT Act allowed for gifts, donations, and bequests by private parties to be deposited into the CVF.

Congress passed and President Biden signed into law the VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021 in response to steady declines in deposits since 2018. Among other provisions, the law requires any funds that would otherwise be deposited in the general fund of the U.S. Treasury collected pursuant to federal deferred prosecution and non-prosecution agreements to go into the CVF.

As of August 2024, over \$1.45 billion has been deposited into the CVF from non-prosecution agreements and deferred prosecutions.

1965

1982

1984

1996

2001

2021

1970

1983

1988

2000

2015

2024

By 1970, five additional compensation programs are created in New York, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Maryland, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is established.

Through an amendment to VOCA, OVC is authorized to administer the CVF.

In response to large fluctuations in deposits, Congress places a cap on funds available for distribution from the CVF.

Congress more than tripled the amount of CVF funds available for distribution, and increases to the appropriation cap were sustained through FY 2018, to support crime victim service providers in addressing longstanding victim needs.

In February, OVC published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to amend the existing VOCA Victim Compensation Program Guidelines (May 2001).

