



CRIME VICTIM AND SURVIVOR SERVICES FUNDING SECURITY ACT

COLORADO SUPPORTS CRIME VICTIM SERVICES

A DUAL CRISIS: VICTIM FUNDING SLASHED WHILE GUN VIOLENCE HIGHER THAN EVER

The federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding stream has been cut in half since 2018, limiting victims' access to support and leaving victim service providers working beyond their means while the needs of victims have grown. Colorado expects a further decrease of at least 40-50% in VOCA awards for the 2025 funding cycle with future allocations expected to remain low. VOCA is the largest source of funding for Colorado's victim services infrastructure, supporting more than 200 organizations, serving thousands of victims across the state, and comprising the majority of community-based programs' budgets.

Colorado expects a decrease of **40-50%** in VOCA funding

Meanwhile, gun violence in our communities continues to rise. Domestic violence (DV), sexual violence, and stalking cases have become more fatal; women are 5x more likely to be killed by an intimate partner when a gun is available. In Colorado, deaths due to DV are at a record high with the vast majority (86%) by firearms.

Gun violence costs Colorado **\$11.7 billion** annually

In 2022, gunfire took the lives of **1033** Coloradans

In the US, between 2014 and 2019 **68.2%** of mass shooting events were found to be DV attacks or perpetrated by those with a history of DV.

We've reached a crisis point. This devastating VOCA cut will shutter programs across the state, leaving domestic and sexual violence survivors and other victims of crime without a safety net just as gun violence rates skyrocket.

The Proposed Solution: HB24-1349 Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax

If approved by Colorado voters, a new excise tax of **9%** on the gross taxable retail sales of firearm dealers, manufacturers and ammunition vendors for all firearms, firearm precursor parts, and ammunition sold in the state would go directly to fund victim support services and crime prevention as follows:

COLORADO CANNOT LET VICTIMS OF CRIME FALL THROUGH THE CRACKS

\$35 million
FOR CRIME VICTIM SERVICES GRANTS

\$10 million
FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR AT RISK YOUTH

\$10 million
SCHOOL SAFETY

ANY REMAINING MONEY WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE VICTIM SERVICES FUND FOR CRIME VICTIM SERVICES GRANTS

THIS TAX WILL CREATE CONSISTENT AND RELIABLE FUNDING TO SUSTAIN THE SERVICES VICTIMS DEPEND ON, INCLUDING ON-SITE CRISIS RESPONSE, EMERGENCY SHELTER, EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, COUNSELING, LEGAL ADVOCACY, HOUSING ASSISTANCE, CASE MANAGEMENT, AND MORE.

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2. Colorado Attorney General. Colorado domestic violence fatalities reach record high in 2022, annual report reveals. October 23, 2023.
3. Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, "EveryStat: Colorado," 2022. <https://everystat.org/#Colorado>
4. "Statistics: Gun Violence in Colorado." Colorado Ceasefire. Accessed February 15, 2024. <https://coloradoceasefire.org/>
5. Geller LB, Booty M, Crifasi CK. The role of domestic violence in fatal mass shootings in the United States, 2014-2019.