



VOCA Match Waiver Policy

Revised Implementation Date: April 1, 2025

The policy of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) is to encourage VOCA subrecipients to meet match requirements. The CDVSA grant staff provides appropriate monitoring of compliance with match requirements throughout the subaward period.

Since SFY2025, CDVSA has allowed a full match waiver for all VOCA subrecipients due to extenuating circumstances in our state (section B(1)) until the end of the 2024-2026 RFP cycle. During the extenuating circumstances period, subrecipients do not have to complete the full match waiver process; instead, during the application period, they must complete the Blanket Match Waiver form confirming that they are choosing to have match waived for their VOCA subgrant.

A. Match Waiver Process

Match waivers, both in full and in part, may be requested at the beginning of or throughout the duration of the subaward project period. Should a match waiver be requested in full or in part, the VOCA applicant must answer the following questions before a match waiver will be considered:

1. How is the grant currently being matched?
2. What extenuating circumstances exist that impede the organization's ability to partially or fully match the VOCA grant funds requested?
3. Has the organization considered all possible options for meeting the match with in-kind and cash sources that are not being used as match on another federal grant?
4. What methods has the organization used to consider all possible options for meeting the match requirements?
5. What steps does the organization plan to take to be able to meet the match requirement in the future?
6. If a match waiver is approved, does the organization anticipate this is a one-time request or are there extenuating circumstances that will require a waiver request next year?



7. How would the denial of a match waiver impact the VOCA project?
8. Would the program have to decline all or part of the grant award if a match waiver is not granted?

Match waivers, whether in full or in part, must be well justified by the applicant. CDVSA will consider the following when deciding whether to approve a match waiver request:

1. practical and/or logistical obstacles to providing match (*e.g.*, public agencies that do not engage in private fundraising and may have limitations on soliciting contributing funds);
2. local resource constraints (*e.g.*, rural community with limited local funding availability or volunteer capacity);
3. increases to VOCA funding where local funding availability has not increased to the same degree;
4. past ability to provide match – CDVSA and OVC generally expects subrecipients to provide at least the same dollar amount of match it provided during the grant year immediately preceding the year of the waiver request unless a change in circumstances justifies a lower amount.

Once received, the Match Waiver Request will be reviewed by the VOCA Administrator for inclusion of the above information; the VOCA Administrator will in turn make recommendations to the CDVSA Executive Director for final determination. Upon the Executive Director approval or denial of the request, the subgrantee will be notified via email regarding the determination of their request.

Once a match waiver is approved, a match waiver determination notice will be issued to the applying agency. The match waiver determination notice will contain the following:

1. a brief description of the project/services provided by subrecipient;
2. the justification (consistent with the considerations under the applicable waiver guidance);
3. the scope of the waiver, and waiver amount (unless specified otherwise by CDVSA the waiver amount should create an equivalent match waiver percentage to be applied should the project budget change); and
4. CDVSA approval of the waiver request for the reasons set out in the determination.

Waivers will only be applicable for the duration of the subrecipient's project based on the state fiscal year (i.e. not indefinitely).

CDVSA will submit the match waiver spreadsheet showing all active waivers approved in a federal fiscal year, no later than 90 days after the fiscal year end.

CDVSA agrees to apply the approved match waiver percentage in (or derived from) the original waiver request to a subrecipient's modified budget to determine the new match waiver dollar amount.

All match waivers must be approved and signed by the CDVSA Executive Director.

B. Extenuating Circumstances Policy

In some cases, sudden emergencies such as pandemics, natural disasters, mass emergency, etc. may occur during a grant year that causes subgrantees to have unplanned difficulty obtaining match amounts required under the grant terms. In these cases, CDVSA may approve a blanket match waiver approval which provides a partial or full match waiver for programs unable to meet the match requirement due to the extenuating circumstance.

In these circumstances, a memo detailing the conditions of the match waiver will be sent to each organization affected listing the amount of match they are required to commit to the project for the grant period affected by the event.

1. CDVSA Authority

CDVSA has the authority to continue to waive match requirements according to 34 U.S. Code § 20103 (a)(7) given additional extenuating circumstances that affect the subrecipients of these funds. Beginning in SFY2025 (July 1, 2025), CDVSA will allow for a full match waiver for all VOCA subrecipients based on the following circumstances; a) the stagnation of state funding for domestic violence/sexual assault serving organizations that has remained flat since 2019, b) the reduction in availability of federal funding to serve victims of crime, c) the challenge of local fundraising efforts in rural, isolated villages in Alaska, d) the substantial increase in cost of basic supplies in Alaska since the COVID-19 pandemic, and e) the reduction of technical capacity to seek out additional funding, combined with the excessive cost of traveling to take advantage of such opportunities. This extenuating circumstances period authorizing the full match waiver has been approved for the 2024-2026 RFP period; whether these conditions still exist and if the period should be extended will be reviewed and determined before the beginning of the 2027-2029 RFP solicitation.

The following organizations seeking VOCA funding from CDVSA are eligible for a full match waiver:

- Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Serving Organizations (both shelter and non-shelter)
- Child Advocacy Centers

- Non-Profits providing Direct Services to Victims of Crime

In order to receive the full match waiver during the extenuating circumstances period, all subrecipients must complete and sign the Blanket Match Waiver Form confirming they would like to receive a full match waiver. Beginning for SFY2026, this form will be sent out along with the grant solicitations (whether it is a continuation year or a new Request for Proposal (RFP) period), with the form submitted along with the application. The VOCA match waiver spreadsheet will be submitted to JustGrants within 120 days of the end of our state fiscal year (July 1).

MaryBeth Gagnon 04/10/2025

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