

# Department of Public Safety FY2026 Governor's Budget

Integrated Victim Assistance Division

## House Finance Subcommittee

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Susie Frenzel, Director, Integrated Victim Assistance Division

MaryBeth Gagnon, Executive Director, Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Tory Shanklin, Executive Director, Violent Crime Compensation Board

Dianna Thornton, Administrative Services Director

February 25, 2025



**Department of Public Safety**

# Integrated Victim Assistance Division

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Mission: To uphold the rights of victims of crime and provide victim-centered support to those who have been impacted by crime; we support the criminal justice system and those it serves through science, training, and services; through our efforts, we aim to enhance public safety and community trust in Alaska.

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit

Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

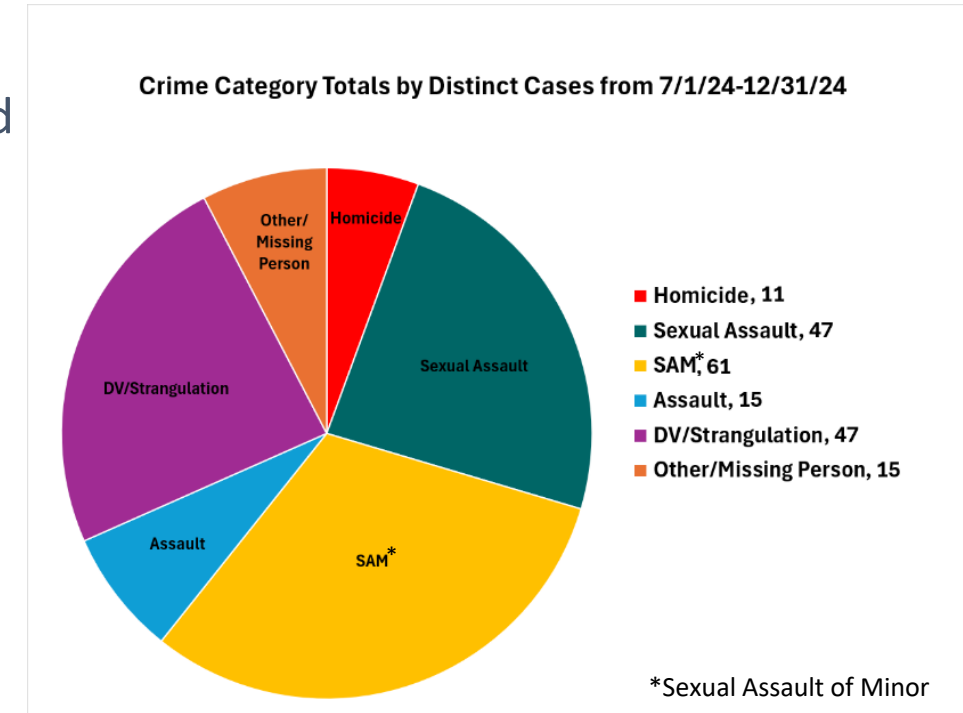
Violent Crimes Compensation Board

State Crime Lab



# Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit

- Victim Navigators - All positions are currently filled
  - Seven Navigators
  - One Program Coordinator
- July 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024
  - 196 cases worked
  - 1,053 victim/witness contacts



*Success Story: This was an acute sexual assault case out of the village. The victim was sexually assaulted and had extensive injuries that required a med-evac to Anchorage for treatment. After surgery, the Navigator made contact and assisted the troopers in arranging for a successful follow up interview and made referrals for additional services, including a protective order which was granted. Contact with the victim was continued and the victim continues to participate in the investigation.*

# Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

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CDVSA was created through legislation in 1981 to build a sustainable structure to fund and support community-based services to address the needs of victims, survivors, and others impacted by the effects of domestic and sexual violence.

- 11 member Board of Directors
- 11 full-time staff
- Fund 35 community-based agencies serving Alaskans impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault from Utqiagvik to Unalaska
- Manage and monitor a total of 77 grants
- Support statewide efforts to reduce and end domestic and sexual violence in Alaska



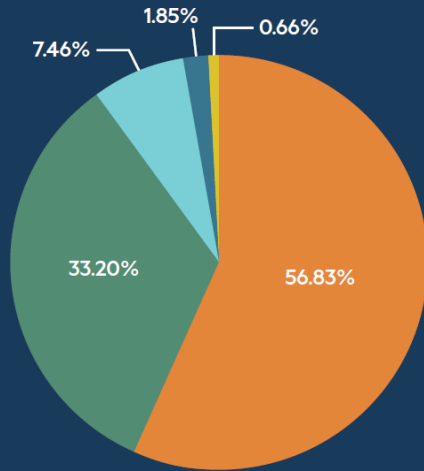
# Funding Sources

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- Federal Formula Grant:
  - Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)
  - Family Violence and Prevention Services Act (FVPSA)
  - Sexual Assault Response Program (SASP)
  - Services, Training, Officers and Police (STOP)
- Federal Relief Grants:
  - Murkowski/Byrne grant
  - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
- Recidivism Reduction Fund
- Restorative Justice Fund
- Inter-agency Receipts



# Managing Public Funds Responsibly FY2024 Actuals



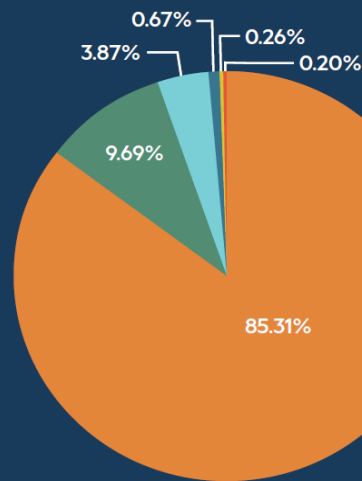
**Unrestricted General Funds** \$15,004.2

**Federal** \$8,904.4

**Recidivism Reduction** \$1,969.3

**Restorative Justice** \$489.6

**Interagency Receipts** \$173.8



**Grants** \$22,605.4

**Services** \$2,631.1

**Personal Services** \$1,023.0

**Commodities** \$69.6

**Travel** \$35.2

**Capital** \$177.0



**Department of Public Safety**



# FY2024 Grants \$22,605.4 (\$ in thousands)

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- Victim Services: Domestic and sexual violence shelters and crisis-response services
- Enhanced Services: Supplemental awards for Mental Health Services to Children, Civil Legal Services, and Child Advocacy Centers
- Prevention: Community-based prevention programs focused on violence prevention, youth engagement, and bystander intervention
- Battering Intervention Programming: Programs for abusive partners targeted to stop the cycle of violence



## Accomplishments

- CDVSA will continue funding programs at current levels
- Procurement of a new data collection platform (VELA) to assist with accuracy and reporting efficiency
- Improvement of CDVSA grants management system (GrantVantage)

## Challenges

- Decrease in federal funding
- Costs of services for providers continues to rise
- Funding future planning
- Recruitment and retention





# Violent Crimes Compensation Board



- Established in 1972, one of the first such compensation boards in the nation
- Alleviate the financial impacts of violent crime
- Victim-centered structure
- Three staff
- Three-person board



2023 – Included  
two new positions



FY2024 Processed  
25% more  
applications than in  
FY2023



Reformed policies  
and procedures to  
better meet the  
needs of victims



Processing time improved  
from 139 days to less than  
two weeks



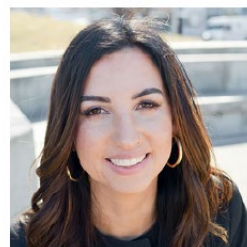
2025 Process  
~1000  
applications



**Greg Bringhurst**  
Chair



**Dr. Robert (Bob) Urata**



**Anna Cometa**



# Who We Support

*"I am incapable of describing the relief and freedom from the deep dark pain I feel, and how much anger and frustration left my body...Thank you for everything you do. For me, for others, for those that aren't here with us anymore and their family. Know that your impact is infinite for me."*

- Program Applicant

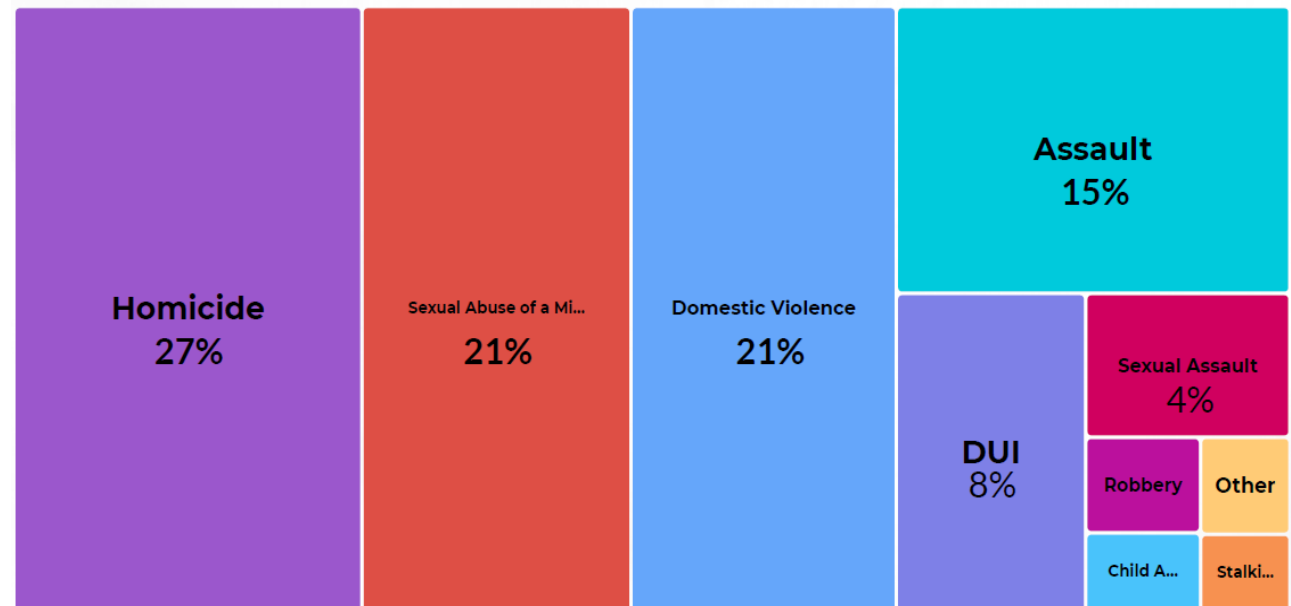
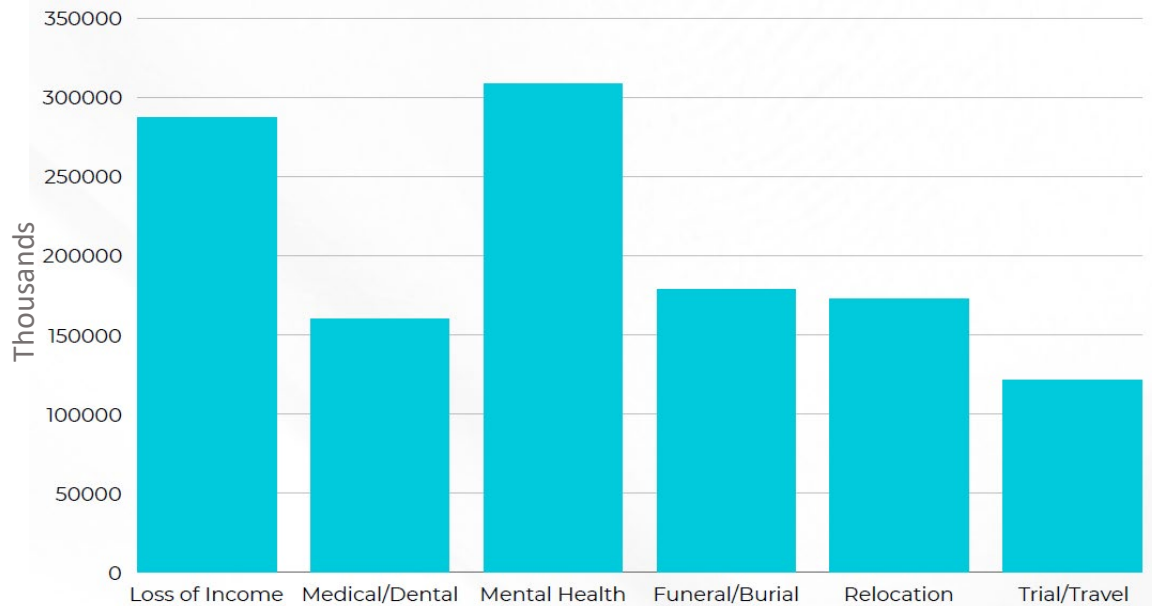
- Direct assistance for all violent crime victims
- Average paid per application ~\$2,600.00

Financial assistance does not reflect the full extent of a survivor's needs only costs not covered by insurance or other funding sources.

Medical expenses were historically the largest reimbursed cost, but Medicaid expansion now covers more of these previously uncovered expenses.



# Funding Trends



# Strategic Considerations



100 percent of VCCB funding comes from fines, fees, and restitution from convicted offenders.

State Funding is 10 to 13 percent of the Restorative Justice Account, created from the PFD payments withheld from ineligible offenders. This funding is also used to cover program staff costs.

Federal funding: Victim Of Crime Act (VOCA) and Crime Victim Compensation Fund (CVCF) is a 70 percent match on state funding paid on behalf of victims.

**Key Challenge:** Reserve federal funds are no longer available.

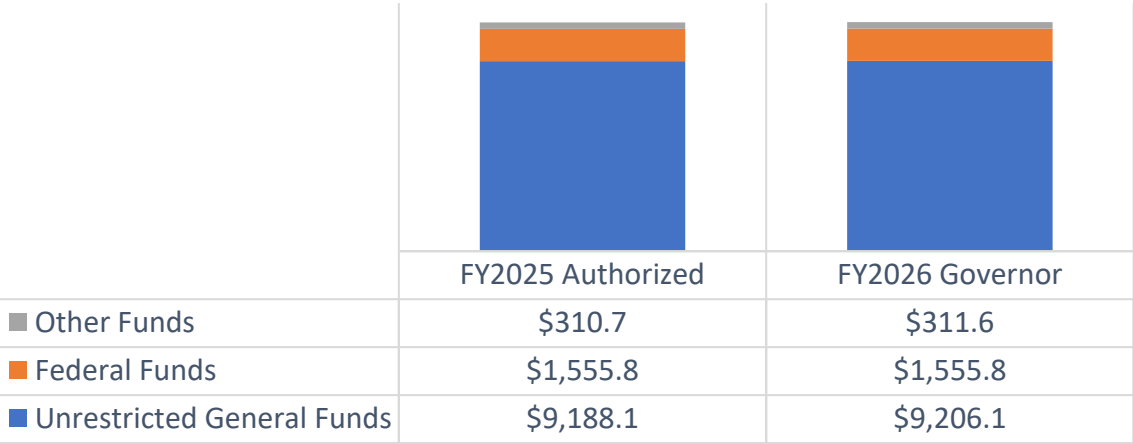
## Board Considerations

- ✓ Adjusting allowable payments
- ✓ Preserving restitution funds
- ✓ Processing Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) payments to maximize the federal match



# Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory FY2026: \$9,206.1 (\$ in thousands)

## ALL FUNDING SOURCES



### FY2026 adjustments:

- \$347.0 DNA Testing equipment (UGF)
- \$124.6 DNA Reagents (UGF)

**Mission:** To provide scientific support to the criminal justice system to foster a safer Alaska.

**Staff:** 49 permanent full-time positions

### Core Services:

- Provide scientific testing, interpretation, report writing, testimony, and training to the criminal justice system
- Analysis and entry into the national database of DNA samples from convicted felons and qualifying arrestees

### 2024 Accomplishments:

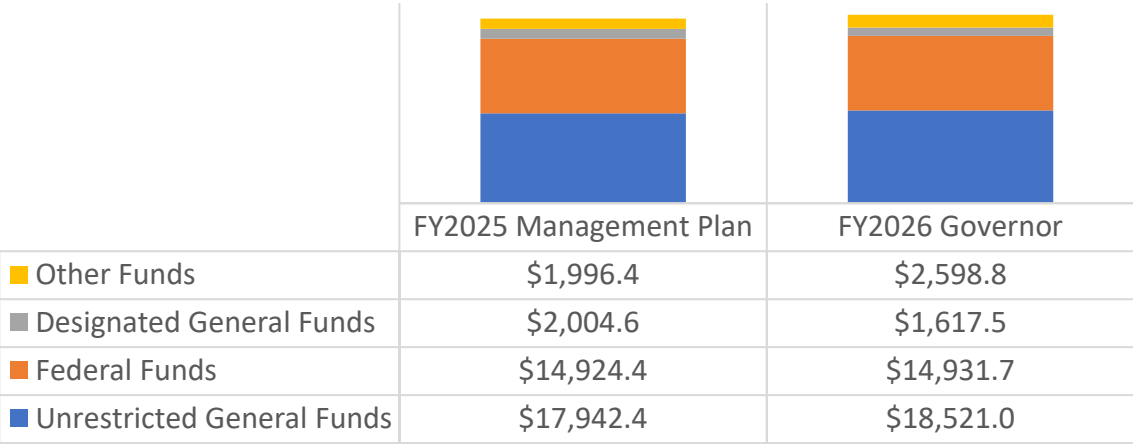
- Deployed the Forensic Science Hit Outcome Program (FSHOP)
- Over 17,000 items were submitted to the lab for testing
- Forensic Scientists testified over 90 times across Alaska
- Forensic Scientist job class underwent a salary review which saw a 3-range uplift - DNA section now fully staffed





# Integrated Victim Assistance FY2026: \$37,669.0 (\$ in thousands)

## ALL FUNDING SOURCES



### FY2026 adjustments:

- -\$387.1 Recidivism Reduction - CDVSA (DGF)
- \$464.5 PFD Criminal Fund (Revenue) - VCCB (Other Funds)
- Fund Change: \$297.2 in Restorative Justice Fund to UGF - CDVSA

### Allocations in this FY2026 Budget:

- Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- Violent Crime Compensation Board
- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit

**Staff:** 29 permanent full-time positions

**FY2024 Accomplishment:** A \$3.7M increase approved by the Legislature in FY2024 offset declining federal funds, continuing victim support across Alaska through FY2026.





# Thank You

**Susie Frenzel, Director, Integrated Victim Assistance Division**

**MaryBeth Gagnon, Executive Director, CDVSA**

**Tory Shanklin, Executive Director, VCCB**

**Dianna Thornton, Administrative Services Director**

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**Department of Public Safety**