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**Urgent CAC Needs for possible COVID-4 Package**

**Urgent CAC funding needs:**

* At least $30M in emergency supplemental Victims of Child Abuse Act dollars in a COVID- package is needed to directly address the gap in services created by the pandemic.

**Victims of Crime Act Changes – Crime Victims Fund Deposits Fix and VOCA Match Waiver**

* Crime Victims Fund Deposits Fix –this fix will direct that DOJ deferred prosecution and non-prosecution agreements to be deposited into the CVF. State VOCA offices have given flexibility to allow for VOCA dollars to be used to respond to the pandemic, and this fix is needed to ensure VOCA dollars are available.
* Waives the VOCA Matching Requirement during the COVID-19 pandemic. State VOCA offices have been slow (if at all) to work with CACs and other services providers and implement a waiver of VOCA match, so this language is still critically needed and is a priority of CACs and other victim service providers that are not able to meet their current match requirements due to the pandemic.

**Background/Need:**

* Currently, child abuse reports are down across the US (as compared to this time last year), in some cases between 50-70%, because children are not able to interact with folks that are mandatory reporters. (Teachers/school personnel/doctors/etc.) In response, children and teens across the country are taking it upon themselves to contact hotlines from unsafe environments.
* Compared to March 2019, the Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline experienced a 23% increase in calls and a 263% increase in texts in March 2020.
* During the pandemic/stay-at home orders, CACs have continued to conduct forensic interviews for cases dealing with imminent risk; however, a backlog of additional cases continues to build.
* *Even before the COVD-19 pandemic hit,* HHS’s recent annual Child Maltreatment Report showed the need for increased CAC resources by reporting that **last year, there were an estimated 300,000 substantiated abuse cases without access to CACs and an additional 600,000+ cases of suspected abuse needing a forensic interview.**
* The cases that are being reported are more severe cases of physical abuse (including child abuse deaths) because these cases are severe enough that they are brought to the emergency room. ( <https://www.wsj.com/articles/child-abuse-reports-are-falling-and-thats-bad-news-for-children-11591263001>.  <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2020/04/30/child-abuse-reports-coronavirus/>)
* For the first time ever, more than half of the caller’s to RAINN’s National Sexual Abuse Hotline were minors reporting their own abuse, with 79% of them living with their abuser. ([www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org/))
* CACs estimate *at least* $87 million in losses due to the pandemic.