

# VICTIM SERVICES IN COLORADO

## Test your knowledge of victim services funding in the State of Colorado!

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Presented to the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, July 10, 2015

# QUESTION 1 – FUNDING STRUCTURE IN COLORADO

1) Financial reimbursement for out of pocket expenses for victims and victim service programs in Colorado are mainly funded by:

- A) Monies from the Colorado General Assembly
- B) Monies from fines and fees on state/local and federal offenders
- C) Monies from a Congressional appropriation
- D) Monies from private sector donations



# ANSWER QUESTION 1

B. The vast majority of monies available for victims and victim service providers are from fines and fees on state /local and federal offenders.

- ► Victim of Crime Act (VOCA - Assistance) – monies from **fines and fees** of federal offenders
- ► Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA-Compensation) – monies from **fines and fees** of federal offenders
- ► Stop Violence Against Women Act (V.A.W.A. & Sexual Assault Services program (S.A.S.P.) – monies from **Congressional appropriation**



# COLORADO CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION

► **Local Crime Victim Compensation – monies from fines and fees of local offenders** (2014 Colorado Victim Compensation Annual Report)

• Medical/Dental	\$ 5,741,923
• Mental Health	\$ 4,573,922
• Economic Support	\$ 1,351,778
• Funeral/Burial	\$ 1,281,721
• Crime Scene Clean-up	\$ 90,072
• Forensic Sexual Assault Exams	\$ 16,020
• Other	\$ 272,684
• TOTAL	\$13,328,120

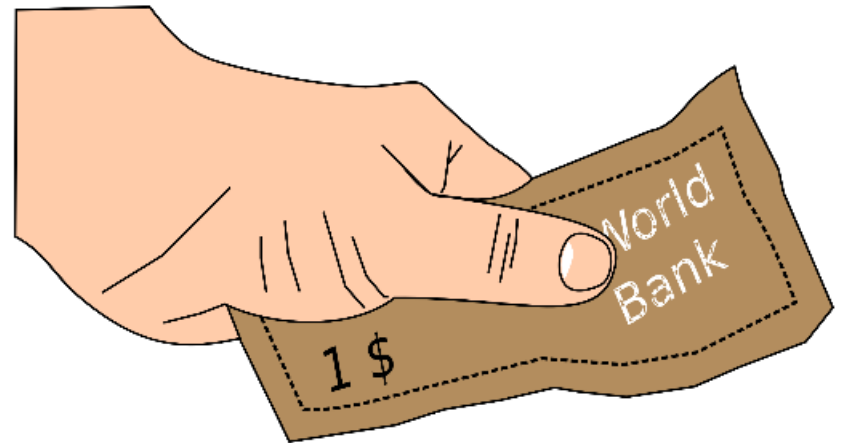
# STATE/LOCAL FUNDING FOR VICTIM SERVICES

- ▶ **Local Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement (VALE) – monies from fines and fees of local offenders \$12,597,239**
- ▶ **State VALE - monies from fines and fees of local offenders (\$1.5 million)**
- ▶ **Sexual Assault Victim Emergency Payment Program (S.A.V.E.) (\$150,000) – Colorado General Fund appropriation**

## QUESTION 2

Approximately how much money is distributed on an annual basis from these eight programs that serve victims in Colorado?

- A. \$150,000,000
- B. \$92,000,000
- C. \$64,000,000
- D. \$37,000,000



## ANSWER QUESTION 2

D. There was approximately \$35 million dollars\* allocated in Colorado in the last reporting period.\*\*

\*\*Some funds distribute monies on a calendar year [January 1 – December 31], some funds on a state fiscal year [July 1 – June 30], and some funds on a federal fiscal year [October 1 – September 30].



\*Source : Office for Victims Programs – Division of Criminal Justice

## QUESTION 3

What percentage of Colorado general fund monies make up payments from all sources to victims and services to victims?

- A. 25%
- B. 15%
- C. 5%
- D. Less than 1%

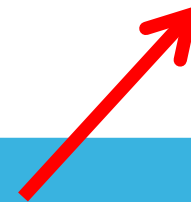




# ANSWER QUESTION 3 – LATEST REPORTING PERIOD\*

## D. Less than 1%.

	Federal offenders	Congress	State/local offenders	Colo. General Assm.	
VOCA (Assistance)	\$ 6,971,907.00				
VOCA (Compensation)	\$ 3,425,927.00				
Local Victim Compensation			\$ 9,902,192.00		
Local VALE			\$ 12,689,275.00		
State VALE			\$ 1,349,604.00		
VAWA		\$ 1,899,457.00			
S.A.S.P.		\$ 225,680.00			
S.A.V.E.				\$ 150,000.00	
	\$ 10,397,834.00	\$ 2,425,137.00	\$ 23,941,071.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 36,914,042.00
Percentage	0.28	0.07	0.65	0.00	



\*Source : Office for Victims Programs – Division of Criminal Justice

# ADDITIONAL STATE FUNDS

## Family Violence Justice Funds (Judicial Branch) - Legal Services for domestic violence victims

- \$2.5 million from general funds
- \$117,000 from filing fees on divorce filings

## Domestic Violence Program (Colorado Department of Human Services)

- \$800,000 from a combination of income tax checkoff, marriage license fees, and divorce filing fees

# **NEW FUNDS ARE COMING TO COLORADO**

**COLORADO'S VOCA ASSISTANCE FUNDS WILL BE  
INCREASING FROM:**

**7 MILLION  
TO  
32 MILLION**

# WHY ARE WE GETTING AN INCREASE IN VOCA FUNDS?

The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) fund was established in 1984

- Funds come from fines and monetary penalties paid by federal criminal offenders
- No tax dollars are used to fund VOCA

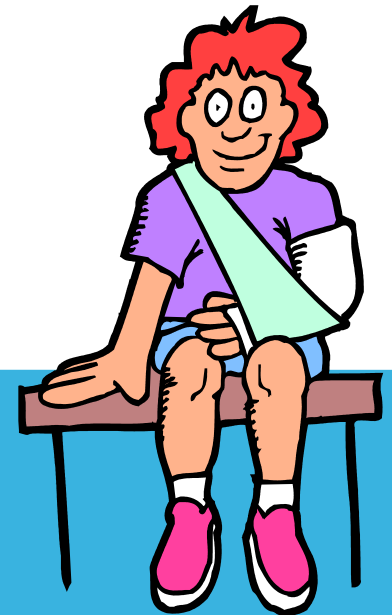
The amount in the fund has increased significantly in recent years

Congress increased the VOCA cap from \$745 million to \$2.3 Billion (more than tripled)

VOCA provides funding for: VOCA Assistance, Victim Compensation, federal Victim coordinators in U.S. Attorneys' Offices and FBI, and discretionary federal grants

# OVERALL PICTURE

- ▶ Approximately **93%** of the funding to victim and victim service providers is paid by fines and fees on state and federal offenders.
- ▶ Approximately **7%** of the funding to victim and victim service providers is paid by a Congressional appropriation.
- ▶ **Less than 1%** of the funding to victim and victim service providers is paid by the Colorado General Assembly.



# OFFENDER COSTS

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO ADDRESS SERVICES TO  
OFFENDERS?

## QUESTION 4

Approximately how much Colorado general fund monies goes to support offenders in the *Department of Corrections*?

- A. \$722 million dollars
- B. \$505 million dollars
- C. \$106 million dollars
- D. \$37 million dollars



## ANSWER QUESTION 4

A - \$722 million dollars.

Approximately 8.1% of the \$8.92 billion dollar General Fund appropriation was allocated for Corrections, [2015] or \$722 million dollars\*\*.



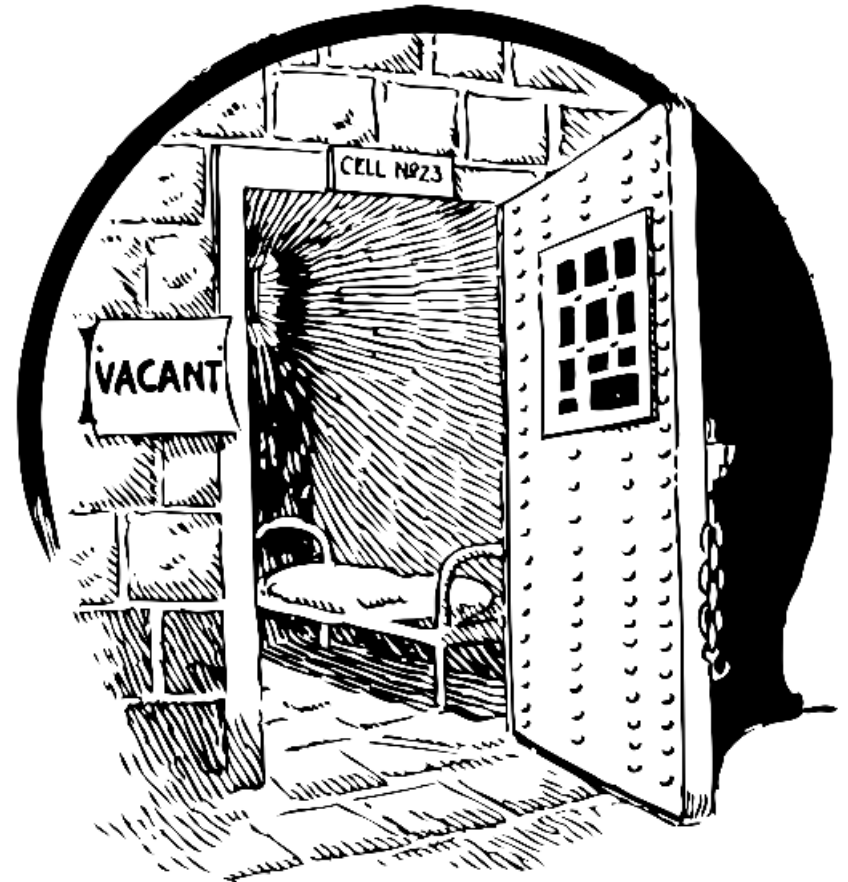
*\*Source: Colorado Fiscal Institute, Colorado State Budget Basics 2015*



## QUESTION 5

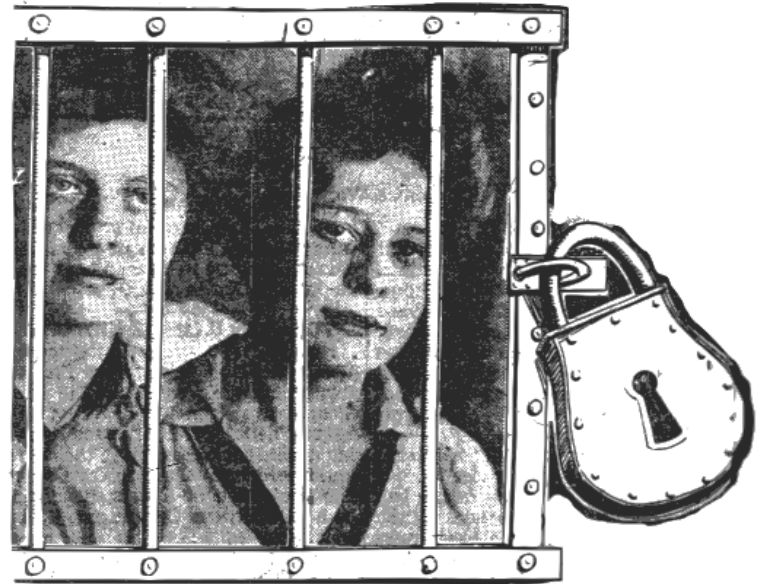
5. The annual cost of sentencing an offender to the Department of Corrections is approximately:

- A. \$60,000 per year
- B. \$30,000 per year
- C. \$20,000 per year
- D. \$15,000 per year



## ANSWER QUESTION 5

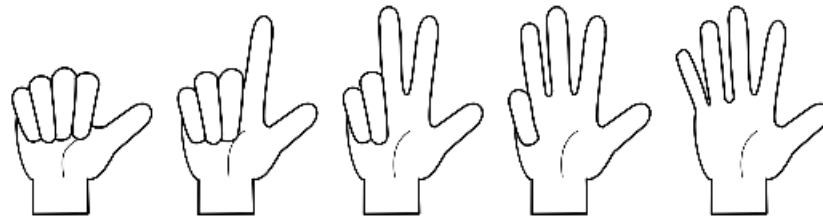
- B. The estimated cost to sentence an offender to the Department of Corrections is approximately \$30,000 per year\*.



*\*Source: VERA Institute of Justice - Center on Sentencing and Corrections; Office of the State Court Administrator - Division of Probation Services*

## QUESTION 6

6. Rank the following annual cost of sentencing options from most expensive to least expensive:
- A. Parole, DOC, Community Corrections, Probation
  - B. Probation, Parole, DOC, Community Corrections
  - C. DOC, Community Corrections, Parole, Probation
  - D. DOC, Parole, Probation, Community Corrections



## ANSWER QUESTION 6

- C. The most expensive cost of corrections is DOC, followed by Community Corrections, Parole and then Probation\*.

### Annual Cost of Sentencing Options Per Offender (FY 2008)

- ▶ DOC - **\$30,388**
- ▶ Community Corrections - **\$7,705**
- ▶ Parole - **\$3,573**
- ▶ Probation - **\$1,311**



\*Source – Office of the State Court Administrator, Division of Probation Services – FY2008

## QUESTION 7

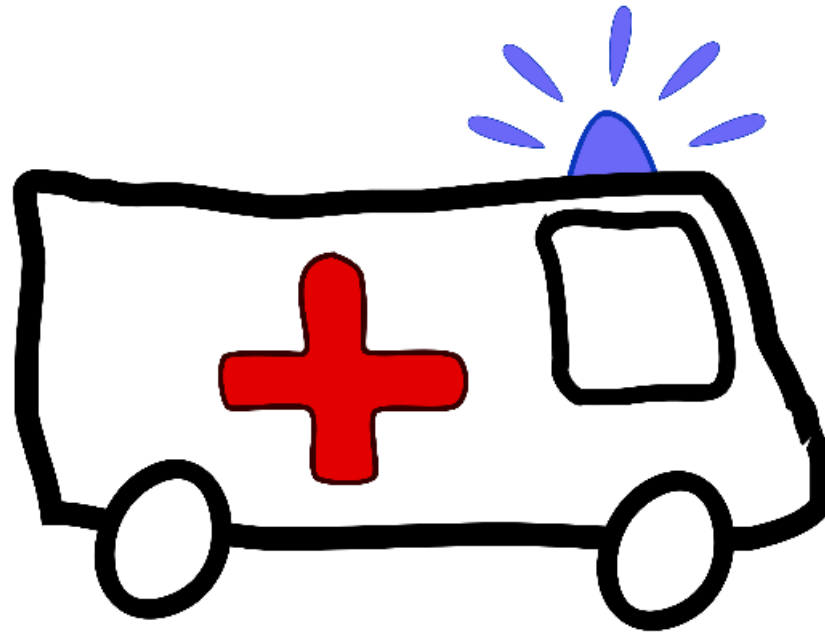
7. Approximately how much does Colorado spend per inmate on health care costs?

- A. \$14,495
- B. \$5,390
- C. \$4,650
- D. \$2,558



## ANSWER QUESTION 7

- C. As of 2011, Colorado spends approximately **\$4,650** per inmate on prison health care.

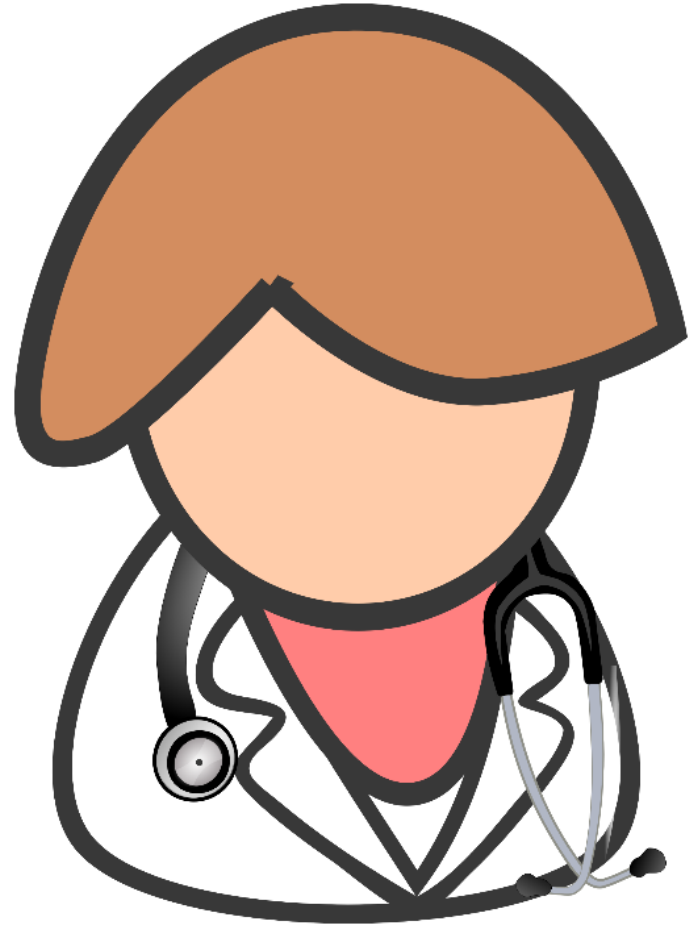


Source: *The Pew Charitable Trusts – State Prison Health Care and Spending – July 2014*

## QUESTION 8

8. Nationally, approximately what percentage of general medical care costs are spent on mental health care?

- A. 31%
- B. 26%
- C. 21%
- D. 14%



## ANSWER QUESTION 8

D. Nationwide, approximately 14% of prison health care spending was allocated to mental health care.

- General Medical Care – 37%
- Hospitalization – 20%
- Pharmaceuticals – 14%
- **Mental Health Care – 14%**
- Substance Abuse Treatment – 5%
- Dental Care – 1%
- Health Care Administration – 4%
- Other – 1%



Source: *The Pew Charitable Trusts – State Prison Health Care and Spending – July 2014*



# SUMMARY

Victims have needs that may last a lifetime (medical, emotional, financial).

Many offenders are not arrested and prosecuted. Cost of supervision, treatment and incarceration are high.

When decisions made about a policy, ask the question “How does this effect the victim?”