

COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

Victim/Witness Assistance Program

DESCRIPTION

The Victim/Witness Assistance Program was established in Virginia in 1984 by the General Assembly. Henrico's Victim/Witness program was implemented in May of 1988. The goal is to assist crime victims and witnesses through the criminal justice system by providing the information and assistance required by the Crime Victim and Witness Rights Act. These services include information of the victim/witness' case, explanation about court procedures, assistance in applying for Crime Victims' Compensation, assistance in preparing Victim Impact Statements and Parole Input Forms and short-term crisis counseling.

OBJECTIVES

- To reduce delays in the court process by reducing the incidences of witness "no-show" through improved notification services.
- To reduce the trauma of crime for victims through crisis intervention and specialized counseling.
- To enable authorities to quickly establish and maintain contact with victims and witnesses.
- To increase victim cooperation and successful prosecution through providing the victim/witness more information on court room procedures and the criminal justice system.
- To provide services in a cost-effective manner by coordinating and using volunteer time and talent.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Victim Witness Assistance Program budget for FY2021-22 is \$1,263,976, or 6.3 percent compared to the prior fiscal year. The personnel component increased by \$74,895 or 6.3 percent and includes employee compensation and benefit rate increases.

FISCAL YEAR 2022 SUMMARY

Annual Fiscal Plan

Description	FY20	FY21	FY22	Change
	Actual	Original	Approved	21 to 22
Personnel	\$ 1,051,009	\$ 1,050,546	\$ 1,125,441	7.1%
Operation	131,037	133,535	133,535	0.0%
Capital	6,666	5,000	5,000	0.0%
Total	<u>\$ 1,188,712</u>	<u>\$ 1,189,081</u>	<u>\$ 1,263,976</u>	<u>6.3%</u>

Personnel Complement* 5 5 5 0

*The Victim Witness Program maintains the budget for thirteen positions (1 comp I, 4 comp II, 8 comp III) but the 8 complement III positions are excluded from the Personnel Complement.

Victim Witness

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	<u>FY20</u>	<u>FY21</u>	<u>FY22</u>	<u>Change 21 to 22</u>
Workload Measures				
Victims Assisted	5,511	6,000	6,500	500

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)

The operating component is unchanged from the previous fiscal year with funds shifted between accounts to cover contractually based lease increases for the Victim Witness and CASA building. The capital component also remains at the FY2020-21 level.

The FY2021-22 budget includes a General Fund transfer of \$589,821 to provide funding for the program costs. State/federal grant funding is anticipated to be \$674,155. This estimated grant funding is fully budgeted in the FY2021-22 budget. The budget includes funding for thirteen full-time positions, eight of which are complement III, four are complement II, and one complement I position.

The table provides a historical depiction of budgeted state and county funding by fiscal year over a ten-year period.

Fiscal Year	State Funding	County Funding	% County
2012-13	363,093	324,629	47%
2013-14	363,226	331,814	48%
2014-15	374,119	343,711	48%
2015-16	430,156	354,480	45%
2016-17	660,936	374,932	36%
2017-18	674,155	376,103	36%
2018-19	674,155	443,775	40%
2019-20	674,155	493,487	42%
2020-21*	674,155	514,926	43%
2021-22*	674,155	589,821	47%