

# The 2022 Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act: Title XV

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## Follow the Money

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was reauthorized on March 15, 2022. Within VAWA is [Title XV](#), titled “Keeping Children Safe from Family Violence”. Title XV includes an increased monetary award for states with the goal of providing safer outcomes for children involved in custody proceedings. While increased funding for states is beneficial, especially when that funding may contribute to increasing the capacity of family court practitioners, it is important to evaluate if the additional funds available are sufficient to cover the full expense of meeting Title XV’s requirements.

### **Is your state eligible for the additional funding available through Title XV?**

Your state is eligible if it receives a STOP grant – remember this is a STOP grant supplement, not a stand-alone grant program – In addition, your state will only qualify if it has in effect each law described in the legislation, the standards described in the legislation, and the training program described in the legislation.

### **What does your state have to do to receive the additional funding?**

First, your state must adopt the laws, standards, and training as described in VAWA’s Title XV. After the legislation is in effect, the state must submit an application to the attorney general for the additional funding.

### **How much additional funding does your state get?**

The maximum additional funding your state can receive is 10% of the state’s annual award. In fact, the legislation states that the award cannot be more than 10% of the average of the total amount of STOP funding provided to the state under the three most recent awards. Keep in mind that the legislation does not mention a minimum award.

## How much funding would your state likely receive?

### Good question.

- First, look up state STOP awards for yourself here: <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/awards>
- Second, add the last three years of awards together.
- Third, divide that number by three to get the average.
- Fourth, multiply that number by 0.1 to get the 10% maximum award amount

## How much funding has been authorized under Title XV?

The legislation has authorized \$5,000,000 to be appropriated for each fiscal year from 2023 to 2027. This is roughly 1/3 of what would be needed for the maximum 10% award amount if every state applied. It is important

to note that just because an amount is authorized, does not mean that amount will be appropriated in the annual budget. The authorized amount is a recommendation for how much to spend on the program; we only know how much is actually appropriated after the annual budget gets approved.

## Are there funding restrictions?

Yes. First, a state is only eligible for an increase in funding under this legislation for a maximum of four years. Second, there are certain restrictions on how the additional funding has to be used. The total amount of the increase must be allocated to STOP grants for victims services and courts.

## The finer details

### The State would need to...

- Ensure every judge and magistrate, as well other court personnel involved in child custody proceedings, receive the initial 20 hours of mandatory training;
- Ensure every judge and magistrate, as well other court personnel involved in child custody proceedings, receive the minimum of 15 hours per every five years of ongoing training;
- Ensure that all courts comply with the expert testimony requirements;
- Ensure all appointed neutrals comply with uniform required standards; and
- Ensure state laws comply with all Title XV requirements...within their allocated funding as calculated for the State.

## STATE A EXAMPLE

2021: \$3,067,540

2020: \$3,072,296

2019: \$3,105,449

3-year average =  
\$3,081,762

**10% = \$308,176**