



## U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

*Office for Victims of Crime*

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Washington, D.C. 20531

Dear Colleague,

I am pleased to present the *2013 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide*, a joint effort of the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice and the National Center for Victims of Crime. We hope these resources will help you plan a National Crime Victims' Rights Week (April 21–27, 2013) to inspire your entire community.

This year's theme—"New Challenges. New Solutions."—echoes the mission of OVC's strategic initiative, **Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services**. In 2010, we began to envision a new strategy for the 21st century. Since then, we have done a great deal of research, held stakeholder forums, and sought your views on the vast challenges facing our field. As we consider how to apply these findings, we remember how far we have come together—and how far we still have to go.

Despite all of our progress—victims' rights laws in all 50 states, the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and the more than 10,000 victim service agencies throughout our Nation—we face enduring and emerging challenges. About 50 percent of violent crimes are not reported, and only a fraction of victims receive the help they need. We need to know more about these victims, how we can best help them, and how to better target our services to reach every victim. At the same time, we must adapt to funding cuts, globalization, changing demographics, new types of crimes, and the changes (both good and bad) brought by technology. These challenges require bold, new solutions.

Wherever our findings lead us, we know that collaboration is the pathway to success. The energy, skill, and commitment you bring to your work with victims will lead the way to realizing the promise of Vision 21. Let's mobilize our combined strengths to plan a great 2013 National Crime Victims' Rights Week—and to transform victim services in the 21st century.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joye E. Frost", is positioned below the "Sincerely," text.

Joye E. Frost  
Acting Director

Office for Victims of Crime