



Office for Victims of Crime

OVC Fact Sheet

*Advocating for the Fair
Treatment of Crime Victims*

State Crime Victim Compensation and Assistance Grant Programs

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) in the U.S. Department of Justice administers two major formula grant programs: Victim Compensation and Victim Assistance. Funding for the two programs comes from the Crime Victims Fund (Fund), which was established by the 1984 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). The money in the Fund is derived from fines, penalty assessments, and bond forfeitures from convicted Federal offenders—not taxpayers. OVC distributes over 90 percent of Fund deposits to support state victim compensation and assistance services for victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, drunk driving, homicide, and other crimes. During the past decade, these two formula grant programs have greatly improved the accessibility of services to Federal and state crime victims nationwide. They make a significant difference in the lives of more than two million people victimized by crime each year.

Victim Compensation Program

All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands have established victim compensation programs. Each of these programs reimburses victims for crime-related expenses such as:

- medical costs;
- mental health counseling;
- funeral and burial costs; and
- lost wages or loss of support.

Under the 1996 Antiterrorism Act, states must also provide compensation to residents who are victims of terrorist acts within or outside the United States.

Although each state compensation program is administered independently, most programs have similar eligibility requirements and offer a comparable range of benefits. Maximum awards generally range from \$10,000 to \$25,000. Compensation is paid only when other financial resources, such as private insurance or offender restitution, do not cover the loss. Certain expenses such as theft, damage, and property loss are not covered by most compensation programs.

To receive compensation, victims must comply with state rules, which generally require that they cooperate with the reasonable requests of law enforcement and submit a timely application to the compensation program.

VOCA funds supplement state efforts to compensate crime victims. The formula for VOCA compensation grants to states is based on a percentage of state payments to crime victims in a previous year. From FY 1986 through FY 1998, OVC will have distributed more than \$705,777,429 million in VOCA compensation grant funds.

Victim Assistance Program

Throughout the United States, approximately 10,000 organizations provide services to crime victims. These organizations include domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, child abuse programs, and victim services in law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices, hospitals, and social service agencies. The services provided include, but are not limited to:

- crisis intervention;
- counseling;
- emergency shelter;
- criminal justice advocacy; and
- emergency transportation.

VOCA funds awarded to states each year support more than 2,300 community-based organizations that serve crime victims.

States and territories are required to give priority to programs serving victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. Additional funds must be set aside for underserved victims, such as survivors of homicide victims and victims of intoxicated drivers.

All states and territories receive an annual VOCA victim assistance grant. Each state, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico receive a base amount of \$500,000. The territories of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and American Samoa each receive a base amount of \$200,000. Additional funds are distributed based on population. From FY 1986 through FY 1998, states received more than \$1,357,750 in VOCA victim assistance grants.

State Compensation and Assistance Programs in the United States and U.S. Territories*

ALABAMA Victim Assistance 334-242-5891	FLORIDA Victim Assistance 850-414-3300	LOUISIANA Victim Assistance 504-925-1757	NEVADA Victim Assistance 702-688-1628	OREGON Victim Assistance 503-378-5348	VERMONT Victim Assistance 802-241-1255
Victim Compensation 334-242-4007	Victim Compensation 850-414-3300	Victim Compensation 504-925-4437	Victim Compensation 702-486-2740	Victim Compensation 503-378-5348	Victim Compensation 802-241-1255
ALASKA Victim Assistance 907-465-4356	GEORGIA Victim Assistance 404-559-4949	MAINE Victim Assistance 207-287-5060	NEW HAMPSHIRE Victim Assistance 603-271-1297	PALAU Victim Assistance 011-680-488-2813 or 011-680-488-2553	VIRGINIA Victim Assistance 804-786-4000
Victim Compensation 907-465-3040	Victim Compensation 404-559-4949	Victim Compensation 207-624-7882	Victim Compensation 603-271-1284	PENNSYLVANIA Victim Assistance 717-787-2040	Victim Compensation 804-367-8686
AMERICAN SAMOA Victim Assistance 011-684-633-5221	GUAM Victim Assistance 011-671-475-3406	MARYLAND Victim Assistance 410-767-7477	NEW JERSEY Victim Assistance 609-984-7347	Victim Compensation 717-787-2040	VIRGIN ISLANDS Victim Assistance 809-774-6400
ARIZONA Victim Assistance 602-223-2480	Victim Compensation 011-671-475-3406	Victim Compensation 410-764-4214	Victim Compensation 201-648-2107	PUERTO RICO Victim Assistance 809-723-4949	Victim Compensation 809-774-0930
Victim Compensation 602-542-1928	HAWAII Victim Assistance 808-586-1282	MASSACHUSETTS Victim Assistance 617-727-5200	NEW MEXICO Victim Assistance 505-841-9432	RHODE ISLAND Victim Assistance 401-277-2620	WASHINGTON Victim Assistance 360-586-0253
ARKANSAS Victim Assistance 501-682-3671	Victim Compensation 808-587-1143	Victim Compensation 617-727-2200 Ext 2251	Victim Compensation 505-841-9432	Victim Compensation 401-277-2287	Victim Compensation 360-902-5355
Victim Compensation 501-682-1323	IDAHO Victim Assistance 208-334-5580	MICHIGAN Victim Assistance 517-373-1826	NEW YORK Victim Assistance 518-457-1779	SOUTH CAROLINA Victim Assistance 803-737-1900	WEST VIRGINIA Victim Assistance 304-558-8814
CALIFORNIA Victim Assistance 916-324-9140	Victim Compensation 208-334-6000	Victim Compensation 517-373-7373	Victim Compensation 518-457-8727	Victim Compensation 803-734-1930	Victim Compensation 304-347-4850
Victim Compensation 916-323-3432	ILLINOIS Victim Assistance 312-793-8550	MINNESOTA Victim Assistance 612-642-0251	NORTH CAROLINA Victim Assistance 919-571-4736	SOUTH DAKOTA Victim Assistance 605-773-4330	WISCONSIN Victim Assistance 608-266-6470
COLORADO Victim Assistance 303-239-5703	Victim Compensation 217-782-7101	Victim Compensation 612-282-6267	Victim Compensation 919-733-7974	Victim Compensation 605-773-6317	Victim Compensation 608-264-9497
Victim Compensation 303-239-4402	INDIANA Victim Assistance 317-233-3341	MISSISSIPPI Victim Assistance 601-359-7880	NORTH DAKOTA Victim Assistance 701-328-6195	TENNESSEE Victim Assistance 615-313-4764	WYOMING Victim Assistance 307-635-4050
CONNECTICUT Victim Assistance 860-529-3089	Victim Compensation 317-233-3383	Victim Compensation 601-359-6766	Victim Compensation 701-328-6195	Victim Compensation 615-741-2734	Victim Compensation 307-635-4050
Victim Compensation 860-529-3089	IOWA Victim Assistance 515-281-5044	MISSOURI Victim Assistance 573-751-4905	NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS Victim Assistance 011-670-664-4550	TEXAS Victim Assistance 512-463-1936 or 512-463-1944	Victim Compensation 512-936-1200
DELAWARE Victim Assistance 302-577-3697	Victim Compensation 515-281-5044	Victim Compensation 573-526-6006	OHIO Victim Assistance 614-644-5610	Victim Compensation 512-936-1200	UTAH Victim Assistance 801-533-4000
Victim Compensation 302-995-8383	KANSAS Victim Assistance 913-296-2215	MONTANA Victim Assistance 406-444-3604	Victim Compensation 614-466-7190	OKLAHOMA Victim Assistance 405-557-6700	Victim Compensation 801-533-4000
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Victim Assistance 202-842-8467	Victim Compensation 913-296-2359	Victim Compensation 406-444-3653	NEBRASKA Victim Assistance 402-471-2194	Victim Compensation 405-557-6700	
Victim Compensation 202-879-4216	KENTUCKY Victim Assistance 502-564-7554	Victim Compensation 402-471-2828			
	Victim Compensation 502-564-2290				

* These programs are located within different agencies, depending on the state.

For additional information, please contact the Office for Victims of Crime, State Compensation and Assistance Division, 810 Seventh Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20531, phone (202) 307-5983, fax (202) 514-6383. The OVC home page is located at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/>