

Office for Victims of Crime

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is a federal agency within the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Established in 1988 through an amendment to the 1984 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), OVC provides leadership and funding on behalf of crime victims.

OVC provides federal funds to support victim compensation and assistance programs across the Nation. OVC also provides training for diverse professionals who work with victims, develops and disseminates publications, supports projects to enhance victims' rights and services, and educates the public about victim issues. Every year during National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW), OVC's National Crime Victim Service Awards honor victim service providers and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the field of victims' rights and services. To support NCVRW activities at the state and local levels, OVC funds the creation and dissemination of a resource kit that includes posters, model speeches, press releases, camera-ready artwork, and ideas for commemorative activities.

Funding for OVC's programs comes from the Crime Victims Fund (the Fund), which was established by VOCA to support victim services and training for advocates and professionals. Fund dollars are derived from criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalties, and special assessments collected by Federal Courts, U.S. Attorneys' Offices, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons from offenders convicted of federal crimes. The October 2001 Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required To Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act (USA PATRIOT Act) expanded the possible sources of Fund deposits by authorizing the deposit of private gifts, bequests, or donations into the Fund beginning in Fiscal Year 2002.

OVC's Mission

The mission of OVC is to enhance the Nation's capacity to assist crime victims and to provide leadership in changing attitudes, policies, and practices to promote justice and healing for all victims. OVC accomplishes this work through five divisions that manage specific program areas:

- Federal Assistance Division (FAD), formerly the Federal Crime Victims Division (FCVD). This division includes American Indian and Alaska Native initiatives.
- Program Development and Dissemination Division (PDD), formerly the Special Projects Division (SPD).
- State Compensation and Assistance Division (SCAD).
- Training and Information Dissemination Division (TID), formerly the Technical Assistance, Publications, and Information Resources Unit (TAPIR).
- Terrorism and International Victim Assistance Services Division (TIVAS), formerly the Terrorism and International Victims Unit (TIVU).

[Visit OVC website](#)

Contact OVC

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[Website](#)

[Download OVC brochure on victims' rights, compensation, and assistance programs \(PDF\)](#)