covered include violent crimes such as homicide, rape, drunk driving, domestic violence, and child sexual abuse and neglect. Expenses covered are medical costs, mental health counseling, funeral and burial costs, and lost wages or loss of support. Crime victim assistance programs provide a range of services, including crisis intervention, counseling, emergency shelter, criminal justice advocacy, and emergency transportation. Although compensation and assistance are provided most often to individuals, in certain instances, entire communities may be eligible for assistance for a multiple victimization. You can obtain information about compensation and assistance through your local prosecutor's office. You also may receive it from your local law enforcement agency when you report an offense.

Another key tool that can help victims and service providers find a program in a specific jurisdiction is OVC's online Directory of Crime Victim Services. The directory lists service providers who address various victim needs. Launched October 31, 2003, the directory offers a centralized, searchable database of victim assistance programs nationwide. OVC scrutinizes new programs and continually updates the database with those it finds appropriate for the site. To view the directory, visit http://ovc.ncjrs.org/findvictimservices.

The Crime Victims Fund

Financial support for many of these programs is provided through the Crime Victims Fund (the Fund), which is administered by OVC. Established by VOCA, the Fund supports victim services and training for advocates and professionals throughout the country. Millions of dollars are deposited into the Fund each year from criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalties, and special assessments collected by U.S. Attorneys' Offices, U.S. Federal Courts, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons. All Fund dollars have typically come from offenders convicted of federal crimes, not from taxpayers. However, 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 in fiscal year 2002 by authorizing the deposit of gifts, bequests, or donations from private entities into the Fund.

AUTHENTICATED U.S. GOVERNMENT INFORMATION GPO

You Can Work for Positive Change

Progress in improving the treatment of crime victims is due largely to the efforts of thousands of individuals who have turned their victimization into a force for positive change. Victims and survivors of victims of homicide, rape, child abuse, domestic violence, and other serious offenses have transformed their experiences into a vehicle for ensuring that victims of similar types of crime receive true justice, meaningful assistance, and compassionate treatment before the law. Many victims and survivors volunteer their time and resources to create and staff programs such as shelters and crisis hotlines, conduct legislative advocacy, and speak on victim impact panels. Opportunities to help victims exist in almost every community. This and other work for positive change helps ensure that the progress made to date is not lost and that new ground is broken to gain greater justice and healing for all victims of crime. Please visit OVC's Web site for information about national, state, and local organizations that rely on volunteers to carry out their missions.

NO MORE VICTIMS
Know More
Ask OVC

Office for Victims of Crime
OVC
"Putting Victims First"

Office of Justice Programs
Partnerships for Safer Communities
www.ojp.usdoj.gov

BC 000713

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Office for Victims of Crime

What You Can Do If You Are a Victim of Crime

As soon as I walked in there, I felt, oh my God, someone is listening to me, someone is compassionate, I felt they wanted to help me . . . . I knew I was the victim but I felt like the criminal and they reassured me that I wasn't.

*—Victim of assault describing victim assistance program**

*Ellen Brickman, 2002, "Development of a National Study of Victim Needs and Assistance," Final Report submitted to the National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. Retrieved January 11, 2005, from www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/grants/195625.pdf.

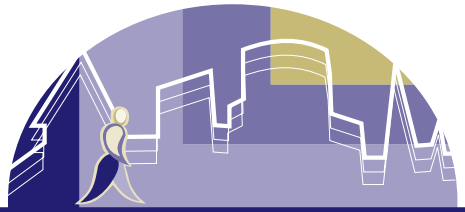
Being a victim of crime is frightening and unsettling for the millions of Americans who experience it each year. As recently as 1972, almost no services were available to help crime victims or their survivors repair the damage to their lives and property or cope with the trauma and frustration associated with the offender's prosecution. Today, however, because of funding authorized under the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) of 1984, as amended [42 U.S.C. § 10601 et seq.], and the dedicated efforts of advocates, lawmakers, and crime victims, an extensive range of services and resources is available to help victims obtain justice and heal. The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), a federal agency within the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, wants you to know that if you or someone you love is a victim of crime—

- You have rights.
- You can get help.
- You can work for positive change.

You Have Rights

Most states have amended their constitutions to guarantee certain fundamental rights for crime victims. Typically, these include the following:

- The right to be notified of all court proceedings related to the offense.
- The right to be reasonably protected from the accused offender.
- The right to have input at sentencing (e.g., in the form of a victim impact statement).
- The right to information about the conviction, sentencing, imprisonment, and release of the offender.



- The right to an order of restitution from the convicted offender.
- The right to be notified of these rights.

If you are a victim of a crime, these rights apply to you. You may obtain information about these rights through your local victim/witness assistance program (usually located in the prosecutor's office), your State Attorney General's Office, or your U.S. Attorney's Office.

You Can Get Help

Thousands of programs provide services and sanctuary to crime victims throughout the United States. These programs are within state government agencies and private nonprofit faith-based and charitable organizations. They provide two general types of services—compensation and assistance. Compensation programs reimburse victims, including victims of federal crimes, for expenses that resulted from crimes perpetrated in the state. Crimes

National Victim Organizations Stand Ready To Assist You

If you are a crime victim and want information or referrals regarding victims' rights, services, and criminal justice resources, the following organizations may help you:

Childhelp USA National Child Abuse Hotline
1–800–422–4453

Family Violence Prevention Fund/Health Resource Center
1–800–313–1310

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)
1–800–438–6233

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)
1–800–843–5678

National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC)
1–800–394–2255

National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information
1–800–729–6686

National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information
1–800–394–3366

National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS)
1–800–851–3420

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1–800–799–7233

National Fraud Information Hotline
1–800–876–7060

National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA)
1–800–879–6682

National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
1–800–537–2238

National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C)
1–800–251–3221

Parents of Murdered Children (POMC)
1–888–818–7662

Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)
1–800–656–4673

For a current list of state compensation and assistance programs in the United States and U.S. Territories, please visit www.ovc.gov/help/links.htm.

For More Information
[Include local contact information here.]