

September 16, 2022

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL AWARDS \$9 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR CRIME VICTIM SERVICES
Funding Supports Counseling, Legal Assistance, Crisis Intervention and Trauma-Informed Care, for Survivors of Violent Crimes

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul announced the award of more than \$9 million in grants to agencies across Illinois that provide services to survivors of violent crime.

Raoul's office awarded 252 Violent Crime Victim Assistance (VCVA) grants, with the average grant being about \$36,000. The funding goes to programs that offer support to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, gun violence, human trafficking, elder abuse, and other crimes. These programs offer a range of resources, including crisis intervention, courtroom assistance, legal services, counseling and other activities geared at addressing trauma, and violence prevention.

"It is incumbent on all of us to wrap our arms around survivors of violent crime in our communities," Raoul said. "My office remains committed to supporting survivors and doing all we can to prevent violent crime in Illinois. These programs help survivors access the tools they need to overcome the trauma they've endured and get their lives back on track."

The funding for this fiscal year marks an 18% increase in support for victim services over last fiscal year. The grants are funded by fees paid by convicted offenders of violent crimes and supplemental support from the state budget. In addition to the grants, Raoul's office awarded \$1.35 million in special project funding for investments in staff training, outreach and awareness campaigns, and agency infrastructure.

Grant recipients include the Violence Prevention Center in Belleville, which provides a range of social services for domestic violence survivors, including counseling and access to a court advocate. Violence Prevention Center Executive Director Darlene Jones says that survivors tell center staff that the services provided help make them feel safe and supported and allow them to overcome trauma and rebuild their lives.

"As a domestic violence service agency, The Violence Prevention Center of Southwestern Illinois is grateful for the funding from the VCVA. Providing these services allows families to break the cycle of generational violence and work towards healing generational trauma," Jones said. "As one example, the funding allows us to provide counseling to children who witness and experience domestic violence in their homes. These sessions focus on building self-esteem, healthy relationship skills, and coping skills to deal with the trauma of domestic violence. We have witnessed these sessions be transformational, time and time again."

VCVA funding allows Purpose Over Pain, a group of parents whose children's lives were taken by violence, to provide needed services such as financial assistance, emotional group support, referrals for needed services and personal support by accompanying parents to court proceedings.

"Survivors of violent crimes often face obstacles that include navigating the criminal justice system, financial hardship, and coping with trauma," said Pam Bosley, Violence Prevention Director of St. Sabina in Chicago and a co-founder of Purpose Over Pain. "It is our goal to have a 24-hour intervention hotline for parents in a crisis and seeking support, our goal is to help others."

In addition to VCVA grants, the Attorney General's Crime Victim Services Division administers a host of programs and services to assist survivors of violent crime. The Crime Victims Compensation Program

provides financial reimbursement to victims of violent crime who meet certain requirements. Eligible expenses under the program include costs associated with funeral and burial, lost wages, counseling and medical, hospital and dental costs and more.

Raoul initiated new, victim-centric changes to the law that regulates the program, as well as internal policy changes. As a result, the division is now resolving more claims and providing more in reimbursements. During the 2022 calendar year, the division has already processed 87% more claims and recommended 117% more in compensation awards than 2021. Since the 2017 federal grant fiscal year, the average award has increased by 88%.

"I am so proud of the progress my Crime Victim Services Division has been able to make so far in my tenure, as we have committed to curbing and addressing violent crime throughout the state," Raoul said. "There is always more work to do, and my goal is to continue to increase the amount of compensation given and the number of victims served. This can be achieved by continuing to shorten processing times and increasing our communication with victims."

For additional information on services for crime victims, please call the Attorney General's Crime Victims Assistance Line at 1-800-228-3368 or visit the [Attorney General's website](#).



The Crime Victims Compensation Program Fact Sheet

The Crime Victims Compensation Program provides financial reimbursement to victims of violent crime who meet certain eligibility requirements. The program is governed by the Crime Victims Compensation Act, 740 ILCS 45/1 et seq.

Who is a victim?

- Person killed or injured in Illinois
- Parent, spouse or child of a person killed or injured in Illinois
- Person killed or injured while attempting to aid a victim
- Person killed or injured in Illinois while assisting law enforcement
- Personal witness to a crime
- Person called as a witness by the prosecution to establish a nexus
- An Illinois resident injured in a country without a Compensation Program
- Person under the age of 18 who is the brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister of a person killed or injured in Illinois (For the purposes of counseling expenses only)

Who is eligible for compensation?

- Statutorily Defined Victims (see above)
- Dependents (for loss of support only)
- Any person that paid or became obligated to pay for the victim's expenses

What violent crimes are compensable with the program?

Arson • Homicide • Assault • Human Trafficking • Battery • Involuntary Manslaughter • Child Pornography • Kidnapping • Criminal Sexual Abuse • Fleeing or Attempting to Elude a Peace Officer • Criminal Sexual Assault • Non-consensual Dissemination of Private Sexual Images • Desecration or Removal of Human Remains • Reckless Conduct • Dismembering of a Human Body • Stalking • Domestic Battery • Posting of Identifying or Graphic Information on Pornographic Internet Sites • Driving While Under the Influence • Exploitation of a Child • Violations of Protective Orders (Domestic Violence Orders of Protection, Civil No Contact Orders, and Stalking No Contact Orders) • Hate Crimes • Hit and Run of a Pedestrian/Person • Operating Vehicle Moved Solely by Human Power or Using a Mobility Device

Reimbursement is available for the following types of crime-related expenses:

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES		
Funeral and Burial (up to \$10,000)	Medical/Hospital/Dental	Tattoo Removal
Lost Wages (up to \$2,400)	Counseling and Transportation	Accessibility
Loss of Dependent Support (up to \$2,400)	Tuition Loss	Relocation
Crime Scene Cleanup	Replacement Costs	Replacement Service Loss

EFFECTIVE August 7, 2022, the Total Maximum Award is \$45,000 per victim.

Where to Apply:

Applications are available to download at:

<https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/victims/cvc.html>

or Can be Submitted Online:

<https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/victims/cvonlineapplication.html>

Application Window

Status at Time of the Crime	Application Window
Adult without a disability	Five years from the date of the crime or one year from criminal charge for the offense.
Minor	Three Years from turning 18
Adult with disability	Three Years from the removal of the disability

Applications submitted outside the prescribed eligibility window may be accepted if the Attorney General determines that the applicant had good cause for a delay.

WHEN IN DOUBT....APPLY!

**For more information, contact the Crime Victims Assistance Line at
1-800-228-3368.**