

April 2008



VOCA Newsletter Crime Victim Services Unit

New Rules for the Crime Victim Compensation Program

Written by Tony Vidale, Victim Services Program Manager
Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

The victim compensation program recently implemented new rules, effective January 5, 2008. The purpose of the Crime Victim Compensation Program is to assist crime victims in Arizona with out-of-pocket expenses for crime-related medical treatment, mental health counseling, funerals, crime scene clean up, and wage loss. The new rules expand

eligibility to include grandparents and grandchildren of murder victims, anyone that discovers a crime scene, and Arizona residents who are victimized abroad. Eligible expenses were expanded to include crime scene clean-up for residential homicides and work loss coverage to family

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Education & Job Training Assistance for DV Survivors

The Education and Job Training Assistance Fund, established by the Allstate Foundation in partnership with National Network to End Domestic Violence Fund, provides small grants to survivors of domestic violence to help them achieve their educational and job-

related goals. Any survivor of domestic violence is eligible to apply; however, the application must be completed by a local domestic violence program or coalition to be accepted. Applications will be assessed based on the need, the lack of resources to fulfill the request elsewhere, and the impact the grant will have on the survivor's life.

Applications are accepted at any time. To learn more, follow the link below.

[Allstate Foundation](#)

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Important Reminder regarding VOCA-funded staff changes

When changes occur in VOCA-funded positions, sub-recipient agencies are required to notify their VOCA Grant Coordinator immediately and follow up with an Agreement Amendment Request documenting the changes.

Failure to complete this process will result in a non-compliance issue, which will affect the agency's administrative history. Administrative history is considered when evaluating for future funding.

Crime Victim Compensation (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

members making funeral arrangements or providing non-skilled nursing care for the victim. The new rules also deny eligibility for victims and claimants convicted of a state crime **and** who are delinquent in paying a fine, monetary penalty, or restitution and to those who make false or misleading statements on a claim.

Claims are filed by victims of criminally injurious conduct in the county where the crime occurred. A local operational unit, supervised by the county attorney, investigates each compensation claim. The claim is then presented to the county's Crime Victim Compensation Board for review. Each Board is comprised of appointed volunteers selected from citizens of the respective county. The Board determines the approval or denial of the compensation claim, in accordance with the Program Rules. Submitting an application for compensation does not guarantee an award, and awards are based on eligibility and funding availability. The maximum award of any single claim is \$20,000. The general criteria for eligibility are as follows:

- The person is victimized in Arizona, or is an Arizona resident who is victimized in another country that lacks a crime victim compensation program, or is a victim of international terrorism.
- The crime is reported to a police agency within 72 hours of the discovery of the crime unless good cause is shown to justify a delay.
- An application is filed within two years of the discovery of the crime, in the county in which the crime occurred, unless good cause is shown to justify a delay.
- The victim or derivative victim willingly cooperates with law enforcement agencies.
- The victim or derivative victim suffers physical injury or extreme mental distress as a direct result of the criminally injurious conduct.
- The victim or derivative victim incurs economic loss as a direct result of the crime that is not covered by a benefit or advantage that the person is entitled to receive from a collateral source.

Click below for further information about the program or for contact information for each county compensation program.

[ACJC Crime Victim Compensation website](#)



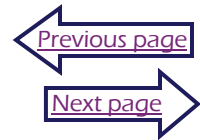
What's New at OVC?

Web Forum

Every month, OVC's Web forum offers online discussions on high-interest topics in the crime victims' field. If you missed any of the previous discussions, you can view them online now. Past topics include:

- Responding to Teen Victims of Dating Violence (hosted by Mitru Ciarlante and Barri Rosenbluth)
- Victim Services in Urban High Crime Neighborhoods (hosted by Kerry Cosgrove and Linda Miller)
- Cultivating Relationships Between Victim Service Providers and the Media (hosted by Greg Luft and Anne Seymour)
- National Crime Victims' Rights Week Awareness Campaign (hosted by Anne Seymour)
- Assisting Victims of Intimate Partner Stalking (hosted by Michelle Garcia)
- The Crime Victims' Rights Act (hosted by Steve Twist)
- Recruiting/Retaining Volunteers (hosted by Daniel Gregory)

2008 Training Opportunities from OVC Office for Victims of Crime *Putting Victims First*



Workshop & Scholarship Details available at OVC's Training & Technical Assistance Center



Compassion Fatigue/Vicarious Trauma	8/19–8/20	Spokane, WA
Providing Culturally Competent Services to Victims of Crime	9/16–9/18	Lincoln, NE
Supporting Children Living with Grief/Trauma	10/8–10/9	Reno, NV
Sexual Assault Advocate/Counselor Training	10/15–10/16	Portland, ME
Enforcing Victims' Rights	10/29–10/30	Charleston, SC
Working with Victims with Disabilities	12/10–12/11	Los Angeles, CA

National Conference

June 2-4, 2008

Portland, Oregon

Conference Highlights:

- Over 70 skill-building, research focused workshops
- Expert multidisciplinary presenters from across the country
- Thought-provoking plenary sessions
- Networking opportunities with hundreds of your peers
- Free post-conference institutes
- Located in beautiful downtown Portland, Oregon



Save the Dates! June 8-13, 2008

Arizona Victim Assistance Academy
Radisson Woodlands
Flagstaff, Arizona

[View the AVAA Brochure
and Application](#)

"Amazing amount of information that provides a great foundation for the work of advocates."

—2007 Academy Participant

Az Attorney General's Office Victims' Rights Training Dates VR 101 / Advanced VR

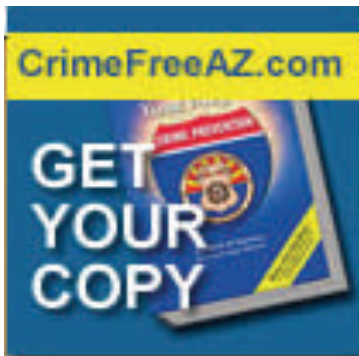
Yavapai County—Prescott
April 10, 2008 / April 11, 2008

LaPaz County—Parker
April 17, 2008 / April 18, 2008

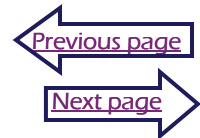
Maricopa County—Phoenix
April 22, 2008 / April 23, 2008

Training is FREE
Registration is required

[Register](#) online



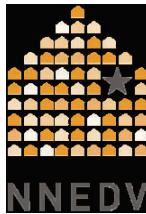
Crime Prevention handbook: Road Map to Crime Prevention.



The Maricopa County Attorney's Office developed this handbook to assist the public in understanding the criminal justice system and how to prevent crime. Topics covered include drinking and driving, drugs, burglary, gangs, identity theft, graffiti, elder abuse and victim services. In addition, you'll find descriptions of prosecution procedures, the differences between misdemeanors and felonies, and the penalties for both types of crimes. Plus, many useful telephone numbers and websites are provided.

The handbook is free to the public. It may be especially useful to offer the handbook as an additional resource to victims of crime. Please visit www.crimefreeaz.com to request copies.

National Network to End Domestic Violence.



Did you know...in just one day:

1,346 participating local domestic violence programs:

Answered 19,432 hotline calls, over 13 calls every minute (+ 1,150 calls answered by the national hotline = 20,582)

Trained 29,902 attendees at over 1,500 community education sessions

Assisted 53,203 survivors through shelter, transitional housing, and advocacy

These are the incredible results of the 2nd Annual National Census of Domestic Violence Services conducted on September 25, 2007.

Thank you to all the amazing local programs that helped make this second annual national, coordinated, and safe DV count a success!

View the entire [2007 Report](#) (in color & grayscale)

View your [state's summary](#).

If you didn't participate in the 2007 census, but would like to participate in the future, please sign up using the [online form](#) under Census 2008.

Q: Are VOCA Grants considered Federal or State Grants?

A: Federal

The Department of Justice — Office for Victims of Crime administers the VOCA program at the federal level. This funding is part of legislation known as the Victims of Crime Act which was enacted into law in 1984.

DPS is designated as the state agency responsible for administering the federal VOCA Assistance funds for Arizona. As the VOCA administrator, DPS provides subgrant awards to victim assistance agencies throughout Arizona.

Because VOCA funds are Federal, your DPS/VOCA grant should be listed in your annual audit as a Federal Grant. The VOCA program should be identified with CFDA #16-575.

VOCA Fact

VOCA funds are NOT taxpayer dollars!

The money comes directly from fines and penalties levied against criminals convicted of federal crimes.



Arizona Department of Public Safety



Crime Victim Services Unit

Visit the [azvictims](http://azvictims.com) website

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Fax: (602) 223-2943

[Contact us](#)

Save the Date!
April 14 @ 10 am

**You're Invited to Arizona's
Crime Victims' Rights Week
Kickoff Event**

**National Crime Victims' Rights Week
April 13-19, 2008**

Justice for Victims, Justice for All

This event pays tribute to crime victims and survivors who, for many decades, have joined together in mutual support and advocacy to promote victims' rights and services. It also recognizes the ongoing efforts of countless victim service providers, justice professionals and allied professionals and volunteers who selflessly dedicate their lives to helping victims of crime.

Remarks by Governor Janet Napolitano and Attorney General Terry Goddard.

Presentation of the "Triumph Over Tragedy" Award to Gail Leland of Homicide Survivors, Inc.

**State Capitol — Executive Tower, First Floor Lobby
1700 W. Washington, Phoenix
10:00 to 10:30 am on April 14, 2008**

**For more information, contact the Governor's Adviser for Victims,
Dan Levey, at 602-364-2235 or dlevey@az.gov**