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## BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2021

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2020



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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

## Victim Compensation Fund

### Purpose and Funding

The Victim Compensation Fund is established in Iowa Code section 915.94, and is administered by the Crime Victim Assistance Division (CVAD) of the Office of the Attorney General. Receipts to the Fund include criminal fines and penalties, victim restitution, a percentage of wages earned by inmates employed in the private sector, and federal funds (primarily Victims of Crime Act funds). The year-end balance in the Fund carries forward to the next fiscal year. The carryover is necessary to ensure adequate cash flow for payments to victims and providers.

The Victim Compensation Fund supports the following items:

- **Administrative costs of the CVAD:** The Division has 29.0 FTE positions that provide victim services such as administration of the Crime Victim Compensation Program, the Victim Services Support Program, and victim advocacy. Prior to the 2016 Legislative Session, the Division had 24.0 FTE positions. House File 2458 (FY 2017 Justice System Appropriations Act) permitted the Division to employ the additional 5.0 FTEs in FY 2017 and subsequent fiscal years only if there are sufficient federal funds to maintain those positions.
- **Sexual Abuse Examination Program:** Pursuant to Iowa Code section 915.41, the costs of medical exams of victims for the purposes of gathering evidence and preventing venereal disease are paid from the Victim Compensation Fund.
- **Training:** Training is limited to \$300,000 annually for victim service providers, and for the CVAD to cooperate with other governmental and nonprofit agencies to develop and conduct outreach, public awareness, and training programs for certain populations related to human trafficking.
- **Iowa Crisis Response Team:** The Team is comprised of volunteers. The majority of the volunteers receive a minimum of 40 hours of training in the Trauma Informed Care Model (TIC). Upon invitation from a community in crisis, the CVAD will activate the Iowa Crisis Response Team.
- **IowaVine System:** This is an automated victim notification system that was implemented with federal funds. The system allows crime victims to seek information on and notification of the change in custody status of offenders.
- **Iowa Protective Order Notification for Domestic Abuse (IPONDA):** This is an extension of the IowaVine system and was implemented with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) federal funds. The system is utilized by victims of domestic violence to notify them either when a protective order has been served on the respondent or when the protective order is due to expire.

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### More Information

Office of the Attorney General: [www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov)  
Iowa Department of Corrections: [www.doc.state.ia.us/default.asp](http://www.doc.state.ia.us/default.asp)  
U.S. Department of Justice: [www.justice.gov](http://www.justice.gov)  
LSA Staff Contact: Laura Book (515.725.0509) [laura.book@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:laura.book@legis.iowa.gov)

- Identity Theft Passport Program: Victims of identity theft in the State of Iowa, or victims that reside in Iowa at the time the identity theft occurs, can apply to receive an Identity Theft Passport that provides victims a tool to substantiate the crime of identity theft to law enforcement and creditors.
- Registrant Watch – Iowa Sex Offender Registry Notification Program: Through a partnership with the Iowa Department of Public Safety, a federal grant was used to enhance notifications to victims regarding sex offenders in Iowa. Phone and text notifications are now available for victims to receive information. Brochures and posters were created to enhance outreach to victims of sex offenders.
- Crime Victim Compensation Program: Makes direct payment to victims of certain crimes within limits established by Iowa Code section 915.86. The Program is established in Iowa Code section 915.80 and pays certain out-of-pocket expenses of crime victims and their families. Eligibility criteria and victim compensation expenses from the Fund are codified in Iowa Code sections 915.84, 915.85, and 915.86.
- Victim Assistance Grants: The Justice System Appropriations Act requires the Office of the Attorney General to transfer at least \$150,000 from the Victim Compensation Fund to the Victim Assistance Grants Program that provides grants to service providers for crime victims of domestic abuse or rape and sexual assault.

#### **Related Statutes and Administrative Rules**

Iowa Code chapters [13](#) and [915, subchapter VI](#)  
Iowa Administrative Code [61](#)

#### **Budget Unit Number**

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