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## BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2023

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2022



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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 31.0 full-time equivalent (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. [HF 2458](#) (FY 2017 Justice System Appropriations Act) permitted the Division to employ the additional 5.0 FTE positions in FY 2017 and subsequent fiscal years only if there are sufficient federal funds to maintain those positions. [HF 861](#) (FY 2022 Justice System Appropriations Act) increased the number of additional FTE positions to 7.0.
- **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 (ICRT):** The ICRT is comprised of volunteers. The majority of the volunteers receive a minimum of 40 hours of training in the Trauma Informed Care (TIC) model. Upon invitation from a community in crisis, the CVAD will activate the ICRT.
- **Iowa Victim Information & Notification Everyday (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.
- **Identity Theft Passport Program:** Victims of identity theft in the State of Iowa, or victims who 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.

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### More Information

Office of the Attorney General: [iowaattorneygeneral.gov](http://iowaattorneygeneral.gov)  
Iowa Department of Corrections: [doc.iowa.gov](http://doc.iowa.gov)  
LSA Staff Contact: Isabel Waller (515.281.6561) [isabel.waller@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:isabel.waller@legis.iowa.gov)

- **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, text, and email 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:** This 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 chapter [915](#) subchapter VII 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, which 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](#)  
Iowa Administrative Code [61](#)

### **Budget Unit Number**

1120000010

Doc ID 1285346