

Crime Victim Assistance Division

The [Crime Victim Assistance Division \(CVAD\)](#) is a part of the Department of Justice directed by the Attorney General. The Division advocates for the rights and needs of victims to ensure that all victims and survivors are treated with respect and dignity.

Programs

The CVAD is funded by the Victim Compensation Fund established in Iowa Code section [915.94](#). [Senate File 447](#) (Justice System Appropriations Act) caps the staff funded from the Victim Compensation Fund at 24.0 FTE positions. The Division is responsible for administering a variety of victim services programs:

- **Sexual Abuse Examinations:** Pays for the costs of medical examinations of a victim for the purposes of gathering evidence and preventing venereal disease. The Victim Compensation Fund pays for these costs.
- **Victim Assistance Grants Program:** Grant awards are made to local providers of domestic abuse and sexual assault programs. If local programs do not spend the money, it is retained by the Victim Compensation Fund. Grant awards are funded by a mix of state appropriations, the Victim Compensation Fund, and federal grants received by the CVAD. This program also funds the costs of the domestic abuse and sexual assault statewide telephone hot lines.
- **Training:** Training is limited to \$100,000 annually for victim service providers. Average spending by the CVAD is \$57,000 annually. The Victim Compensation Fund pays for these costs.
- **Iowa Crisis Response Team:** The Team is comprised of 50 volunteers in FY 2014. The majority of the volunteers receive a minimum of 40 hours of training from the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA). The Victim Compensation Fund pays for these costs.
- **IowaVine System:** This is an automated victim notification system that was implemented with federal funds. The system allows crime victims to seek information and notification of change in custody status of an offender. Operating costs are funded by the Victim Compensation Fund.
- **IPONDA System:** 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. Operating costs are funded by the Victim Compensation Fund.
- **Identity Theft Passport Program:** Victims of identity theft in the State of Iowa 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. The Victim Compensation Fund pays for these costs.
- **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. The Victim Compensation Fund pays for these costs.

Funding for the Victim Compensation Fund

The only state appropriation administered by the Division is the General Fund appropriation for Victim Assistance Grants. The primary funding source for the CVAD is the Victim Compensation Fund. The Fund's receipts include:

- Certain fines for Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) and the fine for failure to have proof of insurance.
- The federal [Victim of Crime Act \(VOCA\)](#) compensation grant.
- Administrative costs of the federal [Family Violence Prevention and Services Act](#), VOCA, and the [Violence Against Women Act](#) (VAWA).

More Information

Office of the Attorney General: <http://www.state.ia.us/government/ag/index.html>

U.S. Department of Justice: <http://www.justice.gov/>

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx>

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Crime Victim Assistance Division

- Victim restitution and a percentage of wages earned by inmates employed in the private sector.
- Subrogation or reimbursement for costs incurred from the at-fault party.
- Iowa Code section [602.8108\(3\)](#) requires 17.0% of the criminal penalty surcharge to be deposited in the Fund.

Funding for the Victim Assistance Grants Program

The CVAD administers the following funds for Victim Assistance Grants:

- The federal VOCA assistance grant award. These funds are used for grants to service providers of victims of violent crime, including local service providers to victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault. It also funds homicide victim survivor programs plus victim and witness coordinators in county prosecutor offices and the Office of the Attorney General.
- Victim Compensation Fund transfer. [Senate File 447](#) (Justice System Appropriations Act) requires at least \$150,000 to be transferred from the Fund to the Victim Assistance Grants Program in FY 2014.
- The Family Violence and Prevention Act grant award may only be used for domestic abuse programs.
- The VAWA grant award requires a state match; that is included in the General Fund appropriation to the Office of the Attorney General. The VAWA grant may be used for domestic abuse, sexual assault, and stalking programs. The CVAD uses 5.0% for administration (up to 10.0% is permitted by federal law). The remaining 95.0% is used as follows: 30.0% to victim service providers, 25.0% to prosecutors, 25.0% to law enforcement, 5.0% to the court system, and 15.0% discretionary (CVAD funds victim service providers).
- Violence Against Women Act Sexual Assault Services Program (VAWA SASP) grant award. Funds are allocated to nonprofit sexual abuse/assault programs that provide direct services to sexual abuse/assault victims and their significant others and support systems.

Future Funding Issues

While it is likely federal sequestration will not impact grants awarded to the CVAD in FY 2014, it is likely to result in reductions to any and all federal grants in FY 2015. Any decrease in federal receipts may increase demand for State receipts. This may include receipts from criminal and civil penalties as well as State appropriations. Alternatively, funding for and types of victim compensation or victim programs may be reduced.

There is a federal [VOCA Fund](#) established in 1984 that includes deposits from federal criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalties, and special assessments collected by U.S. Attorneys' Offices, federal courts, and the [Federal Bureau of Prisons](#). Federal revenues deposited in the Fund also come from gifts, donations, and bequests by private parties. Awards to states are impacted by receipts to the federal VOCA Fund. The trend for the federal grant award for VOCA compensation is downward. This makes it difficult to meet the growing needs of victims.

In response to cash flow problems experienced in FY 2009, Iowa Code section [915.86](#) was amended to permit the Office of the Attorney General to set the compensation rate paid to medical providers of services to victims. Effective July 1, 2009, all medical bills submitted on behalf of crime victims are paid at the 70.0% rate. The rate is set by the Office of the Attorney General based on available funds. If compensation is awarded in full based on the rate for medical care, and the provider accepts the payment, the medical provider cannot request the victim to pay any additional amount. For example, the provider is reimbursed for 70.0% of the costs from the Victim Compensation Fund. The provider cannot bill the victim for the remaining 30.0% of the bill.

Refer to the **Fiscal Topic**, [Budget Unit: Office of the Attorney General](#) for additional information.

Budget Unit: Victim Assistance Grants

BU Number: 112B10001

The Crime Victim Assistance Division (CVAD) of the [Office of the Attorney General](#) includes the Victim Support Services (VSS) Program that administers Victim Assistance Grants.

Program Overview

The [Justice System Appropriations Subcommittee](#) provides oversight and a State General Fund appropriation for Victim Assistance Grants to the Office of the Attorney General for the VSS Program. The appropriation is combined with federal funds to provide services to victims at the local level.

The CVAD administers approximately \$15.0 million (\$6.7 million in federal funds, \$6.7 million from the State General Fund, and \$1.6 million transfer from the State Victim Compensation Fund) for victim services at the local level. In addition, the CVAD retains \$361,850 (5.0% of federal funds only) for administration at the state level. The VSS Program provides partial funding and technical assistance to community-based service providers for victims of violent crimes including domestic abuse and sexual abuse crimes. These service providers also seek federal, state, and local support for their programs. The VSS Program funds the operating costs of the statewide domestic violence hotline (1-800-942-0333) and the statewide sexual abuse hotline (1-800-284-7821). The VSS Program also funds the statewide coalitions that provide certification, training, and technical assistance to victim service providers.

Program Re-Design – FY 2013

The federal government is focusing on a rapid rehousing response and transitional housing model for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The CVAD worked with the [Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#), the [Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault](#), and local providers to develop and implement requirements for local services to meet the federal initiative.

Services and advocacy for victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, and shelter care vary across the state. The CVAD funds about 47.0% of these services, and established six service areas within the state in FY 2013, based on census data and geography. Local providers were encouraged to develop coalitions to strengthen victim services and advocacy within their service area. The focus is to serve more victims while strengthening services to sexual assault victims and homicide victim survivors. Operating a shelter is expensive; the majority of existing shelters were underutilized.

In FY 2013, there were 26 programs that served victims of either domestic abuse or sexual assault, three programs that served victims of domestic violence, and three programs that served victims of sexual abuse. There were 20 domestic violence shelters.

Current Situation – FY 2014

FY 2014 is a transition year to implement the redesign of victim services at the local level. The CVAD made FY 2014 grant awards of state and federal funds to the six service areas created in FY 2013.

There are currently 12 domestic abuse comprehensive and 10 sexual abuse comprehensive programs in Iowa's six service areas, funded by the VSS Program. Comprehensive programs provide multiple services to victims, such as emergency shelter; crisis intervention; personal advocacy with other agencies such as the Department of Human Services (DHS), criminal and civil

More Information

Office of the Attorney General: <http://www.state.ia.us/government/ag/index.html>

Iowa Department of Public Safety: <http://www.dps.state.ia.us/index.shtml>

Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence: www.icadv.org

Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault: www.iowacasa.org

Iowa Organization for Victim Assistance: www.iowaiova.com

U.S. Department of Justice: <http://www.justice.gov/>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: <http://www.hhs.gov/>

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx>

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Budget Unit: Victim Assistance Grants

court system, and medical services; and counseling by certified advocates. The VSS Program also funds five programs for homicide survivors, within the four Division of Criminal Investigation ([DCI](#)) regions. There is a collaborative homicide survivor program between Fort Dodge and Mason City.

Of the 20 shelters noted previously, nine shelters received ongoing funding for FY 2014 through contracts with the CVAD. Six shelters received transitional funds to remain open for a portion or all of FY 2014 from the CVAD. Of these six shelters, three plan to close. The other three shelters plan to remain open using other funding sources, and may change the services offered. For example, one of these shelters may become a domestic violence program and a homeless center. There are five domestic violence shelters that did not receive grant awards from the CVAD. These shelters may stay open with other funding sources, or may become transitional housing facilities, homeless centers, or may close permanently. That decision is up to the local program's board to decide.

State and Federal Funding

The State General Fund appropriation is \$6.7 million in FY 2014, an increase of \$3.9 million (134.1%) compared to FY 2013. The State Victim Compensation Fund provides \$1.6 million in FY 2014 to cover one-time costs associated with transitioning to the new service model. See the *Fiscal Topic*, [Budget Unit: Victim Compensation Fund](#) for additional information regarding the sources, uses, and restrictions of the Fund.

Federal funds include:

- [Victim of Crime Act \(VOCA\) Assistance](#): The funds are allocated to service providers of victims of violent crime. The CVAD uses the VOCA grant award received from the U.S. Department of Justice to fund the domestic abuse and sexual assault programs, the homicide victim survivor programs, and 24 victim/witness coordinators (22 in county prosecutor offices and two in the Office of the Attorney General).
- [Family Violence and Prevention Services Act](#) funds can only be used for domestic violence programs.
- [Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\)](#) funds are used for victim services, law enforcement, prosecution, and court services (pursuant to federal law) for domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking programs. A \$30,000 General Fund match requirement is included in the appropriation to the Office of the Attorney General.
- [VAWA Sexual Abuse Services Program](#) funds are specifically designated for nongovernmental sexual abuse/assault programs to provide direct services to victims.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapters [13](#) and [915](#)

Iowa Administrative Code: [61 IAC](#)

Budget Unit: Victim Compensation Fund

BU Number: 112010000

The Victim Compensation Fund is established in Iowa Code section [915.94](#) and is administered by the Crime Victim Assistance Division 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 Fund supports the Crime Victim Compensation Program established in Iowa Code section [915.80](#) that 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](#). Refer to the *Fiscal Topic Budget Unit: Office of the Attorney General* for more information concerning victim services. The Victim Compensation Fund also supports the following items:

- *Administrative costs of the Crime Victim Assistance Division (CVAD)*: The Division has 24.0 FTE positions that provide victim services such as administration of the Crime Victim Compensation Program, the Victim Services Support Program, and victim advocacy.
- *Sexual Abuse Examination Program*: Pursuant to Iowa Code section [915.41](#), the costs of medical exams of a victim for the purposes of gathering evidence and preventing venereal disease are paid from the Victim Compensation Fund.
- *Training*: Training for victim service providers is limited to \$100,000 annually. The Division expends approximately \$57,000 on average annually for this purpose. This amount includes the Victim Justice Conference held every other year that is sponsored by the Attorney General and organized by the CVAD.
- *Iowa Crisis Response Team*: The FY 2014 Team is comprised of 50 volunteers. The majority of the volunteers receive a minimum of 40 hours of training from the [National Organization for Victim Assistance](#) (NOVA). The Iowa Crisis Response Team is currently restructuring the training provided to volunteers, following the Psychological First Aid model.
- *IowaVine System*: This is an automated victim notification system that was implemented with federal funds. The system allows crime victims to seek information and notification of the change in custody status of an offender. Operating costs are funded by the Victim Compensation Fund.
- *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. Operating costs are funded by the Victim Compensation Fund.
- *Identity Theft Passport Program*: Victims of identity theft in the State of Iowa 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.
- *Victim Assistance Grants*: [Senate File 447](#) (FY 2014 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 IAC](#)

More Information

Office of the Attorney General: <http://www.state.ia.us/government/ag/index.html>

Iowa Department of Public Safety: <http://www.dps.state.ia.us/>

Iowa Department of Corrections: <http://www.doc.state.ia.us/default.asp>

U.S. Department of Justice: <http://www.justice.gov/>

Iowa General Assembly: <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx>

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Crime Victim Compensation Program

The Crime Victim Compensation Program is established in [Iowa Code chapter 915](#), Division VII, and pays certain out-of-pocket expenses of crime victims and their families. The [Crime Victim Assistance Division](#) (CVAD) of the [Office of the Attorney General](#) administers the program.

Crime Victim Eligibility Criteria

Pursuant to Iowa Code section [915.80\(6\)](#), a person that suffers personal injury or death as a result of a crime, attempting to stop a crime from being committed, or apprehending a suspect is eligible for compensation from the Victim Compensation Fund. The heirs are eligible for compensation if a victim dies as a result of the crime. Other eligibility criteria are listed in Iowa Code section [915.84](#) and include:

- Victims must report the crime to law enforcement and make an application to the CVAD within two years of the crime being committed. The CVAD makes exceptions to this provision upon a showing of good cause; factors include the victim's age, physical condition, psychological state, cultural or linguistic barriers, and any compelling health or safety reasons that would jeopardize the well-being of the victim.
- Victims must not have consented to, provoked, or incited the crime or have been committing a criminal act that caused the injuries.
- Compensation can only be paid after other funding sources (such as health insurance) have been exhausted.

Eligible Expenses

Eligible expenses are listed in Iowa Code section [915.86](#) and include the costs of:

- Medical care of the victim and for the survivors of a homicide victim.
- Counseling for the victim and household and family members.
- Lost wages due to: a victim's crime-related injury; a homicide victim's survivor; medical or counseling appointments; attendance at criminal justice proceedings; and, transportation related to the crime.
- Clothing and bedding kept as evidence.
- A homicide victim's funeral and burial, lost support for dependents, and cleaning a residential crime scene.
- Replacement of home security items and certain dependent care costs.

Iowa Code section [915.82](#) establishes the Crime Victim Assistance Board that adopts administrative rules for administration of the Crime Victim Compensation Program. The Board also hears a victim's appeal of the denial or disposition of the victim's claim. A victim may appeal to the district court within 30 days of the Board's decision.

Funding

Claims are paid from the Victim Compensation Fund established in Iowa Code section [915.94](#). 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 federal 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.

A federal [VOCA Fund](#) was established in 1984 and includes deposits from federal criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalties, and special assessments collected by U.S. Attorneys' Offices, federal courts, and the [Federal Bureau of Prisons](#). Federal revenues deposited into the Fund also come from gifts, donations, and bequests by private parties. Awards to states are impacted by receipts to the federal VOCA Fund. Also, the trend for the federal grant award for VOCA compensation is downward. This makes it difficult to meet the growing needs of victims.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapters [13](#) and [915](#), Subchapter VII

Iowa Administrative Code: [61 IAC](#)

More Information

Office of the Attorney General: <http://www.state.ia.us/government/ag/index.html>

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx>

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Fiscal TOPICS

Updated August 2013



Iowa's Victim Information and Notification Everyday System

Iowa's Victim Information and Notification Everyday System (IowaVine) system was established by HF 619 (2005 Sex Offender Act). The automated victim notification system is maintained by the Crime Victim Assistance Division (CVAD) of the [Department of Justice](#), Office of the Attorney General. See the *Fiscal Topic*, [Budget Unit: Office of the Attorney General](#) for more information.

Background

The IowaVine system allows crime victims to seek information and notification of change in custody status of an offender. Victims may register directly with the IowaVine system and may access the information either by a toll-free number (1-888-742-8463) or through the website (www.vinelink.com).

Victims may be notified by telephone, email, or text when an offender is moved between facilities, released to the community, escapes from custody, or dies while incarcerated. Notifications can be delivered in English, Spanish, Somali, and Bosnian. County jail booking system computer databases transfer data every 15 to 30 minutes (19 times daily for the Iowa Department of Corrections) to secure servers in Louisville, Kentucky. If there is a change in data for an offender from the previous data scan, the victim receives immediate notification of the change.

The Department of Justice implemented the system in December 2006. The computer-based system was deployed across Iowa, starting with county jails and the [Department of Corrections](#) (DOC).

The next component of the system is called the Iowa Protective Order Notification for Domestic Abuse (IPONDA) system. This system allows petitioners of civil protective orders and subjects of criminal no-contact orders to register for status updates including service and expiration of the order. Petitioners can register via the toll-free number (1-888-742-8463) or through the website at www.registervpo.com.

Victims may be notified by telephone or email when a protective or no-contact order is served and/or 30 days before the order expires. The system is restricted for domestic violence petitioners, others deemed to be at risk by the abuser (respondent), advocates, and police officers. The IPONDA system is not open to the general public. Data is transferred from the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) to the IPONDA system in real time as the data is being entered by the clerk of court offices.

The IPONDA system was developed and implemented in collaboration with the CVAD and the Department of Human Rights, [Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Division](#) (CJJPD). A grant award from the federal [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#) (ARRA) received by the CJJPD was used to develop and test the system. The system became fully operational in October 2012 and is maintained by the CVAD.

Current Situation

As of July 2013, there are 98 counties in Iowa connected to the IowaVine system. Of those, 85 jails have online photographs of offenders. Connectivity was established with the DOC in January 2008; the DOC also provides online photographs.

There has been a steady increase in usage by victims since the inception of the IowaVine system in December 2006. From July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2013 (last three fiscal years), there were 116,055 new registrations, with 807,603 computer searches and 7,984 telephone calls for information during the last three years. There have been 110,447 email notifications, 49,584 text notifications, and 30,777 telephone notifications delivered to registered victims.

More Information

IowaVine: www.vinelink.com/vinelink/

IPONDA: www.registervpo.com

Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault Website: www.iowacasa.org

Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence Website: www.icadv.org

Iowa Organization for Victim Assistance Website: www.iowaiova.com

Iowa Sexual Abuse hotline = 1-800-284-7821

Iowa Domestic Violence hotline = 1-800-942-0333

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Iowa's Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) System

As of July 2013, all 99 county clerks of court were connected to the IPONDA system. The system has seen an increase in registrations over the last year and a marked increase in web traffic. From July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2013, there are 860 active registrations, with 353 telephone notifications and 240 email notifications delivered to registrants. Over the last three years, 22,415 individuals visited the website for more information.

Budget

The CVAD was awarded \$1.25 million in federal funds in FY 2007 to implement the IowaVine system. The funds were expended across three fiscal years. The CVAD was awarded a federal grant of \$333,000 for FY 2010 for enhancements, such as adding the capability to view the website in Spanish. No administrative or operating costs were permitted to be expended from this grant award. The grant funded the ability to send notification by text message and to add photographs of incarcerated offenders to the website. The Crime Victim Compensation Fund now covers the operating costs of the IowaVine system (\$609,000 annually) and the IPONDA system (\$122,000 annually). The vendor, Appriss, Inc., continues to provide all of the hardware, software, and training necessary to maintain the IowaVine and IPONDA systems.

Future Plans

In the future, the CVAD is reviewing the option of adding court notifications to the IowaVine system. This will allow registered individuals to receive court information about hearing dates, sentencing hearings, and other various court dates. The CVAD is researching grants to fund this option.