

## Crime Victim Compensation Program

The Crime Victim Compensation Program is established in Iowa Code chapter [915](#), Subchapter 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. Refer to the *Fiscal Topic* [Crime Victim Assistance Division](#) for more information.

### 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 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.
- Emergency relocation and housing assistance.

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 (VOCA) 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.

### 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: <https://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/>

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

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