

## 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](#). The 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:

- [Crime Victim Compensation Program](#): Pays certain out-of-pocket expenses of crime victims and their families. This Program is created in Division VII of Iowa Code chapter [915](#). The Victim Compensation Fund pays for these expenses.
- [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 - Victim Services Support 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 \$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 related to human trafficking for certain populations. The Victim Compensation Fund pays for these costs.
- [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 and Informed Care Model (TIC). Upon invitation from a community in crisis, the CVAD will activate an Iowa Crisis Response Team (ICRT). The ICRT is specifically prepared to serve communities in the wake of a disaster, major crime, or incident. The ICRT service is coordinated with other primary responders, such as the American Red Cross, Iowa Emergency Management Division, and local caregivers. 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, 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. 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.
- [Human Trafficking](#): The CVAD provides training and information regarding the crime of human trafficking. The Human Trafficking Victim Fund is created in Iowa Code section [915.95](#). Receipts to the Fund are generated by a \$1,000 human trafficking victim surcharge created in Iowa Code section [911.2A](#). The surcharge took effect January 1, 2015. Iowa Code section [915.95](#) requires money in the fund to be awarded as grants to programs that provide services and support to human trafficking victims, including public outreach and awareness programs, and service provider training programs. As of July 2015, no grants have been awarded because limited funds are available.
- The Human Trafficking Enforcement Fund is created in Division XXIII of Senate File 510 (FY 2016 Standings Appropriations Act). The FY 2015 ending balance of the Mortgage Servicing Settlement Fund is transferred to the newly created Human Trafficking

### More Information

Office of the Attorney General: <https://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/>

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

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

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Enforcement Fund. Moneys in the Fund are to be used to train local law enforcement, members of the Iowa State Patrol, county attorneys, judicial officers, juvenile court officers, and public safety answering point personnel in the recognition and reporting of human trafficking. The FY 2020 ending balance in the Fund is transferred to the State General Fund.

### 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 \(VAWA\)](#).
- 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. The Justice System Appropriations Act requires at least \$150,000 to be transferred from the Fund to the Victim Assistance Grants Program.
- 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 immediately impact grants awarded to the CVAD, it may result in reductions to any and all federal grants in future fiscal years. 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. Attorney 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.

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.