



DID YOU KNOW?

In Federal Fiscal Year 2020 (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020), OVS provided funding to 63 community-based contracting and subcontracting agencies for services to crime victims throughout the state.

These agencies provided services to more than 95,000 individuals during the year. Over 69% of those served were victims of domestic violence.

DID YOU KNOW?

In State Fiscal Year 19-20 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020), OVS Victim Services Advocates assisted more than 18,000 victims of crime and their family members navigate the criminal, juvenile, and civil justice systems. Victims were provided with information about their rights, resources available to them, safety planning, and support and advocacy during proceedings.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

On April 8, 1981, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the first National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) to begin April 19th of that year and to be held annually thereafter. President Reagan, in his proclamation, urged "all Federal, state, and local officials involved in the criminal justice system to devote special attention to the needs of victims of crime." He also urged "all other elected and appointed officials to join in this effort to make our justice system more helpful to those whom it was designed to protect," and urged "citizens, from all walks of life, to remember that the personal tragedy of the victim is their own tragedy as well."

Each April, the Office of Victim Services (OVS) joins the nation in the celebration of the rights of crime victims. This year, the NCVRW occurs April 18-24 and focuses on supporting victims, building trust, and engaging communities.

OVS, with the assistance of the Judicial Branch External Affairs, issued a NCVRW public service announcement to air on public radio stations throughout Connecticut, as well as posted announcements on Twitter, the Judicial Branch and OVS Web pages, and other social media.

The OVS Training and Outreach Unit hosted a training to contracted victim service providers on Victims' Rights and the Victim Compensation Program.

The Victims' Rights training session presented by Deputy Director Valina Carpenter

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In State Fiscal Year 19-20 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020), the Victim Compensation Program received nearly 1,600 applications for victim compensation and paid more than \$1.8 million to victims and their family members for crime-related expenses and losses and to providers for services to crime victims.

consisted of a review of the history of victim rights in Connecticut. The Victim Compensation Program presented by Director Linda J. Cimino provided an overview of victim compensation benefits and the eligibility requirements. These trainings will assist contracted providers in providing victim-centered services.

Several OVS victim services advocates will be attending the National Crime Victims' Rights Week Virtual Conference, hosted by the Office of the Victim Advocate to support our victim community partners in their endeavors to bring recognition on the rights and needs of crime victims in Connecticut. For more information about NCVRW visit ovc.ojp.gov.

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