



LISA MADIGAN
ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL

*The Violent Crime Victim
Assistance (VCVA)
Program:*

*Works to develop and
improve activities and
services that promote recog-
nition of the rights, needs,
and interests of crime
victims in Illinois;*

*Provides victims with access
to programs that supply
needed information, assis-
tance, and advocacy;*

*Educates the public about
victim services; and*

*Ensures that victim service
agencies provide quality
services.*

For more information about the Violent
Crime Victim Assistance Program in
Illinois, contact:

Office of the Illinois Attorney General
Crime Victim Services Division
100 W. Randolph Street, 13th Floor
Chicago, IL 60601
312-814-2581 (Phone)

Elizabeth Scholz, VCVA Director
Office of the Attorney General
628 Maine Street
Quincy, IL 62301
217-223-2221 (Phone)

Crime Victims Assistance Line
1-800-228-3368 (Voice/TTY)

Please visit our Web site for VCVA forms,
applications, and current information.

www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov

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Violent Crime Victim Assistance Grant Program



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Grant Funding For Illinois Victim Assistance Providers

Any public or private not-for-profit agency may apply to the Attorney General for selection as a Victim/Witness Assistance Center under the law. The Violent Crime Victims Assistance Fund provides funding for crime victim services through fines collected from persons convicted of violent felonies and misdemeanors, not from taxpayers. Since January 1, 1984, any person in Illinois convicted of a crime of violence, any other felony or misdemeanor, or certain other offenses listed in the Illinois Vehicle Code are assessed a specific fine for this purpose.

The VCVA Program works closely with statewide coalitions and organizations to better understand the needs of specific populations of crime victims across the state. These statewide organizations include: Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists, Children's Advocacy Center of Illinois, Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

VCVA At Work: Helping Victims Of Crime In Illinois

In 2005, programs and agencies statewide were slated to receive \$7.8 million in VCVA grants to assist in the provision of critical services to victims of violent crime, ranging from multilingual counseling services to telephone hotline support for rape crisis centers, among other programs. VCVA Program highlights include:

Lake County Council Against Sexual Assault (LACASA)

LACASA serves as the only rape crisis center in Lake County. Crisis intervention is provided 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Serving child victims and adult survivors, LACASA networks with Lake County's nine area hospitals and provides individual and group counseling in both English and Spanish.

Peoria County Sheriff's Office

The Peoria County Sheriff's Office has created a comprehensive support network for victims within the county through the use of a law enforcement based Victim Advocate. The Advocate provides information, referrals, crisis intervention, and emotional support follow-up to victims who have had contact with the Department's officers as a result of a crime. The position of Victim Advocate was created in 1996 using VCVA funding.

Senior Services of Central Illinois

In 1998, the Senior Victim Assistance Program began with VCVA funding to address senior victims who were lacking the services they needed as a result of financial abuse, identity theft, hate crimes, criminal damage to property, theft or home invasion, assault, battery, and domestic violence. This program provides 24-hour response to senior victims and witnesses by securing immediate emergency needs such as shelter, food, and medical care. Staff also assists older victims of crime by filing police reports and accompanying the victims to legal appointments and court appearances.

Southern Illinois University Carbondale: Domestic Violence Clinic

The SIU School of Law Domestic Violence Clinic provides legal services to domestic vio-

lence victims in seven counties throughout southern Illinois. This program also provides support and advice to the shelter programs and victim advocates in the area. The Domestic Violence Clinic utilizes both a staff attorney and practicing attorneys in the area. Both law students and participating attorneys receive domestic violence training from advocates in the community.

Winnebago County State's Attorney's Office – Victim/Witness Program

Through this program, a Victim Assistance Coordinator, working within the prosecutor's office, serves as a liaison for law enforcement, the judicial system, service providers, and victims and witnesses of crime and their families. The program includes a unit that deals specifically with crimes involving domestic violence, as well as a unit that deals with victims of juvenile offenders. By working with several interagency organizations, this program maintains an important role in both the criminal justice system and the advocacy field.

YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago – RISE Children's Center

RISE is committed to offering services that are community based and culturally sensitive for victims of sexual abuse or assault between three and seventeen years of age and their non-offending family members. There are no fees charged for the counseling and advocacy services. Services are available in English, Spanish, Polish, and Japanese. RISE also provides professional training related to child sexual abuse to enhance awareness, understanding, and skills.