

## **INTRODUCING:**

## **OVS Resource Connect**

In honor of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, the New York State Office of Victim Services (OVS) is pleased to announce the launch of **OVS Resource Connect** (ovs.ny.gov/connect), a concern-based online search engine connecting users with potential crime victim resources in New York State.

Featuring enhanced search functionalities, **OVS Resource Connect** allows users seeking crime victim services and information to search for resources by concerns, keywords (i.e. "advocate", "safe housing", etc.) as well as geographic location. This new search engine immediately returns information provided by Victim Assistance Programs (VAPs), who can provide help to crime victims and offer additional services that are not directly offered by OVS.

Replacing the previous OVS Locate-a-Program tool, **OVS Resource Connect** comes equipped with more than **10,000** keywords and search terms and can connect users with nearly **500** resources through a custom-tailored search experience. In addition, users can browse alphabetical listings of concerns and resources and have access to a detailed map of VAPs.

Click the hyperlinks above or the button below to access the site now!

## ovs.ny.gov/connect

This project would not have been possible without the collaboration and contribution of resource information from VAPs. OVS extends sincere gratitude to all the programs who volunteered their time and information.

A guide on how to use **OVS Resource Connect** has been made available <u>here</u> and more information is also accessible at <u>ovs.ny.gov/help</u>. Please note, programs interested in submitting new or additional resources for publication in the site will have an opportunity at a later date, so stay tuned for an announcement from OVS.

On behalf of OVS, thank you for your continued commitment to providing the highest quality services to victims of crime in New York State.

Additional training and outreach information is always available in the <u>OVS VAP Training Center</u> and via <u>VAP Connect</u>, a NEW online forum for VAPs. You can also subscribe to future correspondences from OVS by clicking the *Subscribe Now!* button below.

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