



Office of Victim Services

The following is a **Broadcast Email** to all OVS Listserv Subscribers:

[OVS 2022 HAPPY NEW YEAR MISSIVE](#)

The **New York State Office of Victim Services (OVS)** is pleased to share a letter from our Director, Elizabeth Cronin, summarizing many 2021 achievements, and outlining key 2022 projects. Click the link above or button below to download and read the full letter.

[Click here to read the Happy New Year Missive!](#)



Office of Victim Services

KATHY HOCHUL

Governor

ELIZABETH CRONIN, Esq.

Director

Welcome to 2022! The new year always brings a sense of hope and enthusiasm, a time to build upon our successes from the previous year and renew our commitment to our work. At OVS, we have much to celebrate and more to accomplish this year.

While we continue to experience the challenges and uncertainty associated with COVID, living with the pandemic during the past two years also provided us with the opportunity to work even more closely with state partners and victim assistance programs to ensure funding for services during these unprecedented times. We identified critical needs and provided nearly \$20 million in additional assistance to our local and state partners:

\$13.5 million

\$13.5 million to 228 victim assistance programs to alleviate some of the financial pressures they faced in the wake of COVID. To the same end, we eliminated the match waiver for those programs as they struggled with fewer – if any – volunteer hours and fundraising events necessary to meet that requirement.

\$6.15 million

\$6.15 million to provide survivors of domestic violence and their children with safe housing alternatives to shelters, mobile advocacy and improved hotline access, and improved access to services for children who are victims of physical and sexual abuse.

The creativity and dedication of OVS staff resulted in the reallocation of an additional \$15.5 million to the **Office for Children and Family Services**, **Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence**, **Office for the Aging**, and **Division of Criminal Justice Services**, which allowed those agencies and their local partners to further address unmet needs of survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, and victims of elder abuse and violent crime. We remained focused on improving access, increasing flexibility and supporting innovation to better serve victims and families. We could not have accomplished this without the partnership of our sister state agencies and the dedication and support of service providers, advocates, and victim assistance professionals in communities across the state.

\$15.5 million

to state agencies and local partners to further address unmet needs of victims and survivors

This year, we will further strengthen the support and training we provide to the victim assistance programs we fund and forge new partnerships to ensure that all victims of crime can access services and support: how, when and where they need that help.

Looking ahead...

First and foremost, earlier this week, OVS issued the [2022 Victim and Witness Assistance Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#), which will provide funding for services for three years, beginning **Oct. 1, 2022**. As you know, this competitive application process is open to currently funded and new-to-OVS providers, which helps ensure availability of services across the state. Services for victims and survivors of domestic violence, intimate partner violence and sexual assault will continue to be a top priority for this next round of funding. More than \$160 million administered by OVS since 2019 has supported programs providing these dedicated services. While VOCA funding has been reduced significantly in the last few years, we have done everything we can to limit any negative impact this will have on service providers funded through this RFA. We expect to announce awards this summer.

Working with [The Council of State Governments-Justice Center](#), we will conduct a **comprehensive needs assessment** to obtain a better understanding of the needs of all victims and survivors and the gaps in services that exist. Your feedback will be key, so please watch for additional information about this important project. To complement that effort, we have a new community engagement liaison who will work closely with the OVS Advisory Council and our funded programs to better leverage their expertise and connect with marginalized and underserved

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

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