

ADVISORY BULLETIN

TRANSMITTAL NO. 2022-03

**TO: ALL FUNDED PROGRAMS WITHIN 60 MILES OF BUFFALO
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**FROM: ELIZABETH CRONIN, ESQ.
DIRECTOR**

**SUBJECT: CALL FOR ADVOCATES TO ASSIST THE BUFFALO COMMUNITY FOLLOWING
THE MAY 14TH SHOOTING**

DATE: JUNE 16, 2022

Dear Colleague:


The racially motivated attack in Buffalo on May 14th resulted in a tragic loss of life, serious injuries, and a need for immediate assistance and support. The New York State Office of Victim Services (OVS) has been on the ground assisting the community to provide support and resources for the victims and their families.

Victim Assistance Programs (VAPs) in the area have stepped up by taking shifts at the Community Resource Center to assist with compensation claims and mental and emotional health resources. However, right now, we need more help. **We are continuing to look for victim assistance programs who are willing to send additional staff to the Community Resource Center temporarily until full-time advocates and counselors can be hired to assist with the long-term needs of the victims impacted by this crime.** Ideally, services provided should be culturally responsive and provided by those who are representative of the impacted community. Services provided at the Community Resource Center may include providing assistance with filing for compensation, providing psychological first aid, and referring people to appropriate services. We ask that volunteers be flexible and willing to assist wherever the Community Resource Center needs help the most that day.

Please note, existing OVS funded programs can work with their Contract Management Specialist to determine if their program can utilize their currently funded OVS award amounts to help in this effort. OVS can reimburse for VOCA allowable expenses including but not limited to salary, overtime, travel, and other direct service provision expenses. Please reach out to your Contract Management Specialist for clarification and to determine if a Budget Amendment Request would be necessary.

Whatever time you can give this community is appreciated. For those able to assist, please reach out as soon as possible to Jacklynn Blanchard at gunviolence@ovs.ny.gov by **6/24/2022 close of business** with your name, contact information, and availability (both full day and partial day availability) for the month of June.

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



Elizabeth Cronin, Esq.
Director