



Office of  
Victim Services



New York State

# Office of Victim Services

2018–19 Annual Report

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## Executive Summary

New York State has had an agency dedicated to serving innocent crime victims since 1966. The enabling legislation for the agency, only the second of its kind in the country and the first permanent program, came in response to public outcry over the murder of a young good Samaritan in a subway, leaving behind a widow with little means to care for their 15-month-old child.

***The mission of the Office of Victim Services (OVS) is to provide compensation to innocent victims of crime in a timely, efficient and compassionate manner; to fund direct services to crime victims through a network of community-based programs; and to advocate for the rights and benefits of all innocent victims of crime.***

Funding for compensation to crime victims comes from a combination of state and federal monies. The state portion comes from the Criminal Justice Improvement Account (CJIA), which is funded by mandatory surcharges and crime victim assistance fees assessed on certain offenders. The amount of funding available to OVS depends on legislative appropriation. The federal funding for compensation and victim and witness assistance grants comes from the Crime Victims Fund, which was established by the federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) of 1984.

OVS provides substantial financial relief to victims of crime and their families. This includes, for example, paying unreimbursed crime-related expenses, such as medical and funeral expenses, loss of earnings or support, crime scene clean-up, the cost to repair or replace items of essential personal property, reasonable court transportation expenses, counseling expenses, moving expenses and the cost of residing at, or using the services of, a domestic violence shelter. Over time, compensation coverage has broadened to include counseling for step-family members, victims of kidnapping and unlawful imprisonment or stalking victims who are not physically injured.

The agency is also responsible for advocating for crime victims' rights, needs and interests in New York State. This advocacy role has resulted in the agency developing legislation, subsequently enacted, that has protected and extended the rights of crime victims and expanded the services and assistance available to them.

OVS has received funding from the New York State Legislature since 1981–82 for the sole purpose of awarding grants to community-based programs so those providers can serve crime victims and witnesses. The agency has received federal VOCA funds for this same purpose since 1986–87. OVS funded 402 contracts with local victim assistance programs (VAPs) during 2018–19.

This report reflects the Office of Victim Services' efforts and accomplishments in meeting the needs of crime victims during New York State's fiscal year 2018–19. Highlights include:

- OVS hosted its first-ever “*Seeking Solutions: Starting the Conversation about Male Sexual Assault*” Summit in April 2018. More than 200 victim services professionals from across New York State attended the one-day event.

- A competitive procurement resulted in OVS providing funding to 87 victim assistance programs to hire case managers, who are critical to helping ensure comprehensive, victim-centered services to address the short- and long-term needs of victims. More than \$18 million is being provided through three-year contracts that run from April 1, 2018, through March 31, 2021. These grants were announced during National Crime Victim’s Rights Week 2018.
- A competitive procurement resulted in OVS providing funding to 61 victim assistance programs for attorney services to individuals with civil legal matters resulting from their victimization and legal needs related to the criminal justice system. An overwhelming number of victims of crime faced with these matters take no action to address them because they are unaware of available services. More than \$80 million is being provided through five-year contracts that run from October 1, 2018, through September 30, 2023.
- OVS signed memorandum of agreement with six state agencies to provide funding for projects that will improve access to services for individuals who are victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, and better serve children, the elderly and young men of color who are victims of crime: Office for the Aging (OFA), Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS), Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV), Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), and the State University of New York (SUNY).
- The agency launched a pilot [Training & Technical Assistance Request Program](#), through which more than 900 victim services and allied professionals received training. The pilot allowed OVS to match consultants with OVS-funded programs to deliver a wide-range of custom-tailored organizational leadership and communication services trainings and webinars at no cost.
- The agency continued to improve its Victim Service Portal, which streamlines the claims application process by allowing applicants to electronically submit all necessary documentation in support of their claims. A total of 7,971 claims were submitted through the Victim Services Portal during 2018–19: 73 percent of all claims submitted to OVS during this period. OVS continually evaluates the portal to ensure that claims processing is efficient and meets the needs of the agency, victim advocates and individuals.

## Agency Operations

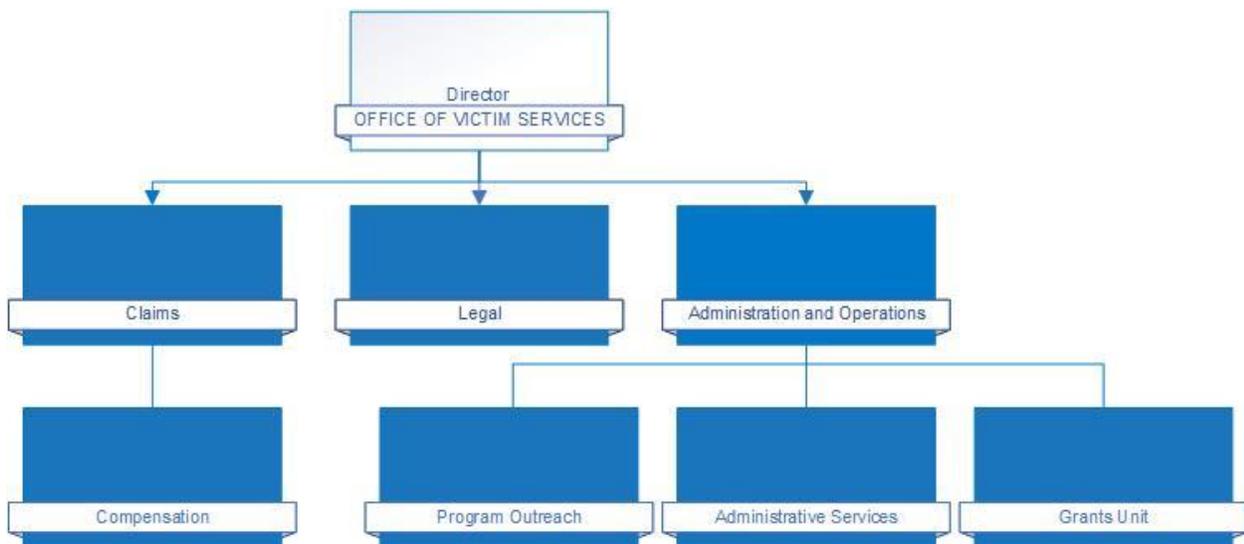
### Structure

The agency's Director is appointed by the Governor and oversees operation of the agency.

The OVS executive team includes the Deputy Director of Administration who oversees Finance, Grants, Training and Outreach and Operations; a General Counsel who leads the Legal Unit; and Deputy Director of Claims who manages the Crime Victim Compensation investigation teams, Additional Medical and Vocational Rehabilitation Units.

The staffing target for the agency is 102 employees.

### NYS Office of Victim Services



## **Powers and Duties of the Agency (Executive Law Section 623)**

- 1. To establish and maintain a principal office and such other offices within the state as it may deem necessary.**

The agency's principal office is located at 80 South Swan Street in Albany. It has a second office at 55 Hanson Place in Brooklyn.

- 2. To appoint a secretary, counsel, clerks and such other employees and agents as it may deem necessary, fix their compensation within the limitations provided by law, and prescribe their duties.**

The agency's staffing target was 102 employees. Duties performed by staff are related to the agency's compensation program, its victim/witness assistance program, and its statutorily mandated advocacy role.

- 3. To adopt, promulgate, amend and rescind suitable rules and regulations to carry out the provisions and purposes of article twenty-two, including rules for the determination of claims, rules for the approval of attorneys' fees for representation before the office and/or before the appellate division upon judicial review as provided for in section six hundred twenty-nine of article twenty-two, and rules for the authorization of qualified persons to assist claimants in the preparation of claims for presentation to the office.**

During 2018–19, it was not necessary for the agency to propose or adopt any regulations related to Executive Law Article 22.

- 4. To request from the Division of State Police, from county or municipal police departments and agencies and from any other state or municipal department or agency, or public authority, and the same are hereby authorized to provide, such assistance and data as will enable the Office to carry out its functions and duties.**

The agency requested necessary information from the police, district attorneys' offices, child protective services, courts and other criminal justice agencies and authorities to verify the stated crime and loss information submitted by crime victims.

- 5. To hear and determine all claims for awards filed with the Office pursuant to article twenty-two, and to reinvestigate or reopen cases as necessary.**

During 2018–19, OVS made 9,821 original decisions, either awarded claims or denying them. The agency reinvestigated and/or reopened claims as necessary.

- 6. To direct medical examination of victims.**

In order to determine the causal relationship between the injuries claimed by victims and the medical services provided or to be provided, the agency made five referrals in 2018–19 to medical, psychological, chiropractic or dental consultants.

- 7. To hold hearings, administer oaths or affirmations, examine any person under oath or affirmation and to issue subpoenas requiring the attendance and giving of testimony of witnesses and require the production of any books, papers, documentary or other evidence. The powers provided in this subdivision may be delegated by the Director to any member or employee. A subpoena issued under this subdivision shall be regulated by the civil practice law and rules.**

The agency reviewed claim decisions and made final determinations on appeals submitted by crime victims or their family members. As part of this process, the agency administered oaths and affirmations, issued subpoenas and took testimony when necessary.

- 8. To take or cause to be taken affidavits or depositions within or without the State.**  
OVS took affidavits and/or depositions when deemed necessary.
- 9. To establish and maintain a special investigative unit to expedite processing of claims by senior citizens and special emergency situations, and to promote the establishment of a volunteer program of home visitation to elderly and invalid victims of violent crime.**  
OVS has an essential personal property (EPP) unit that only handle those claims. Individuals who are 60 years old or older submit the majority of EPP-only claims that are awarded, so this unit expedites those claims. There are numerous OVS-funded victim assistance programs serving older adults and the elderly across the state.
- 10. To advise and assist the Governor in developing policies designed to recognize the legitimate rights, needs and interests of crime victims.**  
OVS annually submits a list of legislative proposals to the Governor for his review and subsequent development of his legislative program. OVS reviews legislation at the request of the Governor and provides comment on the impact, if any, to the agency and crime victims.
- 11. To coordinate state programs and activities relating to crime victims.**  
During the fiscal year, OVS staff met regularly with its Advisory Council, its Advisory Committee for the Civil Legal Assistance Network, crime victims' coalitions across the state, and other crime victim advocates. The agency's Director is a member of the following state entities: Trauma-Informed Network Advisory Committee, the Domestic Violence Advisory Council, the Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking, the Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision, Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts, Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Council for the Interstate Compact for Adult Supervision, the Supreme Criminal Court E-Filing Committee, the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team, and the interagency team to implement the Enough is Enough campus sexual assault prevention and education law, as well as the federal Violence Against Women Act Advisory Committee. OVS also is represented on the following state entities: Interagency Task Force on HIV/AIDS, the Traumatic Brain Injury Committee, the Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons, the Disaster Preparedness Commission, in addition to the National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards, and the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators.
- 12. To cooperate with and assist political subdivisions of the State and not-for-profit organizations in the development of local programs for crime victims.**  
Information and referral services were provided in response to requests from municipal police departments and county sheriffs' offices, county executives and district attorneys' offices.
- The agency supported and funded 253 victim assistance programs (VAPs) in 2018–19 that provide services ranging from crisis intervention and counseling to assisting crime victims with filing for compensation. The agency's Grants Unit also performed 105 in-person site visits to victim assistance programs. When necessary, OVS provided technical assistance and sent advisory bulletins on current issues or policies to all programs. Those bulletins also are available online: [ovs.ny.gov](https://ovs.ny.gov)
- 13. To study the operation of laws and procedures affecting crime victims and recommend to the Governor and Legislature proposals to improve the administration and effectiveness of such laws.**

OVS tracked legislative bills that could affect crime victims and their rights. The agency also kept apprised of rules and regulations proposed by other state agencies, including but not limited to: the Division of Criminal Justice Services, the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, the Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs, the New York State Police, the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, and the Office of Mental Health, that could potentially affect crime victims.

**14. To establish an Advisory Council to assist in formulation of policies on the problems of crime victims and to provide recommendations to the Director to improve the delivery of services to victims by the Office.**

Experts in the field of victim assistance, human services and criminal justice routinely provide the agency with knowledge and expertise relating to crime victim policy and service delivery through the its Advisory Council.

**15. To work with national associations, statewide coalitions, regional coalitions, victim service providers, and other advocates to address and advance the rights and interests of crime victims of the state.**

OVS consults regularly with the National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards, and the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators and participates in their regional and national conferences. In addition, OVS staff attends regional coalition meetings around the state and works with victim assistance programs, allied professionals and other state agencies to advance the rights and interests of crime victims in New York State.

**16. To promote and conduct studies, research, analysis and investigations of matters affecting the interests of crime victims.**

As needed and requested, OVS conducted several programmatic and fiscal analyses related to its compensation program.

**17. To coordinate training opportunities for crime victim advocates and service providers.**

The agency provides monthly compensation training to VAP staff to help ensure that victim advocates are fully informed about the benefits available to innocent crime victims. In addition, the Grants Unit staff train VAPs on issues related to their grants with the agency and Legal staff offers training on restitution and the Direct Reimbursement Forensic Rape Exam program. Grants Unit staff also provide on-site technical assistance to VAPs as needed. The Training and Outreach Unit manages more than \$1.4 million in federal funding to train advocates and allied professionals who work for OVS-funded VAPs. In 2018–19, OVS provided 35 trainings and webinars – both online and in person – attended by 1,482 advocates, direct service professionals and experts from more than 5,000 organizations.

**18. To serve as a clearinghouse for information relating to crime victims' problems and programs.**

OVS continues to maintain a multi-disciplinary clearinghouse of studies, books, reports, journals, and other printed materials that address the needs and interests of crime victims as they pertain to victim compensation, victim assistance and the status of victims in the criminal justice system.

**19. To accept, with approval of the Governor, as agent of the state, any grants including federal grants, or any gifts for the purpose of article twenty-two. Any monies so received may be expended by the Office to effectuate any purpose of article twenty-**

**two, subject to the applicable provisions of the State Finance Law.**

In 2018–19, OVS received \$5,533,000 in federal funds for victim compensation and \$199,383,453 in federal funds for victim assistance programs.

**20. To render each year to the Governor and to the Legislature, on or before December first of each year, a written report on the office’s activities including, but not limited to, specific information on each of the subdivisions of this section. Such report shall also include but not be limited to information regarding crime victim service programs, including:**

- a. the programs funded by the office;
- b. other sources of funding for crime victims service programs;
- c. an assessment of the adequacy of the current level of appropriation to the office to meet the reasonable needs of crime victims service programs for funding under section six hundred thirty-one-a of this article; and
- d. an estimate of the reasonable needs of programs in the next fiscal year.

A list of funded victim assistance programs is included in this report. The state’s Criminal Justice Improvement Account also provides financial support for these programs, with funding determined annually by legislative appropriation.

Funding in both the current year and subsequent years’ budgets is adequate to meet the funding needs of VAPs. In fact, this year federal appropriations were increased to reflect the increases the agency received in federal funding. Funding is sufficient to meet OVS commitments both this year and next.

**21. To render biennially to the Governor and the Legislature a written report on the manner in which the rights, needs and interests of crime victims are being addressed by the state’s criminal justice system to include, but not be limited to:**

- a. Information transmitted by the state Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives under Criminal Procedural Law Section 390.30, Subdivision 5 and Family Court Act Section 351.1, Subdivision 7, which the board shall compile, review and make recommendations on how to promote the use of restitution and encourage its enforcement.
- b. Information relating to the implementation of and compliance with Executive Law Article 23 by the criminal justice agencies and the “crime victim-related agencies” of the state.

Chapter 489 of the Laws of 2014 changed the agency’s reporting requirements related to victim impact statements, restitution, and fair treatment standards for crime victims, from once a year in its annual report, to once, every two years in a separate, stand-alone report.

**22. To make grants to local crime victim service programs and carry out related duties under section 631-a of article twenty-two.**

Approximately \$72 million in state and federal funds were appropriated to the agency for grant-making purposes in 2018–19, allowing OVS to assist crime victims by funding 253 programs across the state. In addition to auditing and monitoring functions, the Grants Unit provided continuing technical assistance and support to these programs.

**23. To delegate to specified employees of the Office the power to disallow claims under circumstances where regulations of the Office provide for disallowance without prejudice to reopening of claims.**

Rules and regulations implementing this subdivision are in place. These rules allow staff to close specific types of claims without prejudice to their reopening.

### Disbursements in U.S. Dollars for State Fiscal Years 2009–10 through 2018–19

Fiscal Year	Personnel	Non-Personnel	Total Administration	Payments to Victims	Victim and Witness Assistance	Total Local Assistance	Grand Total
2009–10	5,134,729	2,144,990	7,279,719	25,345,981	29,242,026	54,588,007	61,867,726
2010–11	4,873,488	1,857,294	6,730,782	31,751,660	30,097,426	61,849,086	68,579,868
2011–12	6,148,310	1,174,793	7,323,103	28,996,191	40,262,893	69,259,084	76,582,187
2012–13	3,877,867	2,780,361	6,658,228	27,973,708	29,379,624	57,353,332	64,011,560
2013–14	4,277,662	2,255,530	6,533,192	26,365,765	29,689,514	56,055,279	62,588,471
2014–15	3,953,684	2,185,121	6,138,805	23,886,074	30,625,000	54,511,074	60,649,879
2015–16	3,989,831	1,975,067	5,964,898	21,080,037	37,034,260	58,114,297	64,079,195
2016–17	4,523,077	2,532,592	7,055,669	23,420,253	42,406,050	65,826,303	72,881,972
2017–18	4,858,784	3,152,263	8,011,047	22,113,828	31,440,923	53,554,751	61,565,798
2018–19	4,941,701	3,815,594	8,757,295	23,311,062	47,355,749	70,666,811	79,424,106

## Compensation, Eligibility and Claims Processing

OVS plays a key role in helping to ensure that crime victims are aware of its services, their rights in the criminal justice system and existence of victim assistance programs in their communities.

The agency provides information cards detailing OVS locations, phone numbers, website and services to police departments and sheriffs' offices, which are required to distribute them to crime victims. The card also includes basic rights afforded to crime victims and a space to write information about appropriate local victim assistance programs. The cards are available online for downloading and printing as needed.

OVS also distributes a poster detailing its services to police departments and sheriffs' offices, district attorneys' offices, courts, hospitals and victim assistance programs, among others. State law mandates the creation and distribution of this poster.

The agency also was required to work with the state Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to develop a form that must be used by all district attorney offices to report the distribution of the OVS publication, *The Rights of Crime Victims in New York State*. The law also requires district attorneys to complete the form annually and submit it to OVS each year by January 1. Additionally, district attorneys are required to make this publication available to crime victims or their families at no cost or to others for a fee not to exceed the cost of reproduction.

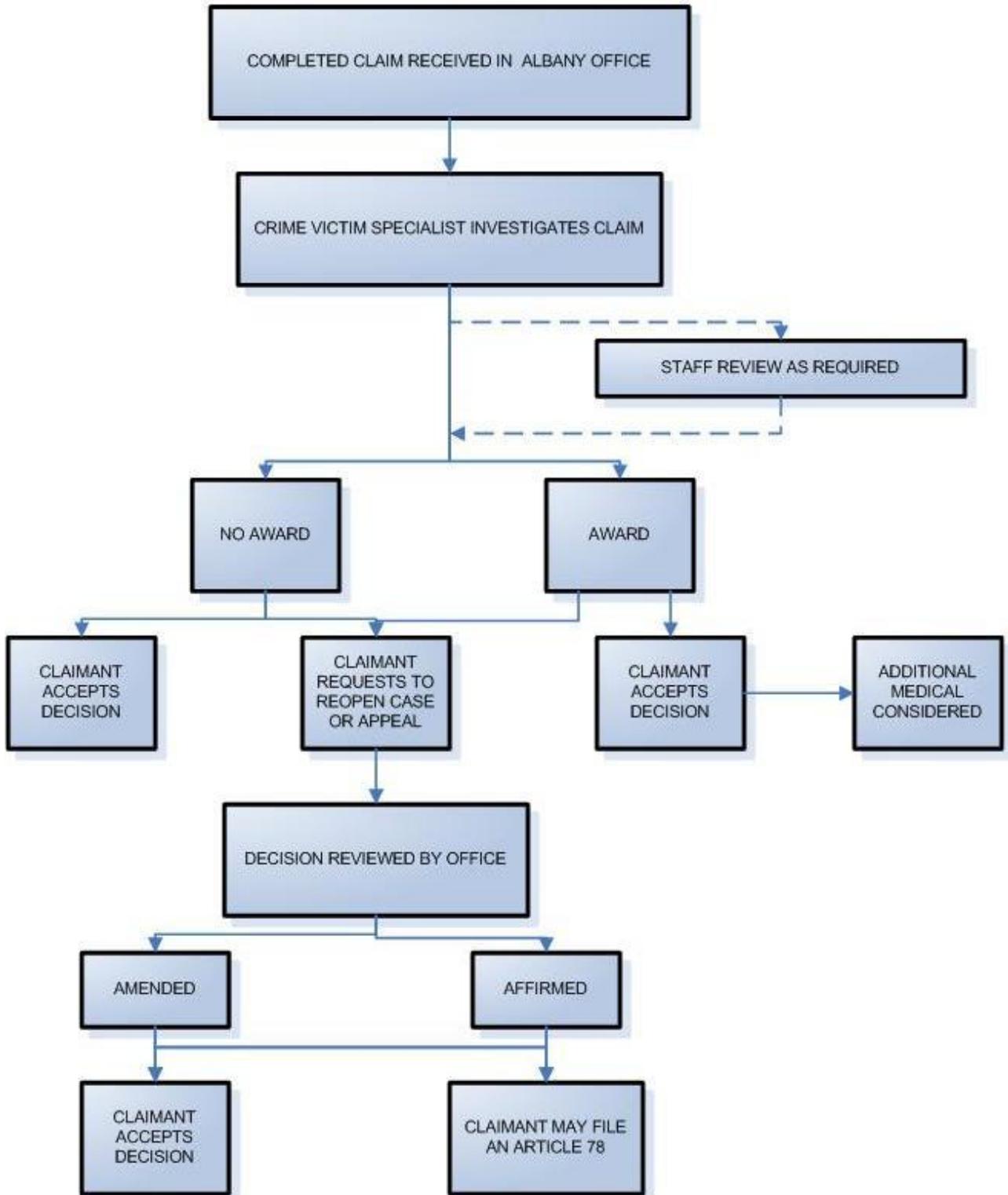
### *Eligibility requirements:*

- The victim must be an innocent victim of the crime
- Victims of crime who were physically injured as a result of the crime
- Victims of crime who are under 18, older than 60, or disabled, who were not physically injured
- Vulnerable elderly or incompetent or physically disabled persons – defined as those who are unable to care for themselves – who have savings stolen
- Certain relatives and dependents, including spouse, grandparent, parent, stepparent, guardian, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, child, stepchild or grandchild of a victim
- Those who paid for or incurred burial costs for an innocent crime victim
- Child victims and/or a child who witnesses a crime
- Certain victims of unlawful imprisonment or kidnapping
- Certain stalking victims
- Victims of certain menacing, criminal mischief, robbery, harassment, criminal contempt and hate crime charges
- Victims of terrorist acts outside of the United States who are a resident of New York State
- Victims of frivolous lawsuits brought by a person who committed a crime against the victim

*Compensation includes:*

- Expenses for medical or other related services not covered by other insurance or benefit programs
- Lost earnings or loss of support up to \$600 a week, not to exceed the maximum of \$30,000
- Lost savings of vulnerable elderly or incompetent or physically disabled persons, not to exceed the maximum of \$30,000
- Burial expenses up to \$6,000 (for crimes committed on or after Nov. 1, 1996)
- Occupational rehabilitation expenses
- Counseling services to the victim and to certain family members
- The cost of repair or replacement of essential personal property lost, damaged or destroyed as the direct result of a crime up to \$500. A maximum of \$100 in cash can be replaced.
- Transportation expenses for necessary court appearances in connection with the prosecution of the crime or transportation for medical appointments necessary as a result of the crime
- The cost of residing at or utilizing the services of a domestic violence shelter
- Crime scene cleanup expenses and/or cost of securing a crime scene up to \$2,500
- Attorney fees – up to a maximum of \$1,000 – for representation before the agency and/or before an appellate court upon judicial review of the victim’s OVS claim

*The Claim Process*



### *Emergency Awards*

OVS may provide an emergency award before a final decision is made on a claim if an individual will suffer undue harm and is likely to be eligible for compensation. Under these conditions, the agency is authorized to award up to \$3,000 for burial expenses and \$2,500 for other expenses. Emergency awards are most commonly authorized for burial expenses, medication, relocation expenses, security devices, lost earnings/support or emergency medical equipment.

Crime victims must still meet the agency's eligibility criteria. Individuals applying for emergency awards must know the police department or precinct where the crime was reported and the assigned police complaint number. The agency determines eligibility within 24 to 72 hours, depending on the information provided and the nature of the claim. During fiscal year 2018–19, the agency approved 412 emergency awards totaling \$536,243.

### *Forensic Rape Examination Direct Reimbursement*

OVS directly reimburses providers that are licensed by New York State to perform forensic rape examination services. The reimbursement fee covers the examiner's services, related facility costs, basic laboratory tests and pharmaceuticals.

This reimbursement system is designed to ensure that sexual assault survivors are not billed for any forensic rape examination services and is an exception to the OVS payer of last resort rule. The agency will reimburse the provider if an individual does not have private health insurance or opts not to use their health insurance; this provides for the personal privacy of sexual assault victims. If a victim voluntarily elects to use his or her private health insurance benefits to cover the forensic exam, the facility performing the exam may not bill OVS. A licensed health care provider must file a direct reimbursement claim form and an itemized bill for services with OVS within one year of the examination to receive reimbursement.

OVS reimbursed health care providers \$4,923,215 on 6,304 forensic rape examination claims during 2018–19; the agency reimburses providers for itemized charges up to \$800. That reimbursement rate is reviewed annually and may, if appropriate, be adjusted by OVS in consultation with the state Department of Health.

### *Claims*

The Office of Victim Services handles three types of compensation claims: personal injury, death, and essential personal property.

Law enforcement agencies, hospitals and OVS-funded victim assistance programs (VAPs) are required to provide crime victims with information about compensation available through the agency. OVS provides victim notification cards, claim applications, brochures and posters to these entities for that purpose.

VAPs are required to assist victims with filing applications with OVS, which also will accept claims directly from individuals. Certain documents are required by OVS in order to accept a claim. Those documents depend on the type of crime and the type of victim: for example, a child or someone

older than 60. The agency investigates each claim to determine whether an individual is eligible for assistance. If an individual is deemed eligible, OVS awards the claim.

The following details the number of claims accepted for review to determine eligibility during the most recent 10 fiscal years:

FISCAL YEAR	TOTAL CLAIMS ACCEPTED
2009–2010	16,910
2010–2011	18,120
2011–2012	17,804
2012–2013	16,745
2013–2014	17,262
2014–2015	15,840
2015–2016	15,683
2016–2017	11,992
2017–2018	10,648
2018–2019	9,952

While the agency primarily assists victims of violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery or assault) who have suffered personal injury, it also can compensate victims of certain other crimes, such as burglary, larceny, stalking, kidnapping and unlawful imprisonment, who have not been injured.

*Accepted Claims by Type: Fiscal Year 2018-19*

Claim Type	Accepted
Personal Injury	6,906
Death	670
Essential Personal Property	2,376
Total Claims Accepted	9,952

*Awarded Claims*

OVS awarded a total of 6,140 claims during the 2018–19. **Please note:** Claims awarded in a fiscal year do not directly correlated to the number of claims accepted by the agency for review in that year. A claim accepted during one fiscal year may be awarded in a subsequent year.

Claim Type	Awarded
Personal Injury	4,671
Death	551
Essential Personal Property	918
Total Claims Awarded	6,140

### *Awarded Claims by Age and Gender*

Forty percent of all claims awarded involved individuals who ranged in age from 18 to 29.

Awarded claims involved more female victims than males (55 percent vs. 44 percent). The gender of the victim in the remaining 1 percent of claims was not reported, designated as “u” for unknown in the chart that follows.

Age	Gender	Claims Awarded
0–12	F	205
0–12	M	100
0–12	U	1
3–17	F	160
3–17	M	120
3–17	U	41
18–29	F	932
18–29	M	679
18–29	U	10
30–44	F	919
30–44	M	716
30–44	U	5
45–59	F	551
45–59	M	506
45–59	U	3
60 and older	F	650
60 and older	M	577
60 and older	U	5
		<b>Total: 6,140</b>

*Claims Paid*

A claim can be awarded in one fiscal year but not paid until a following year. In addition, claims can continue to be paid over multiple years. As a result, the number of claims paid during any given fiscal year can exceed the number of claims awarded during that year.

The following chart does not include payments made on emergency awards (see Page 14).

Claim Type	Paid	Amount
Personal Injury	2,667	\$14,870,975
Death	579	\$2,397,593
Essential Personal Property	1,016	\$274,724
Forensic Rape Exam Direct Reimbursement	6,304	\$4,923,215
<b>TOTAL</b>	10,566	\$22,466,506

*“No Award” Decisions*

During 2018–19, OVS determined that 3,681 claims were ineligible for assistance; these are known as “no award” decisions. It is important to note that these claims may have been received by the agency during that fiscal year or a prior fiscal year.

OVS deemed nearly half (1,670) of claims ineligible because individuals did not provide documentation and/or information necessary for the agency to investigate and make a determination. Those determinations can be reopened if an individual subsequently provides necessary documents for the agency to reevaluate the claim. The following chart details reasons claims were denied and the number of claims in each category.

*No Award Reason and Claim Totals*

No Information Supplied	<b>1,670</b>
Not Eligible	554
Unable to Locate Claimant	244
No Crime or Unable to Substantiate	183
No Cooperation with Police or DA	121
Duplicate Claim	113
Domestic Violence – No Physical Injury	102
Child Not Victim or Witness	100
No Compensable Loss	95
Pending Police Investigation	93
Victim Not a Victim of Crime	82
Unable to Locate Police Report	61
Claim Withdrawn	45
Conduct Contributing	35
Accident	32
Hit and Run, Leaving Scene of Property Damage	27
Not Essential Personal Property	25
Lost Property	21
Business Loss	17
Victim older than 18, must file his/her own claim	14
No Funeral Loss	8
Not Victim of Criminal Act	7
Claimant Died from Unrelated Cause	6
Legal Guardian Must File Claim	5
Crime Not in New York State	5
Died From Injuries	4
Pending Trial	3
Year Late Filed	2
Police Report Filed More Than A Week After Crime	2
Not Eligible for Crime Scene Clean-up	2
Conflicting Data	1
WTC – Unsubstantiated Injury	1
Crime Occurred Prior to 1967	1

### *Appeals*

Within 30 days of a decision date, individuals may make an application in writing to the OVS Director for an administrative review of the agency’s decision.

Appeals that proceed are brought before an Administrative Review Panel, which hears any evidence or argument by the individual relevant to the claim. The panel’s decision, either affirming or modifying the agency’s decision, becomes the final decision of OVS.

During 2018–19, 55 claimants appealed the agency’s decision. Some of those appeals were scheduled and determined during that same fiscal year while others were heard in the subsequent fiscal year.

The Administrative Review Panel reviewed 80 decisions in 2018–19, many of which were from previous fiscal years; 66 percent of those decisions were affirmed without changes.

Individuals may challenge the final decision of the Administrative Review Panel by commencing a proceeding pursuant to Article 78 of the state’s Civil Practice Rules and Laws within four months of the panel’s decision.

### *Rejected Claims*

Rejected claims are those that OVS could not process because they were missing required information about the claimant or the crime. These claims are incomplete submissions and cannot be investigated.

During 2018–19, the agency rejected 1,318 applications. It is the policy of OVS to contact claimants whose applications are rejected to seek the missing information. If at any time that information is submitted, the agency will process the claim. **Please note:** The following chart details the five most common reasons for claims being rejected and the corresponding number of claims in each category; it is not a comprehensive list of the reason for every rejected claim.

REASONS FOR REJECTED CLAIMS	
Application Not Signed/No Authorization Submitted	423
No Police Complaint Number	241
Claimant Under the Age of 18	219
No Police Agency Name	182
No Crime Date	87

## **Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Additional Medical Services**

The agency's Vocational Rehabilitation Unit strives to improve the quality of life for individuals who have been permanently disabled as a direct result of a crime. The unit is staffed by a registered nurse who:

- Manages the vocational and occupational rehabilitation program for victims and survivors of crime;
- Reviews the claimant's treatment plan to ensure services are allowable and related to the crime;
- Refers the claimant to an independent medical consultant as needed for further professional opinion on service needs and causal-related services;
- Reviews any requests for home modifications necessitated by a disability due to a crime (the home modification process takes on average between 12 and 18 months to complete);
- Reviews requests from claimants for costly medical equipment (i.e., wheelchairs, beds, prosthesis, vehicle modifications, etc.) and works with vendors for reasonable and customary costs;
- Assists the agency's Additional Medical Unit with interpreting medical bills and records;
- Reviews medical bills, reports and claimant requests for appropriateness to injuries sustained from the crime;
- Reviews requests for educational assistance for job retraining; and
- Develops and maintains cooperative relationships with community resources to assist the victim in achieving pre-injury status or maximum potential;
- Negotiates with Providers on bills in excess of \$20,000 to agree on accepting some percentage of the bill as payment in full.

## **Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Additional Medical Disbursements**

The agency's Additional Medical Claims Unit is responsible for processing medical bills received as a result of an awarded claim. Individuals may submit requests for reimbursement at any time for causally related expenses, including medical and mental health care. Some individuals submit bills throughout the course of their lifetime.

During 2018–19, the Additional Medical Unit approved:

- 405 claims for counseling, totaling \$1,044,782
- 67 claims for homecare for disabled individuals, totaling \$5,211,987
- 1,279 claims for other medical and related expenses, totaling \$7,292,831

In addition, OVS paid for the following vocational rehabilitation benefits, such as vehicle modifications, durable medical equipment and home modifications:

EXPENSE TYPE	AWARD
Ambulance	\$442,172
Counseling	\$1,044,782
Court Transportation	\$938
Dentist	\$745,507
Doctor	\$2,273,261
Durable Medical Equipment (DMI)	\$422,169
Funeral	\$15,000
Home Care/Facility	\$717,378
Home Care/Individual	\$4,494,609
Home Modifications	\$296,433
Hospital	\$2,117,324
Medical Consultant	\$228,698
Medical Supplies	\$249,329
Medical Transportation	\$74,992
Moving/Storage	\$15,026
Other	\$1,307
Pharmacy/Medications	\$340,626
Security System	\$2,500
Vehicle Modifications	\$67,549
	<b>\$13,549,600</b>

## Grants Unit

The Grants Unit is responsible for:

- Distributing grants funded by the federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) to community-based providers to provide direct services to crime victims and their families. The unit oversees the open, competitive process that determines how those grants are awarded. Most grant contracts align with the federal fiscal year (Oct. 1 through Sept. 30).
- Administering those grants and monitoring the agencies that receive them. Victim assistance programs provide a comprehensive array of services, such as crisis intervention, legal assistance, counseling, emergency financial assistance, transportation, intervention, information, referrals, telephone counseling, and assistance with filing for compensation and other benefits.
- Overseeing and supporting the activities of the Office of Victim Services' Advisory Council.
- Coordinating statewide training for victim assistance programs and other agencies, including law enforcement and health care providers.

### Victim Assistance Programs

OVS receives state and federal funding to provide grants to community-based service providers that assist crime victims and witnesses across New York State. Providers receiving these grants include criminal justice agencies, such as police and probation departments and district attorneys' and sheriffs' offices; hospitals and health care providers; and non-profit organizations, such as YWCAs, rape crisis centers, and community action programs.

Nearly all funding available for these grants is the result of fines, fee and surcharges paid by certain offenders convicted in state or federal court. The agency has appropriations of \$56 million in federal VOCA funds; \$13 million from the state's Criminal Justice Improvement Account; and \$2.8 million from the General Fund for grant making during 2018–19.

Service providers must respond to a Request for Applications issued by OVS to be considered for funding. This process allows the Grants Unit to assess a program's ability to serve crime victims and their families, using criteria including, but not limited to, the program's past performance and other resources available within a geographical area. Grant funding allows providers to maintain or in some cases, expand services to their communities.

Many programs for crime victims and witnesses could not exist without funding from OVS. For example, the agency is a major source of funding for the Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) program. This program – offered by the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, and the New York State Sheriffs' Association – notifies individuals when an offender's incarceration status in a local or state correctional facility changes.

During 2018–19, OVS awarded grants to the following providers for direct services and/or upgraded technology and equipment to better serve victims. Providers listed more than once offer multiple programs that serve crime victims:

<b>VOCA GRANTS</b>	
<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Award</b>
A New Hope Center	\$565,198.40
Advocacy Center of Tompkins County	\$197,447.90
Advocacy Center of Tompkins County	\$129,582.70
Advocacy Center of Tompkins County	\$139,245.60
Barrier Free Living Inc.	\$133,512.05
Behavioral Health Services North	\$447,091.22
BestSelf Behavioral Health (formerly CATS)	\$409,620.51
Beth Israel Medical Center	\$239,692.12
Bivona Child Advocacy Center	\$222,019.84
Brighter Tomorrows Inc.	\$103,369.64
Bronx County District Attorney	\$412,614.80
Bronx Independent Living Services Inc.	\$149,020.04
BronxWorks Inc.	\$91,071.50
Brooklyn Chinese American Association	\$97,769.10
CAMBA Inc.	\$309,792.29
Catholic Charities of Fulton & Montgomery Counties	\$275,081.30
Catholic Charities of Fulton & Montgomery Counties	\$49,953.80
Catholic Charities of Saratoga, Warren, & Washington Counties	\$230,962.76
Catholic Charities of Schoharie County	\$52,941.19
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany	\$89,194.91
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester	\$102,341.24
Catskill Regional Medical Center	\$68,663.40
Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc.	\$251,434.81
Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc.	\$52,829.01
Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc.	\$109,181.50
Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc.	\$301,846.42
Cayuga Counseling Services Inc.	\$184,235.94

VOCA GRANTS	
Program Name	Award
Cayuga County District Attorney	\$44,573.10
Cayuga Seneca Community Action Agency, Inc.	\$50,271.90
Center for Safety & Change, Inc.	\$900,831.79
Center for Safety & Change, Inc.	\$87,986.02
Chances and Changes, Inc.	\$163,473.70
Chances and Changes, Inc.	\$36,803.49
Chautauqua County	\$198,299.40
Child and Family Services of Erie County	\$173,820.00
City of Elmira	\$96,000.00
City of Rochester, New York	\$373,314.50
Community Action of Greene County Inc.	\$68,405.81
Community Action of Greene County Inc.	\$201,345.00
Community Agency for Senior Citizens, Inc.	\$414,695.41
CONNECT, Inc.	\$92,162.07
County of Albany	\$554,375.47
County of Genesee	\$95,205.50
County of Genesee	\$173,550.00
County of Monroe-Sheriff's Office	\$281,638.50
County of Monroe-DA	\$218,563.62
County of Ontario	\$228,413.90
Crime Victims Assistance Center, Inc.	\$490,803.73
Crime Victims Assistance Center, Inc.	\$129,265.11
Crime Victims Center Inc DBA Parents for Megan's Law Inc.	\$64,226.25
Crime Victims Center Inc DBA Parents for Megan's Law Inc.	\$166,332.74
Crime Victims Center Inc DBA Parents for Megan's Law Inc.	\$66,516.37
Crime Victims Support Services of the North Bronx, Inc.	\$230,926.28
Crown Heights Jewish Community Council, Inc.	\$201,164.28
Day One New York, Inc.	\$137,775.24
Delaware Opportunities, Inc.	\$135,252.00

<b>VOCA GRANTS</b>	
<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Award</b>
Delaware Opportunities, Inc.	\$90,571.00
Division of State Police of New York State	\$1,025,086.40
Domestic Violence & Rape Crisis Services of Saratoga County DBA Wellspring	\$563,094.82
Dominican Women’s Development Center	\$370,323.43
EAC, Inc.	\$171,008.50
East Harlem Neighborhood Based Alliance	\$120,140.54
Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families	\$227,867.81
Empire Justice Center	\$78,383.50
Equinox, Inc.	\$547,944.80
Erie County District Attorney	\$580,000.00
Erie County Probation Department	\$80,711.80
Family Counseling Center of Fulton County, Inc.	\$60,910.20
Family Counseling Service of the Finger Lakes, Inc.	\$160,182.18
Family Counseling Service of the Finger Lakes, Inc.	\$69,091.92
Family Services, Inc.	\$435,441.44
Friends of the Chautauqua County Child Advocacy Program	\$204,739.60
Fulton County District Attorney	\$116,183.63
Fund for the City of New York	\$257,473.14
Good Shepherd Services	\$234,851.15
Grace Smith House, Inc.	\$91,907.88
HANAC, Inc.	\$82,680.00
HELP Social Service Corporation	\$231,607.88
Herkimer County District Attorney	\$68,753.10
Hopes Door, Inc.	\$636,049.90
Ichan School of Medicine of Mount Sinai	\$77,275.90
Ichan School of Medicine of Mount Sinai	\$841,577.25
In Our Own Voices, Inc.	\$78,837.63
International Institute of Buffalo, Inc.	\$112,641.10
International Institute of Buffalo, Inc.	\$78,964.65

<b>VOCA GRANTS</b>	
<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Award</b>
Jamaica Service Program for Older Adults, Inc.	\$245,354.20
Kings County District Attorney's Office	\$682,202.30
Korean American Family Service Center, Inc.	\$143,000.00
Legal Aid Society of Rochester NY	\$139,940.00
Legal Services, NYC	\$191,481.04
Lewis County Opportunities, Inc.	\$76,031.68
Liberty Resources, Inc.	\$270,234.72
Livingston County	\$72,160.40
LSNY Bronx Corporation (Legal Services NYC-Bronx)	\$76,357.13
McMahon/Ryan Child Advocacy Site, Inc.	\$216,330.75
Mechanicville Area Community Services Center, Inc.	\$46,796.10
Mental Health Association in Orange County, Inc.	\$44,745.42
Mental Health Association of Columbia-Greene Counties, Inc.	\$85,169.49
Mental Health Association of Columbia-Greene Counties, Inc.	\$323,891.58
Mothers Against Drunk Driving	\$180,975.60
Mount Sinai Hospital	\$196,317.89
Mount Sinai Hospital	\$196,317.89
Mount Sinai Hospital	\$172,759.80
My Sisters' Place, Inc.	\$559,000.70
Neighborhood Self Help by Older Persons Project, Inc.	\$109,942.30
New York Asian Women's Center, Inc./Womankind	\$337,455.79
New York Asian Women's Center, Inc./Womankind	\$761,796.10
New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault	\$85,674.52
New York City Department for the Aging	\$500,647.89
New York City Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project	\$172,477.50
New York City Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project	\$133,862.21
New York City Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project	\$163,916.92
New York City Health & Hospital Corporation-BELLEVUE	\$876,483.11
New York City Health & Hospital Corporation-HARLEM	\$102,494.15

VOCA GRANTS	
Program Name	Award
New York City Health & Hospital Corporation-JACOBI	\$224,012.40
New York City Health & Hospital Corporation-LINCOLN	\$175,431.10
New York City Health & Hospital Corporation-METROPOLITAN	\$189,907.43
New York City Health & Hospital Corporation-NCB	\$103,564.13
New York County District Attorney's Office	\$447,768.10
New York Legal Assistance Group, Inc.	\$194,594.40
New York State Sheriffs' Association Institute, Inc.	\$799,894.16
Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center	\$269,529.59
Niagara, County of	\$344,840.60
North Brooklyn Coalition Against Family Violence, Inc.	\$200,915.66
Northeast Health Foundation, Inc.	\$670,700.11
Northwest Buffalo Community Center, Inc.	\$238,528.69
NYS Department of Corrections & Community Supervision	\$357,494.80
NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs	\$448,986.20
Onondaga County District Attorney's Office	\$161,902.00
Opportunities for Otsego, Inc.	\$228,423.00
Orange County Probation	\$469,457.30
Orange County Safe Homes Project, Inc.	\$222,335.10
Orleans County	\$98,641.97
Oswego County Opportunities, Inc.	\$306,272.20
Oswego County Opportunities, Inc.	\$45,761.86
PACE University	\$103,610.00
Parent Education Program	\$328,841.00
Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson, Inc.	\$386,319.70
Planned Parenthood of Central and Western NY, Inc.	\$506,316.20
Planned Parenthood of North Country New York, Inc.	\$268,452.31
Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes, Inc.	\$187,472.56
Polish Community Center of Buffalo, Inc.	\$336,845.46
Putnam County Department of Social Services	\$176,001.80

<b>VOCA GRANTS</b>	
<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Award</b>
Putnam/Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center	\$310,152.70
Putnam/Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center	\$192,728.00
Queens County District Attorney	\$523,795.45
Queens Legal Services Corporation	\$96,620.04
Rensselaer County-DA	\$265,864.30
Retreat, Inc.	\$221,786.51
Richmond County District Attorney	\$31,725.20
Rochester Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children	\$181,657.41
Rochester Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children	\$172,462.13
Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes, Inc.	\$128,519.30
Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes, Inc.	\$130,734.50
Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes, Inc.	\$98,655.70
Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes, Inc.	\$176,512.83
Safe Horizon, Inc.	\$900,205.57
Safe Horizon, Inc.	\$211,800.08
Safe Horizon, Inc.	\$323,625.90
Safe Horizon, Inc.	\$433,343.65
Safe Horizon, Inc.	\$2,076,145.50
Safe Horizon, Inc.	\$1,637,462.18
Safe Horizon, Inc.	\$228,516.64
Sanctuary for Families, Inc.	\$471,329.40
Saratoga Center for the Family	\$166,767.38
Schenectady County District Attorney	\$261,688.62
Schuyler County	\$68,143.27
Seneca County Mental Health Department	\$91,599.30
SOS Shelter, Inc.	\$268,078.20
St. Lawrence Valley Renewal House for Victims of Family Violence, Inc.	\$329,947.00
St. Lawrence Valley Renewal House for Victims of Family Violence, Inc.	\$118,005.28

VOCA GRANTS	
Program Name	Award
St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center-CVTC	\$731,375.94
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe	\$78,965.93
START Children's Center	\$308,963.42
Steuben Church People Against Poverty, Inc. DBA Arbor Housing Development	\$165,321.00
Suffolk County District Attorney's Office	\$196,790.10
Suicide Prevention & Crisis Services, Inc.	\$119,019.49
Suicide Prevention & Crisis Services, Inc.	\$77,513.67
The Arab-American Family Support Center	\$102,217.70
The Children's Aid Society	\$224,050.66
The Children's Aid Society	\$161,322.16
The Kingsbridge Heights Community Center, Inc.	\$408,708.30
The New York and Presbyterian Hospital	\$270,173.81
The New York and Presbyterian Hospital	\$264,651.62
The New York and Presbyterian Hospital	\$508,708.49
The New York Center for Children	\$115,612.16
The Safe Center LI, Inc.	\$297,846.64
The Safe Center LI, Inc.	\$188,160.70
The Safe Center LI, Inc.	\$270,308.68
The Salvation Army	\$205,931.70
The Salvation Army	\$66,874.60
The Salvation Army	\$53,104.19
Ulster County Probation	\$574,900.30
Unity House of Troy, Inc.	\$250,258.97
Urban Justice Center	\$160,721.60
Urban Justice Center	\$209,571.70
Urban Resource Institute	\$193,956.10
Vera House, Inc.	\$222,257.95
Vera House. Inc.	\$319,684.30
Vera Institute of Justice, Inc.	\$134,094.74

VOCA GRANTS	
Program Name	Award
Victim Resource Center of the Finger Lakes, Inc.	\$127,732.80
Victim Resource Center of the Finger Lakes, Inc.	\$59,163.00
Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County	\$806,493.55
Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk, Inc.	\$485,258.64
Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk, Inc.	\$313,737.79
Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk, Inc.	\$242,452.22
Violence Intervention Program, Inc.	\$1,145,297.08
Warren County District Attorney's Office	\$211,473.60
Washington County District Attorney's Office	\$170,552.20
Wayne County	\$66,588.60
Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc.	\$1,047,491.44
Westchester County District Attorney's Office	\$332,676.16
Willow Domestic Violence Center	\$211,979.30
Wyoming County	\$90,945.40
Wyoming County	\$42,023.70
Young Women's Christian Association of Niagara, Inc.	\$73,993.40
Young Women's Christian Association of Niagara, Inc.	\$164,892.82
YWCA of Cortland	\$136,259.50
YWCA of Schenectady	\$373,428.16
YWCA of the Mohawk Valley	\$389,493.90
YWCA of the Mohawk Valley	\$263,575.73

CASE MANAGER GRANTS	
Program Name	Award
Brighter Tomorrows Inc.	\$68,268.40
Bronx Independent Living Services Inc.	\$61,320.00
BronxWorks Inc.	\$75,400.00
CAC Foundation, Inc.	\$45,986.00
Catholic Charities of Saratoga, Warren, & Washington Counties	\$49,807.00

<b>CASE MANAGER GRANTS</b>	
<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Award</b>
Catholic Charities of Schoharie County	\$48,253.00
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany	\$52,137.00
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester	\$45,148.00
Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc.	\$49,973.00
Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc.	\$99,948.00
Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc.	\$49,973.00
Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc.	\$49,973.00
Cayuga Counseling Services Inc.	\$66,494.58
Center for Safety & Change, Inc.	\$78,263.30
Center for Safety & Change, Inc.	\$74,749.00
Chances and Changes, Inc.	\$75,950.00
Chances and Changes, Inc.	\$75,950.00
County of Albany	\$147,850.00
Crime Victims Assistance Center, Inc.	\$83,228.00
Crime Victims Assistance Center, Inc.	\$42,548.00
Crime Victims Center, Inc. DBA parents for Megan's Law	\$69,341.00
Day One New York, Inc.	\$68,192.00
Delaware Opportunities, Inc.	\$51,127.00
EAC, Inc.	\$74,746.40
Equinox, Inc.	\$82,440.00
Family Counseling Center of Fulton County, Inc.	\$44,436.00
Family Counseling Service of the Finger Lakes, Inc.	\$48,396.00
Family Counseling Service of the Finger Lakes, Inc.	\$48,396.00
Family Services, Inc.	\$171,600.00
Grace Smith House, Inc.	\$56,039.00
In Our Own Voices, Inc.	\$65,140.00
International Institute of Buffalo, Inc.	\$59,000.00
International Institute of Buffalo, Inc.	\$71,000.00
Liberty Resources, Inc.	\$77,361.00
LSNY Bronx Corporation (Legal Services NYC-Bronx)	\$80,000.00

<b>CASE MANAGER GRANTS</b>	
<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Award</b>
McMahon/Ryan Child Advocacy Site, Inc.	\$62,640.50
My Sisters' Place, Inc.	\$160,000.00
New York City Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project	\$39,656.00
New York City Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project	\$14,756.27
New York City Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project	\$14,756.27
North Brooklyn Coalition Against Family Violence, Inc.	\$56,250.00
Northeast Health Foundation, Inc.	\$153,278.39
NYS Department of Corrections & Community Supervision	\$80,000.00
Ontario County District Attorney's Office	\$38,818.60
Orange County Probation	\$160,000.00
Orange County Safe Homes Project, Inc.	\$55,800.00
Oswego County Opportunities, Inc.	\$103,401.00
Putnam/Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center	\$104,985.00
Putnam/Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center	\$50,980.00
Queens County District Attorney	\$50,790.00
Queens Legal Services Corporation	\$80,000.00
Retreat, Inc.	\$70,004.50
Richmond County District Attorney	\$80,000.00
Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes, Inc.	\$43,025.00
Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes, Inc.	\$43,025.00
Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes, Inc.	\$43,025.00
Safe Horizon, Inc.	\$52,565.00
Safe Horizon, Inc.	\$176,945.00
Safe Horizon, Inc.	\$174,611.00
Sanctuary for Families, Inc.	\$58,480.00
St. Lawrence Valley Renewal House for Victims of Family Violence, Inc.	\$72,757.31
St. Lawrence Valley Renewal House for Victims of Family Violence, Inc.	\$72,757.31
START Children's Center	\$97,500.00
START Children's Center, Inc.	\$48,750.00

<b>CASE MANAGER GRANTS</b>	
<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Award</b>
The Arab-American Family Support Center	\$80,000.00
The Children's Aid Society	\$79,967.20
The Children's Aid Society	\$79,967.20
The New York and Presbyterian Hospital	\$77,449.00
The Safe Center LI, Inc.	\$112,045.00
The Safe Center LI, Inc.	\$56,020.00
The Safe Center LI, Inc.	\$56,020.00
The Salvation Army	\$59,400.37
The Salvation Army	\$59,400.37
Unity House of Troy, Inc.	\$47,069.00
Urban Resource Institute (Center for the Elimination of Violence in the Family)	\$78,499.90
Urban Resource Institute (Center for the Elimination of Violence in the Family)	\$1,500.10
Vera House, Inc.	\$62,647.00
Vera House, Inc.	\$32,647.00
Victim Resource Center of the Finger Lakes, Inc.	\$80,000.00
Victim Resource Center of the Finger Lakes, Inc.	\$80,000.00
Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County	\$220,678.40
Violence Intervention Program, Inc.	\$148,320.00
Willow Domestic Violence Center of Greater Rochester, Inc.	\$39,213.00
YWCA of the Mohawk Valley	\$42,654.40
YWCA of the Mohawk Valley	\$42,654.40

<b>ATTORNEY GRANTS</b>	
<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Award</b>
Advocacy Center of Tompkins County	\$120,469.27
Barrier Free Living, Inc.	\$250,000.00
Brighter Tomorrows, Inc.	\$263,968.90
Bronx Independent Living Services, Inc.	\$100,000.00

<b>ATTORNEY GRANTS</b>	
<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Award</b>
BronxWorks, Inc.	\$250,026.00
CAMBA, Inc.	\$400,000.00
Catholic Charities of Saratoga, Warren, & Washington Counties	\$88,800.00
Catholic Charities of Schoharie County	\$84,022.00
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany	\$75,064.00
Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc.	\$120,000.00
Cayuga Counseling Services, Inc.	\$131,524.00
Center for Safety & Change, Inc.	\$529,974.48
Chautauqua County	\$120,000.00
Child and Family Services of Erie County	\$688,573.00
Crime Victims Assistance Center, Inc.	\$253,150.00
Crime Victims Center Inc DBA Parents for Megan's Law, Inc.	\$131,167.00
Crime Victims Treatment Center	\$450,534.96
Day One New York, Inc.	\$147,503.05
Empire Justice Center	\$811,995.05
Equinox, Inc.	\$115,008.00
Family Counseling Center of Fulton County, Inc.	\$89,223.00
Family Services, Inc.	\$335,639.00
Grace Smith House, Inc.	\$142,312.00
HANAC, Inc.	\$216,687.00
Hopes Door, Inc.	\$388,265.00
International Institute of Buffalo, Inc.	\$93,320.00
Legal Aid Society of Rochester NY	\$111,212.50
Legal Services, NYC	\$317,000.00
LSNY Bronx Corporation (Legal Services NYC-Bronx)	\$472,851.63
Mechanicville Area Community Services Center, Inc.	\$34,824.00
My Sisters' Place, Inc.	\$400,173.00
New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault	\$194,492.12
New York Legal Assistance Group, Inc.	\$190,848.00
North Brooklyn Coalition Against Family Violence, Inc.	\$165,336.50

<b>ATTORNEY GRANTS</b>	
<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Award</b>
Northeast Health Foundation, Inc.	\$121,537.46
Opportunities for Otsego, Inc.	\$489,781.00
Orange County Safe Homes Project, Inc.	\$399,447.00
PACE University	\$433,675.00
Planned Parenthood of Central and Western New York, Inc.	\$479,029.08
Putnam/Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center	\$113,210.79
Queens Legal Services Corporation	\$350,000.00
Retreat, Inc.	\$139,292.00
Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes, Inc.	\$104,572.00
Safe Horizon, Inc.	\$796,669.00
Sanctuary for Families, Inc.	\$905,637.00
SOS Shelter, Inc.	\$67,815.00
St. Lawrence Valley Renewal House for Victims of Family Violence, Inc.	\$114,640.85
Steuben Church People Against Poverty, Inc.	\$107,971.00
The New York and Presbyterian Hospital	\$246,571.37
The Safe Center LI, Inc.	\$153,203.00
The Salvation Army	\$130,314.00
Ulster County	\$257,769.00
Unity House of Troy, Inc.	\$167,661.00
Urban Resource Institute	\$184,240.00
Vera House, Inc.	\$251,146.71
Victim Resource Center of the Finger Lakes, Inc.	\$93,774.00
Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk, Inc.	\$237,100.00
Wellspring	\$88,800.00
Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc.	\$215,828.16
YWCA of Schenectady	\$105,030.00
YWCA of the Mohawk Valley	\$77,730.57

<b>FORENSIC INTERVIEWER GRANTS</b>	
<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Award</b>
BestSelf Behavioral Health, Inc.	\$63,930.00
CAC Foundation, Inc.	\$78,170.00
Cayuga Counseling Services, Inc.	\$667.42
Clinton County, Inc.	\$143,788.00
County of Genesee	\$23,400.00
Crime Victims Assistance Center, Inc.	\$55,779.00
Family Services of Chemung County	\$29,480.77
Friends of the Chautauqua County Child Advocacy Program	\$70,400.00
Madison County Sheriff's Office	\$77,371.03
McMahon/Ryan Child Advocacy Site, Inc.	\$75,000.00
Mental Health Association of Columbia-Greene	\$63,999.35
Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center	\$39,167.83
Oneida County Sheriff's Office	\$67,445.22
Partnership for Ontario County, Inc.	\$78,000.00
Putnam County Dept. Of Social Services	\$29,500.00
Safe Center of Long Island	\$60,720.00
Safe Horizon, Inc.	\$75,000.00
Safe Horizon, Inc.	\$300,000.00
Saratoga Center for the Family	\$55,516.00
START Children's Center, Inc.	\$53,750.00
Victim Assistance of Jefferson County (CAC)	\$169,598.00

## Training

OVS contract managers provide technical assistance and training to victim assistance programs as part of their on-site monitoring responsibilities. Claims Processing Unit investigators also teach monthly compensation training in Albany and Brooklyn for victim assistance programs, and Grants Unit staff provide updates and information at regional coalition meetings with providers in five geographic regions of the state monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly.

## Advisory Council

The role of the Advisory Council is “to assist in formulation of policies on the problems of crime victims and to provide recommendations to the director to improve the delivery of services to victims by the office.” The Council must have at least 16 members who demonstrate an active interest in, or professional knowledge of, the problems, needs and treatment of victims. Appointed by OVS, members serve three-year terms and each year, elect a president and vice president to lead the Council.

The New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault each must have a representative on the Council. Members must be active members of one of the five regional crime victim service provider coalitions. In addition, members of the Legislature or other individuals having a special interest in victim issues may be invited to serve as non-voting, ex-officio members.

The Council has five standing committees with the following responsibilities:

- The *Legislative Committee* studies and suggests legislation for consideration by the agency, in addition to monitoring legislation related to crime victims and keeping the Council informed of any relevant changes.
- The *Program Committee* reviews, analyzes, and reports on victim, fiscal, and administrative issues common among service providers funded by the agency. The committee focuses on concerns directly affecting program administration, including, but not limited, to budgeting, staffing and the grant process.
- The *Compensation and Service Committee* informs the agency of unmet needs and advises how to improve services for crime victims. The committee reviews and discusses victim compensation issues and may recommend changes to compensation applications, benefits and services.
- The *Social Justice Committee* studies the effects of social and economic inequality on marginalized populations of crime victims and reports findings and recommendations to the agency to address those issues.
- The *Public Outreach Committee* notifies the agency of efforts to inform crime victims and the general public on victims’ issues, linking efforts from across the state and offering planning and implementation information to any service provider.

## Training and Outreach

The OVS Training and Outreach Unit coordinates and provides training to all funded victim assistance programs across the state. To make trainings as accessible as possible for these programs, trainings are routinely offered regionally and often recorded and available on the agency's [VAP Training Center Webpage](#). The Unit also plans and implements the agency's statewide conference; distributes the quarterly OVS newsletter for VAP staff; and plays a critical role in the agency's major outreach and public awareness initiatives, such as press conferences and events to mark National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

In 2018–19, the OVS Training and Outreach Unit provided 35 free online and in-person trainings and webinars that were attended by 1,482 advocates, direct service professionals and experts from more than 500 organizations. Highlights:

### Seeking Solutions: Starting the Conversation about Male Sexual Assault

More than 200 victim services professionals attended this day-long summit, organized by OVS for the first time and scheduled to occur biennially. The event, which received local [electronic](#) and [print](#) media coverage, featured:

- Keynote presentation by *New York Times* best-selling author and award-winning op-ed columnist Charles M. Blow
- A panel of male survivors of sexual assault
- A solutions-focused round table of experts in the fields of victim advocacy, law enforcement, psychology, media and more

### Forensic Interviewing of Children

Nearly 30 law enforcement and victim service professionals from OVS-funded programs completed a five-day, National Children's Advocacy Center Forensic Interviewing Model Course. Attendees were immersed in the latest research-based information on techniques for interviewing children and provided the opportunity to develop and refine their interviewing skills. Additional information about this training, including highlights and interviews from attendees, is available [online](#).

### Victim Service Academy Training

More than 280 victim service professionals from 100-plus organizations attended Victim Service Academy Training across the state. OVS partnered with the Institute for Disaster Mental Health at SUNY New Paltz (IDMH) to educate victim advocates about the ways in which they can help victims receive basic early support and learn self-care practices that will help enable them to handle professional stressors resulting from working with victims of crime.

### Training & Technical Assistance Request Pilot Program

More than 900 victim services and allied professionals took advantage of a pilot [Training & Technical Assistance Request Program](#) between April and September 2018. Through the program, OVS matched its funded programs with consultants who delivered a wide-range of custom-tailored organizational leadership and communication services trainings and webinars at no-cost to programs. Highlights from the successful pilot program are available [online](#).

## Trauma-Informed Care Training Pilot Program

More than 100 staff from 20 different facilities operated by the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) were trained in key elements of trauma-informed care through a pilot program sponsored by OVS and DOCCS in partnership with the Institute for Health and Recovery. Individuals trained included more than a dozen trainers who were taught how to lead a course focusing on a trauma-informed curriculum.

## OVS Outreach

*OVS Outreach* is the agency's quarterly e-newsletter designed for victim advocates and allied professionals. Each issue focuses on a specific theme and features important information from the field of victim services, including legislative updates and upcoming training opportunities. To date, *OVS Outreach* has more than 4,000 subscribers.

## VAP Training Center

The [VAP Training Center](#) contains a calendar of current training opportunities, access to previous training materials and other resources. The agency also uses the [OVS Training Listserv](#) to distribute information.

## "Son of Sam" Law

New York State enacted Section 632-a of the Executive Law in 1977 in response to numerous offers made by the media to pay serial killer David Berkowitz for the right to tell his story. The statute is commonly known as the state's Son of Sam law, after one of the monikers given to Berkowitz. The law permits profits of a crime, such as money received for a book or movie that details the crime, to be diverted to victims.

Since its passage, the law has been amended to withstand a constitutional challenge and to add a new category, funds of a convicted person. The law defines funds of a convicted person as all funds and property received from any source by individuals convicted of certain state and federal crimes committed in New York State. The law also requires that anyone paying or receiving profits from a crime or funds of a convicted person notify OVS of those funds.

For funds of a convicted person, OVS must determine whether the underlying crime committed by the perpetrator is a specified crime detailed in law (primarily serious felonies). No such determination is necessary if the agency receives notice of profits from a crime.

OVS then notifies crime victims and inquires whether they want the agency to freeze those funds or profits, enabling victims to retain a lawyer and initiate a lawsuit. Victims have three years to sue the perpetrator from the discovery of either source of funds.

During 2018–19, the agency froze \$3,419,517 under the funds of a convicted person provision of the law; there was no activity from profits from a crime. The following chart details funds frozen during most recent 10 years:

FISCAL YEAR	AMOUNT FROZEN
2009–2010	\$3,570,143
2010–2011	\$1,197,610
2011–2012	\$1,731,159
2012–2013	\$2,350,389
2013–2014	\$1,272,371
2014–2015	\$1,620,131
2015–2016	\$10,377,047
2016–2017	\$2,061,216
2017–2018	\$4,133,934
2018–2019	\$3,419,517

## Subrogation and Restitution

When OVS provides a monetary award to a crime victim, the agency has a lien on any funds recovered by the victim as a result of a civil proceeding brought against the defendant or any other responsible third party. The state also is authorized to commence a civil action against a victim’s assailant or any liable third party if the victim declines to do so. This assignment to the state of the victim’s cause of action is called subrogation. If a civil action results in the victim receiving a financial award greater than the OVS award, the agency only receives the amount equal to what it paid the victim.

Restitution is money paid to a victim by the perpetrator of the crime and is designed to compensate the victim for the losses he/she incurred as a result of the crime. OVS has a lien on restitution when the agency makes a monetary award to the claimant and the claimant receives restitution for the same loss.

As noted earlier, the agency’s training, “Crime Victim’s Compensation and the Issue of Restitution,” is accredited by the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board. OVS pursued this accreditation so that more attorneys would attend the course, bringing added attention to the issue of restitution and increasing the instances of awards to victims.

<b>SUBROGATION AND RESTITUTION BY MONTH FOR 2018–19</b>			
<b>Month</b>	<b>Subrogation</b>	<b>Restitution</b>	<b>Total</b>
April	\$29,889.84	\$32,026.58	\$61,916.42
May	\$19,572.12	\$5,253.13	\$24,825.25
June	\$185,821.13	\$4,236.80	\$190,057.93
July	\$3,315.99	\$7,263.96	\$10,579.95
August	\$20,122.38	\$10,771.57	\$30,883.95
September	\$22,360.10	\$2,362.68	\$24,722.78
October	\$51,566.29	\$5,256.71	\$56,823.00
November	\$13,491.88	\$11,640.43	\$25,132.31
December	\$24,707.95	\$1,152.12	\$25,860.07
January	\$17,543.13	\$2,784.24	\$20,327.37
February	\$19,052.65	\$6,376.31	\$25,428.96
March	\$26,241.99	\$39,136.29	\$65,378.28
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$433,675.45</b>	<b>\$128,260.82</b>	<b>\$561,936.27</b>

## 2018 CHAPTER LAWS AFFECTING CRIME VICTIMS AND RELATED ISSUES

Establishes the crime of sex trafficking of a child; repealer

Chapter	Signed Date	Effective Date
189	08/15/2018	takes effect on (11/13/18) the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law

Relates to child abuse in an educational setting

Chapter	Signed Date	Effective Date
363	12/07/2018	takes effect on (6/5/19) the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law

Relates to services for victims of human trafficking

Chapter	Signed Date	Effective Date
238	08/24/2018	takes effect on (12/22/18) the one hundred twentieth day after it shall have become a law

Relates to the reimbursement of shelter costs and crime scene cleanup for certain, non-injured victims

Chapter	Signed Date	Effective Date
204	08/22/2018	takes effect on (2/18/19) the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become law and shall apply to all claims filed on or after such effective date

Relates to information concerning services for human trafficking victims in certain lodging facilities

Chapter	Signed Date	Effective Date
190	08/15/2018	takes effect on (10/14/18) the sixtieth day after it shall have become a law

Establishes the commission on prosecutorial conduct

Chapter	Signed Date	Effective Date
202	08/21/2018	takes effect on (1/1/19) the first of January next succeeding the date upon which it shall have become a law

Establishes a temporary state taskforce to study child abuse and neglect prevention

Chapter	Signed Date	Effective Date
12	04/18/2018	provided, however, that § 1 shall take effect on (12/18/17) the same date and in the same manner as ch 481/2017, establishing a temporary state commission to study child abuse and neglect prevention, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 233A and A. 5769A, takes effect

Requires the transmission of reports of missing persons to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System		
Chapter	Signed Date	Effective Date
25	04/18/2018	takes effect on (11/29/17) the same date and in the same manner as ch 423/2017 amending the executive law, relating to the transmission of reports of missing persons to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 6739 and A. 8286-B
Relates to human trafficking courts		
Chapter	Signed Date	Effective Date
191	08/15/2018	08/15/2018
Relates to authorizing and directing the commissioner of education to conduct a study on the effects of trauma on child development and learning		
Chapter	Signed Date	Effective Date
460	12/21/2018	12/21/2018
Relates to the possession of weapons by domestic violence offenders		
Chapter	Signed Date	Effective Date
60	04/12/2018	takes effect on (6/11/18) the sixtieth day after it shall have become a law