

THE FOLLOWING IS A BROADCAST EMAIL TO ALL OVS FUNDED VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

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Dear Colleague:

The Office of Victim Services (OVS) has received a number of inquiries about budget amendment requests (BARs) for the 2015-16 contract period. As you know, OVS cannot consider a BAR without an approved contract budget. OVS continues to work diligently on approving your 2015-16 contract budgets, and we have added new positions in the Grants Unit to keep up with an increasing workload. It is our intention to have all contracts for 2015-16 approved by March 31, 2016.

However, as the contract approvals are occurring late this year, there is less time available in the contract period for processing BARs for 2015-16. OVS wants to give Victim Assistance Programs (VAPs) the opportunity to make adjustments to their budgets, but in order to manage our current workload and plan for future projects, BARs must be limited. Therefore, OVS will allow **one BAR and a \$1,000 rule adjustment** for the 2015-16 contract period. The BAR must be postmarked by **April 30, 2016**, and we will only consider changes to the budget going forward. Retroactive changes to personnel or non-personal costs will not be allowed. BARs containing those requests will be rejected and VAPs will not have any opportunity to resubmit their BAR.

We are confident that allowing one BAR and the \$1,000 rule adjustment will still give VAPs the flexibility needed to utilize their grant funds to serve victims. If you have any questions, please contact OVS Grants at (518) 485-2763.

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

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**New York State Office of Victim Services**

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