



20 Years Later: *Mass Casualty Events and the Evolution of Victim Services*

2021 Conference • August 25 – 26 • New York, NY

Registration Guidelines:

General Information

Hosted by the New York State Office of Victim Services (OVS), the OVS 2021 Conference is a biennial statewide professional development conference for victim services advocates, providers, and allied professionals with varied levels of experience from all over New York State. This year's conference will feature in-person OR virtual attendance options and will be hosted in New York City on August 25 – 26, 2021.

Due to COVID-19 safety protocols, all in-person conference attendees **MUST** provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination or negative test results using the [New York State Excelsior Pass](#) or an alternate platform/method, if not eligible for a Pass. Health and safety measures for this event are subject to change, based on the most recent and available guidance, and attendees will be required to follow all of New York State's public health recommendations in place at the time of the event.

Additional detailed conference information (including conference agenda, workshop details, etc.) is available on the [OVS 2021 Conference Website at ovs.ny.gov/conference](https://ovs.ny.gov/conference).

Registration Fee

The registration fee for the OVS 2021 Conference is **\$275.00** for in-person attendance, or **\$175.00** for virtual attendance.

The registration fee for **in-person attendance** will provide admittance to the event and will cover conference materials and limited light-fare snack and beverage options throughout the event. Voluntary participation in additional meal opportunities, including evening gatherings separate from the current conference agenda, may be added at a later date, though may require additional out of pocket expenses and are subject to health and safety protocols. Costs **NOT** included in the registration fee are; travel to and from the event, full meals, and overnight room accommodations, though many of these expenses may be reimbursed by OVS for eligible attendees (see *Reimbursement Eligibility* below).

The registration fee for **virtual attendance** will provide admittance to featured virtual coverage of the event, including private access to conference community forums and discussion boards as well as limited conference materials to be shipped directly attendees.

Registration Information

- Registration will open on **July 14, 2021 at 9:00am** online via the [OVS 2021 Conference Website](#) and will be handled on a **first-come, first-served** basis.
- Registration fees are **\$275.00** for in-person attendance or **\$175.00** for virtual attendance. All tickets are subject to the cancellation terms listed below and in-person attendance tickets require participation in and use of the [New York State Excelsior Pass](#).
- Upon successful registration, hotel room reservation information will be provided for in-person attendees. OVS may reimburse lodging expenses for **eligible attendees**, however, room availability is

limited, and room reservations will only be accepted through **July 27, 2021** or until sold out, whichever occurs first. It is the responsibility of attendees to secure their own room within the OVS room block.

- Reimbursement for room reservations will only be honored for eligible attendees in official *Travel Status* as outlined in the [New York State Travel Guidelines](#). Only individuals traveling 35 miles or more from official work and/or home locations may seek approval for reimbursement.

Reimbursement Eligibility

OVS grantees are allowed to charge travel-related conference expenses to an OVS-funded grant IF funds are available on that grant. In order to have travel, lodging and limited meal expenditures reimbursed by OVS, eligible attendees MUST contact their OVS Contract Management Specialist PRIOR to incurring any expense. In addition, only individuals in *Travel Status* (as outlined above) will be eligible for travel-related reimbursements.

Cancellation Policy

Conference cancellations are processed via the OVS 2021 Conference Website and will only be permitted through **August 4, 2021**. Cancellations made after **August 4th** are non-refundable. Substitutions are not allowed as registrants who have been waitlisted will be given preference in filling any cancellation vacancy. In addition, hotel room reservation cancellations made within 72 hours of check-in are subject to non-refundable fees that will be the responsibility of the individual or organization who booked the room, not OVS. OVS is not responsible for room cancellations.

Special Requests

If anyone attending the OVS 2021 Conference needs special accommodations or has special dietary requests, this information must be noted during online registration in the *Other Information* section. Requests must be submitted no later than **August 11, 2021**. For more information or if you have questions about the registration process, please email training@ovs.ny.gov or call (518) 485-0637.