



Office of
Victim Services

Welcome to VAP Connect

August 18, 2020

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Objectives

- Understand the purpose of VAP Connect, and
- How to set up your profile and start connecting with fellow VAPs



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Useful Tools for Today's Meeting

- VAP Connect Intro Slide Deck
- [VAP Connect Tip Sheet](#)
- This webinar is also being recorded, and will be uploaded to our [YouTube Channel](#)



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Welcome to VAP Connect!

- **FOR VAPS**
 - To provide a forum to connect, share information, build networks, and ultimately have more tools at their disposal to help innocent victims of crime in New York State
- **FOR OVS**
 - To provide another way for OVS to share important information from the Agency



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VAP Connect: What It Is and Is Not

VAP Connect IS...

- Open to members of OVS-funded grants staff only (this is not an open forum)
- A way for VAPs to build community, foster connections, and look to one another for support and guidance
- A way for OVS to make announcements outside of email bulletins
- VAP-led and will grow as VAPs use and interact with the platform
- A method to foster collaboration and encourage sustainability amongst VAPs
- A method for VAPs to share news and events to one another

VAP Connect IS NOT...

- An OVS FAQ/Q&A
 - The forum will be moderated for offensive content and some general questions will be answered – your OVS contact is your best route for specific queries related to your contract or claims process
- A definitive guide to NYS, OVS and Federal rules and regulations
- A suggestion or complaint box – questions about process and other issues should be directed to your normal OVS contact
- A place to share personal details or specific case information on any victim



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Accessing VAP Connect

- Access at vapconnect.com
- In order to have full access to [VAP Connect](#), a user profile must be created, and the [forum guidelines](#) must be read and accepted

Create a Profile

Already a member? [Log In](#)

First Name	Last Name
Email	Password
Organization	Title

I have read and agree to the [Forum Guidelines](#)

Sign up

- Your member request must be approved, which can take 1-5 business days



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Forum Guidelines

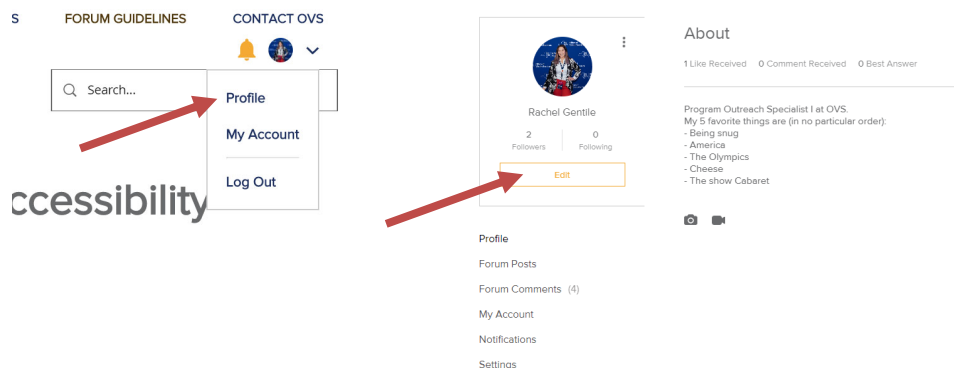
- To ensure VAP Connect is a safe space, there are [forum guidelines](#) in place for all users
 - Forum guidelines must be acknowledged and accepted prior to submitting a member request
 - As a semi-moderated forum, OVS will keep an eye on threads and remove anything deemed in violation of the guidelines



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Setting up Your Profile

- Once approved, it's time to log in and set up your profile!



- Click “Edit” to update your name, photo, and about info



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Setting up Your Profile (cont'd)

- It's important to ensure your settings are optimized

Notification Settings

Forum Notifications

Likes
Notify me when members like my posts and comments.

Comments
Notify me when members comment on my posts.

Follows
Notify me when there are updates about members and posts I follow.

General
Notify me when there is new activity.

Chat Notifications

Messages
Notify me when members send me messages while I'm away.

Email Notifications

Stay in the Know

- Set email notifications to "on" so that you're alerted to account activity

Don't get spammed!

- Make sure to whitelist notifications@forums.wix.com to avoid notifications going to spam

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It's Time to Connect!

- VAP Connect is a forum, and the interface is similar to Reddit

Forum Page: Contains the forum discussion topics. There is a discussion thread for the 4 OVS Units, Regional Coalitions, and COVID-19 discussion.

Click "Follow" to get news and updates on all thread happenings

Threads can be added as needed, with the option for limited-member threads if required

OVS VAP Connect

Welcome! Take a look around and start connecting with your fellow VAPs!

<p>COVID-19 Discussion Follow</p> <p>146 6</p> <p>Visit this thread for discussions on how programs are coping with the impact of COVID-19 related challenges.</p>	<p>OVS Training and Outreach Follow</p> <p>72 5</p> <p>Visit this thread for VAP community updates, news and all things Training & Outreach related!</p>
<p>OVS Grants Follow</p> <p>12 1</p> <p>Visit this thread for updates, information and discussions on all things OVS Grants related!</p>	<p>OVS Compensation Follow</p> <p>23 1</p> <p>Visit this thread for updates, information and discussions on all things OVS Compensation related!</p>
<p>OVS Legal Follow</p> <p>16 1</p> <p>Visit this thread for updates, information and discussions on all things OVS Legal related!</p>	<p>Regional Coalitions Follow</p> <p>19 5</p> <p>Visit this thread for regional coalition meeting information, local community discussions and more!</p>

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It's Time to Connect!

- VAP Connect is a forum, and the interface is similar to Reddit

Clicking into a thread will open up the discussion topics in progress.

Here, you can view, sort and filter posts.

Training and Outreach

Visit this thread for VAP community updates, news and all things Training & Outreach related!



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Creating a New Post

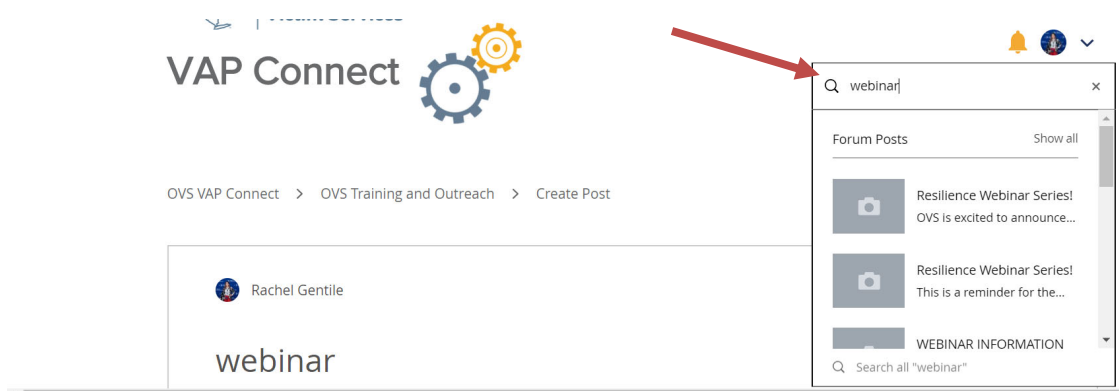
- Clicking on "Create New Post" will allow you to start a discussion or ask a question. Members can then view, respond, favorite, or follow for updates

****In an effort to avoid duplicative content, it's important that you familiarize yourself with the existing threads (use the search feature to find similar content prior to beginning new discussions). Use the SEARCH feature to find keywords that may address your comment and add to existing threads!****

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Searching for Content

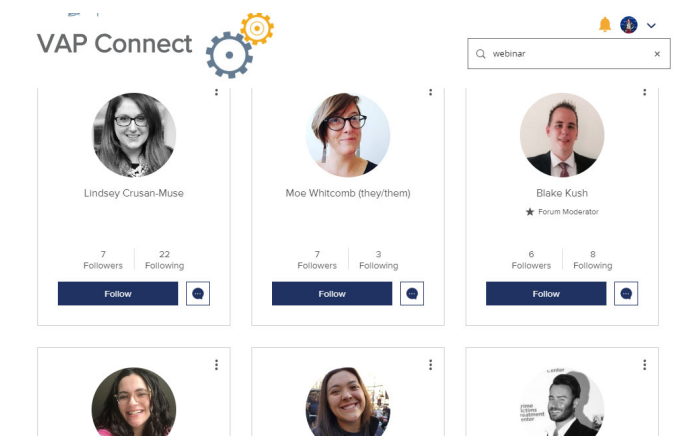
- Type into the SEARCH bar to find posts related to specific keywords



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Connect with Members

- Visit the MEMBERS page to see other VAP Connect Members



Follow

- Follow specific members for notifications on their posted content

Connect and Network

- Use the "message bubble" button to start chats



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Member Chat

- You can chat with members from the member page, or the Chat Button

Clicking the chat bubble in the MEMBER page, or on the bottom right hand side of your screen opens a chat feature, to message fellow members

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Reporting Inappropriate Content

- While forum guidelines are in place, it is possible that you may come across a post that you think violates these guidelines or is inappropriate
- You can report the post by clicking the  at the top right of the post (next to the date) and then clicking REPORT POST

Following Post
Share Post
Report Post

Social Media Outreach

What has everyone been doing at their respective programs on social media lately? I'm looking to generate ideas here and also make sure that programs are all connected to one another on various platforms.

14 views
0 comments

- You may also decide to screenshot and share with training@ovs.ny.gov

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Some Things to Know...

- VAP Connect is not an “open forum”
 - Members must be approved by OVS; this may take up to 5 business days
 - VAP Connect will be open to OVS-funded grantees only at this time
- Users are responsible for the content they post
 - Users posting any item deemed inappropriate per the forum guidelines will have their posts removed and risk being blocked from the forum
- Keep it organized!
 - Discussion comments work best when they are brief and relevant to the thread topic: please avoid lengthy and repetitive posts, and use the tools search function to find similar topics that may help you
- It works like social media
 - Use the @ symbol to tag specific members, # topics to link related items, follow threads, members and discussions, and send private chats to other users
 - Set your notifications to “send email” when someone tags you directly, and when posts you follow are commented on – this will ensure that you stay up to date on what’s happening
- VAP Connect is a tool for and by VAPs and will be as comprehensive and useful as you make it!



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Questions?



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