

VOCA EMERGENCY FUND FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

COVA has partnered with the Division of Criminal Justice, Office for Victims Programs (DCJ OVP) to launch the new Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Emergency Fund. This program is intended to make life easier for crime victims in Colorado and for the advocates who work on their behalf.

****In most cases, COVA can pay vendors (e.g., landlords, utility companies, airlines) directly.****

Who can apply for the Emergency Fund?

Crime victim advocates **MUST** submit Emergency Fund applications to COVA on the behalf of crime victims. We cannot accept applications from or talk directly with victims, nor can we accept applications from agencies whose primary function is not victim services (e.g., homeless shelters, therapists, substance abuse programs).

What crimes are eligible?

In order to be eligible to apply for the Emergency Fund, the crime must have occurred in Colorado (with the exception of mass violence or acts of terror) and the victim must currently reside in Colorado. Crimes ***do not have to be reported*** to law enforcement. If the crime was reported, Victim's Compensation should be accessed first. Eligible crimes include:

- Physical/Sexual Assault
- Stalking/Harassment
- Survivors of Homicide Victims
- Teen Dating Abuse
- Bullying
- Child Abuse or Neglect
- Child Pornography
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Domestic Violence
- Family Violence
- Kidnapping
- Elder Abuse or Neglect
- Human Trafficking
- Robbery
- Burglary
- Identity Theft/Fraud
- Arson
- Mass Violence
- Terrorism
- DUI/DWI Incidents
- Vehicular Victimization (e.g., hit & run)
- Hate Crime

What will the Emergency Fund pay for?

The Emergency Fund is designed to be of ***last resort***, so all other options for financial support should be explored first. The request must be connected to a recent crime victimization or a recent emergency connected to a crime victimization (i.e., perpetrator is being released and there are needs related to safety). Examples include rental assistance, moving expenses, and relocation. View a list of eligible expenses at www.coloradocrimevictims.org/voca-emergency-fund.html

Important things to note about the VOCA Emergency Fund:

Expenses must be reasonable and limitations will be set on a case-by-case basis. COVA cannot pay for past due bills that pre-date the crime victimization. We also cannot pay for security deposits or mortgage payments. In most cases, COVA can pay vendors (e.g., landlords, utility companies, airlines) directly. Sometimes, advocacy agencies will need to purchase items for their clients and be reimbursed by COVA. ***We cannot reimburse victims directly.*** It is best to submit an application to COVA and have it approved in advance, otherwise ***we cannot guarantee that your agency will be reimbursed.*** All requests for reimbursement must include an itemized receipt.

Every situation is unique and application decisions are made on a case-by-case basis. Contact Mandee McLane, Emergency Fund Program Manager, at 303-861-1160 or mandee@coloradocrimevictims.org with questions and/or to receive an application.

