

Crime Victims Compensation Commission

(Public Act 223 of 1976)

April 1, 2025

Sec. 3. (1) *The commission shall do all of the following:*

- (a) Promulgate rules under the administrative procedures act of 1969, Act No. 306 of the Public Acts of 1969, being sections 24.201 to 24.328 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, including rules for the approval of attorneys' fees for representation before the commission or before the court of appeals upon judicial review as provided for in section 8.*
 - (b) Obtain from a state or local governmental unit assistance and data to enable the commission to carry out its functions and duties.*
 - (c) Investigate and determine claims for awards and reinvestigate or reopen cases as the commission considers necessary.*
 - (d) Direct medical examination of victims.*
 - (e) Review all appeals, hold hearings, administer oaths or affirmations, examine any person under oath or affirmation, issue subpoenas requiring the attendance and giving of testimony of witnesses and the production of books, papers, documentary or other evidence. For the purposes of this section, a certified copy of an investigative report relating to the hearing meets the requirements of this section.*
 - (f) Take or cause to be taken affidavits or depositions within or without the state.*
 - (g) Give an annual written report of its activities to the governor and the legislature.**
 - (h) Conduct a program to insure continued public awareness of the provisions of this act in cooperation with state and local agencies.*
 - (i) Monitor, evaluate, and coordinate state and local victim assistance programs.*
 - (j) Administer and provide advice for the disbursement of federal funds available from the victims of crime act of 1984, chapter XIV of the comprehensive crime control act of 1984, title II of Public Law 98-473, 98 Stat. 2170, for the purposes of compensating and assisting crime victims.*
 - (k) Perform the duties required under Act No. 196 of the Public Acts of 1989, being sections 780.901 to 780.911 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.*
- (2)** *With the exception of subsection (1)(e), the powers provided in subsection (1) may be delegated by the commission to a member of the commission or its staff.*

Michigan Crime Victim Services Commission

2024 Annual Report

Pursuant to MCL 18.353, the members of the Michigan Crime Victim Services Commission developed this annual report to detail the Michigan Crime Victim Compensation Program and the Commission's activities. The report is submitted to the Governor and state Legislature.

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Crime Victim Services Commission

Overview

The Crime Victim Services Commission (CVSC) is the state agency charged with overseeing a wide range of funding and services for victims of crime. Its goal is to support and promote services that protect and enhance the health, safety, dignity, and rights of victims of crime across the state of Michigan.

The Crime Victim Services Commission is a legislatively created and Governor-appointed public body. CVSC commissioners are required to be a bipartisan group and must include a practicing attorney, a county prosecutor, a law enforcement officer, a member of the medical profession, and a community-based victim advocate.

The CVSC is empowered to investigate and determine claims for crime victims' compensation. CVSC monitors, evaluates and coordinates state and local victim assistance programs. It also determines and administers revenue and assessments required in support of services under the Crime Victim's Rights Act. Finally, CVSC administers federal grant funding under the Victim of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA).

CVSC was created by Act 519 of 1996 and succeeds the Crime Victims Compensation Board created by Act 223 of 1976 and the Criminal Assessments Commission created by Act 196 of 1989. Executive Order 1997-10 transferred CVSC from the Department of Management and Budget to the Michigan Department of Community Health. Executive Order 2015-4 merged the Department of Community Health and the Department of Human Services into the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

Under MDHHS, CVSC administers three victim service programs: Crime Victim Compensation, Crime Victim's Rights, and VOCA. All program efforts are fully supported by criminal assessments or fines paid by convicted defendants in state and federal courts. CVSC provides an advisory function in policy development which determines criminal assessment amounts and acts as the appeals forum for compensation claims. In addition to its statutory program duties, CVSC also supports training and technical assistance for state victim advocates and is project leader for the statewide Michigan Victim Information and Notification Everyday project (MI-VINE).

In May 2022, Acts 77 and 78 were signed into law, altering greatly the Michigan Crime Victim Compensation statute. Amendments to the compensation program include: expansion to include not only a crime victim's physical injury but also psychological, mental, or emotional injury resulting from a reasonably perceived or actual threat of injury, expansion to those eligible to be claimants and seek compensation, increased

aggregate award cap amounts to claimants, new benefits, and extending the timeframe to submit a claim. These enhancements took effect August 2023. The CVSC worked diligently with the Legislature and stakeholders on this legislation so that more crime victims may receive the assistance they need.

CVSC would like to extend its thanks and appreciation to the many excellent victim service agencies, organizations, and individuals who work with us to carry out the important task of providing crime victim services in Michigan.

In accordance with MCL 18.353, CVSC shall give an annual report of its activities to the Governor and state Legislature. CVSC is pleased to provide this report for 2024.

Crime Victim Services Commission Members 2024

The CVSC is comprised of five members including a member admitted to the practice of law, a county prosecuting attorney, a peace officer, a member of the medical profession, and a community-based victim advocate. This is a Governor appointed, bi-partisan Commission, in which not more than three members can be of the same political party. Members serve for three years. (MCL 18.352)

Cpl. Robin Hornbuckle, Chairperson, represents a peace officer.

Thomas P. Clement, J.D., represents an individual admitted to the practice of law in this state, for not less than 5 years immediately preceding his or her appointment.

Jeff Getting, J.D., represents a county prosecuting attorney.

Karen Gray Sheffield, represents a community-based victim advocate.

Tolulope Sonuyi, M.D., represents a member of the medical profession.

Crime Victim Services Commission Activities 2024

CVSC met during FY 2024 to conduct business and review any pending compensation appeals. During FY 2024, no cases were appealed to CVSC. CVSC conducted the following business in FY 2024.

Compensation Program Improvements

In 2024, Compensation staff have been focused on programmatic changes and improvements necessary to fully implement the statutory changes that went into effect in August of 2023. Programmatic improvements have included:

- Increased Crime Victim Compensation program staff, to meet the needs of serving crime victims of the state. Since the statute enhancements took place in August 2023, applications, claims, emails, and phone call intakes have at least doubled. Staff are now able to respond timely to inquiries and improve access to the program.
- Increase training within communities and organizations, sharing updates to the enhanced program.
- Reviewing and modifying program policies and procedures, to ensure that victims do not have unnecessary barriers when applying for compensation. The program starts by believing victims and survivors, and removes barriers that make it harder to access the program.
- Updating compensation procedural changes.
 - Updating the compensation policy and procedure manual.
 - Allowing for culturally specific burial traditions.
 - Eliminating collateral resources for consideration that were able to be decided internally per statute such as, life insurance and GoFundMe donations.
 - Handling claims where the cause of death involved controlled substances, where criminal charges of homicide are charged.
 - Modification to the incomplete claims process, when the minimally required claim information is not received with the initial claim. Now, all claims that are submitted are assigned a claim number and actively followed up on by staff, to ensure there is an accurate reflection of the applications being submitted to the program.
- Updating crime victim compensation letters to reflect more victim-centered language.
- Creating a separate and distinct application for mass violence claims.
- Reinvented the Navigator program to cover the entire state, with Navigators living in the regions in which they operate.

Administrative Rules Update

With the passage of Acts 77 and 78 of 2022, many of the current CVSC's administrative rules need to be updated to reflect this statute change. CVSC will work closely with MDHHS to request a formal hearing to adopt these administrative rules in the Legislative Joint Committee on Administrative Rules. CVSC reviewed several issues that were modifications of existing rules or newly drafted proposals to the administrative rules. CVSC approved the following proposed rules, moved to proceed with the rule making process, share language with stakeholders for review, and to adopt this language as internal compensation policy until the rule process is concluded.

Willful Non-Cooperation in the Decision to Award Reimbursement to Victims

Current Statutory Language: MCL 18.365(2): A claim shall be investigated and determined regardless of whether the alleged criminal was apprehended, prosecuted, convicted, acquitted, or found not guilty of the crime in question, unless the disposition is a direct result of willful noncooperation by the victim or other claimant with the law enforcement agency or the prosecuting attorney. In the event of determination of willful noncooperation by the victim or other claimant, the Commission shall reject the claim. *This language was not amended by the recent statutory changes.*

The Current Administrative Rule: Rule 5: To receive an award, a claimant shall cooperate with the law enforcement agency investigating the crime giving rise to the claim and with the investigators, agents and representatives of the Commission. If a claimant refuses to cooperate, the Commission may deny the claim or reduce the size of any award.

Proposed Rule: A claimant and/or victim is presumed to have cooperated unless there is evidence the disposition is a result of willful non-cooperation. Willful non-cooperation is intentional failing to do as requested under circumstances where the victim has the ability to cooperate meaningfully and safely. Factors to consider whether there has been willful non-cooperation include but are not limited to: cultural/linguistic barriers; compelling health concerns; other barriers to cooperation; domestic violence; sexual assault; child abuse; human trafficking; or other factors that may cause the victim/claimant to reasonably fear for their or another's safety, psychological state or physical condition.

During the discussion of the proposed new rule, Commission members inquired how CVC staff handles situation if victims don't want to disclose identifying information for safety reasons. Staff will speak with the victim and other partners if applicable (law enforcement, prosecutors) to secure information needed for accepting the application in

a safe and confidential way. Further, staff are trained in confidentiality measures to protect claimant information from offenders or public inquiry.

Willful Misconduct in the Decision to Award Reimbursement to Victims

Current Statutory Language: MCL 18.361 Sec. 11(8): In making a determination on a claim filed by an individual listed in section 4(1)(a), (b),(c), (e), (f), or (g), the commission shall determine whether the victim's misconduct contributed to his or her injury and shall reduce the amount of the award or reject the claim altogether, in accordance with the determination. The commission may disregard for this purpose, the victim's responsibility for his or her own injury, if the record shows that the injury was attributable to the victim's efforts to prevent a crime, or an attempted crime from occurring in his or her presence or to apprehend a person who had committed a crime in his or her presence. As used in this subsection, "misconduct" includes but is not limited to, provocation of or participation in a crime contemporaneous with or immediately preceding the injury.

Proposed Rule: Misconduct does not include contemporaneous or proceeding crimes that are peripheral and unrelated to the crime that caused the injury. An example of misconduct is a significant criminal action that has an outcome determinative connection to the injury. A determination of misconduct may be reviewed by the Commission prior to denial.

Current role of personal representative in the decision to award reimbursement to victims.

Current Statutory Language: MCL 18.356(2): A claim may be filed by the person eligible to receive an award, a personal representative of the person eligible to receive an award, or if a person is a minor, by his or her parent or guardian. This recent statutory change did not substantially update that statute. The newly inserted language is underlined in the above.

Proposed Rule: A personal representative is a person that has legal authority to submit a claim on behalf of an eligible deceased victim/claimant.

Current role of aggregate award in the decision to award reimbursement to victims.

Current statutory language provides: MCL 18.361 Sec. 11(1): Except for a claim under section 5a, an award made under this act must be an amount not more than an out-of-pocket loss, including indebtedness reasonably incurred for medical or other

services necessary as a result of the personal injury upon which the claim is based, together with loss of earnings or support resulting from the crime. The aggregate award under act must not exceed \$45,000.00 per claimant. This recent statutory change increased the aggregate amount from \$25,000.00 to \$45,000.00. The newly inserted language is underlined in the above.

Proposed Rule: The aggregate award is the maximum amount of compensation arising out of the same crime and involving the same victim. All eligible persons for an award arising from the same crime and involving the same victim are limited to a combined aggregate maximum collectively.

Legislative Update and Policy Recommendations

CVSC also reviewed and took positions on the legislation and funding priorities below.

HB 4605 and 4606' of 2023: The Commission appreciates the acknowledgement of the needs of victims and survivors from crime and community violence, and supports funding being directed to the Crime Victims Fund. The Commission applauds the efforts of HB 4605-4606, for directing a portion of the revenue collected for the Public Safety and Violence Prevention Fund to be directed to the Crime Victim's Rights Fund (November 2024)

HB 6013'of 2024: The Commission reviewed HB 6013. The Commission opposed but would move to support if the following change is made (November 2024)

- Replace current Sec 11 (2) (I) with: "Reasonable expenses of not more than \$2,500 for temporary boarding of a pet or pets that belongs to the victim, if the temporary boarding is necessary to facilitate the victim's immediate relocation. An award for this expense may not exceed \$2,500 per claimant listed in section 4(1)(a).
- CVSC staff have been able to work with the bill sponsor and stakeholders to ensure that the Commission's recommendations will be added to future legislation.

Michigan Crime Victim Right's Fund: The Michigan Crime Victim Services Commission (the Commission) recognizes the inherent need to sustain the Crime Victim's Rights Fund (the fund) at sufficient levels to carry out its constitutional and statutory duties for crime victims of Michigan. The Commission supports securing this funding in whatever means necessary and possible, including receiving general funds appropriated from the state legislature and examining the potential of raising criminal assessment fees. Further, the Commission strongly opposes further or future diversion of funding from the fund for purposes other than serving direct victims of crime through crime victim rights services or compensation. (January 2023)

Federal VOCA Victim Assistance Funding: The Crime Victim Services Commission recognizes the vital importance of VOCA Victim Assistance Funding for crime victims across Michigan. The Commission proposes and supports the allocation of state funding to avoid the reduction in victim services that will be caused by decreases in federal funding through VOCA. The Commission further proposes and supports efforts to advocate for additional federal money for the state of Michigan to meet the needs of crime victims. (January 2023)

Crime Victim Rights Services

In 1985 the William Van Regenmorter Crime Victim's Rights Act created comprehensive rights of notification and participation in all stages of the criminal justice process for felony crime victims in Michigan. In 1988 the law was amended to include the victims of serious misdemeanors and juvenile offenses. The law creates a duty for police agencies, sheriffs, the Department of Corrections, prosecuting attorneys, courts, and other agencies to include crime victims within the formal conduct of investigative, judicial, sentencing, and post sentencing proceedings.

The Crime Victim's Rights Fund is a state restricted fund that was created to support crime victim rights services in Michigan. The Commission is the state entity charged with overseeing the Crime Victim's Rights Fund and implementing crime victim rights services in Michigan.

Crime victim rights services are supported in Michigan through the implementation of two programs: Crime Victim Rights Grant Program and MI-VINE.

Crime Victim Rights Program Grants

Crime Victim Rights Program grants are available to prosecutors' offices in Michigan. Eligible grantees provide comprehensive notification, information and assistance addressing victim rights throughout the criminal justice process, as established by the William Van Regenmorter Crime Victim's Rights Act of 1985. Grants must focus on delivery of rights and services required by the Crime Victim's Rights Act and the Michigan Constitution. Funded programs must meet all other grant requirements described in the Program Guidelines. Grantees must certify through the application process that grant funds will provide direct victim rights for crime victims and will not be used to supplant state or local funds that would otherwise be available for crime victim rights or have historically been funded locally or through other means. Program grantees must also assist potential recipients of crime victim compensation benefits (including potential recipients who are victims of federal crime) in applying for such benefits.

FY 2024¹ Crime Victim Rights Grant Program	
CRVP Funding Allocation	\$12,436,906.00
Number of CVRP Grantees	83
Victims Served	85,319

¹ FY 24: October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024

MI-VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday)

MI-VINE is a free, confidential, fully automated notification service that immediately notifies registered crime victims and other users upon a change in an offender's custody status. MI-VINE can relay important custody court or arrest information in a matter of minutes anywhere in the United States. Victims and others may call 800-770-7657 or log onto VINELink.com to obtain immediate status information on prisoners in custody of the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) or participating county jails. Victims whose perpetrator is being held in MDOC will be automatically registered to receive automated notification of a change in prisoner custody status, unless they have made other arrangements with the MDOC. Victims may also log onto VINELink.com to receive e-mail, text, or telephone notification of the custody status of offenders in Michigan county jails and/or to receive notification of court events involved in their case.

During FY 2024, 73,267 individuals registered to receive notification of custody status and/or court events with MI-VINE. Automated victim notification is an important part of the criminal justice process toolbox and is utilized by law enforcement and prosecution through the state. In addition to MDOC, there are 72 prosecutor offices and 81 sheriff offices participating in the MI-VINE Network.

Crime Victim Compensation

Crime victim compensation is intended to help crime victims recover from financial losses resulting from their victimization. Michigan's program began in 1977 when Michigan became the 17th state to offer this program. The program has been amended numerous times since it began to expand basic program eligibility and coverage for victims.

CVSC Compensation Program may help crime victims, and their families, recover from the financial costs of crime. It can cover costs including medical and dental treatment, non-medical remedial treatment, counseling, funeral expenses, crime scene clean up, grief counseling, residential security, relocation expenses, transportation, loss of earnings or support, and other necessary services not paid by other sources.

The Michigan Crime Victim Compensation program maintains a comprehensive webpage for the public with how-to guides, application details, and frequently asked questions available at [Crime Victim Compensation](#).

In addition to direct compensation to crime victims, the Michigan Crime Victim Compensation Program also includes the SAFE Response Program. The SAFE Response program provides direct reimbursement to health care providers for the provision of a Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examination.

Compensation Navigator Program

The Crime Victims Compensation Navigator Assistance Program was implemented in October 2024 to support crime victims and survivors in completing and submitting their Crime Victim Compensation applications, gathering necessary documentation and providing ongoing assistance to the claimant and/or victim.

Administered directly by the Crime Victim Compensation program, Navigators organized by regions serve victims and survivors statewide. Each Navigator, based in their respective area, will foster relationships with local Prosecutor's offices, victim service organizations, community agencies, medical and mental health providers, funeral homes, and other key stakeholders. Access the Navigators' contact information here. [Navigator Map and Contact Information](#).

Compensation and SAFE Response Applications and Awards

Compensation awards and denials in FY 2024 include awards and denials on applications initiated in FY 2024 as well as applications initiated in prior years, but completed in FY 2024.

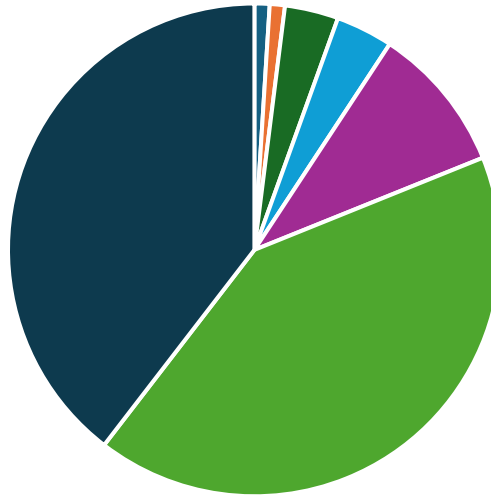
FY 2024 ² Compensation/SAFE Response	
Compensation/SAFE funds awarded.³	\$ 8,883,445
Compensation applications approved.	1,308
Applications denied.	110
Not w/in time limits.	1
No police report.	3
Did not cooperate.	0
Incomplete information.	19
Contributory misconduct.	1
Ineligible crime.	59
Ineligible application	27
Other	0
SAFE Response applications approved.	2,324

² FY 24: October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024

³ This amount represents a point in time and may not include any refunds, restitution, or other accounting adjustments subsequently received. Any variance in the amounts would be attributed to these adjustments.

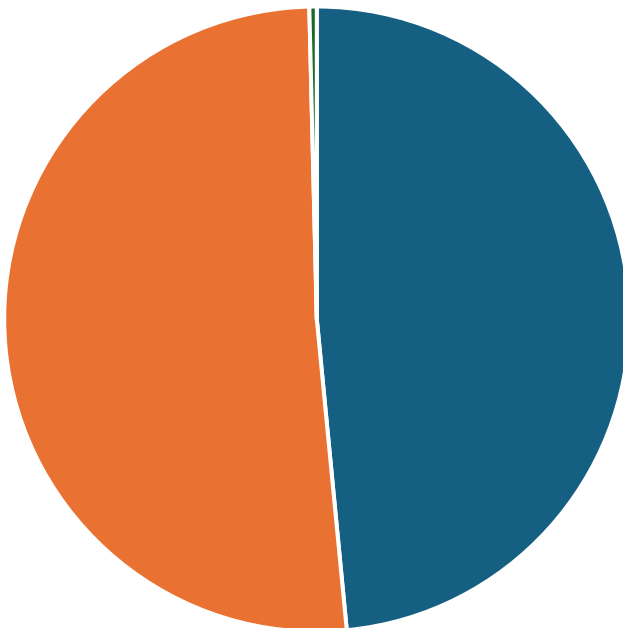
FY 2024⁴ Compensation Demographics

Compensation: Race/Ethnicity



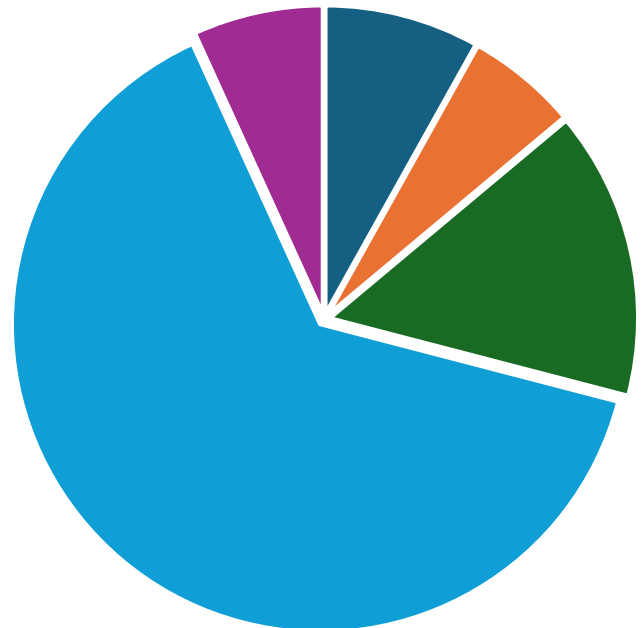
- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Hispanic/Latino
- Multiple Races
- Not reported/tracked
- Black/African American
- White/Non-Latino

Compensation: Gender



- Male
- Female
- Not Tracked

Compensation: Age



- 0-12
- 13-17
- 18-24
- 25-59
- 60 and older

Funding to Support Michigan Crime Victim Rights Services and Crime Victim Compensation

Support for Crime Victim's Rights Services and Crime Victim Compensation comes from three sources of funding: The State of Michigan Crime Victim Rights Fund (CVRF), the Crime Victim Rights Sustainability Grant, and the federal Victims of Crime Act Compensation Formula Grant Program.

State of Michigan Crime Victim Rights Fund: Revenue

The Crime Victim's Rights Fund (CVRF) is a state restricted fund that was created to support crime victim rights services in Michigan [MCL 780.901 et seq.](#) Revenues into the fund are generated from post-conviction assessments (\$130/felony violation; \$75/misdemeanor or ordinance violation) [MCL 780.905](#). The fund's primary purpose is to support crime victim rights services required by the Crime Victim's Rights Act and the Michigan Constitution, with excess funding directed to Crime Victim Compensation in Michigan. The Crime Victim Services Commission is the state entity charged with overseeing the Crime Victim's Rights Fund.

Revenue into the fund has steeply declined since 2019. It is suspected that these declines were initially due to a reduction in criminal convictions and subsequent criminal case court backlogs during the COVID-19 crisis. However, these declines have persisted beyond the period of the pandemic.

Fiscal Year	CVRF Revenue
2018	\$ 19,858,585
2019	\$ 16,942,554
2020	\$ 12,474,294
2021	\$ 12,650,553
2022	\$ 11,823,485
2023	\$ 10,974,206
2024	\$ 12,803,961

Crime Victim Rights Sustaining Grants

In response to significant funding shortfalls, the Michigan Legislature allocated funding starting in 2024 to the Crime Victim Rights Sustaining Grants, to offset shortfalls to Michigan Crime Victim Rights fund and federal Victim Assistance (VOCA) Funding. See [PA 119 of 2023 \(sec. 1158\)](#); [PA 121 of 2024 \(sec. 1158\)](#).

Federal Crime Victim Fund: Michigan's Federal Compensation Allocation

In addition to funding through the CVRF and Crime Victim Rights Sustaining Grants, Michigan receives federal matching funds for every state dollar expended on crime victim compensation. The federal Victims of Crime Act Compensation Formula Grant

Program provides funding to supplement state compensation programs, that provide financial assistance and reimbursement to victims for crime, related out-of-pocket expenses. Grants from the Federal Fund are available to eligible crime victim compensation programs, including Michigan. The funding allocation level is set by calculating 75% of the amount of certified state payout—the state certified payout consists of state funds that were expended on crime victim compensation during the preceding fiscal year (two years prior to the grant year). The federal compensation award can only be expended on eligible crime victim compensation expenses. Federal funds expended on compensation cannot be counted as part of the certified state payout.

Michigan's 2024 Federal Compensation Award	
FY 2022 Certified Payout	FY 2024 Allocation
\$ 3,573,493	\$ 2,680,000

Victim Assistance Programming

Victim Assistance Grants Programs

The Crime Victims Assistance program provides federal and state dollars in subgrants to local public and non-profit agencies that engage in direct services to crime victims in the community. Private non-profit organizations, public agencies and Native American Indian Tribes are awarded funds through an annual competitive or allocated application process.

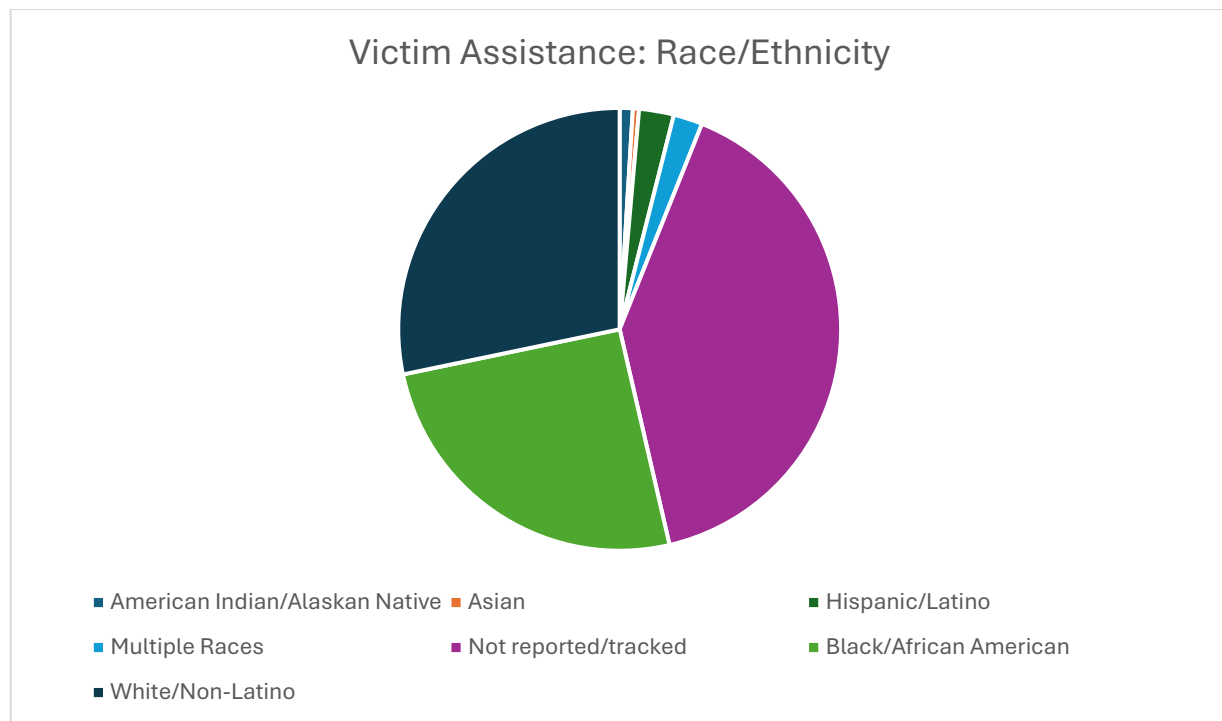
The program is designed around the federal VOCA Victim Assistance Program. Under that program priority is given to projects providing services to victims of child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence and underserved crime victims. Direct services are efforts that respond to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims; assist victims of crime to stabilize their lives after victimization; assist victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system; or restore a measure of security and safety for the victims. To be eligible, an agency must promote public and private coordination; utilize volunteers; have non-federal sources of service funds; assist victims with compensation claims; and have a proven record of direct service provision to victims of crime.

During 2024 fiscal year, the Victim Assistance Grant Program supports the following individual grant programs providing services to crime victims:

- Children's Advocacy Center Services
- Culturally Specific Responsive Services for Underserved Victims of Crime
- Domestic Violence Services
- Human Trafficking Programming
- Services to Victims of Elder Abuse
- Sexual Assault Comprehensive Services
- Sexual Assault Victim Services
- Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline
- Statewide Sexual Assault Hotline
- Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Services for Crime Victims
- Transitional Supportive Housing VOCA
- Tribal Victim Services
- VOCA Targeted Victim

FY 2024 ⁵ Victim Assistance	
Victim assistance funds awarded (combined VOCA and Sustaining Funds)⁶	\$ 68,345,163
Organizations funded.	115
Victims served.	147,527
Victims receiving services for the first time in 2024.	112,430 (76.21%)
Victims presenting more than one victimization.	29,062 (19.70%)
Number of individuals assisted with compensation applications.	1,2332

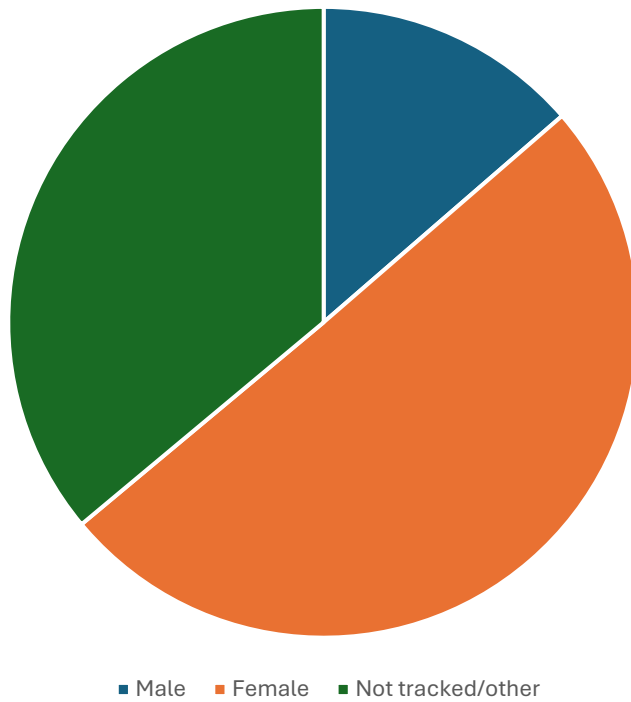
FY 2024 Victim Assistance Demographics



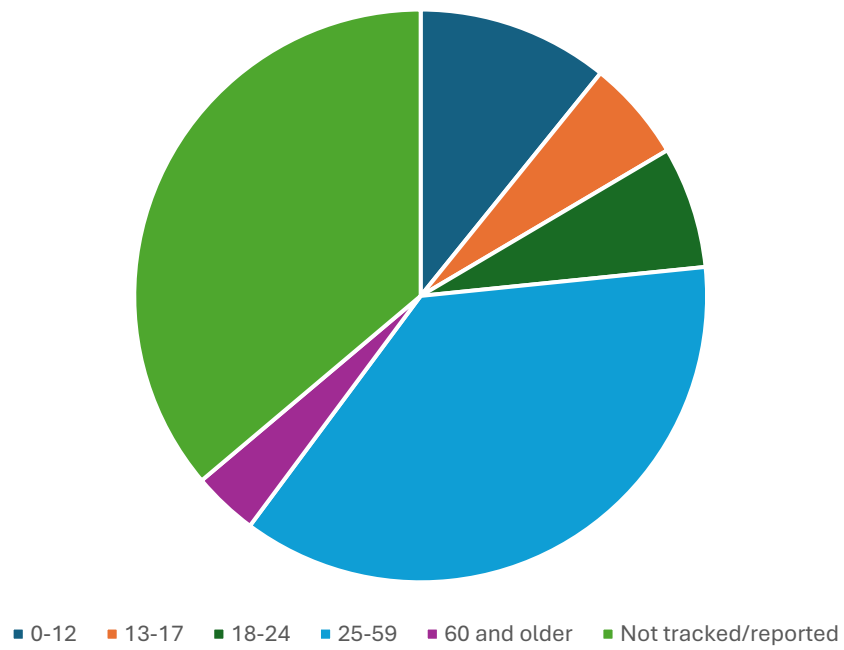
⁵ FY 24: October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024

⁶ This funding level represents a point in time and may not include final funding and accounting adjustments.

Victim Assistance: Gender



Victim Assistance: Age



Funding to Support MI Victim Assistance Programming

Support for Victim Assistance Programming comes from two sources of funding: The federal Victims of Crime Act Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program and, starting in 2024, the Michigan Crime Victim Rights Sustainability fund.

Federal Crime Victim Fund: Crime Victim Assistance Allocation

The Federal Crime Victims Fund (the Fund) was established by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) of 1984. The Fund is financed by fines and penalties from convictions in federal cases, not from tax dollars. Federal, state, and Tribal victim assistance programs receive formula grants, discretionary grants and set asides according to a carefully established annual allocation process.

Michigan's federal VOCA awards have fluctuated greatly and trended downward since 2018. Annual VOCA allocations to Michigan Grantees have been managed to maximize funding available, and to avoid decreases in the number of victims and survivors that are served, as well as potential loss of essential staff for victim service programs. Because VOCA allows a four-year spending window, Michigan has spread federal awards across multiple state fiscal years to stabilized funding levels and smooth out the yearly fluctuations in federal awards.

Federal Fiscal Year	Victim Assistance Award
2018	\$ 100,318,579
2019	\$ 67,762,883
2020	\$ 49,889,476
2021	\$ 30,844,655
2022	\$ 42,666,439
2023	\$ 39,909,525
2024	\$ 22,802,629

Crime Victim Rights Sustaining Grants

In response to significant funding shortfalls in the federal Award, the Michigan Legislature allocated funding starting in 2024, Crime Victim Rights Sustaining Grants, to offset shortfalls to Michigan Crime Victim Rights fund (detailed above) and federal Victim Assistance Funding. See [PA 119 of 2023 \(sec. 1158\)](#); [PA 121 of 2024 \(sec. 1158\)](#). The portion of sustaining funds that support victim assistance grants is allocated to mirror federal funding categories and priorities including, projects providing services to victims of child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence and underserved crime victims.

Mass Violence and the Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program (AEAP)

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) in the U.S. Department of Justice administers the Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program (AEAP). OVC supports victims and jurisdictions that have experienced incidents of terrorism or mass violence. AEAP is designed to supplement the available resources and services of entities responding to acts of terrorism or mass violence to ensure that a program's resources are sufficient and/or not diverted to these victims to the detriment of other crime victims. AEAP grants are by invitation only, and potential grantees may be invited to apply only after consultation with OVC. Individuals are NOT eligible to apply for AEAP. Funding Supports:

- Crisis Response: Designed to provide emergency/short-term resources to help victims rebuild adaptive capacities, decrease stressors and to reduce symptoms of trauma immediately following the terrorism or mass violence event.
- Consequence Management (ongoing/longer term, up to 18 months): Designed to provide supplemental resources to help victims adapt to the trauma event and to restore victims' sense of equilibrium.
- Criminal Justice Support (ongoing/longer term, up to 36 months): Designed to facilitate victim participation in an investigation or prosecution directly related to the terrorist and mass violence event. (Please note, the longer time here is generally intended to provide victim support in instances where there is a trial or other extended criminal proceeding).
- Crime Victim Compensation: Supplemental funding for Crime Victim Compensation for these victims.

The Division of Victim Services is working in partnership with OVC to administer AEAP funds to three communities in Michigan responding to mass violence events.

- The Oxford Community, in response to the criminal mass violence incident that took place on Nov. 30, 2021.
- The Michigan State University community, in response to the mass violence incident that took place on Feb. 13, 2023.
- The Rochester Hills community, in response to the to the mass violence incident that took place at a splashpad on June 15, 2024.

Appendix A: History of Authorization for Crime Victim Services

Crime Victims Compensation Act. PA 223 of 1976; MCL 18.351 et seq.

This act created the Crime Victims Compensation Board and provided for the reimbursement of expenses to innocent crime victims who suffer personal injury. Michigan became the 17th state to offer this program. The act was amended seven times between 1985, 2010, and 2022 to expand basic program eligibility and coverage for victims.

Federal Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA). Public Law 98-473, 98 Stat.2170

This federal statute created the Crime Victims Fund in the U.S. Treasury. Federal criminal fines and forfeitures support the fund. The Office for Victims of Crime in the U.S. Department of Justice disburses the bulk of these funds to state crime victim compensation and victim assistance programs. In general, about one-half of the funds support state victim compensation programs, which receive 60 percent of their previous year payout of state funds to crime victims; and about one-half of the funds support state victim assistance programs, which receive a base amount grant, and a proportional share based on state population.

The William Van Regenmorter Crime Victim's Rights Act. PA 87 of 1985; MCL 780.751

The Crime Victim's Rights Act created comprehensive rights of notification and participation in all stages of the criminal justice process for felony crime victims in Michigan. The act was amended in 1988 to include the victims of serious misdemeanors and juvenile offenses. Several amendments improving the implementation and scope of services have since been enacted. The act creates a duty for police agencies, sheriff's departments, prosecuting attorneys, courts, the Michigan Department of Corrections, and other agencies to include the participation of the crime victim in the official conduct of proceedings.

Michigan Constitutional Amendment for Crime Victims Rights

Upon legislative approval of House Joint Resolution P, 84th Legislature, and Proposal B by the electorate on November 8, 1988, Article I, Section 23 was added to the Constitution of the State of Michigan. Effective December 24, 1988, the amendment gave constitutional authority for the statutory rights of crime victims, provided legislative authority to enforce victim's rights, and provided legislative authority to assess convicted defendants to pay for crime victim's rights.

The Criminal Assessments Act. PA 196 of 1989; MCL 780.901

This act created the Criminal Assessments Commission and the Crime Victim Rights Fund. It authorized courts to order and collect financial assessments from criminal defendants to support the fund and provided for disbursements from the fund to support

crime victim rights services. CVSC was charged with recommending appropriate assessment amounts to support the fund. This act has been amended several times to increase assessment amounts and to increase the number of assessable offenses. Since FY 1997-1998, this fund has provided 100 percent of state dollars for crime victim services.

Crime Victim Services Commission. PA 519 of 1996; MCL 18.351.

Created the Crime Victim Services Commission and abolished the Crime Victims Compensation Board. The number of members was increased from three to five, and CVSC was provided unprecedented authority to coordinate state services and funding for victims of crime.

Criminal Assessments Commission. PA 520 of 1996; MCL 780.901.

Abolished the Criminal Assessments Commission and transferred its powers and duties to the Crime Victim Services Commission.

The SAFE Response Act. PA 391 OF 2008; MCL 18.355a.

Amended 1976 PA 223 and allows victims of sexual assault to obtain a sexual assault forensic examination at no charge to them.

Appendix B: Letter to Kristine Rose, Director of OVC

Ms. Kristina Rose, Director
Office for Victims of Crime
U.S. Department of Justice
810 Seventh Street NW., Second Floor
Washington, DC 20531

Dec.19, 2024

Dear Director Rose,

At the Michigan Crime Victim Services Commission (CVSC) meeting on November 18, 2024, the CVSC affirmed our commitment to addressing the inequities in the distribution of the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) Anti-Terrorism and Emergency Assistance Program (AEAP) funding, particularly as it pertains to mass violence in underserved communities.

Mass violence and chronic community violence incidents continue to impact individuals and communities across Michigan and this country, disproportionately affecting underserved communities of color. The CVSC, administratively housed in the Division of Victim Services within the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), is charged with administering Michigan's Crime Victim Compensation programs and the federal formula funding through the Victims of Crime Act for the purposes of compensating and assisting crime victims. MCL 18.353. The CVSC oversees a wide range of funding and services for crime victims, with the goal of enhancing the health, safety, dignity and rights of victims statewide. To meet these objectives, CVSC has partnered with federal agencies like the U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) to secure and disseminate needed resources to help victims, first responders, bystanders and communities recover from traumatic criminal events.

Since 2021, we have collaborated with AEAP on three mass violence incidents. AEAP funds are vital for sustaining recovery efforts when many short-term resources are exhausted. That's why the CVSC members were disappointed to learn that OVC's criteria for AEAP funding does not consider many community-based mass shootings as eligible for federal support, citing an interpretation that AEAP funds are intended for targeted single acts "that are seemingly random or unpredictable in nature," rather than "broader community gun violence." This interpretation led to the denial of AEAP funds for Detroit's largest mass violence event in a decade, which occurred on Sunday, July 7, 2024. During this event two people were killed and 21 injured at a block party attended by over 300 residents.

The trauma experienced by the 300 individuals gathered at this neighborhood block party on a July evening in Detroit is no different from that experienced by those witnessing a school shooting, where a gunman targets specific students and injures or kills others in the process. In both cases, lives are lost, injuries are sustained, and survivors and communities endure profound trauma. Treating these incidents differently based on subjective criteria undermines the fairness and credibility of a program designed to provide critical resources to victims of mass violence. This inconsistency raises significant concerns about disparities in resources and can erode trust within the impacted communities.

The exclusion of the July 7 mass violence incident does not align with the overall purpose of AEAP funding, which is to provide financial support to communities experiencing significant levels of violence and loss of life to the degree that “the jurisdiction cannot provide needed services to victims of the incident with existing resources, while also supporting victims of other crimes, in a timely and comprehensive manner.” This event overwhelmed the local community’s ability to provide necessary support. Michigan’s capacity to offer specialized program assistance and compensation has been severely hindered by the devastating declines in Michigan’s federal VOCA Award and a more than 50% reduction in Michigan’s Crime Victim Rights Fund, which supports compensation and crime victims’ rights services. To date, Michigan’s Crime Victim Compensation Program has expended more funds to the victims of the July 7 incident than it has expended in two of the AEAP funded mass violence incidents. The recent incidents across Michigan underscore the urgent need for OVC to clarify and affirm its purpose, ensuring that the criteria for federal AEAP are fair, adequate, and inclusive of underserved communities.

The CVSC recognizes OVC’s recent efforts to address inequalities in services and access, but we remain deeply concerned about the inequality of not providing funding support to this very under resourced community which is largely comprised of African American and historically marginalized individuals. In accordance with larger MDHHS priorities CVSC has placed a strategic priority on promoting health and equity, and eliminating disparities of resources for Michigan’s diverse communities.

With this goal in mind, CVSC respectfully requests that OVC revisit its AEAP guidelines to ensure fairness, equity and consistency in the allocation of these critical resources to communities affected by mass violence.

The CVSC looks forward to discussing the equitable distribution of AEAP funds and working together to address the needs of our communities. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or Shalonna Banks, Director of Crime Victim Compensation and Crime Victim Rights at bankss1@michigan.gov, or 517-242-5260.

Sincerely, Cpl. Robin Hornbuckle, Chair, Michigan Crime Victim Service Commission

Appendix C: Compensation Overview



WHAT CHANGED?

On August 12, 2023, statutory changes to Michigan's Crime Victim Compensation program went into effect, providing even greater access for victims, their families and loved ones throughout our state. The maximum award limit has been increased, and more individuals impacted by crime physically, emotionally, psychologically or mentally may now be eligible for compensation benefits.



AWARD LIMITS



FILING DEADLINES



ELIGIBILITY

PREVIOUS BENEFITS

- ✓ Medical bills
- ✓ Counseling
- ✓ Lost wages
- ✓ Replacement services
- ✓ Funeral and burial expenses
- ✓ Crime scene cleanup
- ✓ Sexual assault exam

NEWLY ADDED BENEFITS



Relocation
(Permanent & temporary)



Non-medical
remedial treatment



Replacement costs



Residential security



Bereavement



Other necessary
services



2023 -2024 HIGHLIGHTS

One year after the changes to Crime Victim Compensation have gone into effect, more victims throughout Michigan are applying for and receiving compensation benefits. Numerous changes have also been made to enhance the way compensation is administered, easing barriers for victims throughout the application process.



More than **1,000** victims served since August 12, 2023.

45% INCREASE

in total compensation claims from 2023 to 2024 (year to date)



More than
\$5 MILLION

awarded to victims between fiscal years 2023 and 2024 (year to date)

TOP 3 NEW BENEFITS



RELOCATION



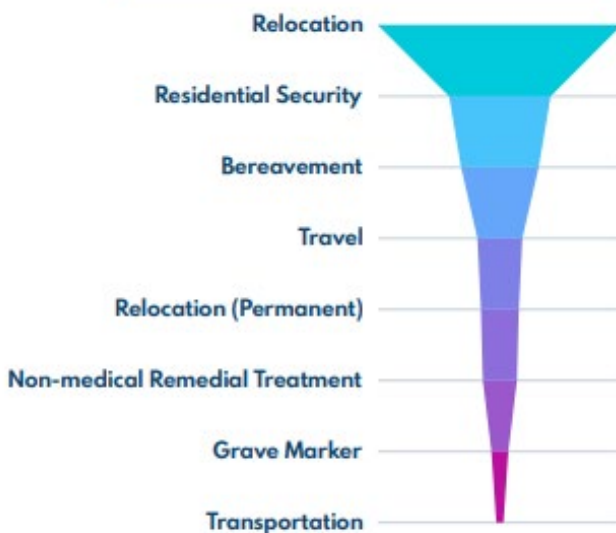
RESIDENTIAL SECURITY



BEREAVEMENT

BENEFITS PAID TO VICTIMS*

*Total since August 12, 2023 expansion



MASS VIOLENCE RESPONSE

Victims who have experienced physical, mental, psychological, and emotional injury may be eligible for compensation benefits under the new expansions, which include incidents of mass violence.



ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

The Crime Victim Compensation program has hired additional staff members to directly assist and support victims, claimants, advocates, and providers throughout Michigan.



WEBSITE ENHANCEMENTS

The Crime Victim Compensation website now provides updated program information, resource referrals, a step-by-step application walk-through video, eligibility requirements, downloadable materials, and more.



Learn more about benefits, eligibility, and how to apply at:
Michigan.gov/CrimeVictim

MDHHS | Division of Victim Services
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services