

What is OCVA and what does it do?

Background

OCVA serves as a voice within state government for the needs of crime victims in Washington State.

Established in 1990, OCVA Serves the state on many levels by:

- ◆ Advocating on behalf of crime victims in obtaining needed service and resources;
- ◆ Administering grant funds to community agencies working with crime victims;
- ◆ Assisting communities in planning and implementing services for crime victims; and
- ◆ Advising local and state government agencies of practices, policies, and priorities which impact crime victims.

OCVA's philosophy is that it is in the best interest of all citizens of Washington State that victims of crime are provided the opportunities and resources necessary to recover and return to being productive, contributing members of the community. It is Essential that state government support the development and availability of needed resources and opportunities for crime victims.

Advocacy

OCVA assists crime victims in accessing needed services and resources; serves as an ombudsman for crime victims who are dissatisfied with the response they received in the aftermath of a crime; and provides individual case consultation to service providers and victim advocates regarding clients.

Grant Administration and Areas of Expertise

OCVA administers grant funds in all communities throughout Washington. Grant funds are provided by the Legislature or the Federal Government to coordinate and enhance services designed to benefit crime victims. OCVA grant funds support community agencies throughout the state addressing:

- ◆ Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy
- ◆ Sexual Assault Treatment and Prevention
- ◆ Violence Against Women
- ◆ Youth Violence Prevention
- ◆ Crime Victim Service Centers
- ◆ Prosecutors' Victim Witness Assistance

Leadership

In its role as an advocate for victims of crime, OCVA provides leadership on several levels:

Policy Development

Developing and recommending programs and policies to improve the quality and accessibility of services for victims.

Technical Assistance

Providing technical support and consultation to service providers relative to improved management and service delivery.

Training

Facilitating the planning and provision of training for service providers in social service, criminal justice, medical and education systems.

Community Education

Increasing public awareness of crime victims' needs and concerns in Washington State.

Service Standards

Facilitating the development of service delivery standards by working in concert with providers to assure quality and availability.

“It is the mission of the Office of Crime victims Advocacy to identify the opportunities and resources victims need in order to recover and to facilitate the availability of those resources and opportunities in communities statewide.”

Resources

The OCVA serves as a clearinghouse. For up-to-date information on services, legislation and research relevant to crime victims, including information on:

- ◆ Prevention/Education Programs
- ◆ Treatment Services
- ◆ Statistics
- ◆ Criminal Justice System
- ◆ Crime Victims Compensation

Office Hours:

**Monday through Thursday
7 AM to 6 PM**

**Toll Free
1-800-822-1067**

FAX (360) 586-7176

**E-Mail
OCVA@commerce.wa.gov**

**Web
www.ocva.wa.gov**

**TTY
(360) 586-4623**



**For services or information, call:
1-800-822-1067
(360) 725-2895**

**Individuals may also write to us at the
following address:**

**Department of Commerce
Office of Crime Victims Advocacy
P.O. Box 42525
Olympia, Washington 98504-2525**

Office Of Crime Victims Advocacy



Administered by

**WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE**