



**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH,
AND VICTIM SERVICES**

**Maryland State Board of Victim Services
2022 Annual Report**

Criminal Procedure Article, §§ 11-914(1) and 11-915(b)(5)

Larry Hogan

Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford

Lt. Governor

Kunle Adeyemo, Esq.

Executive Director

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

Submitted by:

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

Contact: Rebecca Allyn

410-697-9384 | Rebecca.Allyn@Maryland.gov

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Acknowledgements	3
Roster of Members	3
Executive Summary	6
Background	6
Accomplishments	8
Annual Statewide Memorial Services	8
Maryland Crime Victims' Rights Conference	8
Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Program	9
Active Assailant Interdisciplinary Workgroup	9
Recommendations to the Governor	9
Key Initiatives	10
Roper Victim Assistance Academy of Maryland	10
Victims' Rights Compliance Initiative	11
Crime Victim Mandated Pamphlets and Forms	12
Grant Programs	13
Maryland Victims of Crime (MVOC) Fund	13
Legal Services for Crime Victims (LSCV) Fund	14
Conclusion	15

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Roster of Members

Pursuant to § 11-912 of the Criminal Procedure Article, the Maryland State Board of Victim Services is composed of various members, including a Chair, appointed by Governor Hogan.

Governor Larry Hogan
Governor of Maryland

Kunle Adeyemo, Esq.
Executive Director, Governor's Office of
Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim
Services

Steven J. Kelly, Esq., Chair
Sanford Heisler Sharp, LLP

Sam Abed
Secretary, Department of Juvenile Services

Anne T. Bean
Service Provider, Cecil County Department
of Community Services

Brian Frosh
Maryland Attorney General, Attorney
General's Office

Lou Gieszl
Administrative Office of the Courts

Robert L. Green
Secretary, Department of Public Safety and
Correctional Services

Theresa Hiegel
Service Provider, U.S. Attorney's Office

R. Gary Hofmann, III
Maryland Sheriffs' Association, Queen
Anne's County Sheriff's Office

Molly Knipe
Service Provider, YWCA of Annapolis and
Anne Arundel County

The Honorable Anne Colt Leites, Esq.
Anne Arundel County State's Attorney

Steven Levin, Esq.
Chair, Criminal Injuries Compensation
Board

Adam Lippe, Esq.
Public Member, Baltimore County State's
Attorney's Office

Lourdes Padilla
Secretary, Department of Human Services

LaJoy Preston
Maryland Chiefs of Police Association,
Prince George's County Police Department

The Honorable Joe Riley
Associate Judge,
Caroline County District Court

Jill Ritter
Public Member, Washington County State's
Attorney's Office

Alonzo Robertson, Esq.
Public Member, Maryland Crime Victims'
Resource Center, Inc.

Lisa Smith, Esq.
Service Provider, Maryland Public Service
Commission

Lisa Spicknall-Horner
Public Members, Donate Life Maryland

Jeanne Yeager

Public Member, Mid-Shore Council on
Family Violence

Maryland State Board of Victim Services
Alternate Representatives

Heather Amador

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention,
Youth, and Victim Services

Tiffany Bright

Attorney General's Office

Jessica Daigle, Esq.

Anne Arundel County State's Attorney's
Office

Jessica Dickerson

Department of Juvenile Services

Lisae Jordan, Esq.

Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Laurie Kimble

Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office

Patricia Stevens

Department of Public Safety and
Correctional Services

Jacqueline Turner

Department of Human Services

Executive Summary

In accordance with §§ 11-914 and 11-915 of the Criminal Procedure Article, the Maryland State Board of Victim Services (Board) is charged to continue its mission to ensure victims of crime receive justice and are treated with dignity, respect, and compassion through comprehensive victim services. Through its charge, and under the leadership of Chair Steven Kelly, Esq., Sanford Heisler Sharp, LLC, and staff from the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (Office), the Board continued to partner with victim service providers; local communities; executive, legislative, and judicial branches of State government; and the federal government to better serve Maryland's victims of crime.

To address its charge, the Board continued to improve the treatment for victims of crime by working with criminal justice agencies and private non-profit organizations, creating and expanding innovative initiatives, and welcoming feedback and suggestions from individuals and communities across the State.

Pursuant to §§ 11-914(1) and 11-915(b)(5) of the Criminal Procedure Article, this *Maryland State Board of Victim Services 2022 Annual Report* includes information on the activities of the Board, the administration of funds to victims of crime, and specific recommendations to improve the treatment and services for Maryland's victims of crime.

Background

Recognizing the unique and distinctive needs of crime victims, the Maryland General Assembly created the Board and the position of the State Coordinator in 1987. This was done for the purpose of monitoring, assessing, coordinating, and making recommendations concerning state and local efforts to assist victims of crime. The Board's mission is to ensure that all crime victims in Maryland are treated with dignity, respect, and compassion during all phases of the criminal justice process.

In 1991, under the authority of the Office, the Maryland General Assembly created the Maryland Victims of Crime (MVOC) fund to provide funding support for victim services. In 2007, the Legal Services for Crime Victims (LSCV) fund was created by the Maryland General Assembly to provide Maryland crime victims the opportunity to have legal representation in the criminal court system. The Board makes funding recommendations to the Office, which administers and manages the MVOC and the LSCV grant projects.

Pursuant to § 11-914 of the Criminal Procedure Article, and under the authority of the Executive Director of the Office, the Board shall:

- (1) Submit to the Governor an annual written report of its activities, including its administration of the MVOC fund;
- (2) Monitor the service needs of victims;
- (3) Advise the Governor on the needs of victims;
- (4) Recommend the appointment of the Victim Services Coordinator to the Executive Director;
- (5) Review and approve the Victim Services Coordinator's plans and annual reports, and the Victim Services Coordinator's implementation, operation, and revision of programs;
- (6) Approve or disapprove each grant application submitted by the Office;
- (7) Advise the State's Attorneys' Coordination Council on the adoption of regulations governing the administration of the Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Program established under § 11-902 of this subtitle;
- (8) Advise the State's Attorneys' Coordinator on the administration of the Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Program;
- (9) (i) Develop pamphlets to notify victims and victim's representatives of the rights, services, and procedures provided under Article 47 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights or State law, how to request information regarding an unsolved case, and how to request that an offender be placed on electronic monitoring or electronic monitoring with victim stay-away alert technology, including:
 1. One pamphlet relating to the Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC) system protocol registration process and the time before and after the filing of a charging document other than an indictment or information in circuit court; and
 2. A second pamphlet relating to the time after the filing of an indictment or information in circuit court; and
 (ii) Develop a poster to notify victims of the right to request a private room in a law enforcement agency or unit to report crimes under Title 3 of the Criminal Law Article ("Other Crimes against the Person"); and
- (10) Develop a notification request form and an MDEC system protocol in consultation with the Administrative Office of the Courts, through which a victim or victim's representative may request to be notified under § 11-104 of this title.

Furthermore, and in accordance with § 11-915(b)(5) of the Criminal Procedure Article, the Victim Services Coordinator shall, under the authority of the Executive Director, submit to the Governor, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, and the Board an annual report that includes recommendations on how to improve victim assistance programs.

Accomplishments

Annual Statewide Memorial Services

In partnership with the Victim and Witness Divisions of the State's Attorneys' Offices, the Office and the Board sponsor four regional memorial services each year during the National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The memorial services feature inspirational speakers, musical performances, and quiet reflection which honor over 5,000 crime victims of homicide, vehicular manslaughter, and missing crime victims and their families. These memorial services provide a safe, supportive, and trustworthy space for families of crime victims to congregate and share their stories. Many advocates, who strive to serve victims of crime, help to coordinate the memorial services because they understand the importance of a positive outlet for families to cope with their grief and honor their loved ones. The regional memorial services are geographically divided throughout the State (*as illustrated below*).

Eastern Region	Western Region	Southern Region	Northern Region
Caroline	Allegany	Calvert	Anne Arundel
Dorchester	Carroll	Charles	Baltimore City
Kent	Frederick	Prince George's	Baltimore
Queen Anne's	Garrett	St. Mary's	Cecil
Somerset	Montgomery		Harford
Talbot	Washington		Howard
Wicomico			
Worcester			

The 32nd Statewide Memorial Services for Crime Victims and Their Families were hosted by the Harford, Prince George's, Washington, and Worcester County State's Attorneys' Offices on Sunday, April 24, 2022.

Maryland Crime Victims' Rights Conference

The 2022 Maryland Crime Victims' Rights Conference was held virtually April 27 - April 29, 2022, providing crime victim service professionals the opportunity to listen, learn, and network with speakers and peers as it relates to emerging victim issues and innovative approaches to empower victims. Heather Warnken presented the keynote speech titled "A Vision for Equity in Victim Services." Workshops presented during the conference focused on stalking, law enforcement-based victim services, victims' rights, compensation, navigating the criminal justice system, victim notification, teen dating violence, human trafficking, and self-care in a post-pandemic world.

The Governor's Victim Assistance Awards were presented during the virtual *2022 Maryland Crime Victims' Rights Conference*. The awards were presented to three Marylanders who went above and beyond the call of duty to assist crime victims:

- Steven Hess, retired Law Enforcement Coordinator for the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Maryland, received the Vincent Roper Memorial Award in recognition of outstanding work to secure crime victim justice for all in a quiet and selfless manner.
- Wendy Lee, Deputy Director of Intimate Partner Violence Prevention and Visitation Services at the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, received the Henry Gleim Memorial Award in recognition of outstanding services to crime victims and those who work to serve them.
- Dorothy Lennig, Esq., Director of the Legal Clinic at House of Ruth Maryland, received the Virginia Mahoney Award in recognition of an outstanding leader who epitomized true leadership in support of victims' rights.

Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Program

The Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Program is used to protect and relocate victims and witnesses and securely facilitate their participation in court proceedings. The Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Program is administered by the State's Attorney Coordinator and the Board has authority to advise the State's Attorneys' Coordination Council on the regulations and administration of the program. The Board is in the process of reviewing the current guidelines and providing recommendations.

Active Assailant Interdisciplinary Workgroup

Over the last year, the Board has collaborated with the Maryland [Active Assailant Interdisciplinary Work Group](#) (AAIWG) to develop guidance and best practices for support services for mass casualty incidents, including guidance for establishing family assistance centers, victims' rights, and compensation.

Recommendations to the Governor

Pursuant to §§ 11-914(1) and 11-915(b)(5) of the Criminal Procedure Article, and under the authority of the Executive Director, the Board identified the following recommendations to improve treatment and services available for victims of crime (*as illustrated below*).

Recommendation 1: Maryland should continue to support Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) for courts, custody, parole, probation, and sex offender alert line services.

Recommendation 2: The Board should continue to collaborate with the AAIWG to develop guidance and best practices for Family Assistance Centers and victim services when responding to an active assailant incident.

Recommendation 3: Maryland State's Attorneys' Offices should continue to utilize the Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Program. Program funds are used to protect victims and witnesses and relocate victims and witnesses to protect them and/or facilitate their participation in court proceedings.

Recommendation 4: Maryland should pursue long-term strategies to address the financial needs of crime victims. Provisions should be made to increase the collection of costs imposed on convicted defendants in district and circuit courts that are distributed into the MVOC fund and the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund. Increased funding would continue supporting crime victims through services and compensation, statewide training, federal and state policies, technology, and public awareness and community outreach.

Recommendation 5: The Board supports collaboration and partnerships amongst direct service providers to sustain continuity of operations.

All recommendations support the overall goals of enhancing victims' awareness of services, increasing victims' safety, and increasing victims' self-sufficiency.

Key Initiatives

Roper Victim Assistance Academy of Maryland

The Office also supports the [Roper Victim Assistance Academy](#) (Academy) which offers two levels of training, basic and advanced, to victim service professionals in Maryland. The basic training consists of a 40-hour standardized multidisciplinary academic curriculum designed for newer professionals and is conducted as a one-week residential program. In February 2022, the one-week basic training program resulted in 30 professional graduates. Between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022, the Academy offered 71 advanced training sessions on cyber victimization, immigrant victimization, human trafficking, ethics in victim services, and compassion fatigue and self-care, in which over 2,000 participants completed the training. Transitioning the training to a virtual format has resulted in positive outcomes and increased attendance.

All training provided by the Academy is nationally approved and certified for professional certification units and university credits. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and university credits for both the basic and advanced training programs are also offered by the Academy.

The Maryland Victim Assistance Certification Program is also offered by the Academy and is available in three certification levels to coincide with years of experience and training. In state FY 2022, 137 individuals received a certification (either Level I certification, Level II certification, or Level III certification).

Victims' Rights Compliance Initiative

In April 1999, the Board and the Office established the *Victims' Rights Compliance Initiative* (Initiative) in an effort to remedy crime victims' rights violations. The goal and objective of the Initiative is to improve the criminal justice system's response to victims of crime through systematic improvements of services provided to victims; and to give victims the option to voice their concerns and seek system response when they believe that their statutory rights have been violated at any point in the criminal justice system.

In support of this Initiative, the Office advises criminal justice agencies on victims' rights. The Office promotes and facilitates voluntary, efficient, and effective compliance with laws; analyzes agency implementation practices, policies, procedures, and tools; and recommends and resolves complicated questions and problems between victims and service providers in a non-adversarial manner. More specifically, the Office responds to calls, letters, and emails received from crime victims across the State alleging violations of various crime victims' rights, seeking referrals for direct services, and looking for information and explanations about the criminal justice process. Some of these examples include:

- Frustration with the lack of (or limited) criminal justice agency responses to the crime;
- Confusion about and/or failure to be informed of filing of nolle prosequi by prosecutors;
- Lack of information regarding case status;
- Denial of compensation claims by the appointed five member Criminal Injuries Compensation Board;
- Nonpayment of restitution by offenders granted probationary sentences or parole; and
- Lack of notification of offender's parole, violation of probation, and release from incarceration.

In state FY 2022, the Victim Services Program Manager, who serves as the Victim Services Coordinator, responded to 169 calls, letters, and emails from crime victims in the State regarding complaints or requests for services (*as illustrated below*).

Jurisdiction	Number of Complaints/Request for Services
Anne Arundel	4
Baltimore	7
Baltimore City	14
Calvert	1

Carroll	2
Cecil	1
Charles	2
Frederick	2
Howard	4
Montgomery	7
Prince George's	11
Somerset	1
St. Mary's	2
Washington	2
Worcester	2
Unknown	106
TOTAL	168

The Office seeks to refer victims with active cases to appropriate advocacy groups or responsible agencies, and to examine what occurred in cases which have been completed. As a result of these efforts, the Office received and addressed numerous victim contacts (*as illustrated below*).

	Referrals	Number of Referrals
Closed Matters	Criminal Injuries Compensation Board or other financial assistance	64
	Department of Housing and Community Development	2
	Department of Human Services	4
	Department of Juvenile Services	1
	Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services	6
	Law Enforcement Agency	37
	Office of the Attorney General	3
	State's Attorney's Office or other legal assistance	34
	Victim Assistance Organization	47
	TOTAL*	198

*The total number of referrals is greater than the number of complaints/requests for services because several victims received referrals to multiple organizations and agencies.

Crime Victim Mandated Pamphlets and Forms

Pursuant to Article 47 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights, § 11-914 of the Criminal Procedure Article, and other statutory provisions, the Board developed two pamphlets to ensure that a victim's right to be informed is upheld by law enforcement personnel, commissioners or juvenile justice intake workers, and state's attorneys.

With the enactment of [Amber's Law](#) (Chapter 643 of 2017), individuals have received the opportunity to request reasonable protections for the safety of an alleged victim or the victim's family. The Board developed the brochure, *Maryland Crime Victims: Requesting Protections for*

Safety, to inform victims on how to request that an offender be placed on electronic monitoring or electronic monitoring with victim stay-away alert technology.

Pursuant to Chapters [85](#) and [86](#) of 2021, the Board developed a [poster](#) to notify a victim of the right to request a private room in a law enforcement agency when reporting crimes under Title 3 of the Criminal Law Article ("Other Crimes against the Person").

As illustrated below, **154,475** crime victim mandated materials have been distributed throughout the State, between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.

Primary Agency Responsible for Distributing Crime Victim Mandated Pamphlets/Forms	Language	Quantity Distributed
Law Enforcement (<i>Crime Victims and Witnesses: Your Rights and Services</i>)	English	128,025
Law Enforcement (<i>Crime Victims and Witnesses: Your Rights and Services</i>)	Spanish	18,550
Law Enforcement (<i>Private Room Poster</i>)	English	200
State's Attorneys' Office (<i>Your Rights as a Victim in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Process</i>)	English	5,750
State's Attorneys' Office (<i>Your Rights as a Victim in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Process</i>)	Spanish	1,350
State's Attorneys' Office (<i>Crime Victim Notification and Demand for Rights Form</i>)	English	400
State's Attorneys' Office (<i>Crime Victim Notification and Demand for Rights Form</i>)	Spanish	200
TOTAL Quantity Distributed		154,475

Grant Programs

Maryland Victims of Crime (MVOC) Fund

Chapter 561 of 1991 created the MVOC fund as a source of revenue to allow the Board to ensure implementation of the Declaration of Crime Victims' Rights Amendment to the Maryland Constitution, as well as the Guidelines for Treatment of and Assistance to Crime Victims and Witnesses, and other laws adopted to benefit victims and witnesses of crime.

The primary purpose of this fund is to provide advocacy and support services to victims of crime to develop and enhance existing programs that serve victims of crime in Maryland. In 2021, the Office released the FY 2022 Maryland Victims of Crime (MVOC) Fund Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) which identified the following priorities:¹

- Direct services for victims of crime;

¹ Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victims Services. [Maryland Victims of Crime Fund \(MVOC\)](#). Retrieved from <https://goccp.maryland.gov/grants/programs/mvoc/>.

- Victim service providers in law enforcement;
- Victim/witness service providers in state's attorney's offices;
- Enhanced services and support for child advocacy centers; and
- Enhanced services to crime victims that aid and promote the distribution of mandated brochures and educate them on their rights according to Maryland law.

In response to the FY 2022 MVOC NOFA, which made \$600,000 available, the Office received 33 applications, totaling over \$1.5 million in requested funds. Based on Board members' review of the applications and funding recommendations, the Office awarded \$600,000 to 14 subrecipients. Subrecipients were also provided the opportunity to receive a second year of level funding, providing the program was in good standing and demonstrating positive outcomes. For state FY 2023, the Office provided a second year of continuation funding for the 14 subrecipients.

Legal Services for Crime Victims (LSCV) Fund

Chapters 125 and 126 of 2007 created the LSCV grant program under § 11-919 of the Criminal Procedure Article to provide victims of crime the opportunity to have legal representation in the criminal court system. Through this grant program, funds are received from unclaimed restitution to protect victims' rights as provided by law. The Division of Parole and Probation and the Department of Juvenile Services collect court-ordered restitution from adult defendants and juvenile respondents for subsequent distribution to crime victims.

The primary purpose of this grant program is to ensure that the money obtained from unclaimed restitution is used for annual grants to provide legal counsel to victims of crime and delinquent acts, and to protect victims' rights as provided by law. In 2021, the Office released the FY 2022 Legal Services for Crime Victims (LSCV) NOFA which requires programs to offer statewide legal services to victims of crime and delinquent acts.² In response to the FY 2022 LSCV NOFA, the Office received six applications, requesting over \$400,000, with the availability of \$75,000 in grant funds. The Office awarded \$75,000 to one program for statewide legal services in state FY 2022. For state FY 2023, the Office provided a second year of continuation funding for the one subrecipient.

² Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. [Legal Services for Crime Victims Fund \(LSCV\)](https://goccp.maryland.gov/grants/programs/lscv/). Retrieved from <https://goccp.maryland.gov/grants/programs/lscv/>.

Conclusion

The Board, under the leadership of the Executive Director of the Office, will continue to partner with state agencies and victim service providers to ensure all crime victims in Maryland are treated with dignity, respect, and compassion during all phases of the criminal justice process.