

### **Tips for Community Leaders: Funding and Victims Compensation**

- Make victim services a part of your disaster-response protocol at the state and local level
- Include Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) trained victim assistance professionals (VAPs) in all levels of planning and response
- Be a part of formal and informal networks of agencies and officials organized to respond to mass violence
- Assemble a team of community leaders to apply for funding and/or grants to cover various costs related to victim services as well as municipal costs
- Include VAPs, representatives from mental health programs and hospital systems, local government and law enforcement officials, steering committees of well-known area civic and business leaders as well as representatives of the community affected.
- Include crime victims compensation information in briefings to the public
- Be aware that victims' compensation programs are payers of last resort. Victims who receive money from other sources may not be eligible for federal or state compensation or may have their benefits adjusted.
- Utilize your VOCA Administrators. They are trained and experienced.
- Telling victims about compensation is the responsibility of every individual who works in victim services and law enforcement. This resource also should be made known by those who provide medical and counseling services.