Tips for Community Leaders: Funding & Victims’ Compensation

ា Make victim services a part of your disaster-response protocol at the state and local level.

aña Include Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) trained victim service professionals (VSPs) in all levels of planning and response.

ана Be a part of formal and informal networks of agencies and officials organized to respond to mass violence.

aña 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.

aña Include VSPs, 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.

aña Include crime victims’ compensation information in briefings to the public.

aña 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.

aña Utilize your VOCA Administrators. They are trained and experienced.

aña Telling victims about compensation is the responsibility of every individual who works in victim services and law enforcement. This resource should also be made known by those who provide medical and counseling services.

Scan to download tip sheet

This product was supported by Cooperative Agreements #2017-MU-GX-K114, #2020-V7-GX-K002, and #15POVC-23-GK-00555-AERX, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this product are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.