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OVS Newsletter

January 18, 2017

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Upcoming Events

* + [WebEx Online Trainings Available](https://copa.webex.com/mw3100/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=copa&service=6)Compensation Related: Basic, Advanced-Counseling, Transportation Expenses, Restitution and much more!

Credits towards VOCA/RASA/VOJO training requirements are available for all sessions (unless indicated otherwise in the session description). To receive training credits: 1) you must be logged into the session and 2) the WebEx application must be on your computer for the entire duration of the session. As the OVS recognizes that emergencies may arise and you may not be able to attend the entire session, there is no prohibition against attending part of a session (although training credits will not be given in that instance).

* + [Training/Networking Opportunities](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/OVS-Training-Networking-Opportunities.aspx)
  + [Additional RASA/VOJO/VOCA Approved Training](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/RASA-VOCA-VOJO-Trainings.aspx)

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# ****Scholarships Available For 2017 National Victim Service Conferences****

The Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute (PDAI) is pleased to announce the availability of funding for scholarships to attend eligible national victim service conferences. This funding is made available through a grant awarded to PDAI by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) for the purpose of subsidizing the costs associated with attending these training conferences. These costs may include registration fees, per diem (for food), and reasonable transportation and lodging expenses. The scholarships are only available to victim service professionals to attend any national conference focused on victim service training. To qualify, the applicant’s entire job focus must be on providing support, information, and assistance to victims. Any eligible conference must be completed within the 2017 calendar year.  Only one person per agency can receive a scholarship and only after providing a sufficient justification of need. Recipients are selected based upon the information provided in the application, the number of scholarships previously awarded, and remaining available funding. Please click [here](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/2017%20PCCD%20Scholarship%20Application.docx) for the Scholarship Application.

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# ****Preparing to Implement Evidence Based Programs****

A NEW Training Series from the EPISCenter: Each year new funding opportunities are available for you to implement evidence based programs - are you prepared to apply? The EPISCenter will be offering three free webinars full of tips and expert guidance to help you in designing your program implementation and writing an effective grant application.

**Assessing Community Needs and Identifying Programs**  
Learn how to select programs that address the particular needs of your community.

Friday, January 20th, 2017

11:00a.m. – 12:30p.m.

Please click [here](https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7VfVHfsEU35tKUR) to register.

**Creating a Strong Implementation and Evaluation Plan**  
Learn how to plan for an effective program and document your success.

**Friday, January 27th, 2017**

11:00a.m. – 12:30p.m.

Please click [here](https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4IrZAeF7nsLoDsN) to register.

**Sustainability and Grant Writing**  
Learn how to plan for long term viability and review critical grant writing tips and logistics.

Friday, February 3rd, 2017

11:00a.m.-12:30p.m.

Please click [here](https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8BppNydyuGYW3KB) to register.

**Note:** When you register, we'll email you a link to the online presentation space. Be sure to test these links prior to the presentation time. Security settings--especially in work environments--may limit access, and you may be required to update to the current (free) Adobe Flash Player in order to view content.

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# New Solicitation: Improving Criminal Justice Responses To Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence And Stalking

OVW's Improving Criminal Justice Responses Program challenges the community to work collaboratively to identify problems and share ideas that will result in effective responses to ensure victim safety and offender accountability. A coordinated community response that brings together effective partners from local government, nonprofit organizations, and population specific organizations is critical. Please click [here](https://www.justice.gov/ovw/page/file/922506/download) to download the Solicitation.

Register by: January 26, 2017

Applications due: February 16, 2017

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# Funding Opportunity: OVW FY2017 Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, And Stalking Program

The United States Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) is pleased to announce that it is seeking applications for the Fiscal Year 2017 Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Assistance Program. This program furthers the Department’s mission by supporting projects designed to address and prevent sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking in rural jurisdictions.

Applications Due: February 23, 2017

Please click [OVW-2017-11908](http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=291054) for the full solicitation.

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# PDAI Victim Services Training News

**Web Ex Training**: **Pennsylvania Protection Acts, PFA and SVPI– What You Need to Know**

February 8, 2017

1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Registration is now open on the PCCD WebEx Page, which can be accessed [here](https://copa.webex.com/mw3100/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=copa&service=6).

**April Foundational Academy**April 19-21, 2017  
The Hyatt Place, State College  
210 West Beaver Avenue  
State College, PA 16801

Attendance at the 2017 Foundational Academy will assist new victim services professionals identify and understand their roles and job responsibilities as outlined by PCCD's Consolidated Victim Service Program Standards. Join your colleagues from around the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to network and learn the basics. Participants will be provided overnight accommodations at no cost for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. There is no registration fee for the Foundational Academy for individuals required to attend. For all attendees training materials will be provided, as well as breakfast and lunch each day.

Registration for this training will be available on the [PDAA website](http://www.pdaa.org/pdai-home/) by January 20, 2017.

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# ****Open Your Eyes: Reasons, Responsibilities, And Responses To Combat Child Sexual Exploitation Symposium For The Faith Community****

The Faith Committee of the North Central PA Human Trafficking Response Team is presenting a symposium in late January (Human Trafficking Awareness Month) to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation. The same symposium will be presented twice--in Williamsport, PA on Jan 27 and in Milton, PA on Jan 28. We encourage you to register now for one of these sessions.

**January 27, 2017**

Williamsport, PA

For more information and to register, please click [here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/open-your-eyes-a-symposium-raising-awareness-of-child-sexual-exploitation-registration-27440196366?aff=es2).

**January 28, 2017**

Milton, PA

For more information and to register, please click [here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/open-your-eyes-a-symposium-raising-awareness-of-child-sexual-exploitation-registration-27902720789?aff=es2).

Anyone can benefit from this symposium. PLEASE HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!

We look forward to seeing you in Williamsport or Milton in January. Please feel free to contact Susan Warner-Mills at 570-716-0870, or [swm@dejazzd.com](mailto:swm@dejazzd.com), with any questions.

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# Reminder To All VOJO And RASA Programs: FINAL Program Reports Due By January 20, 2017

The following program reports will need to be submitted in Egrants **by January 20, 2017**:

**VOJO Program Reports – FINAL report for the six month period from June 30, 2016 – December 31, 2016 of current VOJO grants**

**RASA Program Reports – FINAL report for the six month period from June 30, 2016 – December 31, 2016 of current RASA grants**

NOTE: Final fiscal reports for VOJO and RASA grants will also be due in Egrants by January 20, 2017.

Please contact either Vicki McCloskey at [vmccloskey@pa.gov](mailto:vmccloskey@pa.gov) or (717) 265-8746, or Maria Katulis at [mkatulis@pa.gov](mailto:mkatulis@pa.gov) or (717) 265-8741 if you have any questions or need assistance regarding your VOJO or RASA Program Reports.

For fiscal-related questions, please contact the fiscal staff member listed on your grant. If you need technical assistance with Egrants, please contact the Egrants Support Line at (717) 787-5887.

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# 2016 STOP Annual Progress Reports Are Due 1/20/2017

The deadline for submitting 2016 Annual Progress Reports for the STOP Grant is January 20, 2017.

If you were unable to attend the “Completing the 2016 STOP Grant Annual Report” training on December 15, 2016, you can access the recording [here](https://copa.webex.com/copa/lsr.php?RCID=9f6cd960c2be4d0eb3168d123d60f348). The training provided an overview of the 2016 STOP Grant annual report process, information on completing the program report sections in Egrants, and guidelines for completing the annual progress report.

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# Compensation Corner – Claim Assignment Backlog

The Victims Compensation Assistance Program is committed to helping ease the financial burden that crime imposes on victims.

At this time, the Program is experiencing a backlog of claims to be assigned due to the high number of claims received and staff turnover. There will be a delay in acknowledging and processing compensation claims submitted to the Victims Compensation Assistance Program. We apologize for this inconvenience and we sincerely regret the distress this may cause. We are working very hard to remedy the situation. Currently, claims are being assigned within approximately 60 days of receipt. Additionally, as a result of this backlog, we have been sending letters to claimants advising of the delay in acknowledging their claims.

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# ****Victims Compensation Assistance Program Online Trainings****

The following training will be held on January 19, 2017.

Funeral & Burial Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2986171447&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2986171447&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following training will be held on January 23, 2017.

Stolen Benefit Cash Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2986171754&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2986171754&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following training will be held on January 26, 2017.

Transportation Expenses Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2986172127&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2986172127&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following trainings will be held on February 2, 2017.

Loss of Support Clinic - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2986172637&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2986172637&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

Counseling Expenses Clinic - 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2986172266&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2986172266&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following training will be held on February 8, 2017.

Basic Compensation - 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/enroll/join.do?confId=2986157036&theAction=detail&path=program_detail&siteurl=copa&confViewID=2986157036&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following DAVE trainings will be held in 2017:

4/13/17 DAVE Training - 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 pm. Click [here](https://copa.webex.com/copa/k2/j.php?MTID=td9c1d44e1d75a3f47729076acc1f68f5) to register.

* *All trainings count towards 1 hour of the required RASA/VOCA/VOJO training hours, except Basic Compensation which counts towards 2 and DAVE training which counts towards 2.15.*

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# Resources For National Slavery And Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Human trafficking is a horrendous crime that impacts communities throughout our Nation. With increased awareness, improved services, and effective prosecutions, we can work together to fight this crime and support the survivors. Every January, we commemorate [National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month](https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/12/28/presidential-proclamation-national-slavery-and-human-trafficking) to renew our commitment to helping trafficking victims. In an effort to help communities prepare for local events for this January, OVC has highlighted the following resources:

[Faces of Human Trafficking Resource Guide](https://ovc.ncjrs.gov/humantrafficking/publicawareness.html)  
This award-winning multidisciplinary resource can be used to raise awareness of the seriousness of human trafficking, the many forms it can take, and the important role that everyone can play in identifying and serving victims. This resource includes nine videos, a discussion guide, four fact sheets, and four posters.

[Human Trafficking Task Force E-Guide](https://www.ovcttac.gov/taskforceguide/eguide/)  
Developed in partnership with the Bureau of Justice Assistance, this Guide is a resource to support established task forces and provide guidance to agencies that are forming task forces. Its purpose is to assist in the development and day-to-day operations of an anti-human trafficking task force and to provide fundamental guidance for effective task force operations.

OVC has also released multiple [funding opportunities](https://ovc.ncjrs.gov/solicitation.aspx) available to victim service providers to enhance the services available to victims of human trafficking. Please click here to view [Current Funding Opportunities](https://ovc.ncjrs.gov/Solicitation.aspx).

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# Bill Aims To Close Gun Loophole In Pennsylvania's Domestic Abuse Law

A Pennsylvania lawmaker intends to introduce legislation this year to close a loophole in the state's domestic abuse law that allows defendants to relinquish guns to someone they know. State Sen. Tom Killion, R-Delaware/Chester, [introduced a memo](http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=S&SPick=20170&cosponId=21693) seeking co-sponsorship for a bill that aims to "enhance safety" for parties involved in domestic abuse cases and Protection From Abuse (PFA) orders. PFA orders can be filed against spouses and ex-spouses, sexual partners, children, parents and other relatives, and can order defendants to do a number of things, such as giving up a firearm. Please click [here](http://www.phillyvoice.com/bill-aims-close-gun-loophole-pennsylvanias-domestic-abuse-law/) to read more.

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# New Strangulation Law Aims To Provide Awareness, Justice For Domestic Violence Victims

Lancaster County authorities wasted no time in using a new charge created to help victims of domestic violence. The charge of strangulation became available to law enforcement on Dec. 26. Since then, it has been applied three times here, all in domestic violence incidents where men are accused of choking women. “We are absolutely thrilled (with the early application of the law),” said Ellen Kramer, deputy director of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Kramer called the law “one of our top priorities in the last legislative session” as it created awareness of just how lethal and prevalent strangulation can be in intimate relationships while raising its stature in the criminal justice system. Please click [here](http://lancasteronline.com/news/local/new-strangulation-law-aims-to-provide-awareness-justice-for-domestic/article_110240d6-d82e-11e6-933c-bb9bcc25186e.html) to read more.

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# National Council of Juvenile And Family Court Judges – Family Violence: Legislative Update Volume 21

Family Violence: Legislative Update Volume 21 is now available from my friends at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. This volume focuses on the 2015 legislative sessions. In 2015, for the first time in recent years, efforts to enact and reinforce victim rights and protections edged out measures to strengthen the criminal justice response and protection orders, although both remained active areas of legislation in many states. Across all of these categories was a noted emphasis on technology, both its potential for increased dangers to victims and its utility in enhancing systems’ responses to domestic violence. Legislators, judges, attorneys, domestic violence coalitions, and others interested in state domestic and family violence legislation will find this publication useful and informative as a guide to legislative changes made to address domestic violence i n legislation across the country.  You can download your copy [here](https://www.ncjfcj.org/resource-library/publications/family-violence-legislative-update-volume-21).

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# National Census for Victim Service Providers

Has your program completed the National Census for Victim Service Providers yet? This is an opportunity to be included in the "big picture" of victim response. The National Census for Victim Service Providers will be a major source of national and state-level information that you will be able to use in planning and managing not just your VOCA victim assistance grants, but all victim services administered and operated by your agency.  To be useful, it is essential that NCVSP obtain information from as many victim service agencies as possible.

If you have not received an invitation or aren’t sure whether your organization received an invitation, contact survey firm NORC at [NCVSP@norc.org](mailto:NCVSP@norc.org).

More information about the NCVSP is available on the [NCVSP](http://www.rand.org/jie/justice-policy/projects/nsvsp.html) website, including a recorded webinar, list of supporters, FAQ, and more. Please click [here](http://www.rand.org/jie/justice-policy/projects/nsvsp.html) for more information.

Thank you for your participation!

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# Save The Date: The 14th Pathways For Victim Services Conference

OVS is pleased to announce the dates of the next Pathways for Victim Services Conference in 2017. The conference will be held in the spring of 2017 at the Hershey Lodge and Conference Center in Hershey, PA.

**Please mark your calendars for the following dates:**

Monday, May 8, 2017

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

OVS is very excited about the upcoming Pathways Conference and we look forward to seeing you there. For additional information, please click [here](http://www.cvent.com/events/2017-pathways-for-victim-services-conference/event-summary-05b8d26fcfba40e784c80e6a28817877.aspx).

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# Save The Date: KCIT Basic Crisis Response Training

**June 19-22, 2017**

Country Inn & Suites by Carlson

State College, PA

Training Fee: $250 (*Fee includes hotel accommodations, training materials, breakfast and lunch each day*)

Application Deadline: May 12, 2017

Please click [here](http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eczzpl4g2a84648b&llr=6nqn8gdab) to register and for more information.

This training is sponsored by the Keystone Crisis Intervention Team. KCIT provides crisis intervention services to victims of crime and their communities in the aftermath of a traumatic event in Pennsylvania.

This 25 hour course trains qualified individuals to work as a team with the goal of helping people in crisis cope with the physical, emotional, and behavioral reactions to trauma in the aftermath of a community crisis.

Please note: Completion of this application does not secure a seat in the training. You will be notified if you have been selected for this training course. All applicants will be notified by May 19, 2017 if they were accepted into the training. Decisions are based on several factors.

For more information or questions please contact: Michelle Kern, KCIT Coordinator at 215-343-6543, or by email at [michelle@novabucks.org](mailto:michelle@novabucks.org)

*This training has been approved for 25 PCCD training hours.*

*This training has applied for approval by the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors for 25 CEUs.*

*Funding for this project is made available in part through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD).*

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# The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, February 1, 2017. If you would like any training events, fund raisers, or notable news published in this newsletter, please submit them to Heather Hewitt at [hhewitt@pa.gov](mailto:hhewitt@pa.gov) by January 25, 2017.

You have signed up to receive the OVS Newsletter from the Office of Victims' Services. This newsletter will be sent to you on a biweekly basis via email. If your email address changes or you would like to be removed from the OVS Newsletter distribution list, please contact Heather Hewitt at (717) 265-8730 or via email at [hhewitt@pa.gov](mailto:hhewitt@pa.gov).

Pennsylvania’s [Office of Victims’ Services](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/default.aspx) | 3101 North Front Street | Harrisburg, PA 17110 | (717) 783-0551

[www.pccd.pa.gov](http://www.pccd.pa.gov)

**PA Crime Victims Website**

[www.pcv.pccd.pa.gov](http://www.pcv.pccd.pa.gov)

**Twitter:** [@PaCrimmCom](https://twitter.com/PaCrimeComm)