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OVS NewsLetter

March 16, 2016

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Upcoming Events

* + [WebEx Online Trainings Available](https://copa.webex.com/mw0306ld/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)
	+ [2016 Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute Victim Services Training](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/2016%20Victim%20Services%20Training%20Save%20The%20Date.pdf)

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# Reviewers Needed For VOCA Competitive Process

In March 2016, PCCD will release its federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) 2016-2019 Competitive Solicitation. The goal of this competitive VOCA solicitation is to promote new or enhanced service delivery for crime victims in Pennsylvania. PCCD is recruiting volunteers to review and score the incoming applications.

For background information, the federal VOCA Program was established by the federal Victims of Crime Act of 1984. Its purpose is to provide services which respond to the physical, emotional and financial needs of crime victims by helping them stabilize their lives after the victimization, assisting them in navigating the criminal and juvenile justice systems and providing them with a safe and secure environment. In Pennsylvania, VOCA funding supports direct services like hotlines, crisis intervention, hospital accompaniment, shelter, individual counseling, support groups and therapy.

The money to fund the VOCA Program comes from a dedicated, non-lapsing Crime Victims Fund at the federal level, which is fed by criminal fines and penalties levied against criminals convicted of federal crimes. In 2015, an unprecedented amount of VOCA funding was released from the federal Crime Victims Fund to the states. For Pennsylvania, this meant an increase of annual VOCA funding from $17 Million to over $80 Million.

This is the first time in over a decade that PCCD has had sufficient VOCA funding to foster the development of enhanced direct services for victims of crime and encourage new, eligible victim service providers to apply for funding and we anticipate a robust response. To meet this need, we are actively recruiting volunteers with expertise in the criminal justice system, juvenile justice system, victim services, human services-related fields, mental health treatment or counseling services, or who have extensive experience in scoring grants, to assist us in this review. Please note that if you currently receive VOCA funding but would be interested in scoring, you would be assigned to review applications that would not pose a conflict of interest and would be outside of your county.

Volunteer reviewers will be grouped into small teams of 5-6 people that will be led by a PCCD staff person. Confirmed reviewers will receive training from PCCD to prepare them to review the competitive VOCA applications. Each team will be assigned no more than 17 applications to review and score from mid-May to mid-June.

After the deadline passes for all reviewers to enter their scores into PCCD’s Egrants System, PCCD staff will coordinate Score Reconciliation WebEx Meetings/Conference Calls to bring each review team together for the purpose of discussing scores, collecting feedback, and gaining consensus regarding the applications that the team will be recommending for funding. The Reconciliation Meetings/Conference Calls typically run 2-3 hours at most for each team, and will take place during the remainder of June and into July.

If you are able to volunteer your time to assist us, we ask you to confirm this by responding to Kathy Buckley at kabuckley@pa.gov no later than March 31, 2016. Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you.

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# Submissions are now being accepted for the 2016 Governor’s Victim Service Pathfinder Awards

A Governor’s Victim Service Pathfinder Award is the most prestigious award that Pennsylvania gives to a victim service professional or program. The award may be presented to one program and up to seven individuals who have made notable contributions to the program for which they work, the community they serve, or the field of victim services.

The Governor’s Victim Service Pathfinder Award process is slightly different on non-conference years. Normally, the awards would be presented at the Pathways Conference, however since the conference will not be held this year, the awards can be presented at an event of the nominator and winner’s preference in their own community.  This will provide an opportunity to have the award winners recognized in their own community where their elected officials, board members, family, friends and peers can easily attend.  The award presentations can be held anytime with the event being as small or large as you would like. It could be held during a local Victims’ Rights Week Event, at an Annual Board Meeting, a special event, a County Commissioners Meeting or a presentation at your office. The nominator is responsible for coordinating the event and notifying PCCD of the date and location. A PCCD staff member or a Victims’ Services Advisory Committee (VSAC) member will attend the event to present the award to the recipient.

The selection process for recipients of the Governor’s Victim Service Pathfinder Award is highly competitive. Therefore, to be considered, each nomination must meet the criteria and eligibility exactly as outlined.

Pathfinder nominations will be performed via an electronic submission process. Applications can be submitted by clicking [here](https://www.conferenceabstracts.com/cfp2/login.asp?EventKey=GJUUPPMT). Good news! The Nomination deadline has been extended!! Nominations must be submitted by 11:59pm Tuesday, March 22, 2016. We encourage you to review the following documents on criteria and eligibility:

[Nomination Packet Requirements](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/Nomination%20Packet%20Requirements%20revised%202016.pdf)

[Criteria and Eligibility for Award Categories](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/Criteria%20and%20eligibility%20Revised%20feb%202016.pdf)

[Nomination Packet Checklist](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/Nomination%20Packet%20Checklist%20Revised%20Feb%202016.pdf)

For questions regarding the nominations, contact:

Madelyn Roman-Scott

e-mail: mromanscot@pa.gov

Phone: (717) 265-8455

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# PDAI Victim Services Training News

The following Victim Services trainings are now open for registration on the [PDAI website](http://www.pdaa.org/pdai-home/).

Serving Victims Through the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy
Wednesday, March 23, 2016   The Center for Victims, Pittsburgh, PA    $25.00 registration fee
Scholarships Available

April 2016 Foundational Academy
Wednesday April 20- Friday, April 22, 2016  The Atherton Hotel, State College, PA
No registration fee for advocates require to attend, $100 registration fee for others

Children's Advocacy Centers and Victim Services Collaborations
Thursday, May 26,2016 The Children's Advocacy Center, Bellefonte, PA  $25.00 registration fee
Scholarships Available

If you have questions, please contact Donna Hull, Victim Services Training/ SAVIN Consultant at 484-947-4837 or donna@dhullconsulting.com.

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# 24th Annual Crime Victims’ Rights Rally

Crime Victims’ Rights Week is being honored April 10-16, 2016. This year’s theme is “Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope.” The Crime Victims Alliance of PA will be honoring victims and raising awareness of the rights and interests of crime victims on Monday, April 11th at the Harrisburg State Capitol. This event will be held at 11AM in the Capitol Rotunda. You will hear from victims, survivors, a District Attorney, Pennsylvania’s Victim Advocate and others. All are welcomed to attend.

There will also be tables set up with information from state agencies that provide assistance to victims. If you are an agency that works with victims and would like a table at this year’s Rally please contact Monica Iskric at msiskr@ship.edu by March 25th.

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# OVA Crime Victims' Rights Post-Rally Session

Monday April 11, 2016; 12:30 PM

Room 16E Capitol Building Harrisburg PA.

This event takes place immediately following the Crime Victims Alliance of Pennsylvania Sponsored Rally held in the Capitol Rotunda at 11:00AM

WHERE ARE MY SEX OFFENDERS NOW? PENNSYLVANIA’S INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO SORNA.

This session will provide an overview of the innovative partnership with the Office of Victim Advocate and the PA State Police to provide timely and sensitive notification to crime victims when a sexually violent predator is identified by the courts and falls under the Adam Walsh Act. This partnership has significantly increased the number of victims in PA who are now empowered with tools to assist in their safety.

Please RSVP your attendance to Renee Bressler at rebressler@pa.gov.  A pizza lunch will be provided for those attending the post-rally session. The lunch is sponsored by the House Democratic Caucus.

This has been approved for 2 hours of PCCD annual training hours.

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

The following trainings will be held on March 23, 2016.

Basic Compensation - 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec0701lsp13/eventcenter/enroll/register.do?formId=0&formType=0&loadFlag=1&siteurl=copa&confId=3565628109&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

"Wow, That’s Covered by Compensation" - 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec0701lsp13/eventcenter/enroll/register.do?formId=0&formType=0&loadFlag=1&siteurl=copa&confId=3565628501&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) 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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# PCCD Approved Training

Human Trafficking Training

 When: May 24-25, 2016

 Time: 9:00AM- 4:00 PM, 9:00AM- 12:00PM

 Where: Days Inn Penn State

 Fee: $110

 Workshop description: This workshop will outline the current State and Federal laws on Human Trafficking.  It will also provide valuable insight and information into the trauma experienced by trafficking victims from a clinical perspective.

 Trainers: Susan Brotherton, Arielle Curry, Shea Rhoades

PCCD Approved Hours: 9

 To register click [here](https://www.jcjcjems.state.pa.us/TPS/defaultpts.aspx) and click on training workshops.

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# Compensation Corner – Subrogation Efforts to Enable VCAP to Assist More Victims

The Victims Compensation Assistance Program’s (VCAP) goal is to assist as many victims as possible. VCAP is achieving this goal through various efforts, including the process of subrogation.

There are numerous avenues for victims or their families to explore when they feel that they have not been properly compensated for their losses or when they cannot cover the costs of being made ‘whole’ after a crime incident.  Those opportunities may include, insurance settlements, civil actions, restitution, or third party recovery. Those victims and/or claimants who have received financial assistance from VCAP and also receive a settlement through an insurance settlement, civil action, or third party recovery, or any other source, must notify VCAP to discuss reimbursement. This reimbursement process is called subrogation.

The PCCD’s subrogation efforts have help return significant funding to the VCAP—funding that becomes available to help new claimants. In 2015, Subrogation efforts generated nearly $261,000 to VCAP.

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# Victim Assistance Cyber Safety Workshop

The National Organization for Victim Assistance is providing a training on Cyber Safety. The Victim Assistance Cyber Safety Workshop will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

 The training will be held at the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office in the Ray Harley Training Center, Three South Penn Square, Philadelphia, PA. The training is **free,** includes lunch and all materials and is approved for 7 hours of annual PCCD training credit.

Click [here](https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ec6w5q092f2cabfe&oseq=&c=&ch=) to register.

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# 2016 National Training Institute

The National Center for Victims of Crime is holding its 2016 National Training Institute, September 19-21, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The National Center for Victims of Crime National Training Institute is a 2 ½ day training which features more than 130 leading experts and 72 skill-building workshops with several key presentations pertaining to a wide range of crime victim issues.

This training offers a chance to network and learn from other professionals in the victims field, as well as connect with victim advocates, counselors, program managers, attorneys, social workers, psychologists, researchers, nurses, volunteers, administrators, clergy, nonprofit managers, system-based service providers, and leaders from across the country.

Click [here](https://victimsofcrimetrainings.secure-platform.com/a/page/Current/NTI) to register.

For more workshops, information, a full agenda, and registration information, click [here](https://victimsofcrimetrainings.secure-platform.com/a/page/Current/NTI).

Please contact Kathleen Wilber at Kwilber@ncvc.org, or 202-467-8744 with any questions.

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# ****Join Us Around the Table with Dr. Howard Zehr****

Center for Community Peacemaking (CCP) invites you to our 2016 Annual Dinner with the "grandfather of restorative justice," Dr. Howard Zehr on Thursday, April 28th from 5-8:30PM at Shady Maple Banquet Center, East Earl, PA. Join us for a delicious dinner buffet, auction and program featuring restorative justice pioneer Howard Zehr. Tickets are $40 before March 15, $45 thereafter. Get tickets online at [www.AroundtheTable.org](http://www.aroundthetable.org/) or call (717) 397-2404 for more info.

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# OVC National Crime Victims’ Rights Week Resource Guide

The online OVC National Crime Victims’ Rights Week Resource Guide is now available at: <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw2016/>.  You can download a full version in English from (<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw2016/pdf/2016NCVRW_Full%20Guide-508.pdf>).  The online Spanish version is available at: <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw2016/spanish/index.html> and can be downloaded from [http:// ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw2016/spanish/pdf/2016NCVRW\_Full-Guide-Spanish-508.pdf](http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw2016/spanish/pdf/2016NCVRW_Full-Guide-Spanish-508.pdf).

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# Can Family Courts Protect Children Exposed to Domestic Violence?

Numerous studies have found that custody evaluators often do not properly assess for domestic violence when it is claimed by mothers, and that even when it is substantiated, it is often ignored and minimized in their final reports. Click [here](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-adams/can-family-courts-protect_1_b_9195844.html) to read more.

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# Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)

Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) 2016 is just around the corner. Click [here](http://www.nsvrc.org/saam/2016-campaign) for [new resources and tools](http://www.nsvrc.org/saam/2016-campaign) available for promoting safety, respect and equality in preventing sexual violence.

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# The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, March 30, 2016. If you would like any training events, fund raisers or notable news published in this newsletter, please submit them to Stacie Brendlinger at sbrendling@pa.gov by Wednesday, March 23, 2016.

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 Stacie Brendlinger at (717) 265-8722 or via email at sbrendling@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)