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*Chairman*

**Michael Pennington**

 *Executive Director*

OVS Newsletter

May 19, 2021

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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).

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# 2022-2025 STOP Implementation Plan

The Services \* Training \* Officers \* Prosecutors (STOP) Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program supports communities in their efforts to develop and strengthen effective responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. For Pennsylvania to receive STOP funding from the federal Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), it must complete an “Implementation Plan” every four years. The implementation plan identifies the specific goals, objectives and priorities for the state’s use of STOP Formula Grant Funding and is the blueprint from which PCCD’s Competitive STOP Funding Solicitation is built.

The Office of Victim Services has completed a new STOP Implementation Plan for the period 2022 through 2025. The implementation plan was developed over several months by a state-level committee comprised of representatives from victim service agencies, local law enforcement, local courts, prosecutors, the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Pennsylvania District Attorney’s Association, and the Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts. In creating the statewide planning committee, PCCD did its best to ensure that there was diverse geographic representation so that a holistic picture of violence against women issues could emerge.

Many issues were brought to the table and prioritized. While the new implementation plan preserves the traditional STOP-funded activities of developing specialized units in law enforcement and prosecution; as well as provision of core direct services to victims, it also strengthens the Commonwealth’s commitment to identifying and meaningfully addressing barriers to service for culturally specific and underserved populations. This is aligned with OVW’s strong encouragement for states to prioritize projects that promote civil rights (including by meeting the needs of underserved and marginalized survivors), access to justice, enhance survivor safety, and hold offenders accountable.

The phrase “development of meaningful services” is critically important in relation to Pennsylvania’s new STOP Plan. The statewide implementation planning committee agreed that meaningful services are more than translating an agency pamphlet into Spanish or doing a presentation to a community group. Development of meaningful services encompasses outreach to other organizations in your service area that exist to serve a culturally specific or underserved group of victims. It involves building collaborative relationships and engaging in cross-training initiatives with that organization. Ideally, the agency serving the culturally specific or underserved population should be engaged as a funded partner on the STOP grant, with a membership spot on the STOP Collaborative Team.

PCCD anticipates releasing the next competitive STOP Funding Solicitation in mid to late June 2021. We encourage counties who are interested in competing for the STOP Formula Grant Funds to review the plan. We also are providing the links below to provide applicants access to technical assistance documents and resources on development of meaningful services to culturally specific and underserved populations.

<https://www.resourcesharingproject.org/supporting-lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-and-queer-rural-sexual-violence-survivors>

<http://www.nationalcenterdvtraumamh.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/NCDVTMH_2018_ToolsforTransformation_WarshawTinnonCave.pdf>

<https://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/2017-06/cultural-competence-guide.pdf>

<https://wocninc.org/stop/>

<https://www.nationallatinonetwork.org/training-and-events/webinar-archive>

<https://www.resourcesharingproject.org/supporting-lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-and-queer-rural-sexual-violence-survivors>

<https://resourcesharingproject.org/cultivating-inclusive-practices-working-rural-immigrant-and-refugee-communities-el-cultivo-de-las>

<https://www.resourcesharingproject.org/ground-supporting-rural-multilingual-advocates>

<http://www.resourcesharingproject.org/supporting-multilingual-and-bicultural-rural-advocates>

<https://praxisinternational.org/rural-technical-assistance/>

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# Reminder Of Lapse 2020 VOJO Funds

**ATTENTION VOJO PROGRAMS – VOJO LAPSING FUNDS – PLEASE DON’T FORGET TO USE YOUR VOJO FUNDING BY JUNE 30, 2021!**

Recipients of 2020 VOJO (VJ), denoted on your Award Letter as:

2020 VJ Award Amount      $  xx.xx

2020 VJ Project Period        1/1/2021 - 6/30/2021

This is a reminder that *VOJO funds not expended or obligated from this funding source by June 30, 2021 will lapse.*

Any outstanding obligations as of 6/30/2021, should be reported in the Outstanding Subgrantee Obligations column on the fiscal report for the period ending 6/30/2021.

An interim fiscal report will need to be submitted once the reported Outstanding Subgrantee Obligations are paid.  A remark must be included noting the reported expenditures were attributable to the period 1/1/2021-6/30/2021.

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# Next STOP Competitive Solicitation Will Occur In 2021

As you may be aware, over the last year, PCCD’s Office of Victims’ Services has worked with a statewide planning committee to draft a new four-year funding strategy for STOP Formula Grant funding. Pennsylvania’s STOP Implementation Plan 2021-2024 will be released in June 2021, along with new competitive STOP solicitations reflecting the priorities and objectives outlined in the new plan.

If you currently are receiving STOP Formula Grant or STOP Rural Capacity Building Grant funding, your projects will end on December 31, 2021.  Your county must reapply during the next competitive funding cycle to compete for STOP Formula Funding, which will be released in June 2021 as stated above.

Please contact PCCD if there are any questions concerning this upcoming announcement or mandatory requirements before the current grant period ends.

Program-related questions should be directed to Tanya Bower at (717) 265-8736 or tabower@pa.gov, or John Polheber at (717) 265-8716 or  jpolheber@pa.gov

Fiscal or budgetary questions should be directed to Greg Harhigh at (717)265-8506 or gharhigh@pa.gov. Questions concerning the Egrants system should be made directly to the Egrants Help Desk by calling (717)787-5887.

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# Funding Available to Reduce Community Gun Violence

Governor Tom Wolf announced today the availability of $5 million in funding to support local efforts to reduce community gun violence in Philadelphia and other regions across the state experiencing recent surges in shootings, homicides and other firearm-related crimes. Grant funding will be administered by PCCD. Community-based organizations and local units of government will be eligible to apply for up-to $225,000 in grant funding to implement a range of programs and interventions endorsed by the Governor’s Special Council on Gun Violence designed to immediately address public safety needs in communities with high rates of firearm violence.

Interested applicants may apply through PCCD’s [Gun Violence webpage](https://www.pccd.pa.gov/criminaljustice/GunViolence/Pages/default.aspx). To improve accessibility in the grant-making process, PCCD is utilizing a [single online survey form](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PCCD2021GunViolence) (via SurveyMonkey) for the initial funding request application.  Applications will be accepted until June 30, 2021, with awards announced at the September 9, 2021 Commission meeting, with projects slated to begin October 1, 2021.

Click [here](https://www.pccd.pa.gov/criminaljustice/GunViolence/Pages/Grants-and-Funding.aspx) to learn more.

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# Police Jurisdiction Map

PCCD has created an online interactive map that provides the location of all police jurisdictions throughout the Commonwealth.  It allows users to search for the police department with primary jurisdiction for any given address in Pennsylvania.  It was developed to assist in filling out Protection From Abuse forms, which ask for the name of local law enforcement with jurisdiction over the applicant’s residence.  The map allows users to easily identify the police department either by entering the street address or by clicking on an area of the map and zooming in. The map can be found directly at: <https://papccd.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=615347f18dbf47699f4660148dd6a636> or by going to the PCCD website <https://www.pccd.pa.gov/Justice-Research/Pages/Map-Gallery.aspx> and selecting Police Jurisdictions.

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# 15th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report

The Domestic Violence Counts Report is a trusted source of data on the services domestic violence advocates provide to survivors each day, it also brings to light survivors’ stories about safety and security, unmet needs and unfunded services, and healing and struggle amid COVID-19.

Please click [here](https://nnedv.org/latest_update/nnedvs-15th-annual-domestic-violence-counts-report-illuminates-resilience-struggle-amid-covid-19/) to view

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# Adjusting To The Post-Pandemic Courtroom

As the U.S. continues to recover from the pandemic, courtrooms around the country are beginning to reopen. Courtroom layouts may have to take account of continuing health risks. Jurors will be seated in different areas, and social distancing requirements may still apply. Some or all of the participants will be masked. It’s not clear how long this hybrid environment will last until full “normalcy” reappears, but it’s crucial to face up to the challenge now.

Please click [here](https://thecrimereport.org/2021/05/10/adjusting-to-the-post-pandemic-courtroom/) to read

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# Social Media Safety Index

GLAAD has released its inaugural Social Media Safety Index, which found that the entire sector of social media platforms is unsafe for LGBTQ users due to, among other factors, the prevalence and intensity of hate speech and harassment.

Please click [here](https://www.glaad.org/blog/glaads-social-media-safety-index) to read the report

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# Applying Principles Focused Evaluation In The Sexual Violence Prevention Context

From the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) -- this Evaluation Toolkit webinar introduces preventionists to principles-focused evaluation (PFE), which identifies principles describing core values and behaviors used to foster successful prevention work.

Please click [here](https://www.nsvrc.org/resource/2500/applying-principles-focused-evaluation-sexual-violence-prevention-context) to view

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# The Intersections Of Economic Insecurity And Sexual Violence In The COVID Era

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center recently shared 4 blogs about the influence COVID-19 has had in the lives of survivors and across communities.

Please click [here](https://www.nsvrc.org/blogs/intersections-economic-insecurity-and-sexual-violence-covid-era) to read

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# Black Crime Victims ‘Systematically Excluded’ From Victim Rights Efforts

*The Crime Report* recently published a study from the *Lewis & Clark Law Review* that highlights “Black victims of crime in America are under-represented in the media, and as a result rarely get the institutional and legal recognition given to their white counterparts.”

Please click [here](https://thecrimereport.org/2021/04/30/black-crime-victims-systematically-excluded-from-victims-rights-efforts/) to read more

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# Confronting Racial Bias Against Black and African American Victims In The Prosecution Of Sexual Violence, Domestic Violence, Stalking, And Human Trafficking

Please click [here](https://aequitasresource.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Confronting-Racial-Bias-Against-Black-and-African-American-Victims.pdf) to read an article published by Aequitas and the National Black Prosecutors Association.  Confronting racial bias when prosecuting sexual violence, domestic violence, stalking, and human trafficking, particularly against Black victims, is still a challenge for some, which results in significant barriers to reporting and inequitable outcomes for victims and their communities.

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# New RAND Database Provides Critical Information On Nonfatal Firearm Injuries

A first-ever state-by-state analysis opens the door to new research on gun policy.

Please click [here](https://www.arnoldventures.org/stories/new-rand-database-provides-critical-information-on-nonfatal-firearm-injuries/) to read.

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# Victim Advocacy Best Practices Guide

The National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) Women Prosecutors Section is sharing the just-published “Victim Services and Victims’ Rights: Elevating Victims’ Voices at a Critical Time” Best Practices Guide, which addresses the need for survivor-centered and trauma-informed services, and proactive community engagement.

Please click [here](https://ndaa.org/wp-content/uploads/WPS-Victim-Advocacy-Best-Practices-Guide-April-2021-FINAL.pdf) to read.

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# 2021 Foundational Academy

Should an Academy need to be switched to a Virtual Academy via Zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions, participants will be notified, and registrations will automatically transfer.

As a reminder, there have been changes made to the attendance requirements for Foundational Academies. VOCA-funded attorneys doing Civil Legal Services for their agencies must instead attend and complete the PA Legal Aid Network Training. Additionally, licensed therapists, contractors, and consultants such as bookkeepers and accountants no longer need to attend. Please contact your PCCD Grant Monitor with any questions about the new attendance requirements. Each Academy is capped at 50 participants. To allow more agencies to send staff members, we are now limiting the number of registrations per agency/office to 8 for each Academy. Additional staff members can be added to the waitlist. We have two Foundational Academies remaining for this year: July 14 - 16 and October 13 - 15 and, if in-person, will be held at the Graduate State College. Accommodations and lunch are included with registration and there is no registration fee. Registration will open May 10th at NOON for the July Academy. Please mark your calendar and plan to register that day. Spots fill extremely quickly, usually within hours!

Please contact Amy Smulktis at  AJS@RestitutionConsulting.com  or refer to the Training Calendar at [www.pdaa.org](file://CDHBGPRFPFIL001.pa.lcl/PCCD/OrgUnit/OVS/OVS%20Info/Information%20for%20Clerical%20Staff/OVS%20Newsletter/2021/www.pdaa.org).

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# National Center On Protection Orders



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# Asian American And Pacific Islander Heritage Month 2021 Webinar Series

**May 20** | [**Native American Pacific Islanders: People, Issues, and Policy Considerations**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001pOzdzj7Mg8mQOQcvvL2IgP_gonfgpfr-qn9pbgOfSllSRH08jP8VJguNtJwNO-VJn6b-xT-hxrgIoi0N9DLf2aoNllUuqhZm7gsjsm6lV6I9NwzL_B0mOKLv0oDt4L822X1_xy9sKdNfz7dkkmtkJs8CNdU7jnAZdpwwjBK2lLSPo6YPVnvM5apJ48sJBYdBU2f0Cc34p5kI37nTWGL6WA==&c=kL6S8Jh1cs3Sy1wJmNViIRll0If9vTj8RcGqesmNBTe6j7hMDBXFVQ==&ch=MhMWsarfBcqwg_DIt2UcX-vMeKWYlrl5ALHpHxEq7zieoK2FIR_K7Q==)

**May 24** | [**Intersection of Identities: Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and the Asian American and Pacific Islander Experience**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001pOzdzj7Mg8mQOQcvvL2IgP_gonfgpfr-qn9pbgOfSllSRH08jP8VJguNtJwNO-VJDu0oTtJtizVGfQ_tZfXQjl42APGBDFP4ClKllgeS3no_b6nYNmSwqC4EPlIyozDtLQHgcqIWu4LDkbJBvYuJKb4vaZofQr64aDS163hgrGhzgGhSX2OIXzcLTdqBD508DvBFiSbNE7nM-shEx6YyKA==&c=kL6S8Jh1cs3Sy1wJmNViIRll0If9vTj8RcGqesmNBTe6j7hMDBXFVQ==&ch=MhMWsarfBcqwg_DIt2UcX-vMeKWYlrl5ALHpHxEq7zieoK2FIR_K7Q==)

**May 25** | [**Dignity Rights in Asia: Humanitarian Toll of Economic Sanctions**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001pOzdzj7Mg8mQOQcvvL2IgP_gonfgpfr-qn9pbgOfSllSRH08jP8VJguNtJwNO-VJGMV_eZfEgmoPhdt7jU8QWctinU7AamW4A-pSuoaJ4UIUevzdDsxLdJjkNy6qSfhwi7Umco_ACaRF9ALJ1N8bOGoWpX3AOYGxIuGqiSqUjyiRu_Q7DeKNl0SYayNpWuDbsWk6Sd7hyyhulgtWcXM71g==&c=kL6S8Jh1cs3Sy1wJmNViIRll0If9vTj8RcGqesmNBTe6j7hMDBXFVQ==&ch=MhMWsarfBcqwg_DIt2UcX-vMeKWYlrl5ALHpHxEq7zieoK2FIR_K7Q==)

**Forthcoming** |[**Stop AAPI Hate Teach-In**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001pOzdzj7Mg8mQOQcvvL2IgP_gonfgpfr-qn9pbgOfSllSRH08jP8VJguNtJwNO-VJzAxziBJmDpxsKOheqyra5DS-rBnYEjjs9MOf1JMbVo4mH5I3ls-Zd4O24DxE4Wu4fy-OnkzeWdt1niJ7LzNbw6YZZEzkpmiDJo28F2ENvXFErMJph4nzZl19G4gCmWGyL3iDzkLVcGQ2zaib9EupnQ==&c=kL6S8Jh1cs3Sy1wJmNViIRll0If9vTj8RcGqesmNBTe6j7hMDBXFVQ==&ch=MhMWsarfBcqwg_DIt2UcX-vMeKWYlrl5ALHpHxEq7zieoK2FIR_K7Q==)

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# **Serving Survivors with Mental Health Disabilities**

Each May, we observe Mental Health Awareness Month. It is a time to celebrate the resilience of people with mental health disabilities and honor their voices as they work to end stigma and increase access. This month also provides us with an opportunity to reflect on where we can improve our services to better serve them. Survivors of domestic and sexual violence with mental health disabilities still face significant barriers in seeking and receiving healing services, including more significant or unfamiliar responses to trauma and lingering stigma around their disabilities. Service providers must continue the work in ensuring survivors’ services are safe, welcoming, and accessible and that their experiences are centered. Join Olga Trujillo as they explore the needs of survivors with mental health disabilities and potential solutions for overcoming barriers to services that providers can implement to be more responsive to their needs.

Please click [here](https://verainstitute.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_lLBz877JT9C2TcirV9Nugg) to register

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# Should They Stay Or Should They Go: Helping Survivors With Interstates Custody And Relocation Cases

This webinar will provide participants with an overview of the various federal and state laws that govern interstate custody cases. It is designed for attorneys, victim advocates, and other community partners who wish to understand the basic framework of how these laws fit together.

Please click [here](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sZD3DVvcRQOPfcnnFwPcMg) to register

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# Victims Compensation Assistance Program Online Trainings

The following trainings will be held on May 26, 2021.

* Basic Compensation - 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

The following trainings will be held on June 1, 2021.

* Transportation Expenses Clinic - 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on June 3, 2021.

* Crime Scene Cleanup Expenses Clinic - 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

      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.

Please click [here](https://pccd.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=pccd&service=6) to register

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# Pennsylvania Victim Services Training (PVST) Online Learning Management System

PCCD’s Office of Victims’ Services (OVS) offers its Pennsylvania Victim Services Training (PVST) Online Learning Management System to fill a need for easily accessible, high-quality, free training for victim advocates at PCCD-funded programs. PVST courses count for PCCD training hours and courses can be taken as the learner’s schedule permits. The PVST also keeps a record of a user’s course completion and credit hours earned.  The courses on the PVST are designed to complement, reinforce and enhance the PCCD Foundational Academy and the online offerings on the learning management systems operated by PCADV, PCAR and the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association.

The PVST is resource center for PCCD funded programs and allied professionals whose work brings them into contact with crime victim populations to receive free, quality, and easily accessible training. The training is Pennsylvania-specific, web based, and can be taken on the student’s own timeframe. There are currently 24 approved programs, totaling 48 hours of training, on the PVST.

To access the PVST, please click [here](https://pavictimservicestraining.org/). The registration code is 7223.

**On March 26, 2021 the ACT200: Working with Victims of Domestic Violence course was added.**This series of courses is designed to give people from a broad range of disciplines the knowledge and skills they need to work with victims of domestic violence.

**Part I: Understanding the Terminology and Facts / Societal Factors Concerning Domestic Violence**

Part I will define domestic violence and examine its prevalence. It will also explore myths and facts and consider societal factors that perpetuate domestic violence.

**Part II: Understanding Abuse and Abusers**

Part II assumes that the learner has already completed Part I. Part II will identify tactics of control used by abusers both generally and with special populations. It will also examine who abusers are, how they think, and the justifications they use.

**Part III: The Decision to Stay or Leave**

Part III assumes that the learner has already completed Parts I and II. Part III will explore the impact domestic violence has on survivors and the workplace. It will also look closely at the decision’s victims make to stay in or leave an abusive relationship.

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# Network of Victim Assistance – Employment Opportunities

Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA) is a nonprofit organization serving victims of sexual assault and other crimes. Located in Bucks County, PA, NOVA is the comprehensive victim services organization in Bucks County.  With a 45-year history, NOVA has expanded to include a continuum of prevention and direct services to prevent and address the needs of victims of sexual abuse and other serious crimes.  NOVA is known across many disciplines and the community at large for its exceptional services and professionalism.  With a 4.5-million-dollar operating budget, NOVA continues to grow.  As a mature and fiscally sound organization, establishing sustainability is key to our future success -- serving all victims who need services, educating the community at large on violence prevention in our community, and providing top-ranked professional trainings.

Please click [here](https://www.novabucks.org/about/employment/) to view current job opportunities

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# Schuylkill Women In Crisis – Employment Opportunities

Schuylkill Women in Crisis (SWiC) is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1983. SWiC’s mission is to provide comprehensive services, shelter, and advocacy to victims of domestic and sexual violence regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation. In addition to assisting victims. SWiC works to confront the social issues that contribute to this problem. SWiC is motivated by the belief that all individuals are entitled to live free of the fear and pain caused by emotional and physical abuse.

Please click [here](https://www.s-wic.org/jobs/) to view current job opportunities

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# Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center – Employment Opportunities

The Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center (PIRC), a non-profit organization founded on the belief of equal access to justice, works to protect immigrants’ rights to freedom and opportunity in the United States and save the lives of the most vulnerable immigrants and their families.  PIRC provides free, effective legal representation, legal counsel, education, and advocacy to help immigrants obtain or protect their legal status.

Please click [here](https://www.pirclaw.org/employment/) to view current job opportunities

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# Office For Child And Youth Protection – Employment Opportunities

The Office for Child and Youth Protection (OCYP) supports the Archdiocese of Philadelphia’s commitment to create and maintain safe environments for the children who attend its churches and schools and provides compassionate and supportive assistance to individuals and family members of those who have been the victims/survivors of child sexual abuse.

Please click [here](https://archphila.applicantpro.com/jobs/1796507.html) to view current job opportunities.

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If your program is offering new or extended services, or implementing new initiatives that you would like to highlight, please submit your news article to Lea Dorsey at ledorsey@pa.gov.

The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, **June 2, 2021**.  If you would like any training events, fundraisers, or notable news published in this newsletter, please submit them to Lea Dorsey at ledorsey@pa.gov  by Wednesday, **May 26, 2021**.

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 Lea Dorsey at (717) 265-8733 or via email at ledorsey@pa.gov.

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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:** [@PaCrimeCom](https://twitter.com/PaCrimeComm)m.