**Charles Ramsey**

*Chairman*

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OVS Newsletter

July 15, 2020

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Upcoming Events

* + [WebEx Online Trainings Available](https://pccd.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=pccd&service=6&rnd=0.6668060301536507&main_url=https%3A%2F%2Fpccd.webex.com%2Fec3300%2Feventcenter%2Fprogram%2FprogramDetail.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26internalProgramTicket%3D4832534b00000004f02f8b04a9132f726e6e4ce186c5f64209c4f9e1a94f0342f2c72bee2d69d4a5%26siteurl%3Dpccd%26internalProgramTicketUnList%3D4832534b00000004f02f8b04a9132f726e6e4ce186c5f64209c4f9e1a94f0342f2c72bee2d69d4a5%26cProgViewID%3D1727107%26PRID%3D9c0a5f356b9ee12dc7de27fe147bb352)Compensation Related: Basic Compensation 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).

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

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# Federal Coronavirus Relief Act (CARES Act) Funding Availability For Counties

With the passage of the [Federal Coronavirus Relief Act (CARES Act)](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.congress.gov%2Fbill%2F116th-congress%2Fhouse-bill%2F748%2Ftext&data=02%7C01%7Ckabuckley%40pa.gov%7C7ac312f6c87645ee99b208d7fc009b4f%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C637254954965117876&sdata=GynB4CWQW97i9mmC%2FXl2bhEHfGgbaxGxcjsp1zbGUv0%3D&reserved=0), PCCD has been tasked with distributing available funding to support state and local law enforcement's efforts in preventing, preparing for, and responding to the COVID-19/coronavirus. To assist in determining the funding strategy of these funds, you may remember that PCCD administered a survey in April 2020 to chief administrators of criminal justice system stakeholders to ascertain levels of need throughout the Commonwealth. Many of you, as victim service providers, completed this survey.

To that end, PCCD released a funding solicitation to initially make available approximately one-half of Pennsylvania’s eligible state share CESF dollars ($8,000,000) to PA counties for the express purpose of providing support to each county’s law enforcement community, which includes, but is not limited to, county jails, juvenile detention centers, local law enforcement, district attorney’s offices, county probation and parole offices, judiciary/court houses, victim service providers and any other relevant criminal justice stakeholders.

It’s important to note that this funding announcement is open to Pennsylvania counties with active county Criminal Justice Advisory Boards (CJABs) that follow [CJAB Minimum Operating Standards](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pccd.pa.gov%2Fcriminaljustice%2Fadvisory_boards%2FDocuments%2FCJAB%2520Minimum%2520Operating%2520Standards.pdf&data=02%7C01%7Ckabuckley%40pa.gov%7C7ac312f6c87645ee99b208d7fc009b4f%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C637254954965117876&sdata=inAJtTpgiS7DqT79K%2FSQKM1br3SpKrsCR0vBdSXhON8%3D&reserved=0) or an alternative as described in the funding announcement.  CJABs will be responsible for coordinating the application for their county and local criminal justice stakeholders (i.e., county jails, juvenile detention centers, law enforcement, district attorney’s offices, county probation and parole offices, judiciary/court houses, victim service providers and any other relevant criminal justice stakeholders). Victim Service providers are not eligible to apply directly to PCCD for these funds but should contact their CJAB regarding any immediate PPE/supply needs, if their current VOCA funding is not sufficient to support these items. If you are not sure who the CJAB contact is in your area, please visit the CJAB information located on PCCD’s website at [https://www.pccd.pa.gov/criminaljustice/advisory\_boards/Pages/CJABS.aspx](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pccd.pa.gov%2Fcriminaljustice%2Fadvisory_boards%2FPages%2FCJABS.aspx&data=02%7C01%7Ckabuckley%40pa.gov%7C7ac312f6c87645ee99b208d7fc009b4f%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C637254954965127828&sdata=L13MyI69Siik7gAIP3NpPD9Q3eYvBAh4Q7PCkhdOfBI%3D&reserved=0)

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# RASA/VOJO Quarterly Program Reports

June 30th marked the end of the second quarter for RASA/VOJO reporting. RASA/VOJO Program Reports are due to be submitted in Egrants by July 20, 2020. We recognize that with many programs just opening back up to the public while addressing a backlog of cases, there may be a delay in retrieving quarterly data for program reporting. If your agency is experiencing extenuating circumstances that will prevent you from submitting your Quarterly Program Report(s) by July 20th, please contact Brian Swoyer as soon as possible to explain your agency’s unique situation. Brian can be reached at bswoyer@pa.gov. If you need assistance with EGrants, please contact the EGrants Help Desk at RA-eGrantsSupport@pa.gov. If you have any questions regarding your RASA/VOJO Quarterly Program Reports, please contact Vicki McCloskey at vmccloskey@pa.gov or (717) 265-8746 or Maria Katulis at mkatulis@pa.gov or (717) 265-8741.

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# RASA/VOJO 2021-2022 Funding Announcement is Now Open!

The RASA/VOJO 2021-2022 Funding Announcement for the funding period of January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2022 is now open**.**RASA/VOJO programs must submit their applications in Egrants by **Friday, September 4, 2020.**

Rights and Services Act/Victims of Juvenile Offenders (RASA/VOJO) funds support procedural services mandated by the PA Crime Victims Act, PA Juvenile Act and/or the PA Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure.

Please note that RASA/VOJO program recommendations are made by each county’s District Attorney (DA) in consultation with the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer (CJPO).  In order for victim service programs to apply for 2021-2022 RASA/VOJO funding, each county’s DA and CJPO must complete the RASA (DA Only) and VOJO (DA and CJPO) Certification Forms which designate programs and funding amounts.  The RASA and VOJO Certification Forms, along with the 2021-2022 RASA and VOJO Allocation Charts, will be emailed to each DA and CJPO after the funding announcement opens and they will be due back to PCCD by no later than **Wednesday, July 15, 2020**.  The DA and CJPO should also provide copies of the certification forms to each recommended RASA/VOJO program by **Wednesday, July15, 2020** so they can attach the signed/dated forms to their RASA/VOJO Application in Egrants.

Please contact PCCD if there are any questions concerning this announcement.Program-related questions should be directed to Vicki McCloskey at (717) 265-8746 or vmccloskey@pa.gov, or Maria Katulis at (717) 265-8741 or mkatulis@pa.gov.  Fiscal or budgetary questions should be directed to James Haas at (717) 265-8509 or jamhaas@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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# Increasing Access To Healing Services And Just Outcomes For Older African American Crime Survivors: A Toolkit For Enhancing Critical Knowledge And Information Action Within The Crime Victim Assistance Field

Older African Americans experience crime and violence at the intersections of race, age, class, and other identities. Systemic and institutional challenges create barriers for older African American survivors seeking services and supports to heal from harm. This toolkit offers victim services providers and criminal justice systems stakeholders information and practical strategies to enhance their capacity to identify, reach, and serve older African American victims. Please click [here](https://reachingvictims.org/resource/increasing-access-toolkit/) to learn more.

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# Title IX With Clery Center And Victim Rights Law Center

The Clery Center has also partnered with the Victim Rights Law Center (VRLC) to produce a free new video series, *Digging Deep into the Clery Act and Title IX Intersections*, featuring a comprehensive discussion of the new Title IX regulations and highlighting the complexity of integrating the Clery Act and Title IX, releasing soon. Follow [Clery Center](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2FCleryCenter&data=02%7C01%7CKAbuckley%40pa.gov%7C83a9650be59e43a5f26d08d8220c4a86%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C637296784523038967&sdata=rfsxuTnN3vw%2FPe1GBR%2BbZJU0%2BVyo1BUfbuHWtSqnGcM%3D&reserved=0) and [VRLC](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2FVictimRightsLaw&data=02%7C01%7CKAbuckley%40pa.gov%7C83a9650be59e43a5f26d08d8220c4a86%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C637296784523048932&sdata=xtcFliXRokHS59N5gsJhONFJO3qLWEbSP4bIYnvN1Ag%3D&reserved=0) on social media to be alerted when the series becomes available.

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# National Human Trafficking Prosecution Best Practices Guide

The National Human Trafficking Prosecution Best Practices Guide is a living document highlighting current best practices in the prosecution of human trafficking. Prosecutors and associated professionals are encouraged to continue developing this guide by contributing information on emerging best practices. NDAA recognizes that funding, local rules, or other state laws or local restrictions may prevent an office from adopting the various approaches suggested. This guide is not intended to replace practices and procedures already in operation, but to simply inform and recommend practices that are effective and consistent throughout the nation. This document is meant to be a living document, subject to ongoing feedback and comments from stakeholders and experts in the field. The NDAA Women Prosecutors section will continuously work to make any necessary edits to reflect appropriate national standards and best practices in the field. Please click [here](https://ndaa.org/wp-content/uploads/Human-Trafficking-White-Paper-Jan-2020.pdf) to learn more.

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# National Domestic Violence Prosecution Best Practices Guide

The National Domestic Violence Prosecution Best Practices Guide is a living document highlighting current best practices in the prosecution of domestic violence. It was inspired by the Women Prosecutors Section of the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) and a National Symposium on the Prosecution of Domestic Violence Cases, hosted by the NDAA and Alliance for HOPE International in San Diego in October 2015. The two-day national symposium included 100 of our nation’s leading prosecutors re-envisioning the prosecution of domestic violence cases in the United States. Prosecutors and allied professionals are encouraged to continue developing this guide by contributing information on emerging best practices. NDAA recognizes that funding, local rules, or other state laws or local restrictions may prevent an office from adopting the various approaches suggested. This guide is not intended to replace practices and procedures already in operation, but to simply inform and recommend practices that are effective and consistent throughout the nation. Please click [here](https://ndaa.org/wp-content/uploads/NDAA-DV-White-Paper-FINAL-revised-June-23-2020-1.pdf) to learn more.

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# The Power Of Sport: How Can Sport Help Prevent Sexual Violence?

Based on the stories that dominate the headlines, it appears that sport is commonplace for sexual violence (e.g. Larry Nassar preying on gymnasts). However, growing evidence and expert input demonstrate that engagement in sport supports healthy attitudes and behavior. Evidence points to the effectiveness of engaging coaches and athletes in learning, modeling, and supporting sexual assault prevention, such as serving as positive bystander interveners.

For this reason, it is believed that sport is an undervalued platform for sexual violence prevention. And its impact on raising the standard spectator behaviors is an inadequately tapped resource for prevention. With the increasing focus and investment of national organizations, the time is ripe to leverage this collective engagement in sport for sexual violence prevention. Please click [here](https://www.raliance.org/the-power-of-sport-how-can-sport-help-prevent-sexual-violence/?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=email) to read more.

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# National Sexual Assault Hotline Sees Record Demand During Pandemic. Many Reaching Out Are Children.

Many of them call when they feel there is nowhere else to turn.

The girl whose brother was brought home by the pandemic and began to abuse her again. The victim separated from her favorite teacher after a coronavirus-related school closure. The child who urgently needed help calling 911.

As the coronavirus pandemic has engulfed the country, more children are reaching out to the Rape Abuse and Incest National Network's National Sexual Assault Hotline, which said this week it's experiencing its highest demand for services in its 26-year history. In May and June, half of visitors to RAINN's online hotline, which sees some of the most urgent cases, were minors.

Please click [here](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/07/11/sexual-assault-hotline-child-sexual-abuse-calls-rise-during-pandemic/5413835002/) to read more.

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# The Rape Kit’s Secret History

**Marty Goddard’s first flash of insight came in 1972.** It all started when she marched into a shabby townhouse on Halsted Street in Chicago to volunteer at a crisis hotline for teenagers.

As a volunteer, Ms. Goddard lent a sympathetic ear to the troubled kids then called “runaway teenagers.” They were pregnant, homeless, suicidal, strung out. She was surprised to discover that many weren’t rebels who’d left home seeking adventure; they were victims who had fled sexual abuse. The phones were ringing with the news that kids didn’t feel safe around their own families. She began to formulate questions that almost no one was asking back in the early ’70s: Why were so many predators getting away with it? And what would it take to stop them?

Ms. Goddard would go on to lead a campaign to treat sexual assault as a crime that could be investigated, rather than as a feminine delusion. She began a revolution in forensics by envisioning the first standardized rape kit, containing items like swabs and combs to gather evidence, and envelopes to seal it in. The kit is one of the most powerful tools ever invented to bring criminals to justice. And yet, you’ve never heard of Marty Goddard. In many ways she and her invention shared the same fate. They were enormously important and consistently overlooked. Please click [here](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/06/17/opinion/rape-kit-history.html) to read more.

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# Trafficking In Persons Report

The U.S. Department of State has just published its “Trafficking in Persons Report, 20th Edition”. For 20 years, the Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP Report) has demonstrated the United States’ conviction that human trafficking is a global threat necessitating a global response. Traffickers are denying nearly 25 million people their fundamental right to freedom, forcing them to live enslaved and toil for their exploiter’s profit. This report arms governments with the data they need to increase the prosecution of traffickers, provide victim-centered and trauma-informed protection for victims of trafficking, and prevent this crime altogether. Please click [here](https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-TIP-Report-Complete-062420-FINAL.pdf) to read more.

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# Aggravating Circumstances: How Coronavirus Impacts Human Trafficking

The coronavirus is not only claiming hundreds of thousands of lives, but is also causing a global economic crisis that is expected to rival or exceed that of any recession in the past 150 years. Although decisive action and containment measures are helping flatten the curve of infection, such measures inevitably deepen and lengthen the economic recession.

Poverty, lack of social or economic opportunity and limited labour protections are the main root causes and drivers that render people vulnerable or cause them to fall victim to human trafficking. This unprecedented crisis will likely exacerbate all of those factors and result in developments that must be noted by anti-human-trafficking communities and stakeholders. As we have seen from previous economic crises and epidemics (such as SARS and Ebola), accurate, consistent and timely information is essential in order to fight not only the coronavirus but also the consequences it has on human-trafficking situations. Please click [here](https://globalinitiative.net/human-trafficking-covid-impact/) to read more.

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# Quarantined With An Abuser? Here Are Some Tips For Staying Safe

As people are making sacrifices to shelter in place to help slow the spread of the coronavirus, there are hidden costs that we may not have realized. Domestic and sexual violence as well as child abuse, all thrive in sectors of silence. More often than not, the abuse happens at the hands of someone the victim knows, usually a caregiver or a member of their household. At a time when people are required to stay at home, they may be at an additional risk of violence while trying to keep safe from a virus. Police departments across the country are reporting an uptick in domestic violence calls, and that is only the incidents that are being reported. We have no way of knowing the full extent of this problem. Please click [here](https://www.swaay.com/quarantined-abuser-domestic-violence-help) to read more.

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# Can We Eliminate The Youth Prison? (And What Should We Replace It With?)

Since the turn of the 21st century, youth and adult crime rates in the United States have plummeted. While youth incarceration declined in turn, adult incarceration increased. This paper describes the scope and scale of youth decarceral efforts in the last twenty years and the increasing costs of youth incarceration in remote, large facilities. The author offers alternatives to youth institutionalization co-designed by communities, keeping kids close to home and within trusted social and familial networks. The success of the youth decarceral movement, while far from complete, offers lessons learned to adult system reformers. Please click [here](https://squareonejustice.org/paper/can-we-eliminate-the-youth-prison-and-what-should-we-replace-it-with-by-vincent-schiraldi-june-2020/) to learn more.

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# Deadliest Mass Shootings Are Often Preceded By Violence At Home

One afternoon in January 2016, Tina Long-Gray showed up at her brother Tony’s office. She seemed anxious, “different somehow,” Tony Long recalled in a phone call. They went for a walk, and Tina started crying, confessing to him that her marriage of 18 years wasn’t what it seemed. She told him she sometimes woke up to her husband Andre choking her, showing him the marks around her neck. “Fresh bruises,” he said. She had a plan to leave and had already purchased a house, but she worried that Andre was going to kill her. “She made me promise that I would take care of her kids,” Tony said. “She kept repeating, ‘promise me, promise me, promise me.’”

Two weeks later—the night before Tina planned to move into her new home—Andre Gray took her gun from a safe and shot her in front of their two children. He then shot both of them and killed himself. As Amber, their daughter, lay bleeding from her stomach, she realized that he had unplugged all the phones in the house to keep them from calling for help. After a two week stay in the hospital, she’d later learn he’d locked the garage door, too. “If we had tried to leave that night, we wouldn’t have been able to get out,” she said.

The shooting that killed Tina was only one of 2,358 mass shootings—defined as shooting incidents in which four or more people are shot—that occurred between 2014 and 2019. Please click [here](https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2020-mass-shootings-domestic-violence-connection/) to read more.

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# Intersections Among Domestic And Sexual Violence, Racism and Homelessness

Safe Housing Partnerships also sponsored this informative, brief [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRTNvWiL1sU&feature=youtu.be) that examines the intersections among domestic and sexual violence, racism and homelessness.

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# Commemorative Calendar

Throughout the year, communities gather to hold events that honor and support victims. These events are an important step toward raising awareness of victims’ rights. Build on your NCVRW outreach throughout the year by highlighting relevant awareness events in your community. The following calendar cites organizations that provide resources to support commemorative activities, but they are not always the sole sponsor of the awareness events. Use the commemorative calendar to think strategically about how you and your partners can support awareness events. Whether for one day or an entire month, these public recognitions are powerful tools for honoring the work of those in the victim services field and creating hope for the future. Please click [here](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/OVS%20Newsletter/Commemorative-Calendar.pdf) for more information.

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# Job Openings In The Office Of Victims’ Services

The Office of Victims’ Services (OVS) at the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) currently has vacancies for Criminal Justice System Specialists within the Victims Compensation Assistance Program. These positions are responsible for providing financial reimbursement/guidance and other compensation related services to victims of crime, their families and/or significant others, and other claimants.

You can apply for the Criminal Justice System Specialist 1 vacancy at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/pabureau>. In the Search box, type Criminal Justice System Specialist and hit enter.  If any jobs are currently open, they will be listed.  Unlike in the past, there is no examination where a prospective candidate can be placed on a list with a score.  Under the new system, the score you receive is for that particular job announcement.  Interested candidates will need to apply for each individual position.

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# NEW! Crisis Center of Lawrence County – Employment Opportunity

The Advocate is responsible for providing support to individuals and families victimized by domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes. Additionally, this position provides education and technical assistance to medical, school, and allied professionals, as well as community members, regarding the rights, needs and unique circumstances of crime victims and their family members. General duties include crisis intervention, legal advocacy and accompaniment, medical accompaniment, individual advocacy, transportation, safety planning, case management, referral to/collaboration with other community resources, systems advocacy, prevention and education services. Advocates are responsible for the maintenance of all client files including case note documentation and data entry into a data management system.  Strong communication and public speaking skills are required. Please click [here](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/OVS%20Newsletter/Lawrence%20County%20Advocate.pdf) to learn more.

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# A Woman’s Place - Employment Opportunities

A Woman’s Place (AWP), a community-based social change organization serving victims of domestic violence, is seeking a part-time Resident Counseling Advocate.

The Resident Counseling Advocate works within AWP’s emergency safe house, assisting victims of domestic violence in achieving safety and self-sufficiency. AWP is currently hiring a 32 hour a week part-time position. Positions may include weekday, evening, and/or overnight shifts.

For full job descriptions and application process please visit our website: [https://awomansplace.org/get-involved/](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fawomansplace.org%2Fget-involved%2F&data=02%7C01%7Csbrendling%40pa.gov%7C05605b711196466a36e808d7e6103c13%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C637230829715543440&sdata=crkTLivE1w%2Bz%2FaffAbsTKBDUZRftplAHRgjpzYrABJ0%3D&reserved=0)

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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.

[**Data Management and Quality Assurance (DMQA)**](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/OVS%20Newsletter/Data%20Management%20and%20Quality%20Assurance.pdf)

[**Licensed or Soon to be Licensed Clinical Counselor**](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/OVS%20Newsletter/Licensed%20or%20Soon%20to%20be%20Licensed%20Clinical%20Counselor.pdf)

[**Part-time Human Trafficking Task Force Organizer** **(27 hours/week)**](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/OVS%20Newsletter/Human%20Trafficking%20Task%20Force%20Organizer.pdf)

[**Training Coordinator**](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/OVS%20Newsletter/Training%20Coordinator.pdf)

[**Bucks County Children’s Advocacy Center Part-Time Family Advocate**](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/OVS%20Newsletter/Bucks%20County%20CAC%20Family%20Advocate.pdf)

Located in Bucks County, PA, the Bucks County Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC), a service of NOVA (Network of Victim Assistance), provides a safe and child-friendly environment in which the CAC staff, law enforcement, child welfare, prosecution, advocacy, medical and mental health professionals collaborate to implement effective and coordinated investigations of suspected child abuse and connect child victims and their families to medical, mental health, and other social services.

**Competitive salary and excellent benefits. Applicants must send a cover letter with salary requirements in addition to their resume to** **DebGH@novabucks.org****. AA/EOE.**

**NOVA is currently working remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic.  Although the physical interview process is on hold, they are still reviewing all the applicants as they come in.  They will be conducting in-person interviews as soon as possible.**

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# NEW! NOVA’s Virtual 46th Annual Training Event

July 20 – July 31, 2020

11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NOVA is excited to utilize our years of experience in online training and flex our creative muscles to create an unforgettable virtual experience!

For more information and to register, please click [here](https://www.trynova.org/nova46/).

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# NEW! Virtual Parents Of Murdered Children National Conference

Saturday, July 25, 2020

11:00 a.m. EST

**This is a one-day conference to provide a way we can connect with one another in these unusual times.**

**Please click** [here](https://host.regform.com/pomc-live-virtual-conference-2020/) **to register.**

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# NEW! Increasing Access To Justice With Technological Innovations In Rural Areas

The National Crime Victims Law Institute (NCVLI) invites you to join them for an upcoming free training.

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

**Data show that people living in rural areas face high rates of victimization and myriad hurdles to accessing justice,** including a lack of services, limited infrastructure hindering access to existing services, geographic challenges, and language access. **Gaps in the availability of access to legal services in rural areas are particularly profound.** To address these gaps, the federal Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) envisioned a national effort that would build upon existing models of victim services and use of technology to strengthen access to legal services, establish new no cost and low and pro bono service delivery models, and expand community partnerships to holistically serve the legal needs of rural crime victims. NCVLI is the recipient of a cooperative agreement from OVC and through it has issued three subgrants.

During this session**, a panel of representatives from these three subgrantees and the project evaluator will:**

* highlight challenges crime victims in their service areas face when accessing legal services,
* discuss the innovative technological solutions they developed to overcome those hurdles, and
* share the knowledge they gained while connecting crime victims in rural areas with legal services providers using technology.”

Please click [here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/increasing-access-to-justice-with-technological-innovations-in-rural-areas-tickets-108479621468) to learn more. **Registration is required for this training.**

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# NEW! The Safety Net Project At The National Network To End Domestic Violence Virtual Technology Summit

August 3 – August 7, 2020

This unique event – the 8th annual Summit, but the first one held virtually – focuses on the intersection of technology and abuse. We will explore some of the ways technology is still evolving, including the dramatic increase in digital services in the work to support survivors, growing concerns around online privacy, and increasing detections of stalkerware during the pandemic. They will also address online hate and gaming, teens and tech, privacy and confidentiality during a public health crisis, and more.

Covering a wide range of technology-related issues, this conference will be helpful to advocates, social service providers, law enforcement, and legal professionals who work with survivors of abuse. The Virtual Technology Summit will include 10 webinars over the course of 5 days. Each session will include American Sign Language, Spanish interpretation, and closed captioning. Virtual Technology Summit will take place on the Zoom platform. There are concerns about “Zoom bombing” and security, but don’t worry – they will cover that too!

Please click [here](http://www.cvent.com/events/virtual-technology-summit-2020/event-summary-b2d6853c5c974555b3a5cbee9449007e.aspx) to learn more and to register.

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# Office of Victim Advocate: Ongoing Training Opportunities

OVA is continuing to offer training sessions during this time! Workshops are available via Zoom on a variety of topics, such as:

* The Basics: an OVA Services Overview (includes victims’ post-sentencing rights, parole process, restitution, etc.)
* The Address Confidentiality Program
* Victims’ Rights in a Time of COVID
* Marsy’s Law
* Restorative Group Conferencing for Juvenile Justice
* Customized training to fit your needs

Please contact OVA’s training specialist, Karen Laird at kalaird@pa.gov, to discuss the needs of your organization and how OVA can provide support.

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# Victims Compensation Online Trainings

The following trainings will be held on July 22, 2020.

* Relocation Expenses Clinic – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* “Wow, That’s Covered by Compensation” – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on July 28, 2020.

* Myths of Compensation – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Motor Vehicle-Related Crime Expenses Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on August 4, 2020.

* Stolen Benefit Cash Expenses Clinic – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Funeral & Burial Expenses Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on August 12, 2020.

* Loss of Earnings Clinic – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Medical Expenses Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following training will be held on August 18, 2020.

* Basic Compensation – 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

The following training will be held on August 27, 2020.

* Restitution Basics – 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

All trainings count towards 1 hour of the required RASA/VOCA/VOJO training hours, except Basic Compensation, which counts towards 2 hours, and DAVE training, which counts towards 2 hours and 15 minutes.

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

A recording of the Sexual Assault Counseling Claims Legislative Change WebEx is available [here](https://pccd.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=pccd&service=6). This training can be accessed at any time for viewing.

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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 28 approved programs, totaling 54 hours of training, on the PVST.

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

The Victims with Intellectual Disabilities course presents concepts and steps when working with individuals with intellectual disabilities, their family members or guardians. The course focuses on Accessibility and Procedures when providing direct services. This course will provide 2 hours of continuing education units.

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# Topical Training Announcement: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

In the state of Pennsylvania over 80,000 children are being raised by their grandparents, many due to the opioid crisis. In recent years legislation has been passed, pilot programs developed, and hotlines created to assist grandparents in taking on this overwhelming task. If you are interested in learning more about this topic and tools to help you when working with victims who are in this situation, register for this important training.

Monday, August 10, 2020

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Graduate Hotel

125 South Atherton Street

State College, PA 16801

**Registration closes on July 24, 2020**. This course is open to all victim service providers, including attorneys. Class size is limited to 40 attendees.

Please click [here](https://www.ciclt.net/sn/events/e_signup.aspx?ClientCode=pdaa&E_ID=500203&RegType=ATT) to learn more and to register.

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# Training Announcement: Generational Diversity In The Workplace & Communication Skills

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Learn how generational differences in the workplace and working with the public, especially crime victims, impact the ways we communicate and understand each other. This training provides tools for better communication among our colleagues, the public and our supervisors; and offers guidance to understand learning differences, knowing our audiences, and improving our messaging so that we can perform our jobs most effectively.

One week before the training: Please provide to Amy Smulktis any situations or questions you have where communications could have been improved, for discussion among the group.

**PCCD has approved this course for 2 annual training hours. *Class size is limited to 40 attendees***.

**Please click** [here](https://www.ciclt.net/sn/events/e_signup.aspx?ClientCode=pdaa&E_ID=500215&RegType=ATT) **to learn more and to register. Registration closes on September 1, 2020.**

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# UPDATED! SAVE THE DATE: VIRTUAL 2020 KCIT Conference: Conscious Resilience After Trauma

“Keystone Crisis Intervention Team is excited to share the date for our 2nd statewide conference, September 22-23, 2020.  The theme of our Conference this year is Conscious Resilience After Trauma.  KCIT’s focus on building Conscious Resilience is an acknowledgement of the impact and emotional toll that trauma has on our clients, organizations, communities, but more specifically—you—the helper.”

The Conference will be held as a VIRTUAL EVENT on September 22-23, 2020.

For Questions: please contact Donna Welsh at donna.welsh@novabucks.org

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# SAVE THE DATE: Network Of Victim Assistance Auction & Gala

Thursday, October 15, 2020

5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Warrington Country Club

1360 Almshouse Road

Warrington, PA 18976

This year's theme, An Evening in the Roaring 20's, will take guests back 100 years to the 1920's and will feature 20's themed food stations, dancing, drinks, entertainment and live and silent auctions. Auction items include a private dinner party at Bocelli's Italian Restaurant, a spring yard clean-up package, a garden tea party for 8, dining experiences, adventures and getaways, artwork, jewelry, museum, theater and sports tickets and much more! New auction items are added weekly. Event proceeds benefit NOVA’s work in both helping victims of crime and preventing violence through education and advocacy programs.

Tickets for the Auction & Gala are $85.00 per person. The dress code for the event is business casual or 1920's themed attire. To purchase tickets, make a donation, or receive more information, please click [here](https://e.givesmart.com/events/e1u/), or contact Jill Mann at 215-343-6543 ext. 6602. Those who are unable to attend the gala can still get in on the auction fun and bid on items online via [www.NOVA.givesmart.com](https://e.givesmart.com/events/e1u/), by clicking on "Register to Participate" and following the prompts.

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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 Stacie Brendlinger at sbrendling@pa.gov.

The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, **July 29, 2020**. If you would like any training events, fundraisers, or notable news published in this newsletter, please submit them to Stacie Brendlinger at sbrendling@pa.gov by Wednesday, **July 22, 2020**.

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.

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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.