

"Funding cuts are impacting our work and taking a toll on retaining staff. We are doing everything we can to continue services, but it is extremely concerning, to say the least."

- Iowa Crime Victim Advocate

INVESTING \$10 MILLION IN CRIME VICTIM SERVICES CREATES SAFER COMMUNITIES

The Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault represent 26 victim service provider agencies supporting crime victims in every lowa county. Most of the 54,404 victims served in 2023 received support from one of these programs.*

OUR PROMISE TO CRIME VICTIMS: When you come forward for help, it will be available. Federal funding has been successful in enhancing state capacity to support victims, but state funds provide essential operational support and have not increased for a decade, despite increasing demand for services. Providers are turning victims away right now due to lack of resources, yet state funding has not increased for a decade AND now they face a catastrophic 42% federal funding cut to Iowa's largest source of victim services funding. Regardless of federal funding, Iowa needs to do its part to keep our promise to crime victims: Provide at least \$10 million in state funds for victim services.

SLIPPORTING IOWA CRIME VICTIMS. A VEAR OF INVESTMENT AND IMPACT

SUPPORTING IOWA CRIME VICTIMS: A YEAR OF INVESTMENT AND IMPACT				
54,404	victims received support from lowa crime victim service provider agencies.*	10	,219	children (ages 0-17) received support from Iowa crime victim service provider agencies.*
49,974	calls were received at the Iowa Victim Services Call Center.	93	3,570	victims received emergency shelter and housing services.
29,602	domestic violence (DV) victims received support from Iowa crime victim service provider agencies.*	18	,595	of victims served were from rural communities (pop. > \$50,000) - 33% of total victims in 2023.
10,360	sexual assault victims received support from Iowa crime victim service provider agencies.*	76	64	victims received support services in ONE day from Iowa crime victim service provider agencies.**
13,963	victims of other violent crimes received support from Iowa crime victim service provider agencies.*	37	75	domestic violence homicides have occurred and 55% of those were killed with a gun since 1995.***
Sources: *SFY2023 Victim Assistance Section, Office of the Iowa Attorney General Brenna Bird **2023 ONE Day Census Report on Iowa Victim Service Provider Agencies from the National Network to End Domestic Violence			%	of victim requests were unmet in ONE day due to lack of resources. 91% of these requests were for housing and

emergency shelter services.

- National Network to End Domestic Violence
- *** 2022 Domestic Violence Chronicle from the Victim Assistance Section, Office of the Iowa Attorney General Brenna Bird



"Funding cuts make it difficult for us to serve survivors. Often, they are trapped in dangerous situations, and continuous cuts have worsened the gaps. We have reduced staff and services, meaning victims often have no alternatives but to return to abusers or to be homeless."

- Iowa Crime Victim Advocate

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Fully supporting victims requires both financial resources and dedicated individuals. Victim service provider agencies are crucial in assisting Iowa crime victims, collaborating closely with law enforcement, legal professionals, and various community organizations. As frontline responders, they offer immediate crisis intervention, facilitate access to medical care, and assist at crime scenes. Moreover, their support extends beyond the initial crisis phase.

However, effectively supporting victims requires adequate state investment. Federal funds increase agency capacity to provide comprehensive services, but state funds provide essential operational support, and state funding has not increased for a decade despite dramatically increasing demand.

Victims are turned away right now. Lack of funding means fewer victims receive support because agencies have fewer staff, which limits the type of services available, and where victims can access support. It severely reduces the agency's capacity to provide the services most victims request. Providers help victims meet immediate needs, but a greater number of victims request post-crisis, stabilizing services like counseling and help with housing. Insufficient funds reduce agency capacity to provide this support which ultimately costs more as victims lacking long-term stability keep returning for services.

VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDER AGENCY
TRENDS AND CONCERNS FOR CRIME
VICTIM SERVICES WITHOUT ADDITIONAL
STATE FUNDS



10,000-15,000 less victims will receive comprehensive pre- and post-crisis response services and support.



meeting the needs of victims with limited funding and resources to help them find safety.



access to 24/7 crisis response services.



increased need for housing and emergency shelter supports and a lack of affordable housing options.



barriers to legal services due to funding restraints and grant restrictions.



staff turnover and retention, causing capacity issues for victim support provider agencies to meet the needs of lowa crime victims.

Supporting victims <u>requires all of us</u> - Invest at least \$10 million in state funding for victim services.