Support Iowa Crime Victims

IOWA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

"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

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INVESTING $10 MILLION IN CRIME VICTIM SERVICES CREATES SAFER COMMUNITIES

The **Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence** represents 25 local service provider organizations supporting victims of violent crime, including rape, sexual and domestic violence, human trafficking, child abuse, and homicide. These organizations served most of the **52,113** victims seeking assistance in 2025 from organizations receiving state and federal funds administered by the Iowa Attorney General's Office.

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 federal funds were never intended to replace state responsibility to support crime victims. Providers are turning victims away right now due to a lack of resources, yet state funding has not increased for a decade despite increased demand for services. Iowa needs to do its part to keep our promise to crime victims: **Provide at least $10 million in state funds for victim services in the Justice System budget.**

SUPPORTING IOWA CRIME VICTIMS: A YEAR OF INVESTMENT AND IMPACT

52,113	victims received support from Iowa crime victim service provider agencies.*
25,617	domestic violence (DV) victims received support from Iowa crime victim service provider agencies.*
8,940	sexual assault victims received support from Iowa crime victim service provider agencies.*
17,556	victims of other violent crimes received support from Iowa crime victim service provider agencies.*
1,466	victims received support for stalking,harassment, and cyber-stalking*
44,680	calls were received at the Iowa Victim Service Call Center.
7,765	children (ages 0-17) received support from Iowa crime victim service provider agencies.*
503	victims received human trafficking support services.*
625	victims received support services in ONE day from Iowa crime victim service provider agencies.**

Sources:

- **SFY2025 Victim Assistance Section, Office of the Iowa Attorney General Brenna Bird*
- ***2024 ONE Day Census Report on Iowa Victim Service Provider Agencies from the National Network to End Domestic Violence*

Support Iowa Crime Victims

IOWA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

"Funding cuts make it harder to serve survivors, leaving them trapped in dangerous situations and widening service 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*

INVESTING $10 MILLION IN CRIME VICTIM SERVICES CREATES SAFER COMMUNITIES

Investing in victim services helps individuals reclaim their lives and become contributing members of families, communities, and valued employees of Iowa businesses. Violent crime victims experience significant challenges to recovery because they are often harmed by someone they know. The amount of funding impacts not only the number of victims organizations can serve, but also the type of services available and where victims can find help.

Fully supporting crime victims requires making a state investment in victim services a budget priority. Victims seeking support are being turned away now. Access to the post-crisis support victims want and need is most threatened by lack of funding, especially in rural areas. But these services are essential to recovery and most frequently requested because victims need support beyond what family and friends can provide. Serving rural areas, rape and human trafficking victims, and helping victims find housing, or navigate legal proceedings are labor and resource intensive.

Failing to invest in victim services means people and communities lose the capacity to thrive. It keeps violence alive in every community, and preventable costs are high for every business, workplace, and government agency. Insufficient funding increases the workload of other service providers and is ultimately more expensive as victims lacking stability continue to need services. When service providers have limited capacity to help a victim avoid homelessness, provide counseling, assist police, or help county attorneys support a witness, it means victims get no support or are referred to other overburdened service providers.

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

- fewer victims will receive comprehensive 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.
- inadequate funding to attract and retain staff undermines the capacity of service providers to ensure statewide access to help.

Supporting victims *requires all of us* – Invest at least $10 million in state funding for victim services in the Justice System budget.