

Nebraska Victim Advocacy Program

Providing a Voice for Victims

Program Overview

Across Nebraska's 93 counties, only 22 established Victim Witness/Assistance Programs are available, resulting in limited access to essential services, advocacy, and support for many survivors.

The statewide program is available to ensure all victims of crime — regardless of location or victimization type — have access to advocacy services & direct client assistance to support their safety and well-being. Types of victimization include but are not limited to:

- DUI/DWI
 - Assault
 - Robbery
 - Elder Abuse/Neglect
 - Survivors of Homicide Victims
 - Adult Survivors of Incest or Child Sexual Abuse
 - Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crimes
 - Vehicular Victimization
-

Program Overview: Two Core Elements

1. **Statewide Advocacy Services**
 - Targeted support for traditionally underserved areas and crime types across Nebraska
 - Focus on closing gaps in access to advocacy and resources
2. **Direct Victim Assistance (DVA) Fund**
 - Funds designated for safety and well-being needs directly resulting from victimization
 - Accessed through a local victim assistance agency
 - The agency provides the assistance and is reimbursed for approved eligible expenses.

Advocacy and Direct Assistance Services Provided by NVAP

Advocacy & Support Services

- Information and referrals
- Personal advocacy & accompaniment
- Emotional support & safety services
- Criminal justice system advocacy

System Navigation

- Assistance with Crime Victim Reparation (CVR) claims
- Assistance with offender notification registration

Direct Assistance

- Support for urgent safety and well-being needs directly related to victimization
- Funded through the Direct Victim Assistance Fund (DVA) and provided through a reimbursement process

Direct Victim Assistance (DVA) Fund

Eligible Categories of Support

- **Relocation Support**
Emergency relocation expenses
 - **Safety & Security**
Window, door, lock repair/replacement
 - **Emergency Needs**
Food, clothing, shelter, transportation
 - **Criminal Justice Participation Support**
Travel, lodging, meals to attend specific court proceedings
 - **Other Well-Justified Needs**
Based on individual circumstances and impact of the crime
-

DVA Fund – Key Considerations

- Requests must directly relate to a crime and ensure the safety and well-being and their families.
- U.S. Citizenship not required.
- All costs must be reasonable and justified.
- The fund serves as a last resort — other available resources should be considered first.
- Medications and medical equipment may be considered if Nebraska's compensation program, health insurance, or Medicaid is not reasonably accessible in time.

Unallowable Expenses

The following expenses are not eligible for DVA Fund assistance:

- Costs or needs related to being a witness
- Mortgage payments
- Vehicle-related expenses (e.g. repairs, insurance, car payments)
- Property loss or damage due to theft or vandalism
- Monetary losses resulting from fraud
- Expenses related to general hardship

Note: Fees, fines, and past due amounts may be considered only with prior discussion and approval.

Contact Information

Julie Geise

Statewide Victim Advocacy Coordinator

(402) 429-1609

julie.geise@nebraska.gov
