

Nebraska Victim Advocacy Program

Providing a Voice for Victims

Program Overview

Across Nebraska's 93 counties, only 21 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. 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
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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
 - Operates on a reimbursement basis
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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
- Funded through the NVAP Direct Victim Assistance Fund (*reimbursement-based*)

Direct Victim Assistance (DVA) Fund

Eligible Categories of Support

- **Relocation Support**
Emergency relocation expenses
 - **Safety & Security**
Window, door, lock repair/replacement
Safety-related home modifications
 - **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
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DVA Fund – Key Considerations

- Requests must directly relate to a crime and ensure the safety and well-being of survivor/family.
- 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 costs are **NOT** eligible for reimbursement by the DVA Fund:

- 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
