

Advocacy available for those experiencing the trauma of being a crime victim

Resources are available

The Statewide Nebraska Victim Advocacy Program (NVAP) is able to ensure *victims of crime regardless of location and victimization type* have access to advocacy and direct client assistance in order to work towards or achieve safety and well-being.

The Nebraska Victim Advocacy Program is funded through the federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Federal Grant 2017-VA-GX-0010.

The [Nebraska Victim Advocacy Brochure](#) is a brief overview of the programs ways to assist & contact information to apply

[Request \(VOCA funded\)](#)

[Request \(Non-VOCA\)](#)

Q: What is the Nebraska Victim Advocacy Program?

A: NVAP assists victims of crime despite victimization type and location with direct client assistance such as information and referrals, accompaniment, emotional support, assistance with filing Crime Victims Reparation (CVR) claims and navigating the criminal justice system as a victim | survivor.

Q: Who is eligible?

A: Any individual whom has been the victim of a crime, *regardless of victimization type or location* within Nebraska.

- DUI | DWI
- Elder Abuse
- Adult Survivors of incest or child sexual abuse
- Survivors of Homicide Victims
- Robbery
- Assault

Q: Does the Nebraska Victim Advocacy Program have funds available to assist victims?

A: Yes, there are limited funds available, known as the Direct Victim Assistance Fund. The areas funds are allocated for are:

- Relocation
- Window | Door | Lock replacement or repair & other repairs necessary to ensure victim safety
- Emergency food | Transportation | Clothing | Shelter
- Transportation | Meals | Lodging to participate in the Criminal Justice Process
- Other well-justified needs, case by case basis

Q: What may be considered for monetary assistance?

A: The request must be geared towards ensuring *safety and well-being* for an individual, based on a crime having been committed and the need being *directly* related to the result of the crime itself. (In the aforementioned areas mentioned)

-If Nebraska's compensation program, health insurance, and/or Medicaid is not reasonably expected to be available quickly enough to meet the emergency needs, medication and medical equipment may be considered.

For all requests other community-based resources should be utilized first

Q: What is not considered for monetary assistance?

A: The Victim Assistance Fund will not cover any expenses that occurred due to being a witness in the criminal justice system as well as:

- Fees & fines
- Past due amounts
- Gift cards
- Mortgage payments
- Vehicle payments
- Property loss
- Cash assistance due to fraud

Q: What qualifies me to be considered for monetary assistance through the Direct Victim Assistance Fund?

A: Primarily it must me towards achieving immediate safety and wellbeing. In addition, it varies based on what area of need you are requesting funds for:

Relocation

- One must show sustainability of the rent, utilities, etc.
- Offenders name must either be removed from the lease or working towards having it removed
- Landlord/Leasing agent must be willing to acknowledge that when a tenant vacates the deposit is returned to the agency to whom paid, not the victim themselves
 - Limit one occurrence per victim/family
To include up to 3 months' rent, utility & overall deposit

Window | Door | Lock replacement or repair & other repairs necessary to ensure victim safety

- Replacement need or area of repair must pose a safety risk if not repaired/ replaced
- If insured one must exhaust that option first
- Installation must occur by a professional
 - Limit one occurrence per victim/family

Emergency food | Transportation | Clothing | Shelter

- The need must relate directly to a crime being committed creating a need in this particular area
 - Up to 5 nights per victim/family

Transportation | Meals | Lodging to participate in the Criminal Justice Process

- Must not be a witness in the case. If you are being called to testify or have had a deposition you are considered a witness
 - Up to 5 nights per victim/family

Q: How does one access or make a request for assistance?

A: You may submit a request form

[Request \(VOCA funded\)](#)

[Request \(Non-VOCA\)](#)

You may also contact Julie Geise, the Nebraska Victim Advocacy Coordinator by:

phone 402-429-1609

email Julie.geise@nebraska.gov

Mail P.O Box 94946 | Lincoln, NE | 68509

Q: How will my request be considered?

A: The coordinator will ask any follow up questions and gather additional information as needed after reviewing the pre-approval and/or request. It will then be either approved or denied based on the VOCA rules and regulations regarding allowable expenses. You will be informed of the decision made, if approved the coordinator will continue to work with you to complete the reimbursement process.

Q: What if I am already working with an advocate?

A: The Nebraska Victim Advocacy Program is a resource to assist victims of crime throughout Nebraska and we believe strongly in collaboration. The professionals are able to work together to best serve the victim | survivor. You are able to continue to work one on one with the advocate with whom you are familiar for all advocacy services and still make a request to the Direct Victim Assistance for monetary support in achieving | working towards safety.

Q: I have already utilized the services of the Nebraska Victim Advocacy Program in the past, am I able to apply for assistance again?

A: Yes, our advocacy services are available to you at any time. Often times the challenges that are attributed to being a victim of crime are taxing and the judicial system difficult to maneuver and understand and can be a lengthy process. We are glad to assist.

Q: The Direct Victim Assistance Program helped me before, am I able to request assistance again?

A: Yes, there is not a set dollar amount allotted for assistance. There are guidelines for each type of assistance through the fund and those can be found above. For instance, if a victim | Survivor is assisted monetarily with relocation, the cap is 3 months towards rent, utility deposit and overall deposit. If the fund has already assisted to the full extent in a particular area of need, other areas may still be considered.

Q: Is confidentiality adhered to when applying for monetary assistance or working with an advocate through the Nebraska Victim Assistance Program?

A: Yes! On the request form(s), it asks for a Victim ID: that identifier is what the NVAP Coordinator uses to track assistance regarding that particular submission for funds and other needs. In documentation, all personal information is redacted and the victim ID noted. In the situations where the program is sending payment directly to vendors and personal information, such as an address or account number are needed, the victim | survivor will have the option to sign a release of information detailing if they approve of the information being shared and for what purpose. If as a victim | survivor you are working with an agency and they submit on your behalf all that is needed is a Victim ID: therefore your personal information not being released even to the NVAP program.

Read through our [Confidentiality Notice](#) here!

[Nebraska Victim Advocacy Release of Information](#)

The Direct Victim Assistance Fund is operated solely as a reimbursement (or direct vendors) program, any funds paid out will go directly to the vendor for services provided. The agency for which the victim | survivor is working with may be reimbursed for funds expended with pre-approval.

The State of Nebraska does not discriminate on the basis of sex, handicap, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran status, or national origin with respect to Crime Victim's Reparations applications. Inquiries regarding this policy or reasonable accommodations with respect to such programs may be directed to the Nebraska Crime Commission (402) 471-2828 (TDD 800-833-7352).