



## U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

*Office for Victims of Crime*

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*Washington, D.C. 20531*

Dear Colleague,

I am pleased to present the 2022 National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) Resource Guide. This guide contains outreach tools and sample materials to help you develop and implement your awareness campaign during NCVRW (April 24–30, 2022) and throughout the year.

For many, this was another difficult year. Once again, COVID-19 disproportionately impacted society's most vulnerable groups, including crime victims. Yet even as the pandemic uncovered social inequities and disrupted service delivery, victim service providers and allied professionals successfully adapted in ways big and small. NCVRW affords us the opportunity to honor the perseverance, innovation, and unyielding commitment of our victim service providers and the strength and resilience of crime victims across the country.

2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the creation of the first three victim assistance organizations—[Bay Area Women Against Rape](#) in Oakland, CA; the [DC Rape Crisis Center](#) in Washington, DC; and [Aid for Victims of Crime](#) (now the Crime Victim Center) in St. Louis, MO—and a pivotal point in the crime victims' rights movement in the United States. In addition, 40 years ago, the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime issued a landmark report that guided the creation of victims' rights and established the professionalism of the victim services field. Today, the movement encompasses thousands of advocacy and service organizations that address the full continuum of victims' needs, many of which were just beginning to come into focus in the 1970s and 1980s.

Yet we still struggle to ensure that survivors receive updated case status notifications and information about their options in the justice system. Many people who experience crime in underserved communities are unaware that help, including crime victim compensation, is available. Our aim must be to ensure access to victim assistance and compensation services for all people who experience victimization. And we must strive to provide multiple avenues for help, because we know that every experience is unique, and that one approach does not fit all.

This year's theme—Rights, access, equity, for all victims—underscores the importance of enforcing victims' rights, expanding access to services, and ensuring equity and inclusion for all. By enforcing victims' rights, victim service providers and other allied professionals promote a fair and balanced justice system that encourages respect, dignity, and meaningful participation among those most directly impacted by crime. By ensuring that equitable, inclusive, and culturally responsive services and meaningful compensation are available to survivors, we can help all victims find the justice and healing they seek.

This April, we invite you to join us in renewing our commitment to serving victims of crime and supporting the thousands of service providers who respond to the call for help. On behalf of the

Office for Victims of Crime, thank you for all you do to restore hope and improve the lives of others.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kristina Rose".

Kristina Rose  
Director  
Office for Victims of Crime