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OVS Newsletter

August 24, 2022

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# How Infusion Of New Federal Aid Can Help Stem Gun Violence

The American Rescue Plan’s (ARP) $350 billion in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds is helping provide local leaders with an "unparalleled opportunity to address the public health crisis of gun violence," [says a new Brookings Institution report.](https://www.brookings.edu/essay/addressing-the-root-causes-of-gun-violence-with-american-rescue-plan-funds-lessons-from-state-and-local-governments/)

Please click [here](https://www.ncja.org/crimeandjusticenews/how-infusion-of-new-federal-aid-can-help-stem-gun-violence) to read.

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# Much Antiviolence Funding Not Going To Areas Most In Need

Gun deaths in the U.S. [reached all-time highs](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2022/05/04/gun-violence-record-level-2020/9617793002/) amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and firearms [are now the leading cause of death](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2022/04/24/guns-death-children-teens-2020/7432860001/) among children and teens.

In response, more cities are investing federal dollars in local programs to curtail shootings.

A new report finds many are failing to address the root causes in the most affected communities, [USA Today reports.](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2022/08/18/gun-violence-prevention-efforts-fail/10327684002/)

Please click [here](https://www.ncja.org/crimeandjusticenews/much-antiviolence-funding-not-going-to-areas-most-in-need) to read.

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#  FBI Led Operation Locates 84 Child Sex-Trafficking Victims

An FBI-led investigation called “Operation Cross Country” resulted in the location of 84 minors who the Department of Justice said were victims of child sex trafficking and child sexual exploitation. More than three-dozen actively missing children were reportedly found in that nationwide search

Please click [here](https://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/ny-fbi-sex-traffic-children-operation-cross-country-20220815-pyjgnlvvbnbzphyms3koqqma2e-story.html) to read.

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#  Amid Attacks, Asian Americans Buy Record Number Of Guns

Gun ownership rates soared to record heights during the pandemic, as more than five million people became first-time owners, according to the trade organization National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF). As videos of anti-Asian violence began flooding social media and cable news, gun sales to Asian Americans, rose by an estimated forty-three percent.

 Please click [here](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/aug/16/asian-americans-gun-ownership) to read.

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# Scaling Safety: A Roadmap To Close America’s Safety Gaps

Scaling Safety presents a first-of-its-kind roadmap for expanding community-based public safety solutions that can help stop crime cycles and prevent violence. For the first time, an analysis lays out the most common gaps in public safety and the prevention solutions that can address those gaps. The report proposes specific formulas for expanding key prevention programs based on an analysis of the “safety gap”—the lack of preventive public safety infrastructure that has prevented communities from being equipped to address crisis and prevent violence.

Please click [here](https://allianceforsafetyandjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Alliance-for-Safety-and-Justice-Scaling-Safety-Report-July-2022.pdf) to access.

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# Working With Male Survivors Of Sexual Violence

From the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, Working with Male Survivors of Sexual Violence has tools to help you understand how male socialization impacts the stigma and reaction to sexual violence. They will help you consider how to reach and engage men who need healing from sexual violence.

Please click [here](https://www.nsvrc.org/working-male-survivors-sexual-violence) to access.

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# As Gun Violence Remains A Major Concern, Americans Favor Stricter Regulations

 A recent poll found crime or gun violence remains among Americans’ top concerns, and that a majority believe gun violence is a larger issue than crime.

Please click [here](https://www.ipsos.com/en-us/news-polls/FiveThirtyEight-2022-midterm-election) to read.

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# Campus No Contact Order And Civil Protection Orders : An Examination

Sexual assault and intimate partner violence are prevalent in the student population of higher education campuses. Almost one in four undergraduate women experienced sexual assault or misconduct at 33 of the nation’s major universities. 5-6% of men will experience sexual assault during college.4 90% of campus sexual assaults are committed by perpetrators that the survivor knows. Compounding these facts is the low reporting rate of assaults to law enforcement.

Please click [here](https://www.bwjp.org/resource-center/resource-results/campus_no_contact_orders_an_examination.html) to read.

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# The Toll Of America’s Gun Violence Epidemic

Two studies have outlined the staggering financial, social and healthcare toll of America's gun violence epidemic. The groups behind the study hope the cost will spur legislative and cultural change.

Please click [here](https://www.npr.org/2022/07/20/1112579563/the-toll-of-americas-gun-violence-epidemic) to read.

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# Department Of Aging Launces Investigative Unit To Help Combat Financial Exploitation Of Older Adults

The Department of Aging announced the formation of a dedicated investigative unit to support Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) in probing complex financial exploitation cases and obtaining justice for older Pennsylvanians.

Please click [here](https://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/aging_details.aspx?newsid=364) to read.

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# Stitching The Unspeakable

Common Threads Project accompanies women and girls on their healing journeys from sexual violence, war, and displacement. Using a community-based and strengths-oriented solution to respond to the challenges of sexual and gender-based violence and its enduring psychological consequences, Common Threads Project establishes therapeutic circles for women to gather for mutual support, group therapy, and to create story cloths about their experiences.

Please click [here](https://oakfnd.org/common-threads-project-stitching-the-unspeakable/) to read.

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# Changes To The Victims Compensation Assistance Program As A Result of Act 77 Of 2022

On July 11, 2022, Governor Wolf signed into law Act 77 of 2022 ([Current version is HB2464](https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/billinfo.cfm?syear=2021&sind=0&body=H&type=B&bn=2464)). There are a number of changes to the Victims Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP) that will take effect on September 8, 2022.  The law is not retroactive, so the changes will take effect for crimes occurring after the date of September 8, 2022.  Below is a full list of changes to VCAP:

1. Adds the following eligible charges:
* 75 Pa.C.S. § 3732.1 (Relating To Aggravated Assault By Vehicle)
* 75 Pa.C.S. § 3733 (Relating To Fleeing Or Attempting To Elude Police Officer)
* 75 Pa.C.S. § 3734 (Relating To Driving Without Lights To Avoid Identification Or Arrest)
* 75 Pa.C.S. § 3742.1 (Relating To Accidents Involving Death Or Personal Injury While Not Properly Licensed) If The Nature And Circumstance Of The Offense Committed Are Substantially Similar To An Offense Under 75 Pa.C.S. § 3742
1. Adds privately owned vehicles to crime scene clean up.
2. Changes filing requirement to 5 years with good case exceptions for filing past 5 years.
3. Changes minimum loss requirement to $50.00.
4. Adds no minimum loss requirement for claimants over the age of 60.
5. Mileage for counseling services can be paid to:
	1. Direct victim.
	2. Individual responsible for direct victim’s welfare.
	3. Intervenor or individual physically present at the crime scene and witness a violent crime.
	4. In case of homicide, an individual who discovers the body.
	5. Anyone related to the direct victim within the 2nd degree of consanguinity.
	6. Anyone maintaining a common law relationship with the direct victim.
	7. Anyone residing in the same household with the direct victim.
	8. Anyone engaged to be married to the direct victim.
6. If the crime involved is a homicide, the conduct of the direct victim shall not be considered for claims by eligible claimants for counseling and funeral expenses.
7. Allows sexual violence and intimidation orders as reporting to proper authorities.
8. Allows a minor who is a direct victim of a sexual offense to request that the minor’s primary insurance carrier not be billed for counseling services if the policy is held or administered by either the alleged perpetrator of the crime or an individual responsible for the minor’s welfare that is not supportive of counseling services.

Training for victim advocates will be provided in the near future that will discuss the VCAP changes in greater detail.

In addition to VCAP, there are other important changes to the CVA within Act 77 of 2022.

* In the 2019-2020 Regular Session, HB962 was signed into law which allowed Sexual Assault victims to file claims to VCAP for counseling without reporting to law enforcement.  This wording has now been added to the CVA as Section 701.1.
* Section 212 of the CVA has two (2) important changes relative to “Responsibilities of State and local law enforcement agencies.”
1. Act 77 of 2022 changes Section 212 (B)(1) and (2) to remove the 48-hour and 24-hour notification requirements and replaces with the following language:

Section 212 (B)(1) - “The law enforcement agency responding to or investigating an incident shall provide basic information on the rights and services available for crime victims and the availability of crime victims' compensation to the direct victim or, if appropriate, a member of the direct victim's family. The information shall be provided when the agency has first contact with the direct victim or, if appropriate, a member of the direct victim's family or as soon as reasonably possible. The information required under this subsection shall be in a written notice in a manner or form developed by the office of victims' services.”

Section 212 (B)(2) – “Law enforcement agencies shall be responsible for ensuring that officers provide the notification required under paragraph (1).”

1. Act 77 of 2022 changes Section 212 (E) from Forms to:

Section 212 (E) – “CONFIRMATION.  The law enforcement agency responding to or investigating an incident shall indicate on the police report that the information required under subsection (B) was provided to the direct victim or, if appropriate, a member of the direct victim’s family.”

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# RASA/VOJO 2023-2024 Funding Announcement Closes 9/2

The RASA/VOJO 2023-2024 Funding Announcement for the funding period of January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2024 opened on July 1, 2022.  **RASA/VOJO programs must submit their applications in Egrants by Friday, September 2, 2022 at 11:59pm.**  Here is the link to the funding announcement:  <https://www.pccd.pa.gov/Funding/Pages/Active-Funding-Announcements.aspx>.

Rights and Services Act (RASA) and Victims of Juvenile Offenders (VOJO) funds support procedural services mandated by the PA Crime Victims Act, PA Juvenile Act and/or the PA Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure.

Please contact PCCD if there are any questions concerning this announcement.  Program-related questions should be directed to Heather Cureau at 717.265.8712 or hcureau@pa.gov or Maria Katulis at 717.265.8741 or mkatulis@pa.gov.  Fiscal or budgetary questions should be directed to James Haas at 717.265.8509 or jamhaas@pa.gov.  Questions concerning the Egrants system should be made directly to the Egrants Help Desk by calling 717.787.5887.

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# OVW Grantee Firearms Webinar Series

This webinar is an introduction to the firearms center and provides an overview of domestic violence and firearms and state and federal laws that prohibit possession of firearms.

Please click [here](https://www.preventdvgunviolence.org/resources/overview_dv_firearms_webinar.html) to access.

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# Law Enforcement And Prosecution Virtual Roundtable On Supporting Non-Citizen Human Trafficking Victims

Thursday, September 01, 2022, 01:00PM

Join the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (NIWAP) for a series of virtual conversations on how to support non-citizen victims of human trafficking by learning about available forms of immigration relief, including the eligibility requirements for T Visas and the process required to attain Continued Presence, a temporary immigration designation. Presenters will discuss approaches for collaborating with allied professionals to better navigate the endorsement process related to filing for a T Visa and advocating for Continued Presence. Sergeant Inspector Antonio Flores from the San Francisco Police Department with over 10 years of working in the Special Victim’s Unit – Human Trafficking division will join our seasoned facilitators to discuss strategies for overcoming challenges to investigations and prosecutions.

Please click [here](https://vawnet.org/events/law-enforcement-and-prosecution-virtual-roundtable-supporting-non-citizen-human-trafficking) to register.

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# Understanding Victim Trauma

**Women In Need Presents:**

 ***Understanding Victim Trauma***Corporal Angela Weekes (Retired)
Nampa Police Department
Nampa Family Justice Center

Understanding trauma and the aftermath is important for anyone who works with victims. When a victim experiences trauma, certain indicators may be present that can offer insight into their behavior. Trauma can also affect a victim’s ability to remember and recall details of the event. When officers are trauma informed, it can minimize the likelihood of re-traumatizing the victim, and promote healing and empowerment. Another crucial area to emphasize is using trauma indicators as evidence, and how we can use this to hold those responsible for the trauma accountable. Misunderstanding trauma can lead to negative outcomes in investigations, and also pose potential long-term, devastating consequences for the victim, future victims, and community.

This training will focus on the brain and body’s response to trauma. We will also be discussing trauma-informed interviewing and talking about strategies to reframe questions in a trauma-informed manner. By the end of the training, participants will also understand the impact of accurate report writing and documenting trauma. We will wrap up with a discussion on vicarious trauma.

***WHEN:*** *Thursday, Sept. 1, 2022****WHERE:*** *Zoom****COST:*** *FREE*

*\*Angela Weekes is a retired law enforcement officer with over 26 years of experience with specialized training in the areas of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and child abuse. \**

Please click [here](http://winservices.org/event/digital-stalking-other-technology-threats-for-victims-of-domestic-violence/?instance_id=67) to register.

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# Trainings Being Offered On The Changes To The Victims’ Compensation Assistance Program As A Result Of Act 77 Of 2022

Trainings will be offered on the changes to VCAP as a result of Act 77 of 2022 which will go into effect for crimes occurring after the date of September 8, 2022.

The trainings are being offered on the below dates.

September 7, 2022 at 1:00pm

September 22, 2022 at 10:00am

In order to register for these trainings, the Basic Compensation trainings must have been completed.  If you have not taken the Basic Compensation training there is one scheduled for September 7, 2022 at 10:00am.

Click [here](https://pccd.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=pccd&service=6) to register for one of these trainings.

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# Refugee Education Summit And Paving The Way To Educational Success Conference

**Sept. 26–29, 2022 | Kalahari Resorts and Conventions, Pocono Manor, Pennsylvania, and Virtual**

The summit and conference provide a unique opportunity to deepen your knowledge and practice for working with students experiencing homelessness and students in foster care and for understanding, supporting, and engaging newcomer refugee students and their families.

There is no cost to attend.

Registration opens in August.

Click [here](https://pheedloop.com/ptwconference2022/site/home/) for more information

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# 2022 PCADV Conference: Embracing Equity and Centering Communities

**October 6-7 in Harrisburg, PA (or Virtual!)**

After going virtual in 2020, PCADV is excited to announce that our biennial conference will return in October 2022 in Harrisburg, PA. Along with the in-person conference, there will be a virtual option to accommodate even more attendees across PA and beyond.

Please click [here](https://www.pcadv.org/conference/) for more information.

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# Foundational Academy

**Registration Information for the OCTOBER Victim Services Foundational Academy**

The last Academy of 2022 will be held as follows:

**October 26 - 28, 2022**

The Graduate Hotel

125 South Atherton Street

State College, PA 16801

*This is an in-person training only; there is no virtual or hybrid option.*

There is no charge for Academy, and single hotel rooms, parking, and lunch are included. Participants are on their own in the evenings.

Registration will be open August 29 - 31, 2022 under the PDAI Training Calendar at [www.pdaa.org](http://www.pdaa.org). Trainings are listed by date; you will need to scroll down to October to find the information.

**There is a NEW registration process for 2022:** Registration will be open for the above three days only. During this time, those who wish to attend the October Academy will be asked to ***apply*** for a spot. Information on funding and length of time at Agency must be completed as part of this process. Registrations will no longer be automatic and accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Instead, applications to attend will be prioritized by, but not limited to, length of time at agency, number of spots filled by the agency in 2021/2022, etc.

Once prioritized, the top 60 applicants will be notified of their acceptance into Academy. All others will be placed on the waitlist and notified of such. The selection process will take up to 2 weeks. All pending applicants will be contacted as soon as the lists are finalized. We ask for your patience during that time period; as a reminder, **we will contact you** either way.

As a reminder, Academy spots are only for those VOCA, VOJO, and RASA-Funded individuals for whom attendance is required per PCCD’s Consolidated Victim Services Standards. Additionally, only a maximum of 8 staff members per agency may apply for each Academy.

Finally, applicants must be able to attend all 3 days of Academy *in-person* in its entirety, as well as complete an additional supplemental online training requirement.

If you have any questions or to request the supplemental online training form, please contact:

Amy Smulktis, Restitution & V/W Training Consultant E: AJS@RestitutionConsulting.com

T: 717.333.2319 B: PDAA/I 717.238.5416/[www.pdaa.org](http://www.pdaa.org)

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# 2022 School Safety Summit



Join the Center for Safe Schools on November 1-2, 2022 in Harrisburg, PA to receive actionable strategies to support a comprehensive school safety plan and process. Leave inspired and equipped to take school safety and climate to the next level.



Please click [here](https://pheedloop.com/schoolsafetysummitfall2022/site/) to register.

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# Victims Compensation Assistance Program Online Trainings

The following trainings will be held on August 25, 2022.

* Changes to the Victims’ Compensation Assistance Program as a result of Act 77 of 2022 -   10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

The following trainings will be held on August 30, 2022.

* Funeral & Burial Expenses Clinic - 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
* Crime Scene Cleanup Expenses Clinic – 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

The following trainings will be held on September 7, 2022.

* Basic Compensation - 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.
* Changes to the Victims’ Compensation Assistance Program as a result of Act 77 of 2022 – 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on September 22, 2022.

* Changes to the Victims’ Compensation Assistance Program as a result of Act 77 of 2022 - 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

All trainings count towards 1 hour of the required RASA/VOCA/VOJO training hours, except Basic Compensation which counts towards 2 and DAVE training which counts towards 2.25.

Please click [here](https://pccd.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=pccd&service=6) to register.

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# Northeast Victim Service – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.linkedin.com%2Fjobs%2Fview%2F3223785858%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cledorsey%40pa.gov%7C08df5d69f53b4c1223b508da80910e9e%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C637963658492514285%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=eyThhcBmjGRTednCr3gdz8UDfZUrU5aQZgXz7SaLuTU%3D&reserved=0) to see current employment opportunities.

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# Blackburn Center – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://www.blackburncenter.org/jobs) to see current employment opportunities.

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# Women’s Center & Shelter Of Greater Pittsburgh – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://wcspittsburgh.org/who-we-are/job-internship-opportunities/) to see current employment opportunities.

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# Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://www.pirclaw.org/employment/) to see current employment opportunities.

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# Center For Victims – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://www.centerforvictims.org/make-a-difference-today/employment-opportunities/) to see current employment opportunities.

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# Legal Aid of Southeastern PA – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://www.lasp.org/careers) to see current employment opportunities.

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# YWCA – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](http://www.ywcahbg.org/employment#.YsiECDfMJaQ) to see current employment opportunities.

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The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, **September 7, 2022**.  If you would like any training events, fundraisers, or notable news published in this newsletter, please submit them to Lea Dorsey at ledorsey@pa.gov  by Wednesday, **August 31, 2022**.

You have signed up to receive the OVS Newsletter from the Office of Victims' Services.  This newsletter will be sent to you on a biweekly basis via email.  If your email address changes or you would like to be removed from the OVS Newsletter distribution list, please contact Lea Dorsey at (717) 265-8733 or via email at ledorsey@pa.gov.

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Pennsylvania’s [Office of Victims’ Services](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/default.aspx)  |  3101 North Front Street  |  Harrisburg, PA  17110 |

(717) 783-0551

[www.pccd.pa.gov](http://www.pccd.pa.gov)

**PA Crime Victims Website**

[www.pcv.pccd.pa.gov](http://www.pcv.pccd.pa.gov)

**Twitter:** [@PaCrimeCom](https://twitter.com/PaCrimeComm)m.