



FY 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Victims' Compensation
Assistance Program

Delaware Department of Justice
Attorney General
Kathleen Jennings



Dear Fellow Delawareans:

At the Delaware Department of Justice, protecting and serving victims of crime is about more than investigating and prosecuting perpetrators – it is also about supporting victims and their families and helping them along their road to recovery. By providing compensation for financial losses that victims sustain as a result of crime through our Victims' Compensation Assistance Program, ("VCAP"), we are meeting that obligation by helping to alleviate the financial burden and distress that crime leaves behind.

VCAP provides financial awards to help cover the costs of a variety of services that help victims and families rebuild their lives, including lost wages, medical expenses, payment for mental health counseling, funeral expenses, and other financial impacts.

I am proud of the work we are doing at VCAP, and we are always striving to do more. Victims and their families deserve no less.

Thank you for your continued support of this important program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kathleen Jennings".

Kathleen Jennings
Attorney General

THE PROGRAM

The purpose of the Victims' Compensation Assistance Program is to alleviate some of the financial burdens faced by victims, those that are directly related to the specific offense, by providing compensation for certain losses.

The Victims' Compensation Assistance Program serves as an important lifeline, reaching out to victims wherever they are located throughout all three Delaware counties. Applications are received by the office and reviewed by our staff. The Agency manages the program's funds and awards compensation. Funding for the program is generated by a surcharge on fines and penalties imposed by the Courts. No tax dollars are used to fund the program.

WHO CAN GET HELP?

Compensation is available to individuals who have been victims of violent crime and to certain members of their families.

To be eligible, an applicant must be either:

- A listed victim of a violent crime in a police report, or
- The Petitioner in a final and active Protection From Abuse (PFA) Order.

When the victim is under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must apply. If the victim is unable to apply due to physical or mental limitations, or in the case of death, a personal representative may apply on the victim's behalf.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

To receive assistance from VCAP, the following conditions must be met:

- The crime must be reported to law enforcement within 72 hours.
- An application must be filed with VCAP within 1 year of the crime.
- Victims must reasonably cooperate with law enforcement agencies and VCAP staff
- Victims must cooperate with VCAP staff and provide all information requested.
- The victim must not have caused or contributed to their own injury or death.

HOW TO APPLY:

Applicants may begin the claims process in several ways:

- Call VCAP at **(302) 255-1770** to request a paper application
- Download a paper application from the Delaware Attorney General's website:
www.attorneygeneral.delaware.gov/VCAP
- Submit an application online at <https://ccvcde.org>

To complete the online application, applicants will need:

1. A valid email address
2. A police report number or PFA Order number
3. Approximately 30 minutes to complete the form

WHAT LOSSES MAY BE PAID?

VCAP may provide compensation for a wide range of losses that are directly related to the crime, including:

- Medical expenses
- Mental health counseling and psychiatric care
- Funeral expenses, up to \$5,000
- Burial expenses, up to \$2,500
- Crime scene cleanup, up to \$1,000
- Temporary housing, up to \$1,500
- Childcare costs, including deposit and two months of care
- Essential personal safety items, up to \$1,500
- Lost wages due to crime-related injury or caregiving responsibilities
- Loss of support for dependents of homicide victims
- Loss of support, up to \$3,000, in certain domestic violence cases
- Moving and relocation expenses
- Changing locks and replacing items held as evidence
- Towing or impoundment fees caused by the crime
- Insurance deductibles related to stolen vehicles (up to the deductible amount)
- Secondary victim expenses, such as grief counseling for family members of homicide victims, up to \$1,000
- Reimbursement for court-related travel when attending criminal proceedings as a prosecution witness

VCAP covers only those losses that are not already paid for by insurance or other sources. The maximum award is \$25,000, unless the victim is determined by a medical professional to be permanently and totally disabled, in which case the cap may be higher.

All claims must be supported by appropriate documentation before payment can be issued. The Program does not compensate for pain and suffering or for lost, damaged, or stolen property.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Celebration of 50th Anniversary

The Victim Compensation Fund was established by the General Assembly on July 18, 1974. To celebrate and commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Crime Victim Compensation in the State of Delaware, an article was published in the *Delaware Journal of Public Health*. The article appeared in the “Violence as a Public Health Issue” edition in June 2024. The article can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

An Evaluation of Crime Victim Compensation in Delaware: Part of a National Study of Victim Compensation Programs

Back in 2021, Delaware VCAP partnered with NORC at the University of Chicago and the Urban Institute in an NIJ-funded study that delved into state victim compensation programs' structures, operations, challenges, and successes. The study results were published in July 2024. The full evaluation can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

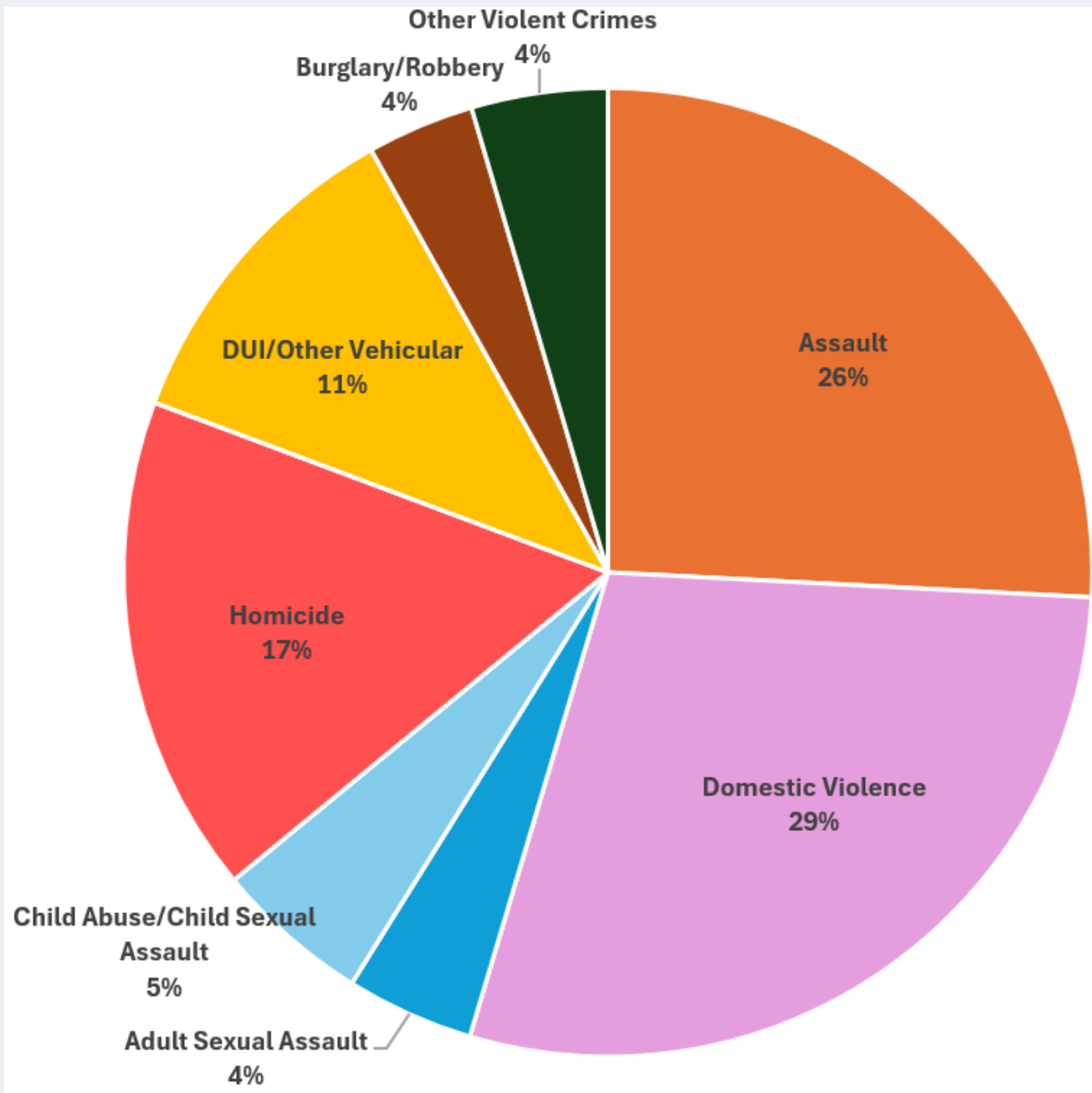
FINANCIAL AWARDS

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the Victims' Compensation Assistance Program rendered 3,047 payments to and on behalf of victims of crime totaling \$3,370,386.

DETAILED EXPENDITURES – FY 2025

STATE FUND VICTIM CLAIM PAYMENTS	\$1,749,504.95
FEDERAL FUND VICTIM CLAIM PAYMENTS	\$1,620,881.46
TOTAL ADMIN COSTS	\$650,878.08
TOTAL EXPENDITURES (ALL FUNDS)	\$4,021,264.49
STATE REVENUE	\$1,883,037.14
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$220,609.95

PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS PAID BY CRIME TYPE



PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS PAID BY BENEFIT

