Montana Victim Services
how victims and survivors are supported in Montana

A victim, as defined by MCA 46-18-243, is "a person who suffers loss of property, bodily injury, or death as a result of: the commission of an offense; the good faith effort to prevent he commission of an offense; or the good faith effort to apprehend a person reasonably suspected of committing an offense."

Montana has a variety of services available to victims of crime and survivors, offered by both local advocacy agencies and systems based criminal justice programs. Services are provided by non-profit organizations, law enforcement agencies, prosecution offices, shelter programs, and many more. Victim assistance programs provide services at no charge. Below is a list of some of the services offered by victim service providers in Montana, but does not cover everything available!

Counseling/Emotional Support
Crisis intervention, safety planning, and follow-up support and guidance for emotional, personal, financial, and employment problems resulting from the crime.

Criminal Justice Support
Explanation of the criminal justice system, court support, support throughout the process, information regarding the progress and disposition of the criminal case, and assistance obtaining restitution.

Emergency Legal Advocacy
Assistance with filing orders of protection, referrals to low-income legal services for help with dissolutions and/or child custody issues, and explanation of victim's rights and remembrances.

Shelter/Safe Housing
Shelter may include a domestic violence shelter, private residence, or a motel for a short-term emergency shelter.

Assistance Filing Crime Victim Compensation Claims
Information about the CVC program, assistance with required forms, help gathering necessary documentation, and assistance with follow-up contact with CVC on behalf of the victim.

Crisis Hotline
24-hour domestic violence and rape hotlines for crisis counseling, advocacy service for crime-related medical exams, information, and referral.

Information and Referral
Identification of services and support available from the victim assistance program and community agencies.

Support Groups
Facilitated support groups for adults and children that focus on healing from the emotional impact of domestic violence, sexual abuse/assault, and other violent crimes.

Emergency Financial Assistance
Assistance in filing for losses covered by public and private insurance including worker's compensation, unemployment, public assistance and Medicare/Medicaid, and financial assistance for public transportation, food, emergency shelter, and clothing.

Personal Advocacy
Assistance in securing services from other agencies, communicating with employers, creditors, landlords, and others on behalf of the victim.

There are many other services provided by victim service providers across the state of Montana. Many service providers will fill in any gaps that they see in order to serve the victims and survivors they are supporting and assisting.

March 2022
# The Differences Between Local Advocacy Agencies and Systems-Based Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Advocacy Agencies</th>
<th>Systems-Based Programs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What’s considered a Local Advocacy Agency:</strong></td>
<td><strong>What’s considered a Systems-Based Program:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)</td>
<td>- County Attorney Offices</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Child Advocacy Centers (CAC)</td>
<td>- Department of Justice Victim Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Shelters and Services</td>
<td>- Department of Corrections Victim Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Can provide comprehensive advocacy, crisis intervention services, 24hr access, emotional support, financial assistance, emergency shelter, transitional assistance, etc.</td>
<td>Can provide information and notification on criminal justice processes, emotional support, referrals, advocacy and accompaniment services, etc.</td>
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<td>Specialize and/or are limited to specific crimes</td>
<td>Provide victim services and assistance to all crime victims, are not restricted by type of crime committed</td>
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<td>Provide services to victims who report crime, but will also provide services to those who don’t</td>
<td>Cannot offer complete confidentiality the way local advocacy agencies can</td>
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<td>No limitations on services or when services end</td>
<td>Services are provided at specific junctures of the criminal justice process</td>
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<td><img src="image1" alt="Advocate" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Advocate" /></td>
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<td>Local advocacy agencies can be funded through grant funding or community support, such as donations and fundraising</td>
<td>Funding in systems-based programs ranges from grant funding to full time state and county funded positions.</td>
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The above graph represents the types of organizations funded through the Montana Board of Crime Control’s (MBCC) federal VOCA award. The legend outlines the types of organizations while the chart breaks down the percentage of money that was awarded to each group per year beginning in 2014.

The graph to the left shows the breakdown of the types of organizations that were originally funded by VOCA through the Montana Board of Crime Control.

Scan this QR Code to access additional funding data dashboards available on the MBCC Website.
The above graph illustrates how Montana crime victims being served increased as VOCA funding allocated to Montana service providers also increased.

The graph to the right represents the percentage breakdown of all the types of organizations that have been funded by the Montana Board of Crime Control since 2014.