



# Department of Justice



## Office of Justice Programs

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### **OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME ANNOUNCES \$2.9 MILLION GRANT TO SUPPORT VICTIMS IN AURORA, COLO.**

Today the Office of Justice Programs' Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) announced a \$2.9 million grant award to support services for the victims of the shootings in the Aurora, Colo. movie theater on July 20, 2012.

"OVC is committed to promoting justice and healing for all victims of crime," said Acting OVC Director Joye Frost. "The physical, emotional and financial impact of such crimes can be devastating, leaving victims and emergency personnel in urgent need of services to reduce trauma and restore a sense of normalcy to their lives. This award will aid victims in their recovery and participation in the criminal justice process."

The total number of victims of this crime is more than 1,500. This includes the twelve killed, sixty-nine wounded and their families, other people in the theater complex at that time, people evacuated from an apartment complex where explosive devices were discovered, and first responders to the emergency.

The Colorado Department of Public Safety (CDPS) is the primary recipient of the three-year award for \$2.9 million funded through OVC's Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program (AEAP). CDPS will provide funding to other Colorado agencies, including the 18<sup>th</sup> District Attorney's Office, Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance, Aurora Mental Health Center, Denver and Aurora Police Departments, and Jefferson and Arapahoe County Sheriffs' Departments.

In 1995, following the Oklahoma City bombing, Congress authorized OVC to set aside and administer up to \$50 million annually from the Crime Victims Fund for the Antiterrorism Emergency Reserve Fund to assist victims in extraordinary circumstances. Following an act of terrorism or mass violence, jurisdictions can apply for an AEAP grant award for crisis response, criminal justice support, crime victim compensation, and training and technical assistance expenses. OVC also has provided AEAP funds and assistance following the shootings in Tucson, Ariz. (2011); Binghamton, New York (2009); and at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (2007).

More information on the program is available at:  
[www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/pdfxt/AEAP\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/pdfxt/AEAP_Brochure.pdf).

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP), headed by Acting Assistant Attorney General Mary Lou Leary, provides federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice, and assist victims. OJP has six components: the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the National Institute of Justice; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; the Office for Victims of Crime; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking. More information about OJP can be found at <http://www.ojp.gov>.