



# Department of Justice



## Office of Justice Programs

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**READOUT OF PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KATHARINE T. SULLIVAN AND OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME DIRECTOR  
JESSICA E. HART'S APPEARANCE AT THE  
VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE  
AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 1, 2020**

WASHINGTON – Office of Justice Programs Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Katharine T. Sullivan and Office for Victims of Crime Director Jessica E. Hart addressed more than 800 state-level administrators, board members and staff during the Victims of Crime Act Annual Training Conference. The conference, organized by the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators and the National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards, convened personnel from state administering agencies from across the country to discuss VOCA funding awarded through OVC, ways to improve program and grant management, and innovative programs supporting victims.

PDAAG Sullivan and Director Hart discussed the challenges facing victims and victim service providers today, including concerns about violence associated with pandemic-related lockdowns. As Director Hart acknowledged, “finding innovation solutions to support victims of crime is critical during the pandemic.” They highlighted recent OVC investments, including initiatives that address human trafficking, elder fraud and abuse, and American Indian and Alaska Native victims.

PDAAG Sullivan and Director Hart issued a call to action to extend the reach of victim services. Data from OJP’s Bureau of Justice Statistics show that victim service agencies deliver assistance to victims in only about 11 percent of cases involving violent victimizations, and only about 43 percent of violent victimizations are ever reported to police. PDAAG Sullivan emphasized that the goal of federal and state officials, working together, should be to “put services and support within reach of every crime victim in America,” and Director Hart reinforced that the ultimate goal is to increase “the number of victims receiving compensation.”

This year, the Office for Victims of Crime anticipates awarding a total of \$1,802,174,433 to states for victims’ assistance and compensation.

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