

SOVA OUTREACH ADVOCATE EXCHANGE

South Carolina Department of Administration
State Office of Victim Assistance

www.sova.sc.gov



Community Networking

To strengthen victim services provided by SOVA, it is imperative to reach out to community organizations. This involves meeting with community based organizations and leaders to discuss how compensation information can be distributed to their clients.

The Deputy Director and Outreach Coordinator collaborated and networked with

various community based organizations during February in an effort to enhance services provided to crime victims.

Discussed were the benefits and services offered by SOVA and the importance of building relationships.

The community based outreach and networking will continue on a monthly and quarterly basis across the state. SOVA will encourage

organizations and leaders to work closely with their local advocates.

During the third quarter outreach networking, the coordinator met with more than 35 businesses and agencies

The outreach coordinator also conducted a productive and successful programmatic site visit with the 16th Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office.

Upcoming Victims' Rights Week

The South Carolina Crime Victims' Right Week Conference (VRW) is April 11-13. The State Office of Victim Assistance and South Carolina Victim Assistance Network are co-sponsors of this annual event. The conference will be held at Doubletree by Hilton Hotel located at 2100 Bush River Road, Columbia, SC 29210.

There are numerous crime victim related topics being discussed throughout the conference. Listed below are a few of the workshops offered:

- Victims' Rights
- Victim Legislation
- Compensation
- Act 141
- Self care for Victim Service Providers

The conference is very beneficial.

Please plan to attend this year's conference. For additional information or if you need instructions on how to register, visit www.victimrightsweek.org

Did you know?

National Crime Victims' Rights Week is April 2-8, 2017.

April 11-13, 2017 is South Carolina's Crime Victims' Rights Week.

May is National Mental Health Awareness Month.

National Foster Care Month is recognized in May.

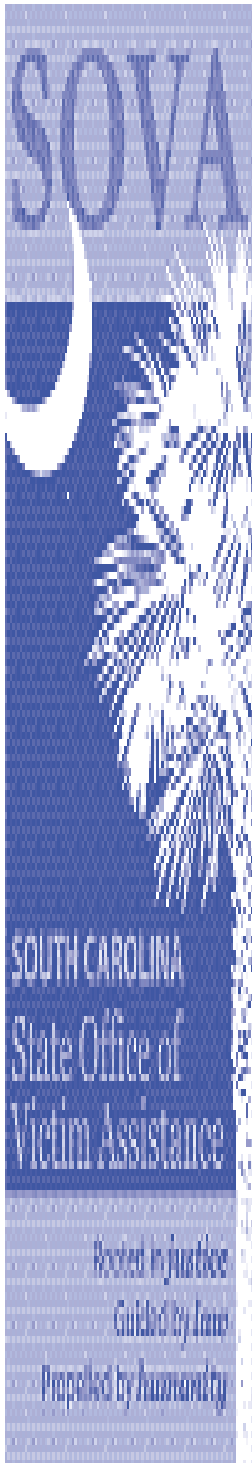
National HIV Testing Day is June 27, 2017.

World Elder Awareness Day is June 15, 2017.

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- Adaptability
- Strong Commitment
- Tenacious
- Sacrificing
- Cooperation
- Dependability
- Always Prepared

“There is no “I” in TEAM.”

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Crime Victim Compensation

SOVA Eligibility Requirements to receive services are:

- The crime must have occurred in South Carolina.
- The victim must have been directly injured, physically or emotionally.
- The victim must not have initiated, provoked, caused or contributed to the incident.
- The victim must not have been engaged in any illegal activity at the time of the incident.
- The victim must cooperate with the State Office of Victim Assistance.

- The victim must cooperate with law enforcement.
- The crime must have been reported to law enforcement within 48 hours.
- The claim must have been filed within 180 days from the date of the incident or the discovery of crime, and the crime must not have occurred more than four years ago.

How Do I Apply?

To apply for SOVA compensation services, visit www.sova.sc.gov and click on the “For Victims” tab. Once the page opens it will direct you to click on the SOVA application.

The application must be completed in its entirety.

After completion, print and mail the application to SOVA at:
 State Office of Victim Assistance
 1205 Pendleton Street,
 Room 401
 Columbia, SC 29201

How Do I Appeal a Denied Application?

If your application is denied, you will receive an appeal packet with the denial. You must complete this appeal packet and return it to SOVA within 30 days of the date on the denial letter. If you do not return it within 30 days, your request for an appeal will not be considered.

Additionally, if you have any questions please contact SOVA (803.734.1900).

Statewide Training Conducted

SOVA continues to provide statewide training, technical assistance and support across the state.

There were trainings coordinated and conducted with mental health providers to discuss proper procedures when submitting documentation regarding counseling. Also, there were presentations and meetings with hospitals and sexual assault

agencies.

Training on the Victim Assistance Fines, Fees and Assessment Fund and field visits to various locations were also conducted.

The third quarter SOVA trainings totaled 27 with more than 375 people trained.

Please note, SOVA has initiated preliminary

plans for the 2017 South Carolina Advanced Victim Assistance Academy. This year’s academy will be held October 25-26, in Greenville. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend!

Additional information will be released soon.

