



# Montana Department of Justice Division of Criminal Investigation



## Office of Victim Services – Crime Victims Compensation

### Overview

The Crime Victim Compensation (CVC) and Restitution programs are in the Montana Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation, Special Services Bureau, Office of Victim Services (OVS). There are five (5) full time staff assigned to the CVC program. The Crime Victim Compensation program is a payer of last resort that provides financial assistance to Montana citizens directly impacted by crimes. Each state manages a CVC program.

### Funding

The Crime Victim Compensation Act of Montana was enacted by the 1977 Montana legislature [§53-9-102, MCA](#) with a state general fund appropriation.

In 1984, The US Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime created a specific Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Compensation Grant Program.

- VOCA Victim Compensation Grants, funded by federal restitution dollars, require an annual application directly from the Montana Department of Justice and are not administered by the Montana Board of Crime Control.

The CVC program is a State-Federal partnership. Each year, the Federal Victim of Crime Act Compensation Grant Program funds Montana CVC at 75% of the prior year's total expended general fund. Thus, Montana CVC expends general fund dollars first each year, then draws from the federal grant.

Prior to 2006, the appropriated state general fund dollars were not meeting the rising costs of Montana victim claims. The 2009 Montana Legislature revised [§46-18-241, MCA](#) to allocate restitution monies paid by offenders to the CVC program on an annual base. As per [§53-9-113, MCA](#) the Legislature must re-authorize the allocation of restitution every six years.

### Claims Payments:

The Montana Department of Justice CVC fund is adequate to pay the claims awarded to Montana victims of crime with these funding sources:

- 1) State General Fund;
- 2) Federal Victim of Crime Act Victim Compensation Grant;
- 3) Restitution collected.

For further information on the CVC program please contact Dana Toole at 406-444-1525 or [dtoole@mt.gov](mailto:dtoole@mt.gov)