

CRIME VICTIMS RESOURCE CENTER

SPRING 2025 Newsletter

Serving victims in Mower County since 1977 - To subscribe or unsubscribe, email miller.tori@mayo.edu

CVRC Funding Forecast

Federal funds from Crime Victims' Services in Minnesota have collapsed from a high near \$60 million in 2018 to our current level of around \$13 million.

As you know, Crime Victims Resource Center is solely funded by grants. State one-time funds from the last two years, which included around \$11 million in 2023 and around \$20 million in 2024, are not going to be available this year.

We remain optimistic that funding will come through with the governor's funding bill that is currently under review ...

- The governor's budget recommends a fresh \$5 million one-time appropriation to Crime Victims' Services.
- While this would not cover the gap left by the combination of federal cuts and state one-time loss, it is positive that we are included as an expense in a

budget cycle where over half a billion dollars are being recommended for cuts.

- The bill would include additional ways to fund crime victims' services, including fines on corporate offenders, an increase in marriage license fees, and fines on violent offenders who are not public defender eligible.
- No specific number has been set for the one-time appropriation as we await committee targets.
- The funding bill is moving well in the House and Senate.

Our sincerest appreciation to our 2024 donors

Our ability to provide Crime Victims Resource Center services is significantly impacted by local contributions. Many thanks to the following organizations for their support:

 Hormel Foundation

 Westminster Presbyterian Church

 LeRoy Lutheran Women of E.L.C.A.

 United Way of Mower County

 St. John's WELCA of Elkton



FINANCIAL RESOURCES —

An At-A-Glance Guide for Victims

Crime victims often incur many expenses due to their victimization. There are financial resources available; a victim may qualify for financial assistance through the Minnesota Crime Victims Reimbursement Program (CVRP) or may be able to collect restitution directly from the offender. The Crime Victims Reimbursement Board is a state program within the Minnesota Department of Public Safety that provides financial assistance to victims of violent crimes and their families. The following information will provide more detail about each option. For more information, call Crime Victims Resource Center at 507-437-6680.

Q: WHO QUALIFIES?

- **RESTITUTION:** Victims of crime that have incurred out-of-pocket expenses due to a crime.
- **CVRP:** Victims of violent crimes or dependents that have incurred expenses due to the crime.

Q: WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

- **Restitution:** There must first be a conviction.
- **CVRP:** The crime must have occurred in Minnesota and be reported to law enforcement within 30 days of the incident. There is an exception to the 30-day rule in cases of child abuse and sexual assault. A police report must be filed, however criminal charges are not required.

Q: DO ALL CRIMES QUALIFY FOR BOTH OPTIONS?

- **Restitution:** Any crime that has led to an out-of-pocket expense can request restitution.
- **CVRP:** Only violent crimes such as (but not limited to): homicide, assault, domestic abuse, sexual assault, child abuse, DUI-related crimes, arson, etc.

Q: WHAT EXPENSES ARE COVERED?

- **Restitution:** Any out-of-pocket expense directly related to the crime.
- **CVRP:** Medical bills, therapy, lost wages, etc. Property and financial crimes are not covered.

Q: HOW DO I REQUEST/APPLY?

- **Restitution:** The prosecuting attorney will provide a restitution affidavit. The affidavit should be completed and returned to the prosecuting attorney. A victim advocate can assist with this paperwork. Receipts or documentation of the loss should also be provided.
- **CVRP:** A person can [apply online here](#) or contact our office to have a victim advocate help with the process.

Q: WHERE DO THE FUNDS COME FROM?

- **Restitution:** A judge must order the offender to pay restitution. The judge will consider the income, resources, and obligations of the offender when making the decision to order restitution.
- **CVRP:** In Minnesota, crime victim reimbursement funds come from fines and penalties from convictions in federal cases, increased civil marriage license fees, and assessments on corporations sentenced for criminal offenses, with some funds also appropriated from the general fund.

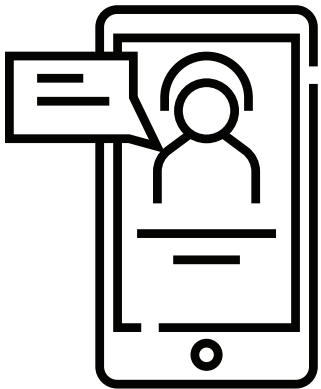
Q: IS INSURANCE REQUIRED?

- **Restitution:** There are no insurance requirements.
- **CVRP:** If the expenses you incurred are covered by insurance, medical assistance, etc. those resources must be utilized first.

Q: HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO RECEIVE THE PAYMENTS?

- **Restitution:** The length of time for restitution to be paid to the victim varies from case to case. Restitution is ordered during the sentencing hearing, and the judge may order that the restitution be paid in monthly installments. The length of time they are given to pay the restitution is also case specific, and it often depends on the offenders' financial situation and ability to pay.
- **CVRP:** The process can take 3-5 months, so we strongly encourage people to apply as soon as possible. However, it should also be noted that a victim has up to three years from the date of the crime to apply (some exceptions apply).

Support Victims as a Volunteer Advocate



CVRC provides 24-hour (evenings, weekends, and holidays) assistance to victims of crime with the help of volunteer advocates who answer our crisis line. Volunteers will help provide support, information, referrals, and assistance to victims of many different types of crime. When on-going support is needed, our volunteers help provide a warm hand off to our in-office advocates that continue to provide support.

With use of a provided CVRC cell phone, calls are answered in the comfort of your own home. During your volunteer time, a staff member is always available to answer your questions. We will provide you with the tools and skills needed to prepare you for this opportunity. First, we will have you come to our office to shadow us to better understand the work we do. Then you will complete the online training and, some in-office training with us.

Please contact our office to request a volunteer application and schedule a time to meet with the volunteer coordinator. We are flexible in working with you so that you can volunteer when it works best for your schedule.



Prevalence of Sexual Assault on College Campuses

Author: Coleena Snyder

If you have a student in high school that will soon graduate and has plans to attend college, it can be an exciting time for both you and your child. This next step towards more independence can also be a little nerve racking for the student and parent alike. Looking back at my own experience I remember feeling much more excited than nervous with my newfound freedom. I found that these feelings switched when I sent my own daughter off to college just last fall. I was much more nervous than excited especially the weeks leading up to move in day.

As a parent, a million and one things run through your mind. Did I sign them up for the right meal plan? What if they don't like their roommate? Will she call me if something happens, and she needs help? The prevalence of sexual assaults occurring on college campuses also did not fail to escape my worries.

What the Statistics Reflect

Sexual assault on college campuses continues to be far too prevalent. The numbers show that college students are at much greater risk of being the victim of sexual assault than the average population.

- 1 in 5 women and 1 in 16 men are the victims of sexual assault.
- Approximately 50% of college sexual assaults occur between the beginning of the fall semester and Thanksgiving break. It is so prevalent during this time frame that it is often referred to as "The Red Zone."
- 9 out of 10 college women that were the victim of rape and sexual assault reported knowing their offender.
- College students who have been the victim of sexual assault often do not report it. Some studies estimate as high as 90% of sexual assaults go unreported.
- Survivors of campus sexual assault experience higher dropout rates than that of their peers.

College Requirements when Responding to Reports of Sexual Assaults

Colleges and universities that receive any federal funding, including student financial aid, must comply with Title IX. This is a federal civil rights law that requires colleges to respond promptly and effectively to reports of sexual violence on campus. If they fail to do so, they may risk losing federal funding.

Students in their 1st and 2nd year of college are at greater risk than those in their 3rd and 4th year.

Article References:

[Title IX: How It Affects Survivors of Campus Assault | RAINN](#)

[The Red Zone | Center for Women and Families](#)

[College Campus Sexual Assault Statistics | Helping Survivors](#)

Some of the requirements under this law include the following:

- Ensuring protective measures are put in place for the victim following any report of sexual assault. This may include changing classes, dorms or transportation. Any changes should minimize the burden on the victim.
- The school must provide the student with resources such as advocacy, counseling, or academic support.
- The school is responsible for conducting a thorough and impartial investigation.
- If the result of the investigation is that a sexual assault occurred, the school is responsible for implementing remedies. It is also important to note that victims always have the right to report the assault to local law enforcement.

How Can You Support Your College Student

- Engage in conversations surrounding healthy relationships, consent and potential red flags etc. before they leave for college.
- Discuss ways that they can be more aware of their surroundings and what resources are available on campus in the event they don't feel safe. Attending orientation prior to the start of the year is a great way to learn about resources and supports offered by the college.
- Talk through ways they can respond if they get into a situation that makes them feel uncomfortable.
- Encourage them to be mindful when using social media that has the ability to show others their location.
- If your son or daughter discloses that they were sexually assaulted, stop and listen. Don't interject by asking accusatory questions. Let them know you are there to listen and offer to help find resources without telling them what you think they should do.

My hope is that this article doesn't bring any unnecessary worry to parents but rather provide you with awareness. Knowledge and preparedness surrounding this topic can hopefully minimize the worry so you can focus on the excitement this next chapter has to bring for you and your young adult.

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CVRC
provided

8,213

services to

722 VICTIMS

Crime Victims Resource Center

1000 First Drive NW, Austin · 507-437-6680

Empowering victims of crime through education, intervention, support and advocacy.

The Crime Victims Resource Center will help individuals who have been victims of many different types of crime. Some of the specific crimes we work with are:

- Accidents involving intoxicated driver
- Assault
- Burglary
- Child Abuse
- Domestic Abuse/Assault
- Elder Abuse
- Harassment
- Sexual Abuse/Assault
- Stalking
- Terroristic Threats
- Theft



Tori Miller
Director



Sasha Border
Victim Advocate



Coleena Snyder
Victim Advocate

Victim Support Services

- 24 hour crisis hotline
- Crisis counseling
- Safety planning
- Arranging emergency shelter
- Support groups
- Referrals to other agencies
- Emergency transportation
- Support during hospital examinations
- Support during police reporting
- Assistance with Orders for Protection and Harassment Restraining Orders
- Assistance with understanding the criminal justice system
- Accompaniment to court proceedings for support
- Updates on the progress of court proceedings
- Notification of victims' rights

Free and confidential service funded by The Hormel Foundation, Minnesota Department of Public Safety-Office of Justice Programs, and United Way of Mower County.