SLC

SeniorLAW Center

Seeking Justice for Older People

SeniorLAWCenter.org
215.988.1244
HelpLine 1-877-PA-SR-LAW

Leading the Fight Against Elder Abuse

We seek justice for older Pennsylvanians.

But victims urgently need federal action to ensure continued availability of essential services in the short- and long-term.

ALERT! Older victims of crime are at risk of losing crucial resources.

92% decrease in non-taxpayer funding for victims of crime!

The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Crime Victims Fund (CVF) is a non-taxpayer source of funding that supports thousands of victim services providers serving millions of victims annually. Funded by fines, monetary penalties and assessments associated with federal cases, the CVF balance has decreased from $13B in 2017 to a mere $1.084B in 2024, a **92% DECREASE.**

247,049

PA victims of crime served annually by VOCA-funded programs

Services Funded by VOCA

- Counseling & therapy
- Emergency shelter & safe housing
- Victim notification
- Crisis intervention & supports
- Hotlines & crisis counseling
- Legal assistance

What does this mean for older adult victims of crime?

Older victims will face a lack of resources and services to help them stay safe and heal after life-threatening cases of elder abuse, devastating instances of financial exploitation, and predatory economic crimes like identity theft and fraud.

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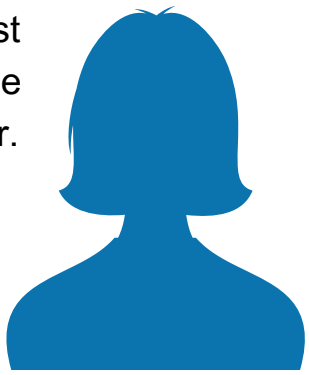
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Cuts to the Crime Victims Fund could mean older people like Shirley and Helen would have nowhere to turn to after experiencing elder abuse:



Meet Shirley, a former SeniorLAW Center (SLC) client who came to SLC after experiencing financial exploitation at the hands of her son regarding the family home she had solely owned. After years of manipulation and cruelty by her son, Shirley suddenly found herself facing homelessness. SLC represented Shirley and was able to have her move-out date extended by several months and to get $30,000 from her son to cover moving and housing expenses. It allowed her to find a new home, away from the stress and upset of living with her abusive son.

Helen, an 80+ year-old woman caring for her husband with dementia, lost more than $10,000 in a popular phone-based bail-money scam where the fraudsters impersonated attorneys representing her close family member. SeniorLAW Center's Victim Services team filed a joint application for Helen and her husband with the Victims Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP). SeniorLAW Center was able to successfully assist Helen in getting a VCAP award to recoup about a quarter of her losses.



What can you do help avoid these cuts and retain these services?

- Without federal action, PA will join other states making cuts to services and programs. Congress should pursue legislation to increase the amount of money in the Crime Victims Fund through a one-time infusion or a recurring appropriation.
- Support bipartisan bills introduced for the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act of 2024 (H.R. 8061 and S. 4514). These bills would allow surplus funds from the False Claims Act to be directed to the Crime Victims Fund.

ACT NOW TO AVOID CUTS TO CRITICAL VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAMS IN PENNSYLVANIA AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY