



Crime Victims Assistance

Department of Public Safety

Overview

Governor Noem's recommended budget includes \$3,291,000 in one-time funding to support local efforts to provide direct services to victims of violent crime, including sexual assault, domestic abuse, and child maltreatment. These services are provided by community organizations throughout our state that rely on grant funding to serve our most vulnerable citizens.

South Dakota receives federal funding annually to support direct services provided to victims of crime in our local communities. The Department of Public Safety Victims' Services Program (SDVS) is responsible for disbursing this grant funding to eligible service providers across the state. In 2020, the agencies supported by SDVS provided services to just over 15,400 victims. However, in FY 2022, federal funding was significantly reduced, resulting in a shortfall in funds that these front-line service providers use to support victims. In the last four years, SDVS has experienced cuts by two-thirds in available funding.

Project Description

This funding will be used to offset the shortfall in federal funding, which has negatively impacted direct service providers in South Dakota. It will be combined with the remaining federal funds that South Dakota receives and provided to sub-grantees, who will continue serving our vulnerable citizens and victims. Some examples of the services that will be maintained include temporary shelter for displaced victims, 24-hour crisis telephone and referral services, prevention and education programs for local communities, victim advocacy, criminal justice support, and assistance with applying for Crime Victims Compensation.

Funding

The program appropriates \$3,291,000 in one-time funding to the Department of Public Safety, which will make grants to eligible service providers to offset the shortfalls in federal funding. The funding will support personnel, operating expenses, emergency crisis services, community education, criminal justice support, and advocacy to crime victims.