



**VIRGINIA VICTIMS FUND**

*Helping Innocent Victims of Crime*

OFFICIALLY CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND



*Celebrating  
45 years*

# VIRGINIA VICTIMS FUND



## Annual Report

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# FY22



*A division of the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission*

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## ABOUT THE VIRGINIA WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

The Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission (VWC) was established in 1918. The Commission is an independent judicial and administrative state agency that oversees the workers' compensation system for the Commonwealth. The Commission is headed by three Commissioners who are chosen by the General Assembly and serve six-year terms. Honorable R. Ferrell Newman, Honorable Wesley G. Marshall and Honorable Robert A. Rapaport are the current Commissioners, with Rapaport serving as Chairman. Ms. Evelyn McGill is the Executive Director and Honorable James J. Szablewicz is the Chief Deputy Commissioner.

### VWC's Mission

To serve injured workers, victims of crimes, employers, and related industries by providing exceptional services, resolving disputes, and faithfully executing the duties entrusted to us by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### VWC's Vision

Lead the nation as the most effective and innovative state agency.



Commissioners and Senior Leaders pictured L to R: Evelyn V. McGill, Executive Director; Hon. R. Ferrell Newman, Commissioner; Hon. Robert A. Rapaport, Chairman; Hon. Wesley G. Marshall, Commissioner; and Hon. James J. Szablewicz, Chief Deputy Commissioner

# ABOUT VIRGINIA VICTIMS FUND

Citing the Commonwealth’s moral responsibility to provide financial assistance to victims of crime, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund, working as the Virginia Victims Fund (the Fund), was established by the Virginia General Assembly in 1977, to pay unreimbursed expenses of innocent victims of crime who suffered physical or emotional injury or death (§ 19.2-368.1, Code of Virginia). The Fund is administered by the Virginia Workers’ Compensation Commission.

For 45 years, the Fund has assisted victims of crime and their families by easing the financial burden that crime often creates, providing relief in the form of reimbursement for medical expenses, lost wages, funeral expenses, relocation, counseling and other expenditures incurred as a result of the crime. Since transitioning to its current claims system, the Fund has processed over 80,000 claims.

The Fund is resourced by fines and fees, assessments on offenders and restitution. The monies awarded to victims of crime in conjunction with compensation claims are not funded through state tax dollars. Additionally, the Fund receives federal grant funds from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). VOCA funds are generated by court fines at the federal level.

## MISSION

The mission of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund is to administer the Compensating Victims of Crime Act in a compassionate, fair and efficient manner. In so doing, the Fund strives to treat every victim and survivor with dignity and respect, recognizing the tremendous impact that violent crime has upon our society.

## Core Values



### Innovative

Using new or creative methods to better serve customers



### Respectful

Showing respect or reverence at all times



### Accountable

Required to explain actions or decisions



### Reliable

Consistently doing what is needed for the best outcome



### Impartial

Treating all people and groups equally



### Integrity

Conduct that is of the highest moral character



### Effective

Producing a desired or intended result in a prompt manner

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



"From undergoing an internal restructuring to shortfalls in resources and revenue, the fortitude of the Fund's most vital resource, its Team Members, remains committed to the Commission's expectation of excellence."

As we closed out FY22, the Fund continues to draw upon the Commission's core values of integrity and accountability. This year has proven to be filled with challenges and successes. The Fund has strengthened its remote workforce, implementing practices that promote consistency, continuity of services and corroboration of the Fund's mission "...to administer the Compensating Victims of Crime Act in a compassionate, fair and efficient manner." In so doing, the Fund strives to treat every victim and survivor with dignity and respect, recognizing the tremendous impact of violent crime.

This year's Annual Report reflects the Fund's effort to enhance operations, improve processes, address core deficiencies and support our partners at every level to meet the needs of the individuals and families we serve. From undergoing an internal restructuring to shortfalls in resources and revenue, the fortitude of the Fund's most vital resource, its Team Members, remains committed to the Commission's expectation of excellence.

As we end this fiscal year on the cusp of 45 years of service, we honor those who have come before us to ensure the Fund is present and available to Virginia's citizens. As Virginia continues to strengthen its commitment to public safety, the Fund recommits its efforts to serve as a voice of healing and remediation for those impacted by crime. This report illustrates our efforts and serves as a pronouncement of our stewardship and steadfast service to the Commonwealth and its citizens.

In solidarity and service,

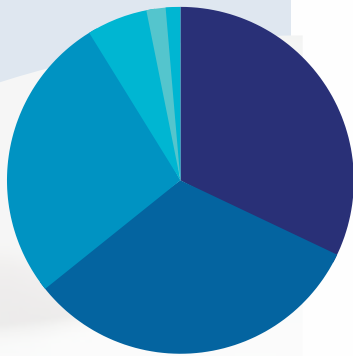
Kassandra Bullock  
Director, Virginia Victims Fund



# FINANCIALS

**\$7,355,488**

FY22 Revenue



\$1,703,581	Fines
\$2,009,424	General Fund Contributions
\$2,981,000	VOCA Grant
\$49,243	VOCA Enhancement Grant
\$607,790	Restitution
\$4,450	Miscellaneous

**\$5,460,002**

Awarded to Victims

69%  
VVF

31%  
SAFE

⋮

⋮

\$3,748,724

\$1,711,278

# WHO CAN FILE A CLAIM

## VIRGINIA VICTIMS FUND

In order for a crime victim to meet the Fund’s eligibility requirements for compensation, the following must be met:

- The crime must occur in Virginia or against a Virginia resident in a state, country or territory that does not have compensation program;
- The crime must be reported to law enforcement within 120 hours, unless good cause for the delay can be shown;
- A claim must be filed with the Fund within one year of the occurrence of the crime, unless good cause exists for not doing so;
- A claim must be a minimum value of \$100;
- The victim must fully cooperate with law enforcement and must not be criminally responsible for the crime upon which the claim is based, or be an accomplice or accessory to the crime.



### TOP FIVE EXPENSES

*Awarded*

**45%**

Funeral | \$1,671,186

**18%**

Hospital | \$652,784

**10%**

Lost Wages | \$355,259

**6%**

Physician | \$240,409

**5%**

Domestic Loss of Support | \$179,208

# VVF CLAIM INFORMATION

## \$3,748,724

Paid to crime victims and their families  
FY 2022



1,643 Claims Received



1,351 Claims Deemed Eligible



39 Average Number of Days to Eligibility Decision



846 Claims with Awards



1,803 Expenses Approved

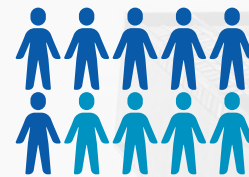


Assault (non-domestic)

23% Homicide (non-domestic)

14% Assault (domestic)

27% Other



53% Male  
42% Female  
5% Unknown  
>1% Transgender

## Referral Sources

# 52%

Victim Witness

- 6% Commonwealth Attorney
- 6% Medical Provider
- 6% Police/Sheriff Department

- 5% Funeral Home
- 3% Friend
- 22% Other | Unidentified

# CLAIMS INFORMATION

## SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAM (SAFE)

### About Safe

The SAFE Payment Program offers evidence collection at no cost to victims of rape or sexual assault. Healthcare providers bill the SAFE Payment Program directly.

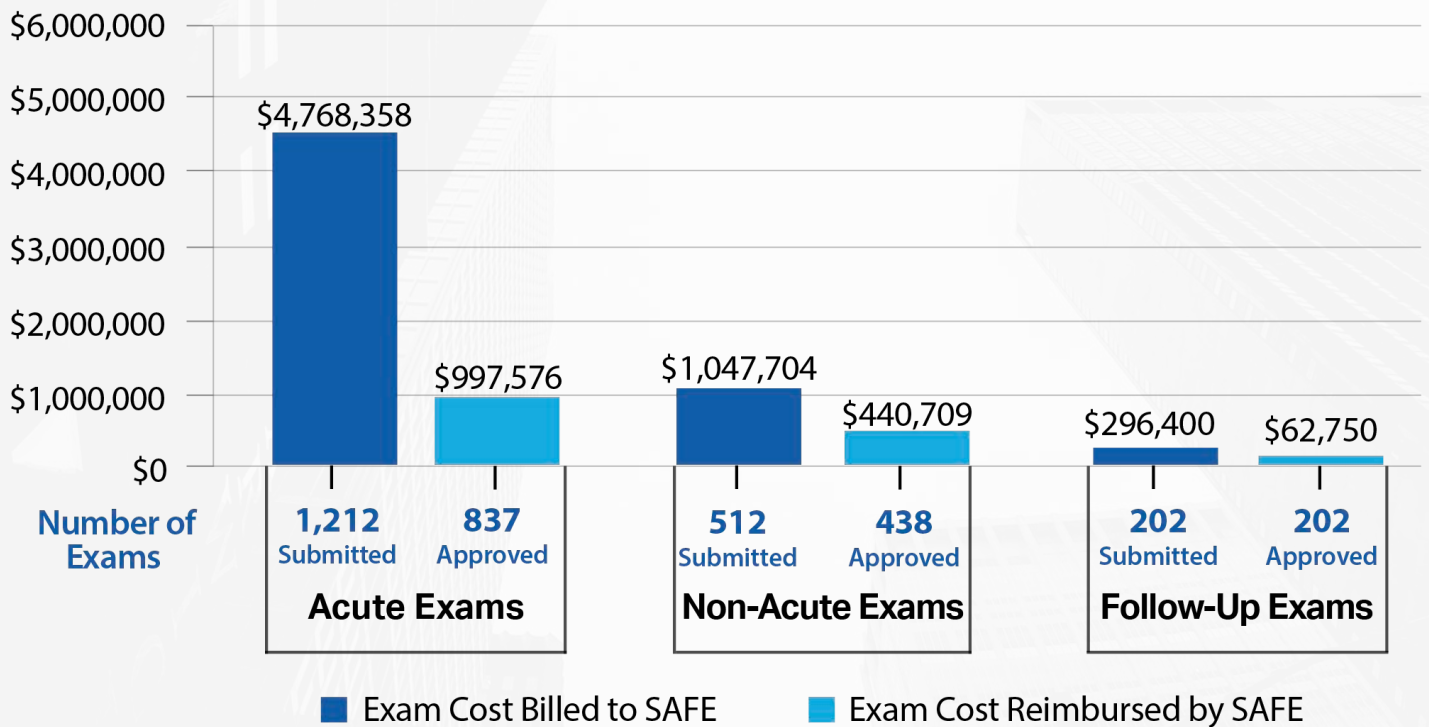
Evidence is collected through a Physical Evidence Recovery Kit (PERK) and does not require the filing of a police report if the PERK is completed within 120 hours of the incident. The SAFE Payment Program receives General Fund monies via dollars designated to the Supreme Court of Virginia to reimburse for sexual assault evidence collection expenses.



**\$2,009,424**  
General Fund Contributions

**\$1,711,278**

Total paid by SAFE for forensic evidence collection and associated expenses

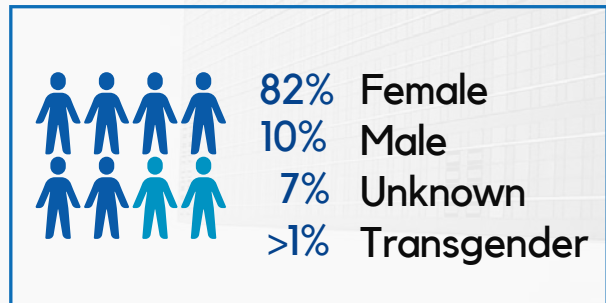






## Victim Demographics

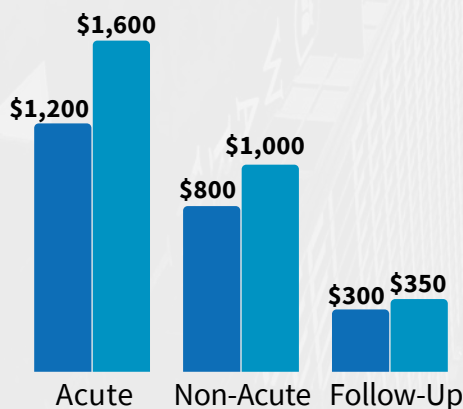
-  52% Adult Sexual Assault
-  48% Child Sexual Assault



## Non-PERK Expenses Paid

Prescriptions	\$208,626
SAFE-related	\$1,130
Transportation	\$487

## Perk Reimbursement Rate Increase for FY22



■ July 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022  
 ■ April 1, 2022- June 30, 2022

## Sustainable Funding for SAFE

The Fund has worked for the past two years to demonstrate the need and substantiate the request for additional funds to increase reimbursement rates to providers of PERK exams.

These efforts, along with contributions from the field of forensic nursing, resulted in an increase of the program's appropriation amount from nearly \$1.8 million to approximately \$6.6 million. The funding increase includes language that allows the Fund to reimburse providers of acute exams at 60% of their billed costs, as well as expand existing forensic nursing programs and develop new ones in under-served communities.

The Fund looks forward to partnering with forensic nurse providers to expand and increase access to exams, building a safer and healthier future.

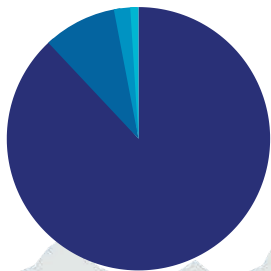
# UNCLAIMED RESTITUTION

The Virginia Victims Fund receives from the Courts of the Commonwealth of Virginia, any restitution that has been designated as unclaimed for more than one year pursuant to the Code of Virginia § 19.2-305.1.

To enhance unclaimed restitution efforts, the Fund has added two (2) additional Unclaimed Restitution Specialists, one (1) Client Services Specialist and has implemented a technology-focused approach in order to maximize resources available to victims of crimes and external stakeholders.

## Unclaimed Restitution Reported (By Courts):

- 88%** Circuit Court
- 9%** General District
- 2%** Juvenile and Domestic Relations
- 1%** Combined Court



## Unclaimed Restitution Collected and Repaid FY22

**\$1,394,810**

Sum of Incoming Payments

**5,478**

Number of Incoming Payments

**\$228,470**

Sum of Repayments

⋮

**637**

Number of Repayments

# OUTREACH AND CLIENT SERVICES

The Fund is dedicated to providing quality outreach, training and client services to claimants, advocates, law enforcement, medical and service providers and allied professionals. Through our outreach, training and client services efforts, VVF seeks to better uphold statutory programmatic requirements. VVF also strives to increase the Fund's ability to serve crime victims in a trauma-informed manner.

10,249  
Calls  
Received

2,818  
E-faxes  
Received

6,941  
Email Inquiries  
Received

↑ 56%  
from FY21

81  
Trainings

59,486  
Website  
Visitors

## Victim Compensation Assessment Grant

The Fund is nearing the completion of Phase I of the Compensation Assessment Project. This three-year competitive grant partners VVF with experienced consultants from ICF, LLC. to closely examine compensation in Virginia. The analysis will not only identify and address service gaps, but also assess policies, legislation impact and inter-agency collaboration.

The project will culminate with implementation of enhancements to the compensation program and furthering access to victims of crime. This project will position Virginia's Fund as a model compensation program in the U.S.

## Roadmap

Victim Compensation Assessment Grant

### Phase I: Comprehensive Needs Assessment

- Identify gaps and strengths in victim compensation to ensure needs of crime victims across all victim groups and populations are met.

367 Victim Services Providers Received Assessment Survey and Victim Focus Groups are underway.

### Phase II: Strategic Planning

- This plan will provide model recommendations, best practices, describe the policies, procedures, protocols and resources required for implementation.

### UPCOMING INITIATIVES

- Strategic Planning Sessions with Stakeholders;
- Implementation Survey; and
- Multi-State Learning Workshop

### Phase III: Implementation and Progress Tracking

- Solutioning the challenges, maintaining sustainability of newly implemented measures and expanding outreach efforts to increase access to compensation.



## THE WAY FORWARD

Today, forty-five years after the signing of legislation to create the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund, we remain steadfast in our dedication to the ideals and experiences that necessitated the Virginia Compensating Victims of Crime Act §19.2-368.1 in 1977. We honor the legacy of the trailblazing advocates, professionals, and survivors of crime who came before us to pave way for the future, establishing an aligned methodology of excellence of care, strength of service and wellspring of knowledge. The Fund is grateful for many dedicated partnerships, all of which continue to demonstrate the importance of coordinating comprehensive crime victim services in the Commonwealth.

At the intersection of victim assistance and victim compensation, we find individuals in need of aid, care, support and hope as they work to restore safety after being victimized by crime. In 2015, Virginia received a monumental increase in federal funds for victim assistance programs. Today, we face declines in funding and dwindling resources at all levels. On September 30, 2022, the Virginia Victims Fund will host a Symposium to explore the future landscape of victim services and compensation.

As this year draws to a close, we celebrate 45 years of service in the Commonwealth! We look forward to continued opportunities to improve services for crime victims and we confidently stand with organizational resiliency to grow and partner with stakeholders to navigate new successes. We remain dedicated to learning from our past in order to promote and create a brighter future. This report is a testament of our collaborative works through the administration of the Compensating of Crime Victims Act. We recommit and reaffirm our intent to handle ALL claims in a compassionate, fair and efficient manner, and by doing so to treat every victim and survivor with dignity and respect. Forty-five years after our founding, these principles remain a driving force throughout the organization. Virginia Victims Fund thanks the Commission, our Team Members, stakeholders, and community partners for their dedication to the Fund's mission. We look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the future!



*VWF Director, Kassandra Bullock hosting the 45th Anniversary Kickoff.*



## Contact Us:



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