VOCA EMERGENCY FUND GUIDELINES

Purpose: To assist victims of violent crime in emergency situations in which health and/or safety are at risk when other resources are unavailable. The PRIMARY concern is to help decrease the emotional trauma as well as the financial burden to all innocent crime victims.

Definition of Emergency: That which is IMMEDIATE and a DIRECT RESULT OF THE CRIME that consequently leads to the need for services. The determination as to what constitutes an emergency is left to the discretion of the administering agency, under the guidance of the VOCA Grant Administrator.

Important to Note: This fund is NOT intended to be a substitute for victims’ compensation, but rather to support immediate services to victims when NO other resources are available.

The Victim Advocate/Service Provider is required to work with the victim to determine and eliminate viable resources first before accessing this fund.

Allowable costs/how much? The maximum amount of emergency funding available to an individual victim per crime incident cannot exceed $1,500.00. Category limits include:

- Eyeglasses or contacts (not to exceed $700.00)
- Utilities – NO ARREARS; gas, electric, water, telephone, etc. (not to exceed $500)
- Emergency counseling and mental health assessments (not to exceed $500)
- Rent (one time only) – NO ARREARS; victim must have plan to pay following month
- Mileage (not to exceed state of NM mileage rate)
- Per diem (not to exceed state of NM rates, overnight up to $85)
- Relocation expenses including moving, storage, hotel, and other expenses as applicable
- Crime scene clean-up, if no insurance (not to exceed $1,500)
- Emergency food and clothing
- Emergency shelter/temporary housing
- Necessary and reasonable transportation costs to receive emergency crisis intervention services or medical services including prescriptions
- Necessary and reasonable transportation expenses for secondary victims such as spouses and family members to provide emergency support when the primary victim is a child, deceased, or in a unique circumstance
- Legal assistance with orders of protection, emergency custody & visitation procedures, and civil legal assistance upon approval by NMCVRC
- Repairs or replacement of items for a healthy/safe environment for the victim such as rekeying and lock replacement, broken doors, windows and some security costs

UNALLOWABLE COSTS (under no circumstance can these be considered):

1. Long term housing, including ongoing rent and utilities, rent and utility arrears, etc.
2. Expenses related to recovering lost property.
3. Funeral or burial expenses.
4. Rental or Utility deposits.

Please DO NOT refer victims directly to the ER Administering Agencies. This is doing the victims a disservice since they will be directed to contact a victim service agency in their area who are more knowledgeable about local resources and who can assist them with the ER request.

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