Massachusetts Office For Victim Assistance
MOVA
Victim & Witness Assistance Board

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January 12, 2026

Timothy Carroll
House Clerk
State House, Room 145
Boston, MA 02133

Matthew Gorzkowicz
Secretary
Executive Office of Administration and Finance
State House, Room 373
Boston, MA 02133

Michael D. Hurley
Senate Clerk
State House, Room 335
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Clerk Carroll, Clerk Hurley and Secretary Gorzkowicz:

I am writing on behalf of the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA) and the Victim and Witness Assistance Board, relative to the Massachusetts Victims of Violent Crime Compensation Program.

The Victims of Violent Crime Compensation Program is a state and federal supported program which provides financial assistance to or on behalf of victims of violent crime and, in certain cases, to their families, to cover certain crime-related expenses or losses. Federal funding for this program comes primarily from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), which allocates funds to states from the fines, penalties, and forfeitures paid to the Crime Victims Fund (CVF).

On July 1, 2025, the Massachusetts Legislature statutorily transferred the administration and funding management of the program from the Attorney General's Office (AGO) to MOVA. This transition is intended to enhance survivors' access to services and streamline administrative oversight and compliance with funding stream requirements. MOVA is the identified state administering agency for VOCA victim assistance funds, which are administered by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), the same office administering Victims of Crime Compensation funds. As a result, MOVA has established strong working relationships with the staff and leadership of OVC. Moreso, federal requirements mandate that MOVA-funded programs provide survivors with information and support in applying for victim compensation, giving MOVA relevant and timely insight into challenges and barriers to accessing the program and the ability to respond through policy or regulatory change.

Reporting

Pursuant to item 0840-0100 in §2, c. 9 of the acts of 2025, the Chair of the Victim and Witness Assistance Board shall submit to the General Court and the Secretary of Administration and Finance a report detailing the claims submitted to the State Treasurer for payment under item 0840-0004 of said section, indicating both the number and costs for each category of claim.

This report is reflective of claims submitted to the state for payment from September 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. Although Massachusetts G. L. c. 258C was amended as of July 1, 2025 to make MOVA the agency responsible for administering Victim Compensation, the AGO continued to process payments through August 31, 2025. MOVA assumed responsibility for processing payments on September 1, 2025.

In total, there have been **216 claims** submitted to the State Treasurer for payment during this timeframe, **totaling $661,981.79**. During this time, the top three claim expenses submitted include coverage or reimbursement for funeral and burial expenses (33 totaling $234,531.08), lost wages (10 totaling $161,515.71), and mental health support (86 totaling $131,458.34). (*Please see Table 1*).

Table 1: Services and Expenses

Service	Total Expense
Ancillary Funeral (15)	$33,839.08
Crime Scene Cleanup (1)	$1,500.00
Dental (4)	$6,452.00
Forensic Sexual Assault Exam (24)	$47,238.84
Forensic Sexual Assault Physician (7)	$2,879.84
Funeral and Burial (33)	$234,531.08
Hospital (1)	$1,446.14
Loss of Support (1)	$7,800.00
Lost Wages (10)	$161,515.71
Medical Marijuana (1)	$7,722.50
Mental Health (86)	$131,458.34
Mental Health Parent (2)	$2,850.00
Other Medical (27)	$21,789.36
Security Measures (4)	$958.90
Total	**$661,981.79**

These 216 claims have provided support for a range of victimization types with the top three being for survivors of homicide (53 totaling $263,833.66), survivors of assault (39 totaling $118,212.00), and survivors of child sexual abuse (20 totaling $54,984.91). Additionally, claims related to domestic violence represent a significant portion of payments totaling $59,380.43 when combined. *(Please see Table 2*).

Table 2: Victimization Type Supported and Total Expense

Victimization Type Supported	Total Expense
Assault (39)	$118,212.00
Assault Domestic Violence (16)	$32,281.42
Boston Marathon Bombing (3)	$3,600.00
Child Physical Abuse (4)	$6,040.00
Child Sexual Abuse (20)	$54,984.91
Driving Under Influence/Driving While Intoxicated (5)	$2,983.30
Forensic Sexual Assault Exam (31)	$50,118.68
Forensic Sexual Assault Post Exam (17)	$18,090.00
Homicide (53)	$263,833.66
Homicide Domestic Violence (5)	$2,485.41
Human Trafficking (2)	$1,441.11
Motor Vehicle Homicide (8)	$25,771.34
Other Vehicular Crimes (1)	$24,724.26
Sexual Assault (4)	$28,802.05
Sexual Assault Domestic Violence (2)	$20,613.65
Stalking (3)	$4,000.00
Stalking Domestic Violence (3)	$4,000.00
Total	**$661,981.79**

This data indicates the prevalence of the most severe forms of victimization, particularly homicide, assault resulting in disability and loss of work, child sexual assault, and domestic violence. Ensuring timely responses and resources for these survivors is critical to address not only the immediate financial impact they are facing, but also to reduce the added stress and secondary victimization experienced, and to ensure the delivery of comprehensive victim services beyond compensation alone. The growing volume and complexity of victim compensation claims require additional staff and resources to ensure timely, high-quality support. MOVA is specifically committed to providing time sensitive responses to homicide claims seeking compensation for funeral and burial expenses, which require additional staff time.

Additionally, since assuming responsibility for the victim compensation program, MOVA has experienced increased operational demands. MOVA assumed responsibility for processing payments through the state payment system which requires significant staff resources and expertise without any additional operational funding. MOVA has included a request for additional funding in the FY27 budget to add staff and necessary resources to support the program. These funds are essential to support the program effectively and to address the operational challenges encountered to date. MOVA remains

hopeful that this investment will enhance the agency's capacity to meet the needs of victims across the Commonwealth.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. If MOVA may provide further documentation or information with respect to victim compensation, please do not hesitate to contact MOVA's Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs, Maeve Kidney, at **maeve.kidney@mass.gov.**

Sincerely,

LIAM T. LOWNEY
Executive Director