

Victims Assistance Services

Victims Assistance Services, a component of Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc., engages a skilled staff of advocates, support staff and therapists to provide free and confidential comprehensive services to all victims of crime. VAS works closely with law enforcement, Westchester County District attorney office, social service agencies, schools and community organizations to assure that victims are treated with care, respect and dignity and that their rights are protected.

We assist those who are victims of:

Sexual Assault	Arson
Domestic Violence	Stalking/Harassment
Elder Abuse	Human Trafficking
Homicide	DUI/DWI
Physical assault	Fraud
Robbery	Identity Theft
Burglary	

We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our staff, clients, volunteers, and clients of all races, colors, religions (creeds), genders/gender identities, ages, national origins, abilities/disabilities, marital status, sexual orientations, and military status.

Victims Assistance Services Offices

Elmsford Main Office
2 Westchester Plaza
Elmsford, NY 10523
914-345-3113

24 hour Helpline: **914-345-9111**
Toll Free: **1-855-827-2255**

Peekskill
1 Park Street
Peekskill, NY 10566
914-739-8046

Mount Vernon
70 West 3rd Street (lower level)
Mount Vernon, NY 10550
914-665-2539

Yonkers
30 South Broadway
Yonkers, NY 10701
914-965-0217

White Plains
111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
7th floor, Room 702
White Plains, NY 10601
914-995-5526



Restoring Dignity. Advocating Justice. Helping to Heal.

No one expects to be the victim of abuse or crime. If this happens to you, a friend or a family member, please know that you are not alone. We are here to help.

Call us at: 914-345-3113

24/7 Helpline: **914-345-9111**
Toll Free: **1-855-VAS-CALL**
(1-855-827-2255)



Victims Services



Advocacy We can accompany you to file a police report, go to court with you, support you in the hospital, assist with safety plans and with obtaining an Order of Protection, and help you apply to the NYS Office of Victim Services for financial compensation. We can also give you information and referrals to community resources and advocate on your behalf in order to ensure you have been provided with all options as a victim of crime.

We also provide support to families and children affected by crimes of sexual violence in conjunction with the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) of Westchester County. We will accompany you and your child to CAC as well as walk you through the process from start to finish, including but not limited to offering emotional support, explaining the interview process, and speaking with doctors, law enforcement, and legal parties on behalf of yourself and your child.

Crisis Intervention

We can assist you with creating a safety plan that works for you and your family. (If danger is imminent, call 911.)

Therapy Our licensed trauma therapists are here to listen and provide a space for your healing. We will guide you as you process emotions and put the pieces of your life back together. Our hope is to help you re-establish a sense of safety by reconnecting both to yourself and the world. Aside from individual therapy, we provide on-going support groups such as, adult survivors of child sexual abuse, family and friends of homicide victims, and other victimizations depending on community needs.

Community Education and Training We provide a wide range of community education and training to all Westchester County residents and service providers to create awareness and prevent issues related to various forms of victimization. Our work promotes evidence-based primary prevention to reduce the prevalence of violence in society. We provide trainings to senior citizens about Elder Abuse and services to prevent and intervene to protect our older adults in the community. We also provide trainings to colleges and universities in Westchester County under Title IX regulations and Enough is Enough legislation. In addition, we also work with school districts to foster a healthy school environment. To request a training at a school, organization or facility, call 914-345-3113.

Volunteer Opportunities **RSVP:** The Resolve to Stop Violence Project (RSVP) is a program where inmates are placed in a cohort community with other inmates involved in the program where they attend various counseling sessions, group and one-on-one, to redefine what they consider manhood and their innate reactions to difficult situations. The program is composed in various segments including a Victim impact session where a survivor of crime has the opportunity to share their story with the community to provide the inmates with an insight on the long term effects of their crimes from a perspective they may not have considered.

Helpline and Hospital Volunteers In conjunction with the New York State Department of Health, we train our volunteers to respond to crises on the phone as well as in the hospital.

Our Helpline volunteers provide emotional support and when appropriate, referrals over the phone to callers who have been victims of crime, while our hospital volunteers respond to local emergency rooms to provide in-person counseling and emotional support and advocate for victims' rights in a medical setting. Our volunteers take 4 shifts per month during overnight hours and on weekends.

Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (S.A.F.E)

VAS is a New York State Department of Health certified training facility for Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners. We train RNs, NPs, PAs and MDs with one year clinical experience to respond and conduct forensic exams for victims of sexual assault.

Helpline 914-345-9111

VAS offers a 24 hour/7 day Helpline that is accessible to anyone. Our counselors provide non-judgmental and compassionate counseling over the phone to all victims of all crime. We provide information and referral, crisis intervention and emotional support over the phone for any victim of crime.

New York State Office of Victim Services (OVS) Compensation

The New York State Office of Victim Services (OVS) can assist with compensation for innocent victims of crime related to personal injury, death and loss of essential property. VAS works closely with NYS OVS to assist victims of crime in filling out an application for compensation to cover the cost of medical bills, loss of income, funeral expenses and emergency awards.