

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Potential Activities and Expenses Supported by VOCA Assistance

Purpose of VOCA funding - § 94.102 Definitions.

Direct services or services to victims of crime means those services described in 42 U.S.C. 10603(d)(2), and efforts that—

1. Respond to the emotional, psychological, or physical needs of crime victims;
2. Assist victims to stabilize their lives after victimization;
3. Assist victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system; or
4. Restore a measure of security and safety for the victim.

Victim Services

Potential services (including but not limited to):

Supporting Families and Loved ones through open investigations (or lack of an investigation):

- Search – Search Teams, Dogs (Search and Rescue, Cadaver), drones, publicizing missing person information, etc.
- Media Support – Working with the media, advocating for family and loved ones during search or period loved one is missing.

Responses for Survivors and Loved Ones:

- Meeting Survivors of MMIP basic needs – Transportation (gas, airfare, bus, etc.), lodging, meals reimbursement, minutes for phones.
- Systems navigation – Working with Law Enforcement, Court Systems, other advocacy organizations, etc.
- Ongoing services and support – Therapy, Holistic Healing (including practices specific to Indigenous community), Community Healing.
- CVC Referrals and assistance – Connecting with CVC, assisting with completing application and collecting necessary documentation.

Grassroots Support

- Help raise awareness of missing individuals from the communities they serve, and services provided by renting billboards; printing placards, leaflets, search instructions, maps, and other display materials; or hosting awareness walks or other commemorative events.

Outreach

- MMIP Services available
- Educate the community about the intersection of MMIP and other crimes by integrating MMIP issues into existing awareness events (e.g., awareness month activities for domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking) or awareness activities about National Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's Day.
- Promote community awareness of grant-funded services available to the family and loved ones of MMIP and crime victim compensation.

Coordination and Collaboration

- Develop response protocols among a multidisciplinary, interjurisdictional group of agencies and organizations responsible for responding to cases of MMIP.
- Tribal Liaison (position focused on victim services) – Coordination, Collaboration, between State Agency and Tribes.
- Statewide Coordination – Coordinating Victim Services responses to MMIP cases, leveraging other funding (HHS, OVC, OVW) to support comprehensive response.
- Training – Training on recognizing MMIP, connecting with service providers who support services to survivors and families of survivors.
- Grassroots support and Community Response– Funding and supporting grassroots victim services that are already in the community providing MMIP services.