

FAIR ACCESS TO VICTIM COMPENSATION CAMPAIGN

REMOVE THE BARRIERS TO ACCESSING VICTIM COMPENSATION FUNDS



Sign our petition

LESS THAN 3% OF ALL VICTIMS RECEIVE ANY VICTIM COMPENSATION.

Victim compensation funds are used to compensate victims and survivors for costs that arise as a result of a crime, including hospital bills, burial expenses, temporary housing, or lock replacement. This funding can help survivors regain stability after a traumatic event as they seek to heal and establish a new “normal” following the harmful incident. However, several eligibility requirements make victim compensation inaccessible for many Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), members of the LGBTQIA+ community, working class people, disabled people, and immigrants.¹

BARRIERS TO ACCESSING COMPENSATION INCLUDE:

1. Mandated reporting of harmful incidents to law enforcement.
2. Denial of compensation due to alleged contributory conduct.
3. Limited time frame during which claims may be filed.
4. Definition of harm restricted to physical injury.
5. Lack of public awareness about victim compensation funds.

Our current criminal justice system prioritizes condemning and punishing responsible parties over helping survivors. Victim compensation is meant to help victims heal, but instead, compensation programs, as currently administered, often re-traumatize victims by forcing their involvement in the criminal legal system through law enforcement reporting requirements, aimed at apprehending alleged suspects.²

**WE BELIEVE THAT ALL SURVIVORS DESERVE ACCESS TO
HEALING, NOT JUST THOSE THAT REPORT THEIR
EXPERIENCE TO THE POLICE.**

MAKE VICTIM
COMPENSATION
ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

CONTACT US @ T: 929.699.6372 E: POLICY@COMMONJUSTICE.ORG

FAIR ACCESS TO VICTIM COMPENSATION IS A SOCIAL EQUITY BILL

The social inequity in victim compensation disbursement is alarming.

Black men are more likely to be victimized than any other group yet are least likely to receive victim compensation.¹

LGBTQIA+ victims/survivors often fear reporting to the police which disqualifies them from accessing victim compensation. According to a 2017 report, over 30% of LGBTQIA+ victims of homophobic and transphobic violence who reported to the police said police were verbally abusive. 16% said that police were physically abusive.³

Immigrant victims/survivors fear that calling the police may result in the person who harmed them being deported or that they themselves might be deported or lose their pathway to citizenship.⁴

Currently, the largest recipients of victim compensation are **White women** above the age of 55 living in non urban areas with incomes greater than \$75,000 a year.¹

S.7573/MYRIE REMOVES MANDATED INTERACTIONS WITH THE POLICE BY:

1. Changing the amount of time that a victim is required to file a claim with OVS from one year to seven years;
2. Changing the amount of time that a victim is required to report a crime to proper authorities from one week to a reasonable time; and
3. Expanding the type of evidence victims may use to show that a crime has occurred.

WE WANT EVERY SURVIVOR IN NEW YORK TO HAVE ACCESS TO WHAT THEY NEED TO HEAL AND FEEL SAFE AND WE KNOW IT IS POSSIBLE.

1. Warnken, Heather., and Janet L. Lauritsen. Who Experiences Violent Victimization and Who Accesses Services? Washington, DC., St. Louis Missouri: Center for Victim Research, 2019. October 5, 2021.
2. Maki, John. "Trauma, Dignity, and Restoration: How the State of Illinois Crime Victim Compensation Program can Help Heal Crime Survivors and Communities." Chicago (2019)
3. National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP). (2017). A Crisis of Hate: A Mid Year Report on Homicides Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People: Emily Waters, Sue Yacka-Bible.
4. Engelbrecht, Cora. 2018. Fewer Immigrants Are Reporting Domestic Abuse. Police Blame Fear of Deportation. New York Times. May 3, 2018.

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