

# CRIME VICTIMS' SERVICES



## What is a Crime Victims' Coalition?

- Crime Victims' Coalitions are statewide organizations whose member programs provide direct services to victims of crime, including domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and general crime. Member programs of coalitions provide direct services to crime victims such as housing, legal system navigation, safety planning, healthcare coordination, and more.
- The coalitions help member programs build capacity to deliver crime victims' services, drive informed public policy change, and generate public awareness of their specific issues and programs.
- Every state has Crime Victims' Coalitions, though their scope and structure vary by state.

## What do Crime Victims' Services Programs need funding for?

- Increased investment in our member programs will allow them to expand the services they offer. Commonly, our programs are helping survivors of crime navigate the legal system, engage in safety planning, coordinate healthcare and childcare, find housing and shelter, and more.
- Programs also often work directly with those who cause harm to change their behavior.
- Our member programs are often the first and only place that a victim of crime goes for help. For example, in Fiscal Year 2023, over 53,000 victims contacted domestic violence programs for services compared to only 15,928 domestic violence offenses being reported to law enforcement.
- Our crime victims' services community has never been fully funded to serve every victim of crime. It is time to invest in survivors.
- Victim advocates based in prosecutor's offices handle an average of 432 cases per advocate per year (per MAC member survey), many are not funded through their city or county but through Crime Victim Services funding and VOCA.



## What are the Six Minnesota Crime Victims' Coalitions?

- **There are two Sexual Assault Coalitions:**
  - **The Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA)** is the coalition to end sexual violence. MNCASA works to build a world free of sexual violence in which all human beings are treated with dignity and respect and communities are transformed through safety, healing, and partnerships.
  - **The Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition (MIWSAC)** is Minnesota's tribal coalition working to end sexual violence. MIWSAC works to eliminate sexual violence against Indian women and children. MIWSAC uses culturally based training, technical assistance, strategies, resources, tools, and a wide range of events and activities to engage and support survivors of sexual violence, advocates, service providers, community, and allies that are working to end sexual violence and sex trafficking across Minnesota's 11 federally recognized Tribal Nations, urban Native bases, and Tribal communities across the country. MIWSAC's work is grounded in the philosophy that each of us have a role, purpose, and place in eradicating sexual violence.
- **There are two Domestic Violence Coalitions:**
  - **Violence Free Minnesota (VFMN)** is the statewide coalition to end relationship abuse. VFMN works to ensure all survivors of domestic violence are able to live safe and empowered lives, and consists of over 90 member programs.
  - **Mending the Sacred Hoop (MSH)** is the tribal domestic violence coalition. MSH works to eliminate violence against Native women and its effects by promoting justice and the restoration of the traditional status of Indigenous women.
- **There is one Child Victim of Crime Coalition**
  - **Minnesota Children's Alliance (MCA)** and its members put the needs of children first. We are a membership organization that works with local communities to effectively and efficiently respond to allegations of child abuse. We work with communities to strengthen coordinated responses to child abuse through multidisciplinary teams (MDTs), develop local Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs), and support professionals in the field through training, research, and advocacy in state and national legislatures.
- **There is one general crime coalition:**
  - **Minnesota Alliance on Crime (MAC)** is a membership coalition of more than 90 crime victim service organizations in Minnesota, including prosecution-based victim/witness programs, community programs, law enforcement agencies, civil legal organizations, and also individuals committed to supporting crime victims. We support our membership through training, technical assistance, resources, public policy and legislative initiatives, and networking opportunities. The Minnesota Alliance on Crime advances a collective movement to eliminate the systemic barriers experienced by people impacted by crime. The Minnesota Alliance on Crime envisions a world where people impacted by crime, particularly those who are historically marginalized, can heal, achieve justice, and restore balance to their lives.