

# ANNUAL REPORT

2024



**ALASKA**  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
Violent Crimes Compensation Board

# STATE OF ALASKA

Department of Public Safety

## Violent Crimes Compensation Board

### FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

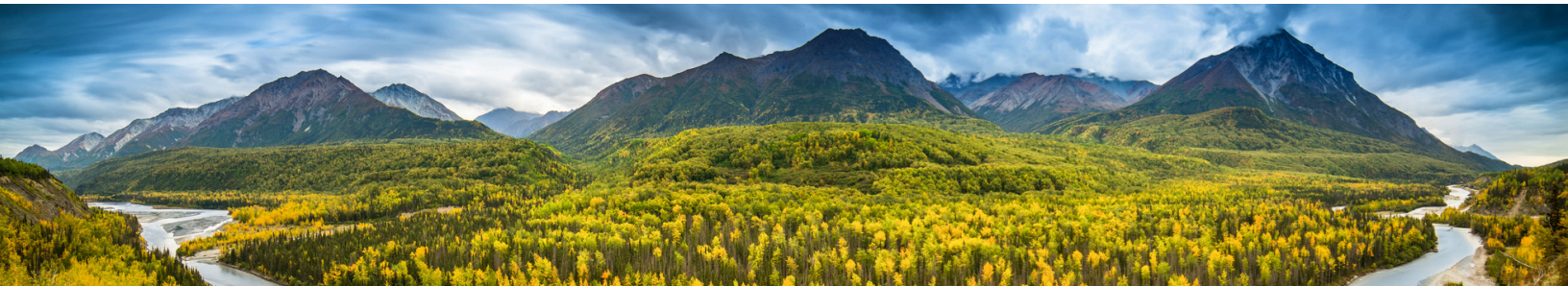
THE HONORABLE MICHAEL DUNLEAVY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA,  
MEMBERS OF THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE:

We are pleased to submit the forty-ninth Annual Report of the Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB) for the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

This report highlights the ongoing efforts of the Administration and the Thirty-Third Legislature to support victims of violent crimes across Alaska and fulfills the reporting requirements of Alaska Statute 18.67.170.

Transparency and accountability are cornerstones of our mission, ensuring that Alaskans are informed about how their government serves them. The VCCB was established to alleviate the financial burdens innocent victims face as a direct result of violent criminal acts. Compensation is available to both direct and indirect victims of crimes such as homicide, assault, arson, robbery, kidnapping, DUI, human trafficking, sexual assault, and domestic violence. These funds help cover essential expenses, including medical bills, counseling, funeral costs, and other losses related to the crime.

The Board and staff of the VCCB are honored to serve the people of Alaska in this vital capacity.



# Our Story...

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## HISTORY

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The Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB) was established in 1972, *making it one of the first compensation programs of its kind in the nation.*

Initially led by a volunteer board of three and supported by a small staff of three, the Board awarded \$3,836 to 15 claimants in its first year of operation.

In 1984, federal legislation was enacted to assist state-run compensation programs, and *today, similar programs exist in all 50 states.*

Over the years, the VCCB has worked to improve operational efficiencies and expand access to better serve victims of violent crime in Alaska. Today, the agency is guided by three appointed, volunteer board members, supported by a dedicated staff of five who manage the day-to-day operations and ensure victims receive the financial assistance they need.

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## BOARD



**Greg Bringham**  
Chair



**Dr. Robert (Bob) Urata**



**Anna Cometa**

# ABOUT VCCB

## MISSION & PURPOSE

The Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB) exists **to provide financial relief to innocent victims of violent crime and their families.** The Board works to alleviate the economic burdens caused by criminal acts. Through compassionate support and efficient service, we aim to restore dignity and promote healing for those affected by violence, ensuring that no victim in Alaska faces their recovery alone.

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## IMPACT

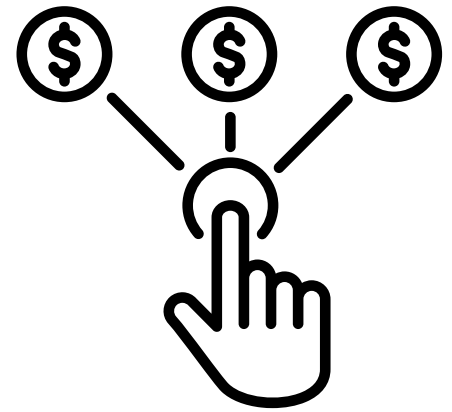
*"I am incapable of describing the relief and freedom from the deep dark pain I feel, and how much anger and frustration left my body...Thank you for everything you do. For me, for others, for those that aren't here with us anymore and their family. Know that your impact is infinite for me."*

*~Program Applicant*



# Funding

## SOURCES



**VCCB is 100 percent funded through fines and fees collected from convicted offenders.**

State funds are allocated from Alaska's Restorative Justice Account (between 10 to 13 percent each year) according to AS 43.23.048. The primary source of funding for this account are dividends withheld from convicted offenders, as well as restitution ordered/collected on behalf of the State.

Federal support is dependent on formula-based awards from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) fund. The VOCA fund is also made up from fines, fees and penalties ordered from federal crimes. The federal award each year is based on a percentage of compensation payments the State made in prior years.

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## PAYER OF LAST RESORT

Crime victim compensation is considered a payer of last resort, meaning that reimbursements only cover expenses that are not already covered by restitution, insurance, or other financial sources.

Understanding that compensation is a process that takes time and verification, the Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB) works with alternative payment sources, such as insurance and Tribal assistance programs to ensure that funding is distributed appropriately.

# Eligibility

## **To be eligible, a person must...**

- Be an innocent person victimized in Alaska; or be an Alaska Resident victimized in a US territory or foreign country without a compensation program.
- Report the crime to law enforcement within 5 days of the crime or when a report could reasonably have been made.
- File the application within 2 years from the date of the crime.

## **Benefits may be denied if a person...**

- Participated in the crime or was otherwise engaged in criminal activity
- Contributed to the crime
- Did not cooperate fully with law enforcement and prosecution.
- Knowingly or intentionally submitted false or forged information to the VCCB.



# Process

1

**Gather Information**

2

**Board Eligibility Determination**

3

**Payment Processing** (when applicable)

## **When an application is received...**

VCCB staff begin gathering information needed to determine eligibility and understand the victim's needs. Requests for information are sent to law enforcement, hospitals, doctors, employers and other service providers, as well as the applicant. The information that is needed will depend on what expenses are being requested.

Once all the necessary documentation is received, staff bring the claim to the Board for an eligibility determination. For those that are deemed eligible, payments are then distributed by staff based on eligible expenses.\*

When a claim is denied, the claimant has an opportunity to request reconsideration. If the Board determines there is not just cause to change their decision, there is process to appeal and a hearing will be held before the Office of Administrative Hearings.

\* Prior to November 2022 the Board approved every payment on every claim. Currently, staff are able to make payments based on policies and procedures set by the Board.

# THE STORY THROUGH THE **NUMBERS**

IN FY2024

# 751

**CASES REVIEWED  
FOR ELIGIBILITY**



# 675

**NEW APPLICATIONS**



FROM

# 80

**COMMUNITIES ACROSS  
THE STATE**

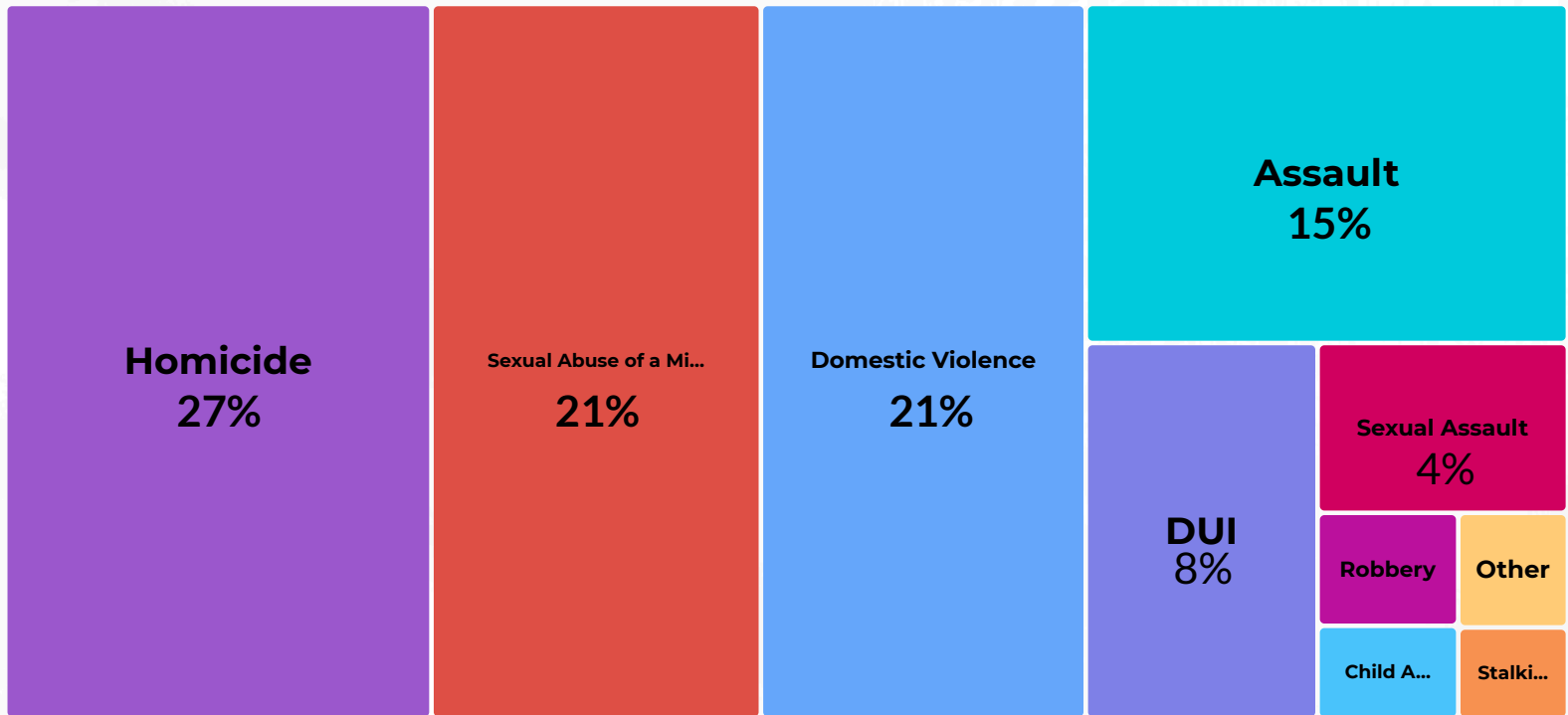
ON BEHALF OF VICTIMS

# \$1,256,452

**WAS DISTRIBUTED**

In FY24, the Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB) processed over 25% more applications compared to FY23. Of these, approximately 10% were deemed ineligible due to administrative or statutory reasons, including incomplete applications and crimes that do not meet eligibility criteria.

# EXPENSES ALLOCATION



## CRIME TYPES SERVED

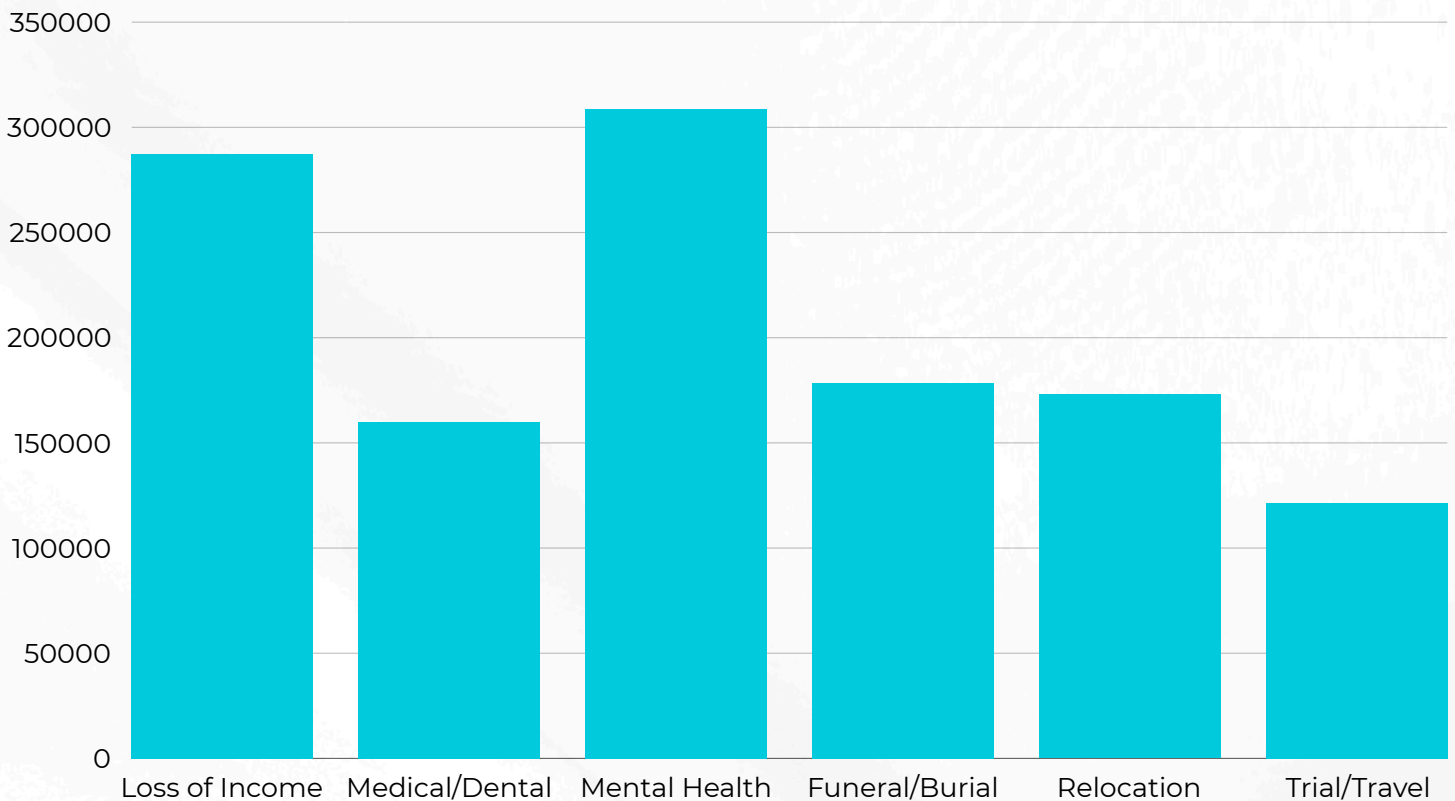
VCCB pays expenses on behalf of victims of violent crime as allowable. The list below contains crimes that are considered eligible under AS 18.67.101:

- Murder
- Manslaughter
- Criminally negligent homicide
- Assault
- Kidnapping
- Sexual assault
- Sexual abuse of a minor
- Robbery
- Threats to do bodily harm
- Driving under the influence (DUI)
- Arson
- Sex trafficking
- Human trafficking
- Unlawful exploitation of a minor

### NOTE:

The amount of funding allocated from VCCB does not indicate the level of need for a survivor. It only represents the costs not covered by an alternative funding source such as insurance.

# EXPENSES ALLOCATION



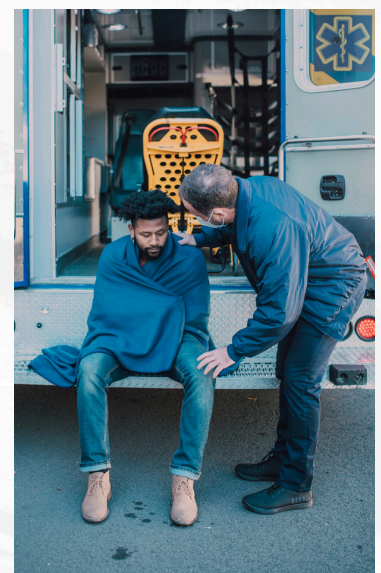
*Only top spending categories are represented in the graph. More details can be found on page 12.*

## WHAT IS COVERED?

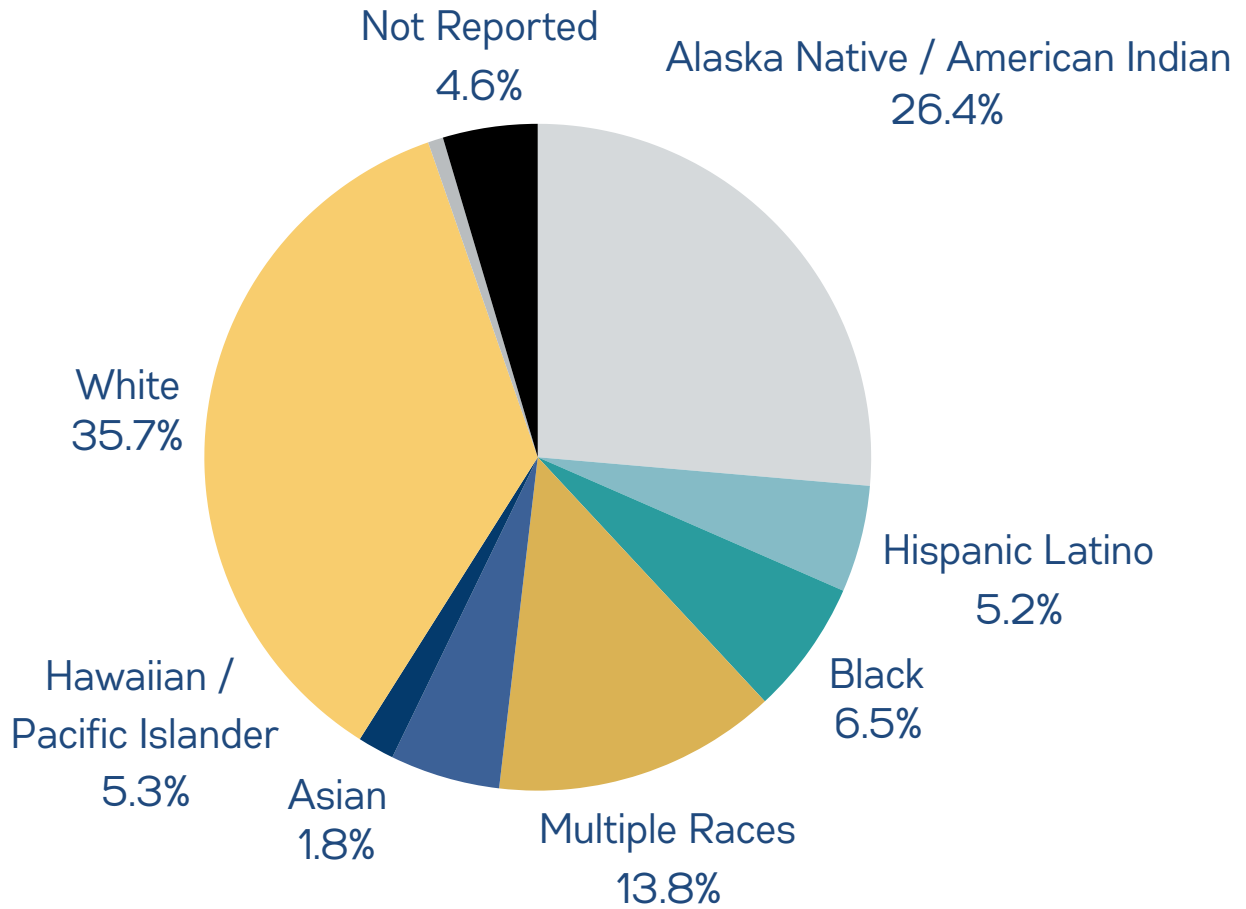
VCCB helps to cover expenses actually and reasonably incurred as the direct result of a violent crime. VCCB does not cover preexisting expenses or compensate for pain and suffering. Due to policy and statute limits, at times, VCCB may not fully cover costs associated with the crime.

### EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

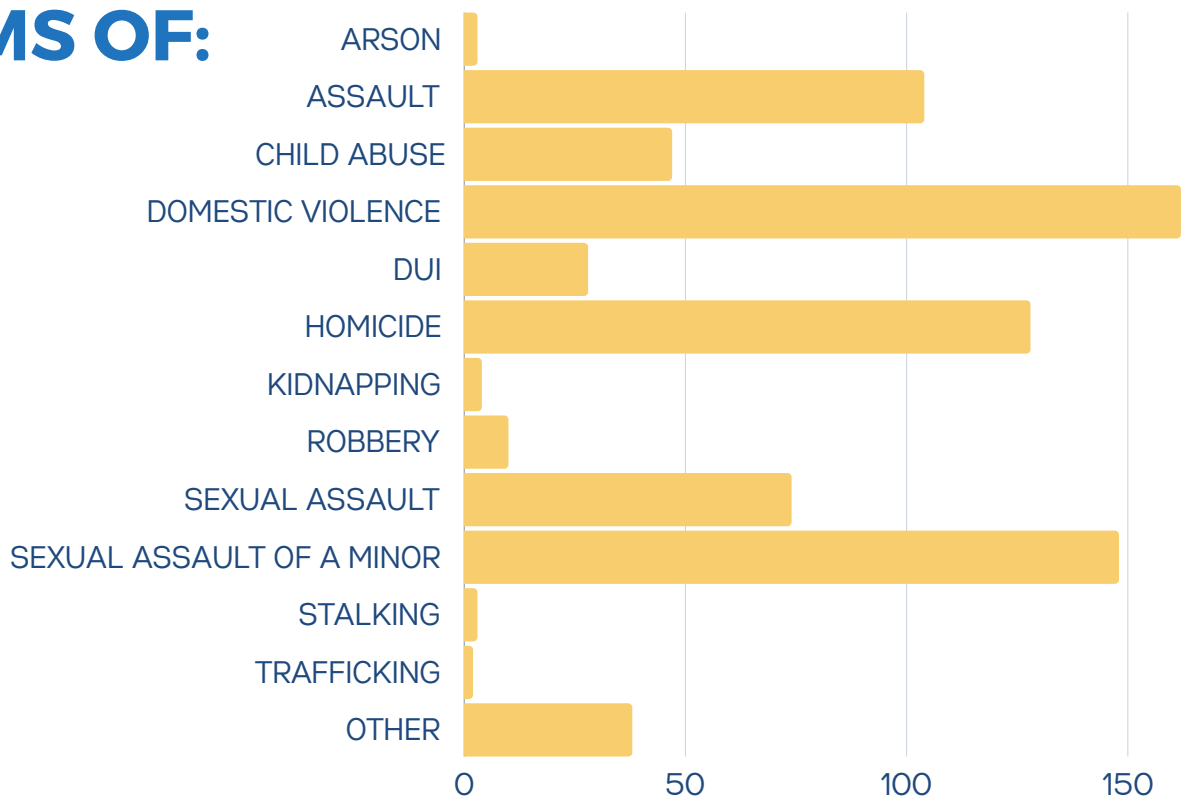
- Crime Scene Clean-up
- Evidence Replacement
- Funeral and Burial Expenses
- Loss of Wages/Income
- Medical Expenses
- Mental Health Services
- Loss of Support
- Relocation Expenses
- Security Measures
- Travel Expenses



# WHO ARE WE SERVING?



## VICTIMS OF:



# EXPENSE DETAIL

Crime Type	Total Paid
Assault	\$183,512
Child Abuse	\$14,493
Domestic Violence	\$262,009
DUI	\$98,306
Homicide	\$341,943
Robbery	\$18,047
Sexual Assault	\$47,838
Sexual Abuse of a Minor	\$265,732
Stalking	\$10,863
Other	\$13,975

Type of Assistance	Total
Childcare	\$706
Crime Scene Clean-Up	\$1,823
Doors   Locks   Windows	\$3,211
Funeral   Burial	\$166,597
Loss of Support   Lost wages	\$287,254
Medical   Dental	\$159,492
Mental Health Treatment	\$306,713
Relocation	\$172,973
Replacement Items - Destroyed or evidence	\$7,927
Security	\$26,390
Transportation   Trial attendance	\$122,309
Other	\$3,447

## Important Notes:

The amount of funding allocated from VCCB does not indicate the level of need for a survivor. It only represents the costs not covered by an alternative funding source such as insurance.

Historically, medical treatment accounted for the largest portion of funding distributed. However, with the expansion of Medicaid, many expenses previously uncovered are now eligible for coverage, reducing the need for VCCB funding in this area.