



**STATE OF DELAWARE  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL**

STATE OFFICE BUILDING – 10<sup>th</sup> FLOOR  
820 FRENCH STREET  
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19801

Telephone: (302) 577-5030  
Fax: (302) 577-3440

March 29, 2018

Good afternoon, Victim Services Practitioner:

On behalf of the Criminal Justice Council, we invite a representative from your agency to participate in the Victim Services Training Advisory Group (VSTAG), a sub-group of the Victim Services Advisory Committee. This Advisory Group will focus exclusively on providing quality and consistent training to the Victim Services professionals and allies in Delaware. The members of the Advisory Group should ideally be reflective or representative of the diverse communities and groups in Delaware, to ensure that a wide range of perspectives and experiences is at the table to inform training needs. The most pressing initiative is to bring a State Victim Assistance Academy (SVAA) to Delaware's Victim Services professionals and allies. This is a great opportunity to work with other agencies to improve our professional development and subsequent services delivery and staff retention for local providers.

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) envisioned that the SVAAs would provide a comprehensive, fundamental, and academically based course of study in victims' rights, victims' services, and victimology. SVAAs are designed to meet the entry-level educational and training needs of victim service providers, victim advocates, and allied professionals working with victims of crime. OVC has funded 45 SVAAs nationwide, and Delaware received funding through a VOCA Discretionary Training Grant to implement the Delaware Victim Assistance Academy (DVAA). For more information on where SVAAs are located, visit [www.ovc.gov/training/svaa.html](http://www.ovc.gov/training/svaa.html)

While the VSTAG will focus broadly on developing the DVAA, participation on a deeper level will be offered in the following focus areas:

1. Working with the Curriculum Developer to provide feedback as a key stakeholder in a subject area of your expertise and experience.
2. Developing the DVAA Core Training Team of instructors. This initiative will involve the recruitment and vetting of trainers.
  - a. Selected trainers will be asked to attend a special workshop to enhance their current training skills and to orient them to the curriculum.
3. Developing participant criteria, application processing, support of participants' supervisors, and academy evaluation.

The Victim Services Training Advisory Group includes members selected to help craft and guide the efforts of the DVAA development and plan for other statewide victim services training initiatives. Advisory Group members are responsible for providing their unique perspective on how the VS Community can collaboratively work together to achieve its goals. The VSTAG will meet monthly; sub groups will meet on an as-needed basis. Our next meeting will be held the week of April 23-27, 2018 at a location to be determined.

If you are willing to serve on the VSTAG, please reach out to Kathleen Kelley at [KathleenD.Kelley@state.de.us](mailto:KathleenD.Kelley@state.de.us) for additional materials and details.

Thank you in advance and we look forward to working together.

Sincerely,

Christian Kervick  
Executive Director CJC