



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ACHIEVES NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

Victim Assistance Program (VAP) has achieved national accreditation through the New York-based Council on Accreditation (COA), after a rigorous 18-month process and the tireless dedication of Victim Assistance Program's administration and employees. Victim Assistance Program provides 24-hour crisis intervention, advocacy, and education to victims of crime and trauma and the professionals who serve this population. In 2018, Victim Assistance Program served 6,329 clients and provided education to professionals and members of the community. Organizations pursue accreditation to demonstrate the implementation of best practice standards in the field of human services. COA evaluated all aspects of Victim Assistance Program's programs, services, management, and administration.

COA accreditation is an objective, independent, and reliable validation of an agency's performance. The COA accreditation process involves a detailed review and analysis of an organization's administration, management, and service delivery functions against international standards of best practice. The standards driving accreditation ensure that services are well-coordinated, culturally competent, evidence-based, outcomes-oriented, and provided by a skilled and supported workforce. COA accreditation demonstrates accountability in the management of resources, sets standardized best practice thresholds for service and administration, and increases organizational capacity and accountability by creating a framework for ongoing quality improvement.

To achieve COA accreditation, Victim Assistance Program first provided written evidence of compliance with the COA standards. After which, a group of specially trained volunteer Peer Reviewers confirmed adherence to these standards during a series of on-site interviews with trustees, staff and clients. Based on their findings, COA's volunteer-based Accreditation Commission voted that Victim Assistance Program had successfully met the criteria for accreditation.

Victim Assistance Program leadership is confident that, in addition to VAP's long history of expertise in the field of victim advocacy, accreditation will provide the community with the knowledge that Victim Assistance Program's services are being delivered at the highest possible standard and are among the best in the field.

Although the formal accreditation process has been achieved, it is not the final goal for Victim Assistance Program. It is a continuing process that the agency has undertaken to elevate the services provided to victims of crime and trauma and the professional community who serves this population. Victim Assistance Program will continue to achieve new levels of excellence and raise the bar for victim services agencies throughout the nation.

empowering our community to restore lives impacted by crisis, violence, and tragedy

ABOUT COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION

Founded in 1977, COA is an independent, not-for-profit accreditor of the full continuum of community-based behavioral health care and social service organizations in the United States and Canada. Over 2,000 organizations — voluntary, public, and proprietary; local and statewide; large and small — have either successfully achieved COA accreditation or are currently engaged in the process. Presently, COA has a total of 47 service standards that are applicable to over 125 different types of programs. To learn more about COA, please visit www.COAnet.org.



ABOUT VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The mission of Victim Assistance Program is to empower our community to restore lives impacted by crisis, violence, and tragedy. The purpose of the Agency is to provide 24-hour crisis intervention, advocacy, and education to victims of crime and trauma and the professional community who serves this population. To learn more about Victim Assistance Program's services, and ways to get involved, visit victimassistanceprogram.org or call our 24-hour hotline, 330.376.0040.