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I am writing today to share requested information about crime victim services throughout Minnesota. A network of coalitions, community-based organizations, tribal governments, and local governments provide direct services to victims of crime in Minnesota with funds from state and federally funded grants administered by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Office of Justice Programs (OJP).

- **State and Federal Funding:** The primary funding source for these grants is the Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), which is a volatile funding source. The U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime projects VOCA funding for states will be drastically reduced in the coming years. With the incredible investment by the Legislature last year of \$11 million per year in SFY 2024 – SFY 2025 specifically to address the decrease in federal funding, crime victim service programs throughout Minnesota have stable funding through fall of 2025.
- **Last Grant Cycle:** With historic legislative investments made last session and current levels of federal funding, DPS's Office of Justice Program was able to grant out a historic \$62 million in 2023 competitive grant process. Minnesota crime victim service organizations submitted approximately \$102 million dollars in request in that process.
- **Funding Outlook for Fall 2025:** For grants that will start fall 2025, Minnesota will no longer have the one-time \$11 million investment at the same time Minnesota receives a significant reduction in federal VOCA funding. Minnesota is facing the likelihood of significantly less funding for grants that start in fall 2025. This will decrease services that are so crucial to Minnesotans.

Crime victim service funding covers advocacy and direct service for sexual assault, domestic abuse, child abuse, and other crimes such homicide, gun violence, assault, and theft. Crime victim services are a critical need in every community and are available to support survivors through crisis intervention, advocacy, applying for protective orders, safe housing, transportation, accessing financial assistance, court-related support, accompaniment to hearings and appointments, support groups, and healing services for as long as that individual or family is in need. OJP has heard from multiple organizations that additional funding is needed for services throughout Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Kate Weeks
Executive Director