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OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

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Utilizing Advocates to Help Victims with Their Compensation Application

The Utah Office for Victims of Crime was able to add the Advocacy Center through a self-award of VOCA assistance dollars. This award is approximately \$260,000 per year for 3 full time Victim Advocates who work with victims in the following ways:

1. Assistance and support with victim reparation application process.
2. Builds the "kits" for the Reparation Officer by collecting all the documentation necessary for the Reparation Officer to decide on a claim.
3. Communicates with the Reparation Officer regarding urgent needs of the victims while an application is pending.
4. Educate victims on what to expect once their application is processed.
5. Assist clients in their appeals on denied claims or payments.
6. Connect victims with other resources depending on their needs.
7. Addition of other flexible funding allows for the Advocates to provide funding for needs outside of the Reparation Program.

Benefits to having an Advocacy Center:

- Victims are provided with extra support.
- Rural areas are provided with needed advocacy that is lacking in their area.
- Improved advocacy coordination in Tribal areas.
- Claims are processed timelier.
- Victims have someone who can help them through the appeal and victim complaint processes.

Collaboration between Advocates and Reparation Officers is key to providing excellent support to victims of crime.