

Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement (Local VALE) Program

In 1984, the General Assembly approved legislation to establish the Assistance to Victims of and Witnesses to Crimes and Aid to Law Enforcement Act. As currently enacted, the Act mandates a surcharge on fines imposed for felonies, misdemeanors, juvenile offenses, class 1 and 2 traffic offenses, and certain traffic infractions. The funds collected are used for grants to agencies that provide services to crime victims within the local judicial district in which the monies are collected.

A five-member board, appointed by the Chief Judge, in each judicial district accepts applications and makes decisions regarding the use of VALE funds in that judicial district. There are two areas of priority for local VALE funding. One priority establishes funding for programs that implement the Victim Rights Act. The other priority is funding for victim and witness services including, but not limited to: crisis intervention services, referrals of victims to appropriate community services and victim compensation programs, and counseling.

VICTIM WITNESS ASSISTANCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT FUND SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

GUIDELINES FOR VALE FUND APPLICATIONS

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Victim Witness Assistance & Law Enforcement Board is a five member board appointed by the Chief Judge to uphold the **Statute 24-4.2-101-110**. It is the purpose of the VALE Board to provide grants to agencies or organizations that assist crime victims in our jurisdiction. The Board at no time can pay for assistance to defendants. The Board is also authorized to provide grants to law enforcement agencies for training or equipment directly related to victim assistance.

ELIGIBILITY

The Board is authorized to enter into contracts for the purchase and coordination of victims and witnesses assistance services with persons or agencies which the Board deems appropriate.

BOARD PRIORITIES

- 1.) Implementation of the rights afforded to crime victims pursuant to section 24-4.1-302.5 CRS, and
- 2.) The provision of the services and programs delineated in sections 24-4.1-303 CRS, 24-4.1-304 CRS, and 24-4.2-105(4) CRS, related to all crimes as defined by section 24-4.1-302(1) CRS.

The VALE Board has also established the following priorities: Programs that provide direct victim services to victims of those crimes listed in Section 24-4.1-302(1) CRS. The VALE Board may also take into consideration factors other than those stated above in making their final decisions. Board members may award money for projects not designated in the priority categories. The fact that an applicant meets eligibility requirements and applies for services within a priority category does not guarantee funding.

Please Note: According to C.R.S. 24-4.2-105(2.5)(a), “The board shall not accept, evaluate, or approve any application requesting grants of money...from any state agency, including local offices of such agencies; except...the court administrator...for the purpose of collecting all moneys assessed by the courts...(and) local probation department...for the purpose of implementing the rights of victims...”

Copies of the state statutes related to these funds are available on the Colorado State Government web page (www.state.co.us), click on Government, then Colorado Constitution and Statutes, then Colorado Revised Statutes C.R.S.

EVALUATION CRITERIA: The VALE Board has established criteria based on a Tier Program which it uses to evaluate grant applications. That Tier is as follows:

- Tier One: Agency has, as a primary mission/focus, to provide services as outlined in the Statute AND the majority of their clientele are victims of “VRA Crimes.”
- Tier Two: Agencies that clearly meets at least one of the two criteria stated above.
- Tier Three: Prevention based organizations and agencies that do not have a primary focus of assisting crime victims, but do have victims of crime mixed into their clientele.

Oral presentations are non mandatory, but will be granted upon request. Requests for personal telephonic oral presentations will be considered on a case by case basis.

INQUIRES: For additional information and/or application forms and instructions please contact Aimee Gonzalez at (970)252-4276, or write to: Office of the District Attorney Attn: VALE Administrator, 1200 North Grand, Bin D, Montrose, CO 81401.

VICTIM RIGHTS

24-4.2-105 (4.7) A requesting agency or person shall acknowledge in writing that such agency or person has read and understands the rights afforded to crime victims pursuant to section **24-4.1-302.5** and the services delineated pursuant to sections **24-4.1-303** and **24-4.1-304**. Such written acknowledgment shall be attached to such requesting agency's or person's application for moneys pursuant to this section. The board shall not accept for evaluation any application for a grant of moneys pursuant to this section until the requesting agency or person provides the board with such written acknowledgment.

Please call the office if you need an additional copy of Sections **24-4.1-302.5**, **24-4.1-303** and **24-4.1-304**.

These guidelines have been developed to assist the applicant in applying for money from the VALE Fund of the 7th Judicial District for Montrose, Hinsdale, Delta, Ouray, San Miguel and Gunnison counties. Any application that does not follow the criteria set down here will be returned to the applicant for revision and will not be considered until said guidelines have been followed.

- A. Each application form shall be fully completed, signed and returned on the forms, and in the format, established by the Board.
- B. Programs are eligible for funding only **once a year**. However, an **agency** may apply for different programs and/or equipment.
- C. The expenditure of grant money is limited to that which is stated in the grant application and no exceptions will be made without written authority of the Board.
 1. **Any money remaining at the end of the grant cycle must be returned to the VALE Fund immediately.**
 2. **A contract will be required if the grant is approved.**

- D. Law enforcement grants have to be related to victim services. They may include, but are not limited to, the purchase of equipment, training, additional personnel and victim/witness services that are directly related to the implementation of the rights afforded to crime victims.
- E. Agencies should attempt to share resources whenever possible.
- F. Grant recipients are required to provide the Board with receipts and other documentation of grant expenditures as requested.
- G. Grant recipients shall be required to provide the Board with Project Assessment reports on dates determined by the Board.
1. Project Assessment Reports must be filled out accurately and completely. They must be signed by the appropriate agency/department heads and project directors.
 2. The failure to return the form on the due date with needed information will jeopardize the current grant and future funding requests.
- I. The Board retains the right to **terminate/suspend/reduce** any grant if the recipient does not comply with conditions imposed by the Board. Notification of **termination/suspension/reduction** will be made in writing to the grant recipient.
- J. The VALE Fund Board of Directors is solely responsible for all decisions concerning grants. Please direct all questions concerning grant decisions to the VALE Administrator who will notify the Board members. The VALE Administrator **DOES NOT MAKE ANY DECISIONS CONCERNING GRANTS.** However, he/she will gladly give you help with your applications and will answer questions.
- K. **Request for Reconsideration:** The VALE Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or to reject any portion of a proposal if it is determined to be in the best interest of the 7th Judicial District to do so. All applicants who have been denied full funding have a right to request a reconsideration of the Board's denial of funding if the applicant can show that additional information is available or if a change in circumstances has occurred. **Notice of a request for reconsideration must be in writing and must be received by the Board within six (6) working days of the date of notification of the denial of funding.** Requests for reconsideration will be reviewed at the next scheduled board meeting. Written notification of the results of the request will be mailed to the applicant within seven (7) working days after a determination has been made.