

ENHANCING LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE TO VICTIMS (ELERV) STRATEGY, 2ND EDITION

The ELERV Strategy's overall goal is to create an agencywide philosophical shift, focusing on identifying and responding to victims' needs. Federal, state, local, campus, and tribal law enforcement leaders are introduced to concepts and benefits of enhancing their response to victims of all crimes. The ELERV Strategy is customizable, and agencies can start small and build over time. Advancements in any area of the ELERV Strategy can enhance an agency's overall response to victims.

BENEFITS

To Law Enforcement

- ▶ Increased crime reporting and case resolutions
- ▶ Improved effectiveness and efficiency
- ▶ Improved morale and job satisfaction
- ▶ Increased community confidence and trust in law enforcement

To Victims

- ▶ Expanded knowledge of and assistance in exercising victims' rights
- ▶ Increased knowledge of and access to victim services
- ▶ Greater ability to participate in investigations
- ▶ Improved ability to engage in post-victimization activities
- ▶ Improved ability to heal post-victimization

To Communities

- ▶ Increased confidence in and engagement with law enforcement
- ▶ Improved mutual trust between law enforcement and community members
- ▶ Increased feelings of safety

FOUR CORE PRINCIPLES OF ELERV



Leadership - Law enforcement leaders are responsible for the ongoing commitment to enhanced victim response. They foster ongoing communication with internal and external stakeholders.



Partnering - Strong internal and external partnerships can help law enforcement agencies meet victims' needs.



Training - Ongoing victim response training should be incorporated at all career stages, across all ranks, and across disciplines.



Performance Monitoring - Analyzing current and ongoing victim response data can guide goal development and help assess progress.

SEVEN CRITICAL NEEDS OF VICTIMS

- ▶ **Safety** - Address the immediate safety concerns of victims. Provide information about reducing risk and actions to take when experiencing intimidation and fears about future harm.
- ▶ **Support** - Allow support persons chosen by victims to be present when possible. Connect victims with support services in the community.
- ▶ **Information** - Provide concise information on victims' rights and criminal justice system processes. Answer questions to help victims participate and make decisions.
- ▶ **Access** - Ensure all victims can participate in the criminal justice system. Provide accommodations to meet access needs (e.g., language access).
- ▶ **Continuity** - Collaborate with other criminal justice professionals, community agencies, and victim services providers. Facilitate seamless transitions and continual support for victims.
- ▶ **Voice** - Encourage victims to ask questions and listen to their concerns.
- ▶ **Justice** - Prioritize procedural justice. Recognize that not all victims define justice the same way.

For comprehensive information on the ELERV Strategy, including tools, templates, and additional resources, please visit www.responsetovictims.org.