



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

The value of victim response training for sworn and professional staff cannot be overstated. Research and best practices for serving victims are constantly evolving. Training that reflects current information is critical. Prioritizing cross-training (both internal and external) is encouraged.

Trained personnel working with victims should be able to

- ▶ Demonstrate concern and empathy for victims.
- ▶ Properly identify basic victim needs.
- ▶ Apply the agency's victim response policy to their role and duties.
- ▶ Understand basic victim rights.
- ▶ Identify resources for victims and make appropriate referrals.

EFFECTIVE TRAINING PLANS

- ▶ **Conduct a training inventory**—Review victim response training schedules, curricula, instructor credentials, and tracking methods. Ensure training content remains current.
- ▶ **Select the right training opportunities**—Not all training opportunities are equal. Assess cost-effectiveness, quality of trainers, and the evidence base for content. Select attendees who are invested in learning, will implement what they have learned, and will share information with their colleagues. Consider multiple training formats (e.g., briefings/roll calls, group case reviews, train-the-trainer workshops, training bulletins, virtual training).
- ▶ **Maximize training funds**—Supervisors should meet with attendees prior to training. Discuss learning goals, recommend workshops, and identify how to share new information within the agency. Encourage attendees to use action plans. This can help them prioritize learning opportunities and develop implementation strategies.
- ▶ **Prioritize multidisciplinary cross-training**—Participate in multidisciplinary cross-training whenever possible. Benefits include learning about other disciplines, developing or strengthening partnerships, group problem-solving, and exploring multiple approaches to serving victims.

TOPICS

- ▶ **Victims' rights (federal and state)**
- ▶ **Victim compensation**
- ▶ **Critical needs of victims**
- ▶ **Crisis intervention**
- ▶ **Trauma-informed response**
- ▶ **Trauma-informed interviewing and report writing**
- ▶ **Understanding the impact of pre-conceptions, opinions, or stereotypes**
- ▶ **Victimization-specific responses**
- ▶ **Community resources and referrals**
- ▶ **Vicarious trauma**

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