



## 10/25/23 Lewiston Mass Violence Incident Victim Services and Resources Summary<sup>1</sup>

### Victim Services

- **Advocacy Services** (Crisis response, accompaniment, resource navigation)
  - **Homicide Surviving Families** (18 victims, 16 families)
    - Primary: OAG Victim Witness Advocates
    - Assisted by: Portland PD, Elder Abuse Institute of Maine, NH AG, US Attorney-NH
    - Over 132 individuals served
    - Services transitioned to Maine Resiliency Center starting 2/24
  - **Injured Victims** (33 victims identified)
    - Primary: Androscoggin County DA's Office
    - Assisted by: Franklin County DA's Office, FBI
    - Over 89 direct and secondary (family) victims served
    - Services transitioned to Maine Resiliency Center starting 2/24
  - **Present with No Physical Injury Victims** (87 victims identified)
    - Primary: Androscoggin County DA's Office (only assigned when requested)
    - Assisted by: 20 County DA Victim Witness Advocates, US Attorney-ME, American Red Cross, Immigrant Resource Center of Maine, Safe Voices, SAPARS
    - Services transitioned to Maine Resiliency Center starting 2/24
  - **Additional Advocacy/Legal Services:**
    - Disability Rights Maine and Maine Association for the Deaf provided culturally-specific services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing victim/survivors
    - Pine Tree Legal Assistance maintained a referral hub for legal services provided by pro bono attorneys and legal assistance organizations statewide
    - Androscoggin Bank provided financial planning support

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<sup>1</sup> This document provides a summary of formal victim service efforts and resources known to the Office of the Attorney General. Given the massive outpouring of support, this document does not fully catalogue the entirety of the resources and gifts available and focuses solely on direct victim/survivor efforts, as opposed to broader community or small business efforts.

- **General Support Services**

- **Family Assistance Center (10/28/23-11/2/23)**
  - Available for the Directly Impacted and their family members (over 200 individuals served)
  - Psychological First Aid, resource navigation, personal effects return, spiritual care, trauma-informed childcare, food, general information
  - Primary: FBI, American Red Cross, Maine State Police
  - Assisted by: OAG, County DA Offices, US Attorney-ME, Immigrant Resource Center of Maine
- **Community Center at the Ramada Inn (10/27/23-11/1/23)**
  - Available for anyone in the community
  - Psychological First Aid, general information
  - Primary: Tri-County, City of Lewiston
- **Maine Resiliency Center (11/13/23-Present)**
  - Available for anyone who identifies as being impacted, including first responders, extended family, and community members who were not present
  - Psychological First Aid, advocacy/resource navigation, support groups, wellness activities, commemoration events
  - Primary: Community Concepts, Inc.
  - Assisted by: OAG, American Red Cross, County DA Offices, Safe Voices, SARPARS, US Attorney-ME, Immigrant Resource Center of Maine, Comfort Angels, and more

## Resources

- **Financial Resources**

- **Maine Victims' Compensation Program**
  - Administered by: OAG
  - Available to direct victims by statute (physical and psychological injury, immediate surviving family members of homicide victims)
  - Up to \$15,000 for uninsured, crime-related losses including medical, mental health counseling, and funeral expenses
  - Funeral expenses are capped at \$4500, however 10/25 surviving families received up to an additional \$7500 for funeral expenses from the Governor's Office for a total of \$12,000 for funerals
  - MVCP paid \$74,181 from the Victims Compensation Fund for 18 funerals and the Governor's Office paid approximately \$95k
  - As of June 2026, MCVP has reimbursed a total of approximately \$327,253 in mass violence-related expenses
  - Individuals who reach the \$15k cap have access to other funding sources, and the Program assists with that transition

- **Central Maine Medical Center Compassionate Care Fund for Trauma Response and Support**
  - Administered by: Central Maine Medical Center
  - Limited information available re: who was eligible to receive financial assistance and what amounts
- **#OneLewiston/City of Lewiston Fund**
  - Administered by: L/A Chamber of Commerce Foundation with assistance from Androscoggin Bank and City of Lewiston
  - Available to direct victims (physical and psychological injury, immediate surviving family members of homicide victims) referred by victim advocates or Maine Resiliency Center; must express an unmet need
  - Paid for emergency unmet needs, such basic living costs (rent, utilities, etc.) and other unmet needs related to victimization (medical beds) that could not be addressed through Victims' Compensation or other known resources; total of \$87,054 in gifts were made
  - Closed at the end of January 2024; remaining funds rolled into Lewiston Area Response Fund
- **Red Cross Gift Cards**
  - Administered by: American Red Cross and FBI
  - Hundreds of gift cards (VISA, Hannaford, etc.) in a range of denominations that were donated by the American Red Cross and area businesses were distributed to direct victims (physical and psychological injury, immediate surviving family members of homicide victims) who came to the Family Assistance Center or Maine Resiliency Center and expressed unmet needs.
- **Maine Credit Union League Fund**
  - Administered by: L/A Chamber of Commerce Foundation, provided by Maine Credit Union League
  - Per donor, \$11,274 was provided to victims and survivors in the form of gift cards and payments for emergency unmet needs; \$12,750 for first responders for gift cards and payments for emergency unmet needs; \$10,866 for the Maine Resiliency Center; \$1,600 for the Trinity Food Pantry
  - Closed at the end of January 2024
- **Lewiston Area Response Fund: Victims and Families**
  - Administered by: Maine Community Foundation
  - Available to direct victims (physical and psychological injury, heir(s) or executors of surviving family members of homicide victims)
  - \$4.7 million in gifts distributed to 162 victim/survivors; MCF did not disclose the amounts that each category of victim/survivors received
  - Distributed in March 2024 and subsequently closed
  - Maine Community Foundation also collected and distributed a second fund exclusively to support local nonprofits.

- **LePage Celebration of Life Fund**
  - Administered by: L/A Chamber of Commerce Foundation, fundraised by Governor LePage and Lauren and Ann LePage
  - \$442,620 available to next of kin of surviving family members and 13 gun-shot wound victims (31 total)
  - Each qualifying recipient received a gift of \$13,462 in March 2024
- **Memorial Softball Tournament Fund**
  - Administered by: L/A Chamber of Commerce Foundation, fundraised by precursor group to the Maine Strong Memorial Foundation
  - \$16,961 each to the next of kin of Joe Walker and Ron Morin, per donor
  - \$10,313 each to remaining next of kin of homicide victims
  - \$662 each to 13 gun-shot wound victims
  - Total of \$207,520 distributed in March 2024; additional gifts distributed in 2025
- **AEAP Grant Auxiliary Funds**
  - Administered by: OAG, paid through a federal Anti-terrorism Emergency Assistance Program (AEAP) grant awarded to the State of Maine in April 2025.
  - Provides financial reimbursement for uninsured expenses starting in October 2025
  - Available to cover mental health counseling, psychiatric care, medical, mileage/travel, and other costs for individuals impacted by the incident who either don't qualify for Victims' Compensation (ex. first responders), who have crime-related expenses that can't be covered (ex. mileage to attend counseling appointments), or who have reached the \$15k Victims' Compensation Program cap.
- **Additional Large Gifts**
  - **University of Maine Lewiston Strong Tuition Waiver**
    - Administered by: University of Maine
    - Available to spouses, fiances, children, and stepchildren of homicide victims and to physically injured victim/survivors
    - Waives last-dollar (after other scholarships, financial aid) tuition costs for an undergraduate degree program at a University of Maine System institution
    - Available starting in January 2024 for the lifetime of each eligible person
  - **Lewiston Strong Free Fuel Gallons**
    - Provided by: Dead River Company
    - Available to one immediate surviving family member for each homicide victim and to each physically injured victim

- 100 gallons of home heating oil or propane
  - Distributed in January 2024
- **Maine Botanical Gardens Memberships and Gardens Aglow Tickets**
  - Provided by: Maine Botanical Gardens
  - Available to surviving families of homicide, advocates, and guests of the Maine Resiliency Center
  - Distributed December 2023-March 2024
- **Thanksgiving Meal Boxes**
  - Provided by: Food and Medicine
  - Available to surviving families of homicide victims
  - Distributed November 2023
- **Christmas Trees**
  - Provided by: Broadway Gardens
  - 100 trees available to anyone receiving support from the Maine Resiliency Center
  - Distributed December 2023
- **Sporting Event Trips**
  - Provided by: Boston Bruins Foundation & New England Patriots
  - Event tickets, transportation, hotels, and reception events available to surviving families of homicide victims
  - January 2024

## Future

- **Maine Mass Violence Care Fund**
  - In early 2024, Governor Mills proposed, and the Legislature approved, the creation of the Maine Mass Violence Care Fund through a \$5 million appropriation. The purpose of the Fund, which will be administered by the Victims' Compensation Program, is to ensure that mass violence victims have long-term access to financial support for uninsured, crime-related expenses. Mass violence victims whose expenses exceed the \$15,000 cap on Victims' Compensation Program claims will have access to the new Fund starting on October 25, 2026 - three years from the date of the Lewiston incident. In the meantime, the state Treasurer is investing the \$5 million appropriation to generate the income for claims payments, and the Office of the Attorney General is engaged with the Legislature, the Governor's Office, and the Lewiston victim/survivor community to develop payment guidelines specific to Mass Violence Care Fund claims.