



Maine Victims' Compensation Program: Lewiston Response¹

About the Maine Victims' Compensation Program

For over 30 years, the Maine Victims' Compensation Program has helped ease the financial burden of violent criminal victimization by reimbursing uninsured, crime-related expenses up to \$15,000, including funeral expenses, medical bills, mental health counseling expenses, and safety device costs. Instead of taxpayer dollars, the Program relies on court surcharges paid by criminal defendants, restitution, and federal matching funds.

Lewiston Application Process

Two Program staff provided on-site application assistance at the Family Assistance Center and the Maine Resiliency Center, as well as referrals to other available resources. The Program utilized a shortened application designed for mass violence incidents. Staff continue to attend periodic drop-ins and make personal outreach calls to impacted individuals.

Claims to Date

The Program received 117 direct victim applications with an additional 114 immediate family member claimants attached, for a total of 231 eligible claimants. A total of 75 individuals have requested reimbursement for eligible expenses to date; victim/survivors decide which expenses to submit for reimbursement. Expense categories include:

- Funerals: \$4500 (per existing cap) plus up to \$7500 from the Governor's Office; plus \$150 for Maine homicide victim monument engraving
- Uninsured medical expenses
- Uninsured mental health counseling expenses
- Lost wages

The Program works closely with all victims, survivors, family, and impacted community members who request assistance to address any ongoing uninsured medical and mental health treatment expenses. Retaining information after a traumatic experience can be difficult, so many individuals looking for assistance already have an application complete and only need to reach out to reactivate their claim.

¹ This document is up to date as of 1/6/26.

Utilization to Date

The Program has paid a total of over \$300,000 on behalf of victim/survivors. Amounts that individual claims have expended in total to date:

Under \$1,000	17 claims
\$1,000 to \$5,000	35 claims
\$5,000 to \$10,000	16 claims
\$10,000 to \$12,000	5 claims
\$15,000 cap reached	2 claims

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.