

# Improving How States Help Victims of Crime

States often struggle to identify and address the full range of crime victims' needs in a consistent, timely, and compassionate manner. However, states have three primary ways to ensure that the needs of all survivors are fully met. To be effective, it is critical to methodically and regularly assess the policies and practices that direct these three mechanisms:



**managing  
restitution**



**compensating victims for  
certain expenses**



**funding services through  
state and federal grants**

## HOW CAN THE CSG JUSTICE CENTER HELP?

Using the following steps, experts from the CSG Justice Center employ a data-intensive approach to help states develop short- and long-term strategies to improve any or all of these mechanisms for assisting victims.

### 1 Review Data



Review restitution data and collect input from stakeholders.



Review compensation data, statutes, rules, and policies to identify how the program can be strengthened.



Review internal policies and practices related to administration of funds; use data to inform resource allocation and expansion of services.

### 2 Develop Solutions



Craft policy solutions to improve restitution management.



Develop policy solutions to improve the management of the program.



Improve the quality and consistency of victim services data so that states can accurately report on how funds are used.

### 3 Assess Results



Measure the effects of policy solutions on victims and people who owe.



Measure the impact of policy solutions on people who are eligible for compensation.



Assess the quality of victim service infrastructure to strengthen the network of services.

**Start today! For more information on how the CSG Justice Center can help your state, email Grace Beil Call: [gcall@cs.org](mailto:gcall@cs.org).**



**Justice Center**  
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS