

VIRGINIA VICTIMS FUND



VIRGINIA VICTIMS FUND
Helping Innocent Victims of Crime
OFFICIALLY CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND

FY2026 ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2025 - JUNE 30, 2026



About the Fund



Mission:

- To administer the Compensating Victims of Crime Act with compassion, fairness, and efficiency.
- To treat every victim and survivor with dignity and respect, recognizing the significant impact of violent crime on individuals and society.



Funding Sources:

- Fees collected from individuals convicted of felonies and misdemeanors in Virginia courts.
- Federal grants provided from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA).



Administration:

- Operated by the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission.

Compensation & Benefits:

- Benefits are capped at \$35,000 and may cover:
 - Wage Loss
 - Doctor and Hospital Bills
 - Counseling Services
 - Prescription Expenses
 - Moving Expenses

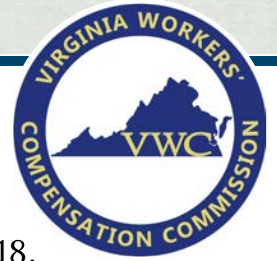


Additional Programs & Responsibilities:

- Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) Payment Program:
 - Administers payment for sexual assault forensic exams across the Commonwealth.
- Unclaimed Restitution:
 - Reunites victims of crime with restitution money owed to them when courts are unable to locate the victims.
- Recovery of Debts:
 - Holds convicted offenders responsible for paying back the fund for awards made on underlying claims.



About the Commission



The Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission

About

The Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission (VWC), established in 1918, is an independent judicial and administrative state agency responsible for overseeing the workers' compensation system in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Commission is led by three Commissioners appointed by the General Assembly, each serving six-year terms. The current Commissioners are the Honorable Wesley G. Marshall, the Honorable R. Ferrell Newman and the Honorable Robert A. Rapaport. As of July 1, 2024, the Honorable Wesley G. Marshall began serving a three-year term as Chairman of the Commission. The Commission's Executive Director is Ms. Evelyn McGill, and the Chief Deputy Commissioner is the Honorable James J. Szablewicz.

VWC's Mission

To serve injured workers, victims of crimes, employers, and stakeholders across Virginia by delivering outstanding service, resolving disputes efficiently, and upholding the responsibilities entrusted to us by the Commonwealth with integrity and excellence.

VWC's Vision

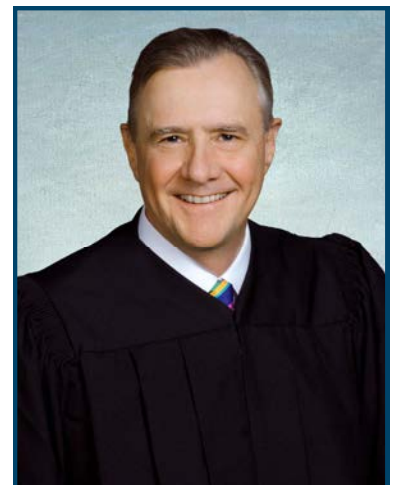
Lead the nation as the most effective and innovative state agency.



Words from the Commission Chairman:

The Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission takes pride in the great work and impact of our team members at the Virginia Victims Fund (VVF). VVF's team strives to help Virginia victims heal and rebuild their lives. It is a privilege for the Commission to support VVF in this critical mission. We are grateful for VVF's professionalism and unwavering commitment to serving victims with dignity and compassion. We support VVF's efforts to bring hope and healing within reach to those who need it most.

The Honorable Wesley G. Marshall
VWC Chairman





FY26 VVF Annual Report

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Message from the VVF Team

Driven by Commitment: Serving Victims and Survivors Across Virginia



The Virginia Victims Fund is dedicated to serving victims of violent crime with compassion, efficiency, and fairness. Every member of our team brings a deep sense of purpose to their role, understanding the profound impact this work has on those navigating trauma and recovery.

We share this commitment with a vital network of partners who make our mission possible:

- To the victims and survivors we serve—your strength, resilience, and courage remind us daily why this work matters.
- To the victim-witness advocates across the state—your invaluable partnership guides individuals through the complex path to compensation.
- To the medical providers and forensic nurses—your care, expertise, and sensitivity help restore dignity and extend grace to victims in their most vulnerable moments.

We are equally proud to stand alongside our colleagues within the broader Commission, working each day with a shared purpose of public service.

At the heart of our work is the VVF staff. Whether answering a call, reviewing evidence, or issuing compensation, every action reflects their integrity, empathy, and drive. This year has reinforced that while policies and procedures guide us, it is people—our team, our partners, and the survivors—who truly drive our mission forward. The Virginia Victims Fund remains committed. Now and always.

Outreach



Community Impact & Resource Delivery

The Virginia Victims Fund (VVF) serves as a financial lifeline for individuals impacted by violent crime, directly offsetting critical expenses such as medical fees, lost wages, funeral costs, and other emergency losses. Sustaining this support requires deliberate, localized engagement. VVF continuously deploys strategic outreach initiatives across the Commonwealth to ensure that survivors, their families, and frontline healthcare systems remain fully aware of their eligibility and available resources.

Our public awareness campaigns bridge gaps in accessibility by building trusted relationships alongside local law enforcement networks, community-based advocacy groups, and regional victim/witness assistance chapter. These joint networks provide a reliable safety net, allowing VVF to actively connect with historically underserved populations and expedite their transition into the compensation program.

Personalized Support: The VVF Ombudsman

A cornerstone of our claimant-first delivery strategy is the personalized oversight provided by the VVF Ombudsman. Acting as an independent guide for both individual applicants and dedicated victim advocates, the Ombudsman demystifies the administrative framework of the fund. This office provides critical resolution support by clarifying evaluation criteria, guiding users through complex document submission requirements, and connecting applicants with supplemental recovery resources. By anchoring the review lifecycle in transparent communication and trauma-informed practices, the Ombudsman ensures that fairness, compassion, and accountability define every milestone of the victim's interaction with VVF.



Applications Received:

1,054 total claims processed through our intake pipeline



Trainings Conducted:

29 educational sessions provided to community partners



Emails Received:

4,896 inbound digital inquiries managed and resolved by staff



Faxes Received:

996 secure paper-to-digital document submissions processed



Phone Calls Handled:

6,480 combined telephone inquiries received and proactive outreach calls sent

WebFile

WebFile – VVF’s Integrated Claim and Document Management System



DIRECT, PROTECTED, EFFICIENT.

As our preferred channel for managing the claim lifecycle, WebFile provides a secure online portal to file applications, upload confidential documentation, and check claim statuses in real time. By giving users direct control over their own submissions, this secure system eliminates data entry backlogs to accelerate workflows, resulting in quicker claim payments and faster relief for victims.



Dedicated Portals by User Role

Medical and Service Providers

Direct portal access allows healthcare providers to securely upload medical billing documentation and track claim statuses in real time. This direct channel bypasses traditional paperwork bottlenecks, ensuring complete claim files and significantly accelerating reimbursement cycles.

Victim/Witness Advocates

As the primary point of contact for many individuals, community advocates utilize WebFile to immediately submit applications and attach supporting documents on behalf of victims. This seamless system ensures advocates can initiate the claim process swiftly without administrative delays.

Forensic Nurses (SAFE Program)

Forensic nurses utilize WebFile to directly secure funding and request payments for forensic exams provided to victims of sexual assault. This secure workflow allows frontline medical professionals to electronically transmit sensitive documentation, expediting the SAFE claim review process.

Commonwealth Courts

Clerks of court use this secure interface to submit necessary documentation for unclaimed restitution payments. Transitioning this process online improves accounting accuracy and eliminates processing delays, helping VVF reunite victims with the funds they are legally owed.

Claimants

WebFile gives individuals direct control over their own recovery process. Applicants can securely file their claims, upload required documents, and track their status independently from any device, eliminating the need for mail, fax or third-party coordination.

Claim Financials



FY26 Funding

Funding Sources:

\$1,932,387 Fees: Court-ordered fees collected from offenders.

\$1,608,454 Unclaimed Restitution sent by courts

\$1,502,000 VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) Grant: The VOCA grant program is a primary source of federal funding that supports organizations providing direct services to victims of crime throughout the U.S.

\$21,439 VOCA Technology Grant: VOCA, through the Office for Victims of Crime at the Department of Justice, offers grants to enhance and improve technology infrastructure for victim services.

\$625,666 Debtor Payments: VVF pursues payments from debtors convicted of the underlying criminal case to reimburse the fund for awards made on behalf of the victims.

\$4,048 Misc.



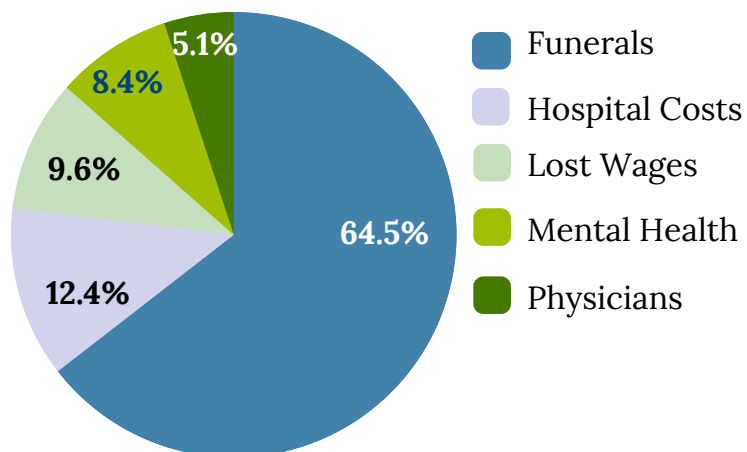
Claim Expenditures

The Virginia Victims Fund delivers critical financial assistance to individuals navigating the aftermath of crime. By absorbing unexpected expenses, the fund alleviates immediate financial pressures so survivors can focus entirely on healing and recovery.

FY26 Claim Expenditures



Top Expense Categories

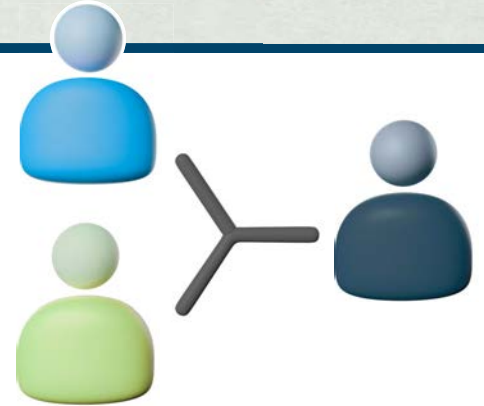


**VVF
Awards to
Victims**

\$1,515,582

Claim Information & Demographics

Top Referral Sources for clients to VVF



Claims: Received, Deemed Eligible, Awarded, Expenses Approved

1,054
Applications
Received

439
Eligible
Claims

360
Approved
Expenses



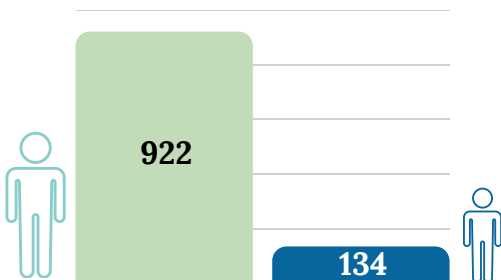
Frequent Incident Types



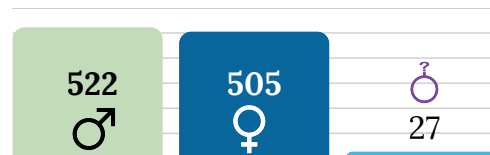
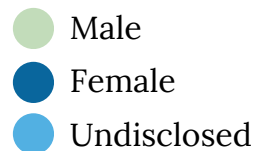
255
Assault
Claims

62
Homicide
Claims

Age



Gender



SAFE Payment Program



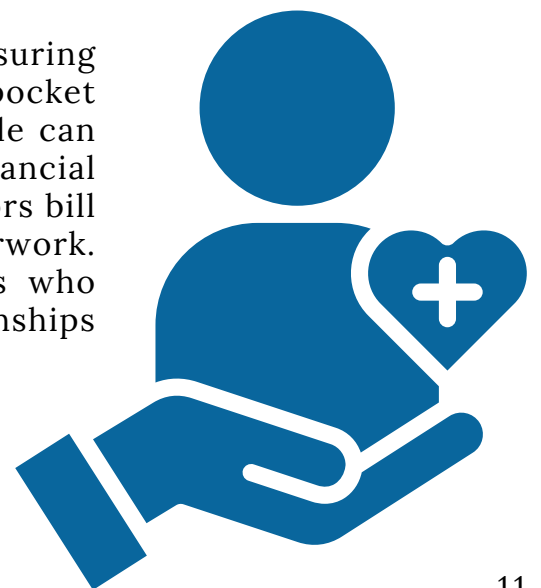
SAFE: SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAMINATION PAYMENT PROGRAM

The SAFE Program provides immediate access to specialized, trauma-informed healthcare following an experience of sexual assault. By handling all financial routing for the Physical Evidence Recovery Kit (PERK) examination on the backend, the program eliminates billing hurdles at the point of care. This essential funding guarantees that survivors have the unhindered choice to secure and document medical-legal evidence, establishing a foundation for justice and healing from day one.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SAFE COORDINATOR

“It is a privilege to support our community by ensuring forensic care is available to everyone without out-of-pocket costs. We provide this funding for Virginians so people can preserve the evidence needed for court without financial stress, regardless of their ability to pay. Because doctors bill us directly, patients never have to deal with the paperwork. We are deeply grateful for the community partners who stand with us, and we look forward to the new relationships and collaborations we will form in the days ahead.”

-Nikki Saba, SAFE Coordinator



SAFE - Exams & Demographics

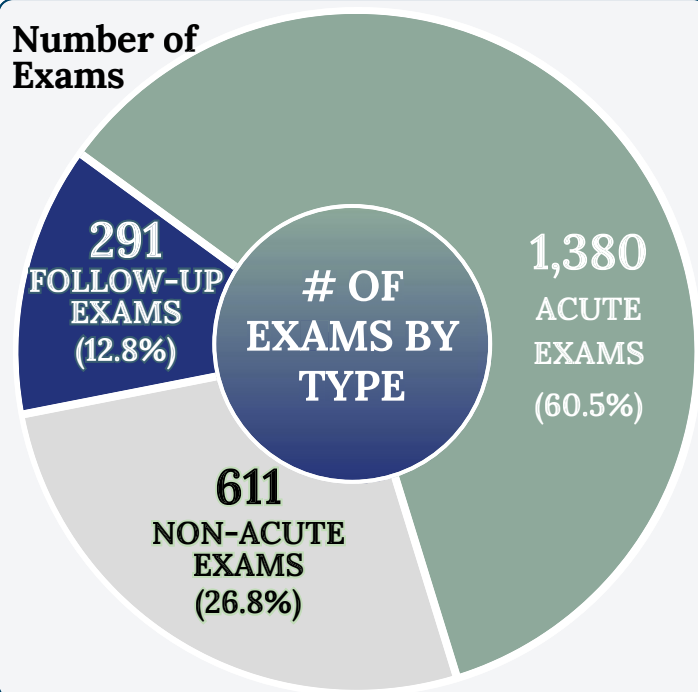
The SAFE Payment Program provides reimbursement structures tailored to the specific timing and intent of clinical care:

- **Acute Exams:** Completed within roughly 120 hours of an incident, these forensic medical evaluations are reimbursed at 60% of all eligible costs under Virginia statute.
- **Non-Acute Exams:** Performed outside the initial 120-hour window, these clinical evaluations are eligible for a policy-capped reimbursement of up to \$1,500 per case.
- **Follow-Up Exams:** Focused on continuity of care—including STI screenings and injury documentation—these subsequent visits are capped at \$1,000 in coverage.

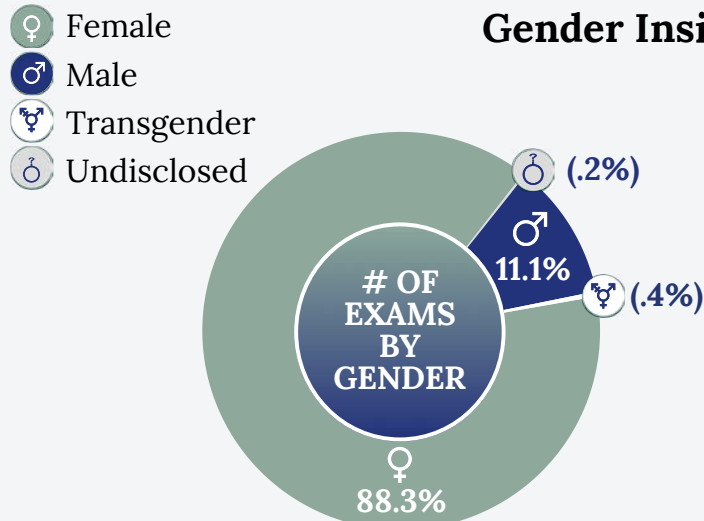


EXAM TYPES, CLAIM INFORMATION & CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Number of Exams

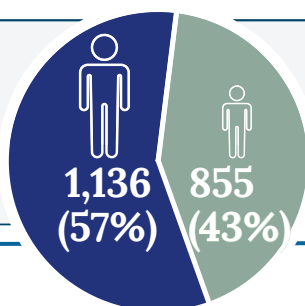


Gender Insight



Age Insight

- Adults
- Children



Eligibility Guidelines

To optimize program resources, the Virginia Victims Fund cannot approve claims resulting from out-of-state incidents. Applications may also be denied if they lack essential supporting documentation or request reimbursement for expenses falling outside established statutory coverage limits.

SAFE Financials

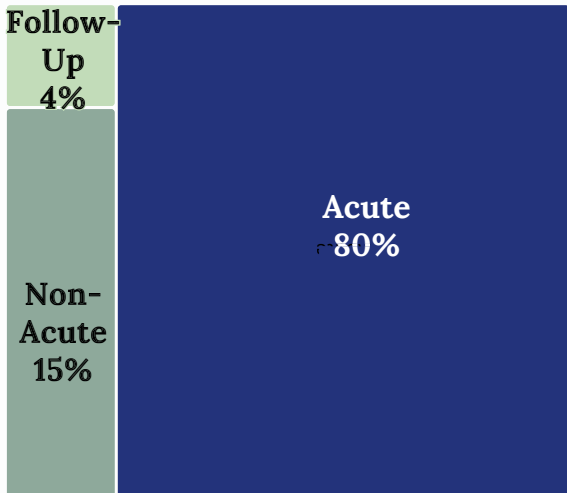
SAFE Financials

State General Funds entirely sustain the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) Program, removing financial barriers so survivors can access immediate, specialized healthcare. This fiscal year, the program distributed \$2,993,732 in SAFE payments to directly cover acute, non-acute, and follow-up medical evaluations across the Commonwealth. This crucial funding equips healthcare providers to deliver trauma-informed care and preserve vital forensic evidence seamlessly. The financial data below illustrates how these resources transform into direct, tangible support for survivors and the medical professionals who care for them.



SAFE FINANCIALS

SAFE Exam Expenses by Percentage



\$2,993,732

SAFE Payments



2,282

New Claims



2,389

Eligible Expenses



5.5 Days

Average Time to Make an Award



FY26 Revenue

\$3,100,000

The SAFE Payment Program is funded by General Funds.

Exam Type

Acute

Non-Acute

Follow Up

Amount Billed (Requested by Providers)

\$4,108,022.46

\$1,100,904.27

\$354,028.66

Amount of Reimbursement (by SAFE)

\$2,384,254.78

\$461,766.18

\$131,109.90

Requested expenses are reduced by payments from third parties such as private and public insurance or are not reimbursed due to ineligibility. The amount of reimbursements reflects tallies after end of fiscal year reconciliation.

Restitution

Courts across the Commonwealth collect restitution from convicted offenders to compensate individuals for crime-related losses. When a court exhausts all avenues to locate a victim after a one-year search, these unclaimed funds transfer to the Virginia Victims Fund. VVF then initiates its own targeted recovery efforts, successfully reuniting victims with \$140,849 in rightfully owed restitution this fiscal year.

RESTITUTION IN NUMBERS



Courts limit their search for victims who are owed restitution to one year.



After one year of searching, the courts send the unclaimed restitution to VVF.



VVF conducts a more extensive search and reunites victims with the restitution owed to them.

**FY26
RESTITUTION
STATISTICS:**

\$1,608,454
Unclaimed Restitution
Sent by Courts

\$140,849
Restitution Paid
to Victims Found
by VVF

A MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM LEAD

“Our team is deeply committed to tracking down individuals who have often given up hope of recovering their losses. Successfully returning \$140,849 to these survivors this year reflects our unwavering dedication to delivering the justice and financial closure they deserve.

~Bonita Archer, R & R Team Leader



Accomplishments

REFLECTING ON A YEAR OF MEANINGFUL
PROGRESS, RESILIENCE, AND IMPACT IN SERVICE
TO VICTIMS OF CRIME ACROSS VIRGINIA.



Records Management System Update (Wendy UI):

VVF successfully implemented the Wendy User Interface upgrade, a significant technology enhancement that modernizes claim management and improves the customer experience. The upgraded system streamlines internal workflows, automates customer notifications, and expands online access to claim information and document submission. The project was delivered through strong cross-functional collaboration, comprehensive testing, and targeted staff training.



Forensic Workgroup

VVF actively contributed to the DCJS Forensic Workgroup established in response to the 2026 General Assembly's actions under HB 1464 and SB 812. Through this statewide effort, VVF provided valuable expertise and perspective on forensic medical examinations, with particular focus on reimbursement processes and sustainable funding.



Website Improvements

VVF strengthened its digital presence by redesigning key areas of its website to better serve victims, claimants, and professional partners. Enhanced FAQ sections for Claimants/Victims, Forensic Nurses, and Advocates provide clearer, more accessible information and improve the overall user experience.

The Way Forward

AS VVF CONTINUES TO PRIORITIZE ACCESSIBILITY, EFFICIENCY, AND TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES, SEVERAL KEY INITIATIVES ARE PLANNED FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR:

Legislative and Administrative Changes (Effective July 1, 2026)

Strangulation Kits: CICF/VVF now reimburses anonymous trace evidence kits (NFKs) for non-sexual strangulation at a 60% cost cap. Sexual assault strangulation kits remain part of PERK exams.

No Cooperation Required: Victims do not need to participate in the criminal justice system or talk to law enforcement to receive a SAFE exam.

SAFE 90-Day Deadline: Providers must submit all SAFE reimbursement claims within 90 days of the incident.



Leadership Updates

Our new leadership team brings fresh energy while keeping our core mission strong:

- **Hollie Jennings, Director:** July 10, 2026. Hollie brings over a decade of leadership in public safety, mental health, and education, most recently serving as Special Assistant to the City Manager of Lynchburg. She holds a Doctorate of Education in Leadership from the University of Lynchburg. (Read her full bio on the next page.)
- **Christopher Clark, Claims Team Leader:** August 25, 2026. Chris brings 17 years of leadership experience from the Department of Corrections, specializing in staff supervision, policy implementation, and operational accountability. He holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Averett University.
- **Coming Soon: New SAFE Coordinator, Client Service Team Lead, and two Claims Examiners.**

Strengthening Outreach and Access

- **Website Redesign:** Building a simpler, more user-friendly site so resources are easy to find.
- **Policy Refinement:** Reviewing rules to make getting benefits clearer and easier.
- **Partner Collaboration:** Working closely with partners to expand our community impact.

New Director

MEET OUR NEW DIRECTOR: HOLLIE JENNINGS, ED.D.

Hollie Jennings, Ed.D.

Director, Virginia Victims Fund

Hollie Jennings joined the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission as the Director of the Virginia Victims Fund on July 10, 2026. Hollie brings over 20 years of professional experience spanning public safety administration, victim advocacy, mental health services, and education.



Professional Background

- **Public Safety & Local Government:** Hollie previously served as the Special Assistant to the City Manager of Lynchburg, VA. In this capacity, she managed critical public safety initiatives, city budgets, court programs, and state/federal grants. She also provided strategic oversight to the Community Corrections and Pre-trial departments.
- **Clinical Mental Health & Advocacy:** As a Clinician and Therapist for the Central Virginia Community Services Board, Hollie provided emergency mental health and substance abuse assessments within detention environments. Her career also includes serving as a Caseworker and Administrator for the Lynchburg Regional Juvenile Detention Center and working directly as a Victim Advocate to ensure court processes were transparent and accessible to those affected by crime.
- **Educational Leadership:** Hollie has an extensive background in public education, serving in various administrative and student-facing roles, including Assistant Principal and School Counselor.

Education & Credentials

- **Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.)** in Leadership — University of Lynchburg
- **Master of Education (M.Ed.)** — Lynchburg College

Contact Us

Virginia Victims Fund

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