

The Criminal Justice Council presents
Delaware Victim Assistance Academy

March 29 - April 3, 2020



Based on the National Victim Assistance Academy model, the CJC brings a premier training and education program for new and beginning victim assistance providers that is specific to Delaware.

Who Should Apply?

The DVAA is designed for victim service providers and allied professionals who have experience of four years or less (0-4 years) in the field. Up to 30 applicants will make up the next DVAA class.

We encourage individuals who work with victims of crime to attend. This includes paid (full or part-time) staff from a variety of community-based and system-based programs and other allied professionals, such as law enforcement, probation and parole, and corrections. Applicants who serve victims on a volunteer-basis are not being accepted at this time.

"Everyone wants you to succeed and help you help others"



Mission of the DVAA

The mission of the Delaware Victim Assistance Academy (DVAA) is to offer standardized training that integrates interdisciplinary, evidence-based knowledge and practice to victim service professionals and allies by providing a space for learning, networking, and applying new skills. Through training and mentorship opportunities, the DVAA strives to develop a community of practice where Delaware's direct service professionals become more culturally sensitive and inclusive, victim/survivor-centered, and trauma-informed in their work.

DVAA Goals

1. Provide the foundational skills and tools necessary to work with victims and survivors of crime.
2. Provide information about the victim services field in Delaware to incorporate the history of victim services, as well as local, state, and national resources within the State.
3. Provide an opportunity for advocates to network and gain professional contacts within the field.
4. Broaden and strengthen the professionalism and promote sustainability of victim services in the State of Delaware.

Application Process

The application period for the 2020 DVAA opens in November 2019. A link to the online application will be available at <http://cjc.delaware.gov/dvaa>. The application includes a personal statement where prospective students are expected to briefly state why they want to attend and how their participation will benefit them, their organization, and their community.

All applications must be received online by December 3, 2019. No hard copies will be accepted. In order to be eligible for selection, candidates must complete all portions of the application.

All applications are scored and ranked competitively by a review team. Finalists are invited to participate in short, in-person interviews in January 2020 before acceptance decisions are made. The review team may invite feedback from applicant supervisors if more than one person applies from the same agency/division.

Applicants will be notified of their selection status in late January 2020. Once accepted, applicants will be asked to provide a signed letter of support from their supervisor/program coordinator. The CJC will create a waiting list if more applicants apply than space is available. Open spots during the cancellation period will be offered to the wait list on an as-available basis.

Academy Faculty

The DVAA Faculty is made up of established and emerging leaders within the state's pool of Victim Assistance providers. Areas of expertise range from the history of the Victims' Rights Movement, to the provision of trauma-informed and victim-centered services, and beyond. DVAA Faculty members generously serve in their roles on a voluntary basis, thanks to the support of their affiliated organizations that recognize the importance of investing in the next generation of Victim Assistance providers.



DVAA 2019 Students & Faculty

Academy Logistics & Costs

The DVAA is a residential training, meaning that the event will occur over six days and five nights in Sussex County, Delaware. Each accepted student will receive a scholarship that will cover lodging, breakfast, and lunch for the duration of the training. Dinners will **not** be provided, and participants will be responsible for those meals and their transportation to and from the Academy. By accepting the invitation to attend, participants must agree to stay all five nights at the selected venue and commit to attending each session in full. The housing costs are supported by funding through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime, VOCA-Discretionary Training Grant #2018-V3-GX-0084. State funds and agency sponsors will provide meals.

Quotes from 2019 Graduates

"I really enjoyed being able to do scenarios and talk with everyone to solve issues"

"Presenters sharing their own experiences in the field made it personal"

"I liked that we discussed the improvements that can be made in the implementation of victims' rights on the law enforcement, courts and probation level."

Orientation Meeting

A Pre-Academy Orientation meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 17, 2020** from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in Dover, DE. This meeting will provide an overview of the expectations, any pre-academy assignments, and an opportunity to meet other students and faculty.



"I loved how all agencies were able to talk about what they do to assist victims"

Certificate of Graduation

Academy attendees who attend, participate in, and successfully complete all learning modules will receive a Certificate of Completion. Participants may be eligible to apply for a Provisional Level Credential through the National Advocate Credentialing Program.

Cancellation Policy

If an accepted applicant cancels after the cancellation deadline (**March 2, 2020**) and the space cannot be filled, the individual will be billed for the first night of the hotel stay.

DVAA students are expected to attend the Orientation Meeting, complete any assigned homework prior to the Academy, and be present during all scheduled Academy activities. If an accepted applicant goes through the orientation process and withdraws during the Academy without sufficient cause, they will be billed by the hotel for their entire stay. This includes situations where significant class time is missed. DVAA Faculty do not offer make-up assignments, and students who miss scheduled course time will be asked to leave and billed by the hotel for their entire stay.



“Great resource
networking,
especially for specific
topics”

IMPORTANT DATES

November 5, 2019: Registration opens

December 3, 2019: Application deadline

January 8-16, 2020: Applicant
interviews

February 14, 2020: Deadline for
accepted applicants to confirm their
participation

March 2, 2020: Last date for accepted
applicants to cancel without penalty

March 17, 2020: Orientation Meeting

March 29 - April 3, 2020: Academy is
held

*(Sunday afternoon session begins at 2PM;
Monday through Thursday 8AM-5PM;
Friday 8AM-4PM)*

Questions? Contact:

Kathleen Kelley

Criminal Justice Council

Phone: 302-577-8725

Email: KathleenD.Kelley@delaware.gov

<http://cjc.delaware.gov/dvaa>

