

THE DELAWARE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL PRESENTS



# DELAWARE VICTIM ASSISTANCE ACADEMY

MARCH 23 - 28, 2025

*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.*

## 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.



**"I have a better understanding of what survivors are going through when in trauma and my hope is to truly help them to get what they need"** -2024 Graduate

## GOALS OF THE DVAA

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.

## 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. For more information, visit: <https://cjc.delaware.gov/dvaa/>

## APPLICATION PROCESS

The application period for the 2025 DVAA opens September 16, 2024. A link to the online application is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DVAA2025>. 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 Thursday, November 7, 2024.** 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 early 2025 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 early February 2025. 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.



**I enjoyed the academy. I am proud to have had the opportunity to meet and learn from so many powerful, smart, and creative individuals. I learned a lot I did not know. Thank you!**

2022 DVAA Graduate



**"This was a great experience. I'm glad the DVAA exists. I felt very included, heard, and thoroughly enjoyed my time here." -2024 Graduate**

## 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.

## ACADEMY LOGISTICS & COST

The DVAA is a residential training that takes place over six days and five nights in Sussex County, Delaware. Each accepted student receives a scholarship that covers lodging, breakfast, and lunch for the duration of the training. Dinners are not included. Students are also responsible for their transportation to and from the Academy. By accepting the invitation to attend, participants agree to stay all five nights at the selected venue and commit to attending each session in full. Hotel costs are supported by funding through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime, VOCA Victim Assistance Formula Grant #15POVC-22-GG-00721-ASSI. State funds and agency sponsors provide meals.

In addition to the in-person sessions, students are expected to complete approximately 8 hours of web-based coursework.

## CANCELLATION POLICY

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 cancels after the cancellation deadline (February 21, 2025) and the space cannot be filled, the individual may be billed for the first night of the hotel stay.

If an accepted applicant goes through the orientation process and withdraws during the Academy without sufficient cause, they may be billed by the hotel for their 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.

## ORIENTATION MEETING

A two-hour Pre-Academy Orientation meeting will be held February 19, 2025 in Dover. The orientation meeting provides an overview of the expectations, pre-academy assignments, and an opportunity to meet other students.



**"Not only was this a good way to network, but it was a great way to gain more knowledge on services across the state and learn about current trends"**

2024 Graduate

## CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION

The DVAA is a 48+ hour learning event. The 2025 DVAA is presented in a hybrid model, with 40 hours of coursework in-person and approximately 8 hours virtually.

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.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**November 7, 2024:** Application submission deadline

**January 6 - 17, 2025:** In-person Applicant interviews

**Week of Jan 20, 2025:** Applicants notified of their acceptance status

**January 31, 2025:** Deadline for accepted applicants to confirm their participation

**February 19, 2025:** Orientation Meeting in Dover

**February 21, 2025:** Last date for accepted applicants to cancel without possibility of penalty

**March 17, 2025:** Deadline to complete online coursework

**March 23-28, 2025:** Academy is held

Sunday afternoon session begins at 4PM;

Monday through Thursday 8AM-5PM; Friday 8AM-3PM



*2024 DVAA Graduates*

## QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

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

**Application:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DVAA2025>

## HEALTH & SAFETY

The health and safety of DVAA students and faculty is paramount to creating a safe learning environment.

Students are provided opportunities to engage in self-care and practice the modalities introduced throughout the week. Additionally, DVAA faculty and staff are available to support students throughout the training event.