

## **Summary of Funding Recommendation and Statutory Provisions Related to Victim Witness Grant Program**

It is recommended to the DCJS Criminal Justice Services Board that the County of Rappahannock be awarded an **18-month** grant to fund the application outlined in the OGMS Funding Opportunity #3713 and application #9995 in the amount of **\$118,348**. The award period will be **January 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023**.

Awarding this grant would establish a new Victim Witness Assistance Program in Rappahannock, which has not previously had a program. Upon successful implementation of the project and completion of federal and state compliance monitoring of activities established with the use of this grant, the project may be considered for continuation funding. If approved by the CJSB, this project will be one of 114 local and state victim assistance agencies that serves victims in Virginia.

The Victim Witness Grant Program (VWGP) utilizes federal VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) and state (general and special) funds to award grants to local units of government and state agencies to provide direct services to crime victims and witnesses in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The following provisions are made in the Code of Virginia to ensure the establishment of local and state programs to support crime victims.

### **§9.1-104**

Requires DCJS to establish a grant program to govern funds awarded to local units of government for establishing, operating, and maintaining victim/witness programs.

### **§19.2-11.01**

Requires DCJS grant funded local victim/witness programs to provide the information and assistance required by the Victims Bill of Rights.

### **§19.2-11.1**

Requires DCJS to establish guidelines to implement the provisions of the Victims Bill of Rights and other applicable laws establishing victims' rights. Additionally, local governments that voluntarily establish victim/witness programs funded by DCJS, must operate those programs in accordance with guidelines established by DCJS.

### **§19.2-11.3**

Establishes the Virginia Crime Victim-Witness Fund. This special non-reverting fund is administered by DCJS "to support victim and witness services that meet the minimum standards prescribed for such programs under §19.2-11.1." Additionally, §19.2-11.3 indicates that "[t]he Fund shall be distributed according to grant procedures adopted pursuant to §9.1-104."