



In the aftermath of a crisis in Virginia, there are teams of trained responders ready to assist with the needs of the victims.

What is a Victims Crisis Assistance and Response Team?

The Victims Crisis Assistance and Response Team (VCART) is composed of volunteers trained to provide trauma mitigation and education in the aftermath of a criminal critical incident. Team members have received a minimum of 24 hours of skills-based, field tested training developed by the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA).



Regional vs. State Response

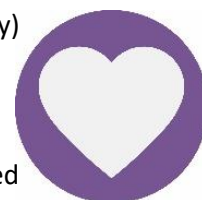
Crisis Response Teams serve specific geographical areas of the Commonwealth of Virginia. These regional teams respond to small-scale criminal events in which assistance is requested from the public or locality.

In the event of a State-Level response after a mass-casualty criminal event, the Crisis Response Teams would be coordinated by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Victims Fund, per [§ 22.1-279.8](#) of the *Code of Virginia*.



What assistance is provided?

- Coordination of victim advocate response
- Provide group and individual crisis intervention services
- Respond to Family Assistance Center (ESF6) to provide assistance (state response only)
- Assist victims in applying for criminal injuries compensation
- Provide support to local Victim-Witness programs that do not have the capacity to provide services to victims in a mass casualty event/critical incident
- Work with the locality to ensure that their policies and procedures are victim-centered and address the needs of victims (short and long term)
- Request federal funding through the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), if applicable (state response only)
- Work with federal consultants to assess the short and long term needs of survivors and the community (state response only)
- Anniversary/Memorial Planning



How is a response requested?

Localities, schools, hospitals, or organizations may use any of the following methods:



Email VCART Program Coordinator at DCJS:
Julia.Fuller-Wilson@dcjs.virginia.gov

Call the Crisis Response Coordinator at DCJS:
(804) 840-4276

Visit the DCJS website to request a response:
<https://bit.ly/ReportEmergency>

Email DCJS:
vacrisisresponse@dcjs.virginia.gov



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