

May 2, 2017
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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NVRDC Receives a Second Year of Support from Community Foundation of National Capital Region

Award Allows Organization to Continue Assisting Victims of Identity Theft

WASHINGTON, May 2, 2017—One in five victims of crimes such as sexual assault, domestic violence, and robbery in the District are also experiencing identity theft vulnerabilities, according to data analyzed by the Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC). Of the 624 various crime victims NVRDC served in the last fiscal year, 21% indicated that their personal identifying information (PII) had been compromised during the commission of the crime.

To address the needs of survivors, NVRDC launched the Identity Theft Assistance Project in 2015. The project works to increase NVRDC's ability to meet the needs of identity theft and fraud victims in the nation's capital, and provide information, assistance and legal services to these consumers. The project was launched with a grant from the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region (CFNCR), through the Identity Theft Assistance Corporation (ITAC) Fund.

This month, NVRDC was notified that the Community Foundation has granted a second round of funding to continue this project into 2018. According to NVRDC Co-Executive Director Bridgette Harwood, "NVRDC is honored to receive funding to continue this important work to address the gaps in service that identity theft victims face in the District."

Since NVRDC's founding, the nonprofit victim service organization has opened its doors to survivors of all crime types, including those impacted by identity theft, fraud, and financial exploitation. When a victim identifies that their PII has been compromised, NVRDC offers supportive case management, advocacy and free legal services to address any potential identity theft and fraud. This may include providing guidance to victims in reporting and halting the identity theft, reporting to law enforcement, obtaining an ID theft report, completing an FTC ID theft affidavit, communicating with credit agencies, exploring legal options, dealing with financial institutions, requesting a "credit freeze," and accessing other options for recovery.

The ITAP project allows NVRDC to ensure services to victims of identity theft are provided by competent staff and partners through a series of internal and external trainings which has elevated the entire community's response to financial crime survivors. This training effort has included producing a roll-call film for the Metropolitan Police Department, which will be seen by all on the force and instructs officers on how to 1) screen for identity theft during the investigation of any crime type 2) fulfill their requirement to provide a police report to victims of identity theft and 3) refer victims to services in the community for assistance in recovery. The project has also allowed NVRDC to provide training to over 100 advocates and allied professionals on screening and referring victims of domestic violence who have compromised PII.

NVRDC looks forward to continuing and growing the project in the coming year. For more information on the ITAP project, please visit: www.nvrdc.org/projects.

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About NVRDC

Network for Victim Recovery of DC empowers victims of all crimes to achieve survivor defined justice through a collaborative continuum of advocacy, case management, and legal services. Learn more about NVRDC and the Identity Theft Assistance Project at www.nvrdc.org.