

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 31, 2019

NVRDC selected in inaugural group of Department of Justice funded sites to increase access to justice for crime victims

WASHINGTON, DC--Today, the Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC), an organization that empowers victims of all crimes in DC to achieve survivor-defined justice, became one of the first organizations in the nation to receive funding from the [National Crime Victim Law Institute \(NCVLI\)](#) through the U.S. Department of Justice's *Rights In Systems Enforced Project (RISE)*, which will increase DC crime victims' access to no-cost legal services and support.

Since its founding in 2012, NVRDC has been on the frontlines of supporting victims of all crimes in DC by providing survivors with critical services, including 24/7 sexual assault crisis response advocacy, case management, and free legal services. In just 7 years, the team has served more than 3,300 victims in DC.

In October 2018, NCVLI was awarded a cooperative agreement from the U.S. Department of Justice, [Office for Victims of Crime \(OVC\)](#), to enhance victim access to legal assistance to assert and seek enforcement of their rights throughout criminal justice proceedings. The RISE Project includes NCVLI subgranting to six direct legal service legal clinics, which will provide no cost legal services to victims, as well as conduct trainings and awareness-raising events regarding victims' rights enforcement. In addition to NVRDC, NCVLI selected Arizona Voice for Crime Victims, Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, Legal Aid of Broward County, Michigan Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence, and Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center.

"The thought of engaging in legal systems following the traumatic experience of victimization is often overwhelming, which is why NVRDC provides support and services to survivors not only in the immediate aftermath of a crime, but also throughout their recovery," said Bridgette Stumpf, Executive Director and Co-Founder of NVRDC. "We know the devastating long-term effects unaddressed traumas can have on families and communities which is why we are incredibly honored that NCVLI and the Department of Justice have chosen to support NVRDC's critical work supporting the DC community."

"Victims' rights have existed for decades but too often victims do not know they have rights, and even when they are aware of them, they do not know how to activate them," said Meg Garvin, Executive Director of NCVLI. "The *Rise* Project will ensure victims can access no cost attorneys to secure their rights so that they can meaningfully participate."

NVRDC's project will be carried out in partnership with eight other local providers and you can follow their progress by visiting the [Project webpage](#).

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The Network for Victim Recovery of DC's mission is to empower victims of all crimes to achieve survivor-defined justice through a collaborative continuum of advocacy, case management and legal services. By providing wraparound services that address the totality of an individual's needs, NVRDC prioritizes holistic, multidisciplinary approaches to serving victims of all types of crime in Washington, DC. To learn more about NVRDC, please visit www.nvrdc.org.