

# OYA Victim Engagement Program

## Elevating Victim Voices in the Juvenile Justice System

January 2026



## Victim Engagement Program

In 2024, OYA established a Victim Engagement Program (VEP) to ensure community victims' voices are heard and their needs addressed.

At the core of the work is considering victims' safety, understanding the trauma they've experienced, and ensuring they have a meaningful role in the process.

## Foundational Principles

- **Victim-Centered:** VEP offers support, transparency, and consistent communication, empowering victims and survivors to navigate the juvenile justice system.
- **Restorative Justice-Oriented:** VEP integrates a restorative justice approach to bring together those affected by a specific harm to collectively understand what happened, acknowledge impact, identify needs, and work toward healing and accountability.
- **Culturally Responsive.** VEP works to:
  - hire a diverse staff to provide engagement opportunities that are by and for the communities we serve
  - prioritize language access and inclusive materials
  - partner with culturally specific organizations to refer victims and survivors to for ongoing advocacy and services as needed

### OUR MISSION

OYA protects the public and reduces crime by holding youth accountable and providing opportunities for reformation in safe environments.

### OUR VISION

Youth who leave OYA go on to lead productive, crime-free lives.

## Core Services

- Informing community victims on their legal rights and assistance in exercising their rights to notification (e.g., hearings, placement transitions, releases)
- Systems navigation and court accompaniment
- Connecting with victims on safety needs related to youth transitions and paroling back to community
- Providing comprehensive post-adjudication support through resource identification, application assistance, and coordinated referrals to services that address emotional, financial, and practical impacts of victimization

## Our Approach

- Program focuses on community victims of youth committed to OYA youth correctional facilities, especially victims of serious person-to-person offenses
- In new commitments, advocates collaborate with Juvenile Parole and Probation Officers (JPPOs) and county advocates to ensure a seamless transition of support for victims
- Victim perspectives are shared with case teams to inform youth treatment planning, placement decisions, and restorative justice engagement

## Partnerships

- Oregon Department of Justice's Crime Victims Compensation Program
- Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision
- Community Restorative Justice organizations
- County system-based advocacy programs
- Community based advocacy programs

## Contact Us



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[oregon.gov/oya/victims](https://oregon.gov/oya/victims)

