

Welcome!
Statewide Safety Council
August 26, 2026, Meeting

Executive Order

On December 16, 2025, Governor Walz issued Executive Order 2025-13 establishing the Governor's Statewide Safety Council. This initiative responds to a series of tragic events in Minnesota in recent years and reflects a commitment to convene leaders from state government, academic institutions, and non-profit organizations to develop actionable recommendations that will inform policy and strengthen the existing legal framework to enhance public safety statewide.

Preliminary report due: April 6, 2026

Final report due: January 6, 2027

Council objectives



The Safety Council's objectives are to:

- a. Develop an immediate **action plan** to prevent mass violence, targeted attacks, and domestic terrorism;
- b. **Recommend strategies** to combat radicalization, domestic terrorism, politically motivated violence, and extremist ideologies;
- c. Address **the intersection** of mental health and gun violence;
- d. **Promote and support** Threat Assessment and Threat Management Teams across Minnesota;
- e. **Coordinate with federal, state, and local partners** to align efforts and share best practices;
- f. Make **policy and funding recommendations** to the Governor;
- g. Meet monthly or at the call of the chair;
- h. Submit a preliminary report to the Governor **within 90 days**; and
- i. Submit a final report to the Governor **within 365 days**

Operating Agreements

- **Speak your own truth.** Share your perspective without generalizing or speaking for others.
- **Assume best intent.** Give each other the benefit of the doubt and ask for clarification when you aren't sure of intent. Offer "do-over" opportunities if a comment lands differently than intended and take responsibility for your impact.
- **Center trauma experience.** Acknowledge the impact of those experiences on how you or others might engage in your conversations.
- **Build connections.** Actively work to build relationships with members you don't know well.
- **Share the air.** Balance listening and speaking. Make space for others to contribute. Allow people to finish their thought.
- **When here, focus here.** Avoid multitasking and minimize distractions to stay fully engaged during meetings. If you must step out for an unexpected demand for your attention, do so quickly and flag the facilitators if you want us to follow up with you after the meeting to get caught up.
- **Be responsible.** Take ownership of meeting preparation, accessing necessary information, completing special assignments, and staying connected with your constituents.
- **Safe conversations for meetings.** Voting Council members should not engage in discussions about pending decisions with other members outside official meetings. Engaging in these conversations outside of meetings can lead to Open Meeting Law violations.
- **Honor the critical and urgent nature of this work for which we are all responsible.** Attend or send your alternate. Lean in on the between meeting tasks asked of you.

Message to observing public



Refrain from *any* behavior that disrupts the orderly conduct of the Council's work.



Public comment periods will not be part of these meeting procedures. If you wish to engage members in conversations before or after meetings or during meeting breaks, first ask if they have the time. Their conversations with other members must always take precedence.



If you have any logistical concerns such as access to meeting materials or ability to hear, connect with the meeting planners/facilitators (Kris, Stacy, or Julie) during a break.

Meeting topic cadence

March:	Mental health, illness, and suicide
April:	Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM)
May:	Social media, radicalization, and child protection online
June:	School violence
July:	Political and religious extremism and violence
August:	Victim, survivors, trauma, and aftercare
Sept:	Firearms

Oct – Dec: plan development and alignment

Today's agenda and objectives

Rational objective:

- Learn about victims, survivors, victim services, trauma and resiliency in Minnesota.
- Suggest potential Council recommendations that could improve safety in Minnesota.

Experiential objective:

- Members feel confident they can weigh in on draft recommendations related to the session topic and suggest enhancements unique to their agency/organization.

Agenda

- Welcome and announcements
- Introduction to victim services
- Victim Services after mass victimization incidents
- Existing recommendations and gap identification
- Discussion
- Closing activities
- Adjourn

Two-hour meeting – no break!

A simple act of free-form sharing to help draw your focus to this work and away from other demands on your time and attention. As a full group, members “tap in” by sharing their answer to this question:

From the perspective of your organization/agency, what are the benefits of victim and survivor services?



Victim Services in Mass Victimization Incidents: Response, Recovery, Resiliency

Minnesota Office of Justice Programs

- OJP provides leadership and resources to:
 - Reduce crime
 - Improve the criminal justice system
 - Assist crime victims
 - Office for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives
 - Office for Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls
- OJP supports victims and survivors of violent crime across the state
 - This work is not specific to mass shootings or targeted violence, but all violent crime

Introduction to Victim Services

- After a crime occurs, victims/survivors and their families may experience challenges navigating the criminal and civil legal systems, financial hardship, difficulty in school or work, mental health issues, housing instability, substance use, chronic illness, immediate and lifelong trauma, and more.
- Resources are available to victims and their families to meet their needs in the aftermath of a crime.
- These resources can increase stability, identify safety options, and develop paths to recovery and healing for victims.

Why Victim Services

- When survivors have access to meaningful support, they have a greater opportunity to break the cycle of trauma before it leads to further harm.
- Supporting survivors strengthens public safety. When victims feel supported, they are more likely to trust law enforcement, report violence, seek help, and take steps toward safety and recovery.
- Community safety begins with individual safety. When survivors' immediate and long-term needs are addressed, communities are better positioned to heal, prevent further violence, and thrive.

Overview: OJP Victim Services Infrastructure

- **Crime Victim Services Grants:** direct services to victims of crime.
- **Minnesota Crime Victims Reimbursement Program:** financial assistance to victims
- **Community and Victim Specialists:** connect victims to resources and support
- **Crime Victim Justice Unit (CVJU):** crime victim rights
- **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives, Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls offices:** provide direct support to victims and families
- **Minnesota Statistical Analysis Center (MNSAC):** increased understanding of victimization

CVS Grants: Support Services for Crime Victims

- OJP administers over \$60m in grant funding annually to a network of 175 community-based organizations, tribal governments, and local governments that provide direct services to victims of crime throughout Minnesota.
- Services include:
 - crisis intervention
 - safety planning
 - emotional support
 - accessing basic needs such as temporary emergency housing
 - medical accompaniment
 - criminal and civil legal support

Crime Victim Reimbursement Program

- Provides financial assistance to victims of violent crime and their families. The program reimburses victims and their families for out-of-pocket losses that were a direct result of a crime.
- Victims of violent crime may suffer financial stress as devastating as their physical injuries and emotional trauma.
- Recovering from violence or abuse is difficult enough without having to worry about how to pay for the costs of medical care and counseling, or about how to replace lost income due to disability or death.
- Critical financial safety net for victims

OJP Community and Victim Specialists

- This unit works to connect individuals and communities across Minnesota to crime victim services and provide direct assistance to communities experiencing acute violence or crisis.
- When OJP becomes aware of a particular incident of violent crime, this team works to ensure the victim, family, and witnesses access crime victim services through OJP grantees and access resources available through the CVRP.
- The team is available to law enforcement, community organizations, and other system partners to help connect victims and families to victim services assistance.
- This team is a trusted resource because of their sustained relationship and partnership building.

- Crime Victims in Minnesota have rights.
- The Crime Victim Justice Unit at OJP ensures a crime victim's rights are upheld and assists victims of crime interacting with the criminal justice system
- Trains victim service and criminal justice professionals on crime victim rights
- Provides guidance and referral to crime victims seeking assistance

System-Based Victim Services

- System-based victim services professionals are found in law enforcement agencies, prosecutor offices, courts, corrections and probation.
- System-based advocates are employees of the agency they work for. As such, they can provide:
 - Explanation of the criminal justice process and the victim or family's role in it
 - Updates on the status of the investigation or criminal case
 - Accompaniment through the criminal justice process including depositions, court dates, trial, and sentencing.

Overview of Recovery, Resiliency, Survivorship

- Recovery is an ongoing process of healing physically, emotionally, financially, socially, and spiritually.
- Recovery includes: physical recovery, mental health recovery, medical care, financial stability, housing stability, employment stability, education stability, family functioning stability
- Recovery does not have an endpoint.
- People may revisit recovery throughout their lives and as they are healing after mass violence.

- Community recovery includes rebuilding trust, connection, safety, and belonging.
- Community recovery involves:
 - Schools
 - Faith communities
 - Businesses
 - Neighborhoods
 - Healthcare systems
 - Public safety agencies
 - Social networks
 - Cultural spaces

Financial Recovery a part of Victim Recovery

- Financial recovery is an important part of victim recovery.
- Mass violence creates financial consequences long after physical recovery including:
 - medical debt, lost wages, job loss, reduced earning capacity, changing transportation needs costs, changing childcare needs/costs, changing housing needs/costs, legal expenses, long-term disability

- Resilience is the ability to adapt, rebuild, and continue living while carrying the impact of trauma.
- Examples include:
 - Returning to school
 - Parenting after trauma
 - Learning to trust again
 - Rebuilding routines
 - Participating in anniversaries
 - Choosing advocacy—or choosing privacy
- Resilience is supported by connection, safety, stability, and hope.

- Survivorship means living beyond the violence.
- It recognizes that individuals continue to build meaningful lives while carrying the effects of trauma.
- Survivorship includes:
 - Growth
 - Adaptation
 - Ongoing challenges
 - Changing needs across the lifespan: children becoming adults, parents aging, new family milestones.
- Recovery evolves and support must meet each stage in this process.

Victim Services after Mass Victimization Incidents

OJP Response: Mass Victimization Incidents

- OJP mobilizes to partner with community, victim service providers, law enforcement, community organizations, emergency management, and the Crime Victim Reimbursement Program.
- OJP works to understand the needs of the victims, their families, and the surrounding communities and provide resources and supports.
- Needs and Response, Recovery, and Resiliency Looks Different
 - Hortman/Hoffman, June 2025
 - Annunciation, August 2025
 - Lake Street: September 2025
 - Minneapolis/St. Paul: July 2026
 - Hopkins Day Care: August 2026

Things to consider during the first few days after a mass victimization event

- Not everyone will feel safe coming to a designated space for information
 - Anxiety, general feeling of not being safe, distrust, and timing
 - Access to transportation, childcare
- In instances where children are involved, consider the impact of an event and the disruption to a child's daily routine
 - For many children, disruptions can lead to distress, emotional outbursts, or shutdown. This can happen even without a traumatic event.
 - If unable to go to school, will children have access to medical care, therapeutic and emotional services, food and housing.

- A secure, safe, and private place for surviving victims to reconnect with their family members and other loved ones.
- A secure, private space for law enforcement, victim services, and behavioral/ mental health professionals to gather information from families that can help with victim identification; provide timely death notifications to family members of those killed in the MVI; provide trauma notification and hospital information to family members of those who are injured; and provide information about the missing and located status of victims.
- Support to victims to submit applications for crime victim compensation that can help them cover some of the financial costs associated with the MVI.
- Initial information and referral services to community-based support and services for survivors and family members.

Response and Recovery Needs: First Several Weeks

Family/Neighborhood Assistance Center

- Provide victims, survivors, and family members an opportunity to draw support from each other and obtain a wide range of services.
- Victim and community service providers is available to help victims identify and address many needs, including:
 - Mental or behavioral health needs
 - Social service or victim/survivor service needs
 - Legal or financial needs
 - Spiritual needs
 - Information about victims' rights and crime victim compensation

Recovery and Resiliency Needs: First Several Years

Resiliency Center

- Offer supportive and victim navigation services to strengthen individual and community resilience.
- Connecting to and/or provide victims with trauma-focused behavioral/mental health services.
- Offer programs for individuals and groups that address victim impact and trauma and seek to create resiliency.
- Educate the impacted community about the long-term individual and community impact of MVIs.

Guiding Principles for Response, Recovery, Resiliency

- Nothing should be designed for survivors without survivors.
- No system should prescribe support without listening to the needs of impacted individuals.
- We ask. We listen. We partner.
- Listening to lived experience informs policy, program development, victim services, research, public education, community planning.
- Rather than telling people what they need, we create opportunities for survivors to tell us what they need.

Recommendations

Recommendations for Consideration

- Stable State Funding for Crime Victim Services
- Fund Victim Response, Recovery, and Resiliency Services and Supports for Communities
- Equip communities to build victim response, recovery, and resiliency into their mass victimization incident response plans.
- Equip schools *and community spaces* to support children exposed to gun violence
 - OJP, HSEM School Safety Center, MDE, and others can provide planning support for schools, faith-based spaces, and communities to build victim-centered response, recovery, and resiliency plans that include planning for long-term effects of exposure to gun violence.



Large group discussion:

What cross-agency (or agency-organization) connections must be in place to better respond to people impacted in mass victimization incidences?

Tap out question

Round robin (we realize some of you aren't directly involved in victim/survivor services, so it is okay to pass today to allow more time for those members that have information from their experience to share with this tap out question):

From your organization/agency perspective, what are the primary challenges are you experiencing relative to how you approach victim/survivor support?



Assignment

You will receive draft victims, survivors, victim services, trauma, and resiliency recommendations by next Tuesday (9/1). Please provide your gradients feedback by EOD Wednesday (9/9).

September 24 meeting

- Firearms
- Location: New Brighton Public Safety Building

