



FBI San Diego Citizens Academy Alumni Association Victim Assistance Project (VAP)

About the Organization

The **FBI San Diego Citizens Academy** was founded in 2001 in an effort to establish and foster relationships between the FBI San Diego District Office and the community. Since then, the FBI San Diego Citizens Academy has assisted the Bureau to extend its reach into the community, graduating 20 classes with more than 500 participants. The **FBI San Diego Citizens Academy Alumni Association** (FBISDCAAA) is a non-profit organization separate and apart from the FBI. Our work is in alignment with FBI San Diego Division's priorities, capabilities, needs, and objectives.

Victim Services

The mission of the FBI Victim Services Division is to inform, support, and assist victims in navigating the aftermath of crime and the criminal justice process with dignity and resilience. Victim Specialists ensure that victims of crimes investigated by the FBI are provided their rights and are connected to necessary/critical support, services, and resources. Victim assistance is available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.

FBI Victim Specialists work with a network of local non-profits and other service providers to help victims and their families cope with the impact of trauma resulting from violent crimes, crimes against children, human trafficking, hate crimes, white collar and cyber crimes which may cause emotional, financial, behavioral, and psychological distress. While there are a variety of programs dedicated to supporting victims of these crimes, there is often a gap in scope and time when these resources or services are not immediately available. The **FBISDCAAA Victim Assistance Project** is intended to bridge this gap and provide discretionary funding and services to help meet the critical needs of victims and assist in reducing the effects of trauma.

The FBISDCAAA Victim Assistance Project has two components:

The **Emergency Victim Assistance Fund** gathers donations from corporate sponsors and individuals to address immediate needs of victims, which may include:

- Clothes for a rape victim when investigators must collect their clothes for DNA testing
- Suitcases for victims of human trafficking who have nothing but a trash bag to carry their belongings
- Lodging/accommodations and/or transportation for individuals and families fleeing violent situations
- Dental or medical procedures for victims of torture and abuse
- Meals for a community/congregation victimized by a hate crime

Community members and FBISDCA alumni can host a "drive" to collect needed items, such as: toiletries and "hope bags"; small suitcases and backpacks; blankets/throws, slipper socks; gift/food cards; coloring books, journals; and clothes, sweat pants and tops, socks, and undergarments.

The **Emergency Victim Assistance Services** component is a list of FBISDCAAA alumni and local businesses that are willing to provide a pro bono service or assistance to crime victims. Examples include:

- Dental or medical treatment, including plastic surgery, tattoo removal
- Legal and funeral services
- Lodging/accommodations
- Transportation and relocation assistance (Uber/Lyft, transit pass, air travel)
- Clinician services (e.g., counseling, mental health, therapy)
- Restaurant meal preparation/delivery
- Venue use/meeting space for family assistance/resource center

Learn more about the FBISDCAAA Victim Assistance Project at fbisdcaaa.com or donate on [GoFundMe.com](https://www.gofundme.com).