



**ILLINOIS
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

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NEWS

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ICJIA Announces \$1.9 Million Program to Provide Immediate Assistance to Survivors of Homicide Victims

CHICAGO—May 13, 2014. Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) Executive Director Jack Cutrone today announced a \$1.9 million grant program that provides immediate services to families of homicide victims.

The Association for Individual Development (AID) will provide a system of accessible, comprehensive and culturally competent services that address the families' practical and psychological needs after losing a loved one to homicide. With this grant, AID will establish and maintain a 24/7 hotline and respond to the scene of a death investigation within two hours of being summoned by participating law enforcement agencies.

“This program will strengthen law enforcement and victim partnerships, providing families with near-immediate services as they begin to face the loss of a loved one to homicide,” said ICJIA Executive Director Jack Cutrone.

AID Victim Service Program responders will:

- Meet with designated law enforcement officials to establish a line of communication and gain information for victim families.
- Coordinate and deliver death notification to surviving family members.
- Inform the family on the process of a death investigation and facilitating and enhance communication among families and investigators.

AID is a community-based, non-profit, organization that has been providing services to individuals with special needs in suburban Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, and Will counties since 1961. This grant allows expansion of services in the Cook County region.

No other program in the region provides comprehensive services specific to the families of homicide victims.

AID workers will arrange for immediate necessities, such as retrieving belongings from the scene of the crime, arranging for crime scene clean-up, and assisting families with funeral planning. Transportation and referrals to social, financial, mental health, or medical services also is provided by the program.

AID staff will provide and receive training on providing culturally competent services, serving survivors of homicides, supporting children who experience trauma, compassion fatigue, and other areas, as directed by the Death Penalty Abolition Fund Advisory Board. The staff also will train officers on effective strategies for police engagement with crime victims.

In 2011, remaining monies in the Capital Litigation Trust Fund were transferred into the Death Penalty Abolition Fund to be expended by ICJIA for services for families of victims of homicide or murder and for training of law enforcement personnel.

ICJIA is dedicated to improving the administration of criminal justice with work in the areas of grants administration, research and analysis, policy and planning, and information systems and technology. Visit www.icjia.state.il.us for more information.

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