LADA VICTIM-WITNESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SERVICESThe LADA Victim-Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) assists qualifying victims of crimes of violence or threat of violence with direct victim services and compensation assistance, whether or not a criminal case is filed or a suspect is identified. VWAP’s mandate is to alleviate the trauma and the frequently devastating effects of crimes of violence on the lives of victims, witnesses, and their families. Victim Services Representatives (VSRs) work in courthouses and police stations throughout Los Angeles County providing an array of services to help victims become survivors. Because VSRs are located at numerous sites throughout the county, crime victims and their families are assisted as closely as possible to their home. VSRs represent the multi-cultural, diverse population of the county and have undergone special training to effectively assess victims’ service needs and make appropriate referrals to other service providers for continuing service needs. VSRs also have specialized training to assist the elderly, children, survivors of sexual assault or domestic violence, and those who have been victimized by gang violence. VSRs are available who speak Spanish, Cantonese, Korean, Japanese, Russian, Tagalog, and Armenian. PC §13835.5 sets forth mandatory services for victims of crimes of violence. VWAP provides all of these services.

Crisis InterventionFuneral/Burial arrangementsCrime scene clean up referralsRelocation assistanceHome securityFamily or work notification

Assistance obtaining restraining ordersEmergency Assistance

Assist with replacing prescriptions, glasses, denturesReferral to food banksHousing – shelter referral

Counseling Resources and referralsMedical or Dental

Mental Health

Orientation to the Criminal Justice SystemOrientation to courtVINE notificationCourt Escort /SupportCase Status/ Disposition

Victim Impact StatementAssistance in determining restitution owed by the defendantReturn of PropertyCDCR 1707 FormCalifornia Victim Compensation Program

VSRs also assist victims of crimes of violence applying to the California VictimCompensation Program (CalVCP) for reimbursement of crime related losses. Victims who have suffered physical or emotional injury or threat of injury during a crime are eligible to apply whether or not a suspect is identified or a criminal case is filed. This program is funded through criminal defendant’s restitution fines. CalVCP reimburses victims of violent crimes for the following crime related losses:o Reimbursement for all crime related losses, except personal property and painand suffering.o Max benefit is $63,000 per victim, per crime.o Victim can be reimbursed before conviction and without any apprehension ofthe suspect. If convicted, the defendant should be ordered to repay fund.o Victim must cooperate with law enforcement and prosecutors.o Victim can not have participated in crime, or be on probation or parole.o Victims should apply within one year of the date of the crime. o Can apply for reimbursement of all crime related losses including mentalhealth counseling, medical and dental expenses, loss of wages or support,funeral/burial expenses, job retraining and rehabilitation, crime scene clean up, relocation and home security.

The Claims Verification Unit is part of VWAP and is housed in administrative offices in El Monte. The Claims Verification Unit is contracted by the CalVCP to determine eligibility of crime victims in Los Angeles to receive compensation for crime related losses. Established in 1965, CalVCP was the first such program in the nation and continues to be also sustained by fines collected from convicted criminal defendants.

CalVCP’s website is www.calvcp.ca.gov. A list of eligible benefits is listed above.Records of victims’ compensation claims are confidential. All defense attorney and public inquires about the victims’ claim and/or payment, other than for court ordered restitution purposes, should be directed to the Legal Counsel at CalVCP