**Victim Assistance Grants 101**

Victim Assistance Services have long been an underfunded if not unfunded mandate in prosecutor’s offices. This fact coupled with local, state and federal budget cuts makes it essential to be aware of funding opportunities.

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP), a division of the US Department of Justice has a new Web site to provide basic information about state and federal funding opportunities and the steps involved in applying for grants: <http://www.ojp.gov/grants101/>. This is a good overview for anyone thinking of applying or reapplying for a state or federal grant.

Over the past 10 years, OJP has provided 52,000 funding awards to the criminal justice community totaling more than $26 billion. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2009, OJP awarded 4,900 grants totaling more than $2.5 billion. In FY 2009, OJP also awarded an additional 3,883 Recovery Act grants totaling more than $2.74 billion to state and local and tribal law enforcement and community organizations.