



CAP TIPs is a series of periodic messages to assist in the planning and implementation of NCVRW Community Awareness Projects. Please feel free to send your individual questions or requests for assistance to Anne Seymour at [annesey@atlantech.net](mailto:annesey@atlantech.net)

## **CAP TIP #7**

### ***To Improve Public Awareness***

### **Corrections and NCVRW**

#### **Introduction**

For the first time ever, the five leading national agencies and organizations that promote victims' rights and services in the post-sentencing phases of their cases have joined together and published "*Creative Ideas for Institutional and Community to Partner with Crime Victim Assistance Agencies to Promote 2016 National Crime Victims' Rights Week.*"

The five co-sponsors of this Project include:

- American Correctional Association Victims and Restorative Justice Committee
- American Probation and Parole Association Victim Issues Committee
- Association of Paroling Authorities International, Victims Committee
- National Association of Victim Assistance in Corrections (NAVAC, formerly National Association of Victim Service Professionals in Corrections)
- National Institute of Corrections, Network of Post-Conviction Victim Service Providers

These five groups surveyed their members in 2015 and developed an impressive list of ideas that, in past years, promoted partnerships between correctional agencies and victim services, and promoted the NCVRW theme, in six categories:

1. Correctional clients' fundraising for victim services
2. Victim/survivor awareness and programming
3. Correctional staff education
4. Direct victim and community support
5. Educational programs
6. Media relations and public awareness

Once you review this document, you'll find that state and county-level correctional agencies have been proactive partners in promoting past NCVRWs. We hope that you will be able to use some of these ideas to support your 2016 NCVRW activities and special events.

You can access and download the "*Creative Ideas*" document from the National Institute of Corrections library at <http://nicic.gov/library/031511>.

### **How to Reach Out to Correctional Agencies**

All state-level adult and juvenile correctional agencies and paroling authorities, along with many county-level community corrections agencies, have recently received this "*Creative Ideas*" document.

At the state level, a good place to start is by reaching out to the victim services programs within your state's Department of Corrections (in 49 states), Department of Juvenile Corrections (in approximately 20 states), and paroling authorities in most states. Most of these contacts are identified in the NAVAC (formerly NAVSPIC) Member Directory, available online at <http://www.navspic.org/PDF/NAVSPIC%20National%20Directory%20online%2062714.pdf>.

In most states, adult and juvenile probation (also sometimes called "community corrections") is a county-level function. You can go online to your County's website, and search for "adult probation," "juvenile probation," or "community corrections" to identify the correct agency. If your county-level agencies have a victim assistance program, that is the best place to start and, if not, you can reach out to the Executive Office personnel and ask for the best contact.

It's helpful to first identify if the correctional agency has received the "*Creative Ideas*" document and, if not, to provide them with it. It's also a good idea to select *a few specific ideas* for your 2016 NCVRW partnership; for example:

- Have correctional clients with community service obligations affix theme-colored ribbons to 2016 NCVRW Pin Cards (Pin Card artwork available in the OVC Resource Guide), for distribution to participants at NCVRW special events and activities
- Ask the Chief community corrections officer(s) to speak at your public event during NCVRW
- Set up a NCVRW victim awareness display in the agencies' reception area or training room
- Ask agencies to join a social media campaign during NCVRW, with the hashtag **#Corrections4VictimServices**

### **For More Information**

Please contact National Crime Victims' Rights Week Community Awareness Project Consultant Anne Seymour via email at [annesey@atlantech.net](mailto:annesey@atlantech.net); or by telephone at 202.547.1732.