



The Texas Victim Services Association is seeking applications from interested law enforcement departments, prosecutors' offices and non-profit advocacy organizations that would like to participate in its **Texas Victim Friendly Initiative (TVFI) pilot project**. With funding through the Governor's Public Safety Office, TVSA can provide this opportunity to six organizations at no cost.

Organizations will receive:

- Access and guided facilitation through the TVFI Organizational Self-Assessment tool.
- Individualized coaching, technical assistance, and resources on improving victim-centered and trauma-informed care.
- Opportunity for certification as a Victim Friendly Agency by TVSA.

What is the Texas Victim Friendly Initiative (TVFI)?

TVFI is a quality improvement program targeted at assisting law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices and non-profit advocacy organizations to become more trauma-informed.

How does the program work?

The cornerstone of the TVFI process is the TVFI Organizational Self-Assessment. Designed to measure an organization's environment, policies and practices related to victim care and interactions, the self-assessment reflects best practices of trauma-informed care, Texas Crime Victims' Rights and Office for Victims of Crime model standards.

The Self-Assessment addresses the following key areas:

- Leadership and Governance
- Policy
- Physical Environment
- Cross-Sector Collaboration
- Victim Interventions and Interactions
- Training and Staff Development
- Program Evaluation
- Crime Victims' Rights

Once the Self-Assessment is completed, organizations are supported through a 12-month period of coaching and technical assistance in the areas identified by the organization as highest priority. At the end of the 12 months, organizations have the opportunity for TVSA certification as a Victim Friendly Agency.

My organization is already certified or accredited. Why should I participate?

While other certification and licensing programs exist, TVFI's focus on trauma-informed care sets it apart. This focus provides solutions to some of the challenges faced by victim serving organizations:

- victims that make contact once, but then stop engaging with the agency;
- victims that do not share all information or are not always completely honest; or
- staff that do not recognize 'problem' behaviors as signs of trauma.

The TVFI program is highly focused and targeted to address missed opportunities to provide trauma-informed care and improve case outcomes. Not only is that good for victims, but when victims' needs are recognized and respected, victims are more likely to seek and participate in services, including the criminal justice system.

What is trauma-informed care?

Trauma-informed care or trauma-informed services are services designed specifically to avoid retraumatizing those who come seeking assistance as well as those that provide services. Services seek "safety first" and commit themselves to "do no harm." - Roger Fallot, PhD and Maxine Harris, PhD.

How do I apply for the pilot project?

The pilot will be conducted with six organizations: two from law enforcement, two from prosecution, and two from the non-profit sector. **Applications are being accepted through December 7th and all applicants will be notified of selection decisions by December 18th.** To apply as a TVFI pilot project participant please click here: <http://www.txvsa.org/event-4044974>