One of the most challenging cases we have come across occurred last Christmas, at the height of the pandemic.

A woman and her four children, all of whom were under ten years old, were staying at a shelThe Department of Crime Victim Assistance Grants (DCVAG) has been working on evaluating applications for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and the State Victim Assistance Program (SVAP) grant funds. This

VOCA award is \$17.2 million, which is a significant decrease from the \$25.9 million we received in 2020 and the \$34.7 million received in 2019.

As a result of cautious management of the VOCA program in recent years, some unobligated funds are available as well to help mitigate this federal decrease.

award will be \$2.4 million which is basically the same as the

anticipated to be approximately \$600,000.

After the Department completes

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Chalk this article up to Pandemic brain or moments of introspection, but I have spent some of my aging gray matter contemplating why we do what we do. Put another way, why does our society -through our government - provide special financial benefits to citizens of our state who have been victims of crime?

I think the heart of why we devote significant resources to help crime victims is because of how our criminal justice system is set up. Crime victims are a very unique class of individuals in our criminal justice system. They are the injured party and yet they are not a party to the criminal case.

The Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution reads as follows: In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to

have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

Nowhere in this Amendment or any other Amendment to the United States Constitution are crime victims and their rights in the criminal justice system mentioned. So basically the state through the court system is the party that prosecutes the case and the alleged offender is the other party as the defendant.

Essentially by giving the state the responsibility for prosecuting crimes in concert with law enforcement who charge the crimes, the state is saying to the

your back. On behalf of society

bility of protecting you, and then when you are injured or killed by crime, we will prosecute the of-

But what happens when the

zens? What happens when restitution is not requested, ordered, or enforced? What happens when the victim loses their job, their house or their savings because of a crime that the state

## Psoriasis Awareness Month

https:// www.consumerhealthd igest.com/ healthawareness/ psoriasisawarenessmonth.html

Awareness Month is a public health and awareness campaign sponsored by the National Psoriasis Foundation for educating the public, raising awareness and dispelling myths about the disease. Psoriasis is a chronic, noncontagious, genetic autoimmune disease that causes red, scaly patches on the skin. It can also crack, itch and bleed. It is actually the most common among all the autoimmune diseases in the United States and it affects approximately 7.5 million people in the US.

The main goal of the public health and awareness campaign is to raise awareness, encourage research and advocate for better care for individuals who have psoriasis. It is also for educating the public about the

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National Cholesterol Awareness Month

https://www.cdc.gov/ cholesterol cholesteol education month. htm

Children, young adults and older Americans can have high cholesterol. High cholesterol usually

symptoms. As a result, many people do not know that their cholesterol levels are too high. High cholesterol can be controlled through lifestyle changes or if it is not enough, through medications.

check your cholesterol levels. High cholesterol is a major risk factor for heart disease, the leading cause of death in the United States.

September is National Cholesterol Education Month, a good time to get your blood cholesterol checked and take steps to lower it if it is high. National Cholesterol Education Month is also a good time to learn about lipid profiles and about food and lifestyle choices that help you reach personal cholesterol goals.

(continued from page 2)

<u>UNITED HOUSING CONNECTIONS</u> (UHC)

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