

**Ministry of the
Attorney General**

Victims and Vulnerable Persons
Division

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**Ministère du
Procureur général**

Division des services aux victimes et
aux personnes vulnérables

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April 28, 2020

Dear Stakeholder,

The health and well-being of Ontarians is the government's number one priority and we continue to monitor and respond to the evolving situation on COVID-19 based on the advice and guidance provided by the Ministry of Health, Chief Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Officials. We are aware that your organization is re-focussing activities and resources in response to the current public health situation in Ontario. At this time the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG) is providing a number of key financial supports with the goal of allowing as much financial flexibility as possible to allow you the discretion to focus on the safety, health and well-being of your staff and your clients.

If your organization received time-limited or project-based funding that was tied to specific deliverables or milestones in 2019-20 and these may need to be deferred to 2020-21 as a result of impacts related to COVID-19, those issues will be addressed on a case by case basis.

For the period of April 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020 you have the flexibility to shift funding within your organization and across your program areas to focus on critical services and needs. The ministry will not hold programs to caps on administrative spending and other contract elements and will allow you to move funding within your organization's allocation to address specific local needs related to health and safety and critical operational needs during this time.

For the period of April 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020 the ministry will not hold you accountable to meet predefined service targets or performance measures where they exist. Instead, you will be required to report on the progress of these elements including the TPR Q4 report for 2019-20 and 2019-20 year-end reconciliation in Q2 of 2020-21. This information will be used to support ongoing transparency and accountability measures required of the Treasury Board Secretariat.

For extraordinary expenses incurred in 2019-20 as a result of the current situation, please ensure that you maintain adequate documentation including purpose of expense, invoices etc.). The ministry is working on a process to address these extraordinary expenses.

The Ministry of the Attorney General is working with partners across the justice sector system to put measures in place to address the current public health situation and prevent the spread of COVID-19 while ensuring access continues to critical front-line services.

We encourage you to stay in touch with your designated ministry contact and inform them of any significant changes to your operations during this time. We thank you and appreciate your cooperation and support as we continue to navigate these challenging circumstances.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Lipman', written in a cursive style.

Vivienne Lipman
Director, Ontario Victim Services