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1 October Survivors Have 2 Months Left to Apply to Nevada Victims of Crime Program

Wednesday, Aug. 1 marks ten months since the Route 91 Harvest Festival shooting. Just two months remain for those who were present during the shooting or tried to assist victims to submit an application to the Nevada Victims of Crime Program.

Funds from the program may help reimburse people for out-of-pocket expenses resulting from the crime such as medical bills or counseling co-pays not covered by insurance. Even if you live outside of Nevada or don't have any eligible expenses now, survivors are encouraged to apply for the program before the due date of **Oct. 1, 2018**, in case they incur future expenses that may be covered by the program. An application to apply for the Nevada Victims of Crime Program also is posted on the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center's website at <u>www.VegasStrongRC.org</u>. The center also can be reached by phone at (702) 455-2433 (AIDE) or toll-free at (833) 299-2433, and by email at: <u>vegasStrongResiliencyCenter@clarkcountynv.gov</u>. The center also has a Facebook page at <u>www.Facebook.com/VegasStrongResiliencyCenter</u>. It's address is 1524 Pinto Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89106. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Every state has a Victims of Crime program affiliated with the U.S. Department of Justice. Funding for the program comes from court-ordered fines and fees and helps victims of violent crimes pay for expenses related to the crime. To date the Nevada Victims of Crime Program has processed nearly 4,800 applications for assistance from the 1 October incident and paid more that \$2.6 million in claims. "If you were present at the Route 91 festival during the shooting, we want you to apply for our program even if you live outside of Nevada," explained Michelle Morgando, program coordinator for the Nevada Victims of Crime Program. "You are eligible for assistance through our program because the crime occurred in our state."

Mental health experts say it's not uncommon for survivors of mass violence and trauma to seek counseling months or years after an incident occurred. Submitting an application for the Nevada Victims of Crime Program by Oct. 1 of this year will help ensure your eligibility for the program after that date. Clark County Television produced a video posted on YouTube that walks viewers through the application process: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EJv9zadqgGg</u>. The County also produced a Public Service Announcement about the program that is airing on local and national TV and radio broadcast stations and is posted on our social media sites: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJ_FwT5iR48</u>.

The Vegas Strong Resiliency Center opened on Oct. 23, 2017, to provide ongoing support to those affected by the 1 October shooting including survivors, family members of victims, responders and those who witnessed the incident or tried to assist victims. Since the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center opened, it has served more than 6,500 people. Services include legal assistance, victim advocacy and support, grief

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counseling and spiritual care referrals, and technical assistance accessing online resources including FBI Victim Assistance Services for claiming personal items left behind at the 1 October concert venue. Partnering agencies represented on site at the Resiliency Center include Clark County's Department of Social Service, the Legal Aide Center of Southern Nevada, the Nevada Victims of Crime Program, Nevada Division of Child and Family Services, Cark County Department of Family Services, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services, and the LVMPD Victims Services.

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Clark County is a dynamic and innovative organization dedicated to providing top-quality service with integrity, respect and accountability. With jurisdiction over the world-famous Las Vegas Strip and covering an area the size of New Jersey, Clark is the nation's 14th-largest county and provides extensive regional services to more than 2.25 million citizens and 45.5 million visitors a year. Included are the nation's 8th-busiest airport, air quality compliance, social services and the state's largest public hospital, University Medical Center. The County also provides municipal services that are traditionally provided by cities to 1 million residents in the unincorporated area. Those include fire protection, roads and other public works, parks and recreation, and planning and development.