

5/14 Victims & Community Support Fact Sheet

[Buffalo 5/14 Survivors Fund](#)

- Established by Tops and the National Compassion Fund
- Accepting monetary donations
- Provides direct financial assistance to the survivors of the deceased and those directly affected by 5/14 tragedy
- 100% of contributions will go directly to victims and survivors
- Qualifying charitable donations are tax deductible
- The National Compassion Fund – a subsidiary of the National Center for Victims of Crime - is the leading authority on financial assistance to victims of mass casualty events
- Fund parameters will be established by a local steering committee chaired by Rev. Mark E. Blue, President of the Buffalo NAACP and Paul Vukelic, President & CEO of Try-It Distributing
- The timeline for release of the funding will be decided by a local steering committee
- Buffalo 5/14 Survivors Fund has released the names of steering committee members and sets date for town hall to seek public comment. [Read more here.](#)

[Buffalo Together Community Response Fund](#)

- Coordinated by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo and United Way of Buffalo & Erie County
- Accepting monetary donations
- Comprised of local philanthropic organizations and focused on community support including:
 - Addressing immediate needs of responding non-profit organizations
 - Long-term community rebuilding of East Buffalo
 - Systemic issues that have marginalized communities of color
- The Buffalo Together Community Response Fund announced its first round of grants in late May 2022. A full listing of recipients and a status of the commitments to the fund can be found [here.](#)
- Email BuffaloTogetherFund@cfgb.org for more information

Offers of In-Kind Help and Assistance

- Contact: helpbuffalo@thepartnership.org
- Buffalo Niagara Partnership has not and is not accepting monetary donations

Funeral/Burial Costs

- The New York State Office of Victim Services is providing \$6,000 per family for funeral and burial expenses
- National Action Network (NAN) has pledged to cover any remaining funeral/burial expenses and associated costs
- NAN is working directly with victims' family members
 - Contact for National Action Network is Rev. DeVes Toon
 - 646-981-5972
 - toon@nationalactionnetwork.net or dvtoonnan@gmail.com

Other Funeral/Burial Costs Not Covered by NYS Office of Victim Services – (e.g.: travel for out-of-town family, hotel, ground transportation, repast costs, clothing, etc.)

- Signature Development and Douglas Development have contributed a total of \$100,000 in restricted cash donations to support these costs. Funds are allocated equitably, up to \$10,000 per family, to reimburse funeral related expenses not covered by the NYS Office of Victim Services.
- Buffalo Niagara Partnership (BNP) is administering the Douglas Development/ Signature Development fund since government entities do not have a mechanism to receive and disburse private contributions
- How it works
 - The Erie County District Attorney's Office works to assess the needs of each family. All requests must be made by the designated representative of the victim's family to the DA's office.
 - The designated representatives from each victim's family can request travel arrangements for up to four (4) out of town relatives. These relatives must be noted on the DA's victim support document. Those identified family members will be called directly by a travel agent to book airline, hotel and ground transportation, and those costs will be prepaid by the Douglas Development/ Signature Development fund. If the four designated family members use other forms of transportation, those costs can be reimbursed. All requests for reimbursement must be approved by the family's designated representative and appear on the DA's victim support request form. Reimbursements will require proper documentation (receipts etc.).
 - To assist with immediate needs, \$750 from the family's allocated donation (up to up to \$10,000) will be given to each family in the form of cash cards. Cards will be dispensed by the DA's office to each designated family representative the week of 5/23/2022.
 - Other priority needs of the family will be assessed by the DA's office and then referred to BNP for allocation from the Douglas Development/Signature Development fund or connection to community partner (for example, special accommodations for funeral transportation, repast etc.)
 - Any expenses incurred not noted on the victim's support request form submitted to the DA's office will not be eligible for reimbursement.
 - All expense receipts are due by June 17 and reimbursements will be mailed out no later than June 24.

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