

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that he's helped secure a \$127,524 federal grant to provide long-term counseling to victims of the April 3 shooting at the American Civic Association in Binghamton. The funds, which will be directed to the Crime Victims Assistance Center in Binghamton, come from the U.S. Department of Justice's Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program for Crime Victim Assistance.

"The April 3 shooting at the American Civic Association was a traumatizing and life-altering tragedy for many people in the Binghamton area," Hinchey said. "These federal funds will ensure that those who need counseling to help cope with the tragedy can get that assistance at no cost. In times of great loss it is incumbent upon the people of a community to come together to help mourn and heal. I've been so impressed by the way the people of Binghamton have responded in unity to this tragedy and I'm very pleased that we'll now be able to ensure victims of the shooting and others in the community will have access to counseling."

Hinchey helped facilitate the Crime Victim Assistance Center's grant application to the Department of Justice and subsequently contacted the agency to express his support for the funds. The grant will pay to continue funding for three staff members to provide necessary and essential services to victims of the Binghamton shooting, as well as for administrative costs, including computers and travel for the counselors.

The Crime Victims Assistance Center is currently managing 80 cases related to the shooting and cases are still being opened. Counseling will be made available to primary and secondary victims of the April 3 shooting as well as any victims within the vicinity of the incident who are in need of counseling assistance.