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## **PRESS RELEASE**

Milwaukie Police have become aware of a phone scam that has been operating in the area that has targeted at least 2 victims. Called the “Advantage America” grant scam, Milwaukie Police responded on March 13, 2006 to a woman who had been victimized by the scam.

The scam works through an unsolicited phone call made to the victim that, based on a tax return, the victim is eligible to receive a government grant. The victim is asked for person information, such as date of birth, checking account number, bank address and home address. The victim is told this information is needed in order to receive the check.

The people running the scam will eventually empty the victim’s banking account. The scammers are very persistent and in the Milwaukie case the victim has received follow up phone calls. In the Milwaukie case the victim contacted her bank immediately after giving the information and her account was closed.

The scam is operated out of Winter Park, Florida. A website at [www.WPPD.org](http://www.WPPD.org) has a link that has more information about the scam. Milwaukie Police would like to remind people to never give out personal information and account numbers to unknown people asking for it over the phone.

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