

**Program #15102 - Domestic Violence Unit** 3/7/2022

**Department:** District Attorney **Program Contact:** Glen Banfield  
**Program Offer Type:** Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Requested  
**Related Programs:**  
**Program Characteristics:** In Target

**Executive Summary**

Domestic violence is a serious social, economic and public health concern. The DV unit prosecutes felony and misdemeanor crimes committed including physical and sexual assaults, homicides and violations of restraining orders. Additionally, this unit staffs Mental Health court as an intervention that is alternative to incarceration for those whose criminal episode was in response to their underlying mental illness and who can be safely supervised in the community with appropriate structure and supports. These lawyers work closely with victim advocates to ensure trauma-informed support for survivors and their children while providing outreach to essential services. This unit strives to build trust, seek equitable outcomes and make the lives better for community members who have experienced violence within their families.

**Program Summary**

This program prosecutes family or intimate partner violence including physical and sexual assaults, strangulation, kidnapping and homicide. The goals of this program are to secure victim, family and community safety while seeking defendant accountability, especially for underserved populations. Statistics and experience show that underserved communities including--people of color, immigrants, refugees, limited English proficiency, differently abled individuals, our houseless community, the elderly, and our LGBTQIA+ community--are disproportionately impacted by domestic violence. The unit has a DDA partially funded by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The VAWA DDA works closely with underserved populations to coordinate services with law enforcement and advocates to ensure long term victim safety. Additionally, DDAs advocate for community-oriented interventions to help support survivors and their children in breaking the generational cycle of family violence thereby reducing disparities and harmful health consequences. Moreover, the unit works to ensure that each victim is treated respectfully, compassionately with dignity and equity. The Victim Assistance Program assigns an advocate to each case to provide culturally specific outreach and assist survivors in obtaining comprehensive wrap around support services to help achieve equity, remove barriers, and alleviate survivors' psychological, social, and financial fears.

The unit collaborates with state and local law enforcement, the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice and a variety of local nonprofit domestic violence organizations and shelters. This unit works closely with Portland Police Bureau Domestic Violence Reduction Unit (DVRU) and the Domestic Violence Emergency Response Team (DVERT). The senior DDA is also an executive committee member for the Family Violence Coordination Council, the DV Fatality Review and the DV court workgroup. This program offers deferred sentencing where first time offenders earn a dismissal of charges with successful completion of a highly supervised program that includes batterer's intervention strategies and counseling. This unit is a resource for training community partners, state and local law enforcement agencies. The unit dedicates a full time attorney to Mental Health Court to staff an intervention that is alternative to incarceration for those whose criminal episode was in response to their underlying mental illness and who can be safely supervised in the community.

**Performance Measures**

| Measure Type | Primary Measure  | FY21 Actual | FY22 Budgeted | FY22 Estimate | FY23 Offer |
|--------------|--|-------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| Output       | All DV cases Reviewed (Felony, Misdo, VRO)   | 2,536       | 3,100         | 2,496         | 2,689      |
| Outcome      | Percentage of presumptively prison eligible defendants diverted from prison to community supervision | 58%         | 65%           | 75%           | 75%        |
| Output       | Number of underserved victims/survivors served through case consultation/contacts-VAWA               | 362         | 438           | 246           | 246        |
| Outcome      | Numbers of offenders charged/prosecuted for harming underserved community members-VAWA               | 329         | 364           | 212           | 212        |

**Performance Measures Descriptions**

Our goal in the DV Unit is to keep families safe and interrupt intergenerational cycles of violence. We measure the cases coming into our office, as well as the cases where we can achieve non-carceral outcomes that meet the goals of the Unit. Our VAWA deputy is a federally funded program that targets services toward underserved community populations in Multnomah County.

## Legal / Contractual Obligation

ORS 8.660 - Attending court and prosecuting offenses. (1) The district attorney shall attend the terms of all courts having jurisdiction of public offenses within the district attorney's county, and, except as otherwise provided in this section, conduct, on behalf of the state, all prosecutions for such offenses therein.

## Revenue/Expense Detail

|                         | Adopted<br>General Fund | Adopted<br>Other Funds | Requested<br>General Fund | Requested<br>Other Funds |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Program Expenses</b> | <b>2022</b>             | <b>2022</b>            | <b>2023</b>               | <b>2023</b>              |
| Personnel               | \$1,893,300             | \$108,328              | \$2,040,271               | \$67,797                 |
| Contractual Services    | \$48,000                | \$0                    | \$48,000                  | \$0                      |
| Materials & Supplies    | \$18,000                | \$0                    | \$27,000                  | \$0                      |
| Internal Services       | \$227,357               | \$19,834               | \$247,481                 | \$12,412                 |
| <b>Total GF/non-GF</b>  | <b>\$2,186,657</b>      | <b>\$128,162</b>       | <b>\$2,362,752</b>        | <b>\$80,209</b>          |
| <b>Program Total:</b>   | <b>\$2,314,819</b>      |                        | <b>\$2,442,961</b>        |                          |
| <b>Program FTE</b>      | 10.44                   | 0.56                   | 10.63                     | 0.37                     |

| <b>Program Revenues</b> |            |                  |            |                 |
|-------------------------|------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Intergovernmental       | \$0        | \$128,162        | \$0        | \$80,209        |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>    | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$128,162</b> | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$80,209</b> |

## Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$12,412 in indirect revenues.

\$80,209 Stop Violence Against Women (VAWA) Formula Competitive Grant - funds 0.37 FTE of a DDA2

## Significant Program Changes

**Last Year this program was:** FY 2022: 15102A Domestic Violence Unit

Given COVID conditions, civil unrest and violence, family stressors have increased and community members are experiencing increased violence. DV case submissions and DV homicides increased. These conditions illustrate that staffing and funding to save lives and stop the violence is needed. Although members of this unit sometimes work remotely, lawyers, victim advocates and staff have continued to work in-person at personal risk to meet survivors' needs, and advocate for survivors' physical safety. MCDA sought and obtained the use of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding to fund an additional prosecutor in the Domestic Violence unit. The additional prosecutor will assist the unit in efforts to save lives and minimize the harmful life-long effects that domestic violence has on survivors and their children in the County.