



Program #15401A - Victims Assistance Program

3/2/2021

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

Executive Summary

The victim advocate is a champion for victims during various stages of the criminal justice process. The primary goal of the Victim Assistance Program is to make the criminal justice system more responsive to individual citizens, particularly to victims of crime. It is the philosophy of the office that every effort is made to provide victims a meaningful role throughout the process, involvement at every stage of a criminal case, and assure the rights of the crime victims.

Program Summary

Victim advocates work directly with crime victims to explain the overall criminal justice system as well as how individual stages apply to their situation. Victim advocates act as a liaison between diverse stakeholders including law enforcement, attorneys, government and community agencies, and victims of crime. They translate highly complex and technical information about the criminal justice process in a trauma-informed manner to best help victims. This includes the rights afforded to them under the Oregon Constitution, safety planning, short-term crisis intervention, court accompaniment; coordinated advocacy and referrals to an array of services and resources and guiding victims through the process they may make informed decisions.

All named victims with defendants being prosecuted by the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office (MCDA) receive information about their rights as victims, an opportunity to submit information about their losses for restitution, and notification letters on the case status and disposition. The MCDA provides an average of 30,000 victim's rights notifications each year.

The program also provides a 24-hour on-call response to accompany victims and survivors of sexual assault to the hospital during law enforcement interviews and forensic medical examinations. The program carries out this effort with a team of paid staff and over 45 volunteers. This immediate crisis intervention service provides critical information and resources to survivors of sexual assault during the early stages of the investigation. This allows survivors to make the most informed choices throughout this difficult process. The immediate response is followed by ongoing support and advocacy through the investigation and prosecution of the case.

In addition to the above services, the program has also been involved in establishing several other programs: U visa certification, Witness Intimidation Support Program, Sexual Assault Response Team, Multnomah County Justice Reinvestment Program, Human Trafficking Team, and the Gateway Center for Domestic Violence Services.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer
Output	Number of victims of crime assigned a victim advocate on cases	4,092	3,904	3,266	2,841
Outcome	Number of services contacts provided to victims of crime by Victims Assistance program	66,743	113,475	30,536	26,566

Performance Measures Descriptions

Legal / Contractual Obligation

Article I Section 42 Oregon Constitution - Rights of Victims in criminal prosecutions and juvenile delinquency proceedings. ORS 147.405, ORS 147.417 - Victim to be notified of constitutional rights. ORS 147.22 - Disbursement of moneys to be used for comprehensive victim's assistance programs.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Requested General Fund	Requested Other Funds
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022
Personnel	\$451,068	\$1,293,846	\$366,269	\$1,359,805
Contractual Services	\$6,000	\$28,000	\$16,000	\$2,000
Materials & Supplies	\$29,200	\$7,145	\$12,000	\$2,500
Internal Services	\$0	\$236,327	\$335,883	\$296,643
Total GF/non-GF	\$486,268	\$1,565,318	\$730,152	\$1,660,948
Program Total:	\$2,051,586		\$2,391,100	
Program FTE	4.46	12.54	3.55	12.69

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$1,565,318	\$0	\$1,660,948
Total Revenue	\$0	\$1,565,318	\$0	\$1,660,948

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$296,643 in indirect revenues.

\$1,038,865 = Federal Fund Agreement with DOJ CVSSD Victims of Crime Act / Criminal Fine Account Non-Competitive Grant

\$509,378 = State Fund Agreement with DOJ CVSSD Victims of Crime Act / Criminal Fine Account Non-Competitive Grant

\$112,705 = Federal Fund Agreement with DOJ CVSSD VOCA Funding Initiatives Non-Competitive Grant

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2021: 15401A Victims Assistance Program

FTE is reduced by 1.76 to meet General Fund constraint and a reduction in Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding. Reducing program FTE by 1.76 will result in approximately in direct and negative impacts to an estimated 600 victims of crime and diminished capacity for MCDA to meaningfully collaborate with system partners. Program 15401B restores 1.00 FTE Victim Advocate. Program 15401C restores 0.76 Domestic Violence Victim Advocate previously funded through grant funds.

Internal service charges are increased reflecting a change to allocate facilities, data, distribution, telecommunications, and fleet services in individual units. Previously these costs were consolidated in 15001 - Administrative Support Services, 15002 - Information Technology, and the Division I, II, III, and IV Administration program offers.