

Domestic and Sexual Violence Coordination Office  
2016 - 2019 Strategic Plan Summary

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BACKGROUND

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The Domestic and Sexual Violence Coordination Office (DSVCO) was established in 1994. Located within the Department of County Human Services (DCHS), it is responsible for facilitating the development and coordination of effective domestic violence intervention and prevention strategies for the City of Portland, Multnomah County, and community agencies.

The DSVCO manages county, state, and federal funds for victim services, including crisis services, emergency shelter and shelter diversion, housing support, economic empowerment, legal services and culturally-specific services. Additionally, the DSVCO leads multi-disciplinary projects, assesses needs and gaps in local interventions, and provides training and capacity-building throughout the county. Over the past two years, staff from the DSVCO have also been involved and committed to developing a process for coordinated access to housing and shelter services in Multnomah County.

*More than 3,000 individuals receive services such as legal advocacy each year. 1,144 survivors were housed in a shelter or received an emergency housing voucher in 2015.*

Multnomah County's response to domestic and sexual violence is guided by these objectives: prevention and education, safety, relationships and stability. These objectives frame how we strengthen and build our communities and help our neighbors heal.

The DSVCO strategic plan was created with input from multiple sources, including county leadership, the provider system, partner agencies, and survivor focus groups. The strategic plan will guide the work of DSVCO over the course of the next three years and serve as a benchmark to measure our success.

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STRATEGIC PLAN: THREE AREAS OF FOCUS

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The Strategic Plan identifies three major areas, or themes, on which to focus over the next 3 years:

1. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS STRENGTHEN DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESPONSE
2. AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WORK STRENGTHENS COMMUNITY CAPACITY
3. SURVIVORS ACCESS SPECIALIZED DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICES

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1. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS STRENGTHEN DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESPONSE

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DSVCO plays a significant role in convening system partners – both within and outside of the domestic and sexual violence system. The 2016 - 2019 goals for this area of focus will build on those relationships and extend their reach, especially into systems with which we might not yet collaborate.

**Goal 1:** Survivors' Needs Drive Collaboration in a Culture of Continuous Improvement

**Goal 2:** Service Providers and Their Colleagues in Other Sectors Maximize Their Collective Impact

**Goal 3:** Services Are Enhanced through Coordinated Funding and Policy Change Work

**Goal 4:** Service Providers Share Their Expertise across Systems

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## 2. AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WORK STRENGTHENS COMMUNITY CAPACITY

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The Defending Childhood Initiative is the foundation for much of our ongoing work to reduce childhood exposure to violence. This initiative works with school districts, the county Health Department, and other programs and systems to educate professionals, parents and caregivers about Trauma-informed Practice, adverse childhood experiences, how to prevent children’s exposure to violence, and promote resilience. DSVCO identified the following goals for 2016 - 2019:

**Goal 1:** Childhood Exposure to Violence and Trauma Is Reduced through Upstream Prevention Work

**Goal 2:** Domestic and Sexual Violence Is Reduced through Community Awareness and Norm Change

**Goal 3:** Community Members Are Integral to the Work to End Domestic and Sexual Violence

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## 3. SURVIVORS ACCESS SPECIALIZED DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICES

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Domestic and sexual violence survivors’ needs, identities, goals, backgrounds, styles, families, etc. define how each person approaches resources and services and what they might need to succeed. DSVCO will work to achieve the following goals during the period of 2016 - 2019:

**Goal 1:** Survivors Have Access to Culturally Specific and Responsive Support

**Goal 2:** Underserved Survivors Have Access to Equitable Support

**Goal 3:** Children and Youth Exposed to Violence and Trauma Get the Support They Need

**Goal 4:** Survivors’ Sexual Assault Intervention Needs Are Met

**Goal 5:** Survivors Are Supported by Relationships Nurtured at Trauma-informed Organizations

**Goal 6:** Survivors’ Crisis Response Needs Are Met

**Goal 7:** Survivors’ Housing Needs Are Met

**Goal 8:** Survivors’ Physical and Behavioral Health Care Needs Are Met

**Goal 9:** Survivors’ Legal Services Needs Are Met

**Goal 10:** Survivors Are Economically Secure

**Goal 11:** Batterers Are Accountable

*In Multnomah County...  
14 agencies provide domestic violence services  
9 agencies provide culturally specific services  
6 agencies provide sexual assault specific services*

Each year, thousands of survivors and their children are safer because of the emergency services, housing, training and other support offered by the Multnomah County Domestic and Sexual Violence Coordination Office.

The Strategic Plan will guide the work of DSVCO over the next three years. The Domestic and Sexual Violence Coordination Office is committed to promoting healthy relationships and supporting survivors as they proceed on a path to stable and thriving lives.

To obtain a copy of the full-length DSVCO Strategic Plan, that identifies specific strategies and necessary staffing, please contact Ashley Carroll at 503.988.7649.