

Program #15401A - Victims Assistance Program

Program Contact: Paul Weatheroy

District Attorney Department:

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program Program Offer Stage: As Adopted

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The victim advocate is a champion for the victim during various stages of the criminal justice process. The primary goal of the Victim Assistance Program and Restitution Recovery 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 be made to provide victims a meaningful role throughout the process and involvement at every stage of a criminal case, and assure the rights of crime victims by investigating the economic loss to victims and ensuring that losses are accurately presented in court.

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 prosecution process so that they can make informed decisions.

All named victims with defendants being prosecuted by the District Attorney's Office 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 District Attorney's Office provides an average of 30,000 victims' rights notifications each year.

The program also provides 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 40 volunteers. This immediate crisis intervention service provides critical information and resources to survivors of sexual assault during the early stages of investigation. This allows survivors to make the most informed choices throughout this difficult process. The immediate response is followed by ongoing support and advocacy throughout the investigation and prosecution of the case.

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

Performance Measures								
Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY19 Actual	FY20 Budgeted	FY20 Estimate	FY21 Offer			
Output	Number of victims of crime assigned a victim advocate on cases	4,549	N/A	3,904	3,904			
Outcome	Number of services contacts provided to victims of crime by Victim Assistance Program	81,619	N/A	102,128	113,475			

Performance Measures Descriptions

NEW Output Measure - from "number of cases assigned" to "number of victims of crime assigned a victim advocate" to recognize that many cases have multiple individuals who have been victimized.

NEW Outcome Measure - from "number of court appearances" to "number of services contacts provided" in order to more accurately capture the variety of services provided including information about the criminal justice system, crime victim rights, referrals to services, assistance with restitution, and safety planning.

7/24/2020

Legal / Contractual Obligation

Article I Section 42 Oregon Constitution - Rights of Victims in criminal prosecutions and juvenile delinquency proceedings. ORS 147.405, ORS 147.410, 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	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2020	2020	2021	2021
Personnel	\$535,078	\$1,112,382	\$348,707	\$1,293,846
Contractual Services	\$2,000	\$45,040	\$6,000	\$28,856
Materials & Supplies	\$26,100	\$4,595	\$29,200	\$7,716
Internal Services	\$0	\$201,680	\$0	\$236,327
Total GF/non-GF	\$563,178	\$1,363,697	\$383,907	\$1,566,745
Program Total:	\$1,926,875		\$1,950,652	
Program FTE	5.64	11.36	3.46	12.54

Program Revenues								
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$1,362,412	\$0	\$1,566,745				
Beginning Working Capital	\$0	\$1,285	\$0	\$0				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$1,363,697	\$0	\$1,566,745				

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$236,327 in indirect revenues.

\$470,099 Criminal Fine Account (CFA) Grant, Oregon Department of Justice/Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division, State

\$1,037,065 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grants, Oregon Department of Justice/Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division, Federal through State

\$58,154 VOCA Funding Initiatives Competitive Grant/Oregon Department of Justice/ Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division

\$1,427 VOCA Support Services & Training

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2020: 15401-20 Victims Assistance Program

FTE is reduced by 2.00 to meet General Fund constraint (1.00 Victim Advocate and 1.00 Restitution Clerk). Program 15401C restores the 1.00 FTE Victim Advocate.