

Department: District Attorney

Program Contact: Glen Banfield

Program Offer Type: Existing

Program Offer Stage: Proposed

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Domestic violence is a serious social, economic and public health concern. The DV unit prosecutes felony and misdemeanor crimes 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 Description

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--people of color, immigrants, refugees, people with limited English proficiency, differently abled individuals, those without stable housing, the elderly, and 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	FY22 Actual	FY23 Budgeted	FY23 Estimate	FY24 Offer
Output	All DV cases reviewed (felony, misdemeanor, violation of restraining order).	2,419	3,100	1,878	2,500
Outcome	Percentage of presumptively prison-eligible defendants diverted from prison to community supervision.	68%	65%	63%	65%
Output	Number of underserved victims/survivors served through case consultation/contacts-VAWA	234	364	250	250
Outcome	Numbers of offenders charged/prosecuted for harming underserved community members-VAWA	329	364	212	212

Performance Measures Descriptions

The goal in the DV Unit is to keep families safe and interrupt intergenerational cycles of violence. The Violence Against Women Act (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 General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2023	2023	2024	2024
Personnel	\$2,040,271	\$67,797	\$1,963,560	\$109,579
Contractual Services	\$48,000	\$0	\$48,000	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$27,000	\$0	\$27,000	\$0
Internal Services	\$247,481	\$12,412	\$211,702	\$23,746
Total GF/non-GF	\$2,362,752	\$80,209	\$2,250,262	\$133,325
Program Total:	\$2,442,961		\$2,383,587	
Program FTE	10.63	0.37	10.41	0.59

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$80,209	\$0	\$133,325
Total Revenue	\$0	\$80,209	\$0	\$133,325

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$23,746 in indirect revenues.

\$133,325 Federal thru State Stop Violence Against Women (VAWA) Formula Competitive Grant - funds 0.59 FTE of a DDA2 + \$23,746 indirect expense.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2023: 15102 Domestic Violence Unit