

Department: District Attorney **Program Contact:** John Casalino
Program Offer Type: Innovative/New Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Proposed
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office (MCDA) successfully obtained a competitive Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant to partially fund a prosecutor for the next three years. The goals of the grant position are to protect, build trust and make the lives better for community members belonging to underserved populations who have experienced domestic violence. This program seeks the county government to join MCDA's commitment to ending violence experienced by Native American, people of color, LGBTQ2SIA+, people with physical or developmental disabilities, victims of human trafficking, those experiencing homelessness, limited English proficiency, immigrants and refugees by providing the critical funding for the VAWA prosecutor not covered by the federal grant.

Program Summary

The VAWA prosecutor will be partially funded for three years through the newly awarded competitive VAWA Grant to MCDA. The remaining funding is necessary to serve marginalized members of Multnomah County. Statistics and experience show that underserved communities (including women with disabilities, women of color, women experiencing homelessness, women from immigrant communities) are disproportionately impacted by domestic violence. See Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2001. This prosecutor will be part of the Domestic Violence (DV) Unit which has six DV attorneys. A recent evaluation by the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys concluded a shortage of 3.7 DV prosecutors to adequately serve Multnomah County.

This grant will greatly help underserved members of the community and their families who are victims of crimes of domestic violence including sexual assault, stalking or dating violence as well as physical assaults, strangulation, violations of protective orders, burglary, attempted murder and homicides. This prosecutor will assist victims through referrals, case consultation, investigative assistance and case review. This prosecutor will be available to serve all victims who are included in the federal definition of underserved, marginalized and/or oppressed. This project connects enhanced domestic violence prosecution services with system partners that serve the diverse populations targeted by this project to ensure cross training, information sharing, and support services that meet the unique needs of these survivors.

The VAWA prosecutor will have direct contact with traditionally underserved victims and coordinate services with law enforcement, advocates and project partners to ensure long term victim safety. This, along with the ability to work with law enforcement on case follow-up, will lead to more successful prosecution and increased offender accountability.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY19 Actual	FY20 Budgeted	FY20 Estimate	FY21 Offer
Output	Number of underserved victims of domestic violence served through case consultation	N/A	N/A	100	200
Outcome	Number of offenders prosecuted for harming underserved community members	N/A	N/A	23	45

Performance Measures Descriptions

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2020	2020	2021	2021
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$71,319	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$71,319	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$71,319	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.00

Program Revenues				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was:

This is a new program. MCDA did not have a VAWA deputy district attorney last year. Inadequate funding has impeded MCDA efforts to end domestic violence in our county. In order to mitigate the impact of those funding measures this office applied for, and successfully obtained, a competitive federal VAWA grant to partially fund an additional domestic violence prosecutor for the next three years. The core function to serve marginalized members, as required by grant restrictions is to, "Prosecute domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence crimes. Provide services to ensure the long term safety of victims; and hold offenders accountable for their crimes." This program is offered to enable the county to fulfill its promise to fund efforts to lessen and eliminate the impact of domestic violence on underserved community members in our county by providing remaining funds for an FTE not covered by the grant.