



Program #15102B - Domestic Violence Case Management OTO FY 2024 Adopted

Department: District Attorney **Program Contact:** Glen Banfield
Program Offer Type: New **Program Offer Stage:** Adopted

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics: Backfill State/Federal/Grant, One-Time-Only Request

Executive Summary

This program funds an additional prosecutor to save lives and minimize the harmful life-long effects that domestic violence has on survivors and their children in the County exacerbated by COVID. Pandemic conditions, combined with an increase in domestic violence serious assaults and homicides in the community has lessened the MCDA's domestic violence unit's ability to intervene and make survivors safe and reduced services which promote survivors' physical and mental well-being. This program, which was previously funded by American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding, is now backfilled with one-time-only General funding. It addresses the increased number of unresolved domestic violence cases, which aligns with the County's goal to end domestic violence and foster equity and reduce disparities for community members.

Program Description

In FY 2020, crimes of domestic violence submitted to the office increased to over 3,000 cases. Moreover, due to the pandemic and court orders to reduce the number of cases tried in Multnomah County, cases for survivors of domestic violence were delayed and created a "backlog" in the domestic violence unit and the court system. Some attorneys carry over 200 open cases not including probation violation matters. This high volume means that less time can be spent on trauma-informed practices, planning for complex legal issues, case preparation and coordinating services. More cases have less desirable outcomes and system confidence is diminished. Victims are less cooperative and more likely to be subject to the coercive influence of the person who physically harmed them--perpetuating the power and control cycle. As of 02/13/2023, there were 337 of DV backlog (direct presents) cases.

The prosecutor funded by this program offer will be dedicated solely to the Domestic Violence Unit. They will serve 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, burglary, attempted murder and homicides. This prosecutor will further assist victims through referrals, case consultation, investigative assistance and case review. This prosecutor will reduce the backlog, seek equitable outcomes, and support services that meet the unique needs of domestic violence survivors.

The addition of a prosecutor also increases the unit's ability to work with law enforcement on case follow-up, will lead to more successful prosecution, increased offender accountability and decreased negative health consequences and instability for children and families suffering from domestic violence.

Finally, additional resources will relieve some of the compassion fatigue and secondary trauma on prosecutors currently in the unit who are overworked, overwhelmed and overstressed due to the crushing, emotionally draining cases where high risk/high lethality dynamics have been amplified due to the backlog.

Performance Measures

| Measure Type | Primary Measure | FY22 Actual | FY23 Budgeted | FY23 Estimate | FY24 Offer |
|--------------|---|-------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| Output | Number of Cases resolved | N/A | 109 | 78 | 109 |
| Outcome | Percentage decrease in Domestic Violence case backlog | N/A | 12% | 15% | 12% |

Performance Measures Descriptions

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 | Adopted General Fund | Adopted Other Funds |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Program Expenses | 2023 | 2023 | 2024 | 2024 |
| Personnel | \$0 | \$191,354 | \$195,805 | \$0 |
| Total GF/non-GF | \$0 | \$191,354 | \$195,805 | \$0 |
| Program Total: | \$191,354 | | \$195,805 | |
| Program FTE | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 |

| Program Revenues | | | | |
|----------------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------|
| Intergovernmental | \$0 | \$191,354 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Total Revenue | \$0 | \$191,354 | \$0 | \$0 |

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2023: 15900 ARP - Domestic Violence Case Backlog