

Department: District Attorney **Program Contact:** Paul Weatheroy
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Proposed
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. MCDA 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. We carry 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, our 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.

For additional MCDA Budget Information:

<http://mcda.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/MCDA-Budget-Informational-Packet-FY-20.pdf>

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY18 Actual	FY19 Purchased	FY19 Estimate	FY20 Offer
Output	The number of cases assigned a victim advocate for the assistance of the crime victim	3,476	4,529	3,500	3,600
Outcome	Number of court appearances attended to support the victim	1,880	2,018	2,000	2,050

Performance Measures Descriptions

85% of victims who completed surveys report that: The information provided by the VAP helped them to better understand the criminal justice process as it relates to their case. The information provided by the VAP helped them better understand their rights as a victim of crime. The services provided by the VAP helped them make informed decisions about their situation.

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

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2019	2019	2020	2020
Personnel	\$758,710	\$1,030,567	\$535,078	\$1,112,382
Contractual Services	\$1,200	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$45,040
Materials & Supplies	\$21,800	\$10,123	\$26,100	\$4,595
Internal Services	\$7,755	\$152,008	\$0	\$201,680
Total GF/non-GF	\$789,465	\$1,194,698	\$563,178	\$1,363,697
Program Total:	\$1,984,163		\$1,926,875	
Program FTE	7.69	11.27	5.64	11.36

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$1,187,575	\$0	\$1,362,412
Beginning Working Capital	\$0	\$7,123	\$0	\$1,285
Total Revenue	\$0	\$1,194,698	\$0	\$1,363,697

Explanation of Revenues

\$491,179 Criminal Fine Account (CFA) Grant, Oregon Department of Justice/Crime Victims' Services Division, State
\$871,233 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grants, Oregon Department of Justice/Crime Victims' Services Division, Federal through State
\$1,285 Restitution ordered by the Court

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2019: 15401-19 Victims Assistance Program