



Program #15401B - Victims Assistance Program Restoration

7/6/2021

Department: District Attorney **Program Contact:** Jodi Erickson
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Adopted
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Restores 1.00 FTE of an Advocate position. This advocate position provides services to an average of 300 victims of crime each year that are associated with cases issued by the office. In addition to assigned cases, advocates serve a number of victims and survivors who do not have open cases with the office through in person or phone contact. This position serves as a point of contact for service providers throughout the county and assists to increase access for victims from groups and communities impacted by inequity. The Victim Assistance Program offers an array of service with bilingual and bicultural staff. They also provide 24 hour hospital response to accompany victims and survivors of sexual assault during forensic exams and care.

Program Summary

This Victim advocate position works 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.

On average, each advocate in the program services just over 300 victims on issued cases each year. Additionally, there are a number of victims and survivors who are assisted with safety planning, restraining orders, and referrals to other services and resources who do not have cases that are charged.

The role of an advocate is relationship based and can require a great deal of time to build rapport, meaningfully connect with victims and establish trust in a system that they may face great barriers to access.

Victims from traditionally underserved populations or who face significant barriers need additional assistance to access services and support to cope with the impacts of being victimized. Advocates are often the first to learn about tampering, witness intimidation and new crimes that are being committed.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer
Output	Number of victims of crime assigned a victim advocate on cases	N/A	N/A	N/A	375
Outcome	Number of services contacts provided to victims of crime by Victim Assistance program	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,332

Performance Measures Descriptions

Legal / Contractual Obligation

Article I Section 42 Oregon Constitution - rights of Victims in criminal prosecutions and juvenile delinquency proceedings. ORS 147.405, 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	2021	2021	2022	2022
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$108,375	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$3,157	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$111,532	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$111,532	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00

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

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was:

Funding for this position restores 1.00 FTE of assistance for victims on a variety of felony and misdemeanor cases. Many of our community members need assistance understanding the criminal justice process, their rights and available resources that can assist with restoring a sense of safety and stability; this is especially true for some of our most vulnerable victims. These victims include people with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, developmental disabilities, those experiencing homelessness, instability, substantial medical needs and trauma.

This funding supports special assignment on some misdemeanor cases in the Juvenile Justice and Adult Justice systems, where victims have been identified as needing additional supportive services.

These cases can include: assault, harassment, stalking, sex abuse, menacing and early assignment on domestic violence cases pending review.

This position also includes Unit A/B cases where the offender is eligible to participate in the Multnomah County Justice Reinvestment Program (MCJRP). It is important that victims fully understand both the MCJRP and are afforded opportunities to meaningfully participate.