



Program #15401C - Victims Assistance Program - Victim Advocate (1.00 FTE) 7/24/2020

Department: District Attorney **Program Contact:** Paul Weatheroy

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Adopted

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

In FY 2019 the VAP was reduced by 3 FTE, which included one Victim Advocate who provided specialized services to victims of youth offenders. This position was partially restored through new VOCA grant funding.

Restores 1.00 FTE of a Victim Advocate position. This advocate position provides services on average to over 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

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.

On average, each advocate in the program serves just over 300 victims on issued cases each year. Additionally, there are a number of victims and survivors who are served by the program 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 accessing.

Victims from traditionally underserved populations or who face significant barriers need additional assistance to access services and supports 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.

Currently the program is able to offer an array of services with bilingual and bicultural staff.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY19 Actual	FY20 Budgeted	FY20 Estimate	FY21 Offer
Output	Number of victims of crime assigned a victim advocate on cases	4,549	N/A	3,904	3,904
Outcome	Number of services contacts provided to victims of crime by Victim Assistance Program	81,619	N/A	102,128	113,475

Performance Measures Descriptions

NEW Output Measure - from "number of cases assigned" to "number of victims of crime assigned a victim advocate" to recognize that many cases have multiple individuals who have been victimized.

NEW Outcome Measure - from "number of court appearances" to "number of services contacts provided" in order to more accurately capture the variety of services provided including information about the criminal justice system, crime victim rights, referrals to services, assistance with restitution, and safety planning.

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

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2020	2020	2021	2021
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$102,361	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$102,361	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$102,361	
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: