



Program #15401C - Victims Assistance Program - Victim Advocate (1.00 FTE) 3/4/2020

Department: District Attorney **Program Contact:** Paul Weatheroy
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Requested
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: Out of Target

Executive Summary

In FY19 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.

This FY20 proposed staffing reduction taken to meet 2% constraint would eliminate 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 our office. In addition to assigned cases, advocates serve a number of victims and survivors who do not have open cases with our 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 our program serves just over 300 victims on issued cases each year. Additionally, there are a number of victims and survivors who are served by our program who do not have cases that are charged. A reduction of 1 FTE will directly impact approximately 300 victims each year. This impact will create increased caseloads for the remaining advocates across the program and diminishes the availability and quality of our services. The Victim Assistance Program provides an average of 30,000 victims' rights notifications each year. It is important for Lowering staffing levels creates higher turnover rate, increases vicarious trauma and negatively impacts advocates and the victims they serve by not affording them the time, respect and dignity that they deserve.
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 our staff 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	Crime victims assigned a victim advocate on issued cases	4,549	N/A	3,904	3,904
Outcome	Number of services provided to victims of crime	81,619	N/A	102,128	113,475

Performance Measures Descriptions

Services provided to victims of crime by the Victim Assistance Program, include information about the criminal justice system, crime victim rights, court accompaniment, interpreter, transportation and emergency services, assistance with protective orders, support through sexual assault forensic medical exams, law enforcement interviews, referrals to services, assistance with crime victims compensation, 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	Requested General Fund	Requested 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: