

Program #50003B - DCJ Victim and Survivor Services Staff Expansion FY 2024 Proposed

Department: Community Justice **Program Contact:** Rosa Garcia
Program Offer Type: New **Program Offer Stage:** Proposed
Related Programs: 50003A
Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Victim and Survivor Services (VSS) collaborates with public safety agencies and community partners as well as DCJ staff to develop a more coordinated system response to crime victims/survivors in Multnomah County. VSS provides survivor-centered consultation on policy and procedures; ensures crime victim's rights are upheld and integrated into supervision practices; educates DCJ staff and community partners around victim rights and best practices for supporting victims/survivors; collaborates with partners to engage in system change that is trauma informed, survivor-led and consistent with best practices; and provides culturally responsive advocacy and support to people who have experienced harm. In FY 2024, this program adds a new permanent 1.00 FTE Victim Advocate.

Program Description

In FY 2020, pre-pandemic monthly average population served through victim advocacy was 85 people. In FY 2021, the monthly average population served increased to 187, or an 120% increase in level of service. In FY 2022, the monthly average population served increased again to 271, or an 45% increase in level of service. Over the course of the last two FY budgets, the monthly average of population served increased by 165%, thus, this unit has experienced a steady increase in workload and number of survivors needing services. The increase in the number of victims/survivors needing services has overwhelmed advocates who do their best to be responsive to their extremely high caseloads. The increase in workload has caused difficulty in staff's ability to attend meetings/trainings that promote services that are equitable, trauma informed, and survivor led, as there is not enough time in the day to meet the immense needs of victims/survivors.

Generally, victims/survivors of crime are disproportionately young, low income, and people of color. In addition, the criminal legal system was not built with victims/survivors in mind, exacerbating the service disparity for this population. The pandemic increased barriers that crime victims/survivors experience and has had long lasting negative impacts on recovery that can be present for several years. Additionally, victim/survivor safety concerns often increase after a justice-involved individual is sentenced, and VSS is the only system based advocacy that aids in accessing community resources, safety planning, and support. While VSS serves victims/survivors of all crime types, a significant portion of victims/survivors are victims/survivors of domestic violence (DV), especially victims/survivors of color. DV victims/survivors of color face extra barriers, such as racism, in accessing housing and employment. When victims/survivors face barriers to self sufficiency, they often return to their abusers for support. Advocates help victims/survivors access resources to stabilize and increase self sufficiently. This is especially true for victims/survivors of color, as advocates can help navigate through a system of service delivery rooted in white supremacy, to help increase agency and options other than returning to their abuser for aid.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY22 Actual	FY23 Budgeted	FY23 Estimate	FY24 Offer
Output	Number of successful contacts through advocacy	799	N/A	799	800
Outcome	Percent of 24 hour response rate	94%	N/A	85%	90%
Output	Monthly average of victims/survivors served through advocacy	271	70	271	150

Performance Measures Descriptions

Measure #1: 799 unique individuals served with 5,738 total contacts. Victim advocacy includes system navigation, safety planning, court accompaniment, emotional support, trauma education, access to client assistance funds, housing navigation, culturally specific advocacy and referrals, and resource referrals.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2023	2023	2024	2024
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$108,277	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$108,277	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$108,277	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00

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

Explanation of Revenues

County General Fund

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was:

Personnel Costs: In FY 2024, 1.00 FTE Victim Advocate has been added.