



Program #60989 - ARP - Child Abuse Team Detective FY 2024 Proposed

Department: Sheriff **Program Contact:** Carey Kaer
Program Offer Type: New **Program Offer Stage:** Proposed

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics: One-Time-Only Request

Executive Summary

Children who are abused or neglected are also at increased risk for experiencing future violence victimization and perpetration, substance abuse, delayed brain development, lower educational attainment, and limited employment opportunities. Timely intervention and prosecution of child abuse cases can help mitigate these outcomes while providing critical support to victims. Between 2017 and 2022, child abuse cases received by MCSO increased 370.5%. Cases in 2023 are on pace to exceed previous years by a significant amount. With changes to the statewide Department of Human Services (DHS) hotline reporting and case management, the Detective Unit receives and processes all DHS reports of alleged child abuse and neglect in order to ensure cases are cross-reported.

Program Description

Although a trend of increasing cases of child abuse began in 2017, the impacts of COVID-19 public health emergency have caused an even greater increase in isolation and resulting delay in service interventions by mandatory reporters. There were 661 cases of child abuse received by MCSO in 2019 and that number has consistently grown with 812 in 2022 and a projected 1047 in 2023.

Trained and experienced detectives are required to objectively and thoroughly investigate nearly 150 allegations of child abuse each month and determine if a violation of criminal law occurred, identify and apprehend the offender, and file appropriate criminal charges while ensuring the child's needs are met.

These cases are extremely sensitive and detectives working to investigate and clear reports of abuse for prosecution receive specific training associated with child and family maltreatment, such as Making Equitable Space at the Table: The Importance of the Youth Advocate Role and The Intersection of Secondary Traumatic Stress with Culture, Race and Historical Trauma.

An additional Detective (1 FTE) is needed to address this critical work by the Child Abuse Protection Team.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY22 Actual	FY23 Budgeted	FY23 Estimate	FY24 Offer
Output	Number of child abuse reports investigated.	650	475	725	700
Outcome	Number of reports cleared and presented to the DA's Office & Federal Prosecutors	345	300	425	425
Outcome	Number of community engagement and education meetings or events attended	NA	NA	NA	16

Performance Measures Descriptions

Engagement and education meetings will include those facilitated by the District Attorney, Department of Human Services (DHS), and School Resource Deputy collaboration with Reynolds School Dist.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2023	2023	2024	2024
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$172,845
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$172,845
Program Total:	\$0		\$172,845	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$172,845
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$172,845

Explanation of Revenues

Federal: American Rescue Plan (ARP) Direct County Funding - \$172,845

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was:

This program falls under the County's ARP priority area of Crisis Response & Community Recovery.