

Department: Community Justice

Program Contact: Rhea DuMont

Program Offer Type: Support

Program Offer Stage: As Requested

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: In Target

Executive Summary

The Department of Community Justice Victim Services Unit (VSU) 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. VSU 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 advocacy and support to people who have experienced harm.

Program Summary

In FY 2021 VSU updated their strategic plan to more closely align services with equity, trauma informed and survivor led approaches. Many of the goals and activities put forth in this plan came directly out of a department wide strength and needs assessment. This includes two culturally specific caseloads to serve Black, African American and Latinx survivors. Services offered by VSU include:

Notification: Crime victims' legal rights are guaranteed by Oregon law, yet they are often unaware of these rights. Notification is the most important - if a victim is not given notice of the time and place of a sentencing hearing, there is little chance that they will ever have the opportunity to be heard. In cases of domestic violence and stalking, notification of a justice-involved individual's (JII) release is more than a matter of interest, it is sometimes a matter of life and death.

Advocacy: Advocates support survivors through safety planning; crisis response; emotional support; community referrals; system information and navigation; accessing emergency funds; and court accompaniment. Advocates serve as a critical piece of support to survivors as they navigate a confusing and often re-traumatizing criminal justice system that was not built with their needs in mind. DCJ Advocates are unique in that once a JII is on supervision they can support the survivor through the entire system. Survivor safety is often in jeopardy after a JII is sentenced and we are the only system-based advocates that can help them access community resources, safety plan, and provide support to the healing process.

Victim Services Fund: This fund helps ease financial burdens survivors often face due to the victimization they experience by JIIs and provide temporary emergency assistance that bridge the gap to self-sufficiency or longer term support from other agencies, or are related to an immediate safety concern.

Training and Education: VSU provides a wide variety of trainings and consultations to partners including: victim rights, working with survivors, trauma informed care, sex trafficking, and domestic violence.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer
Output	Number of initial contacts with victims of probation cases	2,378	2,000	2,000	2,000
Outcome	Monthly average victims served through victim advocacy	85	70	70	70
Outcome	Number of crime victims registering for ongoing notifications	800	500	500	500

Performance Measures Descriptions

Measures 1, 2, and 3: FY 2020 Actual and FY 2021 Estimate have been significantly affected by COVID-19. DCJ anticipated numbers will return to normal in FY 2022, as vaccine rollout completes in Summer 2021 and when court backlogs are resolved.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Requested General Fund	Requested Other Funds
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022
Personnel	\$685,085	\$0	\$817,534	\$0
Contractual Services	\$101,010	\$0	\$16,500	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$8,881	\$12,000	\$7,851	\$0
Internal Services	\$1,066	\$0	\$100	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$796,042	\$12,000	\$841,985	\$0
Program Total:	\$808,042		\$841,985	
Program FTE	6.00	0.00	7.00	0.00

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

Explanation of Revenues

County General Fund

In FY2022, \$12,000 CSEC donation transferred to the Domestic and Sexual Violence Coordination Office (25044).

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2021: 50003 DCJ Crime Victim Services Unit

1.00 FTE program specialist sr. transferred to the Domestic and Sexual Violence Coordination Office (25044) in FY 2022.

0.50 FTE victim advocate was added via budget modification DCJ-008-21 in January 2021, the position is annualized to 1.00 FTE for FY 2022.

1.00 FTE records tech was reclassified to victim advocate via budget modification DCJ-005-21 in FY 2021.

1.00 FTE office assistant sr. was reclassified to records tech via budget modification DCJ-003-21 in FY 2021.

Contractual Services decreased as follows: Human Trafficking contract converted to 1.00 FTE victim advocate position - \$84,510.