

Project Summary

Last updated: 03/19/2019

Summary

Complete the following statement, which may be used by the OAG to summarize or describe the project. "This project funds [number of staff] to serve victims by providing [types of] services in [geographic locations].

This project funds one staff member to serve victims of violent crimes by providing assistance with Crime Victims' Compensation, assistance with Texas VINE, information and referral, Law Enforcement accompaniment, crisis intervention, follow-up with victims, legal assistance, transportation and victim advocacy services for the unincorporated area of Fort Bend County."

Target Populations

SPECIFIC VICTIMIZATIONS

Assault

Child Abuse

DUI/DWI

Family Violence

Hate/Bias Crimes

Human Trafficking

Physical Abuse and/or Neglect

Robbery

Sexual Assault

Survivors of Homicide Victims

Other Victims of Crime

SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

African-American

Asian

Elderly (65 and up)

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender

Hispanic

Persons with Disabilities

Rural

Spanish-speaking

Other

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Provide a brief description of the specific victim-related issue(s) this project is designed to address as it relates to the specific victimization types reported in above.

There are problems and trauma that exist for people who are victims of a violent crime and crimes resulting in significant hardships. The failure to provide needed assistance in a timely manner often results in a re-victimization of the crime victim and can lead to lack of trust in law enforcement agencies who in all actuality may have contributed to the re-victimization.

SUPPORTING DATA

Provide data that supports the victim-related issue(s) and/or specific victimization types this project is designed to address. Cite research and/or data that is geographically relevant and specific to your service area.

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office is located in one of the most diverse and fastest growing counties in the nation. Out of the approximate population of 764,828, the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office provides service to over 3460,000 people. There have been a total of 7,927 crimes reported from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. This is based on the Part I Crimes reported through UCR. These offenses include: Criminal Homicide, Forcible Rape, Robbery, Assault (including simple, not aggravated assault), Burglary, Larceny-Theft, and Motor Vehicle Theft. These statistics are projected to increase due to the rapid growth of our county. The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office needs continued additional manpower to more effectively serve all crime victims within the Fort Bend County jurisdiction. Statistics were provided by the Uniform Crime Statistics Report from DPS and our Records Division of the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office.

PROJECT GOAL(s)

Provide a project goal(s), which relates to your Problem Statement, that shows what the project plans to achieve over the next two years with these grant funds. The goal(s) should be a "SMART" goal: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely.

The project goal is to have a positive impact in providing appropriate responses, direct services, resources and information, ongoing aid and support and follow-up contact in order to meet the needs of all crime victims in an efficient manner. It is our objective to avoid inflicting "secondary victimization" that has often characterized much of the plight of the victims of crime. In addition, the project goal is to continue to raise public awareness of victims' rights and related services offered through this agency to the public as well as Law Enforcement in general. The project goal will be accomplished by the constant full-time support of a Victim Liaison Coordinator Assistant funded by the VCLG grant to facilitate the needs of all crime victims in Fort Bend County.

OUTPUT ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Describe the systems, including tools and/or processes, written policies and procedures, databases, tracking forms or quality control testing, which will be used to track and verify the project's outputs.

In order to have proficiency in the project goal, we will provide continued assistance to victims of violent crimes and crimes resulting in significant hardships by contacting and providing support through case disposition, referrals to counseling services, community resources, local financial aid, securing MOEP and assisting with the application process of CVC and VINE. The V.L.A. will use a Tracking Form/Survey which encompasses personal statistics and observations on the victim and whether they were satisfied with the services received. As well, we will ensure the victim has received an increase in knowledge of their rights. This form will be revised as needed. The information that is provided on the Victim Tracking Form/Survey will be compiled and forwarded to the OAG at the appropriate reporting times. Crime victim information and case details are entered into the computer Case Management System provided and maintained by the Sheriff's Office. We continue to facilitate public awareness presentations of victims' rights and related services to Law Enforcement and the general public in order to increase awareness of the rights and services available. In doing so, our project goal will prosper.

OUTCOMES: Grantees will be required to report on all Outcomes associated with the Applicant's proposed activities. Below is a list of Outcomes required per each proposed activity category:

- Direct Victim Services
 - Increase in Knowledge of Crime Victims' Rights
 - Increase in Knowledge of Community Resources and Services
- Education
 - Outreach - Increase in Knowledge of Community Resources and Services
 - Training - Increase in Knowledge of Crime Victims' Rights

Describe the systems, including tools and/or processes, written policies and procedures, databases, tracking forms or quality control testing, which will be used to track and verify the project's outcomes listed above.

Direct Services - Crime Victim Rights and Community Resources and Service: Victims of crime receive a booklet issued by the deputy at the time of the report. This booklet contains information regarding their rights, referrals, crime victim compensation, and emergency information. Victims are asked to sign a page in the book acknowledging that they have received this information; this signed document is turned in with the official report of the crime. The victim is then contacted via phone or mail by a victim service provider to confirm they have the information and then assist them in their specific needs and inform them of the process going forward. Victims are tracked using an excel spreadsheet and a tracking form administered by our agency. All contact and communication is documented throughout this process.

Outreach - Community Resource and Service: A Victim Service provider attends a community outreach program several times a year. During these programs, our agency along with partner agencies passes out informational brochures and flyers that inform the community of victim rights and other services that are available.

DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Describe this project's specific activities, which will be done over the next two years.

The project goal is to have a positive impact in providing appropriate responses, direct services, utilize resources and information, provide on-going aid and support and follow-up contact in order to meet the needs of all crime victims in an efficient manner. It is our objective to avoid inflicting “secondary victimization” that has often characterized much of the plight of the victims of crime. In addition, the project goal will be to continue to raise public awareness of victims’ rights and related services offered through this agency to the public as well as Law Enforcement. The project goal will be accomplished by the constant full-time support of a Victim Liaison Coordinator Assistant with the salary being funded by the VCLG grant to facilitate the needs of all crime victims in Fort Bend County.

Describe how these activities will help to reach the project's goal.

It is our goal this year to enhance Law Enforcement's knowledge and awareness as a First Responder on how to provide needed assistance in a timely manner to avoid re-victimization of the crime victim. We shall do so through additional training, improved Victim Rights' Informational Packets, and updated and easily accessed documents. We also will continue collaborative efforts among agencies and stay abreast of projects designed to better assist victims in Fort Bend County by attending the monthly meetings (MICSA - Multi-County Interagency Coalition Against Sexual Assault and CVRT - The Fort Bend County Crime Victim Response Team).

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Briefly describe what would happen to the proposed grant project in the event that the OAG grant funds are no longer available.

In the event that OAG grant funds are no longer available, the County of Fort Bend plans to maintain the Victim Liaison Assistant hired with the (VCLG) grant funds which will be obtained from general fund revenues. We as a community have made a commitment to providing assistance to crime victims and will retain this position in the event the funds are not made available to us.

FINANCIAL SYSTEMS

Describe the financial systems, internal controls, written policies and procedures, accounting software, databases, tracking forms or quality control testing, which will be used to track and verify the project's financial activities.

We have a Human Resources Department that coordinates with Payroll in the Budget Department and further coordinates with the Auditor's Office, utilizing an individual system called Lawson. Lawson's program tracks time sheets, and, submits quarterly financial statements. The Treasurer's Office requests draws on the funds after approval by the Auditor's Office.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

Provide a justification, which relate to the project's goal, for each requested budget category in your budget.

The funds are requested for the salary and fringe benefits of the full-time Victim Liaison Assistant, who will devote 100 percent of her time in accomplishing the project goals outputs, and outcomes