

[Print This Page](#)**Agency Name:** Collin County**Grant/App:** 2877104 **Start Date:** 10/1/2020 **End Date:** 9/30/2021**Project Title:** Sheriff's Office Crime Victim Advocate**Status:** Application Pending Submission**Narrative Information****Introduction**

The purpose of this program is to provide services and assistance directly to victims of crime to speed their recovery and aid them through the criminal justice process. Services may include the following:

- responding to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims;
- assisting victims in stabilizing their lives after a victimization;
- assisting victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system; and
- providing victims with safety and security.

Please read the funding announcement for program rules and application guides, available on the [eGrants Calendar](#) page. Additionally, you should review the *Guide to Grants* available on the [PSO Resource for Applicants and Grantees webpage](#) for information and guidance related to the management and use of grant funds.

Use the space provided below to describe your project. For help with your narrative, see PSO's Developing a Good Project Narrative [Guide](#).

Note: Do not upload attachments with further information unless specifically instructed to do so.

Program-Specific Questions**Culturally Competent Victim Restoration**

Victim service providers must have the ability to blend cultural knowledge and sensitivity with victim restoration skills for a more effective and culturally appropriate recovery process. Cultural competency occurs when: (1) cultural knowledge, awareness and sensitivity are integrated into action and policy; (2) the service is relevant to the needs of the community and provided by trained staff, board members, and management; and (3) an advocate or organization recognizes each client is different with different needs, feelings, ideas and barriers.

Provide information in this section regarding how your organization is culturally competent when providing services to victims.

The Collin County Sheriff's Office is committed to providing for the unique needs of each individual citizen. It is our goal to respond respectfully and effectively to people of all cultures, languages, classes, races, ethnic backgrounds, religions, gender, and other diversity factors in a manner that recognizes, affirms, and values the worth of individuals, families, and communities and protects and preserves the dignity of each. We acknowledge that variation exists among individuals and cultures, and that these variations may influence service needs. We endeavor to remain knowledgeable about the ever-changing demographics and the diverse populations residing in Collin County. As such, all officers are required to attend cultural diversity training. Additionally, the current Victim Advocate participates in on-going continuing education for victim advocacy, which frequently includes cultural competency. Our program continues to build formal and informal community partnerships, creating and strengthening our relationships with local organizations and resources that serve a variety of diverse populations. These relationships further our understanding of how client backgrounds affect perceptions of victimization, protection, and support. Based on experience and education, our Victim Advocate builds a rapport with each client to recognize and understand how the victim's past history and background impacts/effects their emotional and mental needs.

Culturally Specific and Underserved Populations

Following are relevant definitions needed to answer this question.

- Underserved populations means populations who face barriers in accessing and using victim services, and includes populations underserved because of geographic location, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, underserved racial and ethnic populations, populations underserved because of special needs (such as language barriers, disabilities, alienage status, or age), and any other population determined to be underserved by the Attorney General or by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, as appropriate.
- Culturally specific means the program is primarily directed toward racial and ethnic minority groups (as defined in section 1707(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u-6(g))).
- Racial and ethnic minority group means American Indians (including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts); Asian Americans; Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders; Blacks; and Hispanics.
- Hispanic means individuals whose origin is Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or any other Spanish-speaking country.

Does your program have a primary focus on serving a culturally specific population? (The organization must do more than merely provide services to an underserved population or culturally specific group; rather, the organization's primary focus must be on providing culturally competent services designed to meet the specific needs of the target population in order to justify a YES response in the section below.)

☐ Yes

☒ No

If you answered 'YES' above, you must explain in the box below how your organization's program is specifically designed to focus on and meet the needs of culturally specific populations. If this item does not apply enter 'N/A'.

N/A

Certifications

In addition to the requirements found in existing statute, regulation, and the funding announcement, this program requires applicant organizations to certify compliance with the following:

Forensic Medical Examination Payments

Health care facilities shall conduct a forensic medical examination of a victim of an alleged sexual assault if the victim arrived at the facility within 96 hours after the assault occurred and the victim consents to the examination. The victim is not required to participate in the investigation or prosecution of an offense as a condition of receiving a forensic medical examination, nor pay for the forensic examination or the evidence collection kit. The evidence collection portion of the exam is to be paid by law enforcement per state law. Crime Victim Compensation funds may be used to pay for the medical portion of the exam unless the victim of sexual assault is required to seek reimbursement for the examination from their insurance carrier. If a health care facility does not provide diagnosis or treatment services for sexual assault victims, the facility is required to refer the victim to a facility that provides those services.

Confidentiality and Privacy

Applicant agrees to maintain the confidentiality of client-counselor information and research data, as required by state and federal law. Personally identifying information or individual information collected in connection with services requested, utilized, or denied may not be disclosed; or, reveal individual client information without informed, written, reasonably time-limited consent of the person about whom information is sought. If release of information is compelled by statutory or court mandate, reasonable attempts to provide notice to victims affected by the disclosure of information will be made and steps necessary to protect the privacy and safety of the persons affected by the release of information will be taken.

Activities that Compromise Victim Safety and Recovery

Applicant agrees to not engage in activities that jeopardize victim safety, deter or prevent physical or emotional healing for victims, or allow offenders to escape responsibility for their actions.

Polygraph Testing Prohibition

A peace officer or attorney representing the state may not require an adult or child victim of an alleged sex offense to submit to a polygraph examination or other truth telling device as a condition for proceeding with the investigation of such an offense. In addition, the refusal of a victim to submit to a polygraph or other truth telling examination will not prevent the investigation, charging, or prosecution of an alleged sex offense or on the basis of the results of a polygraph examination.

Protection Orders

Victims applying for a protective order or their attorney may not bear the costs associated with the filing of an

order of protections.

Offender Firearm Prohibition

The applicant certifies that its judicial administrative policies and practices include notification to domestic violence offenders of the requirements delineated in section 18 USC § 992(g)(8) and (g)(9).

Criminal Charges

In connection with the prosecution of any misdemeanor or felony domestic violence offense, the victim may not bear the costs associated with the filing of criminal charges against a domestic violence offender, issuance or service of a warrant, or witness subpoena.

Criminal History Reporting

Entities receiving funds from PSO must be located in a county that has an average of 90% or above on both adult and juvenile dispositions entered into the computerized criminal history database maintained by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) as directed in the *Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 66*. The disposition completeness percentage is defined as the percentage of arrest charges a county reports to DPS for which a disposition has been subsequently reported and entered into the computerized criminal history system.

Beginning January 1, 2020, counties applying for grant awards from the Office of the Governor must commit that the county will report at least 90 percent of convictions within seven business days to the Criminal Justice Information System at the Department of Public Safety. By January 1, 2021, such reporting must take place within five business days. Click [here](#) for additional information from DPS on this new reporting requirement.

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)

Eligible applicants operating a law enforcement agency must be current on reporting Part I violent crime data to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for inclusion in the annual Uniform Crime Report (UCR). To be considered eligible for funding, applicants must have submitted a full twelve months of accurate data to DPS for the most recent calendar year.

Conversion to National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) has established a goal set by the Texas Legislature for all local law enforcement agencies to implement and report crime statistics data by using the requirements of the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Additionally, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) will collect required crime statistics solely through the NIBRS starting January 1, 2021. Due to this federal deadline, grantees are advised that eligibility for future grant funding may be tied to compliance with NIBRS. Financial grant assistance for transitioning to NIBRS may be available for your jurisdiction from the Public Safety Office.

Immigration Legal Services

CJD prioritizes funding of projects that provide a full spectrum of counseling, crisis services, and other direct victim services. CJD will not fund projects that focus primarily on immigration legal services and do not provide a significant level of other types of victim services.

Discrimination

Applicant agrees not to discriminate against victims because they disagree with the State's prosecution of the criminal case.

Records

Applicant agrees to maintain daily time and attendance records specifying the time devoted to allowable victim services.

Volunteers

If awarded VOCA funds, applicant agrees to use volunteers to support either the project or other agency-wide services/activities, unless CJD determines that a compelling reason exists to waive this requirement.

Crime Victims' Compensation

Applicant agrees to assist crime victims in applying for crime victims' compensation benefits.

Community Efforts

Applicant agrees to promote community efforts to aid crime victims. Applicants should promote, within the community, coordinated public and private efforts to aid crime victims. Coordination efforts qualify an organization to receive these funds, but are not activities that can be supported with these funds.

Civil Rights Information

Applicant agrees to maintain statutorily required civil rights statistics on victims served by race, national origin, sex, age, and disability of victims served, within the timeframe established by CJD. This requirement is waived when providing services, such as telephone counseling, where soliciting the information may be inappropriate or offensive to the crime victim.

Victims of Federal Crime

Applicant agrees to provide equal services to victims of federal crime. (Note: Victim of federal crime is a victim of an offense that violates a federal criminal statute or regulation; federal crimes also include crimes that occur in an area where the federal government has jurisdiction, such as Indian reservations, some national parks, some federal buildings, and military installations.)

No Charge

Applicant agrees to provide grant-funded services at no charge to victims of crime. Applicants are also prohibited from billing Crime Victims Compensation, private insurance, Medicaid, or Medicare for services provided using VOCA funds.

Effective Services

Applicants applying for funds to provide victim services must demonstrate a record of providing effective services to crime victims. (See "Eligible Organizations" in the Funding Announcement.)

Compliance with State and Federal Laws, Programs and Procedures

Local units of government, including cities, counties and other general purpose political subdivisions, as appropriate, and institutions of higher education that operate a law enforcement agency, must comply with all aspects of the programs and procedures utilized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") to: (1) notify DHS of all information requested by DHS related to illegal aliens in Agency's custody; and (2) detain such illegal aliens in accordance with requests by DHS. Additionally, counties and municipalities may NOT have in effect, purport to have in effect, or make themselves subject to or bound by, any law, rule, policy, or practice (written or unwritten) that would: (1) require or authorize the public disclosure of federal law enforcement information in order to conceal, harbor, or shield from detection fugitives from justice or aliens illegally in the United States; or (2) impede federal officers from exercising authority under 8 U.S.C. § 1226 (a), § 1226(c), § 1231(a), § 1357(a), § 1366(1), or § 1366(3). Lastly, eligible applicants must comply with all provisions, policies, and penalties found in Chapter 752, Subchapter C of the Texas Government Code.

Each local unit of government, and institution of higher education that operates a law enforcement agency, must download, complete and then upload into eGrants the CEO/Law Enforcement Certifications and Assurances Form certifying compliance with federal and state immigration enforcement requirements. This Form is required for each application submitted to OOG and is active until August 31, 2021 or the end of the grant period, whichever is later.

Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) Certification

The applicant certifies that it meets the following federal statutory requirements in regards to the provision of legal advocacy:

- (1) Any person providing legal assistance through a program funded under this VAWA Program
 - (a) has demonstrated expertise in providing legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking in the targeted population; or
 - (b) is partnered with an entity or person that has demonstrated expertise described in subparagraph (A) and has completed or will complete training in connection with domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking and related legal issues, including training on evidence-based risk factors for domestic and dating violence homicide.
- (2) Any training program conducted in satisfaction of the requirement of paragraph (1) has been or will be developed with input from and in collaboration with a state, local, territorial, or tribal domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking victim service provider or coalition, as well as appropriate tribal, State, territorial, and local law enforcement officials.
- (3) Any person or organization providing legal assistance through a program funded under this Program has informed and will continue to inform state, local, or tribal domestic violence, dating violence or sexual assault programs and coalitions, as well as appropriate State and local law enforcement officials of their work.
- (4) The grantee's organizational policies do not require mediation or counseling involving offenders and victims physically together, in cases where sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or child sexual abuse is an issue.

Does the applicant meet the criteria outlined above?

☒ Yes
☐ No

Civil Rights Liaison

A civil rights liaison who will serve as the grantee's civil rights point of contact and who will be responsible for ensuring that the grantee meets all applicable civil rights requirements must be designated. The designee will act as the grantee's liaison in civil rights matters with CJD and with the federal Office of Justice Programs.

Enter the Name of the Civil Rights Liaison:

Cynthia Jacobson

Enter the Address for the Civil Rights Liaison:

2300 Bloomdale Rd Suite 4117 McKinney, TX 75071

Enter the Phone Number for the Civil Rights Liaison [(999) 999-9999 x9999]:

(972) 548-4606

Each applicant agency must certify to the specific requirements detailed above as well as to comply with all requirements within the PSO Funding Announcement, the *Guide to Grants*, the *Grantee Conditions and Responsibilities*, any authorizing or applicable state and federal statutes and regulations to be eligible for this program.

☒ I certify to all of the application content & requirements.

Project Abstract :

Unfortunately for crime victims, the trauma of the crime itself may be only the beginning. Many victims suffer a tremendous amount of physical, financial, and psychological trauma, especially those victims of serious, repeated, or long-term crimes. Additionally, in the chaos during and immediately after the event, the criminal justice system can be terrifying. Assistance from law enforcement can make a significant difference for victims. The Collin County Sheriff's Office Victim Assistance Program seeks to help victims achieve restoration. The Victim Advocate is also professionally trained to support victims of crime. Our Victim Advocate provides on-scene crisis intervention and advocacy, safety plan development, Crime Victims' Compensation claims assistance, and referrals to emergency and social service agencies while also providing victims with reassurance, emotional support, guidance for resolving problems, and case status and progress information. There is no universal solution to meeting the needs of the victims of crime. However, according to research, when Advocates offer coordinated, early, victim-focused interventions, victims are more likely to participate in court-proceedings, access community-based programs, and report decreases in distress, PTSD symptoms, depression, and fear. A strong advocacy program in Collin County helps ensure that victims have the strength and support they need to rebuild their lives. Helping victims is priority for Collin County.

Problem Statement :

The moment a violent crime happens the victim's life is forever changed. They are no longer the exact same person they were prior to the crime. The victimization does not stop when the actual crime is over, with victims suffering a tremendous amount of physical and psychological trauma, especially for victims of serious, repeated, or long-term crimes. For victims, the trauma of the crime itself is only the beginning of what can often be a lifelong struggle. Victims of crime can find their world in disarray for years to come and feel firsthand the crime's impact on their physical, financial, and psychological wellbeing. Unfortunately, in the chaos which envelopes a victim during and immediately after the event, the criminal justice system can seem quite daunting and frightening. Lacking knowledge of the criminal justice system, victims often retreat to the background and their voices go unheard during investigation, prosecution, and sentencing. While our core mission is to pursue justice for criminal acts, which includes justice for the victims and witnesses of crime, how we treat those individuals has a huge impact on their confidence in the criminal justice system and their ability to heal and recover from crime. If a victim feels they are receiving inadequate or delayed services from the criminal justice system, they are less likely to participate in the process of prosecution, creating a higher level of victim attrition and reducing the rate of offender accountability. A victim's cooperation, assistance, and safety are not only essential to the effective detection, investigation, and prosecution of crimes, but also to their ability to recover from the crime. A law enforcement agency is a natural entry point for victims to seek advocacy and assistance after they have been victimized. Whenever a crime is committed, law enforcement is usually the first to arrive on the scene and interact with victims. This puts our office in a unique position to assist victims immediately after the crime and encourage and facilitate victim participation in the criminal justice system. The initial response to a victim will have a long-lasting impact on that individual's view of the justice system and has been shown to be a key factor in whether or not a victim ultimately accesses needed services and assistance, such as crisis intervention, management, financial compensation, information, and referrals to community programs.

Barriers, such as lack of knowledge and/or ability to access available resources, can pose significant obstacles for victims to overcome in their recovery efforts. The Sheriff's Office investigates crimes in the unincorporated, rural parts of Collin County, which are greatly underserved areas with limited resources and almost non-existent social service providers. In many instances, until a criminal case is filed (which can take days to months), a Victim Advocate attached to the investigating law enforcement office may be the only direct link to services and assistance a victim has. Traumatized victims may have difficulty coping and become more isolated as time passes, making it difficult for a victim to communicate with criminal justice professionals, co-workers, friends, and even family. The Victim Advocate is there to assist the victim through these difficult times and help the victim recover from a traumatic act of crime. Crime victimization can affect an individual's ability to perform a variety of roles, including those related to parenting, intimate relationships, and occupational and social functioning. The problems faced by victims of crime are varied and numerous, and each victim's experience may differ greatly from another who suffered the same crime. We believe, regardless of their situation, no victim should ever feel like they are facing these challenges alone. As Dr. Morton Bard, co-author of *The Crime Victim's Book* has described a victim's reaction to crime as the crisis reaction, "victims will react differently depending upon the level of personal violation they experience and their state of equilibrium at the time of victimization" an example such as theft-experience less of a personal violation than victims of violent crimes. Bard, Morton and Dawn Sangrey. (1986). *The Crime Victim's Book*. Secaucus N.J.: Citadel Press.

Supporting Data :

Collin County's population increased 96% since 2000, from 491,772 to an estimated 1,005,146 as stated the U.S. Census Bureau. Family violence has risen 57% since 2017, 2018 (n=327) 2019 to date (n= 398). Murders investigated since 2012 is 15, 3 added in 2018 100% of which were family violence homicides. 86.6% of homicides since 2012 (n=13) were considered family violence, with 10 occurring since 2014. In an effort to support victims of crime in Collin County and reduce victim attrition for family violence cases in the justice process, the Collin County Sheriff's Office, in cooperation with the City of Frisco, obtained a grant (beginning in FY 2013) to share a Crime Victim Advocate, each jurisdiction receiving advocacy support 20 hours weekly. Following the success of the program, Collin County obtained a grant for a full-time Advocate beginning in FY 2016. In 2012, prior to the Victim Advocate starting, 17.3% (n=44) of family violence offenses resulted in an "exceptional" clearance. An "exceptional" case clearance is when the identity and location of the offender is known and there is enough information to support an arrest; however, the offender cannot be taken into custody because circumstances outside the control of law enforcement prohibit the agency from arresting, charging, and prosecuting the offender. In many cases, this is caused by the victim's refusal to cooperate with the prosecution after the offender has been identified. However, since hiring a Victim Advocate, the overall "exceptional" rate has lowered to 8.1% (n = 97) for the 1,943 family violence cases disposed since 2013. Even with a 57% increase in family violence cases (2017 compared to 2019) we have maintained the 81.9% exceptional rate. In FY 2018 and 2019, the Victim Advocate served 540 unique victims representing 762 different types of victimization (some suffer multiple types of victimization). Of the victimization types, 43% (n = 329) were family violence, 46% (n = 354) were adult physical assault, 4% (n =11) were victims of court order violations, 1% (n=11), the remaining 4% were made of adult sexual assault, victims of bullying, burglary / robbery, child abuse, elder abuse, human trafficking, kidnapping, and / or vehicular victimization, as well as survivors of homicide victims. During this two year period, 348 victims received referrals, 148 crisis intervention, and 125 victims were assisted with Crime Victims' Compensation applications. 1. "Collin County QuickFacts." State and County QuickFacts. US Census Bureau. [Accessed Dec. 11, 2019]. <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/48/48085.html>. 2. Collin County Sheriff's Office Reports, 2009 - 2017. 3. "Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Performance Measures Report - Quarter 4 (378)." Report to Texas A&M University, Public Policy Research Institute, grant number VA 2877101, Oct 2016. 4. "Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Performance Measures Report - Quarter 4 (418)." Report to Texas A&M University, Public Policy Research Institute, grant number VZ 2877102, Oct 2017. 5. "Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Performance Measures Report - Quarter 4 (461)." Report to Texas A&M University, Public Policy Research Institute, grant number VZ 2877102, Oct 2018. 6. "Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Performance Measures Report - Quarter 4 (303)." Report to Texas A&M University, Public Policy Research Institute, grant number VZ 2877102, Oct 2019.

Project Approach & Activities:

Assistance from law enforcement makes a significant difference for victims. The CCSO Victim Assistance Program seeks to help crime victims in achieving restoration of full physical, mental, and emotional health by providing for the unique needs of each individual citizen. The Advocate serves as a contact person for the victim and provides assistance and support services directly to victims of crime. Victims are primarily identified through offense reports taken by CCSO employees. In some cases, such as homicide, aggravated assault or robbery with serious bodily injury, fatal collisions, child deaths, suicides, sexual assault, and/or hostage/barricade incidents, the Advocate is called to the scene to provide immediate assistance. Following

identification, each victim receives program information through mail, email, or in person. In addition to generic information, the Advocate also provides more individualized information, advocacy, and/or referrals based on the specific situation. For example, family violence victims may receive immediate crisis assistance, transportation, referrals or information regarding local sheltering options, safety planning and Crime Victims' Compensation assistance, and protective order information. While for sexual assault victims, the Advocate may provide immediate crisis assistance, coordination and communication with hospital personnel, and referrals or information regarding the local rape crisis center and other non-profit and counseling options available. As well as providing services such as on-scene crisis intervention and advocacy, safety plan development, Crime Victims' Compensation claims assistance, and referrals to emergency and social service agencies for additional support, the Advocate also provides victims with reassurance, emotional support, guidance for resolving problems, and case status and progress information. Additionally, as research has shown that participating in the criminal justice process can aid victims in rebuilding their lives, the Advocate will, on behalf of victims, act as a liaison between the victims and a variety of justice system departments and personnel; advocate for victims' needs and wishes within the system; recognize the impact crime has had on victims and support the important role victims play in criminal justice processes; work to ensure victims are treated fairly and respectfully; and seek to remove all potential barriers (physical, psychological, cultural, etc.) to services. Each case is unique, and each victim's response may vary greatly - even from another who suffered the same crime. Therefore, victims are assisted for as long as they require services. In some cases, interaction with the Advocate is concluded over a short time period; while, in more serious cases, prolonged interaction and assistance may be required. If a case is turned over to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution, the victim will often be transferred to their Victim Assistance program for continued services. As the CCSO and the Advocate cannot be the sole providers of necessary services, the program continues to build formal and informal community partnerships, creating and strengthening relationships with local organizations and resources that serve crime victims' needs. We currently work with the Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County, Hope's Door (women's shelter and comprehensive intervention and prevention services for domestic violence), The Turning Point Rape Crisis Center of Collin County, Family Place, and LifePath Systems, as well as other non-profit, medical, and social service organizations. Through countywide collaborative efforts, such as the Collin County Social Services Association and the Collin County Council on Family Violence, we build strong networks, identify gaps in services, provide training, and minimize duplicative efforts. Additionally, Advocates in the District Attorney's Office, the local Rape Crisis Center, Children Advocacy Center, police departments, and social services agencies work together to help victims through their trauma.

Capacity & Capabilities:

As a full service law enforcement agency, the Collin County Sheriff's Office and its staff are trained to work with the victims of crime. Our officers are first on-scene and are frequently the first interactions for victims with the criminal justice system, making our role in initializing victim services critical. Our department has developed relationships with community organizations and service providers including the Collin County Council on Family Violence, Junior League of Collin County, Turning Point Rape Crisis Center of Collin County, Hope's Door, and the Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County. We have been providing direct victim advocacy services, utilizing an educated and experienced Crime Victim Advocate, since FY 2013. The Collin County Sheriff's Office Crime Victim Advocate, has earned a Bachelor of Arts in Family Studies and Criminal Justice, as well as a Master of Science in Counseling. Prior to fulfilling her goal of becoming an advocate for crime victims, she worked in a residential treatment center and served as a direct contact to individuals in drug/alcohol recovery, assisting them through the recovery process. Additionally, she has worked as an advocate for persons affected by sickle cell disease and completed a counseling internship where she provided individual, group, family, and couples counseling for individuals and families struggling with addiction and / or homelessness. Since becoming employed at Collin County, she has gained experience in crime victim advocacy, crisis support, crime victim compensation assistance, protective order assistance, and community resource and referral assistance and has completed victim assistance training that will allow her to apply for her Certification in Victim Advocacy. She also participates in ongoing CE for victim advocacy through yearly trainings; Dallas Crimes Against Women Conference, North Texas Facing Family Violence Conference, OAG Crime Victims Services Conference, TDCAA Victim Assistance Coordinator Seminar and TCFV Statewide Conference. These trainings are essential not only for the Victim Advocate but for the program and victim. The trainings allow the victim advocate to become better equipped to meet the needs of victims and to stay up to date on current laws of victim rights. The Advocate will be attending the National Organizational for Victim Assistance Annual Training (NOVA) which will provide updated information on case studies, victim's rights, provide overview of criminal procedures, advocating and speaking out on accountability of perpetrators and healing for survivors, etc. The Advocate will also be registering and taking part in the following: -National Advocate Credentialing Program and an on-line Victim Advocacy Certificate Course. It will focus on legal terminology, legal process, and legislation regarding victims' rights, effects of victimization, and counseling skills for victims. It's an intensive online program designed to train and qualify students to provide assistance to crime victims. The course provides an overview of criminal procedure and discusses the effects crime can have on its victims. The training and on-line course will benefit the Victim Advocate which in return will benefit the victims and Collin County.

Performance Management :

Goal: Provide victim advocacy services that ensure the rights of crime victims, preserve privacy, reduce trauma, promote safety, facilitate recovery, and encourage participation in the criminal justice process.

Objectives: 1. Ensure minimum of 95% of victims seeking assistance are served. 2. Demonstrate maximum "exceptional" clearance rate of 10% for family violence offenses. Measures: 1. Provide victim assistance services to 600 victims / survivors. 2. Provide case management and advocacy for 520 victims / survivors. 3. Provide advocacy / accompaniment / assistance for criminal justice system interactions for 100 victims / survivors. 4. Provide referrals for 600 victims / survivors. 5. Assist 100 victims with developing safety plans.

Data Management: The Advocate records a summary of pertinent victim assistance data in an Excel spreadsheet maintained on Collin County's secure network. Monthly data points collected include the number of victims/survivors who request services and the number actually served each month, types of services provided (crisis support, CVC information/assistance, safety planning, etc.), number of cases assigned by offense type. Additionally, the Sheriff's Office collects and maintains data for the number and dispositions of family violence cases, as well as numbers of child abuse, homicide, sexual assault, robbery, and other offense types investigated.

Target Group :

Any victim / survivor of serious or violent crime reported to and/or investigated by the Collin County Sheriff's Office and their families. The Collin County Sheriff's Office investigates crime in and provides direct services to the residents of Collin County, whose population has averaged approximately 50,000 with a rate of crime at 937 per 100,000 persons as reported by the Texas Department of Public Safety Crime Report. Residents of unincorporated areas tend to be disparately affected, compared to municipal residents, by a lack of support services readily available to help them navigate the criminal justice process or advocate for their rights. Many victims within the unincorporated areas are dispersed over a large geographical area and often lack sufficient funding, transportation, or other resources to seek assistance from victim services programs. Specifically, the CCSO victim services program seeks to target victims of family violence, sexual assault, and other felonious assaults within the unincorporated areas of Collin County. Texas Department of Public Safety Crime Stats for 2017-2018 show 4 murders, 62 rapes, 97 aggravated assaults, 204 burglary, 449 larceny and 71 vehicle thefts. We (CCSO RMS) show 750 reported family violence incidents during that same time. When you compare this to the numbers for 2013-2016 to only two years of 2017-2018, Collin County, far exceeds time period. Each one of these offenses represent at least one victim making the advocate a vital team member.

http://www.dps.texas.gov/administration/crime_records/pages/crimestatistics.htm

Evidence-Based Practices:

The Collin County Sheriff's Office recognizes the importance in incorporating current theory, best practice, and evidence-based service delivery. As such, the Victim Advocate annually attends training to improve and maintain an updated knowledge base regarding effective skills and evidence-based practices (EBP). The program maintains a flexible approach to victim services and is willing to adapt practices to improve services and outreach. The Advocate has primarily worked with family violence victims over the past three years, with 69.9% (n = 628) of the 898 victimization types the Advocate served in FY 2016 and FY 2017 considered domestic / family violence. Of the 716 victims served during this time, 62.4% (n = 447) were women. As such, a large part of the CCSO Victim Assistance Program utilizes the Advocacy Interventions for Women Who Experience Intimate Partner Violence EBP at the National Institute of Justice CrimeSolutions.gov website. Advocacy interventions aim to empower women who have experienced intimate partner violence and link them to helpful services in the community. This practice is rated "Effective" for reducing domestic/intimate partner violence. According to research, women who receive services through advocacy interventions experience significantly less physical abuse, compared with women in control groups, at 12- to 24-month follow-up periods. Additionally, the CCSO has implemented a Lethality Assessment Program (LAP), a standardized, evidence-based series of eleven questions, to identify victims of domestic violence who are at the highest risk of being seriously injured or killed by their intimate partners, and immediately connect them to the local domestic violence services. The LAP makes use of a research-based screening tool and accompanying referral protocol to enable law enforcement and domestic violence programs to work hand-in-hand to actively engage high-risk victims who otherwise may not seek the support of domestic violence intervention services. Collin County Sheriff's Office supports and empowers individuals who have been impacted by a crime, having them restore their dignity and safety. Assisting/working with victims' inherent resiliency and self-determination, the Victim Advocate will encourage the victims to lead their path to restoring their personal power through many different avenues and venues. Making sure to support, identify and prioritize the needs of the victims at all times. Services, process, choices, rights, and safety will always be at the forefront. 1. Ramsay, J., Y. Carter, L

Davidson, et. al. Advocacy interventions to reduce or eliminate violence and promote the physical and psychosocial well-being of women who experience intimate partner abuse. Cochrane Database System Rev 2009:5 (CD005043). 2. Lethality Assessment Program for First Responders. Bowie, MD: Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, 2009. 3. Best Practice Guidelines: Crime Victim Services, Office of the Justice Program, Nov. 2010.

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