



**NOTICE OF MEETING**

A meeting of the Panhandle Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) will be held at **12:00 p.m., on Friday, March 21, 2025** in the Board Room of the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission offices located at 415 Southwest Eighth Avenue, Potter County, Texas. In order to accommodate CJAC members of the public who may want to access the meeting remotely, a hybrid link is provided under Texas Government Code Section 551.127 with more than four counties in the State of Texas being represented on the advisory committee.

Members of the public interested in attending this meeting may do so by logging onto <https://meet.goto.com/726151357> or may participate by phone by dialing (872) 240-3212 Access Code: 726-151-357. A copy of the agenda packet for this meeting can be found on the PRPC's website at [www.theprpc.org/Programs/CriminalJustice/](http://www.theprpc.org/Programs/CriminalJustice/)

**AGENDA**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. MINUTES**

Consider approval of the minutes from the previous CJAC meeting held on October 23, 2024.

**BREAK for Lunch**

**3. OVERVIEW OF THE GENERAL VICTIM SERVICES GRANT PROGRAMS AND SCORING PROCESS**

Presentation by PRPC staff.

**4. PRESENTATION BY APPLICANTS FOR FY 2026 VAWA FUNDS**

Applicant presentations for FY 2026 Violence Against Women Grant will be made in the following order. Applicants are asked to keep their presentations to five minutes. Thank you.

<b><u>TIER 1 APPLICANTS</u></b>	<b><u>FUNDS REQUESTED</u></b>	<b><u>PRESENTATION TIME</u></b>
Randall County DA's Office	\$ 105,599.97	1:15 – 1:25
	\$ 105,599.97	

**5. PRESENTATION BY APPLICANTS FOR FY 2026 VOCA FUNDS**

Applicant presentations for FY 2026 Victims of Crime Act Grant will be made in the following order. Applicants are asked to keep their presentations to five minutes. Thank you.

<b><u>VOCA APPLICANTS</u></b>	<b><u>FUNDS REQUESTED</u></b>	<b><u>PRESENTATION TIME</u></b>
Deaf Smith County Crisis Center	\$ 207,296.00	1:40 – 1:50

Randall County DA's Office	\$ 74,868.60	1:50 – 2:00
Potter County/47 <sup>th</sup> DA's Office	\$ 204,619.00	2:00 – 2:10
Hutchinson County Crisis Center	\$ 210,000.00	2:10 – 2:20
Tralee Crisis Center	\$ 196,603.00	2:20 – 2:30
Family Support Services	\$ 349,972.09	2:30 – 2:40
Freedom Center	\$ 249,854.87	2:40 – 2:50
Panhandle Crisis Center	<u>\$ 259,441.00</u>	2:50 – 3:00
	\$ 1,752,654.56	

**6. CJAC PRIORITIZATION OF FY 2026 APPLICATIONS**

The CJAC will prioritize the Panhandle Region's FY 2026 VOCA and VAWA applications.

**7. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

April 10, 2025 at 1:30 PM

**8. MISCELLANEOUS**

Open roundtable discussion on general regional criminal justice issues or matters

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This notice complies with Texas Government Code Chapter 551, Open Meetings Act, Section 551.041 (Notice of Meeting Requirements); Section 551.043 (Time and Accessibility of Notice Requirements); and Section 551.053 (Notice Requirements of a Political Subdivision Extending into Four or More Counties). The notice has been filed at least 72 hours before the scheduled time of the meeting with the Secretary of State's Office, the Potter County Clerk's Office, and has been posted in the Administrative Office of the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission.

Posted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025, at 415 West Eighth Avenue, Amarillo, Texas, at 1:01 pm.

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Daphne Morcom



*PANHANDLE REGIONAL  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE*

# **ITEM 2**

**Minutes October 23, 2024 Meeting**

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PANHANDLE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee

Minutes

October 23, 2024

A meeting of the Panhandle Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) was held on Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission offices located at 415 Southwest Eighth Avenue, Potter County, Texas. In order to accommodate CJAC members of the public who may have wanted to access the meeting remotely, a hybrid link was provided under Texas Government Code Section 551.127 with more than four counties in the State of Texas being represented on the advisory committee.

Ms. Shelly Bohannon, presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Kent Birdsong, County of Oldham
- Shelly Bohannon, The Bridge Children's Advocacy Center
- Terry Bouchard, Ochiltree County Sheriff's Office
- Lukas Day, Professional Counseling and Biofeedback Cntr.
- Sace Hardman, Panhandle Police Department
- Brandi Reed, Family Support Services
- Judge Jennifer Cates, Canyon Municipal Court
- Shalyn Hamlin, Castro County
- Louis Sanchez, Amarillo Police Department
- Karen McGahen, Tralee Crisis Center
- Traci Rogers, No Boundaries International
- Hattie Sanderson, 100th District Attorney Office
- Shannon Ellis, Concerned Citizen

MEMBERS ABSENT:

- Nina Parvin, Randall County Sheriff's Office
- Patrick Yarbrough, Dallam Hartley Sherman Juvenile Probation Office
- Sandra Garza, Texas Panhandle Centers
- Matthew Bradley, Childress County Sheriff's Office
- Monty Hysinger, Dumas ISD
- Joe Jarosek, City of Canadian
- Landon Swan, Hereford Police Department

STAFF PRESENT:

Daphne Morcom, Regional Services Program Specialist; Lori Gunn, Regional Services Director

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Bohannon called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. noting that a quorum was present.

2. **INTRODUCTIONS**

Introductions were made and housekeeping was given by Ms. Morcom.

3. **MINUTES**

Members considered the minutes from the April 1, 2024 and April 16, 2024 meetings of the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee. Mr. Birdsong moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Sanderson seconded; the motion carried.

4. **OVERVIEW OF THE REGIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRANTS PROGRAM**

Members heard an overview of the Regional Criminal Justice Grants Program by Ms. Morcom. She also presented program requirements and the responsibilities of the CJAC. No action by the Committee was required.

5. **CONSIDER AND APPROVE A SET OF CJAC OPERATING PROCEDURES/BYLAWS AND GRANT DOCUMENTS FOR THE FY 2026 CJD GRANTS PROGRAM YEAR**

Ms. Morcom gave overview of the proposed changes to the bylaws, which included updating dates and updating the FY local priorities. Mr. Birdsong moved to approve the FY 2026 Bylaws with recommended changes. Sheriff Bouchard seconded the motion; the motion carried.

6. **GRANT SCORING QUESTIONS**

Ms. Morcom reviewed scoring questions and point values that were developed for the FY 2026 CJD grant applications under JAG, JJ, TP, VOCA and VAWA. Chief Hardman moved to approve the scoring instrument. Ms. Sanderson seconded the motion; the motion carried.

7. **ELECTION OF FY 2025 CJAC OFFICERS**

Members considered nominating and electing the Committee's Chair and Vice-Chair, serving terms through September 2025. Mr. Birdsong nominated himself for the position of Vice-Chair and Sheriff Bouchard seconded the motion; the motion carried. Mr. Birdsong nominated Ms. Bohannon for the position of Chair and Sheriff Bouchard seconded the motion; the motion carried.

8. **SCHEDULING OF THE NEXT CJAC MEETING**

Ms. Morcom advised that the next CJAC Meeting would occur after the Office of the Governor releases the criminal justice applications back to the COG. Which will probably be in March and/or April. PRPC staff will notify CJAC members at that time.

9. **MISCELLANEOUS**

Ms. Bohannon discussed the short fall of funds for the VOCA funding source. She reported that there is legislation at the federal level that should help turn it around and in order for this to happen, all Texas Representatives would need to sign onto the bill. She reported that at this time Representative Ronny Jackson has not signed the bill. She reported that her agency's oversight agency, Children's Advocacy Center of Texas, has encouraged stakeholders, team members and any interested party to reach out to Mr. Jackson's office requesting his support of this legislation by signing on. She stated that she would send out contact information for Mr. Jackson's office to the committee following the meeting.

Ms. Gunn discussed the previous held Full Scale Active Shooter exercise that took place in Dumas for Moore County the previous day. She stated that the drama team from the high school did the acting.

It was discussed that on December 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> an active shooter training will be held in Ochiltree County.

It is now mandated that all TCOLE officers have to have 16 hours of ALERRT Level 1 training. Mr. Hardman reported that Panhandle Police Department needs ALERRT Level 1 for one of their officers. Cpt. Sanchez informed the committee that Amarillo Police Department holds ALERRT Level 1 twice a year and that other agencies may be able to attend their classes and should contact him for more information. Sheriff Bouchard asked the others about policy development. TPCA or TAC will help with policy.

SART teams were discussed. It was reported that many are having issues getting survivors to sign consent forms. Ms. Sanderson stated that there has been very few meetings due to no cases or refusals. Mr. Birdsong reported the same. Ms. Hamlin reported that they have not had any victims since it started. Ms. Reed reported that their SART meets quarterly. Ms. Reed reported that Family Support Services has been short staffed and is down to three advocates. She stated that very few of their cases go through the justice system. Pampa and Ochiltree County report that there has been an uptick in child sexual assault cases.

It was reported that there is a lack of funding for school violence prevention and a lack of education to shift generational issues. The committee expressed the need for education starting at 0-5 year old age groups. The lack of role models for teens and increase in teen mental health was discussed. Special focus staff at the schools have been eliminated as a result of grant funding going away. Amarillo ISD recently had a reunification center exercise. Panhandle Police Department is working with juvenile probation to issue consequences. More threats are being made and more often it is face to face making the threats difficult to prove. The committee reported a decrease in funding for gang violence prevention. It was also reported that there is no class C enforcement in the schools which leaves law enforcement with dealing with the issues.

#### 10. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.



*PANHANDLE REGIONAL CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE*

# **ITEM 3**

## **Overview of the VOCA and VAWA Grants Scoring Process**



**PANHANDLE  
REGIONAL  
PLANNING  
COMMISSION**

## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 6, 2025  
**TO:** CJAC Members  
**FROM:** Daphne Morcom, Regional Services Programs Specialist  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Items #3  
**OVERVIEW OF THE VOCA AND VAWA GRANT PROGRAMS AND SCORING PROCESS**

### **FY 2026 VOCA AND VAWA Grant Cycle Overview**

In October 2024, the CJAC reviewed, discussed and amended their bylaws and began the FY 2026 grant making process via an online discussion.

In December of 2024, the Criminal Justice Division (CJD) of the Governor's Office solicited applications for projects during the state fiscal year 2026 grant cycle. On December 16<sup>th</sup>, PRPC staff distributed a Notice of Fund Availability to 497 eligible entities in the Panhandle Region. Workshop was held in person on January 13<sup>th</sup> and via video conference on January 15<sup>th</sup> to assist applicants in their application composition and submission. There were 13 attendees at the workshop. CJD set the application deadline on February 13, 2025.

In total, CJD received nine (9) grant applications from the Panhandle Region for VOCA and VAWA. There is one (1) Violence Against Women Grants and eight (8) Victim Assistance Grants to review today.

### **CCH 90% Disposition Issue**

CJD continues to press the issue regarding the 90% disposition rate required of counties in Chapter 60 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The consequences of not meeting that 90% included all agencies within the jurisdiction (i.e., County). The prescribed consequence states any agency with a main office within a county not meeting the 90% Disposition Rate on August 1, 2025, will be deemed ineligible for CJD funding.

PRPC staff worked with jurisdictions to help them meet that 90% threshold in 2024. All but one of our 26 counties met the 90% disposition rate for FY 2025.

As of March 3, 2025, there are still fourteen (14) counties within the Panhandle Region not meeting the 90% disposition rate for either Adult or Juvenile cases. Three (3) of the VOCA projects are in counties that are currently below the 90% requirement. The one (1) VAWA project is not in one of the fourteen (14) counties in this grant cycle.



The official funding decision will be up to CJD using the August 1<sup>st</sup> CCH report; however, an applicant's ability to be funded may be a factor in your decision. That is up to you as an individual committee member.

I have attached a copy of the Texas Department of Public Safety's most recent CHH Report, which was released on March 3, 2025.

The Office of the Governor's Criminal Justice Division allows each region's CJAC to compile questions of their own for the score cards when evaluating each grant application. Those score cards were approved by the CJAC and CJD for use in scoring of the FY 2026 grant applications. A "Working Copy" of a score sheet is available for your review and use while you review the applications.

The CJAC Presentation Guideline forms are provided along with the application information for each applicant in agenda item #3 and #4 for your review.



*PANHANDLE REGIONAL CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE*

# **ITEM 3a**

**DPS CCH Report for March 3, 2025**

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## County Disposition Rates As of March 3, 2025

<b>County</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Juvenile</b>
Armstrong	88%	100%
Briscoe	81%	No Report
Carson	86%	0%
Castro	94%	100%
Childress	88%	100%
Collingsworth	88%	No Report
Dallam	88%	95%
Deaf Smith	88%	89%
Donley	90%	No Report
Gray	85%	96%
Hall	77%	No Report
Hansford	91%	No Report
Hartley	85%	100%
Hemphill	96%	100%
Hutchinson	91%	93%
Lipscomb	94%	100%
Moore	89%	96%
Ochiltree	94%	100%
Oldham	86%	100%
Parmer	97%	100%
Potter	92%	98%
Randall	94%	100%
Roberts	90%	100%
Sherman	82%	100%
Swisher	95%	95%
Wheeler	79%	60%



*PANHANDLE REGIONAL CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE*

# **ITEM 3b**

**VOCA and VAWA Grant Programs**

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Name:

# General Victim Assistance Grant Program, FY2026

Available

12/16/2024

Due Date

02/13/2025

## Purpose:

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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.

This solicitation is for programs seeking to provide general victim services to broad categories of victim populations that may include victims of commercial sexual exploitation or trafficking, including emergency and long-term residential (shelter) for children and transition-age youth as well as drop-in centers.

Information about other related funding opportunities is provided below and on the *Funding Opportunities* tab of the [eGrants](#) homepage:

- **Specialized Advocacy for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth, FY2026.** Projects to support advocacy services for children and transition-aged youth within the CSEY Advocacy model.
- **Texas Model for Care Coordination, FY2026.** The purpose of this funding opportunity is to support programs to implement the Texas Model for Care Coordination for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY).

Agencies applying for funds to support a CASA or Children's Advocacy Center program must apply through either Texas CASA, Inc. or Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas.

## Available Funding:

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Funding is authorized for these projects under the following sources:

- Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA) as amended and codified in 34 U.S.C. §20103. VOCA funds are made available through a Congressional appropriation to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime.
- State funds are authorized under SB30, Section 2.26 passed during the 88<sup>th</sup> Regular Session for Trusteed Programs within the Office of the Governor.

All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

## Eligible Organizations:

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Applications may be submitted by state agencies, public and private non-profit institutions of higher education, independent school districts, Native American tribes, councils of governments, non-profit corporations (including hospitals and faith-based organizations) and units of local government, which are defined as a non-statewide governmental body with the authority to establish a budget and impose taxes (includes hospital districts). Other local governmental agencies should apply through an associated unit of local government.

## Application Process:

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Applicants must access the PSO's eGrants grant management website at <https://eGrants.gov.texas.gov> to register and apply for funding.

1. For eligible local and regional projects:

- Applicants must contact their applicable regional council of governments (COG) regarding their application.
- Each of Texas' 24 COGs holds its own application planning workshops, workgroups, and/or subcommittees and facilitates application prioritization for certain programs within its region. Failure to comply with regional requirements imposed by the COG may render an application ineligible.

2. State agencies, and other organizations proposing projects with a statewide impact, may submit applications directly to PSO.

Applicants are required to submit fully developed and detailed grant budgets at the time of application, PSO will not accept placeholder applications and/or budget line items in lieu of a well written and detailed grant application.

Non-profit applicants are limited to a single application per agency, and all other eligible organizations are limited to one application per unit, district or division.

## Key Dates:

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Action	Date
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Funding Announcement Release	12/16/2024
Online System Opening Date	12/16/2024
Final Date to Submit and Certify an Application	02/13/2025 at 5:00PM CST
Earliest Project Start Date	10/01/2025

## Project Period:

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Projects **may not exceed 12 months** and must begin on or after 10/01/2025 and expire on or before 9/30/2026.

## Funding Levels

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Minimum: \$10,000

Maximum: No Maximum

Match Requirement: 20% of the total project

**The match requirement can be met through cash or in-kind contributions.**

Note: Applicants are strongly cautioned to only apply for the amount of funding they can responsibly expend in the grant period. PSO will be tracking expenditure rates throughout the life of the grants and may take action to avoid large de-obligations at the end of grant periods.

## Standards

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Grantees must comply with standards applicable to this fund source cited in the Texas Grant Management Standards ([TxGMS](#)), [Federal Uniform Grant Guidance](#), and all statutes, requirements, and guidelines applicable to this funding.

## Eligible Activities and Costs

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The following list of eligible activities and costs apply generally to all projects under this announcement.

### Crisis Services

- Services that respond to immediate needs (other than medical care), emotional, psychological, and physical health and safety including:
  - Crisis intervention services;
  - Accompanying victims to hospitals for medical examinations [\[1\]](#);
  - Hotline counseling;
  - Safety planning;
  - Emergency food, clothing, and transportation;

- Window, door, or lock replacement or repair, and other repairs necessary to ensure a victim's safety;
- Costs of the following, on an emergency basis (i.e., when the State's compensation program, the victim's health insurance plan, Medicaid, or other health care funding source, is not reasonably expected to be available quickly enough to meet the emergency needs of a victim (typically within 48 hours of the crime): Non-prescription and prescription medicine, prophylactic or other treatment to prevent HIV/AIDS infection or other infectious disease, durable medical equipment (such as wheel-chairs, crutches, hearing aids, eyeglasses), and other healthcare items; in all cases the grant must be considered the option of last resort; and
- Emergency legal assistance, such as for filing for restraining or protective orders, and obtaining emergency custody orders and visitation rights.
- Personal advocacy and emotional support including:
  - Working with a victim to assess the impact of the crime;
  - Identification of victim's needs;
  - Case management;
  - Management of practical problems created by the victimization;
  - Identification of resources available to the victim;
  - Provision of information, referrals, advocacy, and follow-up contact for continued services, as needed;
  - Traditional, cultural, and/or alternative therapy/healing (e.g., art therapy, yoga – with appropriate training, certification, or licensure);
  - Transportation of victims to receive services and to participate in criminal justice proceedings; and
  - Public awareness and education presentations (including the development of presentation materials, brochures, newspaper notices, and public service announcements) in schools, community centers, and other public forums that are designed to inform crime victims of specific rights and services and provide them with (or refer them to) services and assistance, this activity will only be funded in conjunction with programs providing direct services.

### **Forensic Interviews (with the following parameters):**

- Results of the interview will be used not only for law enforcement and prosecution purposes, but also for identification of needs such as social services, personal advocacy, case management, substance abuse treatment, and mental health services;
- Interviews are conducted in the context of a multi-disciplinary investigation and diagnostic team, or in a specialized setting such as a child advocacy center; and
- The interviewer is trained to conduct forensic interviews appropriate to the developmental age and abilities of children, or the developmental, cognitive, and physical or communication disabilities presented by adults.



## Legal Advocacy

- Facilitating participation in criminal justice and other public proceedings arising from the crime, including:
  - Advocacy on behalf of a victim;
  - Accompanying a victim to offices and court;
  - Transportation, meals, and lodging to allow a victim who is not a witness to participate in a proceeding;
  - Interpreting for a non-witness victim who is deaf or hard of hearing, or with limited English proficiency;
  - Providing child care and respite care to enable a victim who is a caregiver to attend activities related to the proceeding;
  - Notification to victims regarding key proceeding dates (e.g., trial dates, case disposition, incarceration, and parole hearings);
  - Assistance with Victim Impact Statements;
  - Assistance in recovering property that was retained as evidence; and
  - Assistance with restitution advocacy on behalf of crime victims.
- Legal assistance services (including those provided on an emergency basis), where reasonable and where the need for such services arises as a direct result of the victimization, including:
  - Those (other than criminal defense) that help victims assert their rights as victims in a criminal proceeding directly related to the victimization, or otherwise protect their safety, privacy, or other interests as victims in such a proceeding; and
  - Those actions (other than tort actions) that, in the civil context, are reasonably necessary as a direct result of the victimization.

## Multi-Disciplinary Teams and Case Coordination

- Representatives of several agencies meet regularly to discuss common cases and share information to enhance investigation, prosecution, and victim restoration. Cases are followed through in this manner to closure. Participating agencies may include Child Protective Service, law enforcement, prosecutors' offices, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners or other medical personnel, mental health professionals, etc.

## Peer Support Groups

- Peer-support, including activities that provide opportunities for victims to meet other victims, share experiences, and provide self-help, information, and emotional support.

## Professional Therapy and Counseling

- Mental health counseling and care, including, but not limited to, out-patient therapy/counseling provided by a person who meets professional standards to provide these services in the jurisdiction in which the care is administered.

**Protective Order Assistance:**

- Legal representation provided by program staff and/or staff attorneys to obtain protective orders and assistance;
- May be provided by law enforcement personnel, prosecution staff or other service providers; and
- Services may be available at non-traditional locations and times.

**Shelter**

- Providing a safe place for victims/survivors and their children;
- Short-term (up to 45 days) in-home care and supervision services for children and adults who remain in their own homes when the offender/caregiver is removed; and
- Short-term (up to 45 days) nursing-home, adult foster care, or group-home placement for adults for whom no other safe, short-term residence is available;

**Transitional Housing**

- Travel, rental assistance, security deposits, utilities, and other costs incidental to relocation of survivors into transitional housing, as well as voluntary support services such as childcare and counseling. Provision of this service is limited to 18 months in duration per client and must require active participation in program services designed to enable self-sufficiency of the client. PSO should be considered the payee of last resort for this service. To be eligible, this service must be included in the original application budget prioritized by the local Council of Government's Criminal Justice Advisory Committee.

**Victim-Offender Meetings**

- Meetings between the survivor and the offender who perpetrated the crime against the survivor. At a minimum, grantees must consider:
  - The safety and security of the survivor;
  - The benefit of therapeutic value to the survivor;
  - The procedures for ensuring that participation of the survivor and offender are voluntary and that everyone understands the nature of any meeting or other activity;
  - The provision of appropriate support and accompaniment for the survivor;
  - Appropriate debriefing opportunities for the survivor after a meeting;
  - The credentials of the facilitators; and
  - The opportunity for a survivor to withdraw from the process at any time.

**Victim Notification Systems**

Agencies seeking grant funding to implement crime victim notification systems are encouraged to include the following features:

- Automatically, and without the requirement to download a software application to opt-in to notifications, notify a victim or relative of a deceased victim by e-mail or text message of all the following regarding a victim's case:
  - The date on which the incident report is created;
  - The case number;
  - The names of investigators who are assigned to the case;
  - The date an arrest is made;
  - The date an affidavit alleging probable cause is presented to the attorney representing the state;
  - The date the defendant is arraigned under Chapter 26, Code of Criminal Procedure;
  - Whether the case has been dismissed by the attorney representing the state; and
  - Any other information relevant to the case;
- Interface with the law enforcement agency's system of records;
- Provide configurable triggers to directly send messages;
- Provide the capability:
  - To attach informational brochures or other electronic attachments to the messages;
  - For a person to check the case status;
  - To transmit notifications in English or Spanish; and
  - To respond to questions via artificial intelligence;
- Monitor the number and types of messages sent and enable a user to visualize that data; and
- Provide a survey tool so the law enforcement agency can solicit feedback on victims services.

### **Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY) Residential and Community Based Services**

**Note: Applicants seeking to apply for one of the following CSEY activities should select the Funding Opportunity titled "Victim Assistance, Residential and Community-Based Services for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth" in eGrants. These applications will be scored and prioritized by the Regional Councils of Governments (COGs) as part of the General Victim Assistance program. Please be sure to contact your local COG for information on local COG policies, eligibility requirements, and deadlines for Fiscal Year 2026 General Victim Assistance funding. Failure to abide by COG policies may render your application ineligible.**

- **Community-Based Drop-in Centers:** Development, expansion, or enhancement of a drop-in center which may include street outreach programs for children or transition-age youth who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation or are victims of crime that place them at high risk for commercial sexual exploitation. The project must provide safety planning, individualized and immediate trauma-responsive assessment and case management including connecting the survivor to needed medical and behavioral health care, legal and other resources, counseling, support groups, and assistance with securing emergency and

long-term residential services. Applicant must accept survivor walk-in self-referrals and be accessible, either on-site or through an on-call response, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- **Emergency Residential Placements:** Development, expansion, or enhancement of a program that provides emergency placement for community children, children in the care of DFPS, and/or Juvenile Justice, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The program must provide physical safety, safety planning, individualized and immediate trauma-responsive behavioral healthcare, legal, educational, vocational, and housing resources, community and relationship-building opportunities in an empowering, non-judgmental environment, and re-engagement after runaway episodes or other disruptions in placement or services. Programs must identify strategies to promote survivor's tangible safety and felt safety. Clinical, behavioral milieu, and service planning approaches must follow recognized promising practices or evidence-based programs. Stabilization and Assessment Centers providing brief placements for highly dysregulated survivors are included in this category.
- **Long-term Residential Placements:** Development, expansion, or enhancement of a program that provides long-term treatment, foster care or residential treatment for both system-involved and non-system involved children and transition-age youth who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation. Programs must provide access to intensive case management and wraparound facilitation, 24-hour clinical and behavioral crisis services, safety planning, individualized and immediate trauma-responsive case management (including connecting survivors to needed medical and behavioral healthcare, legal, educational, and vocational resources), community and relationship building opportunities in an empowering, non-judgmental environment, and re-engagement after missing events or other disruptions in placement or services. Residential programs for transition-age youth must support empowerment through services that engage survivors in vocational and educational opportunities in the community. Strategies employed in clinical, behavioral milieu, and all other service planning must follow recognized promising practices or evidence-based programs.
- **Innovative Direct Services for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth:** Innovative direct service projects to support child and youth survivors of commercial sexual exploitation. Applicants must clearly articulate the population that will benefit directly from this innovative service, survivor outcomes that will be different because of this innovation, and any research that supports the effectiveness of the proposed project.

[1] Note related to hospital accompaniment with sexual assault survivors: In accordance with Art. 56A.351, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, a victim shall be offered the opportunity to have a sexual assault program advocate available during a sexual assault forensic exam. Sec. 420.051, Texas Government Code defines a sexual assault program advocate as an individual who has completed a sexual assault training program certified by the attorney general and is an employee or volunteer of a sexual assault program.

## Program-Specific Requirements

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All projects under this funding announcement must meet the following requirements:

**Cultural competency:** Applicants must be culturally competent when providing services to victims. 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.

**Victim services assessment survey:** All recipients of funding under this announcement may be required to participate in a victim services assessment during their grant period, as directed by PSO.

### Special requirements for vehicle purchases:

Only non-profits will be eligible to purchase vehicles under this funding announcement. The vehicles must be for the purpose of transporting victims to receive various services.

## Eligibility Requirements

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1. Entities receiving grant funds must demonstrate a record of effective services to victims of crime and financial support from sources other than the Crime Victims Fund; or substantial support from sources other than the Crime Victims Fund.

- A program has demonstrated a record of effective direct services and support when, for example, it demonstrates the support and approval of its direct services by the community, its history of providing direct services in a cost-effective manner, and the breadth or depth of its financial support from sources other than the Crime Victims Fund.
- A program has substantial financial support from sources other than the Crime Victims Fund when at least twenty-five percent of the program's funding in the year of, or the year preceding the award comes from such sources.

2. Local units of governments must comply with the Cybersecurity Training requirements described in Section 772.012 and Section 2054.5191 of the Texas Government Code. Local governments determined to not be in compliance with the cybersecurity requirements required by Section 2054.5191 of the Texas Government Code are ineligible for OOG grant funds until the second anniversary of the date the local government is determined ineligible. Government entities must annually certify their compliance with the training requirements using the [Cybersecurity Training Certification for State and Local Governments](#). A copy of the Training Certification must be uploaded to your eGrants application. For more information or to access available training

programs, visit the Texas Department of Information Resources [Statewide Cybersecurity Awareness Training](#) page.

3. 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.

Counties applying for grant awards from the Office of the Governor must commit that the county will report at least 90% of convictions within five business days to the Criminal Justice Information System at the Department of Public Safety.

4. Eligible applicants operating a law enforcement agency must be current on reporting complete UCR data and the Texas specific reporting mandated by 411.042 TGC, to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for inclusion in the annual Crime in Texas (CIT) publication. 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 by the deadline(s) established by DPS. Due to the importance of timely reporting, applicants are required to submit complete and accurate UCR data, as well as the Texas-mandated reporting, on a no less than monthly basis and respond promptly to requests from DPS related to the data submitted.

5. 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, 2026 or the end of the grant period, whichever is later.

6. Each non-profit 501(c)(3) organization must certify that it does not have, and will continue not to have any policy, procedure, or agreement (written or unwritten) that in any way encourages, induces, entices, or aids any violations of immigration laws. Additionally, the organization certifies that it does not have in effect, purport to have in effect, and is not subject to or bound by any rule, policy, or practice (written or unwritten) that would: (1) encourage the concealment, harboring, or shielding from detection of fugitives from justice or aliens who illegally came to, entered, or remained 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, the organization certifies that it will not adopt, enforce, or endorse a policy which prohibits or materially limits the enforcement of immigration laws, and will not, as demonstrated by pattern or practice, prohibit or materially limit the enforcement of immigration laws.

Each non-profit organization must download, complete and then upload into eGrants the [CEO/NGO Certifications and Assurances Form](#) certifying compliance with federal and state immigration enforcement requirements.

7. Eligible applicants must be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) database and have an UEI (Unique Entity ID) number assigned to its agency (to get registered in the SAM database and request an UEI number, go to <https://sam.gov/>).

8. Use of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT) is required for programs serving commercially exploited children funded by this award. A CSE-IT screening must be conducted in Lighthouse for each client entering services. Scores of Clear Concern must be reported to DFPS Statewide Intake.

Failure to comply with program or eligibility requirements may cause funds to be withheld and/or the suspension or termination of grant funds.

## Prohibitions

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Grant funds may not be used to support the unallowable costs listed in the **Guide to Grants** or any of the following unallowable costs:

1. Lobbying or advocacy activities with respect to legislation or to administrative changes to regulations or administrative policy (cf. 18 U.S.C. 1913), whether conducted directly or indirectly;
2. The active investigation and prosecution of criminal activity, except for the provision of victim assistance services (e.g., emotional support, advocacy, and legal services) to crime victims, under 28 CFR § 94.119, during such investigation and prosecution;
3. Any activities related to fundraising;
4. Capital improvements; property losses and expenses; real estate purchases; mortgage payments; remodeling; and construction;
5. Reimbursement of crime victims for expenses incurred as a result of a crime;

6. Salaries, benefits, fees, furniture, equipment, and other expenses of executive directors, board members, and other administrators (except as specifically allowed);
7. Counseling or treatment for substance abuse (general counseling that includes a component addressing substance abuse is eligible);
8. Victim-offender meetings that serve to replace (or as a part of) criminal justice proceedings;
9. Medical training;
10. Medical care or expenses (except as specifically allowed);
11. Forensic medical evidence collection to include the salary, overtime or on-call cost of SANE Nurses;
12. Cash payments to victims, gift cards, or fuel vouchers;
13. Creation of a voucher program where victims are directly given vouchers for such services as housing or counseling;
14. Transportation, lodging, per diem or any related costs for third-party participants to attend a training, when grant funds are used to develop and conduct training;
15. Leasing of vehicles;
16. Training of external partners or the community;
17. Program income;
18. Research and studies;
19. Activities that may compromise victim safety;
20. Entertainment, including amusement, diversion, social activities, field trips, excursions and any associated costs (i.e. tickets to shows or sports events, meals, lodging, rentals, transportation, and gratuities) unless there is a clear programmatic purpose and the costs are approved in advance by PSO; and
21. Nonessential maintenance on buildings, lawn care, and landscaping; and
22. Any other prohibition imposed by federal, state, or local law or regulation.

## Selection Process

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PSO will screen all applications to ensure that they meet the requirements included in the funding announcement.

### 1. For eligible local and regional projects:

- Applications will be forwarded by PSO to the appropriate regional council of governments (COG).
- The COG's criminal justice advisory committee will prioritize all eligible applications based on State priorities, identified community priorities, cost and program effectiveness.
- PSO will accept priority listings that are approved by the COG's executive committee.
- PSO will make all final funding decisions based upon eligibility, approved COG priorities, reasonableness of the project, availability of funding, and cost-effectiveness.



2. For state discretionary projects, applications will be reviewed by PSO staff members or a review group selected by the executive director. PSO will make all final funding decisions based on eligibility, reasonableness, availability of funding, and cost-effectiveness.

PSO may not fund all applications or may only award part of the amount requested. In the event that funding requests exceed available funds, PSO may revise projects to address a more limited focus.

## Contact Information

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For more information, contact the eGrants help desk at [eGrants@gov.texas.gov](mailto:eGrants@gov.texas.gov) or (512) 463-1919.

Total Funds

**\$TBD**



*PANHANDLE REGIONAL CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE*

# **ITEM 3c**

## **CJAC Prioritization of Applications**

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## **CJAC Bylaw References:**

### **GENERAL VICTIM ASSISTANCE – DIRECT SERVICES PROGRAMS**

CJD provides the Panhandle region with an annual allocation of General Victim Assistance funds. The CJAC's primary responsibility regarding the funding of the Panhandle's General Victim Assistance applications lies in establishing the order of priority in which they should be funded by CJD as well as how much funding they deem appropriate for each applicant. Then, depending upon the final availability of funds at the statewide level, CJD will fund the Panhandle Victim Assistance projects in accordance with the priority listing established by the CJAC.

#### **Sub-regional Allocations:**

There will be no sub-regional allocations of the Panhandle's annual allocation of the General Victim Assistance – Direct Services Programs. These funds will be subject to open competition from eligible applicants across the region.

#### **Application Funding Levels:**

The CJAC will annually establish the minimum and maximum levels of funding for the General Victim Assistance – Direct Services Program. The CJAC has set the minimum funding request at the amount established by CJD in the General Victim Assistance – Direct Services Program Request for Applications [RFA].

The CJAC establishes the maximum request amount per application at \$350,000.00. Though this amount may differ from that stated in the State's FY26 RFA, the cap allows for the wider distribution of FY26 funding to the region's Victim Services agencies that rely on this funding for their continued operation.

The CJAC will ensure that the entire region is considered for funding by determining how any adjustments in the applicant's budget(s) need to be addressed whether higher or lower to sensibly distribute funding across applicants should the actual regional allocation differ from what CJD provided in the RBE. CJD has final approval of grantee eligibility.

#### **Period of Eligibility:**

The Panhandle General Victim Assistance applicants will be subject to the funding levels and maximum years of funding policy established by the CJD.

#### **Matching Fund Requirements:**

The Panhandle Region General Victim Assistance grant applicants will be subject to the matching fund requirements established by the CJD. It is anticipated that CJD will require all applicants provide at least 20% of the resources needed to support their program during any given grant program year. CJD allows these matching resources to be provided in the form of eligible in-kind services, cash or a combination of both. CJD will determine the eligibility of the in-kind service(s).

#### **Other Fund Eligibility Requirements:**

Applicants for Criminal Justice Programs funds must have a physical location within the 26 County region and be serving the residents of the region. In addition, applicants for the General Victim Assistance – Direct Services Program funds must meet all other eligibility requirements established by the CJD.

## **VIOLENT CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN CRIMINAL JUSTICE & TRAINING PROJECTS**

CJD provides the Panhandle region with an annual allotment of Violent Crimes Against Women Criminal Justice & Training Projects funds. The CJAC's primary responsibility regarding the funding of the Panhandle's applications lies in establishing the order of priority in which they should be funded by CJD. Then, depending upon the actual availability of funds at the statewide level, CJD will fund the Panhandle Violent Crimes Against Women Criminal Justice & Training Projects in accordance with the priority listing established by the CJAC.

### **Sub-regional Allocations:**

There will be no sub-regional allocation of Violent Crimes Against Women Criminal Justice & Training Projects funds in the Panhandle. CJD will make the final determination of which Panhandle applications will be funded based upon the availability of funds at the statewide level and upon the prioritization listing established by the CJAC.

### **Application Funding Levels:**

The CJAC will annually establish the minimum and maximum levels of funding for the Violent Crimes Against Women Criminal Justice & Training Projects program. The CJAC will set the minimum funding request at the amount established by CJD in the Violent Crimes Against Women Criminal Justice & Training Projects Request for Applications [RFA] (in recent years, that minimum amount was set at \$5,000.00).

The CJAC will ensure that the entire region is considered for funding by determining how any adjustments in the applicant's budget(s) need to be addressed whether higher or lower to sensibly distribute funding across applicants should the actual regional allocation differ from what CJD provided in the RBE. CJD has final approval of grantee eligibility.

Applicants will be allowed to submit up to 3 separate Violent Crimes Against Women Criminal Justice & Training Projects applications per funding cycle. The CJAC's funding recommendations to the PRPC Board will then be presented as follows:

- That the Tier 1 projects be funded in the order of priority as established by the CJAC;
- That if funding is available that the Tier 2 projects be funded after all the Tier 1 projects have been funded in the order of priority as established by the CJAC; and
- That if funding is available, that the Tier 3 projects be funded after all the Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects have been funded in the order of priority as established by the CJAC

**PLEASE NOTE:** The CJAC may at its discretion and based on the final amount of the regional budget estimate provided by CJD for the VAWA funding block in the current grant year, waive the tier requirements and/or alter the maximum requested application amount described above.

### **Period of Eligibility:**

The Panhandle Violent Crimes Against Women Criminal Justice & Training Projects applicants will be subject to the funding levels and maximum years of funding policy established by the CJD.

### **Matching Fund Requirements:**

The Panhandle Violent Crimes Against Women Criminal Justice & Training Projects applicants will be subject to the matching fund requirements established by the CJD. It's anticipated that CJD will

require that the applicants provide at least 29% of the resources needed to support their program during the grant program year.

CJD allows these matching resources to be provided in the form of eligible in-kind contributions, cash or a combination of both. CJD will determine the eligibility of the in-kind service(s).

**All Other Requirements:**

Applicants for Criminal Justice Programs funds must have a physical location within the 26 County region and be serving the residents of the region. In addition, applicants must meet all other Violent Crimes Against Women Criminal Justice & Training Projects eligibility requirements established by the CJD.

**The CJAC's Prioritization of CJD Applications:**

**Prioritization Meeting Dates:**

The CJAC will meet to review the current grant year program applications in accordance with the grant program year schedule developed by the PRPC's Regional Criminal Justice Program Coordinator at the start of the program year.

The CJAC Chairman will determine whether or not the CJAC has to physically convene in order to carry out the prioritization process(es). In certain instances, there may only be one application filed under a particular grant program during a given grant program year. In those instances, where there are no competing applications, the CJAC Chairman may elect to have the CJAC review the single application via mail or email.

**Individuals Authorized to Prioritize the Region's CJD Applications:**

Only PRPC Board-appointed members may participate in the prioritization of the region's CJD grant applications.

**Standardized Review of the CJD Applications:**

CJD will approve the CJAC's review criteria and a standardized review form which will be used to evaluate and prioritize the various CJD applications originating from the Panhandle region. The criteria will be weighted as follows:

20% of the points available will be assigned to the category of Documentation of the Problem;

This category will be used to evaluate the identified problems and issues. Is the problem addressed in the application clearly defined and supported by local statistics? Relative to the other projects in the funding block, how severe is the problem that is being addressed?

60% of the points available will be assigned to the category of Project Approach & Activities;

This category will be used to evaluate the applicant's goals and whether the activities will address the stated problem(s). The committee will evaluate the project in relation to previously proven methods or a well thought out unique approach to solving the problem(s). How well does the project address one or more of the local priorities? Are the applicant's project goals realistic and can they be achieved within the grant period? Will the proposed project activities clearly address the stated problem(s)? Does the stated problem(s) and the goals of the project justify the project costs?

10% of the points available are assigned to the category of Data Management;

This category will be evaluating whether the applicant has an established or well thought out plan to self-evaluate the project. Has the applicant documented an adequate and measurable means for evaluating the progress being made to achieve the project goals?

10% of the points available will be assigned to the category of Capacity and Capabilities;

This category will evaluate is the applicant is capable of taking the project to completion in an effective manner. If funded, would the applicant have the necessary resources to manage/carry out the project and account for the project funds in an effective and fiscally responsible manner?

The CJAC will determine which specific questions will be used for their application review/prioritization purposes as well as the point values assigned to each question. Once the question list has been finalized, each CJAC member will determine, in their own estimation, how well the applicant addressed those questions. The more points assigned, the better the applicant responded to the questions.

The CJAC will use a 100-point scale when evaluating and prioritizing CJD applications. Therefore, under each of the categories described above, the maximum number of points that can be assigned varies based upon the category.

These Operating Procedures & Bylaws will be supplemented at a later date with the following:

1. A listing of the Panhandle's Criminal Justice priorities as identified with the Regional Strategic planning process; and
2. A listing of the questions to be used for the purpose of evaluating applications under each category.

During any given grant year, the PRPC's Regional Criminal Justice Program Coordinator will be responsible for ensuring that all eligible applicants are made aware of the review criteria that will be used by the CJAC to prioritize the CJD grant applications in a timely fashion.

#### **CJAC Presentation Guidelines Requirement:**

As part of the regional prioritization process, the CJAC will require each applicant to fill out the Supplemental Information Form found in Attachment 1 of this document for each proposal submitted under any of the regional Criminal Justice Programs. This information will be gathered by the PRPC's Criminal Justice Coordinator after the applicants have filed their applications with CJD. The form will be provided to the CJAC along with the applicant's CJD grant application prior to the CJAC's Prioritization Meeting(s). Applicants that fail to provide this information to the CJAC for their proposal(s) may have their application lowered during the CJAC's prioritization process.

Applicants will be given the presentation guidelines during the workshop(s). The presentation guidelines include six points and/or questions that the applicants are asked to answer during their grant presentations to the CJAC at the prioritization meetings. Those questions include:

- Why is this particular project needed; what problem(s) are you trying to resolve?
- Describe which, if any, of the Regional Program Priorities this project will support (a list will be provided as soon as it becomes available)

- Who would be responsible for implementing this project and how would that be done?
- What factors will be used to gauge the value of this project to your community – how will you measure success?
- How will this project continue to be supported in the future?
- (VOCA & VAWA Only) What is the total population that your organization serves? How many victims did you provide services to last year? What is the number of victims served last year per capita? What services for victims does your organization offer?

### **Conflict of Interest Policy:**

The COG shall ensure that members of the COG's governing body, the CJAC, and COG staff abstain from scoring and voting on any grant application, other than a grant application submitted by a COG, during the prioritization process if the member or an individual related to the member within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity:

- Is employed by the applicant agency and works for the unit or division that would administer the grant, if awarded;
- Serves on any governing board that oversees the unit or division that would administer the grant, if awarded;
- Owns or controls any interest in a business entity or other non-governmental organization that benefits, directly or indirectly, from activities with the applicant agency; or
- Receives any funds, or a substantial amount of tangible goods or routine services, from the applicant agency as a result of the grant, if awarded.

If a CJAC member has a conflict of interest regarding a particular grant application, the COG will ensure that the CJAC member is not assigned, and will not review, that application. A CJAC member that has a conflict of interest regarding a particular grant application must vacate the CJAC meeting room whenever that application is presented to or reviewed by the CJAC, and the member must not take part in or be present for any discussion on the application with any member of the CJAC.

If any applicant, CJAC member, COG personnel or other individual has reason to believe that favoritism or inappropriate actions occurred during the scoring or prioritization of CJD projects, the COG shall ensure that the concerns are shared with CJD as soon as possible.

### **Applicant Attendance at the Prioritization Meetings:**

Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend the meetings during which their application will be prioritized by the CJAC. During those meetings, applicants will be given the chance to orally present their project applications to the CJAC. This is an important opportunity for the applicants to clarify to the CJAC the express intent and nature of their project application(s). Applicants who are unable to personally represent their applications during the meeting(s) are by virtue of their absence, placing their applications at a competitive disadvantage. The CJAC will still prioritize a project even though the applicant's representative did not personally attend the CJAC meeting to orally present the application. The only information that the CJAC will have to go off in prioritizing the absentee applicant's project application; however, will be that which is presented in the written application. The absentee applicant will not be allowed to come back at some later point in time to provide supplemental project information that could have otherwise been presented orally during the CJAC meeting.

**Applicant Presentations:**

CJD grant applicants will generally be given five minutes to orally present their project proposal to the CJAC. The CJAC will then be allowed as much time as needed thereafter to question the applicant about the particulars of their project application.

Prior to each CJAC prioritization meeting, the PRPC’s Regional Criminal Justice Program Coordinator will, by random selection, choose the order in which the applicant presentations will be made. However, where the CJAC will be prioritizing applications under a variety of different grant programs during the same meeting, the applicant presentations will be grouped by grant program, in a randomly selected order. The order in which the grant program groupings will be presented will also be selected by random drawing.

**The Project Prioritization Process:**

Each CJD application will be evaluated and scored in accordance with review criteria established by CJD. The applications will be ranked according to their numeric scores.

The CJAC will use an averaged rank-based prioritization system for determining the rank ordering of the CJD projects. In past competitions, the applications have been ranked based upon their averaged numeric score. However, averaging numeric scores allows the potential for what could be considered, unfair volatility. For instance, one member could potentially affect the outcome of the selection process by scoring certain projects extremely low while scoring favorite projects unusually high.

To avoid this potential situation, the CJAC will prioritize the CJD applications in accordance with their averaged rankings. The numeric point values shown for each criterion being used by the CJAC will still be used to score the applications.

Each member’s point scores for the applications will then be converted to an individualized ranking of how each member scored the applications before the group averaging takes place. The example shown below will help to illustrate this concept. Member A reviews 9 projects in accordance with the CJAC prioritization criteria and then assigns a total point score for each project. Member A’s point scores are then converted to rankings; as shown in the row beneath the “Total Point Scores Given”.

**MEMBER A’s SCORES:**

	Project 1	Project 2	Project 3	Project 4	Project 5	Project 6	Project 7	Project 8	Project 9
Total Point Score Given:	40 pts	50 pts.	75 pts.	100 pts	90 pts	85 pts	55 pts	92 pts	98 pts
Corresponding Ranking	9 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>

The individualized rankings of all the reviewing CJAC members will then be totaled and averaged based on the number of members evaluating each application, to create the prioritized listing of all the applications.



The CJAC members will be encouraged to create a point differential between those projects they deem to be of higher priority than others. However, there may be instances when a member(s) assigns the same point score to two or more projects to create a tie(s). In those cases, the corresponding rankings of the tied projects will be averaged as part of the overall ranking process. This step is illustrated below using the *Member A* example from above. However, in this scenario, Member A has given the same score to three different applications.

**MEMBER A's SCORES:**

	Project 1	Project 2	Project 3	Project 4	Project 5	Project 6	Project 7	Project 8	Project 9
Total Point Score Given:	40 pts	50 pts.	75 pts.	100 pts	90 pts	90 pts	55 pts	90 pts	98 pts

Member A's corresponding rankings would then be as follows:

	Total Point Score Given	Corresponding Ranking
Project 4	At 100 points; <b>highest</b> point score given	1 <sup>st</sup>
Project 9	At 98 points; <b>second</b> highest point score given	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Project 5	At 90 points, Projects 5, 6, and 8 received the exact same point score. Therefore ranking positions <b>3, 4 and 5</b> would be added and then divided by 3 ( $\{3+4+5\}/3 = 4$ ) to create an averaged corresponding ranking for the three tied projects.	4 <sup>th</sup>
Project 6		4 <sup>th</sup>
Project 8		4 <sup>th</sup>
Project 3	At 75 points; <b>sixth</b> highest point score given	6 <sup>th</sup>
Project 7	At 55 points; <b>seventh</b> highest point score given	7 <sup>th</sup>
Project 2	At 50 points; <b>eighth</b> highest point score given	8 <sup>th</sup>
Project 1	At 40 points; lowest point score of <b>nine</b> projects	9 <sup>th</sup>

By using the averaged ranking approach versus the averaged point score approach, the CJAC can ensure a higher degree of fairness in the selection process. If a tie still persists the tied projects averaged numeric scores will be used to break the tie.

The proposed prioritization list will be reviewed by the CJAC for review, comment and possible changes to the list order. Upon completion and voting by the CJAC the priority list approved will be presented to the PRPC Board of Directors for approval and then submitted to CJD for final review. CJD makes all final funding decisions.

**Notice to Applicants Regarding the Outcome of the Prioritization Process(es):**

The PRPC Regional Criminal Justice Program Coordinator will be responsible for notifying the CJD grant applicants of the outcome of the application prioritization process(es). This notification will be developed and transmitted after the PRPC Regional Criminal Justice Program Coordinator has confirmed the CJAC's prioritization results. This notice will be faxed, mailed or emailed to the CJD grant applicants within 24 hours after the results have been confirmed.

That notice will include the following:

1. The final priority rankings as developed by the CJAC, by grant program.

2. The amount of funds each applicant will receive per the recommendations of the CJAC.
3. The date on which the CJAC's CJD grant recommendations will be considered by the PRPC Board of Directors.
4. A description of the appeals process that must be followed in the event an applicant wants to protest a decision made by the CJAC.
5. A statement that the PRPC Board meetings are open to the public.
6. A statement as required by CJD that all final funding decisions are made by CJD.

### **Appeals Process:**

This appeals process only relates to those grant programs involving regional allocations made to the Panhandle region by the CJD or those programs that require the CJAC to order by priority, projects competing for funding at the statewide level.

A Panhandle applicant for CJD funding may appeal the disposition of its application **only** if one or more of the following occurs during the review of the application by the CJAC.

1. **Misplacement of an application.** If all or part of an application is lost, misfiled, etc., by PRPC staff, resulting in the unequal consideration of the applicant's proposal.
2. **Mathematical error.** If, in scoring the application, the score on any selection criteria is arrived at incorrectly or if the total score of the application is arrived at incorrectly as a result of human or computer error.
3. **Other procedural error.** If the applicant's application is not processed and treated in accordance with the procedures set forth in this document.

All appeals, including the specific alleged procedural violation(s), must be submitted to the PRPC Executive Director in writing. The Executive Director may then take one of the following actions:

1. Investigate the allegation and determine that the appeal is not valid. In such case, the applicant will receive in writing the basis for the decision to reject the applicant's appeal. In such case, the decision of the Executive Director is final.
2. If there is some validity to the appeal, the Executive Director will place the appeal on the agenda of the PRPC Board of Directors. The protesting applicant will be notified of the time and date of the meeting during which the Board of Directors will consider the appeal. The applicant will be given the opportunity to present his/her case directly to the PRPC Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will then render a decision on the appeal of the protesting applicant. All decisions made by the PRPC Board of Directors will be final.

An appeal can be filed at any time during the prioritization process but must be submitted within seven (7) working days from the date on which the Notice to Applicants Regarding the Outcome of the Prioritization Process(es) is **transmitted**.

In any event, the appeal must be received by the PRPC prior to the date on which the CJAC's CJD grant recommendations will be considered by the PRPC Board of Directors. Any appeals received after that date will not be considered by the PRPC Board.

Any appeals made after the date on which the CJAC's CJD grant recommendations are acted on by the PRPC Board of Directors must be filed directly with the CJD in accordance with the agency's appeal procedures.

**Open Meetings Requirements:**

The PRPC Regional Criminal Justice Program Coordinator will be responsible for ensuring that all CJAC prioritization meetings are properly posted in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Local Government Code.

**Relationship to the Texas Administrative Code (TAC):**

The CJD grants program is governed by the Texas Administrative Code (TAC). Should any provisions of these bylaws be in conflict the current TAC, the provisions of the TAC will prevail. The relevant sections of the TAC, those applicable to the Criminal Justice Divisions Grant Program, are attached to and made part of these bylaws.



*PANHANDLE REGIONAL CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE*

# **ITEM 3d**

**CJAC Additions to Scoring**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 6, 2025  
**TO:** CJAC Members  
**FROM:** Daphne Morcom, Regional Services Programs Specialist  
**SUBJECT:** Agenda Items #3d  
**CJAC Additions to Scoring**

**FY 2026 Grant Application Scoring**

CJD continues to give more weight on the CJAC in terms of how projects from each region are prioritized. For FY 2026, CJD not only wants to know the prioritization list for each funding block, they also want to know the following:

- Amount recommended for funding for each application, if lower than requested;
- Which applications are above the region’s RBE;
- Which applications the CJAC deems quality even though they may fall below the RBE;
- Which applications the CJAC deems below quality and would not award even if funding was available.

Upon the completion of the scoring by the CJAC, each funding block will be tallied and the results compiled into a prioritized list. The CJAC will then be asked to provide input on the quality line and give approval of the information to submit to the PRPC Board of Directors.

**VAWA**

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Funds Requested</i>		<i>Project Name</i>
Randall County DA’s Office	\$	105,599.97	Felony Domestic Violence Prosecutor
	\$	105,599.97	<b>Total FY 2026 VAWA Funds Requested</b>
	\$	TBD	<b>Regional Budget Expectation (RBE)</b>
	\$	TBD	<b>Difference</b>



## VOCA

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Funds Requested</i>		<i>Project Name</i>
Deaf Smith County Crisis Center	\$	207,296.00	Advocacy 2025-2026
Randall County DA's Office	\$	74,868.60	Victims' Assistance Grant
Potter County/47 <sup>th</sup> DA's Office	\$	204,619.00	Victim Assistance Program
Hutchinson County Crisis Center	\$	210,000.00	Victim Assistance Program
Tralee Crisis Center	\$	196,603.00	Victims Assistance Project
Family Support Services	\$	349,972.09	Victim Assistance Program
Freedom Center	\$	249,854.87	Victims Assistance
Panhandle Crisis Center	\$	259,441.00	Intervention & Support for Victims of Violence
	\$	1,752,654.56	<b>Total FY 2026 VOCA Funds Requested</b>
	\$	TBD	<b>Regional Budget Expectation (RBE)</b>
	\$	TBD	<b>Difference</b>

### RECOMMENDATION:

PRPC staff recommends the CJAC approve the prioritized list and recommended funding levels, once compiled, be forwarded to the PRPC Board of Directors for approval then, if approved, submitted to CJD.



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# **ITEM 4**

## **VAWA Application**

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**Agency Name: Randall County DA's Office**  
**Project Title: Felony Domestic Violence Prosecutor**  
**Request: \$ 105,599.97**

**Project Abstract:**

The continuation of this project will allow the Randall County Criminal District Attorney's Office to continue to employ a designated felony domestic violence prosecutor. The felony domestic violence prosecutor will continue to concentrate her efforts on 1) targeted prosecution of felony intimate partner violence offenders, 2) supervising misdemeanor domestic violence prosecutors to provide continuity in targeted prosecution of misdemeanor intimate partner violence cases, and 3) participating in our community's coordinated response to domestic violence.

**Problem Statement:**

Amarillo has one of the highest rates of domestic violence in the state of Texas. For the calendar year of 2022 the Randall County District Attorney's Office received 487 intimate partner violence cases. 60% of those cases were felonies. For the calendar year of 2023 the Randall County District Attorney's Office received 407 intimate partner violence cases. 57% of those cases were felonies. In 2024 the Randall County District Attorney's Office received 505 intimate partner violence cases. 41% of those were felonies. The rate of serious felony intimate partner violence remains steady in Randall County and as such we continue to need a specific plan to target those offenders and assist those victims. "A majority of Texans (50.9% of women and 42.2% of men) reported that the level of help provided to victims by the state is not enough. ... Participants generally feel positively about law enforcement and the medical system's responses [to domestic violence]. However, there were less favorable opinions of the criminal justice system's response," Statewide Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence in Texas, June 2011, Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center for Social Work Research, Noel Bridget Busch-Armendariz, PhD., LMSW, MPA. The prosecution of domestic violence cases poses unique challenges. These challenges are compounded by the fact that offenders often escalate their violence when victims attempt to end the relationship or seek outside help. Victims are faced with difficult and limited choices after being victimized by intimate partners. Advocacy Services for Women with Abusive Partners: A Review of the Empirical Evidence - [www.dvevidenceproject.org](http://www.dvevidenceproject.org). Not surprisingly, many victims become uncooperative with prosecution intervention. It is therefore vital that the prosecutor cultivate a relationship with domestic violence victims and begin planning for an evidence-based prosecution from the first moments a case is reviewed. This project will allow our designated felony domestic violence prosecutor to continue to meet one on one with victims of Intimate partner violence offenses along with holding felony domestic violence offenders accountable. The domestic violence prosecutor will be able to continue vertical prosecution of felony domestic violence cases, ensuring continuity for victims and consistency in offender accountability. The continuation of this project would also allow the Randall County District Attorney's office designated felony domestic violence prosecutor to continue to participate in coordinated community responses to domestic violence. Courts, prosecutors, law enforcement and domestic violence programs cannot keep victims safe and hold offenders accountable without significant, long-term coordination. The agencies that deal with domestic violence in our community face unique challenges that other communities across the state may not face. One issue is that Amarillo is split down the middle by the county line between Potter County and Randall County. As a result, communication and community coordination must be achieved before any response to domestic violence can be



expected to have a positive, long-term impact on our community. In Potter County and Randall County there are two sheriff's offices, three prosecutors' offices, many law enforcement entities, eight district courts, four county courts, legal aid, victim service agencies, and many others who respond to domestic violence in Amarillo, Potter County, and Randall County.

**Supporting Data:**

Local planning resources indicate a domestic violence rate of 1,966 per 100,000 residents. This rate has remained steady since 2010. See Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, Resources for Local Criminal Justice Planning (October 2017). For the calendar year 2020, 411 domestic violence cases were presented to the Randall County District Attorney's Office. 52% of those cases were felonies. For the calendar year of 2021 the Randall County District Attorney received 488 intimate partner violence cases. 65% of those cases were felonies. For the calendar year of 2022 the Randall County District Attorney's Office received 487 intimate partner violence cases. 60% of those cases were felonies. For the calendar year of 2023 the Randall County District Attorney's Office received 407 intimate partner violence cases. 57% of those cases were felonies. In 2024 the Randall County District Attorney's Office received 505 intimate partner violence cases. 41% of those were felonies.

**Project Approach & Activities:**

In late 2015, our agency, in conjunction with local law enforcement, prosecution and victim advocacy community organizations, began discussions to address the high rates of domestic violence and domestic related offenses in our community. Since that time, criminal justice agencies and other stakeholders have worked to ensure a coordinated community response to domestic violence with the creation of the Amarillo Potter Randall Domestic Violence Coalition. Our agency applied for funding of this project in 2016. This project was initially approved for funding for the 2016/2017 project period. Our agency reapplied and this project was approved for funding for the subsequent project periods. The continuation of this project will allow the Randall County Criminal District Attorney's designated felony domestic violence prosecutor to concentrate her efforts on 1) targeted prosecution of felony intimate partner violence offenders, 2) supervising misdemeanor intimate partner violence prosecutors to provide continuity in targeted prosecution of misdemeanor cases, and 3) implementing our community's coordinated response to domestic violence.

**Capacity & Capabilities:**

The applicant organization is Randall County, Texas. Specifically, the Randall County Criminal District Attorney's Office. This project will allow the designated felony domestic violence prosecutor to continue targeted prosecution of felony domestic violence cases and related offenses. The Felony Domestic Violence Prosecutor will devote 100% of his/her time to vertical prosecution of felony domestic violence and felony domestic violence related cases from intake to disposition of the case. The minimum qualifications for this position include a Doctor of Jurisprudence, a license to practice Law in the State of Texas, and knowledge of the Texas laws regarding domestic violence and related offenses.

**Performance Management:**

This project will allow the Randall County Criminal District Attorney's designated felony domestic violence prosecutor to continue to concentrate efforts on 1) targeted prosecution of felony domestic violence offenders, and 2) implementing our community's coordinated response to domestic violence. The goals for the project period are to 1) review in a timely manner felony domestic violence

cases presented to our office, 2) continue to meet with victims one on one in each felony case filed in our office, and 3) for the felony domestic violence prosecutor to continue to participate in coordinated community responses to domestic violence. Making timely prosecution decisions and meeting with victims early in the criminal justice process alleviates the barriers created by victims that become uncooperative with prosecution intervention. Communication and community coordination must be achieved before any response to domestic violence can be expected to have a positive, long-term impact on our community. Coordination of community responses to domestic violence facilitate communication and cooperation among criminal justice agencies.

Please note that these goals in past project years included the entirety of our domestic violence case load, misdemeanors and felonies. Starting in the 2020/2021 project year, the goals track only felony domestic violence cases. Due to the increase in domestic violence cases presented to our office, one prosecutor could not satisfactorily prosecute all domestic violence cases from intake to disposition. Accordingly, in early 2019, the District Attorney reassigned the position funded by this project to the vertical prosecution of all FELONY domestic violence cases.

Goal one will be measured by tracking the time between case presentation to our agency and the time of acceptance or refusal of the case by our agency. The target time for this goal is an average of 14 days or less between case presentation to our agency and the time of acceptance or refusal of the case by our agency. Further, the target is to meet the 14-day time-period for 80% of the cases submitted to our office for review.

Goal two will be measured by tracking the number of victims that are requested by our agency to meet with the designated felony domestic violence prosecutor and the number of victims that attend a meeting. The target for the FY 2026 project year will be to meet with 70% of victims on felony cases.

Goal three will be measured by the domestic violence prosecutor's continued participation in our community's coordinated responses to domestic violence. Our prosecutor continues to work with the Amarillo-Potter- Randall Domestic Violence Coalition and attends meeting of the Domestic Violence High Risk Team.

### **Target Group:**

Our project objective is to provide services to all victims of felony domestic violence and domestic violence related offenses in Randall County, Texas. Randall County is located in the south, central part of the Texas Panhandle. The County was officially formed in 1889 and consists of approximately 933 square miles with an estimated 783 miles of roads. Randall County is the seat of two significant cities, Amarillo and Canyon Texas. The population of Randall County is estimated at 137,130 people. Estimates for the 2020 census, predict the population of Randall County will exceed 140,000. All victims of felony domestic violence will be served, without regard to sex, race, age, gender, sexual orientation, or immigration status.

### **Evidence-Based Practices:**

Because 1) our jurisdiction has one of the highest rates of domestic violence in the state of Texas, 2) a significant portion of those domestic violence cases are serious felony offenses, and, 3) prosecution of domestic violence cases poses unique challenges, the applicant elected to implement vertical, targeted prosecution of felony domestic violence cases. It is vital that the prosecutor cultivate a relationship with domestic violence victims. This project will allow our designated felony domestic violence prosecutor to continue to meet one on one with victims of the most serious domestic violence offenses, along with holding felony domestic violence offenders accountable.

Randall County currently uses a Lethality Assessment Protocol to determine whether a victim of intimate partner violence is in danger of being killed and to refer those victims to domestic violence services, like a shelter. The lethality assessment is an accepted and reliable tool to predict the risk of lethality to intimate partner violence victims. Risk and Lethality Assessment in the Field of Intimate Partner Violence, A Synopsis of Research, developed by Praxis in partnership with the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, for recipients of grants under the Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grant Program; [www.praxisinternational.org](http://www.praxisinternational.org); Informing collaborative interventions: Intimate partner violence risk assessment for front line police officers, Jill Theresa Messing and Jacquelyn Campbell, Policing (2016)

Randall County also uses a second assessment, the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment, the first empirically developed and validated domestic violence risk assessment tool to assess risk of future intimate partner violence, as well as the frequency and severity of the assaults. Buchanan, K. (2009). Risk assessment and spousal violence: Predictive validity and cultural applicability. Dissertation Abstracts International: Section B: The Sciences and Engineering, Vol 71(1-B), 2010. pp. 651. [University of Regina]; Dinwiddie, K., J. (2013). Exploring the utility of victims' perceptions of risk assessment tools: Validation of the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment using shelter victim interviews (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). Chicago School of Professional Psychology. ProQuest, UMI Number: 3587611; Eke, A.W., Hilton, N.Z., Harris, G.T., Rice, M.E., & Houghton, R.E. (2011). Intimate partner homicide: Risk assessment and prospects for prediction. Journal of Family Violence, 26, 211-216; Hilton, N.Z., Harris, G.T., Rice, M.E., Lang, C., Cormier, C.A., & Lines, K.J. (2004). A Brief Actuarial Assessment for the Prediction of Wife Assault Recidivism: The Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment. Psychological Assessment, 16, 267-275. [Erratum 17, 131.].

In April of 2022, our jurisdiction entered into an agreement with the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center to implement the Danger- Assessment ("DA-LE") in our jurisdiction. The DA-LE is an evidence-based risk assessment instrument that is designed to identify victims who are at the highest risk of intimate partner homicide (IPH) or severe/near-lethal assault. It is administered on scene by law enforcement officers and acts as a supplement to the police report. The DA-LE is a product of collaboration between researchers and practitioners. The Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center (JGCC) partnered with two leading researchers in the field of IPH, Dr. Jacquelyn C. Campbell, PhD, RN, FAAN of Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing and Dr. Jill Theresa Messing, MSW, PhD of Arizona State University School of Social Work.

There are two primary functions of the DA-LE. It was designed to provide additional information to the court to inform criminal justice proceedings, including bail. The DA-LE is also used to encourage victims identified as high risk to connect with domestic violence services through a customized protocol. Direct contact with victims, often after a violent event, provides officers with the unique opportunity to inform victims of their risk which may increase the likelihood that they will take protective actions. The DA-LE implementation began in late 2021, with a target completion date of April 2022. Our prosecutor has served as the Site Coordinator for the implementation of this project. The DA-LE implementation involved multiple training sessions at all local law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges. The IPV Prosecutor was instrumental in those training sessions and continues to conduct on-going retraining and coordination with JGCC for tracking and re-working procedures.

It is well-settled that coordinated community responses to domestic violence serve as the most effective mechanism for combatting domestic violence. See <http://tcfv.org>; <http://jeannegeigercrisiscenter.org/>; <http://www.dvhr.org/>; The High-Risk Team Model and GPS Monitoring: Stopping DV in Its Tracks, Diane L. Rosenfeld, Domestic Violence Report (February/March

2012); Examining Domestic Violence High Risk Teams: A Qualitative Assessment of this Promising Approach In Massachusetts, Kamala Smith, MPH, Mica Astion, MSCJ, Michael Shively, PhD; Abt Associates. Therefore, the designated felony domestic violence prosecutor will continue to be a member of our community's coordinated response team. In 2019, the DVC created a DVHRT in our community, to collaborate with community members to hold offenders accountable. In 2020, after the community lost a TCFV grant to provide a coordinator, the DVHRT stopped actively assessing cases, while still individually evaluating and prosecuting high risk cases. In 2021, as Chair of the DVC, the designated prosecutor implemented new procedures to track high risk cases throughout both counties. As a result, the DVHRT is now meeting on a bi-weekly basis and can collaborate on case-strategy and interventions for victims. As a member of the team the prosecutor continues to implement evidence based best practices in the investigation and prosecution of domestic violence cases in our jurisdiction. In 2022, after the implementation of the DA-LE, which allowed for an almost immediate identification of high-risk offenders, the DVHRT began meeting on a weekly basis and continues to allow for timely collaboration regarding victim safety and offender accountability.

### Project Activities Information

#### Selected Project Activities:

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
Prosecution	100.00	Project activity is targeted prosecution of felony domestic violence and related offenses. The Felony Domestic Violence Prosecutor will devote 100% of their time to vertical prosecution of felony domestic violence and domestic violence related cases from intake to disposition of these cases. The designated felony domestic violence prosecutor will continue to assist with the implementation of a coordinated community responses to domestic violence.

### Measures Information

#### Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Number of sexual assault, domestic violence and / or stalking cases filed.	150
Number of sexual assault, domestic violence, and / or stalking cases referred.	200

#### Objective Outcome Measures

OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Number of cases resulting in conviction or deferred adjudication.	125
Number of charges dismissed or acquitted.	45

**Budget Details Information**

**Budget Information by Budget Line Item:**

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL	UNIT/%
Personnel	Prosecutor	This grant will provide funds for Robert Love, the current Domestic Violence prosecutor specifically assigned to domestic violence and related offenses. JOB SUMMARY: Responsible for the prosecution of felony domestic violence related cases presented to the Criminal District Attorney’s Office. Duties include reviewing cases presented for criminal charges by law enforcement agencies. Must be accessible to law enforcement and victim related agencies for advisement regarding incidents involving felony domestic violence. Must have the ability to assess a criminal case and negotiate plea bargains with defendants and their attorneys. Represent the State in courts of law during trials, hearings, and all docket calls. Responsible for reviewing reports of probation violations and filing all necessary motions. Total salary \$111,257. Fringe \$33,862.	\$105,599.97	\$45,257.13	\$0.00	\$150,857.10	100

**Budget Summary Information**

**Budget Summary Information by Budget Category:**

CATEGORY	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL
Personnel	\$105,599.97	\$45,257.13	\$0.00	\$150,857.10

**Budget Grand Total Information:**

OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL
\$105,599.97	\$45,257.13	\$0.00	\$150,857.10



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# **ITEM 5**

**VOCA Applications**

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**Agency Name: Deaf Smith County Crisis Center**

**Project Title: Advocacy 2025-2026**

**Request: \$ 207,296.00**

**Project Abstract:**

Our program is dedicated to supporting victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, along with their families. The Deaf Smith County Crisis Center provides crisis intervention advocacy across four rural counties: Deaf Smith, Castro, Parmer, and Oldham. We operate a 24-hour Hotline that offers emergency assistance, including safety planning, emergency shelter, essential supplies, and emergency protective orders. Additional services include a monthly peer support group, assistance with relocation for victims, and help in preparing affidavits for long-term protective orders. We accompany survivors to court, SANE exams, and the Bridge, hospital, and law enforcement interviews, as well as make referrals to professional counseling, shelters, legal aid, Crime Victims' Compensation, and other community resources. We provide transportation and maintain a clothes and hygiene closet. Our devoted advocates follow up with survivors to ensure they receive the support and resources necessary to break free from violent and unsafe situations. We are also actively involved in community and state coalitions that focus on the available resources.

**Problem Statement:**

Our agency serves as the center for crisis intervention within our area, supporting four rural counties and their communities. We provide vital services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as their families. Unfortunately, there are no domestic violence shelters located nearby, with the nearest facilities situated about an hour away. This scarcity presents significant challenges, prompting our agency to develop innovative solutions to serve our clients while ensuring their safety effectively. The Deaf Smith County Crisis Center offers assistance, support, and care to victims from Deaf Smith, Castro, Parmer, and Oldham counties. Our staff and volunteers are passionate about making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve through advocacy. Our mission is to empower victims and survivors, enhancing their quality of life through crisis intervention, support, counseling, advocacy, and education. Each year, the Deaf Smith County Crisis Center collaborates with community partners to set goals that enable us to provide the best possible support for every victim.

**Supporting Data:**

Our four service counties' population is approximately 36,974: Deaf Smith 18,347 (2023), Oldham 1,783 (2023), Castro 7,227 (2023), and Parmer 9,617 (2023). Based on the agency's statistics last year, we served 338 victims/survivors, providing various services to each. We helped and supported victims through crisis intervention, safety planning, peer counseling, advocacy, protective orders, and referral to community resources. We were able to assist and support victims seeking safety from abusive relationships and homes with financial support for relocation with bus tickets or temporary financial aid and assistance with move-in expenses. Last year, we purchased bus tickets for five families and assisted six families with rent, deposits, and/or move-in expenses, ensuring the safety of these victims and families. We provided 32 emergency shelter nights to 44 victims and emergency essentials and food. Other financial client services we provided included assistance with utilities, groceries, prescriptions, and important documents (IDs and birth certificates). We also provided nine victims with counseling sessions with a licensed counselor. Out of the 338 victims we served, 80% were victims of domestic violence, 10% were Child sexual assault, and 4% were Adult sexual assault. The remainder were victims needing referrals and utilizing the clothes and hygiene closet.

**Project Approach & Activities:**

At the Deaf Smith County Crisis Center, our mission is to empower victims and survivors, enhancing their quality of life through effective crisis intervention, support, counseling, advocacy, and education. We firmly believe that



those affected by domestic violence and sexual assault benefit most from community-based programs tailored to their needs. Our services are available to all victims, regardless of sex, race, national origin, age, disability, religion, or sexual orientation. Our dedicated board of directors, advocates, and volunteers collaborate closely with various community agencies and resources to positively impact the lives of victims and survivors. We consistently evaluate our practices by working alongside law enforcement, the district attorney's office, and our advocates to ensure the best outcomes. Our staff participates in annual training to stay informed about trauma-informed approaches and available resources for victims. During crisis intervention, we prioritize the victim's safety, collecting necessary information while allowing them to share their experiences freely. Our advocates actively listen, demonstrating respect and understanding throughout their interactions. We ensure victims know their rights and encourage them to ask questions. Additionally, we provide Spanish-speaking advocates and volunteers for those who need language assistance. We strongly emphasize assessing danger levels and the importance of safety in developing personalized safety plans with victims. Peer counseling and follow-up support are integral to our services, and we offer referrals to licensed counselors. We have collaborated with local officials and resource agencies in surrounding counties to secure office space for advocates, facilitating weekly or as-needed visits. Furthermore, we are establishing and coordinating a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) to serve our area better. Above all, our foremost priority is the immediate safety and well-being of victims and their families.

### **Capacity & Capabilities:**

In 1984, a local task force formed The Rape Crisis Center in Hereford. The rape crisis center merged with Family Support Services (Amarillo, Texas) in 1993, creating the Hereford Outreach rape crisis/domestic violence center. In September 1995, the Hereford Regional Medical Center opened a crisis center under the Women and Children's Crisis Center. On September 1, 2004, the Women's Children's Center became a standalone agency and changed its name to the Deaf Smith County Crisis Center. On October 6, 2007, the City of Hereford donated a building at 218 West 3rd. The Crisis Center moved into its new offices on February 14, 2009, and has been conducting business at this location to the present day. Our goal at the Deaf Smith County Crisis Center is to provide services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault who seek help in all four counties we serve (Deaf Smith, Castro, Parmer, and Oldham). Deaf Smith County Crisis Center is a Non-Profit 501c (3) with eight dedicated Board of Directors, four advocates, support staff, and a volunteer who work together to provide services to our victims and their families. The team is small but offers years of experience working with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. In our approach to assisting our clients, The Bridge Children's Advocacy Center has an office in our facilities to conduct forensic interviews. We have established an office space in each of our surrounding service counties and will travel weekly for walk-ins and by appointment when needed. We are developing SART teams and coordinating for Castro County's established SART. We participated in a pilot rural telehealth SANE program in Parmer County and have developed sexual assault crisis intervention procedures with the Parmer County Hospital. This program will allow sexual assault victims to receive SANE exams in their rural community, reducing travel and wait time. In addition, we have completed a 1-year training with ICCR (Institute for Coordinated Community Response), our advocates, law enforcement, and the district attorney's office to establish a best practice for each county. We often assess best practices by communicating with each county's officials to revise our best practices and make changes when needed while providing trauma-informed services. We are also members of TCFV (Texas Council on Family Violence) and TAASA (Texas Association Against Sexual Assault). Over the last year, we have worked with TAASA to improve our advocacy and review our policies and procedures to serve our survivors as a certified sexual assault program. We also received Sexual Assault certified training. Our staff is dedicated, loyal, and dependable, and they share a passion for advocating for victims. We will carry out this project with a teamwork approach by the staff, board of directors, and volunteers who will continue to work with local agencies in all four counties, always striving to ensure the safety of victims.

**Performance Management:**

At our agency, we are dedicated to providing support and encouragement for individuals affected by domestic violence and sexual assault. Our main goal is to empower these individuals to reclaim their strength through crisis intervention, counseling, advocacy, education, and support. Our advocates work diligently to motivate victims to restore their confidence, independence, financial security, and the ability to make choices without fear of violence. We accomplish this through consistent support, ongoing follow-ups, and utilizing available resources. Success for us means celebrating the personal milestones and achievements of each survivor. We use the Virtual Case Manager to track data and create monthly reports, allowing us to identify potential strengths and areas for improvement. Regular meetings with officials and other agencies in each county help us review our strategies, policies, and procedures to ensure we serve survivors effectively. Our advocates meet weekly to discuss clients' safety needs and options, ensuring that every available resource is explored. Additionally, we conduct client surveys when appropriate and take those insights seriously, adjusting our approach to enhance our support to those we assist.

**Target Group:**

The target group for Deaf Smith County Crisis Center is victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, along with their families, within our four-county area, which includes Deaf Smith, Castro, Parmer, and Oldham. Our organization is committed to assisting women, men, and children of all ages. Last year, we supported 338 victims, with approximately 80% facing domestic violence, around 4% experiencing adult sexual assault, and about 10% being victims of child sexual assault; the remainder were provided with referral services. We offer all our services at no cost to the victims. Notably, 85% of those we assist live below the poverty line. We encourage any victim needing help to reach out to our agency.

**Evidence-Based Practices:**

In our mission to effectively support victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, we assign dedicated advocates to each client, allowing us to gain a deeper understanding of their immediate needs and personal safety concerns. Together, we create individualized safety plans and offer resources and options. Once we have ensured the safety of the victims, we work collaboratively to set both short-term and long-term goals. Our advocates remain in contact with victims through consistent follow-ups, offering support until it is no longer necessary. We facilitate connections to professional counselors, legal resources, community organizations, and specialized crisis programs dedicated to domestic violence and sexual assault. In 2019, we took an important initiative by partnering with the Institute for Coordinated Community Response and Praxis, along with law enforcement and the district attorney's office, to conduct a 12-month study. This collaboration led to the creation of the Best Practice Assessment for the Deaf Smith County Crisis Center and the surrounding areas of Deaf Smith, Castro, Oldham, and Parmer counties. We actively implement these best practices and engage with officials from each county and community organizations to ensure that our clients receive best trauma-informed services. We have established office spaces in each of our service counties to facilitate comfortable and convenient access to support. Our team participates in annual conferences and is dedicated to the ongoing education of our advocates, continually seeking innovative approaches to serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault more effectively. Over the past year, we have collaborated with Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) to enhance our advocacy practices for adult survivors of sexual assault. All our advocates have completed trauma-informed training specifically focused on sexual assault. We have also conducted reviews and evaluations of our policies and procedures to strengthen our sexual assault program. Our commitment to working with TAASA will continue throughout the coming year, as we strive to make a lasting impact in the lives of those we serve.

## Project Activities Information

### Selected Project Activities:

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
Crisis Services	60.00	24 hour-hotline, peer counseling, advocacy, safety plan, professional counseling, referral, crime victim's compensation referral, relocation of victims, temporary/emergency shelter, shelter referral, emergency transportation to shelters, emergency protective orders, legal referral, Bridge, SANE accompaniment and clothes closet.
Legal Advocacy	8.00	Victims are provided with information about victims rights and crimes victims compensation. They are given crisis support and follow-up and are informed of investigation and prosecution process. Assistance with affidavits, court preparation and court accompaniment
Multi-Disciplinary Teams and Case Coordination	5.00	Case reviews with Bridge, law enforcement, District Attorney's office, CPS and victim's advocates. SART team case reviews.
Peer Support Groups	5.00	Monthly, bi-weekly or weekly peer support meetings.
Protective Order Assistance	12.00	Assistance with affidavits for protective orders, accompaniment to court hearings and appointments with District Attorney.
Shelter	10.00	Transportation of victims to local emergency shelter and other shelter locations safety plan assessed and emergency needs met.

## Measures Information

### Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Average length of stay in shelter (in days).	2
Number of cases reviewed by the multi-disciplinary team.	20
Number of final protective orders granted / obtained.	15
Number of final protective orders requested.	25

Number of meetings held by multi-disciplinary teams.	12
Number of secondary victims / survivors provided shelter.	23
Number of support group sessions held.	12
Number of survivors assisted through the legal process.	25
Number of survivors participating in support groups.	10
Number of survivors receiving crisis counseling.	175
Number of temporary protective orders granted / obtained.	20
Number of temporary protective orders requested.	25
Number of times survivors are accompanied to court.	20
Number of victims / survivors provided shelter.	37
Number of victims / survivors seeking services who were served.	275
Number of victims seeking services who were not served.	5
Number of victims who requested shelter.	30

OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Number of cases resulting in charges filed.	20
Number of convictions.	10

## Budget Details Information

### Budget Information by Budget Line Item:

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL	UNIT/%
Personnel	Advocate	Provide crisis intervention, safety planning, transportation, referrals to resources SANE accompaniment, court accompaniment and follow up as needs to clients. On call for hotline. Under supervision of Executive Director / Case Manager. Salary \$35,000 Fringe \$2677 total \$37,677 with 88% allocated to VOCA \$33156	\$33,156.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$33,156.00	88

Personnel	Advocate	Provide crisis intervention, safety planning, transportation, referrals to resources, SANE accompaniment, court accompaniment and follow up as needed. On call for hotline. Travel to other service counties for advocacy and direct services. Under supervision of Executive Director/Case Manager. Salary \$43,560, fringe \$3,332 total of \$46892 per year at 88% allocated to VOCA. Overtime exempt- Sandra Walker.	\$41,264.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$41,264.00	88
Personnel	Case Manager	Coordinates cases and communicates with volunteers to receive Intakes from the previous night. Follows up on all Victims who saw a Volunteer after business hours and makes appointments for the victim to come into the Crisis Center. On call for hotline. Assists in finding shelter for Victims after business hours. Travel to each county once a week to manage Victims Services and Protective Orders and agency referrals. Salary \$43,560, fringe \$3,332 total of \$46892 per year at 88% allocated to VOCA. Overtime exempt. Melinda Salazar	\$42,164.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$42,164.00	88
Personnel	Executive Director	Direct Victim Services: Sees clients for Intakes, safety planning, case management, accompaniment to court and SANE exams. On call for hotline. Oversees all employees, Program Procedures, Volunteer Activity, Survivor Advocacy. Oversees Protective Order Applications including MOEPs, Intake Information in Staffing and is the liaison with District Attorneys, Law Enforcement Agencies, and Community Clubs in all four counties. Travel to other service counties for advocacy and direct services. Hiring and Firing of Staff. Salary for one year: \$57,600 fringe \$4406 total of \$62006 with 85%	\$52,705.00	\$13,424.00	\$0.00	\$66,129.00	85
Personnel	Intern, Mentor, Service Provider, Student Worker, and/or Support Staff	Volunteer Advocate takes on call hotline provide direct services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. 1536 hours per year @ \$25 per hour...	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$38,400.00	\$38,400.00	100
Contractual and Professional Services	Printing Services	Printer, scanners and fax equipment rental from RICOH, yearly cost \$1520, 90% allocated to VOCA. \$380 quarterly rate	\$1,368.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,368.00	0
Contractual and Professional Services	Accounting, Bookkeeping, and/or Payroll Services	Barbara Franks with McGinty and Associates she is responsible for all VOCA grant related accounting activities including payroll. A yearly estimated amount of \$6500 with 75% allocated to VOCA. \$125 weekly rate	\$4,875.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,875.00	0
Travel and Training	In-State Registration Fees, Training, and/or Travel	Directing the work Conference: date to be announced 2026,Texas for one advocate based on per diem allowed. 3 days and 2 nights. This yearly conference presents new ideas and resources for our Executive Director to implement into our program. Attendance for this conference is essential for networking and achieving	\$1,587.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,587.00	0

		knowledge which is crucial for our Executive Director therefore impactful in the lives of our victims. Registration fee: \$300, hotel (\$191 x 2 nights) \$382, Flight \$400, Lyft for travel while at conference \$150, airport parking \$45, Mileage to airport \$70, Per diem for meals \$240. Total \$1587. VOCA 100% \$1587					
Travel and Training	In-State Registration Fees, Training, and/or Travel	TAASA conference, Location TBD, Date TBD 2026, based on per diems allowed, 1 advocate, This conference presents new ideas and resources to implement into our program and is essential for networking and knowledge and is impactful in the lives of our victims. 3 nights and 4 days, Registration fee \$300, Hotel (\$140 x 3 nights) \$420, flight \$400, Lyft for travel at conference \$150, Airport parking \$60, Mileage to airport \$70, per diem for meals \$320, Total \$1720. VOCA 100% \$1720	\$1,720.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,720.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Cellular, Fax, Pager, and/or Office Telephone	For 6 agency issued cellular devices used by grant funded staff to provide victim assistance and answering 24-hour hotline. Estimated yearly cost for cellular devices is \$4512 (varies per month) services provided by Verizon. 90% allocated to VOCA	\$4,060.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,060.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Cellular, Fax, Pager, and/or Office Telephone	Landline, fax and internet, services provided by AT&T for 2 landlines and a fax line including 24-hour hotline. To be used and answered for client services at office and to be forwarded to cellular devices after hours and on weekends and holidays. Yearly cost \$2920 with 90% allocated to VOCA	\$2,628.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,628.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Internet Access Services	Website and email server for agency \$86 monthly = \$1032 annually with 90% allocated to VOCA These services empower survivors with accessible resources and a safe way to connect with the agency for help. Email server and domain facilitates communication with other agencies for networking and support as well communication with grantors.	\$928.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$928.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Office Supplies (e.g., paper, postage, calculator)	Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses: Office supplies (Paper, file folders, labels, paper goods, pens, highlighters, binders and safety chair mats). Office cleaning supplies (Glass cleaner, pledge, febreze, comet bathroom cleaner, floor cleaner). Printing fees for copies, booklets, brochures and information cards printing in both English and Spanish. Estimated yearly amounts for a total of \$2000 with 90% allocated to VOCA.	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,800.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Project Supplies (e.g., binocular, battery, flexicuff, drug testing kit)	Client emergency assistance: payments made directly to a third party for some utilities, food purchase and emergency shelter by agency and given to individuals on an emergency basis. Our agency does not have a shelter for victims therefore we help victims with rental deposits, and utility bills when needed. The grant will be the payee of last resort for these expenses. All other means of funding will be utilized before charging this cost to the grant. Yearly total \$5000.00 with 100% allocated to VOCA.	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	0

Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Electric, Gas, and/or Water / Wastewater	Utility cost for office is based on office total of \$6702 with 90% allocated to VOCA. (Electric, Water and Gas)	\$6,031.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,031.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Vehicle Operating Cost (e.g., fuel, lubricants, maintenance, storage)	Estimated yearly operating costs for vehicle for transporting of victims including fuel, lubricants, tire rotations and oil changes. Vehicle is use exclusive for grant related purposes. Amount requested \$500.00 with 90% allocated to VOCA.	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$450.00	0

### Budget Summary Information

#### Budget Summary Information by Budget Category:

CATEGORY	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL
Personnel	\$169,289.00	\$13,424.00	\$38,400.00	\$221,113.00
Contractual and Professional Services	\$13,803.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,803.00
Travel and Training	\$3,307.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,307.00
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	\$20,897.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,897.00

#### Budget Grand Total Information:

OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL
\$207,296.00	\$13,424.00	\$38,400.00	\$259,120.00

## CJAC'S PRESENTATION GUIDELINE:

Applicant Organization: Deaf Smith County Crisis Center

Project Title: Advocacy

Grant Funds Requested: \$207,296

***This form must be completed for each project submitted to the Criminal Justice Division under the regional Criminal Justice Programs. This form should be filled out and returned to PRPC's Criminal Justice Coordinator. This information is expected to be covered in your grant presentation to the CJAC.***

1. Why is this particular project needed; what problem(s) are you trying to resolve?

Our agency serves as the center for crisis intervention for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. We provide vital services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as their families. Unfortunately, there are no domestic violence shelters located nearby, with the nearest facilities situated about an hour away. This scarcity presents significant challenges, prompting our agency to develop innovative solutions to serve our clients while ensuring their safety effectively. The Deaf Smith County Crisis Center offers assistance, support, and care to victims from Deaf Smith, Castro, Parmer, and Oldham counties. Our staff and volunteers are passionate about making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve through advocacy.

2. Describe which, if any, of the Regional Program Priorities this project will support. \*\*\*If VAWA, which State priority will this project support? Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

3. Who will be responsible for implementing this project and how would that be done?

At the Deaf Smith County Crisis Center, we empower victims and survivors, enhancing their quality of life through effective crisis intervention, support, counseling, advocacy, and education. We firmly believe that those affected by domestic violence and sexual assault benefit most from community-based programs according to their needs. Our services are available to all victims. Our advocates, and volunteers collaborate closely with various community agencies and resources to positively impact the lives of victims and survivors. We consistently evaluate our practices by working alongside law enforcement, the district attorney's office, and our advocates to ensure the best outcomes. Our staff participates in annual training to stay informed about trauma-informed approaches and available resources for victims. During crisis intervention, we prioritize the victim's safety, collecting necessary information while allowing them to share their experiences freely. Our advocates actively listen, demonstrating respect and understanding throughout their interactions. We ensure victims know their rights and encourage them to ask questions. We strongly emphasize assessing danger levels and the importance of safety in developing personalized safety plans with victims. Peer counseling and follow-up support are essential to our services, and we offer referrals to licensed counselors. We have collaborated with local officials and resource agencies in surrounding counties to secure office space for advocates, facilitating weekly or



as-needed visits. Furthermore, we are establishing and coordinating a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) to serve our area better. In our collaborative efforts for child survivors, the Bridge Children's Advocacy Center has an office at the agency to conduct interviews for children. Above all, our foremost priority is the immediate safety and well-being of victims and their families.

4. What factors will be used to gauge the value of this project to your community – how will you measure success?

At our agency, we are dedicated to providing support and encouragement for individuals affected by domestic violence and sexual assault. Our main goal is to empower these individuals to reclaim their strength through crisis intervention and advocacy. Our advocates work diligently to motivate victims to restore their confidence, independence, financial security, and the ability to make choices without fear of violence. We accomplish this through consistent support, ongoing follow-ups, and utilizing available resources. Success for us means celebrating the personal milestones and achievements of each survivor. We use the Virtual Case Manager to track data and create monthly reports, allowing us to identify potential strengths and areas for improvement. Regular meetings with officials and other agencies in each county help us review our strategies, policies, and procedures to ensure we serve survivors effectively. Our advocates meet weekly to discuss clients' safety needs and options, ensuring that every available resource is explored. Additionally, we conduct client surveys when appropriate and take those insights seriously, adjusting our approach to enhance our support to those we assist.

5. How will this project continue to be supported in the future?

This project will continue to be supported by grants, additional fundraising and community support.

6. (VOCA & VAWA Only) What is the total population that your organization serves? How many victims did you provide services to last year? What is the number of victims served last year per capita? What services for victims does your organization offer?

The population of Deaf Smith, Parmer, Oldham and Castro County is 36,974

Last year we provided services to 338 victims providing many services to each victim

80% facing domestic violence, around 4% adult sexual assault, 10% Child sexual assault and Bridge interviews, the remainder were provided with referral services.

Per Capita .01

Services include: 24-hour hotline, peer counseling, safety planning, crime victims compensation, Support Group, referral to professional counseling, relocation of victims, Temporary/Emergency shelter, Shelter referral, transportation, emergency protective orders, and assistance with affidavits for long-term protective order, legal referral, court accompaniment, SANE accompaniment, Bridge Accompaniment and a clothes closet

**Agency Name: Randall County DA's Office**

**Project Title: Victims' Assistance Grant**

**Request: \$74,868.60**

**Project Abstract:**

Continued assistance provided by this grant will help us in our mission to provide essential services to victims and promote victim restoration while incorporating an emphasis on cultural competency in underserved populations.

The Victim Advocate will continue to prioritize services provided to each victim based on their individual needs. We will work to promote public education, employ strategies that are sensitive to the concerns and safety of victims, and collaborate with community agencies to meet the needs of crime victims. An emphasis will continue to be made for educating victims about the Criminal Justice System and their rights. We will provide victims with information and assistance available through the Crime Victims' Compensation Program of the Attorney General's Office and resources available in the community. The Victim Assistance Advocate will assist with the needs of crime victims through collaboration with community based agencies and victim coalitions. The county provides one staff position for a Victim Assistance Advocate. It is impossible for one person to meet the needs of the increasing number of victims of crimes. The assistance from this grant will give us an additional Victim Assistance Advocate and will enable us to: accomplish our mission to provide core services to victims; ensure prompt compliance with the requirements in Chapter 56 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure; promote victim restoration and hold the offender accountable for their crime. As a result, we will be more effective at providing referrals for resources available for victims of crime, along with providing updates on case statuses to the victims. Victims will feel protected, included, and confident in our judicial system, which will allow them to begin the recovery process.

**Problem Statement:**

Chapter 56 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure states that victims are entitled to many rights throughout the entire criminal process, including victim impact assistance and notifications about court proceedings. These are crucial functions and cannot be performed without a Victim's Advocate. The Randall County Criminal District Attorney's office has a continued need to be able to increase the amount of contact we have with victims, especially on vulnerable victim cases like sexual assault and domestic violence. Increased victim communication and interactions increases our ability to prosecute cases. The more information a victim's advocate is able to gather from a victim of crime, the better we understand when seeking justice for the victim in the criminal disposition. Although prosecutors have contact with victim(s) of crime, the goal is to speak about that which is necessary for the instant offense. Victims have needs that go beyond the instant offense. Randall County needs a victim advocate who can interact with victims on a more global level in order to ensure their success during and after the criminal prosecution. An example of this would be a victim of sexual assault who now suffers from PTSD. A criminal case will assist the victim with disposition of the case and any restitution but that does not help them with the PTSD they now suffer from as a result of the crime. A Victim's Advocate can refer victims to other resources to help with these issues. With a Victim's Advocate, we would be able to assist victims with numerous issues that arise from being a victim of crime. The criminal justice system is often overwhelming and confusing for victims and an advocate can help the victim navigate through the process.

**Supporting Data:**

There is a consistent need to eliminate barriers for non-English speaking victims and other communication disabilities for victims with special needs. For FY23, the Victims' Assistance Advocate served almost 1,200 victims seeking services. There were 1,175 VIS distributed and 37 CVC applications. We filed 45 Final Protective Orders and 159 Magistrate EPO's were issued. Over 464 phone and in person contacts were made with victims. We referred 99 victims to other services. Our office accompanied 49 victims to court proceedings or interviews.

Victims served and type of offenses for FY22, are as follows: Sexual Assault - 17; Sexual Assault of a Child - 44; Child Abuse - 49; Assault/Agg Assault - 152; Domestic Violence – 357; Homicide - 7; Robbery - 27; DWI Incidents – 102; Stalking/Harassment – 27; Other - 553.

Additionally victims served and type of offenses for FY23, are as follows: Sexual Assault - 9; Sexual Assault of a Child - 40; Child Abuse - 47; Assault/Agg Assault - 171; Domestic Violence –265; Homicide - 19; Robbery - 28; DWI Incidents – 72; Stalking/Harassment - 33; Other – 545.

### **Project Approach & Activities:**

The VOCA Grant provides funds for a Victims' Advocate that assists in providing services for victims. The Advocate will provide victim notification, victim impact statements, assist with victim registration, collect statements for restitution, arrange phone calls and videoconference or in person meetings between the victim, the victim advocate, and the prosecutor, along with guiding victims through the judicial process. Our staff will prioritize services provided to victims based on his or her individual needs. The Victims' Advocate will collaborate with community agencies. Emotional, legal, and financial assistance are just a few services provided through these shared goals. We provide victims with information and assistance available through the Crime Victims' Compensation Program of the Attorney General's Office, <https://texasattorneygeneral.gov/cvs/crime-victims-compensation> along with resources available in the community. For additional information, the advocate may refer victims to VictimLaw, <https://www.victimlaw.org>. This is a searchable database of victims' legal provisions, court rules, and summaries of related court decisions and attorney general opinions. The Advocate provided with this grant will enable our office to be more effective in providing case information and referral of resources. Our goal is to continue to provide justice to Victims and ensure their rights are protected.

### **Capacity & Capabilities:**

The Randall County Criminal District Attorney's Office seeks justice while ensuring the rights of victims of crime in Randall County. The Victims' Assistance Advocate provided with funds from this grant, will enable us to promptly comply with the statutory requirements of Chapter 56 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. As a result, we will be effective in providing case information and referral of resources available for each victim. Our overall objective is to provide core services to victims and promote victim restoration. Continued approval of this grant will help us with strategies that are sensitive to the concerns and safety of the victims while holding the offender accountable for their crime. Through these services, victims will feel more informed, protected, and confident in our judicial system which will allow them to begin the recovery process, the ultimate goal for all victims. The Victim's Advocate, Cynthia Anaya, has been in law enforcement for 7 years, spending several years as a community supervision officer with the Potter, Randall, and Armstrong County probation department. She has been employed by the Randall County Criminal District Attorney's Office since 2021 and has a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice. The Victim Advocate has been a member of the Amarillo Crime Stoppers since 2011 and the Vice Chairman since 2012. She also has been part of the Leadership Amarillo & Canyon since 2019. She is also bilingual, which will help with non-English speaking victims.

### **Performance Management:**

For the period of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023, we served 1,175 victims seeking services. The Randall County District Attorney's Office had great success meeting with victims via video conferencing and traditional phone calls during the COVID-19 pandemic and has successfully continued to implement these same practices. When the court system was shut down due to the pandemic, a buildup of pending cases began. Contact with victims via phone calls and/or email was utilized to continue to offer services to victims. During FY23, 464 in person and telephone contacts made. Having these different abilities to keep in contact with victims continues to encourage cooperation and helps to build rapport with reluctant victims. These types of contact with victims have and will continue to be used to provide those much-needed services.

**Target Group:**

The target group for this project will be all victims of crime that occur in Randall County. Randall County is located in the south central part of the Texas Panhandle. The County was officially formed in 1889 and consists of approximately 933 square miles with an estimated 783 miles of roads. Randall County is the seat of two significant cities, Amarillo and Canyon Texas. The population of Randall County is estimated at 140,753 people. All victims of crime will be served, without regard to sex, race, age, gender, sexual orientation, or immigration status.

**Evidence-Based Practices:**

Studies show that the earlier victims are contacted the more receptive they are to the criminal justice process. The importance of prosecutor-victim contact is underscored by a Toronto study that found if the victim met with a victim/witness representative, victim cooperation increased by a factor of 3.3. Dawson, M., and R. Dinovitzer. "Victim Cooperation and the Prosecution of Domestic Violence in a Specialized Court." *Justice Quarterly* 18(3) (September 2001): 593-622, NCJ 190492

In the Ohio court study, the strongest predictor of a guilty verdict in domestic violence misdemeanor cases was how many times the prosecutors met with the victim before trial.

Belknap, J., D. Graham, J. Hartman, V. Lippen, G. Allen, and J. Sutherland. "Factors Related to Domestic Violence Court Dispositions in a Large Urban Area: The Role of Victim/Witness Reluctance and Other Variables." Executive summary for National Institute of Justice, grant number 96-WT-NX-0004. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, August 2000, NCJ 184112.

A limited number of studies that looked at the role of court-based victim advocates suggest that they may help in this regard. The studies found that victims appreciated contact with victim advocates/liaisons and reported a high degree of satisfaction. In the Quincy study, 81 percent of the victims reported satisfaction with the time they spent with victim advocates, and three-quarters (77 percent) said they would talk to the advocate again if a similar incident recurred.

Buzawa, E., G. Hotaling, A. Klein, and J. Byrnes. "Response to Domestic Violence in a Pro-Active Court Setting." Final report for National Institute of Justice, grant number 95-IJ-CX-0027. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, July 1999, NCJ 181427.

Chicago domestic violence victims who had contact with victim advocates reported more satisfaction with the proceedings than those who had no contact. However, the same study reported that advocates' contact with victims did not make the victims more likely to come to court.

Hartley, C., and L. Frohmann. "Cook County Target Abuser Call (TAC): An Evaluation of a Specialized Domestic Violence Court." Final report for National Institute of Justice, grant number 2000-WT-VX-0003. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, August 2003, NCJ 202944.

Victims are faced with difficult and sometimes limited choices. For this reason one expert has described the process of advocating for victims as holding their hand on a walk-through hell (Weisz, 1999; cited in Koss, 2006.) Research shows that Victim Advocates ease victim recovery and furnish avenues for other services available to crime victims. Lonsway, Kimberly, Archambault. Joanne (2008) *Effective Victim Advocacy Within the Criminal Justice System*; Lonsway, Kimberly, Archambault. Joanne (2015) *Crime Victim's Rights: Protecting Crime Victims' Rights*;

## Project Activities Information

### Selected Project Activities:

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
Legal Advocacy	85.00	Victims are identified soon after the offense, provided information on victims' rights (restitution, crime victim compensation), and provided comprehensive and follow-up support needed to keep them engaged in the prosecution process. This may include assistance with obtaining protective orders and explaining bond conditions. Those victims option not to prosecute may receive required "education" about their options in an effort to reduce fear of testifying.
Protective Order Assistance	15.00	The advocate will assist victims through the application and court process in obtaining a Protective Order. Legal representation is provided by our staff attorneys to obtain protective orders.

## Measures Information

### Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Number of final protective orders granted / obtained.	40
Number of final protective orders requested.	40
Number of survivors assisted through the legal process.	1100
Number of temporary protective orders granted / obtained.	20
Number of temporary protective orders requested.	20
Number of times survivors are accompanied to court.	200
Number of victims / survivors seeking services who were served.	1100
Number of victims seeking services who were not served.	0

## Budget Details Information

### Budget Information by Budget Line Item:

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL	UNIT/%
Personnel	Court Advocate	Cynthia Anaya, Victims' Assistance Coordinator, will continue to provide services to victims and promote victim restoration. This coordinator is required to provide victim notifications, victim impact statements, assist with CVC registrations, collect statements of financial damages for restitution/victim compensation, and accompany them through the judicial process. The coordinator will provide assistance to ensure the victims understand their constitutional rights in the legal process. The Victim Assistance Advocate will be sensitive to the specific needs of each victim and refer them to resources for available victim services. Annual salary \$62,254.00 with fringe \$24,423 (FICA/MC \$4,821, RET \$7,180, WC \$70, GROUP LIFE \$63 INS \$12,252, UNEMPLOYMENT \$37) totaling \$86,677.00	\$59,341.60	\$17,335.40	\$0.00	\$86,677.00	100
Travel and Training	In-State Registration Fees, Training, and/or Travel	Crimes Against Children Conference Dallas, Texas Approximate Dates August 2026. Total estimated cost: \$2595: Registration \$895 (regular cost of registration for Victim Assistance Coordinator) / Hotel \$780 (average room rate \$164 at 4-night stay plus taxes) / airfare \$350 (average refundable fare is \$175 one way)/ Rental Car \$250.00 (arriving on a Sunday and departing on Wednesday would be 4 days rental at an average of \$50 per day plus taxes and fees) /Per diem \$320 (per diem rate for Dallas is \$80).	\$2,076.00	\$519.00	\$0.00	\$2,595.00	0
Travel and Training	In-State Registration Fees, Training, and/or Travel	TDCAA Key Personnel & VAC Conference in Grapevine, Texas. Approximate Dates November 5-7, 2025. Total estimated cost: \$1665: Registration \$350 (regular cost of registration for Victim Assistance Advocate) / Hotel \$525 (average room rate \$175 at 3-night stay plus taxes and fees) / airfare \$400 (average refundable fare is \$200 one way)/ Rental Car \$150.00 (arriving on a Wednesday and departing on Friday day would be 3 days rental at an average of \$50 per day including fees) /Per diem \$240 (per diem rate for Dallas is \$80). This training will be for 1 participant.	\$1,335.00	\$333.00	\$0.00	\$1,668.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Office Supplies (e.g., paper, postage, calculator)	Paper, pens, envelopes, printer cartridge, legal pads. All items are used to review and complete processing cases. 100% of these costs will be allocated to this grant.	\$1,500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Office Equipment and/or Furniture	2 Guest Chairs (\$385 per chair) for office to use when meeting victims. 100% of the total cost will be allocated to this grant.	\$616.00	\$154.00	\$0.00	\$770.00	0

	(\$5,000 or less per unit)						
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**Budget Summary Information**

**Budget Summary Information by Budget Category:**

CATEGORY	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL
Personnel	\$69,341.60	\$17,335.40	\$0.00	\$86,677.00
Travel and Training	\$3,411.00	\$852.00	\$0.00	\$4,263.00
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	\$2,116.00	\$654.00	\$0.00	\$2,770.00

**Budget Grand Total Information:**

OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL
\$74,868.60	\$18,841.40	\$0.00	\$93,710.00

**Agency Name: Potter County/47<sup>th</sup> DA's Office**

**Project Title: Victim Assistance Program**

**Request: \$ 204,619.00**

**Project Abstract:**

The Amarillo Police Department reported a total of 20,337 crimes in 2024, with approximately 2,975 of those cases involving Domestic Violence charges. The Potter County District Clerk's Office stated that the 47th District Attorney's office filed 2,449 Felony complaints in 2024, with 1,406 resulting in indictments. Many victims in these cases had little to no familiarity with the criminal justice system or Crime Victims' Rights and were unprepared for the challenges they faced. Issues such as psychological distress, physical injuries, financial struggles, and the slow progress of the criminal justice system were exacerbated by the ongoing effects of COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021, continuing to impact the process in 2024.

In 2024, we provided assistance to approximately 1,656 crime victims as they navigated through the criminal justice system. Our services included a range of support options for all victims. Our objective is to offer an efficient and comprehensive system that addresses the needs of victims from the initial reporting stage to the resolution of their case. We promptly make contact with victims, assess their needs, and offer services or referrals as needed. We inform victims of their rights and provide them with updates on their cases. We also assist victims in applying for Crime Victims' Compensation for eligible expenses, submitting necessary documentation to the Office of the Attorney General for processing and payments. Additionally, we offer courtroom preparation and accompaniment for victims and assist with Victim Impact Statements (VIS) to be included in offender files. Following case resolution, we ensure that the VIS is forwarded to the Board of Pardons & Paroles for future notifications. We consistently act as a liaison between the system and victims.

**Problem Statement:**

In 2024, the Homicide Unit handled a total of 25 homicide cases, including 2 cases of Capital Murder, 18 cases of Murder, 1 case of Manslaughter, and 4 cases of Intoxication Manslaughter with a vehicle. The Special Victims Unit (SVU) is responsible for investigating child pornography tips received from ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children), as well as sex offenses, indecency cases involving adults and children, child abuse cases, child endangerment, missing and endangered persons, and internet crimes against children. SVU handled over 1,829 cases, which included approximately 547 Crimes against Children cases, 197 adult sexual assault cases, 113 Sex Offender/Fail to register cases, 239 Interference w/child custody cases, and over 278 cases of internet possession of Child Pornography. The Domestic Violence unit processed 1,285 cases involving aggravated assaults, kidnappings, assaults with bodily injury, stalking, and harassment cases among family members, boyfriend-girlfriend, and roommates. The unit is comprised of 2 Detective Sergeants who supervise squads of 3 or 4 detectives and 1 civilian investigator each. They collaborate with other units within and outside the department to investigate these crimes and are active members of the local Domestic Violence Council, which includes representatives from the District Attorney's Office Victim Advocate Director – Sonja Ybarra, Potter County Attorney's Office, West TX Legal Aid, Family Support Services, PCSO, RCSO, and Canyon PD. The victims in these cases often have limited knowledge of the criminal justice system and their rights as crime victims, requiring assistance from the initial incident through case disposition. This project aims to address the physical, mental, and emotional needs of victims of felonious crimes in Potter County to the best of our ability.

**Supporting Data:**

Between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024, a total of 30,000 criminal offenses, including drug cases, were reported to both the Amarillo Police Department and the Potter County Sheriff's Office. The Potter County District Clerk's office reported that the 47th District Attorney's office filed 2,449 felony complaints in 2024, with 1,406 resulting in indictments. Additionally, the Potter County Victims Assistance Program assisted approximately 1,656 victims in 2024. The services provided to Potter County victims included 608 instances of



crisis intervention, 3,362 information/referrals, 2,006 criminal/civil justice system assistance, and 2,272 crime victims compensation (CVC) assistance. The victims served were categorized by type of victimization, with 47 cases of child physical abuse, 146 cases of child sexual abuse, 26 incidents of DWI, 852 cases of domestic violence, 80 cases of adult sexual assault, 64 cases of survivors of homicide victims, 43 cases of robberies/aggravated robberies, and 402 cases of assaults. These statistics were compiled from reports provided by the Amarillo Police Department, the Potter County District Attorney's Office, the Potter County Clerk's Office, and Victims' Assistance VOCA Reports. It is noted that the issue of domestic violence in Potter County appears to persist without significant improvement.

### **Project Approach & Activities:**

The Victim Assistance personnel at the Amarillo Police Department serve as the initial point of contact for victims. They are available 24 hours a day upon request from law enforcement. Following a homicide, sexual assault, or DUI vehicular incident, they are promptly notified and provide support. They accompany victims with law enforcement officers for documentation of injuries, assist with Crime Victims' Compensation applications within 24 hours, help domestic violence victims and their children access shelters, and make referrals to counseling services. The Victim Assistance staff at the District Attorney's office are also on call 24 hours a day when notified by law enforcement. They may visit hospitals to assist injured victims and their families with compensation applications if victims are not local or unable to come to the office. The District Attorney staff handle Magistrates' Emergency Protective Orders and communicate with victims to explain the orders, aid in completing compensation applications, refer victims to counselors, and offer a listening ear to those needing to talk about their experiences. Each victim of a felony offense receives a Victim Letter containing a Victim Impact Statement outlining their rights. The team assists victims with understanding the court process, schedules appointments and phone conferences with prosecutors, and accompanies victims to plea hearings or trials. The victim advocates provide guidance, mentorship, preparation, support, advice, and advocacy for victims from the time of the incident until the case is resolved. Additionally, our department submits parole protest letters to the TDCJ Parole Board and maintains statistics on victims for grant reporting purposes.

### **Capacity & Capabilities:**

The Victim Assistance Department for Potter County and the Amarillo Police Department was established in 1986. Currently, we have four Victim Assistance personnel. Two are stationed at the Amarillo Police Department and two are at the 47th District Attorney's Office. One employee at the Amarillo Police Department has 24 years of experience, while the other staff member at the Amarillo Police Department started in August 2019 and has 4 1/2 years of experience funded by the VCLG Grant through the Texas Attorney General's Office. The Victim Assistance Coordinator in the 47th DA's office has been with Potter County for 8 years and previously worked as the HUD Asst. Director at Panhandle Community Services for 8 years. The other Victim Assistance Coordinator in the 47th DA's office has been with Potter County for 14 years, with experience as a clerk for Judge Jackson and Judge Horn for 4 years and in case management at the 47th DA's office for 8 years. Each staff member attends available training seminars locally and statewide whenever possible, focusing on training, information, and strategies for dealing with victims of crime. This extensive training enables our department to effectively serve the changing needs of our victims.

### **Performance Management:**

Over the next 12 months, the Victim's Assistance Department will confidently serve between 3,000-7,000 victims. Our services include reaching out to victims within 24 hours of a violent assault, sexual assault, or homicide. We will promptly contact approximately 250 victims of family violence to explain the Magistrate's Emergency Protective Orders as soon as the Judge issues the order. Additionally, we are prepared to assist around 700 victims with Crime Victims' Compensation Applications in the coming year. We are also committed to providing information, referrals, and emotional support to approximately 2,000 victims, including referrals to counseling and safety services within our community throughout 2025. With the number of victims increasing

each year, our dedicated advocates work tirelessly to ensure that victims know they are not forgotten and deserve all the support and guidance available. We will diligently collect, track, and maintain data through our VSTracking system.

**Target Group:**

The projected population for Amarillo in 2025 is 204,503, assuming an annual rate of change of 0.5%. With a population of 202,408 people, Amarillo is the 16th most populated city in Texas out of 1,802 cities according to the most recent US Census data. A portion of the city extends into Randall County. The racial and ethnic breakdown is as follows: 52.18% White, 34.16% Hispanic, 6.66% Black or African American, 0.27% Native American or Alaska Native, 3.93% Asian, 2.44% Two or More Races, 0.25% Other Race, and 0.1% Pacific Islander. In terms of age demographics, 26.5% of the population is 18 years and under, 59.03% are 18 to 64 years, and 14.46% are 65 and older. Potter County is experiencing continuous growth due to its strong workforce, key industries, and various business projects. Companies like Bell Helicopter and Pantex are contributing to job creation and economic stability. Amarillo's network of hospitals, universities, and medical programs has established it as a healthcare leader. However, this growth also brings challenges for law enforcement agencies and advocates in terms of communication, cultural traditions, high crime rates, and the need for resources for victims.

**Evidence-Based Practices:**

Our data reporting from multiple sources has consistently proven successful in the past and will continue to be a valuable tool for collecting statistical information to support the necessity of our application. The implementation of the VSTracking victim services tracking system towards the end of 2020 has greatly enhanced our ability to track grant and victim impact statement statistics, benefiting both the DA's office and the Amarillo Police Department. The substantial volume of data collected by key agencies like the Amarillo Police Department, Potter County Sheriff's office, Potter County Clerk's office, and the 47th District Attorney's office unequivocally demonstrates the critical need for Victim Advocates in these areas. The Office of Crime Victims Advocacy plan highlights significant progress in enhancing Crime Victims' Services, particularly through the "No Wrong Door" approach which ensures victims have access to a comprehensive network of service providers. Our collaboration with esteemed organizations such as Family Support Services, United Hot Line, Evelyn Rivers, Counselors, private charities, and local churches further strengthens our ability to provide victims with essential assistance and resources. Rest assured, our dedicated staff is well-prepared and confident in meeting the diverse needs of victims in our community.

## Project Activities Information

### Selected Project Activities:

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
Crisis Services	35.00	The Assistant Director at the Amarillo Police Department is fluent in both English and Spanish and serves as the initial contact for victims. Individuals of all nationalities and ages are reached out to via mail, phone, or in-person to provide assistance, education, counseling, information/referrals, access to crime victims compensation benefits, housing/shelter resources, and support/advocacy services for justice. These efforts are aimed at addressing the physical, mental, and emotional needs of victims.
Legal Advocacy	60.00	The two victim advocates stationed at the Amarillo Police Department serve as liaisons between victims of felony crimes and the 47th District Attorney's office. They work closely with law enforcement and victim services to provide information and support to victims and their families, addressing their questions about the criminal justice system. They also offer community resources, updates, and educational materials. Once a victim's case is transferred to the 47th DA's office, the victim advocates there will continue the support provided by the APD advocates, preparing victims for trial and accompanying them to legal proceedings. They assist victims in completing Crime Victims Compensation (CVC) applications and Victims Impact Statements (VIS), as well as scheduling and attending meetings with prosecutors. Victim advocates also notify victims of temporary Emergency Protection Orders and discuss safety plans with victims of domestic violence. Additionally, they prepare and send Parole Protest letters to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for inmates from our district up for parole review. The victim advocates also contact victims to determine if restitution is applicable, and provide information on CVC requests for restitution reimbursement to prosecutors.
Multi-Disciplinary Teams and Case Coordination	5.00	We are members of the Domestic Violence Coalition. The Amarillo-Potter-Randall Domestic Violence program implements initiatives aimed at reducing domestic violence, improving victim safety, and holding offenders accountable. The team at the Domestic Violence Coalition is monitoring high-risk domestic violence offenders. Through collaboration with local agencies and law enforcement, we hope to see a decrease in domestic violence crimes. The DVC meets regularly to review current cases and improve our services to victims and the community.

## Measures Information

### Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Number of cases reviewed by the multi-disciplinary team.	2449
Number of meetings held by multi-disciplinary teams.	513
Number of survivors assisted through the legal process.	767
Number of survivors receiving crisis counseling.	10
Number of times survivors are accompanied to court.	89

Number of victims / survivors seeking services who were served.	1656
Number of victims seeking services who were not served.	0

OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Number of cases resulting in charges filed.	1644
Number of convictions.	717

## Budget Details Information

### Budget Information by Budget Line Item:

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL	UNIT/%
Personnel	Coordinator	Employee Amber Sanchez, The Victim Assistance Coordinator, is located at the 47th District Attorney's Office and performs the duties of crime victim's liaison ensuring that victims or close relatives of deceased victims are afforded the rights granted by Subchapter A and B of Article 56 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure; crisis intervention, includes internal staff training and supervision. Daily responsibilities include being the liaison between victims of Felony crime and the Prosecutors office. Working very closely with Law Enforcement and Law Enforcement Victim Services. Providing information and support to victims and families of victims by answering the many questions they have about the Criminal Justice System. Providing community resources, updates, and education. Providing support to victims and families during trials. Preparing them for trial and accompanying them to proceedings. Assisting victims in completing Crime Victim Compensation Applications and Victim Impact Statements. Scheduling and attending meetings between victims/prosecutors. The VAC notifies victims of the issuance of Temporary Emergency Protective Orders and answers any questions and provides information on Long Term Protective Orders. Discusses Safety plans with victims of Domestic Violence. The Parole Protest Letters are prepared and sent to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice when an inmate from this district is up for parole review. The VAC contacts victims and determines if there is restitution, also providing CVC request for restitution reimbursement information to Prosecutors. The total includes salary and fringe/benefits excluding travel and cell phones.	\$74,716.00	\$4,035.00	\$0.00	\$78,751.00	100

		FY26 Salary \$55,053.00; Fringe Benefits: Retirement (0.1440) \$7,927.63; Insurance (\$941.22 a month) \$11,294.64; Social Security/Medicare (0.0765) \$4,211.55; Unemployment (0.0005) \$27.53; Workers Comp (0.0032) \$176.17. Total fringe package \$23,637.52. Salary and fringe \$78,690.52.					
Personnel	Administrative and/or Assistant Director	Employee Susy Valencia, The Assistant Director is located at the Amarillo Police Department and performs the duties of crime victim's liaison ensuring that victims or close relatives of deceased victims are afforded the rights granted by Subchapter A and B of Article 56 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure; crisis intervention; interagency networking; includes internal staff training and supervision. The total includes salary and fringe/benefits excluding travel and cell phones. FY26 Salary \$62,479.00; Fringe Benefits: Retirement (0.1440) \$8,996.98; Insurance (\$941.22 a month) \$11,294.64; Social Security/Medicare (0.0765) \$4,779.64; Unemployment (0.0005) \$31.24; Workers Comp (0.0032) \$199.93. Total fringe package \$25,302.43. Salary and fringe \$87,781.43.	\$43,925.00	\$43,925.00	\$0.00	\$87,850.00	100
Personnel	Executive Director	Sonja Cuellar, The Program Director is located at the 47th District Attorney's Office and is responsible for timely preparation and submission of required grant reporting and VIS statistics; overall daily activities and operations of the program including supervision and staff direction; ensuring that victims' felony offenses filed with the D.A.'s office are afforded the rights granted to victims, guardians and relatives of deceased victims by Subchapter A and B of Article 56 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedures. Daily responsibilities include contacting victims, discussing plea agreements, determining restitution, and scheduling appointments to meet with the Prosecutors. Being present with the victim at the interview with the Prosecutor. Being the primary communicator between victims from the time of the incident until a trial or plea. Educating victims and their families about the legal process, and their rights as victims. Assisting victims or their families after a violent crime or homicide and explaining the Crime Victim's Compensation program and application process. Providing contact information for counselors, local resources, housing, and other assistance that is available locally. Accompanying victims and families to trials. Sending each victim of a Felony crime a letter and Victim Impact Statement that includes their Crime Victims' Rights information. Being on call with the Amarillo Police Department, and Potter County Sherriff's office 24/7 if needed at the crime scene, hospital, or The Bridge Children's Advocacy Center. Representing the 47th District Attorney's office at community expos to help educate the community about recognizing	\$85,978.00	\$4,649.00	\$0.00	\$90,627.00	100

		<p>signs of abuse at home, in relationships of friends and family members. Encouraging the students not to remain silent if they recognize the signs of abuse or family violence. Our Crime Victim's Department hosts an Angel Tree ceremony in December to honor the victims of homicides, DWI fatalities, and Law Enforcement killed in the line of duty. The total includes salary and fringe benefits excluding cell phone and travel expenses. FY26 Salary \$64,745.00; Fringe Benefits: Retirement (0.1440) \$9,323.28; Insurance (\$941.22 a month) \$11,294.64; Social Security/Medicare (0.0765) \$4,952.99; Unemployment (0.0005) \$32.37; Workers Comp (0.0032) \$207.18. Total fringe package \$25,810.46. Salary and fringe \$90,555.46.</p>					
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**Budget Summary Information**

**Budget Summary Information by Budget Category:**

CATEGORY	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL
Personnel	\$204,619.00	\$52,609.00	\$0.00	\$257,228.00

**Budget Grand Total Information:**

OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL
\$204,619.00	\$52,609.00	\$0.00	\$257,228.00

## CJAC'S PRESENTATION GUIDELINE:

Applicant Organization: 47<sup>th</sup> District Attorney's Office

Project Title: VOCA Grant

Grant Funds Requested: 204,619.00

***This form must be completed for each project submitted to the Criminal Justice Division under the regional Criminal Justice Programs. This form should be filled out and returned to PRPC's Criminal Justice Coordinator. This information is expected to be covered in your grant presentation to the CJAC.***

1. Why is this particular project needed; what problem(s) are you trying to resolve?

The VOCA GRANT is necessary for the 47th District Attorney's Office in order to fund the three Victim Assistance positions. These positions consist of one member at the Amarillo Police Department and two employees at the 47th District Attorney's office. In the upcoming 12 months, we anticipate serving around 7,000 victims in the City of Amarillo and Potter County. Unfortunately, Potter County's budget does not have the funds available to cover the salaries for these required positions. These positions are crucial for serving the victims in our community. The Victim Services Department offers various services such as assistance with Crime Victim Compensation applications, referrals to community resources, mailing Victim Impact Statements and Magistrate's Order of Emergency Protection, as well as accompanying victims and their families to interviews and court proceedings. We not only guide them through the process but also provide comfort and support.

2. Describe which, if any, of the Regional Program Priorities this project will support. \*\*\*If VAWA, which State priority will this project support?

The Victim Assistance Departments will be offering services to the Amarillo Police Department, Potter County Sheriff's Office, and the 47th District Attorney's Office.

3. Who will be responsible for implementing this project and how would that be done?

The employee stationed at the Amarillo PD is fluent in Spanish and serves as one of the first responders after police officers respond to a crime. Following the commission of the crime, it is determined whether it is a felony or misdemeanor offense. If it is deemed a felony, the staff at the 47th District Attorney's office handles the case moving forward. The Victim Services department provides support to the victims or their families until the case is resolved.

4. What factors will be used to gauge the value of this project to your community – how will you measure success?

The value of this project to our community lies in ensuring that victims and their families receive the best services possible during a challenging and unexpected time in their lives following a crime. Potter County and the City of Amarillo are home to over 32 different languages, and our victim services department is dedicated to providing top-notch services to all victims and their families, regardless of nationality. In August 2020, we implemented a new Victim Tracking system, which has helped us accurately track the number of cases, victims served, and services provided.

This allows us to have precise numbers and effectively assess case statistics for grant tracking purposes.

5. How will this project continue to be supported in the future?

It is our prayer that the VOCA Grant continues to be provided by the Office of the Attorney General and the State of Texas. With all of the unexpected expenses Potter County has experienced, it would be a challenge for Potter County to acquire the full expense of these required positions.

6. (VOCA & VAWA Only) What is the total population that your organization serves? How many victims did you provide services to last year? What is the number of victims served last year per capita? What services for victims does your organization offer?

Potter County currently has an estimated population of 114,383 citizens. Last year, we provided 3,356 services to victims and served 2,281 victims. The services offered by our Victim Advocates include information and referrals, personal advocacy/accompaniment, emotional support and safety services, shelter/housing services, criminal/civil justice system assistance, and other services such as completing forms/applications, mailing victim letters and impact statements, notifying Magistrate's Orders of Emergency Protection, writing parole letters, assisting with the legal process, and accompanying victims to court.



**Agency Name: Hutchinson County Crisis Center**

**Project Title: Victim Assistance Program**

**Request: \$ 210,000.00**

**Project Abstract:**

This project aims to address the issue of domestic violence and sexual assault by providing comprehensive services to survivors in our rural community. HC3's 30-year-old program offers emergency shelter, crisis intervention, information and referrals, safety planning, assistance with CVC, accompaniment to legal proceedings/medical forensic exam/law enforcement, financial assistance for attorney's fees/rental deposits/utilities, outreach, public education, community fairs, transportation, peer support, victim advocacy, legal advocacy, 24-hour hotline and advocate availability by trained staff. HC3 serves Hutchinson and Carson Counties in the Texas Panhandle and many survivors from across the state and beyond who find themselves in need in our rural community of Borger. HC3 also collaborates with local law enforcement, healthcare providers, and numerous other agencies in the Panhandle to ensure survivors receive timely and appropriate support. By providing these direct services, we hope to reduce the incidence of domestic violence and sexual assault and to improve outcomes for survivors as well as increase the knowledge in the community of these available services.

**Problem Statement:**

Victims of family violence, sexual assault, and stalking sought and received thousands of services in the last reporting period. 11 individuals are currently under direct supervision for assault and sexual assault charges with the Hutchinson County Adult Probation office. 82% of clients served by the Hutchinson County Crisis Center have an average income below the poverty level, higher than several years previous. Resources are limited in our service counties, and no public transit exists. This is the biggest issue for the survivors we see; being able to provide transportation to our office for advocacy and any other destinations needed is important. Housing affordability and availability are an ongoing issue. Even when housing is available, most clients cannot afford all the costs incurred by starting a new lease. Historically, Hutchinson County sees a large number of child sexual assault survivors, considering the small size, recently, there has been an increase in adult domestic violence cases. HC3 has worked closely with local law enforcement and CPS agencies to ensure these children and their guardians receive the necessary services, including transportation to/from the forensic interview and exam; these survivors need ongoing intervention and advocacy services to continue the process of healing. HC3 is dedicated to providing these services throughout the entire process. The domestic violence survivors we encounter have a multitude of needs that vary from one to the next and include 24/7 access to our services, including the 24-hour hotline. Shelter is provided to those with nowhere to go and fleeing an abusive situation, and with limited housing available, this service is necessary to ensure their safety. The outreach HC3 provides is a way to get our services provided out to the public for those unaware. Each year, we participate in several informational booths with hundreds of community members as well as semiannual education classes for the community college, and several speaking engagements and trainings throughout the year to assure knowledge of services provided.

**Supporting Data:**

HC3 reports 707 hotline calls regarding DV/SA. Local law enforcement reported over 80 calls relating to domestic violence and/or sexual assault in 2024. Approximately 1500 individuals sought and received over 1000 services from Hutchinson County Crisis Center through direct service, community fairs, public speaking engagements, community education, and presentations. 30% of domestic violence victims served by Hutchinson County Crisis Center in the previous grant cycle also have issues surrounding some abuse, i.e., incest, sexual assault, harassment, stalking, teen dating violence, and marital rape. HC3 assisted with relocation efforts for 6 victims in 2024. The relocation services consisted of bus fare and airline tickets to safety with family members, including Florida and Idaho. HC3 has been able to provide attorney fee assistance for 5 victims in FY24, and so

far, in FY25, HC3 has assisted 6 clients with full payment of attorney's fees. Financial assistance for rent, deposits, utilities, and birth certificates was provided for 28 clients. Local law enforcement also reported 63 sexual assaults, 11 involving SANE exams in which Hutchinson County Crisis Center staff accompanied the victims to these interviews/exams. Total accompaniments to court/law enforcement/medical were 79. 40% of the DV/SA victims HC3 saw were under the age of 18, and 68% of those were SA victims, a decrease from the previous reporting period. 80% of clients served by the Hutchinson County Crisis Center have an average income below the poverty level, and only 20% of the victims seen have an income of any kind. 69 transportation services were provided to victims for accompaniment, shelter, and job location. The youngest/oldest sexual assault victims were 5/51 years old; the youngest oldest domestic violence victims were 6 months/64 years old.

### **Project Approach & Activities:**

When it comes to addressing domestic violence and sexual assault, direct services like advocacy, crisis intervention, and peer support services are at the core of those. Emergency shelter is available to these survivors seeking refuge from their abusive situation. A majority of the time, the survivors want to go back to family or friends out of the area or even out of state. HC3 is able to provide them with emergency financial assistance services like bus fare or flights and referrals to a local agency of our kind in their destination area, along with a safety plan in place. Financial assistance for attorney's fees, housing applications/deposits/rent, and utilities are also available. Every year, Borger sees an increase of around 3000 temporary residents due to contractors at 3 of the plants in town. Due to this influx, survivors struggle with the ability to find affordable housing; being able to provide that assistance is imperative to their situation. These survivors come to us with a variety of needs, and HC3 will cater to their specific set of needs, including peer support and advocacy. Providing community education, outreach, and regular training assist in helping us engage with the community and raising awareness of our available services. Not all survivors are seeking shelter, HC3 provides services to them in the outreach office. The staff at HC3 is trained and trauma-informed to provide the best possible direct services to the survivors we serve. In some cases, they need transportation for a variety of reasons, including, but not limited to, to and from forensic interviews, job interviews, medical appointments, applications for housing, employment, public benefits, attorney's appointments, law enforcement, and court accompaniments. Many of our clients seek compensation for their losses incurred due to their abuse; the application for Crime Victim's Compensation can be daunting for those who are dealing with trauma. Therefore, our advocates are able to take this burden and assist them with this process; the same services apply to protective orders for survivors. Due to the very small size of our area, referrals to other agencies that provide services out of our scope are a necessity. HC3 works closely with a multitude of agencies in the Panhandle to ensure these clients receive full service.

### **Capacity & Capabilities:**

Over the 30 years of HC3's existence, this agency has grown tremendously in victim service delivery. A humble beginning on a tight budget allowed HC3 to start serving Hutchinson County's victim population. Serving ANY victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, stalking, teen dating violence. The Executive Director and Program Director (financial and statistical director) have 42 combined years with the agency, and both are notaries for fast and free notary services to victims. Along with 1 shelter advocate over 17 years, another shelter advocate with 7 years, and the child advocate with 6 years, and 2 other staff with 3+ years' experience in service delivery, 3 of our staff are bilingual for our Spanish-speaking victims. Staff attend trainings annually for the latest updates in provisions, rules & regulations, and reporting requirements. At least two staff members attend the annual TAASA, TCFV, and any other relevant conferences to maintain up-to-date information and collaborate with other agencies. Ongoing training regarding legislative updates, service delivery, and any pertinent information for existing staff and initial training for new staff is a top priority for the agency. Ongoing online training through webinars is also conducted, most of which are free, and information-sharing meetings are attended regularly via Zoom with agencies across the state. Close community collaborations, including The Bridge CASA and local law enforcement agencies, ensure quality service delivery with full confidentiality. The agency is certified culturally competent with the OAG, a United Way recipient, and members of TAASA and TCFV.

Over the years, HC3 has provided countless services to thousands of victims and community education to over 25,000 community members. HC3 maintains Cooperative Working Agreements with the following organizations in our two-county service area. Referrals to our office and working together to aid victims of domestic violence/sexual assault and other violent crimes. Legal Aid of Northwest Texas, Hutchinson County Judge, Hutchinson County Attorney's Office, Borger Police Department, Hutchinson County Sheriff's Department, Hutchinson County Justice of Peace, Stinnett Police Department, Borger City Judge, Fritch Police Department, Hutchinson County Adult Probation, Hutchinson County Juvenile Probation, Hutchinson County District Attorney, Borger Independent School District, Stinnett Independent School District, Ministerial Alliance, Grace Fellowship Church, Texas Panhandle Mental Health Mental Retardation, Community Resource Collaborative Group, Panhandle Police Department, Carson County Judge, Carson County Sheriff's Department. As a small community with limited resources, it is crucial that we have a collaborative relationship with law enforcement, parents, teachers, faith-based counselors, medical professionals, and any other resources available in our area to meet the needs of this victim population. It is also crucial that we maintain our relationships with all other family violence providers in other parts of the state, especially in terms of having relationships for referrals to other community services when victims are in a shelter or in high danger. With combined collaboration, we are better able to assist victims with relocation to another community in order to remain safe and to break ties with the abuser. HC3 uses the Vela program to generate client numbers and spreadsheets for data entry, all data collection and management, as well as voluntary evaluations of every survivor that is provided direct services to fit the needs of our client base better and provide quality services. Controls are checked regularly, and any necessary adjustments are implemented for accountability purposes.

#### **Performance Management:**

The goal of this project is to provide culturally competent assistance in developing and strengthening effective services to combat violent crimes and in developing and strengthening victim services in such cases that will, over time, cause a change in behavior, attitudes, and policies. By responding to the emotional and physical needs of these crime victims, they will be better equipped to work through the system toward recovery and a renewed hope for a stable life without violence and fear. HC3 continues to keep educating and providing services to our victim population in the safest way possible while following state and federal CDC-recommended guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID/FLUa/b and others, keeping our victims and staff safe without compromising the level of service delivery previously provided. This program tracks performance via observation when providing education/outreach on a large scale and uses evaluation forms for new intakes and shelter residents upon entry and exit. The evaluation forms are fully voluntary and not required of the survivors receiving services. HC3 takes this data and analyzes it monthly to ensure our clients are satisfied with their service experience at HC3. We expect to serve 165 unduplicated individual survivors this funding year; this number does not reflect the hundreds of community members served via hotline inquiries, community fairs, outreach, and training; we project that number to be over 1500 this funding cycle.

#### **Target Group:**

Hutchinson County, a primarily rural area encompasses almost 1,000 square miles in the northeastern part of the Texas Panhandle. Adult and child victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, teen dating violence, and child abuse. Both male and female victims of abuse of all ages are served. All victims regardless of age, in accordance with Texas law. Parental consent will be obtained if necessary to provide services to minors. Underserved victims are also a target for the agency. In this rural county, access to public transportation is always a factor, being able to provide which makes outreach and telecommunication service availability a necessity as well as transportation to and from the office facility for services. HC3 strives to provide services to any underserved populations who may otherwise go unserved.

**Evidence-Based Practices:**

<https://victimsofcrime.org/help-for-crime-victims/get-help-bulletins-for-crime-victims/what-is-a-victim-advocate->, <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/page/file/910266/download>, <http://victimsupportservices.org/help-for-victims/what-is-a-victim-advocate/>, <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/92-what-is-advocacy-and-why-is-it-important.html?next=94>, [http://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?script=sci\\_arttext&pid=S0102-37722014000400004](http://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0102-37722014000400004)  
<https://www.ovcttac.gov/>  
[https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/resources/dspResources\\_Org.cfm](https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/resources/dspResources_Org.cfm)  
[https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/resources/dspResources\\_PM.cfm](https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/resources/dspResources_PM.cfm)  
[https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/resources/dspResources\\_Practitioners.cfm](https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/resources/dspResources_Practitioners.cfm)  
<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovcproviderforum/>  
<http://www.sane-sart.com/>  
<http://www.justicesolutions.org/>  
<http://www.crimevictims.gov/providers.html/>  
<https://www.victimsofcrime.org/library/resource-directory-victims-with-disabilities>  
<https://www.victimsofcrime.org/library/publications>  
<https://www.ncjrs.gov/>

HC3 provides direct services to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence that covers a large spectrum. Being a part of a rural community, the approach of this agency is different than that of an urban area. In this small area, we are forced to think outside of the box in terms of service provision to otherwise underserved populations. HC3 has been a successful agency for 24 years due to the dedication of long-term, dedicated, trained staff, volunteers, and community collaborators. Each victim is never the same as the one before so there is no rubric for service provision; this allows for a customized service plan for each victim. An evaluation process allows the agency to better assist its client base with the feedback received. It is imperative for the victims to receive quality services and that is HC3's goal. Intervention services provided are crucial in the healing process; the victim is treated with respect at all times and HC3 staff will maintain professional but compassionate at every step of the victim's healing. Knowledge of available services are key in the successful delivery to victims. During the intake process, information about services not provided by HC3 are given to victims to ensure a full, complete process. HC3 has been utilizing victim advocates for many years. Victim's Advocates provide a great deal of information to victims; such as what is victimization, how to prevent crime, what are a victim's rights and how to protect themselves, how the criminal justice process works. Victims are overwhelmed during their escape; an advocate is a calming source that provides both emotional support, strength for the victim to draw upon and a resource. The National Center for Victims of Crime explains the vast amount of hats that a victim's advocate can wear through the process of working with a victim. <https://victimsofcrime.org/help-for-crime-victims/get-help-bulletins-for-crime-victims/what-is-a-victim-advocate-> and <http://victimsupportservices.org/help-for-victims/what-is-a-victim-advocate/> adds to the plethora of responsibilities that a victim's advocate undertakes. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women explains why advocacy is important <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/92-what-is-advocacy-and-why-is-it-important.html?next=94>

## Project Activities Information

### Selected Project Activities:

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
Crisis Services	55.00	Providing services directly to the client that include assisting adult/child nonresidents or residents in advocacy, intervention/crisis intervention, safe shelter, safety planning, transportation, accompaniment (law enforcement, medical), follow up, information and referral, 24 hour crisis hotline, support groups, CVC assistance.
Legal Advocacy	20.00	Providing services directly to the client that include assisting adult/child nonresidents or residents in identifying legal needs, legal rights and options, victim impact statements, and providing accompaniment and support in their pursuit of those legal options; assistance with attorney's fees for child custody, and final protective orders as well as accompaniment to court proceedings.
Peer Support Groups	10.00	Providing support individually and in a group setting. provided to residents and nonresidents to increase functionality and understanding in meeting the clients' needs
Protective Order Assistance	5.00	Legal advocacy specific to protective order assistance
Shelter	10.00	Providing a safe place for adult/children victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

## Measures Information

### Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Average length of stay in shelter (in days).	2
Number of final protective orders granted / obtained.	2
Number of final protective orders requested.	4
Number of secondary victims / survivors provided shelter.	4
Number of support group sessions held.	35
Number of survivors assisted through the legal process.	60
Number of survivors participating in support groups.	65
Number of survivors receiving crisis counseling.	140

Number of temporary protective orders granted / obtained.	2
Number of temporary protective orders requested.	4
Number of times survivors are accompanied to court.	10
Number of victims / survivors provided shelter.	11
Number of victims / survivors seeking services who were served.	165
Number of victims seeking services who were not served.	0
Number of victims who requested shelter.	11

## Budget Details Information

### Budget Information by Budget Line Item:

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL	UNIT/%
Personnel	Bookkeeper	Program Director (Natalie McGee) - This position is responsible for all agency and grant related accounting and statistical mandatory reporting activities, as well as grant writing. Vela data entry and reporting. Because this is a small agency, this position is also required to provide direct services to victims including crisis intervention, support, personal advocacy, peer counseling, mentoring, information and referral, legal advocacy, accompaniment, on call duties and 24 hour hotline. Services provided are related to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims, assisting victims in stabilizing their lives after victimization, assisting to understand and participate in the criminal justice system, and providing victims with safety and security. Salary includes fringe, insurance. Salary \$97801 + fringe \$8546 = \$106347 for 12 month grant cycle with 30% allocated to VOCA.	\$31,904.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$41,904.00	30
Personnel	Advocate	Children's Advocate/Prevention Educator (Shelby Villescascas) - provides services to child victims of domestic violence/sexual assault; and also provides services to their parents. Services include: crisis counseling, justice support, advocacy, assist in filing compensation claims, and information and referral via telephone and face to face. Data entry and reporting in Vela. Budget includes fringe. Salary \$50675 + fringe \$4325 for 12 month grant cycle with 15% allocated to VOCA.	\$7,601.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,601.00	15
Personnel	Advocate	Shelter Advocate 1 (Ofelia Linares) - provide crisis intervention, support, personal advocacy, peer counseling, mentoring and information and referral, work rotating shifts to ensure 24 hour coverage 365 days a year for the shelter and hotline. . Budget includes fringe. Salary \$28939 + Fringe \$41107 + Fringe \$3893 = \$45000 for 12 month grant cycle with 65% allocated to VOCA	\$29,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$29,250.00	65

Personnel	Advocate	Shelter Advocate 2 Darla Schilling - hire date 10/15/2018 - provide crisis intervention, support, personal advocacy, peer counseling, mentoring and information and referral, work rotating shifts to ensure 24 hour coverage 365 days a year for the shelter and hotline. Budget includes fringe. Salary \$31351 + Fringe \$2969 = \$34320 for 12 month grant cycle with 65% allocated to VOCA.	\$22,308.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$22,308.00	65
Personnel	Advocate	Shelter Advocate 3 Caitlynn Walters - hire date 4/1/2022 - provide crisis intervention, support, personal advocacy, peer counseling, mentoring and information and referral, work rotating shifts to ensure 24 hour coverage 365 days a year for the shelter and hotline. Budget includes fringe. Salary \$23000 + Fringe \$1979 = \$24979 for 12 month grant cycle with 65% allocated to VOCA.	\$16,236.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,236.00	65
Personnel	Advocate	Shelter Advocate 4, Yvette Padilla, Bilingual - hire date -12/15/2024 - provide crisis intervention, support, personal advocacy, peer counseling, mentoring and information and referral, work rotating shifts to ensure 24 hour coverage 365 days a year for the shelter and hotline. Budget includes fringe. Salary \$23000 + Fringe \$1979 = \$24979 for 12 month grant cycle with 65% allocated to VOCA	\$16,236.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,236.00	65
Personnel	Receptionist	Office Assistant (Bilingual) Samantha Padilla hire date 2/27/2023- first point of contact for victims seen through the office location and also serves as a victim's advocate due to the small size of our agency. Budget includes fringe, insurance. Salary \$30000+ Fringe \$2595 = \$32595 for 12 month grant cycle with 35% allocated to VOCA.	\$11,408.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,408.00	35
Personnel	Executive Director	This position is responsible supervising and directing operations of facilities, services and staff for the agency. Because this is a small agency, the Executive Director (Norma Luginbyhl) is also responsible for providing direct services to victims and provides outreach. These services may include responding to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims, assisting victims and stabilizing their lives after victimization, assisting victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system, and provide victims with safety and security. . Salary \$121773 + fringe \$10395 + insurance \$5400 = \$137568 for 12 month grant cycle with 15% allocated to VOCA	\$13,757.00	\$37,750.00	\$0.00	\$51,507.00	10
Personnel	Intern, Mentor, Service Provider, Student Worker, and/or Support Staff	Volunteer hours - (250 @ \$19.00/hour) This hourly rate is 60% of the current state rate of volunteer hour value of \$31.80/hour. HC3 utilizes volunteers for direct services provided in this grant and for other admin needs.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,750.00	\$4,750.00	20
Contractual and Professional Services	Attorney	Funds requested for attorney's fees charged by the Law Office of Amanda Harris for custody, divorce, protective order, and any legal services needed that pertain to DV/SA. (one attorney that the agency uses for victims' legal assistance) to be contracted out on an as needed basis per victims' needs.	\$26,628.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$26,628.00	0

		Estimated base cost per victim is approximately 328 hours @ \$81.25/hour or less, serving as many victims possible. Hourly rate based on attorney's fee averages in the area is comparable and fair cost by the main attorney the agency utilizes in our small rural are where not many choices exist. Attorney needs for child custody, final protective order						
Travel and Training	In-State Registration Fees, Training, and/or Travel	For grant funded staff for grant approved trainings. Per board approved agency policy, per diem rate of \$71 per day is used. TCFV Annual Conference 2026 (date TBA) in Austin - flights for ED and PD \$1200, lodging (location TBA) host hotel @ 2 rooms for 3 nights @ lowest state rate \$1074, per diem for 4 days @ 2 staff \$568, registration @ \$500 per person @ 2 staff @ 50% of total; \$1321 allocated to VOCA. Conference pertains for grant funded activities by providing ongoing training, legislative updates, grant compliance, and collaboration opportunities that are not provided locally.	\$1,321.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,321.00	0	
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Public Notice, and/or Job Posting	Utility costs are based on average per month for the last grant cycle with an increase in electric costs (9/2023 to 8/2024) Agency budget \$66500 @ 50% allocated to VOCA	\$3,325.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,325.00	0	
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Cellular, Fax, Pager, and/or Office Telephone	For 3 agency issued cell phones (on call purposes, staff communication ONLY), 1 fax and 7 office telephones used by grant staff for the purpose of providing follow up with victims, assists with providing information and referral, person advocacy in securing appointments, answering 24 hour hotline. Agency budget \$6900 @ 50% allocated to project.	\$3,450.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,450.00	0	
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Internet Access Services	Internet access for shelter and office facilities. \$4300 total agency budget with 60% allocated to VOCA	\$2,580.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,580.00	0	
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Network Server System and Accessories (\$5,000 or less per unit)	Server, virus, protection, web filtering, monitoring, maintenance, unlimited remote support, offsite backup for all shelter and office facility computers and laptops. Monthly IT fee \$336.00 with 50% allocated to VOCA.	\$2,016.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,016.00	0	
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Specialized Computer Software and Accessories (\$5,000 or less per unit)	Monthly access and support fees for Vela data entry software for statistical reporting, \$750.00 per month @ 40% allocated to VOCA.	\$3,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,600.00	0	



Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Costs for Space (lease or rental)	office rent \$37200 annually @ 40% allocated to VOCA. Flat rate determined by building management. Office space is 2868 square feet, \$1.08 per square foot	\$14,880.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,880.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Office Supplies (e.g., paper, postage, calculator)	General office supplies for shelter and office facilities. Agency annual total of \$12,000 with 25% allocated to VOCA.	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Vehicle Operating Cost (e.g., fuel, lubricants, maintenance, storage)	Auto insurances costs for two agency owned vehicles (purchased by VOCA); \$1000 annually @ 50% allocated to VOCA, for grant related activities only	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	0

### Budget Summary Information

#### Budget Summary Information by Budget Category:

CATEGORY	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL
Personnel	\$148,700.00	\$47,750.00	\$4,750.00	\$201,200.00
Contractual and Professional Services	\$26,628.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$26,628.00
Travel and Training	\$1,321.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,321.00
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	\$33,351.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$33,351.00

#### Budget Grand Total Information:

OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL
\$210,000.00	\$47,750.00	\$4,750.00	\$262,500.00

**CJAC'S PRESENTATION GUIDELINE:**

Applicant Organization: Hutchinson County Crisis Center, Inc

Project Title: Family Violence/Sexual Assault Program

Grant Funds Requested: \$210,000

***This form must be completed for each project submitted to the Criminal Justice Division under the regional Criminal Justice Programs. This form should be filled out and returned to PRPC's Criminal Justice Coordinator. This information is expected to be covered in your grant presentation to the CJAC.***

1. Why is this particular project needed; what problem(s) are you trying to resolve?

Family violence, sexual assault, and child abuse remain significant issues in Hutchinson County, a rural area covering nearly 900 square miles in the northeast Texas Panhandle. Victims, both children and adults, require immediate access to supportive services following their victimization, and they may need ongoing assistance for many months thereafter. Challenges such as language barriers, geographic isolation, and limited resources, especially the lack of public transportation and affordable housing—further complicate these issues. HC3 employs an evidence-based, trauma-informed, and culturally competent service model. HC3 operates a 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, and outreach services to provide comprehensive support to victims in Hutchinson and Carson Counties. Underserved populations include non-English speakers, individuals living at or below the poverty line, and victims residing in rural or remote areas. The project's goal is to help these victims stabilize their lives after experiencing trauma, enhance their sense of safety, and increase their knowledge of available resources and options.

2. Describe which, if any, of the Regional Program Priorities this project will support. \*\*\*If VAWA, which State priority will this project support?

Domestic/family violence, sexual assault, child abuse

3. Who will be responsible for implementing this project and how would that be done?

HC3's Executive Director, along with the direct service and administrative staff, will be responsible for the ongoing implementation of this project. As this is a continuous initiative, the staff will focus on developing and enhancing effective services to combat domestic violence, child abuse, and sexual assault. They will provide victim services that aim to change behaviors, attitudes, and policies over time. Ongoing training for both new and existing staff will ensure they are informed about current laws and any new opportunities for service delivery, allowing victims to receive the best possible assistance.

4. What factors will be used to gauge the value of this project to your community – how will you measure success?

All HC3 clients are given surveys, and the information from the surveys is compiled into a spreadsheet that assists the agency in measuring its success and outcomes. Observance and audience participation are used to measure success for large-scale

training/presentations/community events, etc. This data is collected monthly and analyzed for quality assurance, and it is reported to grantors.

5. How will this project continue to be supported in the future?

As with each funding cycle, the threat of funding cuts is always present, it is the hope of this agency that CJD will continue to fund this program. In the event that funds are not available, the agency will make every effort to seek alternative funding to ensure the service delivery at the same level as currently provided.

6. (VOCA & VAWA Only) What is the total population that your organization serves? How many victims did you provide services to last year? What is the number of victims served last year per capita? What services for victims does your organization offer?

Population: 20,033

Individual victims served: 551

Per capita: .03

Services provided included:

Victim advocacy, crisis intervention, transportation, CVC assistance, SAVNS assistance, Protective Order application assistance, Victim Impact Statement assistance, peer support, law enforcement/medical/court accompaniment, emergency financial assistance – housing, transportation, child care, attorney's fees, relocation, utilities; information and referral (including housing & employment), legal assistance, safe shelter, victim advocacy, support group, educational arrangements for children. Outreach, structured education, prevention, general DV/SA training.

**Agency Name: Tralee Crisis Center**  
**Project Title: Victim Assistance Project**  
**Request: \$ 196,603.00**

**Project Abstract:**

Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Other Violent Crimes continue to be problems within the nine counties Tralee Crisis Center serves. These counties encompass 8,037 square miles and have an estimated population of 51,010 persons, 16.04% of whom live in poverty. This area continues to have an average unemployment rate of 3.3% in 2023. The Texas Council on Family Violence reports 205 women and men were killed by partners in 2023. According to Texas Department of Public Safety 2023 records, 101 domestic violence incidents were reported by law enforcement agencies within this 9-county area along with 23 sexual assault cases were reported by these counties in 2023. Additionally, 197 violent crimes were reported in the 2023 UCR statistics for these nine counties. Pampa Police Department records show officers responded to 357 domestic violence, 40 sexual assaults, 138 assaults, and 2 armed robberies in 2024. Tralee is the only crime victim crisis intervention agency for this area in the eastern Texas Panhandle. The goal of the Victim Assistance Project is to provide services that will enable victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other violent crimes in 9 rural counties of the eastern Texas Panhandle to learn strategies to enhance their safety and to increase knowledge of their rights and resources available to them. Victim/survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes are the target group for the 2026 Victim Assistance Project. Tralee Crisis Center serves victims of violent crime, regardless of age, sex, ethnicity, or beliefs. The victim service activities as outlined in this project include comprehensive, culturally sensitive, crisis intervention, 24-hour hotline, safe shelter, legal assistance, professional counseling, peer counseling and support groups. This one-year project for \$245,754.00 in OOG includes direct services to 240 violent crime victims; 45 support group sessions; safe shelter for 50 victim/survivors including 25 secondary victims for an average stay of 20 days; salary and fringe benefits for 9 victim advocates, 1 volunteer coordinator, 1 shelter supervisor, 1 part-time social worker, 1 Financial manager and 1 executive director.

**Problem Statement:**

Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Other Violent Crimes continue to be problems in the nine counties served by Tralee Crisis Center through the Victim Assistance Project. For every violent crime committed, there are Victims who need Tralee Crisis Center's services. Tralee's service area encompasses 8,037 square miles and has an estimated population of 51,010 persons, 16.04% of whom live in poverty. These counties are rural areas that, without Tralee, would have little to no intervention and support services for crime victims. Tralee is the only crime victim crisis intervention agency for this area in the eastern Texas Panhandle. According to Texas Department of Public Safety 2023 records, a total of 228 domestic violence incidents were reported by law enforcement agencies within this 9-county area. Another 26 sexual assault cases were reported by these counties in 2023, a 13% increase from 23 in 2020. Additionally, 699 violent crimes were reported in the 2021 UCR statistics for these nine counties. Pampa Police Department records show officers responded to 357 domestic violence, 40 sexual assaults, 138 assaults, and 2 armed robberies in 2024 alone. Preliminary 2024 records from Gray County Sheriff Department reported 73 domestic violence, 2 sexual assaults, and 15 assaults. These statistics demonstrate how important it is to continue the Victim Assistance Project by Tralee Crisis Center, an agency which has served this area for 40 years with a 24-hour hotline, trained professional staff and emergency shelter to provide crisis intervention and long-term comprehensive support and services to the survivors of these violent crimes. Tralee Crisis Center's professionals assist hundreds of victims each year, providing immediate crisis intervention, emergency transportation and accompaniments, information and understanding of their rights and safety strategies and professional and peer counseling. Advocates help guide survivors as they go through the criminal justice process to hold the person or persons who victimized them

accountable for their actions. Tralee staff assist survivors as they recover and heal from the effects of the crime with peer counseling, survivor support groups and by supporting each survivor until they can return as functioning members of society.

### **Supporting Data:**

Statistics reported here come from the FBI 2023 Uniform Crime Report as reported on the Texas Department of Safety's Crime in Texas website, U.S. Census Bureau 2023 estimates, 2024 end-of-year surveys of the law enforcement agencies and Tralee Crisis Center victim service statistics for Fiscal Year 2024. Tralee Crisis Center's Fiscal Year 2024 statistics show that 253 new victims came to the agency for services and continuing support. Of those served, 51 were victims of Adult physical assault, 20 were victims of adult sexual assault, 10 were victims of child physical abuse or neglect, 30 were victims of child sexual abuse/assault, 239 were victims of domestic violence, 3 were victims of human sex trafficking and 1 was a victim of kidnapping. Tralee Crisis Center served 106 victims from outlying areas, including 11 from Carson, 38 from Childress, 9 from Collingsworth, 1 from Donley, 3 from Hall, 12 from Hemphill, and 32 from Wheeler. 40 came from other parts of Texas and other states. A total of 640 violent crimes were reported in the 2023 UCR for the nine counties served by Tralee Crisis Center. Pampa, with an estimated population of 16,443, is the largest population center in Tralee Crisis Center's nine-county service area. Gray County's total estimated population is 21,229. Most of Tralee Crisis Center's new victims, 253 (86%), came from Pampa and Gray County, the largest population area. According to 2023 UCR statistics, Gray County (which includes Pampa Police Department stats) showed 476 domestic violence, 42 sexual assaults, 12 forcible rapes, 1 robbery, and 71 assaults. 2024 preliminary reports show that Pampa PD responded to 357 domestic violence; 40 sexual assaults; 138 assaults; and 2 armed robberies. Preliminary 2024 records from Gray County Sheriff Department reported 73 domestic violence, 2 sexual assaults, and 15 assault. Childress County and the city of Childress is the second largest population center in Tralee's service area with an estimated population of 6,809. Childress County police department reported 12 domestic violence, 1 forcible rape and 9 assaults on 2023 UCR. Preliminary 2024 records from the Childress County Sheriff's Department responded to 88 domestic violence, 4 sexual assault, 4 Child physical abuse/assault, 3 child sexual abuse/assault, 23 assaults, 15 aggravated assaults and 2 stalking. Childress Police department preliminary records 2024 reported 12 domestic violence, 4 sexual assaults, 2 child physical abuse/assault, 2 child sexual abuse/assault, and 40 assaults. Carson County and the city of Panhandle have a combined population of 5,878. Carson County 2023 UCR reported 45 domestic violence, 5 rapes and 5 assaults. Carson County Sheriff Department reported 41 domestic violence, 4 sexual assaults, 4 assaults, and 1 homicide in the preliminary 2024 report. Panhandle Police Department 2024 preliminary report showed 31 violent crimes, including 18 domestic violence, 3 child physical abuse/assault, 1 child sexual abuse/assault, 6 assaults, and 3 stalking. Collingsworth County (population 2,563) reported 17 domestic violence cases, 1 sexual assault, 3 child sexual abuse/assaults, 4 assaults, and 3 aggravated assault in its 2024 preliminary report. UCR reported 4 domestic violence, 1 sexual assault, 1 aggravated assault and 1 robbery for Collingsworth County in 2023. Donley County (population 3,214) reported 3 domestic violence cases, 1 sexual assault, 2 child sexual abuse/assault, 1 child physical abuse/assault, 8 assault, 3 aggravated assault and 1 intoxicated manslaughter cases from the Donley County Sheriff Office's preliminary report 2024. UCR reported 24 domestic violence and 8 assaults, 4 Robberies, 7 larceny and 5 auto thefts in Donley County for 2023. Hall County reported 11 domestic violence and 1 assaults on 2023 UCR. Hall county (population 2,818) police department 2024 preliminary report showed 32 violent crimes, including 25 domestic violence, 1 sexual assault, 1 child sexual abuse/assault, and 5 assaults. Hemphill County 2023 UCR reported 14 domestic violence, 6 robberies, and 8 larceny. Hemphill County's 2024 preliminary report indicates 1 domestic violence, 1 sexual assault, 2 child sexual abuse/assaults, 6 assaults and 4 aggravated assault. Roberts County (population 840) UCR 2023 did not show any cases. Roberts County Sherriff Office 2024 preliminary reports indicate 7 domestic violence cases, 1 child physical abuse/assault and 3 assaults. Wheeler County (population 6,434) reported 30 domestic violence, 4 rape, 7 assaults, 7 robberies, 8 larceny and 4 auto thefts on the 2023 UCR. Wheeler County Sheriff Office preliminary report shows 3 domestic violence, 1 sexual assaults, 2 child physical abuse/assault, 5 child sexual abuse/assault, 7 assaults, 2 aggravated assaults, 12 human trafficking and 1 stalking for 2024.

**Project Approach & Activities:**

Tralee Crisis Center was formed in 1983 by a grassroots group of individuals who recognized the need to assist victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes in Pampa and surrounding counties. After 40 years, the need still exists as evidenced through law enforcement statistics showing 604 cases of domestic violence, 55 adult sexual assaults, 11 physical child abuse, 118 child sexual abuse, 258 adult assaults, 227 aggravated assaults, 12 human trafficking, and 9 other violent crimes throughout the nine-county service area in 2024 and 640 violent crimes including murders, assaults and sex crimes reported to the Uniform Crime Report in 2023. Tralee's service approach is based on the model of basic victim assistance providers as outlined in "Achieving Excellence: Model Standards for Serving Victims and Survivors of Crime." <https://www.ovc.gov/model-standards/index.html>. Typical services and tasks performed by Tralee direct service staff (advocates and shelter advocates) include crisis intervention, safety planning, assessment of basic victim/survivor needs, assistance with protective orders, crime victim compensation applications, information about victims' rights and the criminal justice process, court accompaniment, advocacy within human services, child and adult protective services, housing assistance, public assistance, the criminal and juvenile justice systems, information and referral, intermediate and long-term support services, and case planning. Survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and intimate partner violence are frequently impacted in multiple areas, including economically, emotionally, and psychologically. Utilization of peer support from a person-centered and trauma-informed approach allows clients to focus on necessary tasks of becoming self-sufficient economically while decreasing the long-term impact of trauma such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression and other emotional/psychological issues. Tralee's safe shelter, a former nursing home located in Pampa, has a maximum capacity of 30 people. The shelter is staffed with three 8-hour shifts daily. The 24-hour hotline is located and answered at the shelter, by the shelter supervisor, staff, and direct service volunteers. Non-resident clients receive services at the main office at 310 S. Cuyler in Pampa, Texas. There are four advocates that staff this office: a legal advocate, a bilingual advocate, a sexual assault advocate and an advocate who specializes in child victim services. A volunteer coordinator, finance manager and executive director are located at the main office, also. Clerical volunteers assist in the main office by answering the phone and door and performing clerical tasks. Outreach and on-call services are provided by advocates, the volunteer coordinator and direct service volunteers. Outreach tasks include meeting with and transporting victims in crisis situations, continuing service and support to victim/survivors, coordination of services between law enforcement, criminal justice, and social service personnel throughout the nine-county service area; presentation of programs to identify victims, provide access to services and raise awareness within the communities served by Tralee. On-call services include, but are not limited to, 24-hour face-to-face response to violent crime victims in crisis situations, SANE accompaniments, hospital accompaniments for domestic violence victims, and emergency transportation. Administrative tasks include staff supervision, education and risk reduction, administration of victim service policies, programs, and activities, and fiscal oversight.

**Capacity & Capabilities:**

Tralee Crisis Center has been providing comprehensive victim services since it was incorporated and received 501(c)3 status as a non-profit agency in 1984. The agency resulted from a grassroots, volunteer effort begun by a Pampa hospital social worker and completed by a group of local business leaders, civic organization members and concerned citizens in 1983. Tralee was the second domestic violence-sexual assault center established in the Texas Panhandle. This agency maintains a safe shelter with a maximum capacity of 30 people, 24-hour hotline, and main office for non-residential services in Pampa. The shelter has been in operation at its present location since 1985. Tralee bought the building and approximately 3 acres of land surrounding it in 1989. Tralee's shelter manager, advocate's and direct service volunteers received 30-hour training based on curriculum provided by the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV), Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA), and approved by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and Office of the Attorney General. They then receive at least an additional 10 hours of on-the-job training before beginning to work with victims/survivors. Tralee Crisis Center is a certified sexual assault program through the Office of the Attorney General. Continuing education is

gained through the One-In The-Movement online modules provided through TCFV and VAT Online program offered by Office of Victims of Crime. Staff also receive continuing education by attending annual conventions and training opportunities at both the state and local levels in person and virtually. Staff meetings are held weekly, and a mandatory all-staff meeting is scheduled at least quarterly to review policies, standards, and best practices. Two Tralee employees have a longevity of more than 15 years and two have five years or more of longevity. Tralee's financial manager has been with the agency for 23 years, July 2025. Tralee's shelter supervisor has been with Tralee for 5 years. The legal advocate has worked at Tralee for 17 years. Tralee's legal advocate continues to keep training to have advanced level credentialing as a comprehensive victim service specialist through National Advocate Credentialing Program of the National Organization of Victim Assistance. Tralee's volunteer coordinator is credentialed through the National Organization of Victim Assistance. Tralee's sexual assault advocate and Tralee's child advocate have received credentialing as a comprehensive victim service specialist through National Advocate Credentialing Program of the National Organization of Victim Assistance and our Shelter Manager is in the process of applying for her credentialing. Advocates that are not credentialed are in the process of getting credentialed through the National Organization of Victim Assistance when they are eligible. This staff experience and training demonstrates a wealth of knowledge and experience in victim services that directly benefit victim/survivors. Staff longevity indicates that Tralee Crisis Center is a stable and enjoyable working environment. To encourage seamless service delivery to crime victims, Tralee Crisis Center maintains cooperative working agreements with law enforcement, criminal justice, and social service agencies throughout the 9-county service area. We also maintain MOUs with Family Protective Services, Texas Department of Criminal Justice to provide inmates with access to services, The Bridge child forensic interview agency and Legal Aid of Northwest Texas. Tralee Crisis Center has been a recipient of VOCA funds since 1987. Tralee has also received Health & Human Services Commission funds and Office of the Attorney General Funds since 1987. This agency has been chartered and in operation since 1984, a total of 41 years going into the 2026 grant period. During those years, the agency has undergone numerous monitoring visits and desk audits. Each year, an outside CPA audits the agency's finances and fiduciary practices and submits a report to the Board of Directors which promotes an ongoing effort to improve the agency's handling of funds and to hold the staff and board accountable.

### **Performance Management:**

The goal of the 2026 Victim Assistance Project is to continue to provide comprehensive victim services to 240 survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other violent crimes in 9 rural counties of the eastern Texas Panhandle which increases knowledge and understanding of crime victim rights, provides strategies to enhance safety and increase awareness of community resources available to them. Tralee Crisis Center utilizes cooperative working agreements with law enforcement, criminal justice, social service, and medical agencies from throughout the nine-county service area for referrals of violent crime victims to Tralee Crisis Center for assistance. Tralee's services, hotline number and general information are also provided for victims in need of assistance through telephone listings, the local newspapers, radio, television features, advertising, the Tralee Crisis Center web page at [www.traleecrisiscenter.org](http://www.traleecrisiscenter.org) and through Tralee's Facebook account.

For the 2026 project year, the objectives of this project are as follows:

- As a result of contact with Tralee Crisis Center, 85% or more of domestic violence, sexual assault/abuse and other violent crime survivors will have increased knowledge and understanding of their rights as crime victims.
- As a result of contact with Tralee Crisis Center, 85% or more of domestic violence, sexual assault/abuse and other violent crime survivors will receive strategies for enhancing their safety.
- As a result of contact with Tralee Crisis Center, 85% or more of domestic violence, sexual assault/abuse and other violent crime survivors will have increased knowledge of community resources.

These objectives are measured through client surveys given to clients upon initial intake and at other times when services are provided. Surveys are also given to shelter clients when exiting from the shelter. Clients responding to the survey may do so anonymously. By tracking and analyzing these surveys monthly, the

executive director assesses the effectiveness of Tralee's services and adjusts as needed to ensure that the objectives are met.

Statistical information comes from resident and non-resident information provided to direct service staff during the initial intake and services after each contact. This information is entered into the agency's Vela database. Each month, reports of service activities, client census, demographics, and shelter days are compiled and analyzed by the executive director to test the effectiveness of the interventions being used to assist victims and to ensure that the goals and objectives of the project are being met. If this information indicates a problem in client services and meeting objectives, the executive director will review the issues with staff, determine how to improve services in the best interest of victims and institute necessary changes.

### **Target Group:**

Tralee's target group includes any victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or other violent crime living in Carson, Childress, Collingsworth, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hemphill, Roberts, and Wheeler counties of the eastern Texas Panhandle. The following statistics are derived from the U.S. Census Bureau April 2024 Population Estimates. Tralee serves nine counties that encompass 8,037 square miles and have an estimated population of 51,010, an average of 6 persons per square mile. These counties are rural areas that, without Tralee, would have little to no intervention and support services for crime victims. Tralee is the only crime victim crisis intervention agency for this area. Many people in these counties live in poverty and have limited resources to access services. The most recent demographics for these nine counties are derived from the U.S. Census April 2024 estimates: 77% white, 3.81% Black, 1.10% Native American, 0.64% Asian, 10.5% multi-racial, and 25% Hispanic/Latin. In FY 2024, approximately 10% of Tralee Crisis Center clients were Black, 1% Native American, 0.39% Asian, 4% multi-racial, 23% Hispanic/Latin and 58% white. According to the U.S. Census estimates for July 2023, 16% of the families living in the Tralee service area spoke a language other than English in their home. In FY 2023, 23% of victim/survivors coming to Tralee Crisis Center were of Hispanic/Latin origin. Approximately 1% of Hispanics coming to Tralee listed Spanish as their primary language. An average of 12% of the service area population lives below the federal poverty level. One county served by Tralee Crisis Center reported more than 25% of the population living in poverty: Collingsworth 26.2%. More than 15% percent of the population of Pampa lives in poverty. The average unemployment for this area in 2023 was 16%. Gray County reported 15.8% unemployment in 2023.

### **Evidence-Based Practices:**

Tralee Crisis Center's service approach is based on the model of basic victim assistance providers as outlined in "Achieving Excellence: Model Standards for Serving Victims and Survivors of Crime" -

<https://www.ovc.gov/model-standards/index.html>. This model is used because it is holistic in its approach, addressing the varied and individual needs of victim/survivors. It promotes a nonjudgmental, informational, and practical approach to serving all crime victims and survivors that promotes safety, healing, justice and upholds victims/survivors' rights. It ensures victim-centered policies and practices and access to multi-disciplinary, comprehensive services immediately after the crisis and over the time needed to recover and stabilize.

"Achieving Excellence" is easily adapted to fit the limited staff and resources of a small, rural agency like Tralee Crisis Center while still maintaining high standards of victim service. These model standards were developed by a consortium of academics and professionals from many different fields related to criminal justice and the provision of victim services.

Tralee Crisis Center's provision of services is influenced by such evidence-based practices as are outlined in "Advocacy Interventions for Women Who Experience Intimate Partner Violence"

<https://www.crimesolutions.gov/PracticeDetails.aspx?ID=55>. This practice, rated "Check plus" by the National Institute of Justice, is based on a study by Randall et al 2009 which suggests women who receive advocacy interventions experienced significantly less physical abuse compared to women in the control groups. The practice is supported by extensive research and 12 different studies. The target population mirrors most of the victims seen at Tralee Crisis Center, women victims of family violence. The core activities are secondary and



tertiary, like those used by Tralee Crisis Center, with the goal of preventing further abuse and helping the victims stabilize from the consequences of the abuse. These interventions are intended to empower the victim and include discussing potential solutions, helping her achieve her goals, and helping her to understand and respond to her situation. Activities outlined in this practice and used by Tralee advocates include safety planning, legal, housing, and financial assistance, facilitating access to and use of community resources. Advocates also provide ongoing support and peer counseling.

## Project Activities Information

### Selected Project Activities:

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
Crisis Services	60.00	Crisis intervention, safety planning, needs assessment, assistance with crime victims' compensation and protection order applications, information on victim rights and the criminal justice process, court and medical accompaniment, advocacy in social services, information and referral, financial aid (donated clothing; donated household goods; food; immediate needs), housing and employment assistance and advocacy, intermediate and long term peer support.
Legal Advocacy	10.00	Assistance with crime victims' compensation and protection order applications, information on victim rights and the criminal justice process, court accompaniment, and referrals to legal aid.
Peer Support Groups	10.00	Trained staff and direct service volunteers facilitate English and Spanish-language support groups for victims. Groups are based on curriculum designed to empower victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and to aid them in recovering from trauma and building new lives.
Shelter	20.00	24-hour, 365 days per year emergency safe shelter for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other violent crimes. Staff provides crisis intervention, safety planning, assessment of basic needs, information on victims' rights and the criminal justice process, court and medical accompaniment, advocacy in social services, information and referral, financial aid, housing and employment assistance, peer counseling.

## Measures Information

### Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Average length of stay in shelter (in days).	20
Number of secondary victims / survivors provided shelter.	25
Number of support group sessions held.	45
Number of survivors assisted through the legal process.	65
Number of survivors participating in support groups.	40
Number of survivors receiving crisis counseling.	90
Number of times survivors are accompanied to court.	20
Number of victims / survivors provided shelter.	50
Number of victims / survivors seeking services who were served.	240

Number of victims seeking services who were not served.	5
Number of victims who requested shelter.	40

## Budget Details Information

### Budget Information by Budget Line Item:

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL	UNIT/%
Personnel	Counselor and/or Therapist (licensed)	Social Worker - part-time - (Kristen Watson) Provides crisis intervention, referral of victims to needed services in the 9 county service area and counseling/therapy for victims of crime, domestic and sexual assault. Amount requested is 46% of salary and fringe. \$27,300 salary + \$2211 fringe = \$29,511 total annual salary. \$13,591 OOG /\$29,511= 46%	\$10,873.00	\$2,718.00	\$0.00	\$13,591.00	46
Personnel	Advocate	Advocate/legal advocate (Renita Reeves) provides crisis intervention, referral of VOCA victims to needed services in the community, peer counseling, emergency transportation, court accompaniment, advocacy. Assists VOCA victims in applying for protective orders and crime victim compensation claims. Responsible for legal issues related to victim services, updating and informing staff, stakeholders and partners. On call for major crime scenes, sexual assaults and domestic violence calls. Amount requested is 31% of salary and fringe. Salary \$40,705 + \$4302 fringe = \$45,007 total annual salary. \$14,065 OOG/ \$45,007 = 31%	\$11,252.00	\$2,813.00	\$0.00	\$14,065.00	31
Personnel	Advocate	Advocate 2/Children's advocate (Nancy Vigil) provides crisis intervention, referral of VOCA victims to needed services in the community, peer counseling, emergency transportation, court accompaniment, advocacy for children and parents. On call for major crime scenes, sexual assaults and domestic violence calls. Amount requested is 31% of salary and fringe. Salary \$35,474 + \$3748 fringe = \$39,222 total annual salary. \$12,256 OOG/ \$39,222 = 31%	\$9,805.00	\$2,451.00	\$0.00	\$12,256.00	31
Personnel	Advocate	Advocate 3/sexual assault advocate (Susan Ratzlaff) provides crisis intervention, referral of VOCA victims to needed services in the community, peer counseling, emergency transportation, court accompaniment, advocacy for children and adult sexual assault victims. On call for major crime scenes, sexual assaults and domestic violence calls. Amount requested is 31% of salary and fringe. Salary \$34,052 + \$3592 fringe = \$37,644 total annual salary. \$11,764 OOG/ \$37,644 = 31%	\$9,411.00	\$2,353.00	\$0.00	\$11,764.00	31
Personnel	Advocate	Advocate 4/bi-lingual advocate (Yadira Barraza) provides crisis intervention, referral of VOCA victims to needed services in the 9 service counties, peer counseling,	\$8,707.00	\$1,441.00	\$0.00	\$10,148.00	31

		emergency transportation, court accompaniment, advocacy for children and adult victims, especially those in the Spanish speaking communities. On call for major crime scenes, sexual assaults and domestic violence calls. Amount requested is 31% of salary and fringe. Salary \$31,512 + \$3317 fringe = \$34,829 total annual salary. \$10,884 OOG/ \$34,829 = 31%					
Personnel	Advocate	Shelter Advocate 1 - (Shelly McCullar) - Responsible for service delivery to victim/survivors of family violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes and their children staying at shelter. Provides crisis counseling, emergency and non-emergency transportation, referrals and answers hotline. Amount requested is 50% of annual salary and fringe. \$33,113 salary + \$2717 fringe = \$35,830 total annual salary. \$ 17,915 OOG/\$35,830= 50%	\$14,332.00	\$3,583.00	\$0.00	\$17,915.00	50
Personnel	Advocate	Shelter Advocate 2 - (Diana Bliss) - Responsible for service delivery to victim/survivors of family violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes and their children staying at shelter. Provides crisis counseling, emergency and non-emergency transportation, referrals and answers hotline. Amount requested is 50% of annual salary and fringe. \$32,475 salary + \$3,807 fringe = \$36,282 total annual salary. \$18,141 OOG/\$36,282= 50%	\$14,513.00	\$3,628.00	\$0.00	\$18,141.00	50
Personnel	Advocate	Shelter Advocate 3 - (Joy Rios-Alvarado) - Responsible for service delivery to victim/survivors of family violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes and their children staying at shelter. Provides crisis counseling, emergency and non-emergency transportation, referrals and answers hotline. Amount requested is 50% of annual salary and fringe. \$32,475 salary + \$2687 fringe = \$35,162 total annual salary. \$17,581 OOG/\$35,162= 50%	\$14,065.00	\$3,516.00	\$0.00	\$17,581.00	50
Personnel	Advocate	Shelter Advocate 4 - (Erika Sellers) - Responsible for service delivery to victim/survivors of family violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes and their children staying at shelter. Provides crisis counseling, emergency and non-emergency transportation, referrals and answers hotline. Amount requested is 50% of annual salary and fringe. \$31,512 salary + \$2647 fringe = \$34,159 total annual salary. \$17,078 OOG/\$34,159= 50%	\$13,663.00	\$3,415.00	\$0.00	\$17,078.00	50
Personnel	Advocate	Shelter Advocate 5 - (Alexis Ufland) - Responsible for service delivery to victim/survivors of family violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes and their children staying at shelter. Provides crisis counseling, emergency and non-emergency transportation, referrals and answers hotline. Amount requested is 50% of annual salary and fringe. \$31,512 salary + \$2647 fringe = \$34,159 total annual salary. \$17,078 OOG/\$34,159= 50%	\$13,663.00	\$3,415.00	\$0.00	\$17,078.00	50
Personnel	Coordinator	Volunteer Coordinator (Jackie Perez) recruits, trains and maintains volunteer base to assist with necessary services for crime victims. Educates public to help identify and connect victims with needed services. Crisis intervention, referrals of victims to needed services, on call for emergency transports when advocates not available.	\$10,655.00	\$2,661.00	\$0.00	\$13,316.00	30

		Rotates being on call for major crime scenes, sexual assaults and domestic violence calls with advocates. Amount requested is 30% of salary and fringe. \$39,424 salary + \$3193 fringe = \$42,617 total annual salary. \$12,786 OOG / \$42,617 = 30%					
Personnel	Administrative and/or Assistant Director	Finance Director (Karen McGahen) keeping VOCA-required time and activity sheets, preparing bi-weekly payroll for VOCA-paid personnel, preparing and submitting VOCA FSRs and compiling program financial statistics to make necessary VOCA reports. Acts as the Executive Director in the absence of the ED. Amount requested is 31% of total salary. \$45,850 salary + \$4,545 fringe = \$50,395 total annual salary. \$15,748 OOG / \$50,395 = 31%.	\$12,598.00	\$3,150.00	\$0.00	\$15,748.00	31
Personnel	Executive Director	Executive Director -Penny Harvey supervises and directs agency, including all victim services staff in resident and non-resident programs. Provides crisis intervention, referral of victims to needed services in the community, peer counseling, emergency transportation, court accompaniment, advocacy as needed when advocates are not available. On call for major crime scenes, sexual assaults and domestic violence calls as needed when advocates are not available. Record keeping and developing statistical data for required VOCA reports. Amount requested is 31% of salary and fringe. \$61,651 salary + \$6700 fringe = \$68,351 total annual salary. \$21,360 OOG / \$68,351= 31%	\$17,088.00	\$4,272.00	\$0.00	\$21,360.00	31
Personnel	Manager	Shelter Supervisor (Marcella Turner) Supervises shelter facility and shelter personnel in all phases of service delivery to victim/survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes. Responsible for service delivery to victims and their children staying at the shelter. Provides crisis counseling, emergency and non-emergency transportation, referrals and answers hotline. Amount requested is 50% of salary and fringe. \$39,475 salary + \$3,239 fringe = \$42,714 total annual salary. \$21,357 OOG / \$42,714 = 50%	\$17,086.00	\$4,271.00	\$0.00	\$21,357.00	50
Travel and Training	In-State Incidentals and/or Mileage	Area/outreach travel at state approved mileage rate to provide services to and transport victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other violent crime in 9-county service area. Amount requested for this budget item is based on the state approved mileage rate, currently .70 per mile, for an estimated 14,357 miles - 31% of annual expense of \$10,500. OOG amount of 3281 = 31%	\$2,625.00	\$656.00	\$0.00	\$3,281.00	0
Travel and Training	In-State Registration Fees, Training, and/or Travel	Crimes Against Women conference in Dallas, 2026 attended by 2 grant-paid staff each. Includes estimated registration fees of \$500 per person (\$1000); mileage to Dallas 702 miles @.70 (\$491); 4 hotel nights for conference (\$680) @ current GSA-approved rate for Dallas \$170 per night (1room/2occupants); per diem of (\$720) \$360 per person @ current GSA-approved rate for Dallas of \$60.00 first & last day, \$80 per day; for at total estimated cost of \$2891. Amount requested is 50% of \$2891. OOG amount is \$1445 = 50%.	\$1,250.00	\$195.00	\$0.00	\$1,445.00	0

Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Cellular, Fax, Pager, and/or Office Telephone	Telephone service for 24-hour hotline, shelter resident phone, fax lines and phones for grant-paid staff at office and shelter. Amount requested is 31% of total estimated cost of \$6,500 at \$542 per month. OOG amount =2275 = 31%	\$1,850.00	\$425.00	\$0.00	\$2,275.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Office Supplies (e.g., paper, postage, calculator)	Copy paper, pens, printer cartridges, file folders for grant-paid staff use for grant purposes at office and shelter. Amount requested is 45% of \$4,800. OOG amount of 2156= 45%	\$1,556.00	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$2,156.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Electric, Gas, and/or Water / Wastewater	Electric, gas and water/wastewater services for office and shelter. Amount requested is 37% of estimated annual total utility cost of \$16,700. Annual utility expenses are estimated at \$6,200 for the office and \$10,500 for the shelter. OOG amount of 6278 = 37%	\$5,750.00	\$1,150.00	\$0.00	\$6,900.00	0
Indirect Costs	Indirect Costs - De Minimus Rate	Indirect costs up to \$57,525 at the current federally approved 15% de minimus rate \$57,525 x .15 = \$8,628. Indirect cost amount is calculated using 15% of the annual budgeted amount of the indirect costs to be used for this grant. Total cost allocated to this grant for this project is \$8299	\$5,861.00	\$2,438.00	\$0.00	\$8,299.00	0

## Budget Summary Information

### Budget Summary Information by Budget Category:

CATEGORY	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL
Personnel	\$177,711.00	\$43,687.00	\$0.00	\$221,398.00
Travel and Training	\$3,875.00	\$851.00	\$0.00	\$4,726.00
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	\$9,156.00	\$2,175.00	\$0.00	\$11,331.00
Indirect Costs	\$5,861.00	\$2,438.00	\$0.00	\$8,299.00

### Budget Grand Total Information:

OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL
\$196,603.00	\$49,151.00	\$0.00	\$245,754.00

## CJAC'S PRESENTATION GUIDELINE:

Applicant Organization: Tralee Crisis Center for Women, Inc.

Project Title: Victim Assistance Project

Grant Funds Requested: \$245,754.00

***This form must be completed for each project submitted to the Criminal Justice Division under the regional Criminal Justice Programs. This form should be filled out and returned to PRPC's Criminal Justice Coordinator. This information is expected to be covered in your grant presentation to the CJAC.***

1. Why is this particular project needed; what problem(s) are you trying to resolve?

Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Other Violent Crimes continue to be problems in the nine counties Tralee Crisis Center serves. These counties encompass 8,037 square miles and have an estimated population of 51,110 people, 16.04% of whom live in poverty. The Texas Council on Family Violence reports 205 women and men were killed by partners in 2023. According to Texas Department of Public Safety 2023 records, 101 domestic violence incidents were reported by law enforcement agencies within this 9-county area. 23 sexual assault cases were reported by these counties in 2023. Additionally, 197 violent crimes were reported in the 2023 UCR statistics for these eight counties. Pampa Police Department records show officers responded to 357 domestic violence, 40 sexual assaults, 138 assaults, and 2 armed robberies in 2024. Tralee is the only crime victim crisis intervention agency for this area in the eastern Texas Panhandle. The goal of the Victim Assistance Project is to provide services that will enable victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other violent crimes in 9 rural counties of the eastern Texas Panhandle to learn strategies to enhance their safety and to increase knowledge of their rights and resources available to them. Victim/survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes are the target group for the 2026 Victim Assistance Project. Tralee Crisis Center serves victims of violent crime, regardless of age, sex, ethnicity, or beliefs. The victim service activities as outlined in this project include comprehensive, culturally sensitive, crisis intervention, 24-hour hotline, safe shelter, legal assistance, professional counseling, peer counseling and support groups.

2. Describe which, if any, of the Regional Program Priorities this project will support. \*\*\*If VAWA, which State priority will this project support?

Tralee Crisis Center's Victim Assistance Project addresses four of the Regional Program Priorities: Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Human Trafficking and Stalking. Working hand-in-hand with law enforcement, social services, and other related agencies, Tralee staff through this project will bring intervention and comprehensive support services to assist victims of these four types of crimes in nine counties of the eastern Texas Panhandle.

3. Who will be responsible for implementing this project and how would that be done?

Tralee Crisis Center's executive director is responsible for implementing this project using Tralee's service approach based on the model of basic victim assistance providers as outlined in "Achieving Excellence: Model Standards for Serving Victims and Survivors of Crime." <https://www.ovc.gov/model-standards/index.html>. The ED will supervise 11 direct service staff (4 advocates, 1 social worker, 1 shelter supervisor, and 5 shelter advocates) as they provide crisis intervention, safety planning, assessment of basic victim/survivor needs, assistance with protective orders and crime victim compensation applications, information about victims' rights

and the criminal justice process, court accompaniment, advocacy within human services, child and adult protective services, housing assistance, public assistance, the criminal and juvenile justice systems, information and referral, intermediate and long-term support services, and case planning. Tralee's safe shelter, a former nursing home located in Pampa, has a maximum capacity of 30 persons. The shelter is staffed with three 8-hour shifts per day. The 24-hour hotline is located and answered at the shelter by the shelter supervisor, staff and direct service volunteers. Non-resident clients receive services at the main office at 310 S. Cuyler in Pampa. This office is staffed by four advocates: legal advocate, bilingual advocate, sexual assault advocate, and an advocate who specializes in child victim services. A volunteer coordinator, fiscal manager and the executive director are located at the main office, also. Clerical volunteers assist in the main office by answering the phone and door and performing clerical tasks. Outreach and on-call services are provided by advocates, volunteer coordinator and direct service volunteers. Outreach tasks include meeting with and transporting victims in crisis situations, continuing service and support to victim/survivors, coordination of services between law enforcement, criminal justice and social service personnel throughout the nine-county service area; presentation of programs to identify victims, provide access to services and raise awareness within the communities served by Tralee. On-call services include, but are not limited to, 24-hour face-to-face response to violent crime victims in crisis situations, SANE accompaniments, hospital accompaniments for domestic violence victims, and emergency transportations. Administrative tasks include staff supervision, education and risk reduction, administration of victim service policies, programs, and activities, and fiscal oversight.

4. What factors will be used to gauge the value of this project to your community – how will you measure success?

For the 2026 project year, the objectives of this project are as follows:

- As a result of contact with Tralee Crisis Center, 85% or more of domestic violence, sexual assault/abuse and other violent crime survivors will have increased knowledge and understanding of their rights as crime victims.
- As a result of contact with Tralee Crisis Center, 85% or more of domestic violence, sexual assault/abuse and other violent crime survivors will receive strategies for enhancing their safety.
- As a result of contact with Tralee Crisis Center, 85% or more of domestic violence, sexual assault/abuse and other violent crime survivors will have increased knowledge of community resources.

These objectives are measured through client surveys given to clients upon initial intake and at other times when services are provided. Surveys are also given to shelter clients when exiting from the shelter. Clients responding to the survey may do so anonymously. By tracking and analyzing these surveys on a monthly basis, the executive director assesses the effectiveness of Tralee's services and makes adjustments as needed to ensure that the objectives are met.

Statistical information comes from resident and nonresident information provided to direct service staff during the initial intake and services after each contact. This information is entered into the agency's Vela database. Each month, reports of service activities, client census, demographics, and shelter days are compiled and analyzed by the executive director to test the effectiveness of the interventions being used to assist victims and to ensure that the goals and objectives of the project are being met. If this information indicates a problem in client services and meeting objectives, the ED will review the issues with staff, determine how to improve services in the best interest of victims and institute necessary changes as soon as possible.



5. How will this project continue to be supported in the future?

For at least 20 years, Tralee Crisis Center's Victim Assistance Project has been supported through funding from state and federal sources, foundations, and donations from organizations and individuals. VOCA funds approximately 1/3rd of the projected resources for this project. If we were to lose all or part of the VOCA funding it would have a significant impact on Tralee's ability to provide the services needed to address four of the Region's Victim Services priorities: Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Human Trafficking and Stalking for 9 counties of the eastern Texas Panhandle – a population of more than 51,000 people. Tralee's board and staff would strive to cover any loss of funding through fundraising and by researching and applying for additional funding from other sources.

6. (VOCA & VAWA Only) What is the total population that your organization serves? How many victims did you provide services to last year? What is the number of victims served last year per capita? What services for victims does your organization offer?

The total population served by Tralee Crisis Center for Women, Inc. is 51,010 persons encompassed within 8,032 square miles in nine rural counties within the Eastern Texas Panhandle of Texas. Tralee advocates provided 53,298 services to 423 unique individual clients. While serving 423 unique individual survivors within the nine counties served it averages out to 8% per capita. Comparing the first 6 months of FY 24 to the first 6 months of FY 25 Tralee has already served 51 more clients than the previous year. Tralee provides services with four advocates: legal advocate, bilingual advocate, sexual assault advocate, and an advocate who specializes in child victim services. All advocates provide services such as crisis intervention, safety planning, assessment of basic victim/survivor needs, assistance with protective order and crime victim compensation applications, information about victims' rights and the criminal justice process, court accompaniment, advocacy within human services, child and adult protective services, housing assistance, public assistance, the criminal and juvenile justice systems, information and referral, intermediate and long-term support services, and case planning. Tralee's safe shelter is staffed with three 8-hour shifts per day. The 24-hour hotline is located and answered at the shelter by the shelter supervisor, staff and direct service volunteers. FY24 there were 1,475 hotline calls. A volunteer coordinator, fiscal manager and the executive director are located at the main office, also. Clerical volunteers assist in the main office by answering the phone and door and performing clerical tasks. Outreach and on-call services are provided by advocates, volunteer coordinator and direct service volunteers. Outreach tasks include meeting with and transporting victims in crisis situations, continuing service and support to victim/survivors, coordination of services between law enforcement, criminal justice and social service personnel throughout the nine-county service area; presentation of programs to identify victims, provide access to services and raise awareness within the communities served by Tralee. On-call services include, but are not limited to, 24-hour face-to-face response to violent crime victims in crisis situations, SANE accompaniments, hospital accompaniments for domestic violence victims, and emergency transportations. Administrative tasks include staff supervision, education and risk reduction, administration of victim service policies, programs, and activities, and fiscal oversight.

**Agency Name: Family Support Services**  
**Project Title: Victims Assistance Program**  
**Request: \$ 349,972.09**

**Project Abstract:**

Established in 1908, Family Support Services has been a leader in providing comprehensive assistance to crime victims in the Panhandle region. Grounded in a legacy of innovation and trauma-informed practices, our programs continually evolve to offer a unified source of hope for individuals affected by sexual assault, human trafficking, and domestic violence.

Our multifaceted approach to service provision includes:

- Crisis intervention
- Comprehensive legal advocacy
- Intensive and comprehensive case management
- Safe shelter, with an on-site pet shelter, acknowledging the significance of the human-animal bond in promoting safety and healing
- Collaborations with law enforcement, district attorney offices, Child Protective Services (CPS), adult probation, legal agencies, homeless service providers, housing organizations, and healthcare systems for streamlined support
- Evidence-based trauma behavioral health services
- Batterer Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP)
- Supervised visitation
- Community education and awareness efforts
- Community client outreach
- Access for clients to a variety of internal programs

Our programs serve the diverse communities of Potter and Randall Counties, which encompass a combined population of over 200,000 residents. We are the only agency specializing in support for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking in this area. In the past year, our advocates accompanied victims to nearly 271 Sexual Assault Nurse Exams, provided over 54,000 advocacy services (primarily face-to-face throughout the community), offered 3,785 shelter bed nights, and dedicated 249 hours to assisting clients in obtaining protective orders, along with 1,690 hours for helping victims apply for Crime Victims Compensation. These figures not only highlight the number of victims we support but also reflect the extensive range of services provided.

Unique features of our programs include:

- Bilingual advocacy and counseling staff for enhanced accessibility
- Innovative therapeutic modalities, including EMDR, Trauma-Informed Yoga Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), and Trauma-Focused CBT with children, along with trained peer supporters who have lived experiences
- The launch of the first certified Office of the Attorney General (OAG) sexual assault on-site advocacy program at Northwest Texas Hospital and the Bridge Children's Advocacy Center, as well as the first and only anti-trafficking coalition in the Panhandle, known as Freedom in the 806
- Historical leadership in introducing best practices across our partnerships, sharing insights throughout the Panhandle, and serving as a pilot site for statewide and national programs, campaigns, and initiatives

- Representation of rural community needs through appointed positions, such as the Crime Victims Institute Council, offering valuable feedback to the governor's office regarding trends and requirements
- The introduction of a soft interview room set to launch in 2024, providing law enforcement with a supportive environment for interviewing adult victims
- Utilization of trained expert witnesses among our staff for legal proceedings
- Serving as a pilot site for the Domestic Violence High Risk Team (DVHRT), which aims to enhance offender accountability and develop evidence-based danger assessment protocols for law enforcement during intimate partner violence incidents
- Collaboration with state agencies, legislative committees, and task forces to advocate for vital legislation and increased funding for victim services, representing the Panhandle community
- Leadership in facilitating the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), focusing on strategies to enhance prosecution rates for sexual assault cases
- Internal programs that address victims' needs, including access to housing, a Veterans Resource Center, home visitation services, basic needs support, mentoring for teens, support groups, and Parent Cafes designed to foster connections through meaningful conversations

The programs and services we offer leverage our extensive expertise and dedicated staff to implement initiatives, collaborate with partners, and continuously enhance victim services. Our agency's rich history and commitment to innovation position us for sustained impact, with a focus on long-term leadership and service delivery.

**Problem Statement:**

The issues of family violence, sexual assault, and child sexual abuse have profound and enduring impacts on individuals across all age groups. Family Support Services is the only community organization in Potter and Randall counties that provides support to victims of stalking, sexual assault, domestic violence, and dating violence. Our organization also extends its services to rural communities in the Panhandle, where access to comprehensive support is often limited, resulting in challenges to achieving safety.

It is notable that Amarillo consistently ranks among the cities in Texas with the highest rates of domestic violence homicides and reported sexual assaults per capita. While Family Support Services has been offering both residential and non-residential support for decades, it has become evident that we need to enhance our efforts to provide more comprehensive, trauma-informed services to our clients and to address the systemic factors contributing to the high rates of domestic violence.

Our programs aim not only to ensure safety and provide criminal justice advocacy but also to tackle the various factors that contribute to an individual's vulnerability to abuse. We strive to help individuals create lives free from abuse for themselves and their families.

The Amarillo Continuum of Care for Homelessness has identified domestic violence as a primary or contributing factor leading to homelessness among women in Amarillo. In response, the Continuum of Care has approached Family Support Services to apply, in partnership with the City of Amarillo, for a HUD grant specifically targeted at survivors of domestic violence, which we hope to secure.

Additionally, survivors often face significant challenges accessing transportation to file for protective orders, obtain employment, and access daycare and other services. Amarillo presents unique transportation barriers; public transit options are extremely limited, and essential services such as employment, housing, courts, and daycare are frequently located far apart from one another.

Accurate statistics related to domestic violence homicides can be difficult to compile, TCFV annually compiles an IPV Fatality report in which only cases with a final disposition are counted for a given year and are not included in subsequent years. From October 2023 to September 2024, Potter and Randall counties unfortunately reported eight intimate partner homicides and one family violence homicide. To address these alarming figures, Family Support Services leads the only Domestic Violence Homicide Review Team in the Panhandle. This team focuses on offender accountability and amplifying the voices of victims in these highly lethal cases. We engage in educational efforts with district attorneys' offices, probation departments, Child Protective Services, and law enforcement to foster a deeper understanding of the unique and complex challenges surrounding these cases and to cultivate a unified and effective approach to supporting survivors.

Conversations surrounding domestic violence often center on what the victim did, did not do, or should do. Last year, the Domestic Violence Homicide Review Team addressed 332 high lethality cases, ensuring sufficient staffing and leveraging the criminal justice system to promote offender accountability. This shift in focus enables a concentrated effort on the criminal actions of offenders, their criminal histories, and how the justice system can enhance safety for victims and the community by holding offenders accountable.

### **Supporting Data:**

It is a significant concern that domestic violence, sexual assault, teen dating violence, stalking, and trafficking persist as serious issues in Texas, including Potter and Randall counties, necessitating efforts for reduction in comparison to national averages. In 2022, the FBI designated Amarillo as the fourth most violent city in Texas, despite it being only the 14th largest city in the state, with a violent crime rate that is double the state average. Furthermore, in 2024, the FBI reported that our city exceeded both state and national per capita averages for rape, with the most vulnerable age group of victims being between 10 to 19 years old. The Amarillo Police Department indicated a decrease in reported adult sexual assaults in 2023, accounting for 197 cases, however Family Support Services (FSS) conducted 271 Sexual Assault Nurse Exams, 180 of which were for children. It is essential to recognize that these figures represent reported incidents, acknowledging that this is a known underreported crime. In 2024 alone, FSS assisted 677 new sexual assault survivors.

Acquiring precise statistics on domestic violence, stalking, teen dating violence, and sex trafficking proves to be more challenging, as these crimes are often categorized alongside other offenses. FSS received screenings from the four law enforcement agencies in Potter and Randall counties, with 332 cases scoring as highly lethal. FSS diligently follows up with all victims who undergo these screenings, regardless of the risk score. It is important to note the underreported nature of these crimes, as evidenced by the 2,392 victims FSS served in 2024 who identified experiencing one or more of these victimizations. Additionally, data from the 2024 Point in Time count of homeless individuals within Amarillo city limits revealed that 32% of respondents cited domestic violence as a contributing factor to their homelessness or reported experiencing domestic violence while homeless. This figure is double the national average of 16%, representing 173 individuals and children displaced due to domestic violence.

These statistics reflect the experiences of men, women, children, families, and community members. The interconnected nature of these issues can often manifest in unseen ways within our community, with the long-term impacts of these traumas evident across generations, affecting the overall health of our community. Children who witness domestic violence are at heightened risk of experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault in their own lives, as well as facing challenges such as teenage pregnancy, substance abuse, and divorce—all factors that hinder their ability to cultivate healthy and safe lives for themselves and their families.

**Project Approach & Activities:**

It is important to acknowledge that Family Support Services (FSS) meets the essential functions of a victim advocacy organization. Furthermore, FSS recognizes the need to amplify its impact within the community by prioritizing prevention, awareness, and long-term healing related to victimization. We believe that through strategic community interventions, comprehensive long-term trauma-informed services, and the engagement of skilled professionals, Potter and Randall counties can witness a reduction in crime rates and an enhanced capacity for individuals and families to thrive following victimization.

FSS provides a broad range of services aimed at fostering safety and healing for individuals, families, and the larger community. Our support begins with a 24/7 helpline that offers emotional support, information, safety planning, connections to essential resources, and education on the cycle of abuse. This helpline serves as the entry point for our Emergency Safe House.

The Safe House offers immediate and secure accommodation for men, women, and children, delivering personalized services tailored to individual strengths and needs within a 24-bed facility. Our non-residential advocacy services are available at our main office and throughout the community, ensuring consistent support comparable to that offered in the Safe House.

We provide hospital response services for sexual assault and domestic violence in collaboration with The Bridge Children's Advocacy Center, as well as the hospitals and clinics in our service area. Our advocacy services implement best practices for addressing complex trauma and victimization. Our staff members are highly trained in crisis intervention, assessing for suicidality, utilizing de-escalation techniques, developing safety plans, and helping survivors articulate their needs and feelings. They are knowledgeable about the neurobiology of trauma and assist survivors in recognizing biological symptoms of trauma activation. We also utilize healing art as a method to build resilience, emotional intelligence, and overall well-being. Healing art has been recognized as an evidence-based approach specifically beneficial in addressing power and control-based victimizations, as well as fostering better communication within families affected by domestic violence, leading to improved decision-making regarding family safety.

Amarillo faces several barriers to achieving self-sustaining lives free from abuse, including a lack of affordable housing, transportation, adequate employment opportunities, and poor outcomes within the criminal justice system stemming from insufficient evidence and fears related to participating in the judicial process. Our staff are experts in guiding survivors through these challenges. Additionally, FSS actively advocates for systemic changes in these areas.

An example of our leadership in systemic change is our coordination of the Domestic Violence High Risk Team (DVHRT). This initiative collaborates with stakeholders in the criminal justice system to staff high-risk offenders and foster accountability, placing the emphasis on victim safety and prioritizing prosecution in these cases.

Within our Behavioral Health and Wellness Division, we offer counseling services utilizing various therapeutic modalities, including Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Trauma-Focused CBT, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), Trauma-Informed Yoga Therapy led by a certified instructor, couples therapy, individual and family therapy, and the Battering Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP), along with supervised visitation.

What differentiates FSS from other organizations applying for this grant, as detailed in the budget documentation, is our focused request for funding allocated solely to salaries and counseling services. To effectively serve our region with transformative community services, it is crucial to employ a competent and

experienced professional staff capable of addressing the diverse needs of a community of this size. Most of our staff members possess bachelor's and master's degrees in social services or have substantial relevant experience. This high-caliber workforce enhances our reputation across the Panhandle, enabling us to implement best practices, innovative services, and expand our outreach. We remain committed to providing services that foster lasting change within our community and for the survivors we support.

Our staff exhibit a strong commitment to FSS and tend to remain with the organization due to the supportive work environment, guidance from experienced managers, and the fulfillment derived from using their strengths and skills to positively impact those who have experienced victimization. Staff turnover in these departments has reached its lowest levels. However, it is important to highlight that our staff are undercompensated, earning an average hourly wage of less than \$20. This situation arises from the maximum funding limits.

### **Capacity & Capabilities:**

Family Support Services (FSS) has a rich history of providing social services to the community for over a century. Through the merger of multiple social service agencies, FSS has developed into the organization it is today. Our primary focus is to assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault by offering victim services, counseling, and support for children and families. We are committed to serving all survivors with evidence-based programs delivered by highly qualified professionals.

Our advocates hold at least a Bachelor's degree, with many possessing Master's degrees, preferably in mental health or social work. We place a strong emphasis on ongoing professional development and collaborate with esteemed partners, including the Texas Council on Family Violence, the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, and the Office of the Governor. Our lay legal services, provided by a non-practicing paralegal, have significantly enhanced our support within the criminal justice system. We offer survivors knowledgeable advocates who accompany them to court, coach them through the judicial process, manage expectations regarding outcomes and alternatives, assist in applying for pro se protective orders and divorces, and leverage relationships with attorneys to provide pro bono, reduced, sliding scale, and payment plan options for survivors requiring legal representation.

We have advocates with specialized expertise within the Child Protective Services (CPS) system, assisting survivors in meeting requirements and advocating for their needs while focusing on offender accountability. Additionally, we have an advocate specializing in support for Spanish-speaking survivors, addressing their unique and complex needs. The city of Amarillo has recognized FSS as a partner in several housing programs aimed at addressing homelessness and domestic violence. Our housing advocate coordinates with these programs to ensure that survivors receive the necessary support for healing to maintain housing and achieve self-sufficiency.

We offer support groups in both Spanish and English, both in person and virtually, as well as at an inpatient substance use treatment facility. Nearly two years ago, we relocated to a spacious 27,253 square-foot office at 2209 SW 7th Avenue, alleviating previous space limitations. Each division within our agency—Administration, Advocacy, Behavioral Health and Wellness, and Education—now has adequate space to accommodate all existing programs. Notably, our Advocacy division has expanded with the addition of a day center that provides computer and internet access to survivors, healing art, along with the creation of a comfortable interview room for forensic interviews.

The Behavioral Health and Wellness Division comprises counselors who hold advanced degrees and licensure in counseling and social work. Our counselors are also certified in various specialized therapies, including TF-CBT, EMDR, and Trauma-Informed Yoga Therapy. The Behavioral Health and Wellness Director, a Licensed Professional Counselor - Supervisor (LPC-S), supervises student interns working with clients.

All volunteers providing direct services undergo comprehensive screening, including criminal background checks, and receive the same training as our staff members.

Over the years, we have established collaborative partnerships with numerous organizations, including the Office of the Attorney General of Texas, the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, the Texas Council on Family Violence, local District Attorney's Offices, the Potter County Attorney's Office, the Amarillo Police Department, the Potter County and Randall County Sheriffs' Offices, Legal Aid of Northwest Texas, the Potter-Randall-Armstrong Community Supervision and Corrections Department, Amarillo District Parole, CPS, West Texas A&M University, Amarillo ISD, Highland Park ISD, Canyon ISD, and CASA. We have also implemented a helpline staffed by trained volunteers to manage crisis calls and are working to add a text capability to assist survivors in need.

While our residential services are limited to a 24-bed Safe House located a few miles from our main office, we acknowledge the need for expanded capacity in a city of over 200,000 residents. When our shelter reaches capacity, we refer clients to other local shelters and encourage them to utilize our non-residential services. Thanks to the support of private donors, we have endeavored to create a safe, healthy, and culturally inclusive environment, which includes sensory spaces for survivors and their children to facilitate healing, as well as the establishment of a healing garden and a pet shelter outdoors.

We take pride in the work we do at FSS and remain dedicated to serving our community and supporting survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

#### **Performance Management:**

##### Helpline

1. 80% of victims who utilize the help line will find it to be helpful to them.
2. 100% of survivors will have access to supportive services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

##### In-Person, Crisis Intervention and Safe Shelter

1. 100% of clients will have access to accurate information about support services available in the community that they might need.
2. 85% of victims will have safety plans in place by the end of the interaction with the advocate.
3. 100% of clients will have access to information about the effects of their specific victimization.

##### Counseling AND Support Group Outcomes (Adults)

1. 85% of victims will find the program to be helpful to their healing process.
2. 85% of survivors will have increased understanding about the natural responses to trauma.
3. 90% of clients will have increased knowledge about community resources they might need in the future.
4. 90% of clients will feel less isolated.

##### Counseling (Children)

1. 100% of children will understand the abuse was not their fault.
2. 90% of children will have increased knowledge about the common responses to child [sexual] abuse.
3. 90% of children will be able to identify a safe place or person in their lives.
4. 90% of caregivers will have increased knowledge about community resources they might need in the future.
5. 90% of caregivers will understand that the lack of physical evidence does not negate that abuse occurred.
6. 80% of caregivers will report having more coping strategies for dealing effectively with their children's healing process.

##### Legal Advocacy

1. 90% of victims will have increased knowledge on the range of their legal options.
2. 90% of clients going through the court process will understand their role in the court procedure.
3. 90% of survivors will understand their rights as crime victims.

#### Volunteer Training

1. 95% of volunteers will show an increase in knowledge regarding crisis intervention after training.
2. 90% of volunteers will show an increase in knowledge regarding empathic listening after training.
3. 95% of volunteers will show an increase in knowledge regarding dynamics of victimization after training.

#### Target Group:

FSS provides comprehensive support services for individuals affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, dating violence, or stalking. We are committed to assisting all victims, regardless of their race, culture, ethnicity, religion, sexual identity, gender, ability, socioeconomic status, or any other characteristic. Our services cater to both child and adult victims, as well as their families and support networks. Importantly, FSS offers these services at no cost, which include case management, advocacy, safety planning, legal assistance, shelter, and a variety of healing services.

Through funding from the VOCA grant, FSS is able to provide counseling and supportive clinical services to individuals who may not have the financial means to access such support. These services are crucial for those who continue to experience the lasting effects of their victimization.

At FSS, we prioritize the physical and emotional safety of every individual we serve. We adopt a range of personalized approaches based on each person's unique strengths as they navigate their journey towards recovery and a life free from abuse.

We ensure that all individuals identifying as victims of crime are informed about the availability of professional therapy and counseling services at our agency. We offer a variety of therapeutic modalities designed to address the specific needs of victims seeking to heal.

We actively collaborate with numerous organizations and agencies, including the City of Amarillo Community Development, Guyon Saunders Resource Center, Texas Panhandle Centers, Regents Health Care Network, Panhandle Community Services, Workforce Solutions Panhandle, Amarillo and Canyon Police Departments, Randall and Potter Counties Sheriff's Offices, the 47th District Attorney's Office, Randall County District Attorney's Office, Potter County District Attorney's Office, Child Protective Services, Potter County Adult Probation, Legal Aid of Northwest Texas, Texas Advocacy Project, Northwest Texas Healthcare System, The Bridge Children's Advocacy Center, Smile Big, the Mexican Consulate, The Haven Healthcare, Downtown Women's Centers, Martha's Home, and many others.

#### Evidence-Based Practices:

Research in the area of advocates working with domestic violence and sexual assault victims demonstrate positive outcomes for improved follow through with law enforcement agencies and prosecuting attorneys' offices, as well as improved empowerment and self-sufficiency (Campbell, R., [2006]. Rape survivors' experiences with the legal and medical systems: Do rape victim advocates make a difference? *Violence Against Women*, 12, 30-45).

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Support Groups - Research exists (Pfeiffer et al., 2011) documenting the positive effects of several modalities FSS uses for the emotional processing of victims of crime.

Case management and goal planning tool- Self-sufficiently, Independence and Prosperity Matrix (SIP)- evidence based tool to identify areas of vulnerability and support clients in creating goals to increase domains above a level of concern to be stable and thriving.



Critical Time Intervention (CTI)- a case management model providing focused support during a specific 'critical time' window, making it a targeted intervention, providing positive impact on housing stability, community integration, and mental health outcome. - Herman, D. B., & Mandiberg, J. M. (2010). Critical Time Intervention: Model Description and Implications for the Significance of Timing in Social Work Interventions. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 20(5), 502-508.

<https://aspe.hhs.gov/report/toward-understanding-homelessness-2007-national-symposium-homelessness-research-accountability-cost-effectiveness-and-program-performance-progress-1998/case-study-arizona-evaluation-project>.

Professional Therapy and Counseling - Several therapy modalities are based in research when working with trauma victims, often the result of being a victim of crime. Victims will be linked to services by referral through the agency by Advocates with whom they are working. Multiple therapists are certified in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR). EMDR is a demonstrated technique for use with clients with severe trauma, and has demonstrated positive outcomes.

*Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology* (Silverman et al., 2008).

Eldra P. Solomon ; Roger M. Solomon ; Kathleen M. Heide; *Victims & Offenders* Volume:4 Issue:4 Dated: October 2009 Pages:391 to 397

## Project Activities Information

### Selected Project Activities:

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
Crisis Services	26.00	Residential and non-residential advocates, helpline interventionist, Program Director, and advocacy services specialist will work directly with victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sex trafficking and sexual assault, providing comprehensive, trauma informed case management to include: information and referrals, crisis intervention and emotional support, court and medical accompaniment, assistance with ACP, CVC, Immigration issues, and personal and legal advocacy. Advocates will also respond to emergency helpline calls and advocate for sexual assault victims at the Hospital and The Bridge Children's Advocacy Center. Advocates will also provide continuing support through groups, both English and Spanish, healing art gatherings specifically for victims of sexual assault, and victims of domestic violence.
Professional Therapy and Counseling	25.00	The Behavioral Health and Wellness Division provides counseling through several different modalities: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Trauma-Focused CBT, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), Trauma Informed Yoga Therapy with a Certified TIYT instructor, and individual and family therapy.
Shelter	49.00	The Safe House provides emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and sex trafficking, providing safety, food, clothing and other necessities as identified. Safe House Advocates will provide comprehensive case management, to include: goal planning, personal advocacy, assistance with referrals and information, assistance in linkage to community providers for housing, emotional support and encouragement while monitoring for the safety and well-being of all Safe House residents. Transportation will be provided by the Safe House Advocates if a resident does not have her/his own transportation.

## Measures Information

### Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Average length of stay in shelter (in days).	25
Number of counseling hours provided to survivors.	2500
Number of secondary victims / survivors provided shelter.	100
Number of survivors receiving counseling / therapy.	275
Number of survivors receiving crisis counseling.	1600
Number of victims / survivors provided shelter.	180
Number of victims / survivors seeking services who were served.	1200
Number of victims seeking services who were not served.	200
Number of victims who requested shelter.	275

## Budget Details Information

### Budget Information by Budget Line Item:

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL	UNIT/%
Personnel	Counselor and/or Therapist (licensed)	The Director of Behavioral Health & Wellness (Kathy Tortoreo)(Licensed Professional Counselor) is responsible for oversight of all activities in the Clinical Division. The Director provides supervision to all staff, monitors the Division budget, approves expenditures, and is responsible for the operation of the program. The Director will also provide counseling sessions to victims of crime as needed. The amount requested reflects annual salary of \$72,156.30 with 35% (\$25,274.33) allocated to grant; includes fringe to cover cost of FICA, health/life insurance, workers compensation, retirement, and unemployment taxes. Behavioral Health Director is an employee of Family Support Services.	\$25,274.33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,274.33	35
Personnel	Counselor and/or Therapist (licensed)	Counselor is a Licensed Professional Counselor(DeDe Ballou) who provides individual and/or group therapy to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and other victims of crime. The Counselor maintains case file notes, documentation, and statistics as needed. The counselor is paid by the actual session under this grant, not by a percentage. The Counselor will conduct approximately 335 client sessions in the 12 month grant period at \$32.72 per session which includes fringe to cover costs of FICA, health insurance, workers compensation, retirement, and unemployment taxes. The Counselor is paid \$30.00 per hour and the remaining \$2.72 is used to pay the fringe listed above. The Counselor is an employee of Family Support Services. Employees annual salary is approximately \$37,369 including fringe listed.	\$11,972.45	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,972.45	32
Personnel	Counselor and/or Therapist (licensed)	Counselor is a Licensed Professional Counselor (Carrie McConnell) who provides individual and/or group therapy to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and other victims of crime. The Counselor maintains case file notes, documentation, and statistics as needed. The counselor is paid by the actual session under this grant, not by a percentage. The Counselor will conduct approximately 496 client sessions in the 12 month grant period at \$27.23 per session which includes fringe to cover costs of FICA, health insurance, workers compensation, retirement, and unemployment taxes. The Counselor is paid \$25.00 per hour and the remaining \$2.23 is used to pay the fringe listed above. The Counselor is an employee of Family Support Services. Employees annual salary is approximately \$62,151 including fringe listed above.	\$13,494.67	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,494.67	22
Personnel	Counselor and/or Therapist (licensed)	Counselor is a Licensed Professional Counselor (Ben Ramirez) who provides individual and/or group therapy to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and other victims of crime. The Counselor maintains case file notes, documentation, and statistics as needed. The counselor is paid by the actual session under this grant, not by a percentage. The Counselor will conduct approximately 496 client sessions in the 12 month grant period at \$27.23 per session which includes fringe to cover costs of FICA, health insurance, workers compensation, retirement, and unemployment taxes. The	\$13,494.67	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,494.67	22

		Counselor is paid \$25.00 per hour and the remaining \$2.23 is used to pay the fringe listed above. The Counselor is an employee of Family Support Services. Employees annual salary is approximately \$62,151 including fringe listed above.					
Personnel	Counselor and/or Therapist (licensed)	Counselor is a Licensed Professional Counselor (Rebecca Gonzales) who provides individual and/or group therapy to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and other victims of crime. The Counselor maintains case file notes, documentation, and statistics as needed. The counselor is paid by the actual session under this grant, not by a percentage. The Counselor will conduct approximately 412 client sessions in the 12 month grant period at \$32.67 per session which includes fringe to cover costs of FICA, health insurance, workers compensation, retirement, and unemployment taxes. The Counselor is paid \$30.00 per hour and the remaining \$2.67 is used to pay the fringe listed above. The Counselor is an employee of Family Support Services. Employees annual salary is approximately \$65,874 including fringe listed above.	\$13,494.67	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,494.67	20
Personnel	Counselor and/or Therapist (licensed)	Counselor is a Licensed Professional Counselor (Tyconda Bonner) who provides individual and/or group therapy to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and other victims of crime. The Counselor maintains case file notes, documentation, and statistics as needed. The counselor is paid by the actual session under this grant, not by a percentage. The Counselor will conduct approximately 312 client sessions in the 12 month grant period at \$27.23 per session which includes fringe to cover costs of FICA, health insurance, workers compensation, retirement, and unemployment taxes. The Counselor is paid \$25.00 per hour and the remaining \$2.23 is used to pay the fringe listed above. The Counselor is an employee of Family Support Services. Employees annual salary is approximately \$62,151 including fringe listed above.	\$8,488.77	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,488.77	14
Personnel	Advocate	Safe House Advocate/Hotline(Rachel Velasquez) is responsible for the overall safety and security of the Safe House facility and its clients. The Safe House Advocate/Hotline works the second shift providing crisis intervention services, meets physical and emotional needs of victims of sexual assault and domestic violence and their children that enter the shelter. The Safe House Advocate/Hotline is also responsible for keeping clients informed of shelter groups, meetings, referrals, and information services to all Safe House clients. Also provides Crisis Hotline services to all victims calling on the 24 hour hotline during the second shift. Amount requested reflects an annual salary of \$49,622.80. Amount allocated to this grant is 50% (\$24,811.40) and includes fringe to cover costs of FICA, health/Life insurance, workers compensation, retirement, dental and vision insurance, and unemployment taxes. The Shelter Advocate/Hotline is an employee of Family Support Services. Advocate is paid \$19 per hour.	\$24,811.40	\$30,290.63	\$0.00	\$24,811.40	50
Personnel	Advocate	Safe House Advocate/Hotline, Part Time -(Brenda Talamantes) is responsible for the overall safety and security of the Safe House facility and its clients. The Safe House Advocate/Hotline works the weekend shift providing Crisis intervention services, meets physical and emotional needs of victims of sexual assault and domestic violence and their children that enter the Safe House. The Safe House Advocate/Hotline is also	\$18,333.78	\$56,420.42	\$0.00	\$18,333.78	100

		responsible for keeping clients informed of shelter groups, meetings, referrals, and information services to all Safe House clients. Also provides Crisis Hotline services to all victims calling on the 24 hour hotline during the weekend shift. Amount requested reflects an annual salary of \$18,333.78. Fringe costs of FICA, workers compensation, and unemployment taxes. Part-time advocate is an employee of Family Support Services. Advocate is paid \$18 per hour.					
Personnel	Advocate	Safe House Advocate- (Anna Carrillo) is responsible for the overall safety and security of the shelter facility and its clients. The Safe House Advocate is also responsible for meeting the physical and emotional needs of victims of sexual assault and domestic violence and their children that enter the shelter. The Advocate is responsible for keeping clients informed of Safe House meetings, referrals, and providing emotional support, encouragement, and information to all shelter clients. Salary for this position is \$41,960.65 for the grant period which includes fringe. Fringe costs include FICA, health/life insurance, workers compensation, retirement, unemployment taxes, dental insurance, and vision insurance. Safe House advocate is an employee of Family Support Services. Safe House advocate is paid \$18 per hour.	\$41,960.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$41,960.65	100
Personnel	Advocate	Bilingual Victim Advocate (Lesly Cruz) is a Social Worker who provides victims with information and referrals, advocacy and assistance with crime victim filing. The advocate will also provide victims with comprehensive crisis and follow-up support needed to keep victims engaged in the investigation and prosecution process. The Advocate will also facilitate support groups to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and other victims of crime. The Advocate duties also include filing temporary restraining orders, injunctions, and other protective orders, elder abuse petitions, and child abuse petitions. The Advocate maintains case file notes, documentation, and statistics as needed. The Bilingual Advocate is an employee of Family Support Services. Amount requested reflects annual salary of \$51,093.98 with 100% allocated to grant; includes fringe to cover cost of FICA, Health/life insurance, workers compensation, retirement, dental and vision insurance, and unemployment taxes. Bilingual Advocate is an employee of Family Support Services. Employee is paid \$19 per hour.	\$51,093.98	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$51,093.98	100
Personnel	Education, Financial, and/or Program Specialist	Advocacy Services Specialist: Advocacy Services Specialist(Aimee Acosta) is responsible for maintaining a caseload of victims of dating violence, stalking, family violence and sexual assault who are in need of short-term crisis intervention, hospital accompaniment, support groups, legal advocacy, and appropriate referral sources for continued long-term needs. Amount requested reflects an annual salary of \$43,091.6017 allocated to grant; includes fringe to cover costs of FICA, health/life insurance, workers compensation, retirement, dental and vision insurance, and unemployment taxes. The Advocacy Services Specialist is an employee of Family Support Services. Employee is paid \$18.00 per hour.	\$43,091.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$43,091.60	100
Personnel	Coordinator	Advocacy Services Coordinator- (Lisa McClelland)- responsible for victims case management, legal advocacy, providing support groups, community education, and	\$0.00	\$28,833.48	\$0.00	\$28,833.48	60

		volunteer training. The Coordinator duties also include assisting victims with referral services with community resource providers and to provide victims with pertinent information and court accompaniment as needed. The coordinator maintains documentation and statistics, and provides follow-up services to victims of sexual assault and family violence. Amount reflects annual salary of \$49,713.87 with only 60% \$28,833.48 allocated to grant, includes fringe to cover costs of FICA, workers compensation, retirement, health/life insurance, and unemployment taxes. Advocacy Services Coordinator is an employee of Family Support Services. Advocacy Services Coordinator's hourly rate is 22.00 per hour.					
Personnel	Coordinator	Volunteer Advocate Coordinator-(Azelin Roberts)- is responsible for the recruitment and retention of all crisis volunteer advocates, coordination and facilitation of the volunteer advocate training and in-services. The Coordinator will also provide individual support and advocacy sessions to assist sexual assault and family violence victims seeking assistance, advocacy, and information and referrals. The Coordinator will also assist in court accompaniment and legal advocacy where needed. The Coordinators salary is \$58,659.54 for the grant period. This amount includes fringe to cover FICA, workers compensation, unemployment taxes, retirement, and hospitalization insurance. The Coordinator is an employee of Family Support Services. The Volunteer Advocate Coordinator's hourly rate is 22.00 per hour.	\$0.00	\$58,659.54	\$0.00	\$58,659.54	100
Personnel	Case Manager	Case Manager-Safe House-(Yara Duarte)-responsible for ensuring clients successfully navigate the social systems in order to get the services they are requesting and helping remove barriers. Partners with the clients to develop and monitor case plans. Facilitates support groups and house meetings with clients to assist in providing referrals, resources, support and guidance. The case manager will also develop a network of resources throughout the community to enhance the ability to be a liaison for clients. Annual Salary for this position is \$51,925.98. The Case Manager is an employee of Family Support Services. The Case Manager makes \$19.00 per hour.	\$51,925.98	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$51,925.98	100
Personnel	Director	Director of Advocacy Services, (Michelle Shields) The Director oversees all aspects of the program and supervises and directs staff based on the guidelines set forth in the grant project. Director also provides direct services to crime victims and directly supervises those providing direct services; supervises staff completion of VOCA required time and activity reports; completes the required programmatic and financial reports; supervises the maintenance of crime victim records; and conducts victim satisfaction surveys and needs assessments to improve service delivery. The Director ensures that the staff implements program protocols and curricula as listed above and provides training if necessary. The Director collaborates with other programs and agencies to provide survivors with effective solutions and support in creating long term housing. The Director's annual salary is \$72,158.46. On this grant only 45% would be charged to the grant \$32,535.14 .This amount include fringe costs of FICA, workers compensation, health, life, dental, vision insurance, unemployment taxes, and retirement. Director is an employee of Family Support Services.	\$32,535.14	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$32,535.14	45

**Budget Summary Information**

**Budget Summary Information by Budget Category:**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>OOG</b>	<b>CASH MATCH</b>	<b>IN-KIND MATCH</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Personnel	\$349,972.09	\$87,493.02	\$4,750.00	\$437,465.11

**Budget Grand Total Information:**

<b>OOG</b>	<b>CASH MATCH</b>	<b>IN-KIND MATCH</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
\$349,972.09	\$87,493.02	\$0.00	\$437,465.11

**CJAC's PRESENTATION GUIDELINE:**

Applicant Organization: Family Support Services of Amarillo, Inc.

Project Title: Victim Assistance Program

Grant Funds Requested: \$349,972.00

***This form must be completed for each project submitted to the Criminal Justice Division under the regional Criminal Justice Programs. This form should be filled out and returned to PRPC's Criminal Justice Coordinator. This information is expected to be covered in your grant presentation to the CJAC.***

**1. Why is this particular project needed; what problem(s) are you trying to resolve?**

This project is essential due to the pervasive issues of family violence, sexual assault, and child sexual abuse in Potter and Randall counties, where access to comprehensive victim support is severely limited. Amarillo consistently ranks among the highest in Texas for domestic violence homicides and sexual assaults. The project aims to address the systemic factors contributing to these high rates of victimization, enhance trauma-informed services, and provide critical support to victims navigating the criminal justice system. By offering emotional and physical assistance, the project seeks to stabilize victims' lives post-victimization and empower them to seek justice and recovery.

**2. Describe which, if any, of the Regional Program Priorities this project will support. \*\*\*If VAWA, which State priority will this project support?**

This project directly satisfies the regional priorities in the following ways:

1. **Responding to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims:** The project prioritizes the immediate emotional and physical well-being of victims through crisis intervention services, including a 24/7 helpline that offers support and safety planning. Additionally, the project provides access to trauma-informed counseling and support groups tailored to meet the emotional needs of survivors, thereby fostering healing and resilience.
2. **Assisting victims in stabilizing their lives after a victimization:** The project focuses on helping victims regain stability by offering comprehensive case management services. Advocates work closely with victims to create personalized safety plans, provide access to housing support, and connect them with essential resources such as employment services and childcare. By addressing the practical needs of victims, the project empowers them to rebuild their lives and achieve self-sufficiency.
3. **Assisting victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system:** Legal advocacy is a core component of the project, ensuring that victims are informed about their rights and options within the criminal justice system. Advocates provide guidance on navigating legal processes, accompanying victims to court, and assisting them in applying for protective orders and other legal remedies. This support not only enhances victims' understanding of the system but also encourages their active participation in seeking justice.



4. **Providing victims with safety and security:** The project emphasizes the importance of safety by offering immediate access to a secure safe shelter for victims and their children. This facility provides a safe environment where victims can begin to heal and access support services. Furthermore, the project implements safety planning and risk assessment protocols to ensure that victims have the tools and resources necessary to enhance their personal safety and well-being.

By addressing these critical areas, the project aligns with regional priorities and contributes to a holistic approach to victim support and recovery in the community.

### **3. Who will be responsible for implementing this project and how would that be done?**

The implementation of this project will be overseen by Family Support Services (FSS), led by a dedicated team of advocates, counselors, and support staff trained in trauma-informed practices. The project will utilize established protocols for crisis intervention and case management, ensuring that victims receive immediate assistance through the helpline, safe shelter, and advocacy services. Continuous staff training in cultural competency and crisis intervention will empower the team to effectively address the diverse needs of victims.

### **4. What factors will be used to gauge the value of this project to your community – how will you measure success?**

Success will be measured through quantitative and qualitative metrics, including:

- The percentage of clients accessing supportive services.
- Client feedback on the effectiveness of the services provided.
- The number of safety plans developed for victims.
- Increased knowledge among clients regarding community resources and legal options.
- Tracking the reduction in reported incidents of domestic violence and sexual assault in the community over time.

### **5. How will this project continue to be supported in the future?**

Future support for the project will come from a combination of continued funding applications, partnerships with local organizations, and community engagement initiatives. FSS will seek grants specifically targeting domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, victim services and mental health, while also fostering relationships with stakeholders to advocate for necessary policy changes and resource allocations. The commitment to ongoing staff training and cultural competency will ensure sustainable service delivery and community impact.

**6. (VOCA & VAWA Only) What is the total population that your organization serves? How many victims did you provide services to last year? What is the number of victims served last year per capita? What services for victims does your organization offer?**

Family Support Services serves a combined population of over 200,000 residents in Potter and Randall counties. Last year, the organization provided services to approximately **2,392** victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and related crimes. This amounts to about **11.96** victims served per **1,000** residents. It is important to not only the number of people served by this project, but also the number of services provided: over **54,000** services, including 1,690 hours assisting clients with pre/postCVC application assistance. These services include crisis intervention, legal advocacy, comprehensive case management, safe shelter, trauma-informed counseling, support groups, and community education initiatives, all aimed at assisting victims in their healing journey.

**Agency Name: Freedom Center**

**Project Title: Victims Assistance**

**Request: \$249,854.87**

**Project Abstract:**

At Freedom Center, our mission is to strategically empower survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault by promoting healthy relationships and compassionate communities through prevention, advocacy, and outreach. We provide comprehensive services to victims of all forms of abuse, regardless of when the trauma occurred. This includes, but is not limited to, domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, teen dating violence, stalking, elder abuse, neglect, and stranger violence. Our support extends to individuals of all ages, including minors, ensuring that no survivor is left without the resources they need.

We are committed to continuously evaluating, enhancing, and expanding our services to meet the evolving needs of our community, regardless of race, religion, gender, or sexual identity. As the demand for mental health support and substance abuse counseling increases, we strive to address these critical needs by integrating them into our victim services. By adapting and growing our programs, we not only serve our immediate community and service area but also provide crucial support to anyone we encounter on their path to healing.

**Problem Statement:**

At Freedom Center, we are deeply committed to providing essential services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. However, as we continue to navigate the lingering economic effects of COVID-19, both our agency and the individuals we serve face significant challenges. Below are some of the critical barriers impacting our ability to meet the growing needs of our community.

**Housing and Cost of Living** – Our emergency shelter remains a vital resource for survivors in crisis, yet the ongoing housing shortage in our area has severely limited long-term housing options for our clients. As a result, many survivors require shelter for longer periods than we are able to provide, placing additional strain on our capacity. Furthermore, the rising cost of living—driven by inflation—has made it increasingly difficult for survivors to secure stable, independent housing. Many now require extended financial assistance for essentials such as food, utilities, and transportation before they can transition to self-sufficiency. Our organization also faces these financial pressures, with increased operational costs for necessities like facility maintenance, insurance, transportation, and utilities, all of which are essential to sustaining our services.

**Funding Limitations** – Like many nonprofit organizations, we continue to experience difficulties in securing sufficient funding to sustain and expand our programs. While we are grateful for the State and Federal funding we receive, the availability of these funds has declined over time, making it increasingly difficult to meet the full scope of victims' needs. Additionally, our organization lacks dedicated staff with specialized expertise in fundraising and grant writing, further challenging our ability to secure new funding sources.

Despite these obstacles, Freedom Center remains steadfast in its mission. We continue to explore innovative solutions to serve survivors while ensuring compliance with State and Federal regulations. No matter the challenges we face, we are committed to adapting, evolving, and finding ways to provide exceptional support for survivors on their path to healing.

**Supporting Data:**

The demand for domestic violence services in Texas continues to outpace available resources, leaving many survivors without the support they desperately need. According to the 17th Annual NNEDV Domestic Violence Counts Report Texas Summary (2022), domestic violence programs were unable to meet 1,827 service requests

due to resource limitations. Alarming, 51% of these unmet requests were for emergency shelter, hotel stays, or other housing options, highlighting the critical need for increased housing support for survivors.

The prevalence of domestic and sexual violence in Texas continues to rise. In 2023, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) reported 247,896 family violence offenses, which had a substantial increase from 2021 (231,207 offenses). Additionally, 16,941 sexual assault incidents were reported, with 14,639 classified as rape—a 1.17% increase from the previous year. Tragically, adolescent and teenage victims (ages 10-19) accounted for 47.10% of reported sexual assault cases, while 9.12% of victims were under the age of 10. The Texas Council on Family Violence further documented 205 intimate partner and stalking-related homicides in 2023, underscoring the life-threatening nature of domestic violence. These statistics represent only reported cases, with many survivors remaining silent due to fear, shame, or coercion.

Beyond the rising rates of violence, economic challenges exacerbate survivors' struggles. Texas ranks sixth in the nation for high inflation stress, with 52% of residents reporting significant financial strain. Essential costs such as food and housing have risen disproportionately, disproportionately affecting low- and middle-income families. Many survivors face extended periods in emergency shelters due to financial instability, further straining already limited resources.

Freedom Center serves survivors across Dallam, Hartley, Moore, and Sherman Counties, a combined population of 35,377 residents (U.S. Census Bureau). Crime data from the DPS Texas Crimes by Jurisdiction Report (2023) reveals concerning trends within these counties:

Dallam County: 79 family violence incidents (double the previous year), 2 rape incidents (0 arrests), 26 assaults (8 arrests).

Hartley County: 7 family violence incidents, 0 sexual assaults, 3 assaults (0 arrests).

Moore County: 143 family violence incidents, 14 sexual assaults, 14 rapes (2 arrests), 51 assaults (25 arrests).

Sherman County: 3 reported cases of family violence, 1 sexual assault, and 1 rape.

DPS data indicates a combined 264 incidents of family violence, sexual assault, and rape across these four counties. However, underreporting remains a significant issue, particularly in rural areas where survivors face additional barriers to accessing justice and support services.

The increasing prevalence of domestic violence, sexual assault, and economic hardship in our region underscores the urgent need for expanded services. Freedom Center remains dedicated to breaking barriers by providing emergency shelter, advocacy, outreach, and expanded victim support services. However, additional resources are essential to meet the growing demand, particularly in housing assistance, mental health services, and substance abuse counseling. By addressing these critical gaps, we can ensure that no survivor is left without the help they need to find safety, healing, and independence.

### **Project Approach & Activities:**

At Freedom Center, our core values serve as the foundation of our work, guiding our approach to problem-solving and shaping a high-quality plan of action for serving survivors. These values ensure that we operate with integrity, make decisions with confidence and clarity, and remain steadfast in doing what is right at the right time.

We recognize that challenges also bring opportunities, and we are strongest when we collaborate with others. Our partnerships within the community have allowed us to expand our knowledge, strengthen our referral network, and enhance the services we provide. By connecting survivors to additional resources that support their overall well-being, we ensure a more holistic approach to healing. Likewise, our commitment to service drives us to continually grow our volunteer base, providing additional support to our clients while fostering meaningful engagement within the community. We have seen firsthand the profound impact that volunteering has—not just on our agency, but on the individuals who give their time to help others.

Through a dedicated team of professionally trained staff, educated volunteers, and strong community partnerships, we provide high-quality advocacy that empowers survivors. Rather than offering one-size-fits-all solutions, we help individuals understand their situation, explore their options, and work toward their personal goals, ensuring they achieve the best possible outcome.

Our clients have access to a wide range of individualized services designed to support them on their journey to safety and stability. These include temporary emergency shelter, 24/7 crisis intervention, crisis counseling, transportation, food, clothing, medical and legal accompaniment, and more. A key priority in our service delivery is ensuring that every survivor understands their rights and receives trauma-informed care tailored to their needs.

As we continuously assess and refine our approach to overcoming challenges, we rely on the critical funding provided by this organization to sustain and expand our services. Your support allows us to not only meet the urgent needs of today but also prepare for the evolving needs of tomorrow—ensuring that every survivor who turns to us finds hope, safety, and the opportunity to rebuild.

### **Capacity & Capabilities:**

Since 1987, Freedom Center has been dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault across Moore, Dallam, Hartley, and Sherman counties. As the only nonprofit domestic violence and sexual assault center in this four-county region, we provide critical support to an area spanning 42,000 square miles with a population of over 35,000 people. Originally established as a crisis center for women and children, Freedom Center has evolved into an inclusive, survivor-centered organization, ensuring that all individuals—regardless of gender, age, race, or background—have access to the safety and support they need.

To maintain the highest quality of service, we invest in a rigorous selection and onboarding process for our team members. This process ensures that each staff member and volunteer is placed in a role that aligns with their strengths, maximizing their impact. Our advocates serve as the first point of contact for many survivors seeking help, and they take immense pride in creating a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment while ensuring survivors are informed of their rights and available resources.

While we strive to provide comprehensive services through our dedicated team, we recognize that collaboration with community partners and grantors is essential in expanding our reach and strengthening our impact. Some of our key partnerships include:

**Law Enforcement** – We work closely with local police departments to ensure the safety of survivors, provide crisis intervention, and hold offenders accountable. Together, we challenge the stigma surrounding domestic violence and work toward a coordinated response that prioritizes survivor safety.

**Moore Options** – Recognizing the importance of prenatal and parenting support, we partner with Moore Options to provide expectant mothers and fathers with vital resources, ensuring that survivors and their children receive the care they need.

United Way of Moore County – Our collaboration with United Way allows us to expand educational opportunities, improve access to health resources, and secure essential funding for community-based programs that support survivors and their families.

At Freedom Center, we believe that outreach and education are critical components of prevention and survivor well-being. Each year, we strategically plan awareness events and community education initiatives across our four-county service area to address the realities of domestic violence and sexual assault. By increasing awareness and fostering meaningful conversations, we strive to create a community where survivors feel empowered and violence is no longer tolerated.

With continued support, we will strengthen our outreach, expand our services, and deepen our partnerships, ensuring that every survivor in our region has access to the resources they need to heal and rebuild their lives.

**Performance Management:**

At Freedom Center, our core values serve as the foundation of our work, ensuring that our team remains aligned in achieving our mission and delivering high-quality services to survivors. We are guided by the following principles:

Service is our passion – We are dedicated to meeting the needs of survivors with compassion and commitment.

People are our purpose – Every action we take is centered around the well-being and empowerment of those we serve.

Excellence is our expectation – We strive for the highest standards in service delivery and organizational performance.

Accountability is our personal responsibility – We hold ourselves accountable for our work, ensuring transparency and effectiveness.

Integrity is our compass – We operate with honesty, ethics, and respect in all that we do.

These values shape our organizational culture, inform decision-making, and ensure that we remain steadfast in our commitment to survivors and the community.

To enhance our impact and better serve survivors in our region, Freedom Center has established the following measurable goals for the upcoming grant period:

Reduce residential re-entry by 50% – Strengthening transitional support to help survivors maintain long-term independence.

Increase non-residential services by 40% – Expanding outreach, advocacy, and support for survivors who do not require shelter services.

Serve 95% of reported domestic violence and sexual assault incidents in our service area – Ensuring comprehensive support for survivors across our four-county region.

Increase average services provided in our Non-Residential Program by 25% – Enhancing the depth and accessibility of non-residential resources.

Increase the number of clients served by Freedom Center by 50% – Expanding our reach to support more individuals in crisis.

To measure progress toward these goals, we utilize RClient, our client database system. This tool allows us to track new and returning clients, service types, and program utilization, providing real-time insights into our effectiveness. By reviewing this data on a monthly or at-will basis, we can assess successes, identify areas for improvement, and adjust our strategies accordingly to ensure that we continue meeting the evolving needs of survivors.

Through these values, goals, and data-driven evaluation methods, Freedom Center remains committed to enhancing services, strengthening community impact, and ensuring survivors receive the comprehensive support they deserve.

### **Target Group:**

There are four counties currently in Freedom Center's service area:

1. Dallam County is 1,505 sq. miles with 10,079 population (population according to US Census Bureau)
2. Hartley County is 1,460 sq. miles with 2382 population (population according to US Census Bureau)
3. Moore County is 901 sq. miles with 20,900 population (population according to US Census Bureau)
4. Sherman County is 924 sq. miles with 1,976 population (population according to US Census Bureau)

Freedom Center has the honor of serving one of the most diverse areas in the state of Texas. The Texas Department of State Health population statistics identifies that over 50% of the population in our surrounding counties identify as Hispanic or "other".

With strong local industries onboarding a high number of employees throughout the year, a numerous number of diverse individuals from all over the world, including Burmese, Zomi, Somalians, and Sudanese populations, are brought into our service area. At Freedom Center, we desire to bring awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault to all cultures and people groups.

During the 23-24 fiscal year, we saw a growing number of clients in our minority communities:

- 1) 64.75% of victims served at Freedom Center were reported to belong to a minority community. The breakdown is as follows: 52.86% were reported to be Hispanic, 7.49% were reported as African American or Black, 0.88% were reported as Native American, and 3.52% were reported as unclaimed.
- 2) We have seen an increase in the number of minors involved in domestic violence and sexual assault. 20.71% of all victims served by our agency were under the age of 18.
- 3) Out of all clients served by our agency, 61.24% were under 45 years of age.

### **Evidence-Based Practices:**

This research offers 8 fundamental program components:

Providing Information (About rights, options, domestic violence, trauma, sociopolitical settings.)

Safe Plan

Build Skills (e.g., coping, emotion regulation, problem-solving, parenting, resource attainment)

Offer encouragement, empathy and respect

## Supportive Counseling

Increase access to community resources and opportunities

Increase social support and community connections

Community change and systems change work

The effectiveness of this project will be assessed through confidential client surveys, which provide valuable insight into the quality of services received at Freedom Center. Each completed survey is carefully reviewed to identify areas for improvement and opportunities for growth. These surveys serve as a subjective measure of our impact, and we conduct an annual review of responses to ensure continuous enhancement of our programs. By actively seeking and incorporating constructive feedback, we can strengthen both our existing services and areas in need of development, ultimately improving the support we provide to survivors.

In addition to client surveys, we utilize our RClient database to track key performance indicators, including:

Number of new victims served

Number of hotline calls received

Percentage of victims accessing educational classes, tutoring, group support, and licensed counseling

Number of in-kind donations received from the community

Requests from external organizations to present our program

Requests for follow-up from law enforcement agencies

Clients achieving personal goals

Recidivism rates among victims facing repeat circumstances

Community education and awareness initiatives

Expansion of agency opportunities

With oversight from our Board of Directors, strong internal controls, staff evaluations, and regular program reviews, we are committed to maintaining the vision, mission, and quality of services at Freedom Center. These measures ensure that we continue providing professional, trauma-informed support to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault while adapting to the evolving needs of our community.



## Project Activities Information

### Selected Project Activities:

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
Crisis Services	20.00	Freedom Center provides services including but not limited to crisis counseling, resources, and referrals through our 24 hour-Crisis hotline, and face to face direct services. Freedom Center has trained staff or volunteers who will provide transportation and accompany the victim to a SANE exam, other medical appointments, mental health appointments, legal appointments. and/or court appearances. Freedom Center advocates aid clients through providing emergency shelter, obtaining individualized resources, victim compensation forms, protective orders, legal aid and much more. Freedom Center works to identify the client's current location and use specialized training along with client goals to develop strategic plans in assisting each client, both residential and non-residential.
Legal Advocacy	10.00	Legal advocacy is provided to all residential and non-residential clients dealing with civil legal issues such as completing and filling protective orders, injunctions, child/elder abuse petitions, and legal aid applications. Freedom Center advocates make it their goal to provide necessary resources and referrals to each victim concerning their rights
Professional Therapy and Counseling	15.00	Freedom Center provides counseling services to assist with trauma, grief, coping, and other needs. Clients of domestic violence and sexual assaults may need counseling assistance with. Freedom Center has a contract with an LCP. All residents and non-residential clients are notified of these services being available to them.
Protective Order Assistance	10.00	Freedom Center assists clients with completing applications for protective orders and accompanies each client, at their request, to file and complete the protective order process. This service is provided to all clients, both residential and non-residential.
Shelter	45.00	Freedom Center ensures all clients who request and qualify for our shelter service have access to safe and temporary emergency shelter. These clients have access to trained advocates who work at providing and explaining both agency and partnering agencies resource opportunities, shelter, food, clothing, transportation assistance, etc.

## Measures Information

### Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Average length of stay in shelter (in days).	20
Number of counseling hours provided to survivors.	250
Number of final protective orders granted / obtained.	25
Number of final protective orders requested.	10
Number of secondary victims / survivors provided shelter.	70
Number of survivors assisted through the legal process.	35

Number of survivors receiving counseling / therapy.	75
Number of survivors receiving crisis counseling.	75
Number of temporary protective orders granted / obtained.	20
Number of temporary protective orders requested.	20
Number of times survivors are accompanied to court.	10
Number of victims / survivors provided shelter.	100
Number of victims / survivors seeking services who were served.	375
Number of victims seeking services who were not served.	0
Number of victims who requested shelter.	100

## Budget Details Information

### Budget Information by Budget Line Item:

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL	UNIT/%
Personnel	Chief Financial Officer (CFO)	Finance Director: Erica Venzor. The Finance Director executes the day-to-day Agency financial operations, including payroll, accounts receivable, accounts payable, cost allocations and financial grant reporting. Finance Director's annual gross salary including fringe is \$35,100 + Fringe \$3456.29 = \$38,556.29. Health insurance is not included. Requesting VOCA to pay 45% Salary \$15,225 + Fringe \$1461.79 = \$17,350.33.	\$17,350.33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17,350.33	45
Personnel	Advocate	New Hire (Thursday-Sunday 8:00am - 4:00pm): The Shelter Advocate provides crisis intervention, transportation, support, personal advocacy, peer counseling, mentoring, information and referral, as well as answering the 24-hour hotline. The Shelter Advocate will work in conjunction with the Shelter Manager supporting the client's participation in the service plan. The Shelter Advocate will work on the schedule assigned by the Shelter Manager. This position pays an hourly wage of \$15.00 per hour and works a maximum of 40 hours per week. The Shelter Advocate's estimated annual salary including taxes is \$27640.58. Health insurance in not included. Salary is \$ \$24,960.00 + Fringe \$2680.58 = \$27,640.58. VOCA will pay 50%. Salary at 50% is \$15,600 + Fringe \$13820.29	\$13,820.29	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,820.29	50
Personnel	Advocate	Barbara C Day: Shelter Advocate: (Monday -Thursday 4:00pm - Midnight)(Rehired 12/18/23) The Shelter Advocate provides crisis intervention, transportation,	\$13,820.29	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,820.29	50

		support, personal advocacy, peer counseling, mentoring, information and referral, as well as answering the 24-hour hotline. The Shelter Advocate will work in conjunction with the Shelter Manager support the client's participation in the service plan. The Shelter Advocate will work the schedule assigned by the Shelter Manager. This position pays an hourly wage of \$15.00 per hour, and works a maximum of 40 hours per week. The Shelter Advocate's estimated annual salary including taxes is \$27640.58. Health insurance is not included. Salary is \$ \$24,960.00 + Fringe \$2680.58 = \$27,640.58. VOCA will pay 50%. The salary at 50% is \$15,600 + Fringe \$13,820.29					
Personnel	Advocate	Monica Ortega. Shelter Advocate (Thursday-Sunday 4:00pm - Midnight) The Shelter Advocate provides crisis intervention, transportation, support, personal advocacy, peer counseling, mentoring, information and referral, as well as answering the 24-hour hotline. The Shelter Advocate will work in conjunction with the Shelter Manager support the client's participation in the service plan. The Shelter Advocate will work the schedule assigned by the Shelter Manager. This position pays an hourly wage of \$15.00 per hour and works a maximum of 40 hours per week. The Shelter Advocate's estimated annual salary including taxes is \$27640.58. Health insurance is not included. Salary is \$ \$24,960.00 + Fringe \$2680.58 = \$27,640.58. VOCA will pay 50%. Salary at 50% is \$15,600 + Fringe \$13820.29	\$13,820.29	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,820.29	50
Personnel	Advocate	Cricket Hudgens-Dye.: Overnight Shelter Advocate (12:00am - 8:00am): The Shelter Advocate provides crisis intervention, transportation, support, personal advocacy, peer counseling, mentoring, information and referral, as well as answering the 24-hour hotline. The Shelter Advocate will work in conjunction with the Shelter Manager support the client's participation in the service plan. The Shelter Advocate's estimated annual salary including taxes is \$27640.58. Health insurance in not included. Salary is \$ \$24,960.00 + Fringe \$2680.58 = \$27,640.58. VOCA will pay 50%. Salary at 50% is \$15,600 + Fringe \$13820.29	\$13,820.29	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,820.29	50
Personnel	Advocate	Marisol Alvarado: Overnight Shelter Advocate (Thursday -Sunday 12:00 am - 8:00am): The Shelter Advocate provides crisis intervention, transportation, support, personal advocacy, peer counseling, mentoring, information and referral, as well as answering the 24-hour hotline. The Shelter Advocate will work in conjunction with the Shelter Manager support the client's participation in the service plan. The Shelter Advocate's estimated annual salary including taxes is \$27640.58. Health insurance in not included. Salary is \$ \$24,960.00 + Fringe \$2680.58 = \$27,640.58 . VOCA will pay 50%. Salary at 50% is \$15,600 + Fringe \$13820.29	\$13,820.29	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,820.29	50
Personnel	Advocate	PRN 1 Emily Grey: Safe Place Inc desire to use PRN to assist with filling schedules ensuring agency operation is always consistent and operating effectively. The Shelter Advocate PRN provides crisis intervention, transportation, support,	\$7,102.93	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,102.93	50

		personal advocacy, peer counseling, mentoring, information and referral, as well as answering the 24-hour hotline. The Shelter Advocate will work in conjunction with the Shelter Manager support the client's participation in the service plan. The Shelter Advocate's estimated annual salary including taxes is \$14,205.86. Health insurance in not included. Salary is \$ \$12,480.00 + Fringe \$1,725.86 = \$14,205.86 . VOCA will pay 50%. Salary at 50% is \$7102.93					
Personnel	Advocate	PRN 2 Clarissa Villegas: Safe Place Inc desire to use PRN to assist with filling schedules ensuring agency operation is always consistent and operating effectively. The Shelter Advocate PRN provides crisis intervention, transportation, support, personal advocacy, peer counseling, mentoring, information and referral, as well as answering the 24-hour hotline. The Shelter Advocate will work in conjunction with the Shelter Manager support the client's participation in the service plan. The Shelter Advocate's estimated annual salary including taxes is \$14,205.86. Health insurance in not included. Salary is \$ \$12,480.00 + Fringe \$1,725.86 = \$14,205.86 . VOCA will pay 50%. Salary at 50% is \$7102.93	\$7,102.93	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,102.93	50
Personnel	Advocate	PRN 3 New Hire: Freedom Center desire to use PRN to assist with filling schedules ensuring agency operation is always consistent and operating effectively. The Shelter Advocate PRN provides crisis intervention, transportation, support, personal advocacy, peer counseling, mentoring, information and referral, as well as answering the 24-hour hotline. The Shelter Advocate will work in conjunction with the Shelter Manager supporting the client's participation in the service plan. The Shelter Advocate's estimated annual salary including taxes is \$14,205.86. Health insurance is not included. Salary is \$ \$12,480.00 + Fringe \$1,725.86 = \$14,205.86. VOCA will pay 50%. Salary at 50% is \$7102.93	\$7,102.93	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,102.93	50
Personnel	Case Manager	New Hire (Monday- Friday 8:00am - 4:00pm) The Advocate Team Manager provides crisis intervention, transportation, support, personal advocacy, peer counseling, mentoring, information and referral, as well as answering the 24-hour hotline. The Advocate Team Manager will ensure day-to-day operations are carried out in shelter along with coordinating advocacy team on daily task and client needs. This position will be a direct hands-on leadership role in shelter. This position will assist with coordinating case plans for clients, advocacy scheduling, team leadership huddles along with assisting administration in implementing programs involving shelter clients and employees. The Shelter Advocate will work on the schedule assigned by the Shelter Manager. This position pays an hourly wage of \$23.00 per hour and works a maximum of 40 hours per week. The Shelter Advocate's estimated annual salary including taxes is \$52,270.90. Health insurance is not included. The salary is \$47,840.00 + Fringe \$4430.90 = \$52,270.90. VOCA will pay 50%. Salary at 50% is \$23,920.00 + Fringe \$2215.45 = \$26,135.45	\$26,135.45	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$26,135.45	50
Personnel	Data Entry Operator	Human Resource Management Clerk: Kori Draper. The Human Resource Management Clerk uses strategic approach to nurture and support all of Safe Place	\$26,544.71	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$26,544.71	45

		employees and ensures a positive workplace environment. The functions of the Human Resource Management are recruitment, compensation and benefits, training and development, and employee relations. The Human Recourse Management reports to the Executive Director and works alongside with the Program Director. This position has an annual gross salary of \$54,080.00 + fringe \$4908.26 = \$58,988.26. Health insurance is not included. VOCA will pay 45%. Salary at 45% is \$24,336.00 + Fringe \$2208.71 = \$26,544.71.						
Personnel	Community / Social Service Specialist	Outreach Program Coordinator: Sammi Long. Safe Place Inc is located in Moor County, but services the surrounding three counties. The Outreach Coordinator is responsible for assisting the community with victim outreach services such as obtaining protective orders, legal aid, SANE accompaniment, Bridge Transportation, and ensuring the smooth flow of events and participants' engagement that will help promote the services that Safe Place provides while bringing educational awareness to victims of DV/SA. The coordinator works with other nonprofit institutions or organizations to promote and develop citizens' welfare. The Outreach Program Coordinator works in conjunction with the Program Director and Executive Director. This position has an annual gross salary of \$47,840.00 + fringe \$4430.90 = \$52,270.90. Health insurance is not included. VOCA will pay 40%. Salary at 40% is \$19,136.00 + Fringe \$1772.36 = \$20,908.36.	\$20,908.36	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,908.36	40	
Personnel	Executive Director	Executive Director: Chris Fobbs. Due to the size of our agency, the Executive Director works directly with victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and human trafficking during on call rotation, and during the day to day operations when needed. The Executive Director can perform crisis intervention, peer counseling, legal and medical accompaniment, emergency transportation, intake duties, as well as any other victim service needed. The Executive Director also undersees the financial, administrative, programmatic administration, and ensures all grant reporting is completed timely and per grant guidelines. Executive Director's annual gross salary including fringe is \$81,491.41. Health insurance is not included. Total salary is for 12 months. We are asking VOCA for 45%. Salary at 45% is \$33,742.80 + Fringe is \$2928.34 = \$36671.14.	\$36,671.14	\$8,149.14	\$0.00	\$44,820.28	45	
Personnel	Director	Program Director: Allee Wooten: the Program Director oversees the day-to-day operations of Safe Place Inc shelter. The Program Director reports to the Executive Director. The Program Director works alongside the Executive Director to ensures that the 24/7 shelter operates efficiently and in compliance with state and federal requirements. The Program Director manages all part time advocates which report directly to her. The Program Director works diligently to make sure that Safe Place Inc Advocates have the training and professional skill sets to assist Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. This position monitors client files as well as inputs all data into R-Client. Along with ensuring clients are provided adequate services this position also provides managerial support to advocates. This position manages advocate schedules, evaluations, and daily task as well as shelter grocery	\$31,834.64	\$7,074.36	\$0.00	\$38,909.00	45	

		<p>order and identify and reporting shelter maintenance needs. The Program Director performs shelter responsibilities as well as any other task, programs, or directions given by Executive Director which include working directly with victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and human trafficking during on call shifts and during day-to-day operations when needed. The Program Director can perform crisis intervention, peer counseling, legal and medical accompaniment, emergency transportation, intake duties, as well as any other victim services needed. The position will also be included in the on-call rotation. The Program Director assists the Executive Director in oversight of programmatic and personnel management activities. Program Director's annual gross salary is \$65,000.00 + fringe \$5743.64 = \$70743.64. Health insurance is not included. Total salary is for 12 months. Requesting VOCA to pay 45%. Salary at 45% is \$29,250.00 + Fringe \$2584.64 = \$31, 834.64</p>					
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Project Supplies (e.g., binocular, battery, flexicuff, drug testing kit)	<p>Freedom Center Texas utilizes donations such as food boxes, clothing, and household items to help meet the needs of clients as well as a source of In-Kind match for grant funding opportunities. All donations received and distributed are carefully documented and tracked. This allows Freedom Center to properly allocate any donations distributed throughout the fiscal year. These items are priced at fair market value. A complete victim assistance form allows the client to go to This N That thrift store owned and operated by Freedom Center to receive donated items. Once the victim assistance form is completed, Freedom Center keeps form for documentation, and they are turned into our HR/Data Entry Department where they are reviewed and properly inputted into tracking software for monthly, quarterly, and yearly reports. Food Box: 3-4 Meat items, canned goods, pasta, fresh produce. Each food box is packaged together for at least a week's worth of meals. These boxes are fair market valued at \$50.00. Freedom Center is projected to give out over 1,000 food boxes this fiscal year. Clothing Assistance: Freedom Center issues clothing assistance that allow clients to receive items from the store. Each clothing assistance comes with 4 outfits including tops and bottoms. 2 pairs of shoes. Package of undergarments and socks. Seasonal wear upon need. Each clothing assistance form is fulfilled totaling a fair market value of \$50.00. Freedom Center estimates to give 100 clothing assistance resources this fiscal year. Household Items: Freedom Center offers household assistance that allows clients to utilize assistance to obtain furniture, appliances, and other household items. These items include couches, stoves, refrigerators, washers, dryers, microwaves, dishes, beds, mattresses, dishes, and cooking utensils. This assistance is properly valued and documented upon request depending on how many household items are needed. The range of these assistances is between \$50.00 and \$200.00. Freedom Center estimates to give 50 Household assistance resources this fiscal year.</p>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$62,464.00	\$62,464.00	0

**Budget Summary Information**

**Budget Summary Information by Budget Category:**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>OOG</b>	<b>CASH MATCH</b>	<b>IN-KIND MATCH</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Personnel	\$249,854.87	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$249,854.87
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$62,464.00	\$62,464.00

**Budget Grand Total Information:**

<b>OOG</b>	<b>CASH MATCH</b>	<b>IN-KIND MATCH</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
\$249,854.87	\$0.00	\$62,464.00	\$312,318.87

## CJAC'S PRESENTATION GUIDELINE:

Applicant Organization: Freedom Center

Project Title: Victim Advocacy and Assistance

Grant Funds Requested: 249,854.87

***This form must be completed for each project submitted to the Criminal Justice Division under the regional Criminal Justice Programs. This form should be filled out and returned to PRPC's Criminal Justice Coordinator. This information is expected to be covered in your grant presentation to the CJAC.***

1. Why is this particular project needed; what problem(s) are you trying to resolve?

Located in Dumas, TX, Freedom Center serves as a crucial support system for four rural counties—Moore, Dallam, Hartley, and Sherman—spanning 4,790 square miles. Our service area, though not densely populated, is home to one of the most diverse communities in Texas, with a combined population exceeding 37,201 people. As the sole agency addressing domestic violence (DV) and sexual assault (SA) in these counties, Freedom Center plays an essential role in providing refuge, resources, and advocacy for victims who may otherwise have nowhere to turn.

In 2024, we have witnessed a troubling rise in domestic violence and sexual assault cases. The ongoing economic crisis has only exacerbated this issue, pushing more victims to seek our services. Financial instability has left many individuals unable to provide for their families, intensifying stress within households and leading to increased incidents of abuse. Forcing people to make a conscious decision to pay bills or be able to provide necessities. For some, economic constraints have created additional barriers, forcing them to endure their suffering in silence. However, as more victims recognize that help is available, our outreach efforts have expanded, bringing vital resources to those in need.

Despite these growing challenges, including economic uncertainty, workforce shortages, and occasional reductions in funding, Freedom Center remains devoted to our mission. We continue to develop innovative solutions to serve victims while ensuring compliance with state and federal regulations. Our commitment to adapting and evolving allows us to meet the ever-changing needs of our community, ensuring that every victim has access to safety, support, and empowerment.

As we move forward, Freedom Center remains dedicated to breaking the cycle of abuse and providing a lifeline to those in crisis. Through Prevention, Advocacy and Outreach we will continue to be a beacon of hope for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in rural Texas.

2. Describe which, if any, of the Regional Program Priorities this project will support. \*\*\*If VAWA, which State priority will this project support?

Freedom Center is positioning the agency to continue meeting all the needs of the Region



Program Priorities. Freedom Center as an agency provides 24/7 services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Services Freedom Center provides include but is not limited to our 24-hour hotline that is answered by our trained staff or a trained volunteer and our 24-hour shelter. Freedom Center also provides medical accompaniment to SANE's, Freedom Center is also continuing to develop strategic plans by expanding our outreach services by reaching out to the community to offer public education and awareness in a variety of ways. Freedom Center provides awareness regarding domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence, Freedom Center utilizes our resources with the food pantry and clothing assistance to ensure no family in our community for without necessities.

Freedom Center believes joining our community is the only way to spread awareness. Freedom Center continues to work with law enforcement agencies and school districts. Working closely with our community outreach team Freedom Center is able to provide awareness in domestic violence and sexual assault, parenting, cultural awareness, gender equality in diverse cultures, and much more. Freedom Center also partners with licensed counselors and mental health professionals to meet the growing need for mental health awareness and assistance for all of our residents.

Freedom Center grasps the importance of having a strong, healthy working relationship with mental health professionals, as the need for them is increasing due to seeing growing numbers of victims dealing with mental health issues, whether directly or indirectly caused by their victimization. Freedom Center wants to ensure that, with changing times, it is vital that the agency constantly study evidence-based research and up-to-date training offered by professionals to ensure that victims of domestic violence and sexual assault are served with compassion and professionalism by highly trained and well-skilled employees and volunteers. Freedom Center wants to be able to prepare our victims to break the cycle of abuse and live healthy, safe lives.

### 3. Who will be responsible for implementing this project and how would that be done?

At Freedom Center, strong leadership and unwavering accountability are at the heart of our mission. Our dedicated Board of Directors provides critical support, oversight, and motivation, ensuring that our agency operates with integrity and effectiveness. Under the leadership of the Executive Director, alongside our program director, shelter manager, and advocates, Freedom Center upholds the highest standards of leadership, character, and professionalism. While maintaining these lofty expectations, we also emphasize empathy, compassion, and a steadfast commitment to supporting survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

A fully staffed, well-trained team is essential to providing the highest quality services to our clients. We prioritize hiring skilled, diverse professionals who bring different dynamics to our agency. By fostering a culture of continuous learning and professional development, we ensure that every team member is equipped to meet the evolving needs of the individuals we serve. Our leadership remains dedicated to accountability and maintaining a healthy, ethical work environment, enabling us to expand our capacity to assist victims effectively.

Freedom Center recognizes that we are one part of a much larger effort to combat domestic violence and sexual assault. We are committed to strengthening our partnerships with law enforcement, community organizations, volunteers, and other vital resources. Through these collaborations, we go beyond simply meeting project measures and goals—we strive to exceed expectations with excellence. Together, we work to create a safer, more supportive environment for survivors, ensuring that no one has to face their journey alone.

4. What factors will be used to gauge the value of this project to your community – how will you measure success?

Freedom Center will gauge success through using client surveys, and carefully documenting and reviewing data logged in RClient software. Freedom Center prides itself on having a diverse board of directors with leaders from other resources throughout the community. Freedom Center works hand and hand in with our schools, community resources, and law enforcement. Holding monthly meetings, discussing dating violence awareness, stalking and Human trafficking awareness, domestic violence, and sexual assault issues, also problems in current strategies. Freedom Center believes that the more we can echo the agency's purpose in the surrounding areas, the greater the chance victims will hear and respond to an agency designed to assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Asking partnering agencies such as Law Enforcement, Moore Options, Bridge, and Casa to complete surveys on Freedom Center gives opportunities for both measures of praise and correction. Ultimately, the greatest measure of success of Freedom Center will be by meeting Freedom Center Place wants to work hand in hand with law enforcement and the district attorney to see more arrests and convictions for offenders who commit acts of domestic and sexual assault.

5. How will this project continue to be supported in the future?

The changes Freedom Center has implemented have not only enhanced our services but also garnered strong support from both the community and law enforcement agencies. As a vital resource, Freedom Center plays a crucial role in assisting law enforcement in their efforts to protect and support victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. With a district attorney dedicated to increasing felony convictions and eliminating family violence and sexual assault, we have the foundation to build strong partnerships and expand our reach to provide even greater services.

While Freedom Center operates as the boots on the ground, our ability to sustain and expand services relies heavily on grant funding. The future of Freedom Center is bright—not only because we prioritize safety but also because we provide a comprehensive range of services. Beyond emergency assistance, we offer awareness programs, training, partnerships, family coaching, legal aid assistance, licensed counseling, and therapy services. This multifaceted approach ensures we are not just serving victims in a single capacity but actively working toward prevention, advocacy, and long-term support.

As the sole agency serving four counties, we recognize our responsibility to continue growing, adapting, and expanding our reach. Our goal is not only to meet immediate needs but also to work toward the long-term objective of reducing and ultimately ending domestic violence and sexual assault. We are committed to strengthening local relationships, increasing community involvement, and securing funding through local, state, and federal grants. With a highly trained, diverse, and well-equipped staff, Freedom Center remains dedicated to providing extraordinary services that make a lasting impact.

6. (VOCA & VAWA Only) What is the total population that your organization serves? How many victims did you provide services to last year? What is the number of victims served last year per capita? What services for victims does your organization offer?

Freedom Center operates in the heart of rural America, covering a vast area of 4,790 square miles. This service region includes Moore, Dallam, Hartley, and Sherman counties—areas noted not only for their extensive land coverage but also for their highly diverse populations. With a combined population exceeding 37,201 people, the region presents a mix of socioeconomic backgrounds, cultural traditions, and community needs that call for tailored support services. Freedom Center in the previous year provided services for over 227 families.

Freedom Center has developed a broad portfolio of services to address the needs of individuals and families impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault. Key service areas include:

**24/7 Emergency Shelter** To provide immediate, safe refuge for victims escaping abusive environments. In rural settings where options may be scarce, round-the-clock availability ensures that no one is left without shelter in times of crisis.

**24/7 Emergency Hotline** to offer continuous crisis intervention and support through a dedicated hotline. Ensuring that victims, or those on their behalf, can access immediate guidance, counseling, and referrals at any hour.

**Transportation Services** to facilitate safe transportation for victims needing to attend critical appointments—whether for forensic interviews, police investigations, or medical examinations such as sexual assault exams.

**Domestic Violence Support Groups** provide safe spaces where survivors can share experiences, gain emotional and peer support, and learn coping strategies together. These groups help break the isolation often felt by survivors and contribute to long-term healing and empowerment.

**Food and Clothing Assistance** by offering vouchers for food and clothing helps address immediate material needs. Integrated with prevention, education, and outreach programs, this service not only meets basic needs but also encourages self-sufficiency and dignity.

**Prevention, Education, and Outreach Programs** Includes a range of seminars, awareness campaigns, and educational workshops designed to inform community members about domestic violence, its prevention, and available resources. By educating the community, Freedom Center works to reduce stigma, empower individuals, and foster a safer environment through proactive measures.

**Agency Name: Panhandle Crisis Center**

**Project Title: Intervention & Support for Victims of Violence**

**Request: \$ 259,441.00**

**Project Abstract:**

For some families, home is not a place of peace or respite; it is a place from which adults and children must flee to escape family violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. For the adults and children exposed to these potentially lethal crimes, the availability of emergency shelter, safety planning, and other crisis services can mean the difference between life and death. Victims face unique challenges and obstacles in their efforts to achieve safety, obtain needed resources, and heal from the effects of the abuse. Sadly, many are unaware of their rights and available resources, and even when victims possess this knowledge, some lack the means simply to access these vital services in areas where no public transportation resources exist. To address these problems, Panhandle Crisis Center will offer 24-hour shelter and hotline, emergency crisis response, counseling, transportation, and advocacy services to victims of these crimes in Ochiltree, Hansford, and Lipscomb counties of the Texas Panhandle. Through this comprehensive approach, the project will seek to address and remove the challenges rural victims face, which often impede access not only to the Center's services but also to other legal and community resources essential to establishing safety and restoration. The Center will employ caseworkers and utilize trauma-informed, evidence-based advocacy practices in the provision of services to victims. For the past 40 years, Panhandle Crisis Center has served victims of abuse. Without these critical services, victims in this rural area would have nowhere to turn for assistance.

**Problem Statement:**

When the crimes of family violence, sexual assault, and child abuse occur in rural communities, victims face unique challenges and obstacles in their efforts to achieve safety, obtain needed resources, and heal from the effects of the abuse. Sadly, many are unaware of their rights and available resources. Even when victims possess this knowledge, some lack the means simply to access these vital community services in areas where no public transportation resources exist. Adults and children victimized by these acts of violence require supportive services in the hours, days, and months following these crimes to inform victims of their rights, enable access to critical resources, engage them in the legal process, and provide them with an opportunity to recover from the devastating effects of abuse.

**Supporting Data:**

In FY2023, Panhandle Crisis Center served 264 victims of family violence, sexual assault, and child abuse in its rural service area. In 2023, which is the most recent year in which detailed Texas Uniform Crime reporting is available for rural counties, law enforcement agencies and Child and Adult Protective Services responded to 216 reports of family violence, sexual assault, child abuse, or elder abuse in Ochiltree, Hansford, and Lipscomb Counties.<sup>1</sup> Poverty, geographic isolation, and lack of transportation affect victims' abilities to escape violence and seek available resources. On average, 65% to 70% of families served by Panhandle Crisis Center have incomes below the federal poverty level. In 2023, 67% of adult clients at the Center met the criteria for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) based upon a screening of household income during intake. The rural service area spans 2,770 square miles. Response time by law enforcement or agency staff in outlying areas may reach 30 minutes. Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) are not available at local rural hospitals in Ochiltree, Hansford, and Lipscomb counties; therefore, travel time merely to obtain access to SANEs averages 4 hours or more round trip to Amarillo, Texas. This does not include the additional hours victims then spend undergoing the forensic exam. Currently, neither public transportation resources nor ride sharing services (taxis, Ubers) exist in Ochiltree, Hansford, and Lipscomb Counties.

1 Sources: 2023 Texas Uniform Crime Reports for Ochiltree, Hansford, and Lipscomb Counties and 2023 Texas Department of Family & Protective Services Data Book.

**Project Approach & Activities:**

The impact of trauma affects survivors' physical and emotional health, perceptions, and behaviors. Panhandle Crisis Center utilizes an advocacy-based model and a trauma-informed approach in its services to victims of family violence and sexual assault. The advocacy-based model focuses on assisting victims in identifying and obtaining vital resources. The trauma-based approach acknowledges that each victim perceives and reacts to trauma differently based upon his/her beliefs, environment, social support systems, cultural influences, and previous trauma history. The effects of violence and the recovery from abuse are influenced by all these factors, necessitating interventions which are responsive to the unique circumstances of individual victims. The rationale for adopting these approaches is the research supporting their efficacy in promoting recovery for victims of family violence and sexual assault.

In order to address the impact of trauma, Panhandle Crisis Center will utilize caseworkers to provide a range of comprehensive services to assist victims and their families. These services will include shelter, advocacy, transportation, safety planning, and peer support. Emergency resource assistance from the Center's donated supply of food, clothing, and furniture will also be provided, as well as assistance accessing the available community and regional services needed for safety and healing.

The project's activities will include Emergency Family Violence Shelter and a range of Crisis Services afforded to both sheltered and non-sheltered victims, including crisis counseling via telephone and face to face at the Center's office, outreach sites, law enforcement agencies, and hospitals. Victims who decline to report victimization and are not subject to mandatory reporting requirements due to age or disability will be afforded the same counseling and supportive services as those who choose to formally report the crimes committed against them.

Advocates will provide safety planning and emotional support, assist victims in understanding legal rights and options, and provide accompaniment to criminal justice agencies and hearings until completion of the case. Furthermore, advocates will assist victims in accessing other essential legal, medical, and social services, which are often necessary to establish safety, permanent housing, and financial independence from offenders. Regardless of the day or hour, the Center's trained staff and volunteers will remain available to respond immediately when victims contact law enforcement or arrive at hospitals for emergency treatment. Our immediate response and continued presence as long as we are needed/requested will serve as a support system for victims and their families as they disclose the victimization, and this support will remain constant as the case progresses through the criminal justice system.

To address the limited transportation resources in the area, advocates will transport victims to children's advocacy centers and local hospitals for forensic interviews or exams, including transportation two hours away to hospitals offering Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) at the victim's preference. In addition, transportation and accompaniment will be provided locally to ensure victims are able to access not only our services but also other local community agencies and resources. Furthermore, caseworkers will travel to outreach areas to provide services to victims at safe locations and transport victims to/from counseling appointments when needed.

The proposed activities truly address the problem by ensuring access to services which address the effects of trauma, inform victims of their rights, offer support through the legal process, assist victims in establishing economic independence from their offenders, and provide an opportunity to recover from the devastating effects of violence. The activities achieve the project goals by providing trained staff who not only possess the

skills necessary to assist victims but also possess knowledge of both internal programs and community resources that seek to impact the lingering obstacles that remain in the months and sometimes years following victimization. Without the additional assistance we provide, victims would not likely report an increased understanding of their rights, resources, and options following victimization.

**Capacity & Capabilities:**

Panhandle Crisis Center has been in operation for 41 years. For the past 40 years, the Center has managed federal/state grants and has maintained a reputation of sound fiscal and programmatic management among its funders. While this funding request represents approximately 27% of the Center's budget for victims' services, over 70% of the Center's operating support is maintained from a variety of other sources, including grants and local community support. Panhandle Crisis Center was established in 1984 by the Perryton Chief of Police and a small group of committed citizens who recognized the need for services to victims of family violence and sexual assault in this rural area. The agency was created to address and remove the barriers victims face in reporting crimes, achieving safety, and accessing needed resources in order to meet basic survival needs and heal from the trauma of abuse. While collaborative partnerships have certainly been formed and maintained over the years to ensure victims' access to services, no specific collaborative partnerships were created for the purpose of this project. The caseworkers employed on this project provide non-licensed peer counseling and advocacy services and receive extensive training prior to assuming their duties, including completion of the Center's 40-hour Sexual Assault Training Program, which is certified by the Office of the Attorney General. Additionally, staff are regularly exposed to continuing education opportunities. The dedicated advocates employed by this project are trained and supervised by the Program Director, a former police dispatcher and Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) Instructor who possesses 10 years of experience responding to victims in crisis. Additionally, both the Finance Director and Shelter Manager have been employed at the Center for 13 years. For the past 31 years, the agency has been guided by an Executive Director who is also a Licensed Professional Counselor.

**Performance Management:**

The Goals of this project are to remove the barriers faced by victims of family violence and sexual assault in reporting victimization and accessing services and to assist victims in achieving restoration of physical, mental, and emotional health to the fullest extent possible.

The Objectives of the project are as follows: Through the comprehensive services provided, victims will be assisted in stabilizing their lives after victimization. 80% of victims served will consequently report that the Center's services 1) increased their sense of safety, 2) increased their knowledge of resources and options, and 3) had a positive impact on their recovery from the effects of abuse.

The Strategies for this project directly relate to the stated problem, goals, and objectives by providing 24-hour crisis response, emergency shelter, and caseworkers to provide information, education, advocacy, and counseling to victims. Victims' disclosure of abuse does not automatically improve their circumstances. In fact, it can often create a myriad of problems, from complete loss of financial support and poverty to an absence of social support systems. Basic physical and emotional safety needs must be resolved before higher level functioning and the work of victim restoration may begin. Increasing victims' knowledge of their rights, resources, and options empowers victims at a time when their sense of control has been stripped from them. Furthermore, increasing victims' knowledge of resources and options strengthens resiliency, particularly in those populations vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. Finally, offering comprehensive services, which combine counseling with assistance accessing a range of needed community resources, assists in removing the barriers victims face and positively impacts their recovery from abuse.

Panhandle Crisis Center will collect data for the three performance objectives by utilizing surveys completed by victims. Surveys are maintained in the client database and are readily available for review by monitors. The Program Director reviews detailed reports generated through the database and compiles statistics for grant reports, while also monitoring whether the project is on target to meet its stated performance measures. This frequent monitoring enables the Center to track progress, to ensure it remains on target to achieve the standards established for the project, and to meet its performance objectives.

**Target Group:**

The target audience of this project consists of adult and child victims of family violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and elder abuse. Victims of sex trafficking may also be served. This project will serve both males and females and is available to all ages. In accordance with Texas law, parental consent will be obtained when required for the provision of services to minors. The geographic area of the project is Ochiltree, Hansford, and Lipscomb Counties of the Texas Panhandle. This rural area has a combined population of 17,681 and spans 2,770 square miles.

**Evidence-Based Practices:**

Panhandle Crisis Center utilizes an advocacy-based model and a trauma-informed approach in its services to victims of family violence and sexual assault. Research supporting the effectiveness of these approaches is discussed below.

CrimeSolutions.gov identifies “Advocacy Interventions for Women Who Experience Intimate Partner Violence” as an effective practice for victims of family violence (<https://crimesolutions.ojp.gov/ratedpractices/55>). According to this effective practice, such advocacy interventions may include a range of services, including “providing legal, housing, and financial advice, facilitating access to and use of community resources such as shelters, emergency housing, and psychological interventions, and providing safety planning advice.” “Ongoing support and informal counseling” are also services provided by advocates with the duration and types of services tailored to the individual needs of victims.

Research supporting an advocacy-based model for victims of sexual assault is also widely available. A 2006 study by Campbell entitled, “Rape Survivors’ Experiences with the Legal and Medical Systems: Do rape victim advocates make a difference?” demonstrates the efficacy of the advocacy-based model in providing support, lowering distress after medical exam, and improving experiences with the legal system. Furthermore, a 2004 study by Wasco, et al., entitled, “A Statewide Evaluation of Services Provided to Rape Survivors” found that advocates provided support and increased victims’ knowledge and understanding of options, and a 2001 study by Campbell, “Preventing the ‘Second Rape:’ Rape Survivors’ Experiences with Community Service Providers” revealed that sexual assault victims perceived their contact with rape crisis centers as beneficial to their recovery.

In addition to an advocacy-based model of services, Panhandle Crisis Center also utilizes a trauma-informed approach in its work with victims of family violence and sexual assault. As described in the National Sexual Violence Resource Center’s manual, “Building Cultures of Care: A Guide for Sexual Assault Services Programs” a trauma-informed approach considers how individual reactions to the trauma are influenced by individual and cultural experiences and focuses on survivors’ strengths and resiliency. As stated in the guide, this approach “comprises six basic elements that are applied to all activities and interactions with agency clients and with agency workers (Fallot & Harris, 2009). These core elements are: safety, trustworthiness, choice, collaboration, empowerment, and cultural relevance (Proffitt, 2010).” Panhandle Crisis Center utilizes these core elements in its trauma-informed services to victims.

Lastly, A Systematic Review of Trauma-Focused Interventions for Domestic Violence Survivors in 2013 from Warsaw, Sullivan, and Rivera focused on intimate partner violence (IPV) while also noting that many of these victims suffer from histories of sexual assault and childhood trauma. The conclusions were as follows, “While it is too early to know definitively which treatments work best for which survivors, evidence suggests that helpful components may include (1) psychoeducation about the causes and consequences of IPV and its traumatic effects; (2) attention to ongoing safety; (3) cognitive and emotional skill development to address trauma-related symptoms and other life goals and concerns; and (4) a focus on survivors’ strengths as well as cultural strengths on which they can draw.” Panhandle Crisis Center’s caseworkers utilize these components in our services to victims.



## Project Activities Information

### Selected Project Activities:

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
Crisis Services	90.00	Caseworkers on this project will provide a range of crisis services, including safety planning, information and referral, accompaniment, access to emergency shelter, transportation, and assistance obtaining crime victims' compensation. Crisis response and intervention will be provided via the 24-hour hour hotline and face-to-face at the Center's offices, law enforcement agencies, hospitals, and outreach sites in the three-county area. Advocates will provide emotional support in addressing the trauma of victimization, assist victims in understanding legal rights and options, and provide accompaniment to criminal justice agencies and hearings until completion of the case. Advocacy is also provided to assist victims in accessing other essential medical, legal, and social services.
Legal Advocacy	10.00	Emergency shelter will be provided to victims of family violence and their children. Sexual assault victims and victims of human (sex) trafficking may also be sheltered for safety reasons. Unaccompanied minors who are victims of family violence or child abuse may be provided emergency shelter in accordance with Texas law, including applicable provisions of the Texas Family Code and Texas Administrative Code. Shelter workers will remain on duty 24 hours a day to provide residents with crisis services, safety planning, food, clothing, counseling, advocacy, information and referrals, and assistance locating safe and affordable housing.

## Measures Information

### Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Average length of stay in shelter (in days).	20
Number of secondary victims / survivors provided shelter.	10
Number of survivors receiving crisis counseling.	220
Number of victims / survivors provided shelter.	20
Number of victims / survivors seeking services who were served.	240
Number of victims seeking services who were not served.	0
Number of victims who requested shelter.	20

## Budget Details Information

### Budget Information by Budget Line Item:

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL	UNIT/%
Personnel	Bookkeeper	Finance Director (Adriana Chavez) 1 FTE 10/1/25 – 9/30/26: Responsible for payroll and bookkeeping functions and submission of financial status reports on this project. Answers the hotline or conducts intakes or crisis services with walk-ins when needed. Rotates on-call duties with other staff to provide crisis response weeknights and weekends. In rare cases, overtime may be incurred. Panhandle Crisis Center requests approval to use OOG funds to pay for overtime incurred in these isolated instances. Overtime is paid to nonexempt employees whose time exceeds 40 hours in the workweek at the rate of time and a half per agency policy (uploaded). In accordance with the agency's compensation policies and salary scale, total annual salary is estimated to be \$43,700 and total annual fringe is estimated to be \$19,763.	\$9,069.00	\$10,220.00	\$0.00	\$19,289.00	30
Personnel	Coordinator	Program Director (Samantha Gonzalez) 1 FTE 10/1/25 – 9/30/26: Responsible for hiring, training, and supervising direct service staff. This employee provides consultation and case management services to project staff to support staff in the provision of direct services to clients and is responsible for monitoring performance measures and completing performance reports. Also provides direct services to victims, including emotional support and safety planning, information and referral, transportation, personal advocacy, and accompaniment. Rotates on-call duties with other staff to provide crisis response weeknights and weekends. In accordance with the agency's compensation policies and salary scale, total annual salary is estimated to be \$59,156 and total annual fringe is estimated to be \$22,737.	\$24,568.00	\$13,648.00	\$0.00	\$38,216.00	47
Personnel	Coordinator	Shelter Manager (Merary Ojeda) 1 FTE 10/1/25 – 9/30/26: Responsible for payroll and bookkeeping functions and submission of financial status reports on this project. Answers the hotline or conducts intakes or crisis services with walk-ins when needed. Rotates on-call duties with other staff to provide crisis response weeknights and weekends. In rare cases, overtime may be incurred. Panhandle Crisis Center requests approval to use OOG funds to pay for overtime incurred in these isolated instances. Overtime is paid to nonexempt employees whose time exceeds 40 hours in the workweek at the rate of time and a half per agency policy (uploaded). In accordance with the agency's compensation policies and salary scale, total annual salary is estimated to be \$43,700 and total annual fringe is estimated to be \$19,763.	\$25,235.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,235.00	50
Personnel	Case Worker	Caseworker #1 (Rosa Ramirez) 1 FTE 10/1/25 – 9/30/26: Provides direct client services primarily to adults. Services include counseling and safety planning, personal advocacy and accompaniment, transportation, information and referral, and criminal and civil justice assistance. Services may be provided face-to-face, by telephone, or via technology depending upon victims' needs. Rotates on-call duties with other staff to provide crisis response weeknights and weekends. In rare cases, overtime may be	36,175.00	\$10,024.00	\$0.00	\$46,199.00	96

		incurred. Panhandle Crisis Center requests approval to use OOG funds to pay for overtime incurred in these isolated instances. Overtime is paid to nonexempt employees whose time exceeds 40 hours in the workweek at the rate of time and a half per agency policy (uploaded). In accordance with the agency's compensation policies and salary scale, total annual salary is estimated to be \$38,720 and total annual fringe is estimated to be \$9,513.					
Personnel	Case Worker	Caseworker #2 (Araseli Bonilla) 1 FTE 10/1/25 – 9/30/26: Provides direct client services among the three-county service area with a focus on children. Services include counseling and safety planning, personal advocacy and accompaniment, transportation, information and referral, and criminal and civil justice assistance. Services may be provided face-to-face, by telephone, or via technology depending upon victims' needs. Rotates on-call duties with other staff to provide crisis response weeknights and weekends. In rare cases, overtime may be incurred. Panhandle Crisis Center requests approval to use OOG funds to pay for overtime incurred in these isolated instances. Overtime is paid to nonexempt employees whose time exceeds 40 hours in the workweek at the rate of time and a half per agency policy (uploaded). In accordance with the agency's compensation policies and salary scale, total annual salary is estimated to be \$33,260 and total annual fringe is estimated to be \$7,667.	\$20,463.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,463.00	50
Personnel	Case Worker	Caseworker #3 (Maria Valles) 1 PTE 10/1/25 – 9/30/26: Provides direct client services primarily to adults. Services include counseling and safety planning, personal advocacy and accompaniment, transportation, information and referral, and criminal and civil justice assistance. Services may be provided face-to-face, by telephone, or via technology depending upon victims' needs. Rotates on-call duties with other staff to provide crisis response weeknights and weekends. In rare cases, overtime may be incurred. Panhandle Crisis Center requests approval to use OOG funds to pay for overtime incurred in these isolated instances. Overtime is paid to nonexempt employees whose time exceeds 40 hours in the workweek at the rate of time and a half per agency policy (uploaded). In accordance with the agency's compensation policies and salary scale, total annual salary is estimated to be \$21,250 and total annual fringe is estimated to be \$1,712.	\$5,740.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,740.00	25
Personnel	Case Worker	Advocate (Valeria Najera) 1 FTE 10/1/25 – 9/30/26: Provides direct client services to adults and children. Services include counseling and safety planning, personal advocacy and accompaniment, transportation, information and referral, and criminal and civil justice assistance. Services may be provided face-to-face, by telephone, or via technology depending upon victims' needs. Rotates on-call duties with other staff to provide crisis response weeknights and weekends. In rare cases, overtime may be incurred. Panhandle Crisis Center requests approval to use OOG funds to pay for overtime incurred in these isolated instances. Overtime is paid to nonexempt employees whose time exceeds 40 hours in the workweek at the rate of time and a half per agency policy (uploaded). In accordance with the agency's compensation	\$21,864.00	\$18,176.00	\$0.00	\$40,040.00	92

		policies and salary scale, total annual salary is estimated to be \$35,535 and total annual fringe is estimated to be \$8,193.					
Personnel	Case Worker	Day Hotline Advocate (Montserrat Reyes) 1 FTE 10/1/25 – 9/30/26: Mans the hotline and reception desk during daytime hours and provides direct client services, including crisis counseling in person or via the hotline, intakes, advocacy, transportation, and accompaniment. Maintains, updates, and distributes the extensive resource and referral list to hotline staff and advocates. Rotates on-call duties with other staff to provide crisis response weeknights and weekends. In rare cases, overtime may be incurred providing client services. Panhandle Crisis Center requests approval to use OOG funds to pay for overtime incurred in these isolated instances. Overtime is paid to nonexempt employees whose time exceeds 40 hours in the workweek at the rate of time and a half per agency policy (uploaded). In accordance with the agency's compensation policies and salary scale, total annual salary is estimated to be \$27,800 and total annual fringe is estimated to be \$16,146.	\$28,565.00	\$12,793.00	\$0.00	\$41,358.00	94
Personnel	Case Worker	Shelter Worker #1 (Mariela Gonzalez) 1 PTE 10/1/25 – 9/30/26: Provides direct client services to shelter residents and hotline callers. Mans the 24-hour hotline, conducts intakes, and provides counseling, safety planning, and information and referrals to hotline callers and shelter residents. In rare cases, overtime may be incurred to ensure shelter/hotline coverage is maintained 24-hours per day. Such cases usually involve inclement weather conditions, unscheduled absences of other shelter workers, or vacant shifts due to turnover. Panhandle Crisis Center requests approval to use OOG funds to pay for overtime incurred in these isolated instances. Overtime is paid to nonexempt employees whose time exceeds 40 hours in the workweek at the rate of time and a half per agency policy (uploaded). In accordance with the agency's compensation policies and salary scale, total annual salary is estimated to be \$18,835 and total annual fringe is estimated to be \$4,345.	\$11,590.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,590.00	50
Personnel	Case Worker	Shelter Worker #2 (Betty Pingree) 1 PTE 10/1/25 – 9/30/26: Provides direct client services to shelter residents and hotline callers. Primarily serves as holiday and relief worker for absences or vacant shelter shifts. Mans the 24-hour hotline during the shelter shift, conducts intakes, and provides counseling, safety planning, and information and referrals to hotline callers and shelter residents. In rare cases, overtime may be incurred to ensure shelter/hotline coverage is maintained 24-hours per day. Such cases usually involve inclement weather conditions, unscheduled absences of other shelter workers, or vacant shifts due to turnover. Panhandle Crisis Center requests approval to use OOG funds to pay for overtime incurred in these isolated instances. Overtime is paid to nonexempt employees whose time exceeds 40 hours in the workweek at the rate of time and a half per agency policy (uploaded). In accordance with the agency's compensation policies and salary scale, total annual salary is estimated to be \$4,300 and total annual fringe is estimated to be \$998.	\$2,649.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,649.00	50

Personnel	Case Worker	Shelter Worker #3 (Shelby Croley) 1 PTE 10/1/25 – 9/30/26: Provides direct client services to shelter residents and hotline callers. Mans the 24-hour hotline, conducts intakes, and provides counseling, safety planning, and information and referrals to hotline callers and shelter residents. In rare cases, overtime may be incurred to ensure shelter/hotline coverage is maintained 24-hours per day. Such cases usually involve inclement weather conditions, unscheduled absences of other shelter workers, or vacant shifts due to turnover. Panhandle Crisis Center requests approval to use OOG funds to pay for overtime incurred in these isolated instances. Overtime is paid to nonexempt employees whose time exceeds 40 hours in the workweek at the rate of time and a half per agency policy (uploaded). In accordance with the agency's compensation policies and salary scale, total annual salary is estimated to be \$14,931 and total annual fringe is estimated to be \$3,449.	\$9,190.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,190.00	50
Personnel	Case Worker	Shelter Worker #4 (Norma Silva) 1 PTE 10/1/25 – 9/30/26: Provides direct client services to shelter residents and hotline callers. Mans the 24-hour hotline during the shelter shift, conducts intakes, and provides counseling, safety planning, and information and referrals to hotline callers and shelter residents. In rare cases, overtime may be incurred to ensure shelter/hotline coverage is maintained 24-hours per day. Such cases usually involve inclement weather conditions, unscheduled absences of other shelter workers, or vacant shifts due to turnover. Panhandle Crisis Center requests approval to use OOG funds to pay for overtime incurred in these isolated instances. Overtime is paid to nonexempt employees whose time exceeds 40 hours in the workweek at the rate of time and a half per agency policy (uploaded). In accordance with the agency's compensation policies and salary scale, total annual salary is estimated to be \$10,625 and total annual fringe is estimated to be \$2,461.	\$6,543.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,543.00	50
Personnel	Case Worker	Shelter Worker #5 (Josefina Banos) 1 FTE 10/1/25 – 9/30/26: Provides direct client services to shelter residents and hotline callers. Mans the 24-hour hotline, conducts intakes, and provides counseling, safety planning, and information and referrals to hotline callers and shelter residents. In rare cases, overtime may be incurred to ensure shelter/hotline coverage is maintained 24-hours per day. Such cases usually involve inclement weather conditions, unscheduled absences of other shelter workers, or vacant shifts due to turnover. Panhandle Crisis Center requests approval to use OOG funds to pay for overtime incurred in these isolated instances. Overtime is paid to nonexempt employees whose time exceeds 40 hours in the workweek at the rate of time and a half per agency policy (uploaded). In accordance with the agency's compensation policies and salary scale, total annual salary is estimated to be \$32,764 and total annual fringe is estimated to be \$7,336.	\$20,050.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,050.00	50
Personnel	Case Worker	Shelter Worker #6 (Martha Romero) 1 FTE 10/1/25 – 9/30/26: Provides direct client services to shelter residents and hotline callers. Mans the 24-hour hotline, conducts intakes, and provides counseling, safety planning, and information and referrals to hotline callers and shelter residents. In rare cases, overtime may be incurred to ensure shelter/hotline coverage is maintained 24-hours per day. Such cases usually involve	\$15,590.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,590.00	50

		inclement weather conditions, unscheduled absences of other shelter workers, or vacant shifts due to turnover. Panhandle Crisis Center requests approval to use OOG funds to pay for overtime incurred in these isolated instances. Overtime is paid to nonexempt employees whose time exceeds 40 hours in the workweek at the rate of time and a half per agency policy (uploaded). In accordance with the agency's compensation policies and salary scale, total annual salary is estimated to be \$25,956 and total annual fringe is estimated to be \$5,224.						
Contractual and Professional Services	Digital Processing-Related Services	Copier Service Contracts: Annual service contracts are necessary to maintain the satisfactory and normal operation of the two copy machines used by that the main office/shelter and outreach office. These contracts provide for routine service, repair, and replacement of items, which is more cost effective for the Center than incurring parts, labor, and mileage expenses to this rural area if problems occurred. Contracts also provide for number of copies and color copy rates before additional fees are assessed, which is also more cost effective than outsourcing printing. Estimated costs for the annual office/shelter service contract is \$1,280 @ 32% to OOG = \$410. Estimated cost of outreach office service contract is \$198 @ 36% to OOG = \$71. Total estimated annual cost is allocated to OOG = \$481.	\$481.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$481.00	0	
Contractual and Professional Services	Housekeeping, Custodial, Building, and Grounds-Related Services	Pest Control Treatment (Shelter & Office): Quarterly pest control treatment for spiders, roaches, and mice is necessary to maintain a safe and sanitary environment for adults and children residing at the family violence shelter and receiving services at the main office. Estimated expenses are as follows: Shelter - \$140 per year @ 50% to OOG = \$70. Office - \$240 per year @ 32% to OOG = \$77. Total estimated annual cost is allocated to OOG = \$147.	\$147.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$147.00	0	
Contractual and Professional Services	Housekeeping, Custodial, Building, and Grounds-Related Services	Snow Removal: This expense is incurred for snow removal from parking areas and walkways and is necessary to ensure clients and advocates have adequate and safe access to the office/shelter facility in inclement weather conditions. Estimated annual snow removal is \$190 @ 32% allocated to OOG.	\$61.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$61.00	0	
Contractual and Professional Services	Housekeeping, Custodial, Building, and Grounds-Related Services	Shelter Fire Sprinkler Alarm System Annual Inspection: Annual fee to inspect the mandatory fire sprinkler alarm system in the shelter is estimated to be \$800 @ 50% to OOG. This is a necessary expense for the safety of adults and children sheltered in the family violence shelter.	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	0	
Contractual and Professional Services	Data Processing, Web Site, and/or	Data Storage Services: Monthly cost for computer backup, software maintenance services on the file server system, and managed email for key staff is \$179.85. This expense is vital to ensure programmatic and fiscal documents stored on computers may be recovered. Total annual cost is estimated to be \$2,158 @ 32% to OOG.	\$691.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$691.00	0	

	Programming Services							
Contractual and Professional Services	Security and Monitoring Services	Security Monitoring Service: The Center incurs a monthly expense for 24-hour security monitoring of the shelter's alarm system. Estimated expense is \$2,220 per year @ 50% to OOG.	\$1,110.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,110.00	0	
Travel and Training	In-State Incidentals and/or Mileage	Local Mileage: Expense for OOG-funded personnel using their personal vehicles to travel to outreach areas, hospitals, schools, and criminal justice entities to serve victims on this project. Travel expenses are typically incurred when agency vehicles are not available. It is the policy of the Panhandle Crisis Center that employees may be reimbursed at the State of Texas mileage reimbursement rate as provided by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. Estimated mileage is 22 miles per month @ 12 months = 264 miles @ estimated 70 cents per mile (2025 TX rate) @ 50% to OOG. (Actual cost allocation would be based upon each staff member's time on the project.)	\$92.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$92.00	0	
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Public Notice, and/or Job Posting	Advertising – Victim Notification: This expense is necessary to inform victims residing in the three-county area of available services through advertisement in newspapers and local media outlets. Estimated cost of advertisement is \$420 per year @ 32% to OOG.	\$134.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$134.00	0	
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Public Notice, and/or Job Posting	Advertisement - Personnel Recruitment: Includes cost of help wanted ads should staff vacancies occur on this project. Costs will be allocated based on actual staff time on project. Estimated cost is \$100 per year @ 32% to OOG.	\$32.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$32.00	0	
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Public Notice, and/or Job Posting	Domain & Web Hosting Services – The Center maintains a website to inform victims of available services. Victims may contact the Center by email via this site. Annual cost to maintain website hosting service and registered domain name for website and email addresses for project staff is estimated to be \$390 year @ 32% to OOG.	\$125.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$125.00	0	
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Cellular, Fax, Pager, and/or Office Telephone	Communication Costs: This includes cost of telephone lines, local service and long distance charges, conferencing, toll free hotline expense, language line interpretation services, fax line, and internet services. These communication costs are \$4,386 per year @ 32% to OOG = \$1,404. Cellular phone expenses, with phones shared by hotline and on-call staff, are estimated be \$936 per year @ 36% to OAG = \$337.	\$1,741.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,741.00	0	
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Network and Server Software and/or Licenses (\$5,000 or less per unit)	Business and Network Software: Software expenses include general computer and network software necessary for effective operations. Expenses include accounting software and payroll subscription for networked computers for processing payroll for employees on this project, as well as carbonite backup, anti-virus, and malware software. Whenever possible, the agency utilizes Tech Soup to obtain business software at greatly reduced prices based on its non-profit status. Total annual software expenses are \$4,640 per year @ 32% allocated to OOG.	\$1,485.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,485.00	0	

Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Network and Server Software and/or Licenses (\$5,000 or less per unit)	Client Database License/User Fees: Client database software license and user fees are necessary for maintaining client records, for statistical reporting of victims' services to funding sources, and for allowing caseworkers to access the system for intakes and service documentation. Estimated cost is \$689.59 per month @ 12 months = \$8,275 per year @ 36% to OOG.	\$2,979.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,979.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Costs for Space (lease or rental)	Outreach Office Rent: Rent at this 384 sq. ft. location from which victims' services are provided in Hansford County is \$250 per month at 12 months = \$3,000 per year @ 36% to OOG.	\$1,080.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,080.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Fidelity Bonding	Fidelity Bond: Required by OOG to cover loss/misuse of funds. Estimated cost is \$733 @ 32% allocated to OOG.	\$235.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$235.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Fidelity Bonding	Abuse & Molestation Insurance endorsement – Abuse and Molestation (\$1,000) and Professional liability coverage (\$2,266) to protect agency and staff against allegations of abuse is estimated to be \$3,266 per year at an estimated 36% to OOG.	\$1,176.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,176.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Office Supplies (e.g., paper, postage, calculator)	Office Supplies – Necessary consumable supplies for client intakes, documentation of services, and associated administrative functions. Examples include pens, paper, postage, file folders, and printer/toner cartridges. Estimated \$1,996 per year @ 32% to OOG.	\$639.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$639.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Project Supplies (e.g., binocular, battery, flexicuff, drug testing kit)	Emergency Shelter Food: Cost of providing emergency food for adults and children residing in the emergency family violence shelter or lodged in hotels. Estimated annual expense is \$750 @ 50% to OOG.	\$375.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$375.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Project Supplies (e.g., binocular, battery, flexicuff, drug testing kit)	Toiletries & Cleaning Supplies (Office & Shelter): These costs include ice melt supplies, which are necessary in winter months to reduce risk of falls on ice for clients and staff at the Center's office and shelter facilities. Toiletries at the office and shelter, such as toilet paper, paper towels, sanitary wipes, and facial tissue, are essential for operations. Shelter toiletries also include occasional over the counter first aid supplies. Per VOCA regulations, only Tylenol and prophylaxis (or the equivalent) will be provided with VOCA funds. Shelter toiletries, such as bath soap, shampoo, diapers, cotton swabs, deodorant, lotion, and personal hygiene items are typically donated. Occasional purchases are necessary when donated supplies are depleted. Cleaning supplies at the shelter and office are also purchased after donated supplies are depleted, such as hand	\$205.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$205.00	0



		soap, all purpose cleaners, disinfectants, and detergents. Annual office costs are estimated to be \$250 @ 32% allocated to OOG for a total of \$80. Annual Shelter Supplies are estimated to be \$250 @ 50% allocated to OOG for a total of \$125.						
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Project Supplies (e.g., binocular, battery, flexicuff, drug testing kit)	Counseling Supplies: Represents cost of consumable supplies, as well as books, games, videos, and other educational materials necessary to assist advocates in the provision of peer counseling services to adult and child victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. \$100 per year @ 36% to OOG.	\$36.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$36.00	0	
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Project Supplies (e.g., binocular, battery, flexicuff, drug testing kit)	Criminal Background Checks: Due to the sensitive nature of the work performed by PCC employees and volunteers and in the interest of client safety, criminal background checks are performed prior to employment of agency staff and/or acceptance of direct service volunteers. Annual expense is estimated to be \$140 @ 36% allocated to OOG. Actual allocation will be per grant funded staff.	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	0	
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Electric, Gas, and/or Water / Wastewater	Shelter Utilities: Shelter utilities at this 2,838 sq. ft. location are estimated to be \$2,242 per year @ 50% to OOG. (Cable television expense excluded.)	\$1,121.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,121.00	0	
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Electric, Gas, and/or Water / Wastewater	Office Utilities: Office utilities at this 6,000 sq. ft. location from which victims' services are provided are estimated to be \$7,100 per year @ 32% to OOG. (Cable television expense excluded.)	\$2,272.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,272.00	0	
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Electric, Gas, and/or Water / Wastewater	Donation Center Utilities: This site is an agency-owned storage building located on the Center's property from which essential furniture and household items are provided free of charge to victims fleeing domestic violence. Utilities at this 2,160 sq. ft storage building are estimated to be \$900 per year @ 50% to OOG.	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$450.00	0	
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Vehicle Operating Cost (e.g., fuel, lubricants, maintenance, storage)	Vehicle Operating Expenses for agency-owned vehicles: Includes insurance, fuel, lubricants, maintenance, tire repair/replacement, tags & inspection renewal fees for OOG-funded staff's use of agency-owned vehicles. Transportation typically occurs within Texas Panhandle but may include rare but necessary transportation out of state for victims to access vital legal or social services. For Vehicle #1, primarily driven by Caseworker #2, total insurance (\$3,010) fuel (\$750) and maintenance (\$200) expenses are estimated to be \$3,960 @ estimated 50% to OOG = \$1,980. For remaining 2 vehicles, used primarily by Caseworker #1 and but also shared by shelter and other caseworkers, estimated insurance (\$2,500) fuel (\$1,420) and maintenance (\$151) expenses are estimated to be \$4,071 @ an estimated 75% to OOG = \$3,053. Total OOG	\$5,033.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,033.00	0	

		vehicle operating expenses are estimated to be \$5,033. (Actual allocation will be based upon staff time and use.)					
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**Budget Summary Information**

**Budget Summary Information by Budget Category:**

CATEGORY	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL
Personnel	\$237,291.00	\$64,861.00	\$0.00	\$302,152.00
Contractual and Professional Services	\$2,890.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,890.00
Travel and Training	\$92.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$92.00
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	\$19,168.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$19,168.00

**Budget Grand Total Information:**

OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL
\$259,441.00	\$64,861.00	\$0.00	\$324,302.00

## CJAC'S PRESENTATION GUIDELINE:

Applicant Organization: Panhandle Crisis Center, Inc.

Project Title: Intervention & Support for Victims of Violence

Grant Funds Requested: \$259,441

***This form must be completed for each project submitted to the Criminal Justice Division under the regional Criminal Justice Programs. This form should be filled out and returned to PRPC's Criminal Justice Coordinator. This information is expected to be covered in your grant presentation to the CJAC.***

1. Why is this particular project needed; what problem(s) are you trying to resolve?

For some families, home is not a place of peace; it is a place from which adults and children must flee to escape family violence, sexual assault, child abuse, or elder abuse. In 2023, which is the most recent year in which detailed Texas Uniform Crime Reporting is available, law enforcement agencies and Child/Adult Protective Services responded to 216 reports of family violence, sexual assault, and child/elder abuse in Ochiltree, Hansford, and Lipscomb Counties. During this same period, Panhandle Crisis Center served 264 victims face-to-face. For adults and children exposed to these potentially lethal crimes, the availability of emergency shelter and crisis services can mean the difference between life and death.

Even after basic physical safety needs are met, victims continue to face difficult decisions and a myriad of problems. Choices to flee violence or report abuse often result in victims experiencing increased threats and intensified violence, as well as economic and emotional abuse, poverty, homelessness, isolation, and loss of support systems. These issues often require the ability to access various vital community and legal resources. It serves no purpose to advise a victim of numerous options when lack of transportation, language barriers, or poverty prevent them from accessing the referral. Thus, Panhandle Crisis Center plays a vital role in removing the barriers victims face simply *accessing* needed resources, often through providing transportation, accompaniment, and interpreter services at other community agencies. In addition to advocacy, the Center provides counseling/supportive services simultaneously to address the effects of trauma, which negatively impact physical and mental health. Whereas the goal of other agencies may be to provide only their specific service with quality and care, the goal of Panhandle Crisis Center is much broader and more challenging when addressing the problems victims face: to assist victims in achieving restoration. We recognize this can only be possible when victims have access to not only our services but also to others. There are no other shelters or victim advocacy centers in this rural area. Therefore, without these services, victims would have nowhere to turn for assistance accessing the available community resources and legal services needed following victimization.

2. Describe which, if any, of the Regional Program Priorities this project will support. \*\*\*If VAWA, which State priority will this project support?

This project primarily addresses three of the FY26 Regional Program Priorities: Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking. Panhandle Crisis Center also serves victims in the remaining two priority areas, Mental Health and Substance Abuse. In addition to the Center's services, victims experiencing these complex issues are provided with assistance

accessing specialized resources through information and referral, advocacy, and transportation to local or regional service providers.

3. Who will be responsible for implementing this project and how would that be done?

This project will utilize an evidence-based advocacy model and a trauma-informed approach to provide services to victims in Ochiltree, Hansford, and Lipscomb counties of the Texas Panhandle.

Because this is a continuation project, caseworkers will continue to provide the range of comprehensive services already available to assist victims and their families. These services include 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, transportation, advocacy, accompaniment, safety planning, and peer support. Furthermore, these advocates will assist victims in accessing other essential legal, medical, and social services, which are often necessary to establish safety, permanent housing, and financial independence from offenders. Accompaniment to criminal justice agencies and hearings will also occur until completion of the case. Bilingual advocates will be employed to remove language barriers and provide services sensitive to the unique needs, culture, and trauma histories of all survivors. Services will be provided at the Center's main office and shelter in Perryton and at outreach sites in Hansford, and Lipscomb Counties. Regardless of the day or hour, the Center's trained staff and volunteers will remain available to respond immediately when victims contact law enforcement or arrive at hospitals for emergency treatment. Our immediate response and continued presence as long as we are needed will serve as a support system for victims and their families as they disclose victimization. Panhandle Crisis Center is the one constant on which victims rely as they are referred from one service provider to another. Caseworkers serve as advocates to ensure victims are able to obtain critical resources, including financial aid and access to the Center's supply of food, clothing, furniture, and school supplies when impoverished families fleeing violence require these basic resources.

Panhandle Crisis Center has spent the past 41 years serving victims of family violence and sexual assault and working to create access to the services needed following victimization. The Program Director of Panhandle Crisis Center will provide supervision of caseworkers and oversight of the project. The agency is led by an Executive Director, a licensed professional counselor who possesses over 33 years of experience serving victims, implementing programs, and managing federal and state funds.

4. What factors will be used to gauge the value of this project to your community – how will you measure success?

The Goals of this project are to remove the barriers faced by victims of family violence and sexual assault in reporting victimization and accessing services and to assist victims in achieving restoration of physical, mental, and emotional health to the fullest extent possible.

Success will be measured by victims' responses to anonymous surveys. It is estimated that 80% of victims served will report that the Center's services 1) increased their sense of safety, 2) increased their knowledge of resources and options, and 3) had a positive impact on their recovery from the effects of abuse.

The factors for measuring success directly relate to the stated problem in several ways. Basic physical and emotional safety needs must be resolved before higher level functioning and the work of victim restoration may begin. Increasing victims' knowledge of their rights, resources, and options empowers victims at a time when their sense of control has been stripped from them. Furthermore, increasing victims' knowledge of resources and options strengthens resiliency, particularly in those populations vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. Finally, victims' disclosures of abuse, regardless of the amount of time that has passed, do not automatically improve their circumstances. In fact, it can often create a myriad of problems, from complete loss of financial support and poverty to an absence of social support systems. The work that must be done by victims to address the trauma is difficult and challenging. The ultimate goals of any victim service agency are to provide the foundation for victims to begin the process of restoration and to truly serve as a resource to victims. Victims' assessments of whether services had a positive impact on their recovery are vital to informing and shaping the services of the agency as we seek to assess the effectiveness of our services and remain responsive to those we serve.

5. How will this project continue to be supported in the future?

It is not possible to sustain this project at the same level of services should this funding be discontinued. These funds enable Panhandle Crisis Center to provide comprehensive services to victims of family violence and sexual assault. The Center incurs the cost of operating 24-hours per day to provide emergency hotline and shelter services. Because victims rely upon caseworkers to provide these vital services, caseworkers' salaries comprise the majority of our annual operating budget. If funding for this project could not be sustained, the Center would not close; however, the availability of services would be dramatically altered, and the outcomes would be greatly diminished. The number of caseworkers would be reduced to what the budget could sustain. Services would likely focus on emergency shelter and immediate crisis response following family violence or sexual assault, but waiting lists for counseling, advocacy, and other supportive services would be necessary, and the results would be devastating for victims. Victim restoration cannot be achieved when fundamental services are lacking. As a rural service provider, we would prefer to be less dependent upon federal/state funding sources to support vital services, but rural crisis centers lack the population and fundraising base required to sustain a project of this size. These funds have significantly improved our ability to effectively serve victims, resulting in greater community awareness and referrals and a reputation for comprehensive services which truly foster victim restoration. Therefore, we must continue to pursue this funding with the knowledge that we are able to demonstrate through performance measures and the number of victims served both the need for our services and the positive outcomes that can be achieved.

6. (VOCA & VAWA Only) What is the total population that your organization serves? How many victims did you provide services to last year? What is the number of victims served last year per capita? What services for victims does your organization offer?

Counties Served: Ochiltree, Hansford, and Lipscomb

Total Population: 17,681 (July 2023 Census estimates)

Victims served in 2024: 241 (face-to-face)

Number served per capita: 1.4%

Services Offered by Panhandle Crisis Center:

- 24-hour Crisis Hotline
- 24-hour Emergency Family Violence Shelter
- 24-hour Crisis Response at hospitals or law enforcement agencies
- Emergency Transportation (to shelter or sexual assault exams)
- Accompaniment to forensic interviews and exams
- Advocacy for legal, medical, and social services
- Interpreter Services
- Crisis Intervention and Safety Planning
- Peer Counseling
- Support Groups
- Accompaniment to hospitals, prosecutors' offices, and courts
- Transportation to community resources
- Financial Aid (Food, clothing, rent/utility assistance, attorneys' fees)
- Information & Referral
- Employment Assistance
- Education about victims' rights and resources / public education

All services to victims are free.