

Grant Subaward #: VW21 390120

Subrecipient: County of Humboldt

Project Narrative

1.Problem Statement

<u>Problem Statement</u>

Funding through Cal OES is VITAL to providing comprehensive victim services. County resources are unable to keep up with the increasing victim population. Cal OES funding equals Personnel; Personnel equals Victims receiving services.

2.Plan

Plan

Objective 1: During the grant year, HCDAVWP will continue to deliver mandatory services as outlined in the Program Guidelines to perform the activities mandated in Sections 13835.4 through 13835.5 of the Penal Code and meet the Program's objectives of providing services to 500 new victims and 10 witnesses in 2020-2021.

HCDAVWP will continue to distribute Program Brochures and Crisis Cards, which contain emergency hotline numbers, provide in-services to law



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enforcement, hospitals and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) which serve victims. Program staff will continue to serve on local crime-related task forces, committees, and councils through this grant.

Objective 2: Obtain training for our 2.0 FTE Mass Victimization Advocates (MVA's):

HCDAVWP Mass Victimization Advocates (MVA's) to develop a victim assistance plan to support and enhance immediate response and recovery efforts and establish readiness in response to crime-related mass victimization/terrorism incidents. The designated MVA's will continue to work toward developing a comprehensive crisis response/mass victimization assistance plan, a victim assistance crisis response protocol, develop and implement mutual-aid Memorandums of Understandings with VW Centers in the Northern Crisis Response Region. The MVA's will continue meeting with local allied service providers to identify VW's role in the emergency response plan, conduct outreach and participate in community meetings to provide information about trauma-informed response, conduct community outreach and education, management and technology supplies and/or other necessary resources required for deployment, establish an MVA's emergency fund, initiate



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all MVA's objectives within the current Grant Subaward performance period, attend CCVAA 40-hour Entry Level Training, CCVAA Crisis Response Advocate Training, Mass Victimization Northern Regional Meetings, additional trainings relevant to related subject matter to mass victimization:

October 2021

Await Grant Award

November 2021

Northern Regional Mass Victimization Meeting

in Redding, CA

December 2021

Online FEMA Training and other related subject

matter to Mass Victimization

January 2022

Work toward meeting all the Mass Victimization

objectives, although not all may be

accomplished within the current Grant Subaward

performance period

February 2022

Northern Regional Mass Victimization Meeting

in Redding, CA

March 2022

Work toward meeting all the Mass Victimization

objectives, although not all may be



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accomplished within the current Grant Subaward

performance period

April 2022 Online FEMA Training and other related subject

matter to Mass Victimization

May 2022 Northern Regional Mass Victimization Meeting

in Redding, CA

June 2022 Work toward meeting all the Mass Victimization

objectives, although not all may be

accomplished within the current Grant Subaward

performance period

July 2022 Work toward meeting all the Mass Victimization

objectives, although not all may be

accomplished within the current Grant Subaward

performance period

August 2022 Northern Regional Mass Victimization Meeting

in Redding, CA



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Location to be determined

Due to COVID-19, the following trainings have not been scheduled at this time: CCVAA 40-hour Entry and advanced Level, and CCVAA Crisis Response Advocate.

Objective 3: Training for Mass Victimization Advocates (MVA's) and Victim Witness Program Specialists (VWPS):

HCDAVWP will send DA Victim Witness staff to the following trainings:

MVA's

CCVAA Crisis Response Advocate Training

To Be Determined

MVA's & VWPS

CCVAA 40-hour Entry-Level Advocate Training

To Be Determined

VWPS

CCVAA Advanced-Level Advocate Training

To Be Determined

MVA & VWPS

Northern Regional Mass Victimization Meetings

Nov. 2021, Feb. 2022, May 2022, and Aug. 2022

in Redding, CA



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MVA's & VWPS

FEMA Online Training

MVA's & VWPS

On-line trainings relevant to related subject matter to mass

victimization

Objective 4: To meet the increasing demand for Domestic Violence

Restraining Orders and still provide grant-mandated services:

HCDAVWP will provide temporary restraining order (TRO) information and assistance when appropriate. We will continue to refer clients to the County Self-Help Office which offers free TRO workshops multiple times a week at the County Courthouse. In addition, we will train community and Tribal advocates on the Restraining Order process.

Approximately 70% of the referrals come from the District Attorney's Office, and 15% of referrals come from law enforcement, which includes Child Welfare. The remaining 15% comes from community-based agencies such as the local Rape Crisis Center, Women's Shelter, and Tribal Social Services. The constant focus on outreach and promoting public awareness increases referrals to the program.

Objective 5: To meet the needs of the community and promote public awareness:



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HCDAVWP will focus on outreach to underserved communities and promote awareness and coordination efforts with community-based organizations to assist victims who are hearing impaired, mentally or physically challenged, elderly and/or in need of translation services.

The Humboldt Access Project is a CBO, which provides support services for people with physical disabilities and one that our program has been working with for many years. Services include counseling, parenting classes, stress management, and grief counseling. Easter Seals is another CBO, which provides rehabilitative services as well as support. The Senior Resource Center in Eureka is a multifaceted agency whose services include adult day health care and senior legal services. In addition, HCDAVWP works closely with Adult Protective Services. This relationship is critical when a family member or other caregiver has victimized an older person. Translation services have always been a concern and continue to be limited. Information on Certified Translators is maintained through the County Clerk, as well as with the District Attorney's Office. Our program will continue to work to build/strengthen relationships with these entities to offer translation alternatives to our victims and witnesses.



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HCDAVWP utilize volunteers from the community procured through other CBOs, such as the County Board of Education, Senior Resource Center, Local Youth Groups and the local University and College. Our current Volunteer completes a monthly Volunteer Time Sheet to record and capture her time donated to this program. Her duties include promoting awareness of program services at community outreach events. This includes participating/tabling at local Health Fairs, Rape Crisis Take Back the Night events, Victim Rights Awareness Week activities, Tribal events, and College of the Redwoods and Humboldt State University crime victim outreach events. Recruiting new volunteers is a challenge due to the high cost of the background check and fingerprinting required by the District Attorney's Office. Since grant funds cannot pay for these expenses, our program has found other ways to meet the volunteer requirements. High School Students, Future Farmers of America (FFA) and 4-H Youth volunteers provide "Personal Comfort Packs" for crime victims all year long. Each pack includes personal care items that are distributed by Victim Witness staff.

Field visits are conducted by the HCDAVWP upon the request of the District Attorney's Office, law enforcement, medical facilities, as well as victims



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and/or family members. Crimes warranting field visits are usually homicides, attempted homicides, or drunk-driving incidents.

3.Capabilities & Implementation

Capabilities & Implementation

The County and the Office of the District Attorney are committed to assisting victims of violent crimes and believe the implementation of this program would greatly enhance services to victims. The HCDAVWP has been providing services to victims since 1982 with OCJP, Cal OES, Cal EMA and Cal OES funding. Implementation of the program is possible because of the highly trained, committed staff that has been hired for the program. Currently this entails nine (9) FTE Program Specialists which includes one (1) FTE Mass Victimization Advocate.

Organizationally, the Coordinator answers directly to the District Attorney.

DA Victim Witness Staff consists of seventeen (17) people, sixteen (16) are under the direction of the Program Coordinator: Eight (8) FTE Program Specialists, Two (2) FTE Mass Victimization Advocate (Program Specialist), One (1) FTE Administrative Analyst, One (1) FTE Legal Office Assistant and five (5) Volunteers.



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Cal OES Victim Witness (VW) funds four (4) FTE Program Specialists, one (1) FTE Mass Victimization Advocate (Program Specialist) Cal OES

Unserved/Underserved Victim Advocacy & Outreach Program (UV) funds two

(2) FTE Program Specialists and one (1) .25 Administrative Analyst. Cal OES Child Advocacy Center Program (KC) Grant funds two (2) FTE Program Specialists and one (1) .25 Administrative Analyst. The County Measure Z monies fund one (1) FTE Legal Office Assistant and one (1) FTE Program Coordinator. In our proposed implementation we are requesting (6) FTE Program Specialists Specialist which includes two (2) FTE Mass Victimization Advocate and one (1) .25 Administrative Analyst which will be paid from the grant to allow for increased knowledge and additional collaboration for the enhancement of much needed services to crime victims.

HCDAVWP staff regularly networks with North Coast Rape Crisis Team and Two Feathers Native American Family Services. Our staff meets annually to update MOUs and participates regularly on councils, task forces and committees. Specific areas of coordination are outlined in the operational agreements from our various partners. The agencies also appear together at media functions, which include Victim Rights Awareness Week activities, and routinely assist each other to ensure victims receive the best service available.



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HCDAVWP strives to provide direct services to ALL victims of crime. Direct services include, but are not limited to, all mandated services, as well as optional services listed by Cal OES by participation in a weekly Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Liaison committee meeting sponsored by the District Attorney's Office. Cases proceeding through the court system are discussed, as well as trends, new arrests, and agency issues.

In-services at law enforcement agencies, with emphasis on the Restraining
Order process and presentation of Program services to the College of the
Redwoods Police Academy (upon request) have proven successful.

The District Attorney, who is designated as the Project Director for the grant, will provide oversight of the program's goals and objectives to ensure the effective and successful administration of the grant.

The HCDAVWP "<u>After Hours/Emergency</u>" contact information is: Joyce Moser, VW Program Coordinator, 1-707-498-3980.