

Agency Name: Abigail's Arms, Cooke County Family Crisis Center
Grant/App: 2911203 **Start Date:** 10/1/2019 **End Date:** 9/30/2020
Project Title: Cooke County Victims Assistance Grant

Profile Information

Applicant Agency Name: Abigail's Arms, Cooke County Family Crisis Center
Project Title: Cooke County Victims Assistance Grant
Division or Unit to Administer the Project: N/A
Address Line 1: P O Box 1221
Address Line 2: 1600 N Aspen Road
City/State/Zip: Gainesville Texas 76241-1221
Start Date: 10/1/2019
End Date: 9/30/2020
Counties within Project's Impact Area: Cooke

Project Director

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Salutation: Ms.
Position: Development Director

Project Abstract :

This project will allow victims of violent crime to have access to a 24 hour/ 7 day a week hotline and trained volunteers and/or staff. The project also supports emergency shelter services and individualized services i.e., safety planning, advocacy, crisis intervention, sexual assault exams, mental health support such as therapy, counseling, support groups, information and referrals and assistance in navigating the judicial and legal systems. Survivors will always be offered choices when accessing services and there is never a charge for any service provided. These services are crucial to empower victims to become self-sufficient and break the cycle of violence in their lives and the lives of their children while restoring their physical, mental, emotional health.

Problem Statement :

Victims of violent crime cross all socio-economic and geographic lines. However, the per capita rate of domestic violence and sexual assault victimization is higher in rural areas. Due to the isolated geographical landscape a greater preponderance is posed and an increased sense of power, control and manipulation emerges from abusive partners. Rural survivors often lack a clear understanding of the definition of domestic violence or sexual assault in all its many forms, especially those that are non-physical. They are also frequently uninformed about their rights and access to resources. Rural women overwhelmingly report that the greatest barriers to leaving their abusers include low-functioning or limited education, establishing and maintaining a salary-sufficient career and transportation. The prevailing barriers that survivors encounter arbitrarily cause a distinctive intersection between their lack of resources, economic stability and inability to discourage first time perpetration in their children, thus unknowingly perpetrating cycles of generational violence. This project enables the agency to address the barriers that prevent many victims from receiving the services needed for restoration.

Supporting Data :

Abigail's Arms is the only comprehensive victim services provider in Cooke County and has served victims of violent crime for over 35 years. In 2016, Abigail's Arms served 794 victims (Adult and child sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking, stalking and other victimizations). In 2017, the agency served 1,031 victims and in 2018, the agency served 1,218 victims. Each year, the number of victims served increases. This continuation project supports the ongoing and growing need for victim assistance in Cooke County.

Project Approach & Activities:

Abigail's Arms utilizes a trauma informed/ empowerment based model as a basis for its project approach. Trauma informed care is an organizational structure and treatment framework that involves understanding, recognizing, and responding to the effects of all types of trauma. Trauma Informed Care also emphasizes physical, psychological and emotional safety for both victims and providers, and helps survivors rebuild a sense of control and empowerment. It focuses on survivors becoming a part of the solution by providing them with the knowledge and self-esteem tools to prevent re-victimization, develop healthy relationships to move forward in their lives free from the devastation of their victimization. It can be explained in two categories: core services and comprehensive services. Core services meet survivor's immediate needs and comprehensive services provides additional opportunities for healing and empowerment. Core services provided by the agency are; Emergency hotline and shelter, crisis intervention and crisis counseling. Comprehensive services include; Case management, therapy, legal assistance, advocacy/accompaniment, sexual assault exams and other supportive services. Additionally, the agency has participated in the TCOG region community planning process in all focus areas and specifically in the area of victims' services. The applicant's proposed project addresses the number one priority for Victim Services Projects, i.e., the proposed project will provide essential victim services related to family violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. In addition, as an overall criminal justice program, it supports the regional goal and priority to reduce the duplication of services by providing for coordination of effort between what has therefore been three separate projects funded with Victims of Crime Act funds. CJ Durbin-Higgins Director, Criminal Justice and Emergency Planning Texoma Council of Governments 903-813-3552 chiggins@texoma.cog.tx.us www.tocogj.org

Capacity & Capabilities:

Abigail's Arms has a history of providing services to victims of sexual assault since 1983 when it opened its doors. In 1989, the agency recognized the need to add services for victims of domestic violence and also began receiving State and Federal support. In 2000, the agency started including services for victims of dating violence and stalking to become more holistic for the clients they were seeing. In 2014, the agency started serving clients through its 24 hr. Emergency Shelter. Since 1989, the agency has had the fiduciary responsibility to oversee Federal, State and local funding. It has successfully managed its awards and has never been on financial hold for any questionable expenditures. Staff participating in this project have completed the certified Office of Attorney General's Advocate training and /or have degrees in human services fields and/or a minimum of 5 years experience in victim's services. Additionally, the organization has a proven record of 35+ years working with victims of violent crime. Abigail's Arms collaborative relationships are well-supported by its community partners and stake holders. The agency maintains a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) that includes membership and active support from; the Cooke County Sheriff's Office, Gainesville/Lindsay/Muenster/Valley View and Oak Ridge Police Departments, North Central Texas Medical Center, SANE's, Cooke County District and County Attorney's and Child Protective Services.

Performance Management :

The overall goal of this project is to provide core and comprehensive services to victims of crime in Cooke County. The objective of the project will be to enhance the short and long term needs of victims (residential and non-residential) by 80%. The agency will provide assistance with safety planning, crisis intervention/counseling, sexual assault exams and forensic interviews, support and problem solving, access to needed resources, and provide personal advocacy to reduce the impact of the crisis. The agency will measure these outcomes through quarterly reporting (mandated by funding sources), client surveys, exit evaluations and face-to-face interviews. All data is collected in a widely used data based system called Osnum. The system was

recommended by the Texas Council on Family Violence and supports many victim service programs in the state of Texas.

Data Management:

The agency utilizes a comprehensive data collection base called Osnum. This program is used widely across the State of Texas and allows for several funding sources (including, VOCA, OAG and HHSC) to download pertinent service reports as well performance reports. Additionally, Cooke Co. Sheriff's Office--Coordinate law enforcement activities relating to crime victim issues, Gainesville Police Department--Coordinate law enforcement activities relating to crime victim issues, Cooke Co. District Attorney's Office--Coordinate judicial activities relating to crime victim issues, Muenster Memorial Hospital--Coordinate medical activities relating to crime victim activities, Adult Protective Department--Coordinate adult probation department activities relating to crime victim issues, Juvenile Probation Department-- Coordinate juvenile probation dept. activities relating to crime victim issues, TX. Dept. of Family & Protective Services--Coordinate child protective activities relating to crime victim issues, CASA--Coordinate child protective activities relating to crime victim issues.

Target Group :

The target populations this project serves are; victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking in Cooke County, Texas. The total population of Cooke County is 39,229 and of that total, 76.2% identified as Caucasian, 3.3% of the county is identified as African American and 17.8% is identified as Hispanic or Latino. Abigail's Arms is located in a rural area, additional challenges surface in meeting the need of the target population. Currently, the agency makes strategic efforts to identify victims throughout the county. The agency utilizes community partnerships with law enforcement, hospitals, churches and social/civic groups, etc. to assist with providing information about services. However, this type of outreach is sometimes strained and the agency is not always able to rely on the partner's involvement. Hence creating a crucial gap in reaching some of our targeted population.

Evidence-Based Practices:

Abigail's Arms provides evidenced-based practices by utilizing a trauma-informed and empowerment based advocacy models. It is an organizational structure and treatment framework that involves understanding, recognizing, and responding to the effects of all types of trauma. Trauma Informed Care also emphasizes physical, psychological and emotional safety for both victims and providers, and helps survivors rebuild a sense of control and empowerment. It focuses on survivors becoming a part of the solution by providing them with the knowledge and self-esteem tools to prevent re-victimization, develop healthy relationships to move forward in their lives free from the devastation of sexual assault. It can be explained in two categories: core services and comprehensive services. Core services meet survivor's immediate needs and comprehensive services provides additional opportunities for healing and empowerment. Supporting evidence:

[http://www.air.org/sites/default/files/downloads/report/Trauma-](http://www.air.org/sites/default/files/downloads/report/Trauma-Informed%20Care%20White%20Paper_October%202014.pdf)

[Informed%20Care%20White%20Paper_October%202014.pdf](http://www.air.org/sites/default/files/downloads/report/Trauma-Informed%20Care%20White%20Paper_October%202014.pdf) This best practices model is cited from:

<https://www.samhsa.gov/nctic/trauma-interventions>, the Texas Council of Family Violence, Health and Human Services Commission and the Texas Administrative Code.

http://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/nsvrc_publications_article_sadi_building-comprehensive-sexualassault-programs.pdf and [http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=1&pt=15&ch=379](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=1&pt=15&ch=379)

The agency's employees, volunteers and affiliate partners all receive training in these models and how to actively apply it with survivors identified in this project.

Selected Project Activities:

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
Crisis Services	46.00	46% of this project's activities will be emergency services provided to help victims during their crisis. Services will include, but are not limited to, hotline, crisis counseling, phone and in-person information and/or

		referrals, accompaniment, advocacy for all necessary crisis procedures (medical, law enforcement, legal, shelter, etc.), transportation, emergency financial assistance, and crime victim compensation filing.
Forensic Interviews	6.00	6% of this project's activities will be to conduct evidentiary interviews with survivors of abuse conducted by one of our trained professional Forensic Interviewers in a friendly environment. Interviews will be videotaped and will allow input from representatives of diverse agencies. We prefer one comprehensive interview in order to reduce the potential for further victim trauma. Results of the interview will be used not only for law enforcement and prosecution purposes but also for social services, personal advocacy, case management, and mental health purposes. Interviews will be conducted in the context of a multidisciplinary investigation and diagnostic team. Our Forensic Interviewers are trained to conduct interviews appropriate to the development age and abilities of children and vulnerable adults. We are not a prosecution or law enforcement organization.
Legal Advocacy	18.00	18% of this project's activities will be legal assistance. The legal advocate will provide information and referral to determine legal remedies for child custody, victims rights issues and other legal challenges faced by victims.
Peer Support Groups	11.00	11% of this project's activities will include regular meetings of survivors experiencing similar types of traumas providing mutual peer support.
Professional Therapy and Counseling	8.00	8% of this project's activities will include counseling, therapy and other care performed by a licensed professional. Therapy is provided through a trauma-informed care model that empowers clients to develop stronger mechanisms for making healthy choices. Therapists also conduct psycho-social assessments and develop service plans to address clients needs.
Protective Order Assistance	1.00	1% of this project's activities will be protective order assistance. Legal representation will be provided to victims by program staff and/or staff attorneys to obtain protective orders.
Shelter	10.00	10% of this project's activities will include providing a safe place for victim/survivors and their children. Services include food, clothing, transportation and service referrals.

Measures Information

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Average length of stay in shelter (in days).	37
Number of counseling hours provided to survivors.	2133
Number of final protective orders granted / obtained.	6
Number of final protective orders requested.	14
Number of forensic interviews conducted.	159

Number of secondary victims / survivors provided shelter.	116
Number of support group sessions held.	1908
Number of survivors assisted through the legal process.	482
Number of survivors participating in support groups.	288
Number of survivors receiving counseling / therapy.	233
Number of survivors receiving crisis counseling.	1218
Number of temporary protective orders granted / obtained.	14
Number of temporary protective orders requested.	14
Number of times survivors are accompanied to court.	60
Number of victims / survivors provided shelter.	221
Number of victims / survivors seeking services who were served.	1218
Number of victims seeking services who were not served.	0
Number of victims who requested shelter.	194

Budget Information by Budget Line Item:

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL	UNIT/%
Personnel	Chief Financial Officer (CFO)	The finance director assists in creating budgets, creating financial status reports, and ensuring grant funds are managed appropriately, plans and implements strategies pertaining to goals of the grant. This positions annual compensation is \$52,700.00 and the fringe benefits are \$4,031.00 for a total of \$56,731.00. The percentage of time this position will work on this grant is 30%. Aaron Davis.	\$17,019.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17,019.30	30
Personnel	Advocate	Advocate - This position will provide victims of crime with transportation and accompaniment services to Residential Clients. These services include various medical and job related appointments as well as court and other legal appointments. This position will also ensure basic needs are supported, including safety, security. This full time positions annual compensation is \$25,000 and the fringe benefit is \$1,900.00 for a total of \$26,900.00. The total percentage of salary for this position will be 100%. Michael Bonn.	\$26,900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$26,900.00	100

Personnel	Advocate	Residential Advocate - This position will provide victims of crime with navigating through residential community living. This includes, safety planning, advocacy, support, transportation, residential intakes and information and referral. This positions annual compensation is \$25,000.00 and the fringe benefits are \$1,912.00 for a total of \$26,912.00. The percentage of time this position will work on this grant is 50%. Brianna Espinosa .	\$13,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,500.00	50
Personnel	Advocate	Residential Advocate - This position will provide victims of crime with navigating through residential community living. This includes, safety planning, advocacy, support, transportation, residential intakes and information and referral. This positions annual compensation is \$25,000.00 and the fringe benefits are \$1,912.00 for a total of \$26,912.00. The percentage of time this position will work on this grant is 50%. Leslie Scott	\$13,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,500.00	50
Personnel	Advocate	Residential Advocate - This position will provide victims of crime with navigating through residential community living. This includes, safety planning, advocacy, support, transportation, residential intakes and information and referral. This part time positions annual compensation is \$13500 and the fringe benefits are \$1,030 for a total of \$14,530.00. The percentage of time this position will work on this grant is 50%. Simone Fuller .	\$7,265.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,265.00	50
Personnel	Advocate	Residential Advocate - This position will provide victims of crime with navigating through residential community living. This includes, safety planning, advocacy, support, transportation, residential intakes and information and referral. This part time positions annual compensation is \$25,000.00 and the fringe benefits are \$1,912.00 for a total of \$26,912.00. The percentage of time this position will work on this grant is 50%. Kelsey Zellner .	\$13,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,500.00	50

Personnel	Case Manager	Bi-Lingual Case Manager will provide victims of crime with crisis intervention, group support, counseling, and information and referral. This positions annual compensation is \$34,650.00 and the fringe benefit is \$2650.00 for a total of \$37,300.00. The total percentage of salary for this position will be 50%. Josie Ayala	\$18,650.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18,650.00	50
Personnel	Case Manager	Case Manager will provide victims of crime with crisis intervention, group support, counseling, and information and referral. This positions annual compensation is \$31,500.00 and the fringe benefit is \$2,410.00 for a total of \$33,910.00. The total percentage of salary for this position will be 50%. Linda Lewis	\$17,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17,000.00	50
Personnel	Case Worker	The intake caseworker position will provide victims of crime with, intakes, crisis intervention, information and referral upon initial contact with the agency. This position will be the first point of contact to ensure clients are directed to the correct services. The total compensation for this position is \$33,600 and the fringe is \$5040.00 for a total of \$38,640.00 annually. The percentage of time this position will work on this grant is 75%. Virginia Garcia.	\$28,980.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$28,980.00	75
Personnel	Counselor and/or Therapist (licensed)	Therapist will provide individual therapy and support groups for victims of crime. This positions annual compensation is \$41,600.00 and the fringe benefits are \$6,240.00 for a total of \$47,840.00. The percentage of time this position will work on this grant is 75%. Izerial Toles.	\$35,880.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$35,880.00	75
Personnel	Community / Social Service Specialist	Volunteer Coordinator - This position would be responsible for the recruitment, training and supervision of volunteers. The specific intent of the training will be to engage new volunteers as well as identify any victims of violent crime that might receive services through this grant award. The total annual compensation for this position is \$31,500.00 and the fringe is \$2,410.00 for a total of \$33,910.00. Total percentage	\$16,955.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,955.00	50

		of salary for this position will be 50%. Yvonne Knowland					
Personnel	Community / Social Service Specialist	Community Outreach Coordinator - This position will provide outreach coordination and advocacy for Abigail's Arms. This position will identify and refer victims of crime to Abigail's Arms for services. This position will assist in reaching victims by providing awareness about the agency through various venues including presentations, press-releases, radio announcements, reports to news outlets. The total annual compensation for this full time position is \$30,000.00 and the fringe benefit is \$2,295.00 for a total of \$32,295.00. The total percentage of salary for this position will be 50%. VACANT	\$16,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,200.00	50
Personnel	Court Advocate	The Legal Advocate position will be responsible for assisting sexual assault and domestic violence victims' as they navigate through the legal system and educating clients about legal services and legal resources that are available to them. This position will accompany victims to court hearings, assist with orders of protection, connect victims with legal services, and provide advocacy and supportive services to victims. The total annual compensation for this position is \$52,500 and the fringe benefits, including health benefits are \$7,875 for a total of \$60,375.00. The percentage of time this position will work on this grant is 50%.	\$30,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,200.00	50
Personnel	Executive Director	The Executive Director position will assist in the administration of this grant by meeting with staff regarding cases, assist with reports, including financial reports. The Executive Directors annual compensation is \$72,000.00 and the fringe benefits are \$10,800 for a total annual compensation \$82,800. The total percentage this position will work on this grant is 30%. Kim Cook.	\$24,900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24,900.00	30
Personnel	Director	Director of Development - Position oversees volunteer/outreach position and is	\$22,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$22,600.00	50

		responsible for the agency's data collection and information technology systems. This FTE positions annual compensation is \$42,000.00 and the fringe benefits are \$3200.00 for a total of \$45,200.00. The percentage of time this position will work on this grant is 50%. Rosina Salsman.					
Personnel	Director	Director of Family Services - This position will provide residential clients with crisis intervention, advocacy, safety planning and information/referral for 25% of her time. This position will also provide oversight to the residential center and its advocate staff for 50% of her budgeted time. This full time positions annual salary is \$55,000.00 and the fringe benefits are \$4200.00 for a total of \$59,200.00. The total percentage of salary for this position is 75%. Shirley Ward	\$44,400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$44,400.00	75
Personnel	Intern, Mentor, Service Provider, Student Worker, and/or Support Staff	Volunteer Hours include working with clients in emergency shelter, answering crisis hotline, and providing transportation to victims. This rate is calculated at the current rate of \$15.00 per hour X 6334 hours for a total of \$95,010.00.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$95,010.00	\$95,010.00	100
Travel and Training	In-State Registration Fees, Training, and/or Travel	The Cooke County SANE program training and staff that work on the project are being rolled into this grant application. It is necessary for SANE nurses and grant funded staff to receive on-going training on how to best serve victims of Sexual Assault. These trainings will be held in-state by Sexual Assault Coalitions including the Texas Association of Sexual Assault and the Office of the Attorney General/State of Texas. Training will be for registration fees, hotel, per diem, airfare/mileage, and parking. Registration Fees for 2 grant funded staff and/or SANE nurses to attend two conferences is \$600.00. Per diem for 2 grant funded staff to attend two 3 day conferences is \$420.00.00. Hotel for 3 nights for 2 grant funded staff to attend 2 conferences at \$125.00 per night is \$1800.00. Mileage/Airfare for the two staff	\$3,620.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,620.00	0

		to attend two conferences is \$800.00. Annual training locations are TBD, but include Austin Texas, Dallas/Fort Worth TX, San Antonio TX and other locations where SANE nurse training will be held.					
Travel and Training	In-State Registration Fees, Training, and/or Travel	It is necessary for grant funded staff to receive on-going training on how to best serve victims of crime. These trainings will be held in-state by State Coalitions including the Texas Council on Family Violence, The Texas Association Against Sexual Assault and the Office of the Attorney General/State of Texas. Training will be for registration fees, hotel, per diem, airfare/mileage, and parking. Registration Fees for 4 grant funded staff to attend two conferences is \$1200.00. Per diem for 4 grant funded staff to attend two 3 day conferences is \$840.00.00. Hotel for 3 nights for 4 grant funded staff to attend 2 conferences at \$125.00 per night is \$1500.00. Mileage/Airfare for the four staff to attend two conferences is \$1000.00. Annual training locations are TBD, but include Austin Texas, Dallas/Fort Worth TX, San Antonio TX and other locations where trainings are typically held.	\$4,540.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,540.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Cellular, Fax, Pager, and/or Office Telephone	Includes office telephone system and internet services. This is determined by the FTE cost allocation method. We base the amount of the telephone/internet charges in any given month on the percentage of time funded personnel work on this grant.	\$8,390.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,390.70	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Laptop System and Accessories (\$5,000 or less per unit)	It is anticipated that two VOCA funded staff's computers are reaching their lifespan. We are requesting that two new computers be purchased during this grant year. The cost of per computer will be \$1,500.00. This cost includes purchase, accessories, and set-up by a professional IT person.	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Electric, Gas, and/or Water / Wastewater	Includes electric, gas, and water services. This is determined by the FTE cost allocation method. We base the amount of the	\$13,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,000.00	0

		utilities charges in any given month based on the percentage of time grant funded personnel work on this grant.					
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Budget Summary Information by Budget Category:

CATEGORY	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL
Personnel	\$347,449.30	\$0.00	\$95,010.00	\$442,459.30
Travel and Training	\$8,160.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,160.00
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	\$24,390.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24,390.70

Budget Grand Total Information:

OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL
\$380,000.00	\$0.00	\$95,010.00	\$475,010.00