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Fund Source: WF-Violence Against Women Formula Grants
Project Title: Domestic Violence Investigator Program
Status: Application - Grant Review **Fund Block:** 2019
Applicant Agency Name: Grayson County
Project Title: Domestic Violence Investigator Program
Division or Unit to Administer the Project: Grayson County District Attorney's Office
Address Line 1: 200 South Crockett, Suite 116A
City/State/Zip: Sherman Texas 75090-7167
Start Date: 9/1/2019
End Date: 8/31/2020
Counties within Project's Impact Area: Grayson

Project Director

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Victim Referral Process

Law enforcement agencies contact the Victim Services Division directly if the need immediate assistance. When a domestic violence case is filed with the District Attorney's Office, the Domestic Violence Investigator makes personal telephone contact with each victim to gather personal demographic information, and information about the crime and follow-up on victims needs to Victim Services. Referrals are also made by the Children's Advocacy Center, the Women's Crises Center and other area agencies and services in Grayson County. The office also accepts walk-in applications for protective order for crime victims.

State Priorities

Improving the criminal justice system response.

Our program works to improve the criminal justice response to victims of violence against women by contacting the victim at the earliest possible point in the criminal justice process, attempting to keep the victim engaged in the process, and ensuring their safety. The follow-up provided by the investigator ensures the victims is informed of the rights afforded them by law and the defendant will be held accountable for their actions. The Investigator is aware of the cultural issues that are or may be present in some cases as is ever mindful of working within the framework of those issues.

Improve court services regarding domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

The Domestic Violence Investigator provides courtroom accompaniment for victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, and Stalking cases in both misdemeanor and felony courts, protective order cases and/or other hearings that may take place during the pendency of the case. The information gathered by the investigator improves the quality of the case of prosecution.

Strengthen victim restoration.

Our program works with victims throughout the criminal justice process in association with prosecutor and victim services division to work towards victim restoration. The Investigator begins the process by making the initial contact so prosecutors and victims services may make contact and maintain contact throughout the case and make appropriate referrals when necessary.

Increase collaboration and communications across all levels of government and among all victims services.

The Domestic Violence Investigator works with all law enforcement agencies, local and area agencies working with Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, and Stalking victims, and other agencies in the furtherance of assisting female victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence and Stalking.

Sustainment

How many additional years, beyond this request, do you plan to request continuation funding? 4

Grayson County has long been committed to providing domestic violence investigative services for victims. A Victim Services Division in different forms has been staffed for more than 26 years through matching funds for grant positions, county funds for part-time employees, and equipment and other tangible resources for staff. As funding decisions are made by commissioners court with competing funding priorities and limited resources, funding for this program in the absence of grant funds cannot be predicted but would be seriously jeopardized. The District Attorney has long struggled to obtain adequate funding through county resources to sufficiently fund domestic violence services and it is our belief the budgetary decision would not sustain the domestic violence program if CJD funds were not available.

Project Abstract :

The Grayson County Domestic Violence Investigator will ensure that misdemeanor and felony cases of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence and Stalking are investigated and prepared with adequate information for prosecution, provide victims 13 and over assistance in participation in the criminal justice system, and provide referral to the Victim Services Division for assistance with Crime Victims Compensation, Protective Orders or other victim related matters and/or referrals. According to the Crimes in Texas report, published by the Texas Department of Public Safety, in 2017, there were 799 incidents of family violence and 97 Sexual Assaults reported to law enforcement within Grayson County's 131,140 population. The Domestic Violence Investigator investigated 332 cases of Family Violence provided to the District Attorney's office by the 13 law enforcement agencies in Grayson County from September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018. 78 of those were felonies and 254 were misdemeanors. The goal of the Domestic Violence Investigator Program is to provide investigative services to all adult female victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence and Stalking to assist in the successful prosecution of offenders and to ensure adult female victims are afforded the rights granted by Article 56.02 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. The Grayson County District Attorney's Office Domestic Violence Investigator program will provide investigative services to all female victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence and Stalking within the 131,140 population of Grayson County, ages 13 years and up. Functions of the position include: interview victim/witnesses, assist prosecutors with scheduling witnesses for trial, contacting witnesses and provide security for victims/witnesses during criminal proceedings, provide information to victims concerning crime victims compensation and protective orders, referring victims to the victim services coordinators and to other area agencies and services when appropriate.

Problem Statement :

Criminal cases of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, and Dating Violence are not adequately investigated and prepared for prosecution in Grayson County's 131,140 population. Female victims 13 years of age and over need assistance with information concerning participating in the criminal justice system, making good decision regarding prosecution, as well as, information on Crime Victims Compensation, Protective Orders and other Victim related matters and/or area agencies or services. Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, and Stalking cases require information to be gathered at the beginning of the case for prosecutors to determine the cases place in the system, and someone to contact the victim to determine if that

victim is willing to participate in the case.

Supporting Data :

According to the 2017 Crimes In Texas report published by the Texas Department of Public Safety, law enforcement agencies in Grayson County reported 799 incidents or calls for service for Domestic Violence cases and 97 incidents or calls for service for sexual assault made by the public (it should be noted that Sexual Assault Child/Aggravated Sexual Assault Child and Indecency with Child were included in these numbers from Crimes in Texas). From September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018 the Domestic Violence Investigator conducted investigations on 78 felony cases and 254 misdemeanor cases for a total of 332 cases investigated by the Domestic Violence Investigator. These cases include dating violence and stalking. There were four sexual assault cases and six cases of stalking investigated during this time period.

Project Approach & Activities:

The Grayson County District Attorney's Office participates in the Texoma Council of Governments regional community planning process in all focus areas and specifically in the area of victim services. The Domestic Violence Investigator Program project addresses the number one priority for prosecution projects by supporting and responding to violence against women. This project continues the development of a specialized Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence and Stalking victim services division within the prosecutor's office. The Investigator in this program dedicates his time to locating and contacting victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, and Stalking, gathering demographic as well as case specific information including determining if medical records need to be obtained from a medical center, if there has been past violence, if the victim and defendant are still together, what the relationship is, and if the victim wishes to pursue prosecution. This information is vital to prosecutors who file the cases. Every effort is made to contact a victim including the Investigator physically attempting to locate. The Investigator also serves subpoenas, marshalls witnesses at criminal hearings, provides criminal history checks on defendants and witnesses, obtains any records necessary for the case and other duties that may be required for such cases or the program.

Capacity & Capabilities:

The Domestic Violence Investigator program has maintained the same general structure during it's entire history - covering the same geographical area (Grayson County) and with the same hierarchy. The Domestic Violence Investigator reports to the District Attorney and the First Assistant Attorney. The Investigator is a 43 year commissioned veteran of law enforcement working with in his capacity of Domestic Violence Investigator since January of 2002. The Investigator retains his commission by remaining up to date on all training hours necessary for his commission and especially in the areas of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, and Stalking.

Performance Management :

The Domestic Violence Investigator program's goal is to ensure that all cases of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, and Stalking cases filed in our office by the 13 law enforcement agencies that serve Grayson Counties 131,140 population are properly investigated and prosecuted, and that all victims of such crimes are given appropriate resources and the rights guaranteed by Chapter 56 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. The Domestic Violence Investigator will dedicate his time to contacting female victims aged 13 and above, gathering demographic and permanent contact information to enhance the prosecution on approximately 332 total cases for the 2018 fiscal year on the cases provided by law enforcement by August 31, 2018. The Domestic Investigator will track the number of cases filed by law enforcement, the number of cases he investigates, the number referred for prosecution, and the number of cases prosecuted in both felony and misdemeanor courts.

Data Management:

The Domestic Violence statistical sheets are provided to the Victim Services Director on a Weekly basis. Those statistics are kept to be used at several intervals throughout the year, including for grant performance reports as well as other instances such as supporting data for fiscal budgets or when providing local information at public

venues and public awareness campaigns.

Target Group :

The Domestic Violence Investigator Program provides investigative services on all cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking involving female victims age 13 and over in Grayson County's 131,140 population. Cases are submitted from 13 law enforcement agencies, as well as the two college campuses and the Texas Rangers. In the 2018 fiscal year, Investigator Terry Dunn provided services to 332 victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking cases. As of the date of this writing 180 cases have been investigated. Spanish speaking victims are assisted by personnel in our office or certified interpreters and other challenges are handled on a case by case basis to ensure all needs of victims are met. There is not a specific population of persons that are investigated by the investigator as the cases brought for investigation are provided by law enforcement. All races, religions, genders, and gender identities, ages above 13 years of age are served by our investigator. In the 2020 fiscal year the Domestic violence Investigator intends to provide services to 450 female victims of all races, religions, genders and gender identities, ages above 13 years of age in Grayson County.

Evidence-Based Practices:

The Grayson County District Attorney's Office designed the Domestic Violence Investigator Program out of a need to provide vital information to prosecutors in cases of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, and Stalking cases. Initial contact with victims within a week of receiving the offense report, and maintaining the most current demographic and permanent contact information is paramount to successful prosecutions of these cases. We have found that if we can make contact with those victims at the earliest possible time after the offense, gather her information, defendant information, including criminal history and prior bad acts, the better chance of not only keeping that victim engaged but also assisting her in making a change in her life and a successful prosecution. In 2018 TJD accomplished our stated goal as the Domestic Violence Investigator investigated 332 cases. Our current records indicate that program staff Investigator TJD has investigated 180 cases of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, and Stalking from September 1, 2018 to January 12, 2019.

Selected Project Activities:

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
Investigation	100.00	The Domestic Violence Investigator provides investigative services in the Grayson County District Attorney's Office including: interviewing victim/witnesses; criminal history checks; Marshaling witnesses; victim contact; records retrieval; filing Class C cases; and provide information and referral. The initials of the Domestic Violence Investigator are TJD.

Measures Information

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Number of cases filed.	450
Number of cases investigated.	340
Number of cases referred for prosecution.	340

Budget Information by Budget Line Item:

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL	UNIT/%
Personnel	Certified Peace Officer - All Others	Domestic Violence Investigator Terry Dunn provides investigative services in the Grayson County District Attorney's Office including: interviewing victim/witnesses; victim contact; records retrieval filing class c cases; and providing information and referral. The initials of the Domestic Violence Investigator are TJD. Terry Dunn's current salary is \$49,441.60 and his benefits are \$23,550. (benefits include F.I.C.A., Health Insurance, Retirement, Unemployment and Workers Compensation). (Also includes a 5% salary/benefit increase as required by our commissioners).	\$33,536.25	\$42,037.57	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75,573.82	100

Detail Source of Match/GPI:

DESCRIPTION	MATCH TYPE	AMOUNT
Grayson County General Fund	Cash Match	\$42,037.57

Summary Source of Match/GPI:

Total Report	Cash Match	In Kind	GPI Federal Share	GPI State Share
\$42,037.57	\$42,037.57	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Budget Summary Information by Budget Category:

CATEGORY	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL
Personnel	\$33,536.25	\$42,037.57	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75,573.82

Budget Grand Total Information:

OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL
\$33,536.25	\$42,037.57	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75,573.82