

Adams County, Colorado
FY2022 Community Project Funding

Expanding Services to Domestic Violence Victims in Adams County

Request Amount: \$2M

Opportunity: Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Account: Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) Local Portion

Status: Submitted (Due April 16th)

1. What is the title of the project, and within what Federal agency and appropriations account would it be funded?

The title of the project is: "Expanding Services to Domestic Violence Victims in Adams County." This would be funded with the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies and the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) Local Portion appropriations account.

2. Provide a brief description of the project.

Adams County lacks important, necessary services for victims of domestic violence and the need for such services is greater than ever. This proposal funds a multidisciplinary Domestic Violence High Risk Team that will provide life-saving and comprehensive services to domestic violence victims. Our request funds the necessary attorneys and staff to provide these services, as well as funding hotel vouchers to provide temporary shelter for victims who cannot safely return to their homes.

3. Please describe, with as much specificity as possible, the overall goals and objectives of the proposed project.

In Adams County, we care about domestic violence victims, but we do not always serve them. Adams County does not provide critically important services for victims of domestic violence. This lack of resources can lead to severe – even lethal – consequences. As one of the fastest growing counties in the United States, the need for domestic violence services is great. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this problem even further.

This proposal would provide critical, life-saving services to victims of domestic violence in a consistent, comprehensive manner. Our proposal, entitled "**Expanding Services to Domestic Violence Victims in Adams County,**" would create and fund a multilingual Domestic Violence High Risk Team (DVHRT) to regularly assess lethality factors in domestic violence victims and provide critical services and resources to them. This proposal would fund the programmatic and personnel needs necessary to operate the DVHRT and serve victims. This includes legal services in areas of family law, bankruptcy, immigration and criminal prosecution. It would also include assistance with housing, health insurance, counseling, therapy, victim advocacy and childcare. Please see Question Seven (7) below for a detailed list of the specific personnel to be funded in this proposal.

This proposal would fundamentally and measurably improve how we serve domestic violence victims in Adams County, Colorado. It would provide consistent, comprehensive and life-saving services and dramatically improve our ability to serve victims of these horrible crimes.

4. What is the requested dollar amount for this project for fiscal year 2022?

\$2 million

5. How much, if anything, is being requested for this particular project in the Administration's fiscal year 2022 budget request?

N/A

6. Has this same project request been submitted to another Appropriations subcommittee? If yes, which one?

No

7. What is the total cost to complete the project?

What we need:

- 1 Coordinator (DA's Office)
 - Estimated FTE: \$132,500
- 1 Prosecuting Deputy District Attorney (DA's Office)
 - Estimated FTE: \$132,500
- 1 System/Legal Victim Advocate (DA's Office)
 - Estimated FTE: \$132,500
- 2 General Community Victim Advocates (Family Tree)
 - Estimated FTE Cost: 150,000 for two advocates salaries and benefits
- 2 Bilingual Community Victim Advocates (Servicios de la Raza)
 - Estimated FTE Cost: \$200,000 for the two employees and additional work involving translation and interpretation services.
- 2 Civil attorneys to assist with civil matters including civil protection orders, family law, immigration matters (Colorado Legal Services, Safeguard)
 - Estimated FTE Cost: \$200,000 for two attorneys averaging 10 years of experience
- 2 Paralegal for Colorado Legal Services
 - Estimated FTE: \$150,000 for two positions including benefits

Community groups that will receive possible grant funding will include, but not be limited to, Servicios de la Raza, Family Tree, Colorado Legal Services and Safeguard. Each of these community groups will play a crucial role in getting the program up and running as quickly as possible.

Remaining funds will be used to provide hotel housing vouchers for victims who are unable to return home.

- Estimated Costs: \$902,500
- An average stay for a victim is 5 nights and the cost \$375 dollars (based on a contracted amount of \$75 dollars per night)

8. Is the requested project currently authorized in law? If yes, please provide a specific legal citation of such authorization.

Violence against Women Act 14 0 43 E-1

- Grant programs for Domestic Survivors

9. Are the proposed project activities consistent with the activities of the Federal agency? [yes/no]

Yes

10. If the proposed project activities are not consistent with the activities of the Federal agency, why is the project being requested?

N/A

11. Has the project been funded in the past? [yes/no]

No

12. If the project has been funded in the past, how much funding has been provided to date?

N/A

13. How much funding, if anything, was enacted for this particular project in the fiscal year

N/A

14. If the project has been funded in the past, were such funds provided for discrete, severable activities?

N/A

15. Please specify any non-Federal sources of funding that have been or are fully anticipated to be applied toward the project, including any dollar amounts and timelines for funding.

Adams County and its community partners will address capital and long-term funding moving forward if awarded the earmark appropriation. This additional funding will help to further enhance the expansion of already existing services and increase the resources for victims across the county.

16. If the proposed recipient is a non-Federal entity, please identify the non-Federal entity that would administer the funds once received.

Adams County Government

17. Is there a letter from a non-Federal sponsor supporting this project?

Yes, see attached.

18. Is the funding requested by a governmental or non-profit organization?

Yes- Government

19. If a non-profit, is the entity for which funding is proposed a non-profit organization as

described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such code?

No

20. For the proposed recipient of the funds, please provide the name, phone number, and e-mail address of the point of contact, as well as the recipient organization's full street address.

Raymond H. Gonzales - County Manager

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21. In which congressional district(s) is the project located?

Congressional District 6 – Congressman Jason Crow

Congressional District 7 – Congressman Ed Perlmutter

Congressional District 2 – Congressman Joe Neguse

22. Is the proposed recipient currently in material non-compliance of a prior grant award made by the proposed Federal funding agency? [yes/no]

No

23. Can the project obligate all of the requested funds by no later than 12 months after the enactment of the Appropriations Act? [yes/no]

Yes

24. If the Appropriations Committee is not able to provide the full amount of funding requested, can this project spend a smaller amount of appropriated funds within 12 months of the enactment of the Appropriations Act? [yes/no]

Yes

25. Is this proposed project a priority for the local community? [yes/no]

Yes

26. If the project is not a priority for the local community, why is it being requested?

N/A

27. What is the estimated start date of the project? (mm/dd/yy)

The need is pressing, as soon as possible. January 1st 2022

28. What is the estimated completion date of the project? (mm/dd/yy)

One year after receiving the funds, December 31st 2022

29. Please describe the current developmental status of this project.

While we continue to provide domestic violence services through existing community nonprofits, the need for a comprehensive coordinated program to serve domestic violence victims has increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic and population growth. Adams County government is committed to creating a long-lasting investment in these programs and is willing to put the necessary resources and funding to keep this coordinated program operational moving forward.

30. Is the intended recipient a for-profit entity? [yes/no]

No

31. Is this request consistent with all current statutory and regulatory requirements of Byrne

Justice Assistance Grant recipients and subrecipients? [yes/no]

Yes

32. Is this project intended to serve primarily youth under age 18? [yes/no]

No

33. Is this request to fund primarily the purchase of a vehicle(s)? [yes/no]

No

34. Is this request to fund the acquisition of property or the construction or renovation of a building?
[yes/no]

No

35. Has the intended recipient received any COPS or Byrne-JAG funds at any time in the past ten years?
[yes/no]

Yes

36. If yes, in what fiscal years and for what purposes?

2017 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant

- Agency/Department: Adams County Sherriff's Office
- This award was issued 6/26/2018 in the amount of \$46,477.00
- The project period of this award is 10/01/2016 through 9/30/2020.

The scope of work was for a Mobile Command Center, Audio Control System, and a Steam cleaner.

37. Rep. Crow and the Appropriations Committee will look favorably upon projects that enjoy broad community support and are accompanied by letters of support. Please describe whether this project has community support and indicate whether you intend to include letters of support from the state, local governments (including from Mayors, city councils, county commissioners, etc), and/or nonprofits.

There is broad community support for this proposal from local governments, community nonprofits and others throughout the county. We have attached letters of support from community advocates and leaders and will be sending along more as time continues.

38. Regarding this request, please provide any additional information that would be useful

for the Appropriations Committee to have.

A crucial part of this application is the focus on increasing existing capacity for our domestic violence victim community partners and providing greater, critical services to victims in a comprehensive way. These groups have worked successfully in our community and provide varying types of community advocacy for different victims and their families. Creating a DVHRT, as this proposal would, will support and grow these already successful programs and significantly enhance our ability to serve the wider community of domestic violence victims.

These services will be available to victims irrespective of whether they pursue or participate in a criminal case, a premise that is crucial to the longevity of the programming and to community trust building. Our request to fund Bilingual community victim advocates will add an added, necessary level of equity and social consciousness to our programming. By investing in accessibility early on – something this proposal would do -- Adams County will measurably expand services to all domestic violence victims.

Project Safeguard serves the Adams County community and their work from the past year highlights not only their impact on our community but the desperate need for an increase in these services. During 2019 and 2020, Project Safeguard's legal advocates provided 449 residents of the 17th Judicial District (Adams County and Broomfield County) with civil legal advocacy services, with 12% of those services provided in Spanish. Their advocates assisted 273 English-speaking victims and 46 Spanish-speaking victims with Civil Protection Orders and provided victims with information and referral, safety planning, and other services more than 850 times.

In 2019, Project Safeguard's in-house attorneys (then composed of the Legal Director and one staff attorney) received 160 referrals for attorney services and were able to serve 77 individuals or 48% of those referred. By the end of 2019, the first Colorado Civil Justice Corps Fellow was added, with a second Fellow coming on board in late 2020. During 2020, 186 cases were referred, and the expanded attorney staff served 148 or 80% of the referrals.

During 2019 and 2020, a total of 82 Adams County residents received attorney representation from either a Project Safeguard staff attorney or contract attorney: 29 individuals were represented in a family law matter and 21 in a civil protection order. Despite their impressive work, the need is so much greater than what these community groups are able to now provide. That is why this proposal is so important – and why it will have such a major impact on this community.