

ANALYSIS

Department of Corrections Victims Services

Analyst: John Terpening

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime, in the amount of \$750,000, for funding to utilize technology to assist victims of crime.

Analysis: The Department of Corrections (DOC) is requesting authorization to apply for an Advancing the Use of Technology to Assist Victims of Crime grant, through the Office of Victims of Crime, that provides funding to organizations that demonstrate strategies to use technology to interact directly with crime victims, improve the quality of victims' services, and improve accessibility and responsiveness of victim service organizations.

This grant opportunity is for the federal fiscal year 2023, and there is anticipated to be four awards of up to \$750,000, for a 36-month performance period, to begin October 1. If awarded, DOC anticipates utilizing these funds to create a web-based platform that will provide a central statewide hub for victims of crime to identify supportive resources that are available within communities and jurisdictions across the state. To accomplish the necessary work, DOC may utilize a contract or limited duration staff, funded through the grant, to identify and coordinate with various victims' services programs and resources to create the victims resource hub. The grant application deadline is May 22. This is a competitive grant but has no state match required.

Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.

Department of Corrections Fox

Request: The Department of Corrections (DOC) is requesting authorization to apply for a grant of up to \$750,000 to expand services to victims of crime, from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: DOC requests authorization to apply for a competitive grant through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime. The purpose of the grant funds is to support state-level strategies creating, expanding, or enhancing the use of technology to interact directly with crime victims or to provide information, referrals, crisis assistance, and long-term help.

If awarded, DOC will use grant funds to create a website intended to be a central hub for resources for victims of crime. This hub would bring together the different resources and services available to victims of crime through state and local organizations. Currently, DOC has only one staff person responsible for all victims' services. DOC tentatively plans to hire one limited duration position to build this website and engage with other state agencies and organizations providing victims services.

The grant application is due May 22, 2023, and has no match requirement. This grant is expected to be awarded in September of 2023.



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon Department of Corrections

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May 4, 2023

The Honorable Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
The Honorable Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street, N.E.
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Subject: Request to Apply for Federal Grant
U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs,
Office for Victims of Crime Advancing the Use of Technology
to Assist Victims of Crime ([O-OVC-2023-17176](#))

Dear Co-Chairpersons and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) respectfully requests approval to apply for the Fiscal Year 2023 Office for Victims of Crime **Advancing the Use of Technology to Assist Victims of Crime** grant.

Source of Grant

U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)

Amount Being Requested

\$750,000 (maximum award)

Purpose of the Grant

DOC requests permission to apply for this grant to expand the reach of its victim services and create a statewide “one-stop shop” for victims of crime seeking information, resources, and compensation. Utilizing a web-based program and working with our stakeholders across the state, DOC would be able to provide a user-friendly resource for connecting victims to community resources, veteran’s assistance programs, victims’ rights, how to apply for victim compensation, and many other supportive resources that together help victims find their justice.

Our state, county, and municipal stakeholders have also expressed a desire to work with DOC in utilizing this program for providing links to each of their victim’s rights and resources information so people could have one place they could go to look up every jurisdiction’s information and resources.

Currently, DOC has only one staff person supporting all of the victim services programs including training volunteers for and overseeing the Facilitated Dialogue and overseeing the Responsibility Letter Bank. DOC’s program manager is also considered a subject-matter expert and is often called upon by other states for assistance with their programs. Expanding DOC’s victim’s services to include web-based national and statewide resources will be a significant body of work. This grant would allow DOC to hire a limited duration position or contractor to assist in this work and network with our other agency partners, and potentially crime

	victims themselves, in identifying all the victim resources available and how best to make them available and easily accessible to our crime victims.
Application Deadline	May 22, 2023
State Match Required for the Grant	None
Additional FTE the grant will require	DOC is still in the early planning stages but anticipates possibly 1.0 additional full-time employees (FTE) will be required in a limited-duration position funded by the grant. DOC also foresees requesting indirect costs to compensate for the assistance provided by the Grant Coordinator in the DOC's Office of the Chief Financial Officer.
How the Grant Supports the Agency Mission and Goals	Not only is connecting crime victims to resources and assistance the right thing to do, but it also fulfills part of DOC's mission to promote public safety. In addition, it fulfills DOC's vision in 1) implementing innovative business practices that utilize progressive technologies and 2) partnering with our stakeholders.
Sustaining the Program after the Grant Period	Once the initial body of work is completed, DOC anticipates being able to continue to manage the program within existing resources.

Thank you for your consideration.



Tom Shin
Chief Financial Officer

xc: Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Officer
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