



April 8, 2023

Re: \$16 Million in the Department of Justice Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division Budget (SB 5514) for:

- \$10 Million to the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund (HB 2933) for confidential safety and support services
- \$6 Million to the Survivor Housing Fund (HB 3018) for housing assistance for survivors

Dear Co-Chair Steiner, Co-Chair Sanchez, Vice-Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith, and members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

On behalf of the Family Violence Coordinating Council's Executive Committee, we are enthusiastically submitting testimony in support of funding in the Department of Justice Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division (CVSSD) Budget (SB 5514) of \$10 million to the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (ODSVS) Fund for confidential safety planning and support services for survivors and \$6 million to the Survivor Housing Fund (SHF) for housing assistance for survivors. Both funds were allocated as one-time funding during the pandemic, and we seek continuation of these programs as on-going and stable services designed to meet critical need.

The Family Violence Coordinating Council (FVCC) is a multi-agency, and a multi-jurisdictional forum for the coordination of domestic and sexual violence intervention efforts within Multnomah County. Founded in 1987, the Council now has over 40-member agencies, including criminal justice, healthcare, victim services, alcohol and drug treatment and youth service agencies. You will find a list of our current member agencies at the end of this testimony.

The FVCC works to ensure the safety, well-being, and stability of all members of the families in Multnomah County by working to end family violence. This violence may include emotional, physical, or sexual abuse and is generally referred to as domestic and/or sexual violence. Abuse may include threats, harm, injury, harassment, exertion of power and control, terrorism, or damage to living beings or property.

ODSVS and SHF are each essential funding sources that allow Oregon's network of nonprofit, community-based, tribal, and culturally specific domestic and sexual violence service providers across the state to ensure that survivors have access to confidential, culturally specific and responsive, trauma-informed support and assistance as they seek safety from abuse.

\$10 Million to Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund (ODSVS) in the CVSSD Budget (This funding is also requested in a bipartisan stand-alone bill, HB 2933)



The Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund (ODSVS) distributes funds to more than 60 community-based, culturally specific, and Tribal programs across the state of Oregon to provide confidential trauma-informed services for victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, and sex trafficking. These community-based nonprofits support youth and adult survivors with wide-ranging crisis intervention and long-term supportive services such as emergency shelter, 24/7 crisis lines, legal advocacy, emergency and long-term safety-planning, counseling, support groups and youth programs. These programs also provide prevention education in schools as well as training and education throughout the community. Community-based domestic and sexual violence programs intersect with many state systems, including the public health and public safety systems. These programs have built collaborations with law enforcement, healthcare providers, schools, the criminal justice system, social services agencies, and many other community partners, and offer critical support for survivors navigating these structures.

Many of the agencies that comprise the membership of the FVCC general body are such providers within Multnomah County and they rely on these essential funding sources. The FVCC works in collaboration towards our shared mission and ODSVS and SHF funds are an essential to this robust network of survivor supports and response in our area.

ODSVS is the only state general fund source of support for these truly life savings services. The need for these supportive services continues to grow and the burden of essential service provision is challenged by staffing shortages, lack of funding, and other barriers for those trying to flee domestic and sexual violence. We are in support of investing \$10 million for the ODSVS Fund to provide essential financial support to programs across the state continue to provide necessary and lifesaving services to survivors in our community.

\$6 Million in Oregon Survivor Housing Fund (SHF) in the CVSSD Budget (This funding is also requested in a bipartisan stand-alone bill, HB 3018)

The SHF fund distributes funds to more than 60 community-based, culturally specific, and Tribal programs across the state of Oregon to facilitate access to safer and more stable housing for victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, and sex trafficking. With domestic violence being one of the leading causes of homelessness for women, SHF assistance is a crucial component of the efforts to assist survivors in their journey towards stable permanent housing. Without secure and more stable housing, healing from violence and abuse becomes nearly impossible. The SHF supports survivors by providing supportive services and the financial assistance resources necessary to address barriers in accessing housing. This may include moving assistance, application fees, security deposits, and other non-rent move-in costs. These critical and flexible funds help survivors begin this new stage in their lives on solid ground.



For FY22, our local system of nonprofit victim's services providers demonstrated the following data and outcomes:

- 891 survivors (423 households)
- 544 survivors (245 households) exited from those programs
- 92% exited to permanent housing
- Only 5% exited to "other" and almost all reported that they chose to temporarily stay with family or friends
- Only 3% unknown exit destination and this was mostly people served in a short-term Diversion program.
- 83% survivors identified from a Black or Indigenous Community of Color
- 32% of the heads of household identified having a disability

The FVCC Executive Committee fully supports an investment of \$6 million in Oregon Survivor Housing Funds to end housing instability for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, stalking and sex trafficking and for those providers to continue to do this amazing work.

The \$16 million in long-term stable funding for ODSVS (\$10 million) and SHF (\$6 million) funding, administered by DOJ's Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division (CVSSD), will provide programs with the resources to further develop capacity and build a statewide infrastructure designed for sustainability and equity in meeting the needs of survivors. Continuation and ongoing support of this funding is necessary to stabilize programs, meet the rising need for safety services, and offer wages designed to recruit and retain skilled workers and administrators.

We deeply encourage your support for an ongoing investment of a \$10 million increase in ODSVS funds and a continuation of \$6 million in Survivor Housing Funds in the CVSSD Budget.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Christina McGovney [she | her] – FVCC Chair

FVCC Network: Allies in Change, Abuse Recovery Ministry and Services (ARMS), Bradley Angle, Bridges to Safety, Call to Safety, CARES NW, EPHC Project UNICA, Central City Concern/ChangePoint, Domestic Violence Safe Dialogues DVSD, EMERJ-SAFENOW, Gateway Center for DV Services, IRCO, Legal Aid Services of Oregon - Multnomah Regional Office, Lifeworks NW, Little Dog Laughed - Animal Assisted



Therapy, Impact NW, Innerwork Portland, Metropolitan Public Defenders, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Multnomah County Circuit Court, Multnomah County Department of Community Justice, Multnomah County District Attorney's Office, Multnomah County Domestic and Sexual Violence Coordination Office, Multnomah County Family Court Services, Multnomah County Health Department, NAYA Family Center - Healing Circle, Office of Neighborhood Involvement, City of Portland, Oregon Crime Victims Law Center, Oregon Dept. of Human Services (Child Welfare & Self Sufficiency), Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette, Portland Police Bureau, Portland Veterans Administration Intimate Partner Violence Program, Project DART, Raphael House, Slavic Oregon Social Services, Salvation Army West Women's & Children's Shelter, Self Enhancement Inc., SoValTi Family Services, Volunteers of America Oregon Home Free, YWCA of Greater Portland.