

# ANALYSIS

## Oregon Judicial Department Justice for Families

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**Analyst:** John Borden

**Request:** Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, in the amount of up to \$600,000, for the Justice for Families grant program.

**Analysis:** The Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) is requesting permission to retroactively apply for a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, Grants to Support Families in Justice System Program, also known as the Justice for Families Program. The grant would be up to \$600,000, over a 36-month period beginning October 2025 to September 2028, with awards of \$200,000 each federal fiscal year. This a competitive grant that requires no state matching funds and would be used for two discrete purposes:

- Development of a comprehensive, trauma-informed training curriculum to improve the responsiveness to domestic violence or sexual violence cases heard in criminal and civil circuit courts with a focus on cases related to dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and including child sexual abuses. This training would be offered to judges, court referees, and staff and be deliverable through an online training module.
- Establishment of an integrated domestic violence specialty court with a dedicated, or consolidated, domestic violence docket hearing all case-types involving a party and/or family using a “One Judge, One Family” model. The would be the first specialty court of this type in Oregon and would be in the third judicial district of Marion County.

OJD grant proposal would be administered as part of the OJD’s Trial Court program. If the grant is approved, and depending upon the amount of award, OJD would require Federal Funds expenditure limitation and the establishment of one limited duration Program Coordinator position (0.50 FTE). The Marion Circuit Court requires no additional personal services funding associated with this grant and to establish and operate the domestic violence specialty court.

The grant was announced on November 27, 2024. The grant application deadline was January 17, 2025, and OJD provided timely notice in a letter to Legislative Leadership on the agency’s intent to apply for the grant on December 10, 2024.

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

## Oregon Judicial Department Beck

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**Request:** Retroactive authorization to apply for a grant of \$600,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women for the development of a training curriculum and the establishment of an integrated domestic violence court in Marion County.

**Recommendation:** The Oregon Judicial Department is not under Executive Branch authority.

**Discussion:** The Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) is requesting retroactive authorization to apply for a grant of \$600,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women. The purpose of the grant is to develop a comprehensive training curriculum for judges and court referees, court employees, and court-connected personnel. Additionally, OJD will establish an integrated domestic violence (DV) court in Marion County – the first of its kind in Oregon. One limited duration program coordinator (0.50 FTE) would be hired under the grant to assist in the development and implementation, resulting in the DV court and a model for integrated DV courts, which can be duplicated by other Oregon courts.

This grant has no state funding match requirement. OJD will return to the legislature to request additional Federal Funds expenditure limitation of approximately \$200,000 and position authority, if the grant is awarded.



OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT  
Office of the State Court Administrator

January 27, 2025  
**(SENT BY EMAIL)**

The Honorable Kate Lieber, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Re: Retroactive Approval—Federal Grant Application DOJ/OVW Justice for Families Program

Dear Co-Chair Lieber and Co-Chair Sanchez:

**Nature of Request**

The Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) requests retroactive approval to apply for a \$600,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ's) Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). This grant was announced on November 27, 2024. The deadline to submit the grant application was January 17, 2025. OJD submitted a notice of our intent to apply to legislative leadership on December 10, 2024.

**Background**

OJD's Office of the State Court Administrator desires to apply for a Justice for Families grant from the Department of Justice—Office on Violence Against Women. The Grants to Support Families in the Justice System Program (referred to as the Justice for Families Program) seeks to improve the response of the civil and criminal justice system to families with a history of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, or in cases involving allegations of child sexual abuse.

The grant, if awarded, is for a period of 36 months, beginning in October of the 2025–2027 biennium and continuing through the 2025–2027 biennium and ending in September 2028 (2027–2029 biennium). The funding level request for the first year (FY 2025–2026) is for up to \$200,000. Similar funding level requests for subsequent years of the grant would follow (through September 30, 2028). There is no state funding match requirement associated with the grant.

The grant proposal seeks to support the development of a comprehensive training curriculum for judges and court referees in the civil justice system, court employees such as family law facilitators, and court-connected personnel such as court language interpreters, custody and parenting time mediators, and custody evaluators.

Additionally, an integrated domestic violence (DV) court in Marion County, a first for Oregon's court system will be established. The DV court will improve the response of the civil and criminal justice systems for families with a history of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Under the grant, OJD would hire one 0.5 FTE limited-duration program coordinator position to assist with developing and implementing case screening protocols, stakeholder collaboration, data evaluation, and continuous quality improvement of the court. At the end of the grant cycle, this staff person would create a model for integrated domestic violence courts that other Oregon courts can duplicate.

#### **Action Requested**

OJD requests retroactive approval for OJD to apply to this federal grant. If awarded the grant OJD will return at a future meeting of the legislature to request an increase in federal funds limitation of approximately \$200,000, along with the requisite positional authority.

#### **Legislation Affected**

None.

Sincerely,



Nancy J. Cozine  
State Court Administrator

NC:jm/25eNC002jm

cc: Chief Justice Meagan A. Flynn  
Kendra Beck, Policy and Budget, DAS-CFO  
Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Officer, LFO  
John Borden, Principal Legislative Fiscal Officer, LFO  
Thujee Lhendup, Grants Manager, BFSD, OJD  
David Moon, Director, BFSD, OJD  
Nanci Thaemert, Director, JFCPD, OJD