



Advocating for Equity and Diversity throughout Oregon

Oregon Advocacy Commissions

oaco.mail@oac.oregon.gov

www.oregon.gov/oac

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

The Joint Oregon Advocacy Commissions Subcommittee on Domestic Violence Prevention & Statewide Coordination, comprised of the Oregon Commission for Women, the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs, the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs, and the Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, respectfully urge the committee to **support House Bill 3196** and protect critical victim services across the state.

After the close of the 2024 Session, Oregon was informed of a 42% reduction in federal funding from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). While our advocates and allies in Congress work to address this long-term problem at the federal level, we seek your urgent assistance to protect survivors in Oregon from the immediate impact of these cuts. We thank the Emergency Board for providing VOCA backfill funding during September 2024 Legislative Days, and protecting the “competitive” VOCA grants which renewed in October of 2024. The second set of grants impacted by federal reductions will be the “noncompetitive” VOCA grants, which are set to renew October 1, 2025.

The 2025 Legislature is being asked to backfill the shortfall for the noncompetitive grants during the normal budget process. Without this funding, vital victim services programs—supporting survivors of child abuse, domestic and sexual violence, and other crimes across Oregon’s counties and Tribes—will be cut on October 1, 2025. Without action, many of the VOCA noncompetitive grant supported services will cease to exist as there are no other funding streams available to provide this level of backfill.

In line with our statutory responsibilities, we have identified this issue as an immediate and pressing concern that threatens to cause irreparable harm to the communities we represent. One in three Oregonians will experience some form of domestic violence.ⁱ Transgender people, particularly trans women of color, experience harassment, assault, discrimination, and homicide at significantly higher rates than the overall population.ⁱⁱ Up to 55% of Asian women in the U.S have experienced some form of physical or sexual violence in their lifetime.ⁱⁱⁱ Black survivors are disproportionately more likely to be criminalized by the legal system.^{iv} Latino communities face disproportionate barriers to accessing services compared to their white counterparts.^v Survivors benefit from culturally and linguistically specialized services - programs funded by VOCA.

We urge you to take prompt legislative action to safeguard Oregon’s most vulnerable residents. Programs at risk include those at Children’s Advocacy Centers, District Attorney Victim Assistance Programs (DAVAPs), Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (DVSA) Programs, and Campus Sexual Assault Programs.



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A complete list of VOCA grantees is included at the end of this letter. VOCA dollars are used to support services like:

- On-scene crisis intervention, emergency transportation, and safety planning
- Sexual Assault Response Teams and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners
- Medical providers and services (e.g., Qualified Mental Health Professionals)
- Confidential case management
- Victim advocates who assist victims in a variety of circumstances (e.g., medical and legal settings, navigating insurance claims and Crime Victims Compensation, securing Title IX accommodations)
- Assistance navigating the criminal justice system, including accompaniment to court hearings
- Basic needs assistance and financial support
- Bilingual, culturally specific and trauma-informed programming and services
- Support group facilitators and coordinators
- Parent Child Therapeutic Services
- Support lines
- Therapeutic residences for minor survivors

The safety net services that are supported by VOCA grants are crucial for the survivors in our communities, and we respectfully urge the House Judiciary Committee to act now and protect access to these programs. Please provide funding to the Oregon Department of Justice to backfill federal cuts to the VOCA noncompetitive grants, before it is too late.

Respectfully submitted,

Oregon Commission for Women (OCFW)

Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA)

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs (OCBA)

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA)





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ⁱ Oregon Secretary of State, Audits Division, Advisory Report. (2023). <https://sos.oregon.gov/audits/Documents/2023-31.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence <https://www.ocadsv.org/resources/domestic-violence/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence
<https://www.api-gbv.org/about-gbv/statistics-violence-against-api-women/>

^{iv} The Women of Color Network, Inc. <https://jbws.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Domestic-Violence-in-Communities-of-Color-compressed.pdf>

^v National Resource Center on Domestic Violence. (2020). *Meeting the Needs of Underserved Communities: Culturally Relevant Approaches to Domestic Violence Services*. <https://www.nrcdv.org>

Programs that will be affected are listed on the following page.



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- A Village for One
- ABC House, Inc.
- African Youth and Community Organization
- Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force
- Baker County DAVAP
- Bay Area Hospital - Bay Area Health District
- Benton County DAVAP
- Bradley-Angle House
- Bridges Oregon
- Burns Paiute Tribe (Governmental Dept of)
- Call to Safety
- Canyon Crisis and Resource Center
- CARES Northwest - Legacy Emanuel Hospital & Health Center
- Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence
- Center for Hope and Safety
- Children's Center of Clackamas County
- City of Albany
- City of Eugene
- Clackamas County DAVAP
- Clackamas Womens Services
- Clatsop County DAVAP
- Columbia County Child Assessment Center - Amani
- Columbia County DAVAP
- Community Works, Inc.
- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Confederated Tribes of the Warm Spring Reservation of Oregon
- Coos County DAVAP
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
- Crook County DAVAP
- Curry County DAVAP
- Deschutes County DAVAP
- Disability Rights Oregon
- Domestic Violence Resource Center, Inc.
- Domestic Violence Services, Inc.
- Douglas CARES
- Douglas County DAVAP
- Dougy Center
- Eastern Oregon University
- Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon/Russian Oregon Social Services
- El Programa Hispano Catolico - EPHC
- Friends of the Child Advocacy Center, Inc. KIDS First
- Gilliam County DAVAP
- Grant County DAVAP
- Guardian Care Center
- Handicap Awareness & Support League
- Harbor, The
- Harney County DAVAP
- HAVEN from Domestic Violence
- Heart of Grant County
- Helping Hands Against Violence
- Helping Hearts
- Henderson House Family Crisis Shelter
- Hood River DAVAP
- Hope and Safety Alliance
- Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance
- Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization
- Impact NW
- InterCommunity Health Plans
- J Bar J Youth Sevices
- Jackson County Child Abuse Task Force, Inc.
- Jackson County DAVAP
- Jackson County SART
- Janus Youth Programs
- Jefferson County DAVAP
- Josephine County DAVAP
- Josephine County Juvenile Justice dba Children's Advocacy Center
- Juliette's House
- Kids Intervention and Diagnostic Service Center KIDS Center
- Klamath Advocacy Center
- Klamath County DAVAP
- Klamath Tribes, The
- Lake County Crisis Center
- Lake County DAVAP
- Lane County DAVAP
- Liberty House
- Lincoln County Childrens Advocacy Center, Inc.
- Lincoln County DAVAP
- Linn County DAVAP
- Lutheran Community Services Northwest
- Malheur County DAVAP
- Marion County DAVAP
- MayDay
- Mercy Foundation
- Morrow County DAVAP
- Mt. Emily Safe Center
- Multnomah County DAVAP
- Muslimahs United
- National Crime Victim Law Institute
- Native American Youth and Family Center
- New Beginnings Intervention Center
- Next Door, The
- Northwest Family Services
- Northwest Human Services
- Old Mill Center for Children and Families
- Oregon Abuse Advocates and Survivors in Service
- Oregon Crime Victims Law Center
- Oregon Department of Justice Appellate Advocacy
- Oregon Health & Science University
- Parents of Murdered Children
- Peace at Home
- placeholder: Curry County DVSA Services TBD*
- placeholder: Harney County DVSA Services - TBD*
- placeholder: Lincoln Co DVSA services - TBD*
- Polk County DAVAP
- Portland State University
- Project Dove
- Raphael House of Portland
- Relief Nursery, Inc.
- Sable House
- Safe Harbors
- SAFE of Columbia County
- SAFE Project, The
- SafeSpace
- Safety Compass - Clackamas
- Safety Compass - Marion
- Safety Compass - Washington
- Salvation Army, The
- Saving Grace Imagine Life without Violence
- Self Enhancement - SEI
- Sexual Assault Resource Center
- Sexual Assault Support Services
- Shelter From the Storm
- Sherman County DAVAP
- Siuslaw Outreach Services
- Sky Lakes Medical Center dba Klamath - Lake CARES
- STAR Center
- Tides of Change
- Tillamook County DAVAP
- Umatilla County DAVAP
- Union County DAVAP
- University of Oregon
- Victim Rights Law Center
- Volunteers of America
- Wallowa County DAVAP
- Wally's House — Curry Child Abuse Intervention Center
- Wasco County DAVAP
- Washington County DAVAP
- Washington County Sheriffs Office
- Western Oregon University
- Wheeler County DAVAP
- Women's Crisis Support Team
- Yamhill County DAVAP
- YWCA of Greater Portland
- VOCA Funding Initiatives Competitive Grantees (campus sexual assault programs)
 - Eastern Oregon University
 - Oregon Health & Sciences University
 - Portland Community College
 - Portland State University
 - Sexual Assault Task Force
 - Southwestern Oregon Community College
 - Umpqua Community College
 - Western Oregon University
 - Willamette University

