



256 Warner Milne Road, Oregon City, OR 97045
(503) 655-8600 | www.cwsor.org

April 11, 2025

Re: Funding for Life-Saving Services for Domestic and Sexual Violence Survivors

- **Policy Option Package 327:** *Continue funding levels for Tribal and community-based programs providing confidential emergency shelter and critical safety services to victims of domestic and sexual violence, stalking, and human trafficking across the state (\$22 Million)*
- **HB 3196:** *Continue funding levels for interdisciplinary crime victim services programs at domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse programs across the state (\$18.5 Million)*

Co-Chairs Broadman and Evans, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee On Public Safety,

On behalf of Clackamas Women's Services (CWS), we are submitting testimony to urge support of funding for the specialized programs that support survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their children in the Department of Justice Budget's POP 327 and in HB 3196.

The mission of Clackamas Women's Services (CWS) is to break the isolation of domestic and sexual violence. Incorporated in 1985 as Clackamas County's first domestic violence shelter, CWS is a community-based organization providing comprehensive services to survivors of domestic/dating violence, sexual assault, elder and vulnerable adult abuse, human trafficking, exploitation, and stalking.

This funding maintains current service levels, which we use to provide support for children and adult survivors with wide-ranging crisis intervention and long-term supportive services. Services that would be in jeopardy without these funds include our 24/7 crisis line, emergency shelter, sexual assault hospital response, advocacy and walk-in services, and youth services. These funds play a significant role in creating the safety and security we want to see in our communities.

The Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division of the Department of Justice provides critical safety net services and programs that can quite literally save the lives of survivors and their children as they flee violence and seek safety. National surveys estimate that over a third of adults in Oregon experience domestic violence in their lifetimes, and [56% of women](#) in Oregon experienced sexual assault, far exceeding the national average.

The two packages outlined below are of critical importance to the lives of survivors and their children:



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Department of Justice Budget POP# 327:

ONGOING FUNDING TO STABILIZE CRITICAL SURVIVOR SERVICES PROGRAMS (\$22M)

Please ensure the inclusion of \$22 million in grant funding in the Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division (CVSSD) of the Department of Justice for Tribal, culturally specific, and community-based programs to continue providing confidential services to victims of domestic and sexual violence, stalking, and human trafficking across the state. Without this investment into ongoing funding, programs will be forced to lay off staff and will have reduced capacity to provide critical life-saving safety and advocacy services for survivors and their children.

\$10 Million for ODSVS: These funds provide support for the network of confidential, trauma-informed, community-based, and culturally-specific programs providing shelter, safety planning, hotline, and advocacy services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence (DSV) and their children across the state.

\$6 Million for the Survivor Housing Fund: Survivor Housing Funds allow DSV service providers to empower survivors in the next step of accessing safety from violence. These funds increase the chances at long-term stability and safety for survivors and their children. As Oregon's housing affordability crisis continues to reach new peaks, the Survivor Housing Funds are necessary to make it possible for victims to escape the cycle of abuse, and to establish stability for themselves and their children.

\$6 Million for Children's Advocacy Centers: CACs are the state's mandated and unique resource for the assessment, treatment, and prevention of child abuse and neglect and the associated trauma, in order to promote health and hope in children, youth, families, and communities.

These investments are necessary to continue current levels of survivor services that were finally brought up to baseline minimal access levels in 2019 through one-time investments. In 2024, the Legislature recognized the importance of this increased capacity and unanimously passed HB 4140, which stated that these funds are to be considered current service level moving forward. If these investments are not continued, survivor services in communities across the state will suffer significant cuts. POP #327 cements the continuation of these funds.

One-Time Funding to Prevent Cuts to Interdisciplinary Victim Services Programs (\$18.5 Million in HB 3196)

The Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) is the primary source of federal grants for victim services, including services for survivors of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, stalking, trafficking, attempted homicide, and other crimes. Oregon was notified of the 42% cut



clackamas women's services

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in federal funding following the close of the 2024 short session. We need a one-time investment to continue important partnerships between service providers, prosecutors, law enforcement, and others serving victims of crime in every county in the state.

For the above reasons, we urge you to support this request to fund life-saving services for domestic and sexual violence survivors by passing POP# 327 and HB 3196. Crime victims and survivors in Oregon deserve the safety and well-being that these funds afford. Organizations like ours that provide these services cannot continue delivering them without your support. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your service to Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Melissa Erlbaum
Executive Director