

GRANT ANALYSIS FORM OPERATING & CAPITAL GRANT PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

Department/Division: Milwaukee Health Department, Office of Violence Prevention

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Category of Request

New Grant

Grant Continuation

Change in Previously Approved Grant

Previous Council File No.

Previous Council File No.

Project/Program Title: Justice for Families

Grantor Agency: U.S. Department of Justice – Office of Violence Against Women

Grant Application Date: 01/08/19

Award Date: 08/22/19

Please provide the following information:

1. Description of Grant Project/Program (Include Target Locations and Populations): The Grants to Support Families in the Justice System program (referred to as the Justice for Families Program) was authorized in the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 to improve civil and criminal justice system response to families with a history of domestic violence. Projects supported by the Justice for Families Program focus on keeping victims and their children safe from further abuse and holding offenders accountable.

The Milwaukee Visitation and Exchange Center (MVEC) was opened with OVW Safe Havens funding in October 2014 to fill a void as the first resource for victims in Milwaukee focused on facilitating safe visitation and exchange of their children.

The City of Milwaukee, with its partners Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Community Services, Sojourner Family Peace Center, the First Judicial District, and Legal Action of Wisconsin, will use this award to assist low-income families impacted by domestic violence to access safe exchange and visitation services at the Milwaukee Visitation Center.

2. Relationship to City-wide Strategic Goals and Departmental Objectives: The Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault is a board under the purview of the City of Milwaukee, charged by ordinance with the responsibility to increase safety for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and to hold perpetrators accountable and change their behavior.

This grant would allow Milwaukee to address gaps in the safety net for families affected by violence. Safe exchange and visitation centers that operate with an understanding of issues of violence and collaborate with key partners can reduce revictimization for children and adult victims. They reduce incidences of children witnessing violence, provide opportunities for parents to learn and practice appropriate parenting, increase safety for children visiting with the offending parent, and reduce children's exposure to violence outside the center.

3. Need for Grant Funds and Impact on Other Departmental Operations (Applies only to Programs):

A single metric for domestic violence prevalence and incidence is not available for the city of Milwaukee; however, domestic violence prevalence in Milwaukee can be assessed from multiple proxy measures, including:

- In 2015, Sojourner Family Peace Center, the state's largest domestic violence program, received 18,581 phone calls through its hotline.
- In 2016, Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission mid-year report identified a 100% increase in intimate partner violence homicides and a 700% increase in intimate partner violence shootings for 2016.
- The First Judicial District presides over approximately 11,142 divorce, family, and paternity cases annually. The Family Division conducts approximately 5,400 hearings on petitions, where there is an allegation of domestic violence. The First Judicial District also has three domestic violence specialty courts, which process approximately 680 felony cases involving some form of domestic violence annually.
- A 2016 community assessment from Legal Action showed that 80% of domestic violence victims reported that they were forced to deal with a civil legal problem without a lawyer.

4. Results Measurement/Progress Report (Applies only to Programs):

The Milwaukee Police Department reports that the 911 telephone calls received for domestic abuse crimes totaled 8,779 in 2015 (an increase from 8,184 in 2014). The number of cases investigated for domestic abuse crimes totaled 5,891 in 2015 (an increase from 5,678 in 2014)

The goal of the Center is to prevent violence and abuse during exchange and visitation. To that end, the Center tracks safety and security violations that occur in the Milwaukee Visitation Center. To date, no violent incidents were documented during visits or exchanges.

During this grant cycle, the Center will provide supervised visitation and safe exchange services to a minimum of 75 unduplicated families with a minimum of 550 visits and 650 safe exchanges per year.

The grant has also successfully added services by an attorney from Legal Action of Wisconsin to provide legal counsel to families who use the Center. The attorney:

- Provides extended representation on approximately 20 new family law matters annually (60 cases over three years)
- Advises on approximately 120 new family law matters (360 cases over three years)
- Refers 25 victims/protective parents per year with other civil legal problems not related to their abuse to Legal Action in-house attorneys (75 referrals over

three years).

Progress on these metrics as well as other outcomes and objectives are tracked in reports that are submitted twice a year to the Office on Violence Against Women.

In addition, the Core Partners on the grant will conduct a safety assessment of Center operations, protocols, and logistics to improve services and identify opportunities for improvement during the first quarter of the grant funding.

5. Timetable and Program Phase-out Plan: The grant period for this funding is 36 months, October 01, 2019 – September 30, 2022. The Milwaukee Visitation Center will continue to operate throughout the 36 months of the grant period. Core Partners will work to identify additional funding to maintain Center services beyond the 36 months.

6. Provide a List of Subgrantees:

- Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Community Services
- Legal Action of Wisconsin
- The First Judicial District
- Sojourner Family Peace Center

7. If Possible, Complete Grant Budget Form and Attach.