



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Council Session

Item G-7

#2013-96 - Approving 2013 VOCA Victim/Witness Grant Application

Staff Contact: Steven Lamken

Council Agenda Memo

From: Steven Lamken, Police Chief

Meeting: April 9, 2013

Subject: Approval of Victim/Witness VOCA Grant Application

Item #'s: G-7

Presenter(s): Steven Lamken, Police Chief

Background

The Police Department has prepared our application for the 2013 Victims of Crime Act, VOCA, grant that funds our Victim/Witness Unit. The Victim/Witness Unit provides a valuable service to the victims of crime. The 2013 grant request is for \$67,805.00 of which eighty percent is Federally funded. The grant will allow the Department to continue to provide this valuable service. We request approval to submit the application for grant funding.

Discussion

The criminal justice system can be intimidating and impersonal to victims of crime. The Victim/Witness reaches out to crime victims by addressing their concerns and questions, helping them understand and navigate through the criminal justice system and preparing them for court testimony if necessary. These are important services that would go unmet with a loss of justice to many people without the operation of the Unit.

The Police Department has prepared the 2013 VOCA grant requesting funding for the Victim/Witness Unit. The total grant request is \$67,805.00 of which eighty percent is Federally funded. The City's match would be \$13,561.00. The grant provides for the paid full time coordinator and support costs of the Unit. The Department is requesting approval to submit the application for VOCA grant funding.

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve

2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the Council approve the 2013 Victim/Witness Unit VOCA grant application.

Sample Motion

Move to approve the 2013 Victim/Witness Unit VOCA grant application.

Grant # _____

NEBRASKA CRIME COMMISSION
2013 VICTIM ASSISTANCE
Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) & State Victim Assistance
GRANT APPLICATION

1. Applicant Name: <u>Must</u> be the agency/organization that will receive and disburse the grant funds.	City of Grand Island	Phone (308)385-5444 Fax (308)385-5486
2. Applicant Federal Employer ID #: (must be 9 digits)	47-6006205	
3. Applicant DUNS #:	040919607	
4. Applicant Address:	P.O. Box 1968, Grand Island, Nebraska 68802-1968	
5. Project Title:	Grand Island/Hall County Victim Assistance Program	
6. Project Director: (Receives all correspondence)	Name: Steve Lamken Title: Chief	Phone(308) 385-5400 Fax (308) 385-5398
	Email: slamken@gipolice.org	
	Address: 111 Public Safety Drive Grand Island, NE 68801-8410	
7. Project Coordinator: (Contact Person)	Name: Kerry Garza	Phone(308) 385-5400 Fax (308) 385-5398
	Email: kgarza@gipolice.org	
	Address: 111 Public Safety Drive Grand Island, NE 68801-8410	
8. Fiscal Officer: (Cannot be Project Director)	Name: Kristina Waggerman	Phone (308) 385-5400 Fax (308) 385-5398
	Email: kevans@gipolice.org	
	Address: 111 Public Safety Drive Grand Island, NE 68801-8410	
9. Authorized Official: (NOTE: The authorized official would include county board chair, mayor, city administrator, state agency director, chair or vice-chair of non-profit agency.)	Name: Jay Vavricek	Phone (308)385-5444,Ext 140 Fax (308)385-5486
	Email: mayorvavricek@grand-island.com	
	Address: P.O. Box 1968 Grand Island, NE 68802-1968	

10. Proposed Project Period (month/day/year): From 10-01-2013		To 09-30-2014	
11. Previous 5-Years of Crime Commission funding for this project:			
Grant #	Amount	Area Served by Project (Counties/Cities)	
Grant #:08-VA-225	Amount\$27,907.00	Grand Island/Hall County	
Grant #:09-VA-230	Amount\$45,116.00	Grand Island/Hall County	
Grant #:10-VA-229	Amount\$46,110.00	Grand Island/Hall County	
Grant #:11-VA-212	Amount\$46,110.00	Grand Island/Hall County	
Grant #:12-VA-213	Amount\$46,110.00	Grand Island/Hall County	
12. Type of Agency: <input type="radio"/> State Agency <input type="radio"/> Unit of Local Government <input type="radio"/> Private Non-Profit <input type="radio"/> Native American Tribe or Organization <input type="radio"/> Other:		13. Funds will be used primarily to: (check only one) <input type="radio"/> Expand services into a new geographic area <input type="radio"/> Offer new types of services <input type="radio"/> Serve additional victim populations <input type="radio"/> Continue existing services to crime victims <input type="radio"/> Other:	
14. If awarded, these funds will: <input type="radio"/> Start a New Victim Services Program <input type="radio"/> Expand or Enhance Existing Program not funded by VOCA in previous years <input type="radio"/> Continue Existing Program funded by VOCA in previous years <input type="radio"/> Technology			
15. Identify types of victims to be served with requested Victim Assistance funds and Match funds:			
<input type="radio"/> Child Abuse/Physical <input type="radio"/> Child Abuse/Sexual <input type="radio"/> DUI/DWI Victims <input type="radio"/> Domestic Violence Victims <input type="radio"/> Adult Victims/Sexual Assault <input type="radio"/> Other – Burglary, Arson, Protection Order Violations, Hate Crimes, Stalking, Terroristic Threats, Vulnerable Adult Abuse, Criminal Mischief, Intimidation by Phone, Witness Tampering, Strangulation, Identity Theft, Human Trafficking		<input type="radio"/> Elder Abuse <input type="radio"/> Adult Survivors of Incest or Child Sexual Abuse <input type="radio"/> Survivors of Homicide Victims <input type="radio"/> Robbery <input type="radio"/> Assault	
16. Agency Staff / Volunteers		# Part Time	# Full Time
Total # of agency volunteers (excluding board members)		5	0
Total # of paid agency staff		0	1
# of volunteers that support <u>this project only</u>		5	0
# of paid staff for <u>this project only</u>		0	1
17. Check the services to be provided by the Victim Assistance Funds and match funds.			
<input type="radio"/> Crisis Counseling <input type="radio"/> Follow-up Contact <input type="radio"/> Therapy <input type="radio"/> Group Treatment <input type="radio"/> Crisis Hotline	<input type="radio"/> Shelter/Safe Home <input type="radio"/> Personal Advocacy <input type="radio"/> Information/Referral <input type="radio"/> Criminal Justice Advocacy <input type="radio"/> Emergency Financial Assistance	<input type="radio"/> Emergency Legal Advocacy <input type="radio"/> Assist with Filing Compensation Claims <input type="radio"/> VINE assistance to victims <input type="radio"/> Telephone Contacts (Information & Referral) <input type="radio"/> Other: Victim Impact Statement and Restitution Assistance, Court Accompaniment, Protection/Harassment Order Assistance, Transportation	

NEBRASKA CRIME COMMISSION BUDGET SUMMARY

Category	Requested Federal Amount	Match Share	Total Project
A. Personnel	\$54,244.00	\$6,418.00	\$60,662.00
B. Consultants/Contracts			
C. Travel			
D. Supplies/Operating Expenses		\$7,143.00	\$7,143.00
E. Equipment			
F. Other Costs			
TOTAL AMOUNT	\$54,244.00	\$13,561.00	\$67,805.00
% Contribution	80%	20%	100%

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify the information in this application is accurate and, as the authorized official for the project, hereby agree to comply with all provisions of the grant program and all other applicable state and federal laws.

Name of Authorized Official: Jay Vavricek
Title: Mayor
Address: P.O. Box 1968
City, State, Zip: Grand Island, NE 68802-1968
Telephone: (308) 385-5444, Ext. 140
Signature of Authorized Official:
Date:

NOTE: Authorized official includes county board chair, mayor, city administrator, state agency director, chair or vice-chair of non-profit agency.

CATEGORY A - PERSONNEL

Position	Annual Salary	% Time Devoted	Amount Requested	Match	Subtotal	Requested Fringe	Match Fringe	TOTAL COSTS
Project Coordinator	\$40,819.00	100%	\$40,819.00	\$	\$40,819.00	\$13,414.00	\$1,217.00	\$55,450.00
Volunteer (s) (250 hours @ \$9.00 per hr)	\$ 2,250.00	100%	\$	\$2,250.00	\$ 2,250.00	\$	\$	\$ 2,250.00
Project Director	\$66,000.00	2%	\$	\$1,320.00	\$ 1,320.00	\$	\$	\$ 1,320.00
Fiscal Officer	\$ 38,000.00	2%	\$	\$ 760.00	\$ 760.00	\$	\$	\$ 760.00
GIPD Support Staff (50 hours @ \$17.42 per hr)	\$ 871.00	100%	\$	\$ 871.00	\$ 871.00	\$	\$	\$ 871.00
	\$	%	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	%	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	%	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	%	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	%	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total Personnel Budget			Amount Requested	Match	Subtotal	Fringe Requested	Fringe Match	TOTAL COSTS
			\$40,819.00	\$5,201.00	\$46,020.00	\$13,414.00	\$1,217.00	\$60,651.00

CATEGORY A – PERSONNEL NARRATIVE:

1. Direct Salaries.

The City of Grand Island has a 16-step pay plan for non-union employees based on merit. The existing position of **Coordinator** will receive a Step 15 salary of \$40,819 which includes a 10-01-2013 3% COLA. This is a full-time position based on 2080 hours per year with 100% of that time devoted to the project. The amount of federal funds requested for that position is \$40,819. The Director is currently the only paid staff. A list of duties includes: provide direct service to victims of crime; recruit, train, and supervise volunteers; maintain proper records of all activities; public awareness of victim assistance services; grant management activities.

Volunteers for the program will provide conservatively 250 hours of service annually, assisting the Coordinator with victim advocacy and public awareness of victim assistance services. 100% of that time will be devoted to the project and will amount to a local match of \$2,250.00 (250 hours x \$9.00).

The existing position of **Project Director** will contribute 2% of his time, equal to \$1,320.00 (41.6 hours x \$31.73 per hour), to the project. The Director of the program will consult with the Coordinator regarding the program's activities. He will maintain weekly Coordinator contact, conduct a quarterly staffing, and prepare an annual written employee evaluation. Regarding direct victim service and specific cases, Director will continue to provide support, direction and guidance to Coordinator as needed. The existing **Fiscal Officer** will devote 2% of her time, equal to \$760.00 (41.6 hours x \$18.28 per hour) to the project. The Officer will oversee the finances of the project. Grand Island Police Department **Support Staff** will continue to provide conservatively 50 hours of service to the program. Support personnel will assist the coordinator by answering the telephone, reviewing reports, setting up victim files, filing, inputting data and maintaining records. 100% of that time will be devoted to the project and will amount to \$871.00 (50 hours x average \$17.42 per hour). The Project Director's, Fiscal Officer's, and Support Staff's hours (\$2,951.00 total) are factored into the match portion of the grant.

2. Fringe Benefits.

The total fringe benefits for the Coordinator are estimated at \$14,631.00 and include the following: individual health insurance (employer's share \$7,127.00), Social Security (\$2,531.00), Medicare (\$592.00), Pension (\$2,449.00), Bilingual Pay (\$1,000.00), Health Retirement Account (\$780.00), life insurance (\$78.00), and disability (\$74.00). We are requesting federal funds in the amount of \$13,414.00 and the remaining \$1,217.00 will be paid by the City of Grand Island and included in our local match.

The total personnel budget for fiscal year 2013-14 is \$54,233.00 (\$40,819.00 salary + \$13,414.00 benefits) in federal request with a local match of \$6,418.00 (\$2,250.00 volunteer hours + \$2,080.00 Director/Fiscal Officer hours + \$871.00 GIPD Support Staff + \$1,217.00 Coordinator Fringe Benefits) for a total cost of \$60,651.00.

CATEGORY D – SUPPLIES AND OPERATING EXPENSES

1. SUPPLIES:					
Item	Quantity	Unit Price	Amount Requested	Applicant's Match	TOTAL COSTS
		\$	\$	\$	\$
		\$	\$	\$	\$
		\$	\$	\$	\$
		\$	\$	\$	\$
		\$	\$	\$	\$
Supplies SUBTOTAL			\$	\$	\$
1. OPERATING EXPENSES – (Note Special Instructions):					
		Rate (per month)	Amount Requested	Applicant's Match	TOTAL COSTS
Rent – Equipment		\$	\$	\$	\$
Rent – Facilities		\$463.00		\$ 5,558.00	\$ 5,558.00
Telephone		\$ 50.00		\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
Utilities		\$	\$	\$	\$
Auto Lease		\$	\$	\$	\$
Photo Copying		\$	\$	\$	\$
Printing		\$	\$	\$	\$
Non-consultant Contract Help		\$	\$	\$	\$
Bookkeeping/Audit		\$	\$	\$	\$
Other: Computer User Fees (Coordinator)		\$ 82.00	\$	\$ 985.00	\$ 985.00
		\$	\$	\$	\$
Operating Expenses SUBTOTAL			\$	\$ 7,143.00	\$ 7,143.00
SUPPLIES / OPERATING EXPENSES TOTAL			\$	\$ 7,143.00	\$ 7,143.00

CATEGORY D - SUPPLIES AND OPERATING EXPENSES NARRATIVE:

1. Supplies

No federal funds are being requested for supplies, nor are supplies figured into the match portion of the grant.

2. Operating Expenses

No federal funds are being requested for operating expenses, but they will be included in the match portion of our grant.

The Victim Assistance Program office is located in Grand Island's Law Enforcement Center. The City provides this space as an in-kind match. The 306 square foot office is appraised at a fair market value of \$14 per square foot, as is the adjoining 91 square foot office. Utilities, custodial services, and receptionists are included with the facility. Monthly rent is figured at \$463.00 per month, or \$5,558.00 annually. Telephone service, also provided by the City, is estimated at \$50.00 per month, or \$600.00 annually, and is included in the match portion of our grant.

The County operates a Spillman software criminal justice program. Included on the system of shared data are the Hall County Sheriff, Hall County Attorney, Hall County Corrections, Hall County Court, and the Grand Island Police Department. The user fee for this system, including Internet, email, and support service is approximately \$82.00 per month, or \$985.00 per year, and will be provided for 1 user by Hall County as local match.

The City Of Grand Island has made a vehicle available to the Victim Assistance Program staff and volunteers. Grand Island Police Department training funds have been and will be used to send the Program Coordinator to the annual Crime Victims Rights Week Conference in Omaha and to other relevant trainings. However, neither expense is figured into the grant.

3. Total Supplies and Operating Expenses

Total supplies and operating expenses budget provided by Hall County and the City of Grand Island as a local match is \$7,143.00 (\$5,558 rent + \$600 telephone + \$985 computer user fees).

Sustainability

The Grand Island/Victim Assistance Program first received funding from the Nebraska Crime Commission in October 2003 and officially opened for business on April 1, 2004. The program functions under the Administrative Department of the Grand Island Police Department on a total annual operating budget of approximately \$61,000. Our primary source of funding is the \$46,000 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant, with the additional \$15,000 match provided by Hall County and the City of Grand Island. Our program, staffed with one full-time bilingual (Spanish/English) coordinator and 5 part-time volunteers, serves over 2000 unduplicated clients each year. Police Department Support Staff contribute 4-5 hours per month to that accomplishment. It is our mission to assist victims throughout their cases in order to prevent any further victimization, to reduce the trauma of the crime experience and to aid in the rebuilding of the victim to a state of well being. In addition, it is our hope to improve the attitude of the victim/witness, and the community in general, towards the criminal justice system.

Since its inception, Victim Assistance Program staff has done, and continues to do, several presentations to community organizations. Those presentations always include information about our funding and the need for community support.

We inform our elected representatives on the status of funding for the Victim/Witness Unit. We are scheduled to present information regarding the 2013 application and estimated funding budget at the April 9th, 2013 Grand Island City Council meeting. Also, we present after the grant award with specific funding requirements for the City.

Award funding has varied each year. On every occasion, the City of Grand Island has met any financial shortfall as it relates to the program needs. While we cannot speak for future councils, the City of Grand Island and Hall County are committed partners to the effort and funding for the Victim/Witness Unit.

Activities related to long term funding are as follows:

1. Presentations to the Grand Island City Council.
2. Provision of police personnel hours to the Victim/Witness Unit.
3. Presentations to public civic organizations.

During 2 of the last 5 grant periods, the VAP and Child Advocacy Center (CAC) attempted to fund a new shared part-time child advocate. This new position would have provided “seamless” services to our child victims, but also would have cost-effectively increased our manpower while giving us access to outside funding. The CAC, currently without a director, was unable to consider the position last year and is unable to consider it again this year. However, we have discussed with their Board the possibility of doing so next year.

Community Description

1.

Grand Island, Nebraska is located in Hall County in Central Nebraska where Interstate 80 and Highways 30 and 34 intersect Highway 281. The total county population is 60,345 according to U.S. census data. The estimated population of Grand Island is 49,239. Other communities in Hall County are Doniphan, Wood River, Cairo, Boelus and Alda. Grand Island is a major retail sales location with other major industry being light manufacturing, medical and health services, and a large beef packing plant which employs approximately 3,500 people (80% of them Hispanic, a majority of which speak Spanish). We have a rich blend of cultural influences in our community with significant immigrant populations from South and Central America (Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala primarily), Sudan, Somalia, Bosnia, Laos, and Vietnam. Because of our close proximity to the Interstate and highways, we do have many drug-related crimes and gang-related activities in our community. Grand Island Police Department has 6 Patrol Officers, 1 Investigator, and 1 Supervisor assigned to the Gang Operations Unit tasked to gather intelligence and work on increasingly effective methods of tracking gang-related crimes. Prevention efforts provided by Police School Resource Officers include Gang Resistance Education and Training to all Grand Island Public Schools' 5th grade and middle school students.

Fortunately, Hall County has a variety of helping agencies which actively participate in this project. The Central Nebraska Child Advocacy Center, which is a fully accredited center by the National Children's Alliance since 2005, covers an 11-county area providing outreach and support to the child victims and non-offending family members. All of their services are provided at no cost to victims and/or their families. If referrals are made for mental health services and the family does not have insurance or resources to pay for these services then the CAC has made arrangements with various providers to pay these fees at a reduced cost. The basic components of their advocacy include the following elements: providing crisis response to children and non-offending family members seen in hospital emergency rooms following a sexual assault and to those who present to CAC for SANE Exams, forensic interviews, ongoing support and personal advocacy to the child victim and non-offending family members, assisting victim and family in locating and obtaining services needed to help and protect them, attending court hearings not covered by victim assistance program (usually civil), monitoring case progress and informing family of case status. However, each case is different and they will adapt their services to address the specific needs of child victim and non-offending family member(s). Hope Harbor provides a transitional shelter and other services to families who are temporarily displaced from their homes and to our refugee community. We make referrals to them, and to: Central Health Center, Child Advocacy Center (CAC), Nebraska Legal Services, Crisis Center, DHHS, WIC, Community Food Pantry, Heartland Share, Voc. Rehab., and numerous counseling agencies and churches. Agencies that actively participate in this project include: Grand Island Police Department, Hall County Sheriff's Office, Crisis Center, CAC, Hall County Attorney's Office and District 9 Probation Office.

2.

Race	Number	% of Total Population
White	56,242	93.2
Black/African American	1,328	2.2
American Indian/ Alaska Native	966	1.6
Asian	664	1.1
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	302	.5
Other	843	1.4
*Total Population	60,345	100%
Hispanic or Latino		
*Total Population	60,345	100%
Hispanic or Latino	14,483	24
Not Hispanic or Latino	45,862	76

*Total Population – these are the same number

List the counties included in above table: Hall County Nebraska

Source of Data: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/gfd/index.html> (Source U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts. Data derived from Population Estimates, American Community Survey, Census of Population and Housing, State and County Housing Unit Estimates, County Business Patterns, Nonemployer Statistics, Economic Census, Survey of Business Owners, Building Permits, Consolidated Federal Funds Report
Last Revised: Monday, 11-Mar-2013 14:16:08 EDT)

Problem Statement

1. State the Problem

The problem to be addressed by this proposed project is crime and its devastating effect on individuals and families in the community of Grand Island and Hall County, Nebraska.

2. Describe the Problem

There is a high number of felony and serious misdemeanor crime in Hall County that has a direct impact on the victims of that crime.

The FBI Report of Offenses Known to Law Enforcement in 2012 indicates an overall downward trend in crime in Grand Island with violent crime increasing and property crime decreasing. In Grand Island, there were 42 reports of forcible rapes, 6 attempted rapes and 37 other sex offenses. An additional 4 sexual assaults were investigated by the Hall County Sheriff's Office. The Victim Assistance Program (VAP) assisted 58 adult victims of sexual assaults and sex offenses in 2012. The reported incidents of assault also remain high in Hall County. Grand Island Police Department investigated 102 reports of felony assault, 598 incidents of simple assault and 244 domestic assaults, while Hall County Sheriff's Office investigated an additional 14 assaults and 10 domestic assaults. The VAP provided services to 309 victims of assault and 379 victims of domestic violence crimes. Law Enforcement agencies investigated a total of 392 reports of child abuse/neglect, and although the CAC is working with child victims of the more serious crimes, the VAP still served 427 children, victims of serious crimes as well as victims of assault, threats, phone harassment, and theft. Other incidents of crime in the county include 21 robberies and 456 burglaries, many of them residential. The VAP served 46 robbery and 303 burglary victims.

Because of our close proximity to the Interstate and highways, we do have many drug-related crimes in Grand Island. In 2012 there were 523 total reports of drug violations with 114 resulting in adult arrest, citation or referral. Gang-related activities are also on the rise in our community, with the most visible signs being: graffiti, drive-by shootings, felony assaults, property damage, self-reported increase in recruitment, and local alignment with out-of-state gangs.

There is a large population of elderly, 8086 in Hall County according to the 2012 Census estimates, in our community. The VAP provided assistance to 260 last year. We know that offenders prey on the elderly because of stereotypical vulnerabilities related to age and we want to remain vigilant in providing these services to the elderly.

The underreporting of crime is an issue in all communities. However, within the Hispanic community there is the potential for the incidence of underreporting to be much higher. The perception of the lack of access, information, and a voice in the criminal justice system exacerbates this problem. The Hispanic population reported by U.S. census data is 24% in Hall County. Hispanic crime victims make up approximately 37% of the VAP's clientele. Since we do not assume we are reaching every Hispanic crime victim, we believe the figures indicate a need for concern that there is a proportionately higher rate of victimization within the Hispanic community, suggesting a greater need for services.

3. Provide Statistical Documentation of the Problem

Number of Victims Served (face to face & telephone)	2010	2011	2012	% of change from 2010 to 2012
Total <u>Unduplicated</u> # Victims Provided Direct Services:	2220	2044	2195	-1.1
(unduplicated) Face to Face	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
(unduplicated) Telephone	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total # of children served (0-17 years)	385	298	427	+10.9
Total # of elderly victims served (65+)	237	174	260	+9.7
Total # minority victims served	968	927	1040	+7.4
Number of Victims Served by Type of Crime:				
Homicide Survivors	8	9	8	0
Sexual Assault / Adult	39	49	58	+48.7
Child Abuse / Physical	64	44	46	-28.1
Child Abuse / Sexual	105	49	83	-20.9
Domestic Violence	318	319	379	+19.2
Adult Survivor of Incest / Child Sexual Assault	3	4	2	-33.3
Assault	392	337	309	-21.1
DWI / DUI Crashes	3	6	22	+633
Robbery	45	42	46	+2.2
Elder Abuse	1	0	2	+100
Burglary	247	290	303	+22.6
Other:	993	895	936	-5.7
Total # adult victims provided shelter	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Total # child victims provided shelter	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R

Source of data: ***Analyst International's Victim Case Management System (VCMS) Provided by Nebraska Crime Commission.***

- ***Face to Face and Telephone Contact statistics are available. A technical problem, however, prevents us from accessing the unduplicated numbers served. Provided below is the total number of F/F, telephone, and e-mail contacts.***

Additional Statistics	2010	2011	2012	%Change from 2010 to 2012
Number of e-mail contacts	438	405	704	+60.7
Number of telephone services	3695	3471	5402	+46.2
Number of face to face services	616	793	855	+38.8
Number of follow up contacts	1589	1188	1115	-29.8

Solution

1. Project Operations

The Grand Island/Hall County Victim Assistance Program (“VAP”) has a cooperative relationship with several community-based agencies. The goal is to provide for continuity of comprehensive victim services, without duplication. The agencies currently include: law enforcement (the Hall County Sheriff’s Department; the Grand Island Police Department; District #9 Probation, and Howard County Attorney and Nebraska State Patrol on a more limited basis.); and also include: the Crisis Center; the Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC), and the Hall County Attorney’s Office. The VAP coordinator also attends the local Community Response Team (CRT) and the child abuse treatment and investigative team meetings required by LB 1184 to monitor and coordinate the investigation and treatment of families where child abuse or neglect has been found, and interacts with other organizations including: Central Health Center, Saint Francis Hospital, and Hall County School System.

Every morning, the VAP coordinator and/or the volunteer review all reports generated by the Grand Island Police Department (GIPD) and the Hall County Sheriff’s Office (HCSO) in the 24-hour period immediately preceding arrival at the office. We screen the reports for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and other high priority crimes to determine the immediacy of need for victim services. It is our view that many crimes involving family violence are reported as “other” crimes, such as: criminal mischief, theft, trespassing, etc. With domestic violence, for instance, as a batterer’s abusive conduct escalates, a batterer will act out violently against the personal property of the victim (including pets) as a way to instill fear and gain control over the victim. For this reason, the VAP reads all reports to determine if the facts—not just the reported charge—fall within the criteria for VAP intervention. If the case involves domestic violence or sexual assault, we call the Crisis Center (in accordance with our CRT protocols) to allow them to make immediate initial contact with the victim. The VAP will follow-up that afternoon or the next day unless otherwise contacted by the Crisis Center or the victim. If the case involves child neglect, endangerment, or abuse, we contact the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) who will make initial immediate contact with the victims. VAP will follow-up unless otherwise contacted by the CAC or victim.

Many times, cases are determined to be open/not workable or closed by the investigating officers. Often, it’s because there is a crime that occurred against a victim, but the evidence does not lead to a clear suspect. Since the case may not go further in the system without more evidence, the VAP contacts these victims as soon as possible. At that time, we offer support, referrals to community resources and Crime Victims Reparations, safety planning, and explanations for why the case cannot move forward. When applicable, we also help them to document further activity in the hopes that they will continue to turn to law enforcement, and that they will have a better case next time. Occasionally, victims have additional pertinent information, so we refer them back to law enforcement, and accompany them or assist them if they desire. If/when there was an error or misunderstanding on the part of law enforcement, we contact the officer or a superior to correct that error.

Many of our cases are referred to the County Attorney before an actual arrest is made. In these instances, the VAP also makes contact with the victim. The purpose is to offer aforementioned services and: to help the victim determine if follow-up is needed within the system; answer whatever questions the victim(s) may have, explain the process and how it will affect them, and establish a link between the victim, law enforcement, and other helping agencies. We find that victims often feel more comfortable communicating their wishes/concerns etc. to someone who is not a member of “law enforcement.” Once a qualifying case comes to the VAP coordinator’s attention, initial contact is made either by telephone or face to face, along with a letter. The VAP will continue to assist the victim throughout the process, as long as the victim desires, and will facilitate

continued communication between the victim and the other agencies. In those cases where there was a custodial arrest, we provide all the same services, but we contact victims immediately so we can help them access the VINE system before the inmate is released from jail and to find out if they have information or requests for the prosecutor regarding bond.

Some cases referred to the County Attorney are declined or dismissed. In this instance, we contact victims to inform them, and then proceed as with the previously mentioned victims. Fortunately, many cases are charged by the Hall County Attorney and will be prosecuted. In addition to the previously explained services, the VAP, which has access to the County Attorney's case management system, checks the status of the victim's case and then notifies them of the status, name of the prosecutor, location of the courthouse/courtroom, and court dates/times. Once we have made initial contact with that victim and done the preliminary work, we encourage them to call us within a certain period of time relevant to that case (2 weeks before the trial, for instance). We continue to check on the status of that case until it is closed, and we continue to contact that victim when we note changes, but we do let them know that they should call us anytime with questions, etc. It is during this time that we help prepare the victims to testify in court. To make them more comfortable, we set up meetings with the prosecutors, we accompany them to the courthouse/courtroom for an "orientation," and we answer numerous questions they usually have about everything from what to wear to what to expect from the defense attorney. It is also during this time that victims are given the opportunity to talk about what they want to see happen with the case. To facilitate the victims having a "voice" within the system, we communicate their wishes to the prosecutors. Many cases are settled with plea agreements. For those that are not, we accompany victims (per their request) to court.

Once a court case is disposed of, we continue to follow-up with victims according to their needs. If the case is set for sentencing, we assist the victim in doing a Victim Impact Statement. We either contact the probation officer (who is responsible for the pre-sentence investigation) for them, or give them information on how to contact the responsible officer. We explain to them the reason for the statement, how it will be used, who will read it, etc. so they can make an informed decision on whether to execute their rights. We often attend sentencings with or for our victims, and then inform and explain to them what happened and what will happen next. In cases where the defendant is sentenced to prison, we provide the victims with handbooks, Parole Board information and telephone numbers, VINE instructions, etc. We have also accompanied victims to Parole Hearings.

There is an air of easy cooperation between the Victim Assistance Program personnel and the various Criminal Justice System agencies. Nonetheless, it is made clear to the victims that the VAP is advocating for the victim and advancing his or her desires only. VAP files are not shared with the attorneys, nor are our computer records accessible to the other agencies. For the most part, the goal of the Criminal Justice System and the VAP are similar, to create an environment in which a victim will return to the system, while holding the defendant as accountable as possible. On occasions where each agency takes an opposing position, each agency has respected the position of the other.

To all persons who are victims of crime in Hall County (or a victim of a serious felony in Howard County), the VAP is committed to providing the same services. Now, because of the VAP caseload and limited manpower, victims of violent physical crimes receive the highest priority. Elderly or minority victims of otherwise "low-priority" crimes are also contacted promptly. In order to reach out to our growing Hispanic population, our voicemail and victim letters are done in both English and Spanish, and we leave telephone messages in both languages.

2. Coordination

Agency Name	How your program specifically coordinates with this program.
Law Enforcement (Grand Island Police Department and Hall County Sheriff)	Law Enforcement allows us access to their reports via computer. Officers/Deputies refer victims to us, and frequently contact us with additional information regarding victims who need services. We contact officers for follow-up on cases, with victim questions, or for help with safety and other issues. We regularly arrange for victims to meet with officers.
Crisis Center	Mutual referrals and coordination of services. We contact each other when working with victims, so victims have access to both agencies without having to travel across town.
Child Advocacy Center	Mutual referrals and coordination of services. We refer every child victim to them for follow-up. We maintain contact regarding cases to ensure children (and their families) have access to all available resources with the least amount of inconvenience.
Hall County Attorney's Office	Hall County Attorney allows us access to their case management system. We serve as a liaison between the victim and deputies regarding cases. We contact the deputies with requests/questions from victims, and deputies contact us with case information so that we may offer services to the victims. We arrange for victims to meet with the deputies, and when we accompany victims to court, deputies keep us informed of the proceedings so we can best support the victims.
District 9 Probation Office	Coordination of services with regard to victim impact statements. Probation officers contact us when they are doing certain PSI's to determine the best way to contact the victim. We advise victims of their right to do the statement, and how/where to do that.

Activities / Timetable

ACTIVITY	POSITION RESPONSIBLE	1 ST Quarter 1 st -3 rd	2 nd Quarter 4 th -6 th	3 rd Quarter 7 th -9 th	4 th Quarter 10 th -12 th
Assist with filing compensation claims	Coordinator and Volunteer (s)	✱	✱	✱	✱
Attend Annual Victims' Rights Conference	Coordinator	●	●	✱	●
Recruit and train volunteers	Coordinator	✱	✱	✱	✱
Provide direct services to crime victims by phone, e-mail, or in person	Coordinator and Volunteer (s)	✱	✱	✱	✱
Prioritize need for service to Hispanic and elderly victims of crime	Coordinator and Volunteer (s)	✱	✱	✱	✱
Prepare quarterly reports in a timely manner	Coordinator, Fiscal Officer, Project Director	✱	✱	✱	✱
Community Presentations on Victim Assistance Program	Coordinator and volunteer (s)	✱	✱	✱	✱
Distribute Victim Assistance Program Brochures	Coordinator and volunteer (s)	✱	✱	✱	✱
Prepare grant application to request VOCA funds	Coordinator, Fiscal Officer, Project Director	●	●	●	✱
		●	●	●	●
		●	●	●	●

Goals, Objectives & Performance Indicators

Goal, Objectives & Performance Indicators		
Goal: Victim assistance services will be available for all victims of crime in Hall County.		
Objective # Maintain Number of Crime Victims Receiving Needed Services Within 12 Month Period.		
Performance Indicators:	Baseline Statistics	Projected Results (Outcomes)
Number of Victims Served Within 12 Months	2189	2189
Number of Elderly Victims Served Within 12 Months	263	263
Number of Hispanic Victims Served Within 12 Months	790	790
Number of Children Served Within 12 Months	395	395
Objective # Maintain overall public awareness by distributing 715 brochures and conducting 5 community presentations.		
Performance Indicators:	Baseline Statistics	Projected Results (Outcomes)
Number of brochures distributed	715	715

Number of presentations conducted	5	5
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Continuation Information

1. Briefly describe the most recent (past year) funded grant project's accomplishments, milestones, goals and objectives.

Recruited and trained 3 new part-time volunteers while retaining 2 previous volunteers
 Completed written Limited English Proficiency (LEP) plan for our program
 Updated program brochures and website
 Continues to provide comprehensive services to crime victims in Hall County
 Continues to provide bilingual services to Spanish-speaking victims
 Increases public awareness of services by distributing brochures and conducting presentations
 Continues to coordinate service with community agencies
 Continues to meet goal objectives
 Continues to attend LB 1184 Investigative Team Meetings and LB 1184 Treatment Team Meetings
 Continues to attend Coordinated Community Response Meetings
 Continues to volunteer for NLETC to do sexual assault and domestic violence role plays and panel discussions

2. Clearly state how continuation funding is vital to the ongoing success of the program.

The VOCA grant pays the salary and a majority of the benefits of the Grand Island/Hall County Victim Assistance Program's only paid staff member, the Coordinator, who is a full-time bilingual advocate. The City of Grand Island and Hall County are committed partners to this project and provide the match for VOCA funding. They've seen especially difficult budgets over the last few years, however, and were forced to cut positions and impose furloughs and wage freezes. While the most recent budget includes the Victim Assistance Program and balances current expenditures with current revenues in a manner that seems sustainable, the future remains uncertain. It is reasonable to assume the City and County would jointly fund a victim/witness unit, but without VOCA funding it is possible the program would experience a reduction in service hours, services provided and, thus, in the number of victims served.

3. Explain any problems, barriers or challenges during the previously funded grant project. Discuss how these were addressed and the end results.

The majority of our "problems" are typically routine in nature and related to victims' individual cases as is par for the course with victim advocacy. In these instances we network very closely with our partner agencies and utilize community resources. Our ongoing struggle has been maintaining volunteers/volunteer hours and, thus, numbers of victims served. This last few grant years were especially challenging due to City budget cuts and, more specifically, the elimination of GIPD support staff positions. Since GIPD support staff provides volunteer hours to our program as a local match, these cuts directly affect our ability to function. In preparing for the cut, then, we adjusted the hours and duties assigned to support staff personnel so they could fulfill their volunteer responsibilities in smaller and more frequent blocks of time, lessening the resulting recovery time in both areas. In further preparation for the cuts, we more aggressively, and successfully, recruited and trained new volunteers. Although it has been strenuous at times, we've remained disciplined and structured, and have achieved our goals.

4. Provide any other relevant information here.

Ideally, Law Enforcement, Victim/Witness Units, Safe Centers, and Child Advocacy Centers are interdependent and complementary to each other, but statewide they are frequently known to be at odds. In spite of our obvious lack of personnel, our program maintains statistics comparable to VAP programs with more staff than ours and in similarly-sized communities. We credit the Grand Island Police Department and the other criminal justice system agencies for the strong support they give us. We also attribute it to the solid,

healthy working relationships developed between our program and the Crisis Center and the Child Advocacy Center.

CERTIFIED ASSURANCES

1. The applicant assures that federal or state grant funds made available under the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and state victim assistance funds will not be used to supplant existing funds, but will be used to enhance or expand direct services to victims of crime.
2. The applicant assures that fund accounting, auditing, monitoring, and such evaluation procedures as may be necessary to keep such records as the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (Crime Commission) shall prescribe will be provided to assure fiscal control, proper management, and efficient disbursement of funds received under the victim assistance grant program.
3. The applicant assures that it shall maintain such data and information and submit such reports, in such form, at such times, and containing such information as the Crime Commission may require.
4. The applicant certifies that the program contained in its application will meet requirements as stated in the Victim Assistance Grant Application Kit; that all information presented is correct; that there has been and will be throughout the life of the grant, appropriate coordination with affected agencies; and, that the applicant will comply with all provisions of the Victims of Crime Act and all other applicable federal and state laws.
5. The applicant assures that it will comply and all of its contractors will comply, with the non-discrimination requirements of the Victims of Crime Act; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; and the Department of Justice Non-Discrimination Regulations 28 CFR Part 42, Subparts C, D, E, and G and, Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, and their implementing regulations.
6. The applicant assures that programs will maintain information on victim services provided by race, national origin, sex, age, and handicap.
7. The applicant assures that in the event a federal or state court, or federal or state administrative agency makes a finding of discrimination after a due process hearing on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin or sex against a recipient of funds, the recipient will forward a copy of the finding to the Crime Commission and the Office of Civil Rights Compliance (OCRC) of the Office of Justice Programs.
8. The applicant assures that, if required, it will formulate an equal employment opportunity program (EEO) in accordance with 28 CFR 42.301 et. seq., and submit a certification to the state that it has a current EEO on file which meets the requirements therein.
9. The applicant assures that it will comply and contractors will comply, with the provisions of the Office of Justice Programs "Financial and Administrative Guide for Grants," M 7100.01.
10. Pursuant to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133, non-Federal entities expending \$500,000 or more a year from all federal sources shall have a single organization-wide audit conducted in accordance with the provisions of OMB Circular A-133. Non-federal entities that expend less than \$500,000 a year in Federal dollars from all sources are exempt from Federal audit requirements for that year. However, financial records must be maintained in an acceptable accounting system and be available for review or audit by appropriate officials of Federal, state or local agencies.
11. Confidentiality of Research Information. No recipient of monies under the Victims of Crime Act shall use or reveal any research or statistical information furnished under this program by any person and identifiable to any specific private person for any purpose other than the purpose for which such information was obtained in accordance with the Act.
12. Confidentiality of Victim Information - At no time shall a victim's name, address, phone number or other identifying information be divulged to another individual or agency unless they are a part of the criminal justice

system or Health and Human Services system unless the victim has given prior voluntary written consent for such release of information.

13. The applicant agrees to submit all required reports in a timely manner.
14. The applicant agrees not to utilize federal or state victim assistance funds for crime prevention, community education, services to perpetrators, conference attendance by individual crime victims, lobbying, victim relocation or services to witnesses other than the victim.
15. The applicant agrees to establish and maintain a Drug Free Workplace Policy.
16. The applicant will comply, and all its contractors will comply with the Equal Treatment for Faith Based Organizations Title 28 C.F.R. part 38.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that I have read and reviewed the above assurances, that the applicant will comply with all provisions of the Victims of Crime Act and all other applicable federal and state laws, and, that the applicant will implement the project as written, if approved by the Crime Commission.

(SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL)

(DATE)

P.O. Box 1968, Grand Island, Nebraska 68802-1968

(ADDRESS)

Jay Vavricek

Mayor

(TYPED NAME)

(TITLE)

(308)385-5444, Ext 140

(TELEPHONE NUMBER)

CERTIFICATIONS REGARDING LOBBYING; DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTER; AND DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should refer to the regulations cited below to determine the certification to which they are required to attest. Applicants should also review the instructions for certification included in the regulations before completing this form. Signature of this form provides for compliance with certification requirements under 28 CFR Part 69, "New Restrictions on Lobbying" and 28 CFR Part 67, "Government-wide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) and Government-wide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants)." The certifications shall be treated as a material representation of fact upon which reliance will be placed when the Department of Justice determines to award the covered transaction, grant, or cooperative agreement.

1. LOBBYING

As required by Section 1352, Title 31 of the U.S. Code, and implemented at 28 CFR Part 69, for persons entering into a grant or cooperative agreement over \$100,000, as defined at 28 CFR Part 69, the applicant certifies that:

(a) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the making of any Federal grant, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal grant or cooperative agreement;

(b) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal grant or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form – LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions;

(c) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subgrants, contracts under grants and cooperative agreements, and subcontracts) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

2. DEBARTMENT, SUSPENSION, AND OTHER

RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS (DIRECT RECIPIENT)

As required by Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, and implemented at 28 CFR Part 67, for prospective participants in primary covered transaction, as defined at 28 CFR Part 67, Section 67.510-

A. The applicant certifies that it and its principals:

(a) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, sentenced to a denial of Federal benefits by a State of Federal court, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department of agency;

(b) Have not within a three-year period preceding this application been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;

(c) Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State, or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1)(b) of this certification; and

(d) Have not within a three-year period preceding this application had one or more public transactions (Federal, State or local) terminated for cause or default; and

B. Where the applicant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, he or she shall attach an explanation to this application.

3. DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE (GRANTEES OTHER THAN INDIVIDUALS)

The applicant certifies that it will or will continue to provide a drug-free workplace by:

A. Publishing a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the grantee's workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violation of such prohibition:

B. Establishing an on-going drug-free awareness program to inform employees about—

(a) The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;

(b) The grantee's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;

(c) Any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and

(d) The penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violation occurring in the workplace;

C. Notifying the employee in the statement that the employee will:

(a) Abide by the terms of the statement; and

(b) Notify the employer in writing of his or her conviction of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace no later than five calendar days after such convictions;

The subgrantee shall notify the Crime Commission in writing of any conviction for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace no later than five calendar days after such conviction.

The subgrantee certifies that it will take one or more of the following actions within 30 calendar days of receiving notice of the conviction:

A. Taking appropriate personnel action against such an employee, up to and including termination, consistent with the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; or

B. Requiring such employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance of rehabilitation program approved for such purpose by a Federal, State or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency;

The subgrantee certifies that it will make a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace.

City of Grand Island
Organization Name and Address: P.O. Box 1968
Grand Island, NE 68802-1968

Mayor Jay Vavricek

Typed Name and Title of Authorized Representative

Signature

Date

RESOLUTION 2013-96

WHEREAS, the Police Department Victim/Witness Unit provides a valuable service to the victims of crime in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department Victim/Witness Unit is eligible for continued Federal funding under the Victims of Crime Act; VOCA, and

WHEREAS, the Police Department has prepared a 2013 application for a VOCA grant of \$67,805.00 to fund the Victim/Witness Unit, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA,

Approves the Police Department 2013 VOCA grant application for the Victim/Witness Unit.

- - -

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, April 9, 2013.

Jay Vavricek, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	▣ _____
April 5, 2013	▣ City Attorney