

Federal Grant Application Request

Department of Justice

Victims of Crime Act Grant

Analyst: John Borden

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime, Victim of Crime Act grant, in the amount of \$323,629.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Analysis: The Department of Justice (DOJ) requests approval to submit a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime, for a Victim of Crime Act grant (VOCA).

If the grant application is approved, DOJ Crime Victims' Services Division (CVSD) will use the funding to increase access to training for victim service programs, including: increased funding for the State Victim Assistance Academy, which currently receives \$15,000 in VOCA funding; developing new trainings; and scholarships for national training events.

This non-competitive, formula grant does not have a state matching funds requirement. The grant application deadline is March 6, 2015. Grant activities are to begin October 1, 2015, with the agency having three additional federal fiscal years beyond federal fiscal year 2015 to expend the funds. The grant is expected to be a one-time allocation, with no expectation of continued funding.

DOJ is the federally-designated administrative agency for Oregon's VOCA grants. The agency's 2015-17 budget includes \$9.4 million of VOCA Assistance grant funding, excluding this grant. DOJ, however, has been notified to expect a significant increase in VOCA Assistance funding for the 2015-17 biennium. The amount of the increase has yet-to-be determined.

If the grant is awarded, an increase in Federal Funds expenditure limitation may be needed for special payments to various victim service providers. DOJ states that the entire grant will fund trainings. Therefore, existing CVSD staff is sufficient to coordinate grant activities and no administrative expenses will be charged to this particular grant.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.