

## Item 3: Department of Justice

### Emergency Housing for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence

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**Analyst:** John Borden

**Request:** Allocate \$2 million from the Emergency Fund to the Department of Justice for emergency housing for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

**Description:** The Legislature in 2001 established the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (ODSVS) program within the Department of Justice (DOJ) - Crime Victims Survivor Services Division (CVSSD)(ORS 147.450-471). The program provides non-competitive state-funded grants to an estimated 58 domestic and sexual violence service providers throughout the state, including federally recognized tribal governments. These non-profit and tribal entities use a combination of state and local funding to provide victims of domestic and sexual violence with crisis services, housing, safety plans, advocacy services, and access to legal services. ODSVS funding is distributed using a two-part formula that includes a base amount plus a prorata share that is generally based on county population. An advisory committee, appointed by the Attorney General, makes recommendation to DOJ on the distribution of funding.

The 2019-21 legislatively adopted budget for ODSVS totals \$13.5 million, of which \$13.2 million is General Fund and \$305,489 is Other Funds (punitive damage awards). ODSVS administrative cost are by statute limited to ten percent of available funding; however, CVSSD limits such costs to five percent, which is sufficient to support one permanent full-time position and one permanent part-time position (1.50 FTE) to administer the grant and reporting processes.

This request is for a one-time \$2 million General Fund allocation for emergency housing for victims of domestic and sexual violence, including: homelessness prevention, housing search assistance, tenant education and the payment of application fees, deposits, rent, utilities, moving costs, or safe emergency housing. The allocation is to augment emergency housing funding approved by the Legislature in 2019 due to increasing needs resulting from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The allocation is to be distributed, on an expedited basis, in a manner consistent with ODSVS statute.

Entities that receive funding from this allocation are to report to CVSSD on the number of individuals and families that received assistance as well as the type and cost of assistance provided. The allocation is to be expended as General Fund rather than be deposited into the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund. DOJ is to absorb the administrative costs associated with this supplemental allocation.

**Recommendation:** The Co-Chairs of the Emergency Board recommend approval of an allocation of \$2 million General Fund from the Emergency Fund to the Department of Justice for emergency housing for victims of domestic and sexual violence.