

## ANALYSIS

### Item 21: Department of Justice Community Based Violence Prevention Program

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**Analyst:** John Borden

**Request:** Authorize the establishment of three limited duration positions (1.42 FTE) for a community-based violence prevention grant program.

**Analysis:** The Legislature in 2022 provided the Department of Justice (DOJ) - Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division (CVSSD) with \$15 million Other Funds expenditure limitation, on a one-time basis, for a community-based violence prevention grant program. The revenue source is American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds transferred from the Department of Administrative Services to DOJ. Such a grant program has been deemed an eligible use of ARPA funding, according to DOJ.

DOJ is requesting the establishment of three limited duration positions (1.42 FTE) for the administration of the grant program, and which includes \$63,416 of associated services and supplies. Funding for the positions totals \$357,161 Other Funds and was proposed to come from a portion of the \$15 million Other Funds authorized by the Legislature. The two requested Program Analyst 3 positions would start on July 1, 2022 and the one Administrative Specialist 2 position would start on September 1, 2022.

The grant program funding, according to DOJ, would be used to:

... fund evidence-informed, upstream solutions to community violence. These solutions include (but are not limited to) job training, mentorship, and apprenticeship programs for at-risk youth, mental health and addiction support, suicide prevention programs, domestic and sexual violence victim services, violence interruption and community healing or restorative justice programs, and providing much-needed resources to victims of crime.

DOJ states that this grant program differs from other CVSSD grant programs and activities in that rather than distributing funds to various domestic and sexual violence victim services programs, a new process will need to be developed for outreach with local communities to identify community needs. Then, this competitive grant program will need to establish eligibility requirements and a process to review and approve grant applications. In addition, DOJ-CVSSD must meet both federal and state ARPA reporting requirements.

While DOJ notes that according to federal requirements ARPA funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and then expended by December 31, 2026, both dates fall outside of the current 2021-23 biennium. The Legislative expectation when approving the \$15 million of grant funding was that the entire amount would be expended by June 30, 2023 or by the close of the biennium. If this proves to be impractical, then a portion of the grants, and any related administrative costs, may need to be reauthorized for the 2023-25 biennium.

The provision of Oregon Law that was adopted by the Legislature in 2022 does not allow for the flexibility to use approved ARPA funding for anything other than the distribution of grants (section 228 of chapter 110, Oregon Law 2022). General Fund, however, may be used to fund the program's administrative costs requested by DOJ.

**Recommendation:** The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Emergency Board allocate from the Emergency Fund, on a one-time basis, \$357,161 General Fund and authorize the establishment of three limited duration positions (1.42 FTE) for the Department of Justice - Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division and the community-based violence prevention grant program.

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Department of Justice  
Gibson

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**Request:** Establish three full-time, limited duration positions (1.42 FTE) for the administration of a Community Based Violence Prevention Grant program.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request with the following modifications:  
Establish three full-time, limited duration positions (1.42 FTE) and allocate \$0.4 million General Fund from the State Emergency Fund for the administration of a Community Based Violence Prevention Grant Program.

**Discussion:** The Department of Justice Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division (CVSSD) was allocated \$15,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for community-based violence prevention grants. The grants are provided to organizations focused on increasing public health and safety for local communities through violence reduction, intervention, and prevention activities.

Previously, CVSSD only administered granting programs focused on direct service providers of crime victims and survivors services. The implementation of a new violence prevention grants program requires additional community engagement and implementation activities beyond the current workload. To conduct these activities, the Agency is requesting three full-time, limited duration positions to focus on engaging community members, gaining program input, and designing the program and grant implementation plan. The resources will also implement, track, and report on the granting activities of the new program.

CVSSD currently has 52 positions (47.70 FTE). The three additional positions represent a 5.7 percent position increase for the remainder of the 2021-23 biennium.

Positions	Purpose	FTE	2021-23 Cost
Program Analyst 3	Community outreach, program design, and implementation	0.50	\$ 146,468
Program Analyst 3		0.50	\$ 146,468
Administrative Assistant 2	Program support	0.42	\$ 90,164
			<b>\$ 383,100</b>

The Agency requested the three positions be funded with the ARPA funds received in the 2022 Legislative Session. Upon further analysis, it has been determined the funding approved during the 2022 Legislative Session is restricted to community violence prevention grants and cannot be utilized for administering the program. The recommendation has been adjusted to reflect a General Fund allocation from the State Emergency Fund.

**Legal Reference:** Allocation of \$383,100 from the State Emergency Fund to supplement the appropriation made by chapter 427, section 1(4), Oregon Laws 2021, for the Department of Justice, Crime Victim and Survivor Services for the 2021-23 biennium.



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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April 27, 2022

Senator Peter Courtney, Co-Chair  
Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair  
Joint Emergency Board  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

**Nature of the Request**

The Department of Justice – Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division (CVSSD) requests the establishment of three limited duration positions (1.42 FTE) for the administration of a Community Based Violence Prevention Grant Program. Funding for the positions totals \$357,161 Other Funds and would come from a portion of the \$15 million Other Funds expenditure limitation previously authorized by the Legislature in 2022 (section 228 of HB 5202). The revenue source is a transfer of federal American Rescue Plan Act moneys from the Department of Administrative Services.

**Agency Action**

According to the FBI, from 2010 to 2020, the violent crime rate in Oregon rose 16%. In the past two years, Oregon has confronted dual public health crises as community violence surged during the COVID-19 pandemic. The state's murder rate soared, and in Marion County alone, firearm suicides increased 48% from 2019 to 2020, according to the CDC.

In 2022, the legislature made a significant bipartisan investment to address these troubling statistics through community violence prevention. Specifically, HB 5202 Section 228 (2022) directed \$15 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the Oregon Department of Justice's Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division (CVSSD) to make grants to community-based organizations for the purpose of improving public health and safety by supporting effective violence reduction, intervention and prevention initiatives.

The \$15 million grant program will fund evidence-informed, upstream solutions to community violence. These solutions include (but are not limited to) job training, mentorship, and

apprenticeship programs for at-risk youth, mental health and addiction support, suicide prevention programs, domestic and sexual violence victim services, violence interruption and community healing or restorative justice programs, and providing much-needed resources to victims of crime. With this investment, Oregon joined many other states that have invested in evidence-informed programs that work to prevent violence by serving survivors of community violence and victims of crime and working within communities to break the cycle of violence. Such programs have repeatedly been shown to significantly reduce violent crime and keep people out of the criminal justice system.

During the recent February 2022 legislative session, the Department of Justice (DOJ) and CVSSD provided feedback and worked with legislators, particularly Rep Lisa Reynolds, and many advocates to secure the funding for this program. The program requires grantees or recipients of these ARPA funds to obligate the funds to specific uses by December 31, 2024 and spend the funds by December 31, 2026. This means that CVSSD must set up this new program, identify appropriate recipients, and ensure that appropriate work is done to finalize the grants well in advance of December 2024, so that the recipients of the funds can meet their December 31, 2024 and 2026 deadlines. As a result, DOJ expressed that the department would need three new positions to successfully launch this new program.

Historically, the majority of funding administered through CVSSD has been allocated to community-based victim service programs primarily focusing on domestic and sexual violence. As noted above, the purpose and intended recipients of this new anti-violence grant funding is much broader and thus, will require dedicated resources to carefully plan implementation, including but not limited to determining who can apply for grants under the program, how much will be allocated to each grant, and how grants will be prioritized. CVSSD will need to engage on a statewide scale with community advocates, public health and other partners to identify and outreach to programs across the state that would be appropriate recipients of these new ARPA funds, as well as identify and collaborate with community partners who have demonstrated experience servicing communities impacted by inequity. CVSSD will need to set up a process to ensure that applications are reviewed by a panel of victim service providers and community organizers with experience serving communities impacted by violence.

In order to appropriately track these grants, as part of CVSSD's outreach plan prior to releasing the grant application, CVSSD will solicit feedback from community partners on what data will be a required part of the grant reporting process. As an ARPA-eligible program, expenses will adhere to federal expenditure and reporting requirements.

The level of coordination and program design required by this new grant program cannot be accomplished without at least two Program Analyst 3 positions dedicated to the outreach, design and implementation of this program and one Administrative Specialist 2 to provide additional administrative assistance once new grants have been drafted and executed. The Program Analyst 3 positions are urgently needed with a July 1, 2022 start date and the Administrative Specialist 2 position is needed beginning September 1, 2022. Failure to obtain the requested positions will put at risk DOJ's ability to timely identify and distribute funds to appropriate programs, as well

as put at risk the ability of CVSSD to carry out its existing programs as staff for those programs do not have additional capacity to pick up this work. The individuals and organizations who worked hard to secure this funding agree that CVSSD needs this additional staffing and expected that DOJ would receive position authority during the legislative process so that work could begin immediately. Additional delay in obtaining these positions will lead to delays in DOJ's ability to comply with its obligations to administer and distribute these ARPA funds.

In conclusion, administration of these grants will require necessary staffing levels within CVSSD to carry out the program requirements, from developing and managing grant agreements to conducting community outreach necessary to identify and invest in community-based programs that can fulfill the purpose of this investment. The Department of Justice is seeking limited duration position authority from the Emergency Board for 3 positions (Two Program Analyst 3 positions and one Administrative Specialist 2 position) for these purposes.

DOJ is not requesting any additional funding from the legislature. DOJ is seeking to use a portion of the \$15 million in ARPA funding for the three staff positions necessary to carry out this important work.

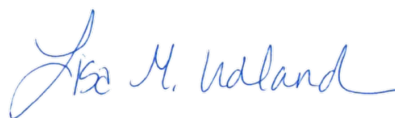
### **Action Requested**

The Department of Justice – Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division (CVSSD) requests the establishment of three limited duration positions (1.42 FTE) for the administration of a Community Based Violence Prevention Grant Program. Funding for the positions totals \$357,161 Other Funds and would come from a portion of the \$15 million Other Funds expenditure limitation previously authorized by the Legislature in 2022 (section 228 of HB 5202). The revenue source is a transfer of federal American Rescue Plan Act moneys from the Department of Administrative Services.

### **Legislation Affected**

Oregon Laws 2022, Chapter 110, section 228.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa M. Udland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" being the most prominent.

LISA M. UDLAND  
Deputy Attorney General

Senator Peter Courtney, Co-Chair  
Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair  
April 27, 2022  
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cc: Shannon Sivell, Director of the Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division  
William O'Donnell, DOJ Chief Financial Officer  
Jennifer Friesen, DOJ Senior Budget Analyst  
Melanie Ryburn, DOJ Budget Analyst  
John Borden, Principal Legislative Analyst, LFO  
Wendy S. Gibson, Policy and Budget Analyst, BAM