

## ANALYSIS

### Judicial Department Domestic and Sexual Violence Training and Pretrial Release Program

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**Analyst:** John Borden

**Request:** Approve, retroactively, application for a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Justice - Office of Violence Against Women - Justice for Families Program in the amount of \$600,000.

**Analysis:** The Judicial Department is requesting retroactive permission to apply for a U.S. Department of Justice - Office of Violence Against Women - Justice for Families Program grant in the amount of \$600,000. The grant was announced on December 8, 2023, with an application deadline of February 1, 2024. The Department provided 10-day advance notification to Legislative Leadership of the Department's intent to apply on January 9, 2024.

The grant would be used for two interrelated purposes (a) development of a training program for court personnel who hear cases involving domestic or sexual violence; and (b) a project focused on aligning pretrial release decision-making in cases involving domestic or sexual violence with best practices.

The grant is for up to three Federal Fiscal Years beginning in October 2024 and ending in September 2027 (2027-29 biennium) with \$200,000 available each Federal Fiscal Year. The grant has no state match requirement.

The grant's award announcement is anticipated prior to October 1, 2024. If awarded, the Department would need to return to the Legislature or the Emergency Board with a request for Federal Funds expenditure limitation. The Department anticipates that grant work will be accomplished through a contract vendor and that no additional position or full-time equivalent authority will be required to implement the grant.

The Legislative Fiscal Office notes that this grant may serve to complement the Legislature's General Fund investment in a statewide Pretrial Release Program.

**Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation:** The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval.

**Request:** Retroactive authorization to apply for grant totaling \$600,000 from the Office on Violence Against Women at the U.S. Department of Justice for the training of court personnel and to fund a project to align pre-trial decisions with best practice.

**Recommendation:** The Oregon Judicial Department is not under Executive Branch budgetary authority.

**Discussion:** The Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) is seeking retroactive authorization to apply for a grant of \$600,000 from the Office on Violence Against Women at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

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 Act of 2013 to improve the response of the civil and criminal justice system to families with a history of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, or in cases involving allegations of child sexual abuse. The Justice for Families Program supports court-based and court-related programs; supervised visitation and safe exchange by and between parents; training for people who work with families in the court system; and civil legal assistance to improve the capacity of courts and communities to respond to families affected by these targeted crimes.

OJD's Office of the State Court Administrator seeks retroactive authorization to apply for this Justice for Families grant to develop a comprehensive training program for court personnel who hear cases involving domestic or sexual violence and a project focused on aligning pretrial release decision-making in cases involving domestic or sexual violence with best practices. The overall goal of the grant project is to ensure Oregon has a comprehensive, trauma-informed court response to domestic violence and sexual assault and ensure access to justice for all survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking through a coordinated systems approach.

The grant period is 36 months, beginning in October 2024 and continuing through September 2027. If approved and awarded, OJD will return to the legislature with a request for Federal Funds expenditure limitation for the first year up to \$200,000. There is no state funding match requirement associated with the grant.

This grant was announced December 8, 2023, and the deadline to submit the grant application was February 1, 2024. OJD submitted a 10-day notice to legislative leadership informing them of their intent to apply on January 9, 2024. The Office of Violence Against Women anticipates notifying applicants of funding decisions by October 1, 2024.



OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT  
Office of the State Court Administrator

January 9, 2024  
**(SENT BY EMAIL)**

The Honorable Rob Wagner, President of the Senate  
The Honorable Dan Rayfield, Speaker of the House  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Re: Federal Grant Application – 10-day Notification

Dear President Wagner and Speaker Rayfield:

**Nature of Request**

The Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) requests permission to apply for a \$600,000 grant from the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). This grant was announced December 8, 2023. The deadline to submit the grant application is February 1, 2024. OJD wishes to apply and will request retroactive approval in the upcoming 2024 legislative session.

**Background**

OJD's Office of the State Court Administrator desires to apply for the Office on Violence against Women's FY 2024 Justice for Families grant from the DOJ to develop a comprehensive training program for court personnel who hear cases involving domestic or sexual violence, and a project focused on aligning pretrial release decision-making in cases involving domestic or sexual violence with best practices. The overall goal of the grant project is to ensure that Oregon has a comprehensive, trauma-informed court response to domestic violence and sexual assault and that we are ensuring access to justice for all survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking through a coordinated systems approach.

This program is authorized by 34 U.S.C. § 12464. 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 Act of 2013 to improve the response of the

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civil and criminal justice system to families with a history of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, or in cases involving allegations of child sexual abuse.

The grant, if awarded, is for a period of 36 months, beginning this biennium in October of 2024 and continuing through the 2023-25 biennium and ending in September 2027 (the beginning of the 2027-2029 biennium). The funding level request for the first year (FY 2023-2024) is for up to \$200,000. Identical funding level requests for subsequent years of the grant would follow (through September 30, 2027). There is **no** state funding match requirement associated with the grant.

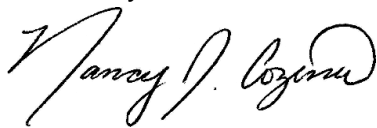
### **Action Requested**

OJD requests approval to apply for a federal grant. OJD will request retroactive approval in the upcoming 2024 legislative session. If awarded the grant OJD will appear at a future meeting of the Emergency Board or a legislative session to request an increase in Federal Funds limitation of approximately \$200,000.

### **Legislation Affected**

None.

Sincerely,



Nancy J. Cozine  
State Court Administrator

NC:jm/24eNC004jm

ec: Chief Justice Meagan A. Flynn  
John Borden, Principal Legislative Fiscal Officer, LFO  
Zachary Gehring, Policy and Budget, DAS-CFO  
David Moon, Director of BFSD, OJD  
Thujee Lhendup, Grants Manager, BFSD, OJD