



RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE SERVICES

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CRIME VICTIM ADVOCATE PROGRAM | JUST RESPONSE | PREVENTION DIVISION | RURAL PROGRAMS

July 17, 2019

In May the Montana Board of Crime Control sent out grant funding award notifications that included huge cuts to crime victim advocacy programs across the state. This was due to anticipated reductions in federal revenues that support the VOCA Grant Program. Missoula City-County Relationship Violence Services (RVS) was originally slated to receive a cut of just under \$140,000—a 50% reduction in funding which would have resulted in laying off 2 FTE crime victim advocates or 25% of our advocate staff. However, in June the Montana Board of Crime Control learned that the federal award to Montana will be greater than expected. The Board voted to reassess proposed grant awards and directed Board of Crime Control staff and the ARC Committee of the Board of Crime Control to create a new funding proposal for affected programs.

On Monday, June 24th the ARC Committee adopted a proposal to fund existing programs at the levels that they had previously been awarded, but with no additional funds (including cost of living increases, increases in the cost of technology, etc). As a result, RVS is recommended to receive 91% of our requested grant funds (for 24 months). This will still leave a shortfall of \$15,000 per year. Please note, the proposal is NOT OFFICIAL and won't be until the full board votes on the proposal in August. (The date for that meeting is not currently set.) The Board may reject the proposal and send it back to the committee (which it did in its June meeting).

Assuming that the funding proposal will be approved in August, Relationship Violence Services is requesting an annual increase of \$7,500 from both the city and county to offset this funding shortfall. *(This amount is in addition to the cost of living increase that was submitted to the City Attorney's Office at the beginning of the budgeting process. That was \$5,100 over FY19).* This funding will ensure that Relationship Violence Services remains fully staffed and able to meet the need of victims of crime in our community.

Thank you for your consideration.



Ending relationship violence. Creating solutions for a healthy community.