

Project Abstract

The City of Round Rock has grown rapidly over the past decade, both in population and diversity. Since 1999, the City population has more than doubled, and the Police Department's Victims Services caseload has increased with it. Along with growth, there is an added challenge of adapting to meet the needs of victims as the cultural make-up of the City continues to evolve. The increasing demand for victim's services is outstripping the City's capacity to fully serve the victims of criminal activity. Through this grant program, the Department will create one full-time position to serve as a second Victims Services Advocate and work to provide more comprehensive, inclusive crisis intervention to people in need while also facilitating victims' and witnesses' willingness and ability to cooperate with the Criminal Justice System in the investigation and prosecution of criminal activities. The grant-funded Victims Services Advocate will work hours that include evenings and Saturdays in an effort to better serve the victims of criminal acts that occur after normal operating hours. There will also be an emphasis on interacting with the growing Spanish and ESL-speaking population in the community that may not be aware of or would normally access the victim-related services that are available to them.

If awarded for the initial year of funding, the Department will be able to apply for program-continuation funding for two additional years. At the conclusion of that time, the program will have exhausted the available grant funding.

Problem Statement

The City of Round Rock is and has been growing rapidly, both in population and diversity. Since 1999, the population of the City has more than doubled and the Victims Services caseload has increased with it. Along with growth, there is an added challenge of adapting to meet the needs of victims as the cultural makeup of the City continues to evolve. The increasing demand for victim's services is outstripping the City's capacity to fully serve the victims of criminal activity. Through this grant program, the Department will create one full time position to serve as a second Victims Services Advocate and work to provide more comprehensive, inclusive crisis intervention to people in need while also facilitating the victims' and witnesses' willingness and ability to cooperate with the Criminal Justice System in the investigation and prosecution of criminal activities.

Supporting Data

City of Round Rock Crime Statistics

Year	Offense					Victims Assistance Caseload
	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Family Violence	
2015	0					445
2014	0	29	39	72		522
2013	2	24	37	86	268	650
2012	0	32	45	64	293	733
2011	2	25	39	49	236	711
2010	0	26	35	55	219	756

Year	City of Round Rock Population and Projections	Growth in Multi-Year Increments	
		Numerical Change	Percent Change
2010	99,887		
2015	106,269	2010-15: 6,382	6%
2020	127,279	2015-20: 21,010	20%
2025	143,302	2020-25: 16,023	13%

Source: City of Round Rock Planning Department

Project Approach and Activities

The Round Rock Police Department Victims Assistance Program proposes to hire one full-time, Spanish speaking Victims Assistance Advocate to enhance the Department's ability to provide the following services to the victims of crime or people in crisis situations:

Service	Explanation (If Necessary)
Crisis Intervention	
Follow-up Contact	
Justice Support/Advocacy	Participate actively on victim-oriented task forces and committees
Emergency Financial Assistance	
Personal Advocacy	
In Person and Telephone Contact Information and Referral	
Explanation of Criminal Procedures	Explain the criminal justice and court systems to victims
Hospital and Court Accompaniment	Stay with victims at the hospital or court, providing support and answering questions concerning hospital or court procedures
Childcare	Provide childcare while a victim is interviewed by investigators or is treated at the hospital

The Round Rock Police Department Victims Assistance Program is committed to protecting the rights of and providing services to the victims and survivors of criminal activity. The primary goal of the program is to alleviate the psychological and emotional trauma resulting from crime. The program provides support to crime victims and victims of other serious incidents, ensuring that victims' and survivors' needs are balanced against the needs and objectives of the criminal investigation.

The program acts as support system to victims by providing immediate crisis intervention; serving as an information and referral source for victims, survivors, and their families; and assisting in filing Crime Victims Compensation Claims. Addressing these needs not only assists victims but also facilitates the victims' and witnesses' willingness and ability to cooperate with the Criminal Justice System in the investigation and prosecution of these crimes. The intent of the additional full time employee is to provide more comprehensive, inclusive crisis intervention to people in need.

Data Management

Our current program performance is tracked through the Department's Records Management System (RMS). As part of this program, a database will be established and utilized by the Victims Services Unit to more accurately and completely measure a number of different services provided, including (but not limited) to the number of court, Children's Advocacy Center (CAC), hospital accompaniments, child care provided, shelter assistance provided, Sexual Assault victim exams, Victim outreach packets mailed, and the number of referrals to other resources.

Target Group

Geographic Area: City of Round Rock

Type of Victimization: Crime Victims

Gender: All genders

Race/Ethnicity: All races

Age: All ages