

Proposal Abstract

Deschutes County in collaboration with Deschutes County DA's Office, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, Deschutes County Parole and Probation, Bend Police Department, Black Butte Police Department, Redmond Police Department, Sunriver Police Department, and Saving Grace seek to continue and improve the Deschutes County Domestic Violence High Risk Team with funding to continue to utilize a centralized Domestic Violence Investigator located within the DA's Office, operate a DV High Risk Team that identifies high risk offenders and prioritizes responses to hold them accountable and ensuring resources for victim safety, and to continue the use of the Maryland Model Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) to connect survivors to community based advocates.

Deschutes County seeks to hire a Domestic Violence Investigator (DVI) to provide consistent, thorough follow up on IPV investigations and to initiate a high-risk DV team which will meet twice monthly to identify and monitor high-risk cases to assess offender risk and keep victims safe. Victims at highest risk of lethality will continue to be assessed via the LAP protocol and connected with IPV program services. High-danger victims will receive immediate and follow up services to support a range of safety and resource needs.

Progress will be measured by tracking the number of team meetings per year with a goal of 24 and at least 12, the number of LAP screens that are completed with a goal of 20 screens a month that connect high risk victims to Saving Grace advocates, and the number of follow up investigations requested with a goal of 8 requests each month.

Following the training by Casey Gwinn on strangulation and its indications of high risk for lethality, the team plans to focus on improving the community's response to strangulation and produce a training and strangulation checklist for law enforcement for these cases.